

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 01 of 2016

Sitting of Tuesday 22 March 2016

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL
TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2016

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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 and 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

Debate No. 01 of 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT

E-PARLIAMENT PROJECT

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I have an announcement to make. As you may have noted Members have been provided with a WIFI password. As already announced, this Assembly is keen to proceed with the E-parliament project whereby information will be disseminated to Members seamlessly in order to allow you, Respected Members, to increase efficiency and access to documents and information through electronic means in order to be more effective.

I am pleased to inform the House that in a first phase access to WIFI and consequently the use of hand-held electronic devices and laptops are being permitted in the Assembly chamber, exclusively to Members and Clerks of the table, provided they are used silently and unobtrusively. The moreso electronic devices such as digital tablets can also be used as an *aide memoire* by Members whilst addressing the House subject to the rule that a Member should not read his speech. However, as per practice, mobile phones are not permitted and must be turned off within hearing of the Chamber. These changes are in line with the practice that is obtained at the National Assembly. I wish to also remind Members that the Assembly has no control over the internet capacity as provided in the Chamber.

I request Members to make the best efficient use of this facility and call upon their comprehension to preserve the decorum of the Assembly. I hope that this initiative meets the objective of supporting you in the delivery of your parliamentary duties more effectively. I thank you for your attention.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RENTAL OF A BUILDING/OFFICE SPACE – COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION

(No. B/1): The First Island Region Member (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the rental of a building or office space for the Commission for Education, he will:

- (a) state if the tenders were launched therefor by the Commission for Education in 2015;

- (b) give details as to how the Mutual Aid Building was chosen by the Commission for Education for the renting thereof and on which terms and conditions; and
- (c) table a copy of the rent agreement?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association Ltd is a public company and is the owner of a building complex with office space of gross approximate area of 976m² known as Mutual Aid Building, and situated at Francois Leguat Street, Port Mathurin. Following the construction of this building, they made an offer to Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the renting of one floor for use of any Commission of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the seat of the administration of the Commission for Education was previously at Malabar and was experiencing difficulties in providing an appropriate service standard with the lack of office space. It was then decided to move the main administrative office of the Commission for Education to Port Mathurin.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we all know, appropriate office space in Port Mathurin is very limited, if not unavailable. The Mutual Aid Building was nearing completion and a proposal for the renting of office space of about 275 m² was made to Rodrigues Regional Assembly in which provision for offices, meeting/conference room, strong room for examination papers and messroom/kitchenette among others were made.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a proposed monthly rental figure was given by Mutual Aid which was followed by negotiations. Monthly rent was then sent to the office of the Director of the Valuation Office under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to assess whether the rent was fair and reasonable.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in a reply, the Director, Valuation Office stated that the asking price for renting of the floor inclusive of partitioning and cabling, service charge and parking was fair and reasonable.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the terms of the lease is for 36 months which may be renewed upon mutual agreement between the lessor and the lessee.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the monthly rental of the first floor of the Mutual Aid building is Rs 89,248 for this present lease only.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the house that this is a temporary measure pending the construction of the new administrative building at Mont Lubin which will house the Commission for Education.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c) of the question I am informed that the agreement binds two parties and contains confidential matters. While I have no objection to table a copy of the agreement, I am informed legally that the prior consent of Mutual Aid is being sought before the agreement could be tabled.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before I come to some main questions, there is a lease agreement with... Following an offer made by the Mutual Aid Association. What do we understand as being a lease agreement? It is a contract between Mutual Aid and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. What is confidential in that? I would like to ask the Commissioner what is confidential. What is the nature of the confidentiality for the location of a public building and whether, the lease has been registered? There is a lease. Whether the lease has been registered.

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, there is a lease between two parties. But we need the concept, the agreement of the other party to table the agreement. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Does the Chief Commissioner.... Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the authority of this House is subject to any other, a public company? He has just said that the Mutual Aid Association, Mutual Aid is a public company. The authority of a public company is required to table the answer to a question here? This is an indication that they do not know what they have done. What they have done is in fact illegal, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether, the procedure to go for the choice of Mutual Aid Building to house the Commission for Education is in line with the established Public Procurement Procedures for rental of public buildings.

I want to know whether, this is in line with the procedures existing for rental of public buildings. When you see in Mauritius and other authorities in Rodrigues, when you have to rent a building, it goes through tender, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is a notice in the Press. Why is it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there has been a unilateral offer by Mutual Aid and why is it there has been no tender with specifications, requirement which would have enabled one and all to be able to place their tenders to beneficiate, to get, to be able to rent their buildings. Why is it that there has been no tender, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that in Rodrigues, in Port Mathurin, there is not enough space for... *Peut-etre* are we going to Oyster Bay, Venise, to our office there. Why not, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? We are looking for that. Is there any other space here? If there is a space, any building here, we could have launched for a tender. But there is not enough space here. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very silly answer to a very intelligent question! The question is not whether, there is space or not, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Point of order. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member is saying that it is a silly answer. I think that this is not parliamentary. He cannot address like this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: I will come with my reply later. Proceed, please.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, I mean this is an inappropriate answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if this could please. The question is there is established procedure to rent public buildings and I would refer the Executive to the answer given, the answer, the former answer, it is in the Hansard. I have been looking for it. I have not had enough time to get the reply, the reply the Respected Commissioner, Simon Pierre Roussety, some sessions ago, about the rental of the Civil Status Office. You cannot and you are not allowed to pick and choose, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! You must go through the tender. So, we understand there has been no tender.

You are speaking about Venise. I am going to report you to the appropriate authority for investigation now that I am cleared also. Speaking about Venise, we will come to you for Venise. You are bound for an answer when you have any request. You want to fight with me; I will fight with you on equal parts. Now, I want to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given they have not gone through a tender, for me, this is illegal. This is corruption, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! For me.

Mr. Chairperson: You should mind your words to be sure what you are saying.

Mr. J. Roussety: For me! Yes, for me.

Mr. Chairperson: What you are saying, it is hypothetical and I will not accept it. I will not accept these words.

Mr. J. Roussety: There is nothing hypothetical. Maybe you should review your understanding of....

Mr. Chairperson: This is my way of thinking. This is my ruling. Now, you proceed.

Mr. J. Roussety: Nobody is challenging your ruling but hypothetical does not mean that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot control my ruling. You are not going to give me a lesson, is it?

Mr. J. Roussety: I am not giving you any lesson. I am doing my job here as a Member of the Minority.

Mr. Chairperson: This is what I am doing at the same time.

Mr. J. Roussety: And, for me...

Mr. Chairperson: Now you proceed.

Mr. J. Roussety: My feeling is that there is corruption in this. There is abuse of process.

Mr. Chairperson: Mind your words.

Mr. J. Roussety: You know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have freedom of speech here. They are allowed to reply.

Mr. Chairperson: Sit down. I am giving you all time to speak because you have got that freedom of speech. And, as I say, I am as impartial as possible but you should know where you go. Proceed.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, thank you. I would like to know. There has been an offer by Mutual Aid. There has been acceptance by the unilateral acceptance in violation of established procedure which means that public authorities like the Rodrigues Regional Assembly should go by tender, public notice and one and all should have the opportunity to place their bids. The question of having no place, there is no choice is not for me a valid justification for just pick and choose, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I want to know now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who

has decided? Which authority? Is it the Commissioner ? Is it the Departmental Head? Is the Executive Council? Who has decided to say: *“Okay, I approve that this building be rented for the Commission for Education”*?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, well, it is our duty to see whether, there is enough space and good space for a Commission of Education to install itself in that space. Well, when we have looked around Port Mathurin and around Rodrigues, we have not seen enough space for a Commission of Education. You know, the space we did notice is Mutual Aid and we had negotiation with it. It was sent for Valuation Office, aegis of the Ministry for Finance and Economic Development. They have said they have got under, it was fair reasonable. This means that they accept what we have done!

So, are we going to Île aux Fou? Is there any space here in Port Mathurin or at Baie aux Huitres or anywhere else for an office of Education, Commission for Education? Is there any space in that country? It is for, I will say, it is for a time because we are having a building at Mont Lubin. We are going to start this building this year at Mont Lubin for the Social Security, Civil Service and the Commission for Education.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not get an answer to my question. I repeat my question. I am going to report this issue to the relevant authorities of the Republic of Mauritius for investigation because I believe this is not fair. We have the Equal Opportunities Commission. The landlords, those who own buildings, whatever they are, whoever they are... Mr. Jocelyn Roussety does not have a building in Baie Lascars? Mr. Sunil Luchmun does not have a building? Mr. Tue Wan, here, Mr. Tue Wan, his building is free. I have been giving tuition there. All these buildings are free.

You, as an authority... I do not want to give any lesson. Ah Chin Koo, Camp du Roi. You have to set down which space you need, what are the specifications and then, you let those landlords, building owners place their bids and then, there is a Bid Evaluation Committee, everything goes on. We have been speaking, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

There is a case by the Independent Commission Against Corruption for people who have allocated a contract for security and now they are being prosecuted. But what is the difference? Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my answer, I want the elements. My question is... I repeat my question. Is it the Departmental Head? Is it an officer? Is it the Chief Commissioner, himself? Is it the Executive Council who has taken the decision to give the go-ahead, say

“let us rent this building”? Who? Who has decided to rent this building? I want to know.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the relevant authorities of the Commission. I will not say whether, it is this person or that person, you know. Whether, the honourable Member would like to go to the ICAC, he can do it and the ICAC will make everything to do, what will happen, what has been done in that case.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner... I will not repeat my question again. Does he remember any minute in any file whereby, an officer or the Departmental Head of the Commission for Education has sent any minute to him asking him to approve the rental of that building for use by the Commission, Commission for Education? Does he have any knowledge that he has approved on file, this thing?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the officer is a public officer and he has the right to ask me, to send a file to me so that we can approve this, you know. And, I do not know what is wrong in it. It is a question of public administration. That is all.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Three questions in one so as to have enough time. First of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that prior to the construction of the building, the Mutual Aid Officers already knows that they have to sublet the spaces of the Commission for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Is he aware of this? And, secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the lease agreement, is the Mutual Aid authorised to sublet the buildings according to the lease agreement? Is he authorised to sublet? And, thirdly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have the Estimates for 2016 here. The rental is Rs 89,000 and Rs 600,000 has been earmarked. Because this is for six months, this means that Rs 100,000 is earmarked for the rental or spaces at Mutual Aid Building, this means that Rs 100,000. And, now, here, it is said that Rs 89,000 for the building. Is the Rodrigues Regional Assembly paying also the parking and what is the rental paid for the site?

The Chief Commissioner: I mentioned in my reply the rental is about Rs 89,000.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I will ask one by one. First of all, is he aware that prior to the construction of the building, the Mutual Aid officers already know that they have to sublet the building to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I mentioned in my reply that partitioning has been done; a lot of things have been done in the building. We have asked for partitioning and everything has been done and also for the parking and so on. That is why, it is around Rs 89,000 per month.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not received the reply for my question. I am not mentioning the partitioning. I am asking the question to the Chief Commissioner whether, he is aware that prior to the construction of the building, it has been mentioned that already knows that they have to sublet it to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know what we have done. If any people are talking around saying this and that, are we going to take what the people are saying for the truth? There have been negotiations with the Mutual Aid and we have arrived for a compromise and this has been accepted/approved by the Valuation Director of Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question for....

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether, after the period of first agreement, the same procedure will be followed, that is, a unilateral offer or there will be tender now launched following established procedures?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there will be the construction of a building at Mont Lubin and this construction will end, will be opened in 2017 and then, we are moving to this office at Mont Lubin. The agreement is for 36 months and this agreement; we can negotiate with the Mutual Aid whether we stop the agreement.

Mr. J. Roussety: So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given what we have heard here, would the Chief Commissioner state what is the policy for renting third-party buildings, that is, buildings not belonging to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? Does it belong to the owners to make offers to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in that Mutual Aid Building, there has not been offers. They have only told us that premises are to be let. That is all and there have been negotiations. That is all.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

DELEGATION OF TOURISM AUTHORITY

(No. B/2): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to the recent visit of the delegation of the Tourism Authority in Rodrigues from the 8th to 13th February 2016, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the outcome thereof?

The Commission for Tourism and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one objective of my Commission is to promote tourism development in Rodrigues in view of making the tourism sector one of the main pillars of our economy. In this respect, my commission has taken necessary measures to ensure the provision of high quality services to tourists.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since 2012, some 138 Skippers' licenses have been issued and 63 pleasure crafts licenses have been delivered. Since the year 2014, my Commission has taken measures so that seaworthiness of pleasure crafts is valid for a period of two years like in Mauritius instead of one year as it was before.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Captain of the Tourism Authority was on mission to Rodrigues from 08 to 13 February 2016. The objective of his mission was to conduct practical tests for some 23 potential skippers who have passed their theoretical test in October 2015. The practical test was performed on the quay of Port Mathurin on the 09 and 10 of February and has registered a 100% success rate.

The skippers have been issued a temporary license pending the issue of their Skipper's License Cards which is expected to be delivered in June 2016. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the 11 of February, the captain from the Tourism Authority also carried out surveys of four pleasure crafts in the coastal villages of Pointe Mathurin, Pointe Diable, Petite Butte and St François respectively. The files with regards to the pleasure craft has been worked out by the captain and submitted to this office on the 12 of February.

In view of the above, Mr. Chairperson Sir, the outcome of the mission is as follows:-

- 23 skippers have been professionalised as per the norms set by the Tourism Authority with regards to the security measures at sea.
- Four new pleasure crafts have been found seaworthy and as a result, they have been issued a Pleasure Craft License. These crafts

are equipped according to the norms and requirements for the transportation of Tourists, for the different activities at sea.

- The Skippers are now allowed to navigate for 12,000 nautical miles instead of 8000 nautical miles.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner apart from what he has said, whether, a negotiation has been undertook with the relevant authority as regard to grant so as to embellish the beaches around Rodrigues?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I did not get the question. Can you repeat, please? I did not get. The Tourism Authority to embellish beaches? *Non, non.* This is not the job of a Tourism Authority. To embellish the beaches here is the job of my Commission. And, I think we are autonomous in this sector and it is us who should be doing it.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner just inform us? He just said there have been 23 skippers, newly registered skippers but there are also former skippers. Can we know how, whether, there are trainings or ongoing trainings for former skippers so that they are up-to-date with new laws or new happenings in that area, specific area? And, can we know also how many in all, newly registered and across Rodrigues to date, how many skippers do we have?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: For the second part of the question, unfortunately, I need another question for that because this is... I cannot get the figure from here. It is in a file somewhere. But, in regards to the training of skippers, you give a license; it is like someone is given a license to drive a car. So, you do not keep training people to drive cars, you know. So, once you get a license, you can drive the boats but it is up to the skipper, himself, to stay updated with the new laws and stuff. So, it is not practical to keep training people whenever there is a change in laws or whatever.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner, in the past, we used to get money from funding from the Tourism Authority, to be in line with what Member Agathe was asking. We used to get money. I would like to ask him that why is it that now, since he is in office, he does not find it appropriate to ask for funding? I do not know whether, the funding has stopped. But, I would like to ask him whether, he is not envisaging the possibility of getting money from the Tourism Authority.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Members are wrong in the sense that they are talking about money from Tourism Authority. The money they are talking is from Beach Authority. This is something else. So, it is nothing to do with. But, we are not saying that... You know what is autonomy? Why have we become autonomous? The answer, the Chief Commissioner keeps saying it, is to depend less and less from Mauritius. This is the vision of this Government. We want to depend less and less. We cannot be autonomous and keep asking for money from Mauritius.

We have our own budget and for the first time, we have got such a lot of money from the Government of Mauritius to do our job and it is up to us to manage the money well. And, I am happy to say that the tourism sector is in very good shape as another question, because we got an increase of 18% since last year as compared to 11% in Mauritius. So?

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner, he is talking about increase in tourism arrival? This is true but what mechanism has he put in place at his Commission to see whether, increase in arrival also means increase in revenue from the tourism sector? Can he give us details on that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think this question is not in line with the original question. So, I will not answer this.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House what type of enforcement exists in terms of check for skippers, the sea wealthiness for their boat? And, if yes, if this enforcement exists, at what frequency this is being made?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, enforcement is normally done by the elements of the Coastguard. So, this is up to them. You know, this is normally done by Coastguard.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can I ask the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it the only duty of the Tourism Authority to give skippers license or whether, any cognate duties are being implemented by the Tourism Authority and what is being done for Rodrigues apart from giving skippers license?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I said recently before that you know, we are autonomous. There is quite a lot of things that we, in Rodrigues, we can do and we should be doing. And, this is again what autonomy is all about. We only go ask Tourism Authority for their help whenever we do not have the facilities here. For someone to get a skipper's license, it needs to be done by professional captain and, this, we do not have unfortunately.

This is why maybe the kids who are in this room, maybe one day can become one of these captains to do this training. But, for the time being, we do not have at the level of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, we do not have the capacity to perform that type of duty. For all the other things, we have the capacity on this island. So, why do we have to call Tourism Authority for something we can do ourselves?

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner keeps reminding us that we are autonomous. We know. We already know we are autonomous. We are fully aware.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, come to your question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Yes, I am coming. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we were here before him. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask him how much money he is training the skippers. For the training of skippers, how much money is being earmarked for the training of these skippers and under which item vote?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have this information.

Mr. Chairperson: Now, coming to the point of order of the Commissioner, the question might look silly but it was within the limit of question. Yes, the answer. Next question, please.

**“BREVET PROFESSIONEL AGRICOLE (BPA)”
- TRAINING OF 22 TRAINEES**

(No. B/3): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the training of twenty-two trainees for the “Brevet Professionel Agricole (BPA)”, he will, for the benefit of

the House, state the objectives thereof and where matters stand in relation thereto?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, in October 2014, I headed a delegation to Réunion Island to see how Rodriguan can benefit from the extensive experience and knowledge of Réunion Island to boost up our agricultural sector.

Since 2012, I have been stressing in all the Budget Speeches that my Regional Government intends to professionalise our agriculture by instilling a spirit of entrepreneurship in our young farmers. I had very fruitful discussions with several stakeholders involved in the field of agriculture as well as with the President of the *Conseil Régional de la Réunion* and the “*Etablissement Public Local d’Enseignement et de Formation Professionnelle Agricole*” (EPLEFPA) de St. Joseph for the training of our young farmers to make them successful professional entrepreneurs.

Following negotiations, the *Conseil Régional de la Réunion* had thus agreed in principle to co-finance a medium term project of training in agriculture over five years as from 2015. The 5-year project consists of running two courses namely the “*Brevet Professionnel Agricole*” (BPA) and “*Certificat d’Aptitude Professionnelle Agricole*” (CAPA) with one batch each year.

The “*Accord Cadre*” was signed on 05 March 2015 between myself and the Director of the “*Etablissement Public Local d’Enseignement et de Formation Professionnelle Agricole*” (EPLEFPA) de St. Joseph, Réunion to run five batches of BPA and five batches of CAPA until December 2020.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, while designing the courses for Rodrigues, the FPPA carried out a survey on our needs as well as our potential in line with our strategy to make agriculture the main pillar of our economy.

The BPA is an advanced professional training programme which is being serviced by the *Lycee Agricole de Saint Joseph, Réunion*. The course started on the 31 August 2015 and will end on the 08 May this year. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) is financing 50% of the cost for this batch of 22 students.

The objectives of the BPA course are to inter-alia provide necessary skills to the 22 young trainees to make them become professional entrepreneurs in vegetable and animal production including horticulture, agro-tourism and food production hygiene.

In addition to the theoretical and practical training, the course also includes on-the-job training within agri-business enterprises in Rodrigues and in Réunion. Mr. Chairperson Sir, in line with our objectives, the RRA has also entered into an agreement with the five local agri-business enterprises to facilitate the work placement of the trainees. Thus, they are involved in the processing of the Rodrigues '*terroir*' agro and livestock products of the consolidated '*filières*' which include honey, lemon, small local chilly and chicken.

Another agreement has also been signed between the RRA and the CFPPA for the placement of the trainees in two batches of eleven in enterprises in Réunion Island. This is motivated by the Regional Government's drive to encourage the trainees to adopt and adapt the professional approach of Réunion farmers once they set up their respective farms at the end of the course. A batch of 11 trainees effected their placement in February this year and the other batch will proceed to Réunion Island on 03 April 2016 for a period of two weeks.

I wish to inform the house that my Government has agreed that each trainee who will successfully complete the said training will benefit "de facto" any one of the present financial scheme to set up their agri-business.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House what criteria has been used in the selection of these trainees that have been sent to Reunion for the BPA?

The Chief Commissioner: C'est le Lycée Polytechnique qui a choisi ces critères. Il y a eu des appels de candidatures. Il y a eu des *interview* et c'est l'école même de l'agriculture de Saint Joseph qui a choisi les élèves pour l'agriculture et ils ont même fait un examen. Et tout ça, c'est bien important parce que pour suivre un cours, la BPA ou la CAPA, il faut avoir quand même des agriculteurs, vraiment des Rodriguais qui veulent vraiment se lancer dans le développement agricole d'une manière professionnelle.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, en écoutant le Chef commissaire, j'ai l'impression que l'Assemblée Régionale n'a pas eu son mot à dire dans la sélection. C'est vrai il y a eu des critères pour pouvoir suivre des cours ailleurs. Il y a des critères spécifiques du centre de formation en question. Ça, c'est sûr. Puis-je demander au Chef commissaire quel a été l'apport dans le choix ? Quelle a été la décision de l'Assemblée Régionale dans le choix fait par cette institution de La Réunion ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, quand quelqu'un veut aller à l'université, *bein*, ce n'est pas l'Assemblée Régionale qui décide ce que cette

personne-là va faire. Mais, nous, nous organisons d'après notre vision de l'agriculture que nous voudrions avoir dans les années à venir. Nous avons été à La Réunion, on a vu. Il n'y a pas des techniciens agricoles. Ces planteurs sont eux-mêmes des techniciens. Ça, c'est très important que ce soit dans l'agriculture ou dans l'élevage. Nous voudrions arriver dans les années à venir, que des planteurs Rodriguais soient des professionnels et qui ont reçu une formation à tous les niveaux même on peut dire au niveau universitaire alors que nous connaissons bien.

Moi, j'ai été là-bas au Lycée Polytechnique de Saint Joseph et tous ces agriculteurs de La Réunion proviennent de cette école polytechnique de Saint Joseph. Donc, et comme on voit aujourd'hui, nos jeunes d'ici qui vont dans des polytechniques un peu partout à Maurice que ce soit à Flacq ou ailleurs et lorsqu'ils sortent de là, et bien, ils sont des gars formés. Il y a même qui continuent leurs études à l'université, au Lycée des Mascareignes et ainsi de suite.

Alors, M. le président, nous avons fait confiance à ce lycée polytechnique, à M. Diano... et toute son équipe. Et c'est eux qui viennent ici et qui donnent la formation à ces jeunes Rodriguais. Ça, c'est très important. Quand il y a des personnes qui viennent d'ailleurs et qui viennent avec une autre expérience au niveau de l'agriculture, c'est extra. Nous avons été à La Réunion en 2014 et on a vu l'extraordinaire comment des planteurs Réunionnais, comment eux-mêmes, ils ont reçu une formation et comment il faut traiter l'agriculture et ainsi de suite.

À mon avis, M. le président, il faudra quand même faire confiance à ceux qui sont déjà dans le domaine et qui portent leurs fruits. Alors, c'est pourquoi nous disons que pourquoi trop ? Alors, c'est eux-mêmes qui ont choisi ces gars et c'est eux-mêmes qui pendant deux semaines, sont à La Réunion. Il y a d'autres, ce deuxième *batch* qui va partir. Et lorsque le deuxième *batch* sera retourné, nous allons les rencontrer pour justement leur demander qu'est-ce qu'ils ont découvert à La Réunion et aussi peut-être faire la comparaison entre ce qu'ils ont découvert à La Réunion et notre agriculture ici à Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Merci, M. le président. Tout d'abord, M. le président, je dois saluer le Chef commissaire pour une telle initiative et je vois comment il est bien à l'aise en parlant de ce projet-là. Mais quand même, je vais lui poser quelques questions que d'après moi, il y a des manquements. *The first one... I have three but I will ask one by one.*

First of all, I will ask the Chief Commissioner the reasons why this training project, interesting training project, is being implemented by the

Commission for Agriculture instead of the Commission for Training falling under the Commission of the DCC?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, dans cette formation, il y a aussi des techniciens agricoles de l'agriculture qui donnent le coup de main et ça, c'est très important. Et en même temps, ces techniciens agricoles, ils découvrent La Réunion. Et c'est pourquoi nous avons même pensé, nous savons qu'il y a des jeunes qui sont à l'université à Maurice. Il y en a qui ont fait *Agricultural Science*, il y en a qui ont fait *Crop Production*. Nous pensons même, quoi qu'à Maurice il y a un champ d'action, d'expérience, nous pensons même les envoyer à La Réunion. Parce que La Réunion, ce lycée polytechnique et surtout l'accord que nous avons signé avec le CIRAD, Maurice a signé un accord avec le CIRAD et nous, nous avons signé un accord avec le CIRAD. Et surtout, c'est ce que le CIRAD est en train de faire à La Réunion, c'est extraordinaire. Alors, je pense...

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Bein, il a coupé mon soufflé. Je bois mon eau. Excusez-moi, M. le président, non, il m'a coupé mes... Alors, justement, je voulais...

Mr. Chairperson: I give you ample time to ask question. Then, you wait, you listen and then, you do not disturb!

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, je disais que vraiment, que justement, alors, là, j'ai...

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether, there are other fields of study after CAPA and BPA for higher studies to produce technical professional who can give courses about agriculture and agribusiness in Rodrigues and whether, CAPA and BPA are recognised by established institution like the MQA to facilitate the role of the trainees and their recognition in the society?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, La Réunion, tout ce qui se fait à La Réunion est reconnu en France. Nous savons qu'à Maurice, il y a la *Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA)*. Il y a même ce que le MQA a fait, c'est un gars qui a fait une année ou deux ans NTC2 ou NTC3 est reconnu comme une personne qui a un diplôme et ça, c'est une révolution faite par le *Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA)*. Par exemple, un maçon, aujourd'hui, c'est un vrai maçon. Il est reconnu par le MQA, quelqu'un qui a un diplôme et ça, c'est très important, donner de la valeur à ceux qui vraiment ont des métiers.

Alors, le MQA, on va travailler dessus, va donner de la valeur à ces jeunes qui suivent des cours en agriculture et au niveau, le MQA doit pouvoir aussi savoir vraiment c'est quoi le Lycée Polytechnique de Saint Joseph. Et si ce lycée polytechnique de Saint Joseph est reconnu par La France, je ne vois pas pourquoi le MQA ne reconnaît pas ce Lycée Polytechnique de Saint Joseph. Et là, on travaille dessus justement pour que ces agriculteurs, ces jeunes agriculteurs puissent avoir vraiment un diplôme et qu'on ne les traite pas pour dire « *Toi, to pa ine ale lekol, toi, to ceci, cela. To napa diplôme, moi mone fer HSC, mone ale l'université, mo enan diplôme* ».

Alors, c'est ça justement la révolution apporté par le MQA, faire reconnaître la valeur d'un métier que ce soit l'élevage, que ce soit un maçon, que ce soit un menuisier, faire reconnaître la valeur des métiers et ça, c'est très important.

The Minority Leader: Oui, M. le président, pour faire suite à la question que j'avais posée tout à l'heure, c'est vrai, nous savons tous que la formation est importante si nous voulons vraiment dans le futur avoir des gens plus professionnels surtout dans un secteur aussi important pour Rodrigues qu'est l'agriculture. Mais ma question, M. le président, c'est qu'est-ce que l'Assemblée Régionale a mis comme garantie afin que ces gens, une fois formés, ils puissent revenir et offrir leurs compétences au pays ? Ça, c'est une chose.

Deuxièmement, tout en connaissant les problèmes actuels que nos agriculteurs, nos fermiers ont à faire face, il y a beaucoup de facteurs. Je ne vais pas les citer tous. Est-ce que l'Assemblée Régionale a été consciente de l'existence de ces facteurs qui freinent justement le développement du secteur agricole à Rodrigues ? Et est-ce que quand ces jeunes vont revenir avec leur formation et ils font face avec les mêmes problèmes, est-ce que cela veut dire que ces gens-là pourront amener ces compétences aux bénéficiaires de Rodrigues ou bien est-ce que l'Assemblée Régionale doit revoir tout ce qu'il y a actuellement afin de donner toute la chance à ces jeunes une fois revenir au pays pour donner plus de service au pays ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse, lorsque ces jeunes vont retourner, ils vont entrer dans ce que nous appelons des *schemes* que nous avons lancés depuis l'année dernière. Et ces *schemes* justement sont suivis par des techniciens agricoles. Et ces jeunes qui vont retourner, ce n'est pas nécessairement qu'ils vont donner la formation à d'autres. Non, ils vont retourner pour développer leurs propres entreprises, que leurs entreprises vraiment soient des exemples. Je vous donne un exemple.

Il y a une demoiselle qui est partie faire l'enseignement à l'université, *Agricultural Landscaping*. Elle vient me voir pour un emploi. Je lui dis « *Est-ce que vous avez des terres ?* » « *Oui, mes parents ont trois arpents de terre.* » Je lui dis, « Mademoiselle, mettez votre pied dans une botte et travaillez sur ces trois arpents de terre et mettre en pratique ce que vous avez appris à l'université. » Et ça, c'est très important. L'université, aujourd'hui, à mon avis, est dépassée parce qu'avec toutes ces formations académiques et ainsi de suite.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Ça, c'est mon opinion ! Mon opinion !

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Parce que l'université, au lieu de former le caractère et c'est pourquoi dans le *nine-year schooling*, on parle d'abord de caractère de l'enfant. Ça, c'est très important. Alors, à l'université, c'est purement académique. Purement académique. Alors qu'on a vu des jeunes, « *To pou retourne Rodrigues, ki pou vine faire ? Vine sali mo la main ?* »

Alors, ça, justement, il faudrait qu'il y ait là, une formation qui change complètement la mentalité du jeune qui a étudié à l'extérieur ou qui doit retourner. Et là, heureusement, nous avons vu des jeunes qui ont été à l'université et qui se sont lancés dans les *schemes* au niveau de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de ceci, de cela. Et c'est ça justement. Ils ont en train de mettre en pratique ce qu'ils ont étudié. C'est ça que Rodrigues a besoin demain. Vous comprenez là ? Et justement, la formation de ces jeunes qui vont à La Réunion, et bien, ils vont retourner et ils vont mettre en pratique leurs projets et comme ça, d'autres peuvent voir qu'est-ce qui est en train de se faire. Il faut voir pour croire ! Merci.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question for you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, je suis un petit peu estomaqué par rapport à la réponse du Chef par rapport à l'université. Mais quand même, M. le président, je vais continuer à poser des questions. *Sagrin....*

Mr. Chairperson: You come with your question, now.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, whether, in order for an official to go abroad apart going to Mauritius, we have to seek clearance from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Can we know first of all, whether, the official delegation who

have proceeded to Reunion Island have sought approval from the... sought clearance from PMO and what has been their outcome first of all? Whether clearance has been sought, this is the first thing. And, secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who accompanied the trainees? Is it an official of the RRA or a trainee?

The Chief Commissioner: Of course, everything which we do abroad must have the approval of the Prime Minister's Office. And, I think this group has been accompanied by someone. I do not know the name of the person. No! No! Not by trainee....

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

(No. B/4): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture whether, in regard to the commemoration of the 'International Day of the Abolition of Slavery' for 2016, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the activities organized in relation thereto and the outcome thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Arts and Culture (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Mr Chairperson Sir, the Commission for Arts and Culture commemorated the 181th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery via series of new and exceptional activities. A Wreath Laying Ceremony was organised on 01 February 2016 at Montagne Cimetière and at the Lieu de Mémoire at L'Union and this event saw the mass mobilisation of the Rodriguan people.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Commemoration culminated with the organisation of a cultural show...

Mr. Chairperson: Please, you are disturbing.

Ms. M. R. Edouard : ... by a cultural and traditional troupe from Rodrigues and the National Troupe from Seychelles which graced the event. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the commemoration of this historical event was given a regional dimension by the presence of the Seychellois and they showcased the African influence both on the Rodriguan and the Seychellois cultures. The delegation comprise 10 persons including the Manager of the National Troupe and the Senior Liaison Officer from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, as well as a Curator and an Assistant Curator.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in the same respect, my Commission has also organised an exhibition on the “History of Slavery in Seychelles” in collaboration with the National Museum of History of Seychelles on the 01 February at L’Union and as from 02 to 04 February at CELPAC, for the students and the general public. This exhibition aimed at promoting exchanges and enhanced collaboration between Rodrigues and Seychelles in the field of museology.

In a view to further enhance the collaboration between Rodrigues and Seychelles, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the setting up of the museum of Rodrigues, my Commission has also seized the opportunity to organise a full day workshop with the participation of the Professor ABUNGU, a Museum Consultant in the view to empower members of the Museum Committee and the Officers from my Commission.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson Sir, an exchange programme held between Rodrigues and the Seychellois artists on Wednesday the third, was an opportunity for our local performers to discover more the culture of Seychelles and this indeed gave way to the soliciting of our expertise in the fabrication of the Tambour by the Seychelles people and it should be noted that this skill and know-how is now disappearing in their island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a drawing competition on the theme *‘Imaginez l’Orangerie’ à l’époque de Philibert Marragon* for secondary and upper primary students was also organised and all the colleges and primary schools of Rodrigues participated and this event saw more than 50 entries and these entries were of course rewarded on the event and the prizes were given.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, I wonder the Commissioner has so many other pages to read because I am of the impression that she is making a speech. This is too long for question time.

Mr. Chairperson: Anyway, Minority Leader, I am timing her. It is only two and a half minutes that she has been talking....

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It was indeed an impression, Mr. Minority Leader.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to further create awareness on the history of Rodrigues, two informative signs were displayed indicating the listing of “Tombeau Marragon” as National Heritage site under National Heritage Fund in the context of the *‘Tricentenaire de l’arrivée des Français à Rodrigues’*.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the commemoration of the Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery has created a platform for regional cooperation and mutual understanding with Seychelles and eventually to other countries sharing the same historical background. It has also enabled our youth in schools to do research and enhance their knowledge of history of Rodrigues, particularly, the history of *l'Orangerie*. Similarly, the mass mobilisation of members of the public is a clear sign that the people in Rodrigues have appropriated its history and are celebrating it proudly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to end, I will show my pride to the House and the lieu where we commemorate the Emancipation of Slavery at Montagne Cimetière, have today become renowned historical site and important tourist attractions for the island. My Commission is therefore ensuring that both sites are particularly maintained and a “Lakaz Kreol” and a “Jardin Medicinal” will be now features of these two major historical sites for the betterment of the people and the Rodriguan history. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, as regard to the acquisition of slavery, I have this question in heart since long and I have time today to ask this question. Can I know from the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what did Maragon do for the slave? Because we have a monument there.

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, this question, I think, is not relevant of main question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: There is a monument there, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. *Mo envi koner moi!*

[Gap in Cassette]

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, I ask the question otherwise. Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why we have to lay the wreath at Tombeau Maragon every year?

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member has not often attended the Commemoration Ceremony because from now on, since two years, I think, there are informative sites which explain why we commemorate this event on the first and why it is important for us to mark the event in Rodrigues and to know the history behind slavery and the contribution of the slaves and Maragon in Rodrigues. So, these are clearly displayed on these sites.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the history of the slave, we have Cascade Victoire. There are slaves who have gone through Cascade Victoire and nothing has been said to these slaves. Even *Nam Toutou* at Baie Malgache, we do not hear nothing. Can we know whether, history has been well situated or...

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Member wants a lecture but I think if he can prove what he is saying, there are testimonies, they are proofs, then we can consider his request. No worries.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

**RODRIGUES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
– NATIONAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)**

(No. B/5): The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemissar) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Rodrigues economic development and its contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the relevant authorities and state and table on the:

- (a) percentage contribution of Rodrigues to the national GDP;
- (b) main economic sectors of the island contributing thereto; and
- (c) amount in terms of different taxes contributed annually by Rodrigues, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have to inform the House that according to Statistics Mauritius, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is normally calculated and published for the whole of the Republic of Mauritius and that separate figures for Mauritius and Rodrigues are not available.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the meeting I had at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development during budget consultation last year, I insisted on the fact that there is a need for more relevant economic indicators/statistics for Rodrigues. In that context, Statistics Mauritius fielded a mission to Rodrigues from 29 November to 04 December 2015 to evaluate the current data collection processes, assess the quality of data available and additional data needs for the compilation of GDP for Rodrigues. Furthermore, as regards to the agricultural sector, a meeting was held during a second statistics mission in February this year and discussions focused on quality of presently available data on

agricultural production and how to improve on the basis of the data from 2014 Census of Agriculture.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are targeting that by the end of next year, a first estimate of the GDP for Rodrigues could be possibly worked out.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know that presently, such information might not be available. That is why I asked the question. But, when we heard the respected Commissioner Payendee just now talking about our pride of being autonomous, being autonomous, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does not only mean the capacity/ability to take political decision. It also implies many other important factors for the development of a country. And, one of these factors is of course economy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

For a simple definition of GDP, we can say it is when we add consumption plus Government expenditures plus investment plus export minus import, then, we have our GDP. Do we not have investment development in Rodrigues? Do we not have also, not only private but also public investments? Do we not have any export to Mauritius?

Mr. Chairperson: Please, come with your question.

The Minority Leader: Yes. Do we not have any import? That is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, based on all this, I would have expected the Chief Commissioner to at least at his office, pending the coming up of the... professional way by the Statistics Mauritius next year just to give an indication, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how is our economy now. The GDP is a way to test the health of an economy. How can we say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in spite of all the investments that we have in our country, to say that our economy is in the right track? How can the Chief Commissioner and his Executive Council say that we are investing rightly and we are getting the good outcome out from these investments? This is why I asked the question.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said, we are aware of that and we say that if we would like to develop our economy, we must have data. And, that is why we invited the Ministry of the Economic Development and Finance to send a mission of the statistician of Mauritius to Rodrigues and there were here in Mauritius. And, I, myself, I had discussions with them. It is a very important event for agriculture and so on. So, as from now, we are going to have different data for GDP for Rodrigues. I think this must be done separately to Mauritius. Because I, myself, I did say years ago, I must say that Rodrigues must be classified amongst the least developing countries.

That is why; we must know exactly the GDP for Rodrigues. Even foreign countries must know our GDP. Let us say, you know that we had a scholarship of Australia and Australia has stopped to give Rodrigues those scholarships. Why? Because they say that Mauritius, you know this is the problem, we are in Mauritius. But, it is good for us to have a different GDP for Rodrigues so that other countries can help us. One obvious example, even for France, I think. France, Australia and even other countries have stopped given us scholarships and even more help for our development, you know. That is very important.

I think the Honourable Member raised this question. I think we have thought that for many years and now, they are working on it and also, our statisticians here must be professionals. I think.... they must be professionals so that they can help us during the year or I think some of them will be sent to Mauritius to be trained for that kind of study, you know. Thank you very much.

The Minority Leader: However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do have Statistics Mauritius for Rodrigues. When we look at our export, commodities from 2005 and 2014, I have highlighted at least seven items, agricultural items which are very important economically I mean for Rodrigues which I would like the Chief Commissioner to go and consult it. For example, pigs, fowls, lemon, honey, chilies, peanuts and bananas. These commodities from 2005 to 2014 are on a declined side. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to these, to this aspect, his Commission will take appropriate measures and specific attention to these so that we reverse this tendency?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is why we are working very serially on the agricultural products. That is why we have launched last year different schemes, *Ti Piment*, breeding, onion and so on, you know. *Oui*, nut fruits. We also have a scheme on all charts. Why importing fruits from elsewhere? Why do we not produce fruits here and sell it or sell the fruits to Mauritius or elsewhere? You know. We are working on it. We are very aware that we need to increase our products, agricultural products and breeding products. I know what the Minority Leader said. Effectively, there has been a decrease in exportation of those products. So, now, we are working in order to increase the exportation of the products. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the GDP, first of all, I have to say it to this House. Even in the Director of Audit Report, it is said that the Assembly, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the contribution of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is almost wholly financed by the Government of Mauritius even it is 80% financed by the Government of Mauritius. But, Mr.

Chairperson, Sir, first of all, we must have what we call, a forecast. Where do we have a forecast here in Rodrigues?

We can obtain it from the MCB forecast and we have also the Bank of Mauritius forecast. And, the forecast for Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is nowhere to find the statistics even for tourism, even for agriculture, anything, we cannot obtain it from here. But, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our main natural resource, is the sea, we are surrounded by the sea. I will ask the Chief Commissioner whether, he will look to it, see to it that Rodriguan fishermen, like we have in Mauritius Thon des Mascareignes, Rodriguan fishermen have the possibility to fish on the banks of Saya de Malha and Saint Brandon. There, we have plenty of fish. We can obtain fish here in Rodrigues in order to develop the Sea Food Hub.

The Chief Commissioner: This is a substantive question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

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

At 11.52 hours the Deputy Chairperson took the Chair.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question!

PROJECTS EARMARKED – YEAR 2015

(No. B/6): The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemissar) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards projects earmarked for the year 2015 as announced in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly budget, he will:

- (a) state and table all capital projects which were due to be completed together with the amount disbursed by December 2015;
- (b) state if any re-allocation and/or application for additional funding was made and for what projects; and
- (c) state if, by December 2015, there were any outstanding or surplus funds and, if so, to give details thereof and to table same?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson Sir, as regards the capital budget allocation for the financial year 2015, it should be noted that this voted amount includes three types of projects: (i) ongoing projects from

previous years, (ii) projects with expected start date in 2015 to be completed in 2015 itself and; (iii) those to be initiated in 2015 and with a longer project duration period than 1 year, that is with expected completion date after 2015.

- (a) The list of projects which were due to be completed by December is being compiled and will be tabled at the library.
- (b) It is of usual practice that on these projects which have encountered delays in their execution periods and/or for which the forecasted amount that should be disbursed is less than the actual amount paid, reallocation is made to other projects whose implementation is well in advance or others which have been identified as priority project along the year.
- (c) An amount of Rs 600 m. was provided under the 2015 capital budget. As at 31 December 2015, a sum of Rs 579,019,285 has been disbursed. The main reason which explains that the funds have not been fully disbursed is due to delay in the implementation of several capital projects.

The delay in the implementation of project is mostly due to two main reasons:

- (i) the lengthy procedures for the recruitment of the consultancy services which has taken more time than planned;
- (ii) several projects could not be launched and awarded since the RRA was awaiting the ruling of the Public Procurement Office on the amendment on the prescribed amount for all the contracts of the RRA which has been reviewed to Rs 25 m. with effect as from 01 July 2015 as per Circular No. 03 dated 14 August 2015 from the Public Procurement Office.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to recall this House about the change in the presentation of the budget of Mauritius since last year; with a new calendar year period proposed by the Central Government - that is, from July to June. However, exceptionally last year, given that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly had already presented the budget in 2014 for the financial year 2015, this calendar was not applicable for Rodrigues. As regards the budget of the Central Government, which includes the voted provision for Rodrigues, it was from January to June 2015 and July 2015 to June 2016. Therefore, part of the amount of Rs 600 m. for Rodrigues is included in the budget for 2015-2016.

As at date, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has already closed its accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015, whilst the one for Mauritius is still on. Therefore, this implies that this amount which has not been fully used in 2015, that is the sum of Rs 20,980,714.66 is still included in the budget of the Central Government. Therefore, despite our account in Rodrigues has been closed, this sum is still available and can be used upon up to 30 June 2016, upon the prerogative of the Executive Council.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the first part of my question, the Chief Commissioner just said that information is being compiled and cannot be made available now. How come, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, that the accounts for the PBB 2015 was due to end by 31 December and now, we are March 2016, the Chief Commissioner is not in a position to come up with the question that I have asked, what were the projects that were due to be completed? This is too simple to give an answer, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner what are the reasons that behind so that he cannot provide these information to the House today?

The Chief Commissioner: The information, I said, is being compiled. We will... in the library perhaps next week, I do not know.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner does it exist at his office a Project Monitoring Committee or a Project Implementation Committee or I do not know how he calls it, whether, such committee exists and if yes, who chaired that Committee?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this Committee is there to look about the different projects. We have already had a meeting and I think we are debating today or tomorrow, I do not know, just to see whether the projects are going on. We must do it. We must proceed in that way. We must follow the different projects. This is a must in our policy.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Very good, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir! He has had a meeting yesterday or I do not know when, recently. And, now he comes... When you are in a Project Implementation Committee, this means that you have information about all projects! You have updated information of all projects including the items, including how much money has been disbursed, how much money left on the item. I would like to put the same question. How come the Chief Commissioner, he comes here today, he has just had a meeting and today, he says the information is being complied, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. We cannot accept this on this side of the House. I would like to ask him to see to it that we get the information today.

The Deputy Chairperson: I do not think that the Chief Commissioner has said that he had a meeting. He said that perhaps today or tomorrow. I heard also what he has said. He said that perhaps, I do not know if the Commissioner wants to reply.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we had meetings but we have to compile the different projects which are being worked out by the different Commissions. When will we have the questions? When, Thursday or Friday? Friday. We have a question for Friday. Are we going to work out during the weekend even on Sunday?

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Spéville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether, in view of amendment of the RRA Act, whether the RRA has had negotiation with the Government of Mauritius especially the Ministry of Finance so that inspect budgetary provision is not lapsed but credited on the Rodrigues Consolidated Fund for use for the next forthcoming financial year for the benefit of the island?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we are coming with the amendments of the RRA Act soon.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, one of the reasons pointed out by the Chief Commissioner which impacted on projects were delays due to consultancy services. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner when did the RRA appoint consultancy services for these projects?

The Chief Commissioner: There is one of the reasons. The consultancy, the period of consultancy has lapsed. We have to launch for new consultancy. It has taken a long time.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, nous avons entendu le Chef commissaire à maintes reprises nous parler de la bonne gouvernance. On n'est pas contre sa politique de faire fonctionner l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues mais quand même, il a largement de l'expérience pour nous apporter au sein de cette Assemblée concernant la gestion des affaires de Rodrigues. Je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire en dehors de ces Rs600 millions que nous avons reçu comme capital budget, d'après le chiffre qu'il nous a donné*

actuellement, il y a à peu près Rs20 millions qui restent. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé avec ces Rs20 millions ?

The Chief Commissioner:répondu à cette question. Ça va dans un fond au Gouvernement Central et si nous avons besoin de cet argent, on peut faire appel au Gouvernement Central.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question!

TOURISM PROJECTS IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/7): The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemissar) asked the Commissioner responsible for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to tourism projects in Rodrigues, he will for the benefit of the House state if any structure has been built across Rivière Pistache and, if so, to state:

- (a) The name of the promoter concerned and indicating the scope of the project together with the security measures taken, if any, for the users thereof; and
- (b) When application thereof was made at his Commission together with the different steps followed until its implementation and to table the relevant documents.

The Commissioner Responsible for Tourism and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, let me seize the occasion again to inform the House that for the year 2015, Rodrigues has had an increase of 18% in tourist arrival as compared to 11% in Mauritius. I have to keep saying it. It is so nice. This is the introduction to the answer. This shows that our tourism industry is in good shape.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in line with the objective of my Commission to offer new attractions to improve the experience of visitors and attract more tourists to Rodrigues, I am pleased to inform the House that a promoter has just installed an aerial bridge at Pistache, a project which is eco-friendly and which we fully support. My Commission will continue to support ecotourism projects which is in line with our vision to promote Rodrigues as an ecotourism destination.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, the name of the Promoter is Aerial Cable Track Ltd, a company created on 11 January 2012 and which is fully directed by a Rodriguan lady.

With regard to the scope of the project, it is an ecotourism project, developed in April 2015 by the company Aerial Cable Track Ltd. The project has as objective to increase the number of recreational activities in Rodrigues. It focuses on clients of aged between 7 and 77 years old who are hungry of strong sensations. The manager and instructor of the project is also the one who has developed the tyrolienne at Montagne Malgache. The activity has created employment in the region and the investment cost amount to around Rs 1 m.

Le projet s'intègre parfaitement dans le paysage et qui amène même un certain cachet dans le panorama. L'activité est un plus pour la région et pour le site de Cascade Pistache.

With regards to the security measures taken, as per project write up, the promoter has significant experience in such types of activities, which the company has done in Rodrigues and in Mauritius. And up to date, no accident has been reported. As with any activity, it is the responsibility of the Promoter to abide to all security measures imposed on him as per existing health and safety laws and regulations.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, the application was first made at the office of the Invest Rodrigues in April 2015 and a first committee comprising of Tourism Enforcement Officers, Technical Officers, Environment division, the Cadastral Office, Health and Safety Inspectors and Analyst of Invest Rodrigues was set up to look into the project. A first site visit was done on the 23 November 2015. A letter of no objection in principle was been issued to the applicant by Invest Rodrigues so that he can start implementation of the project. The application for a Tourist Enterprise license under process and will be delivered to the Promoter shortly.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am not tabling any document as it is unethical to table documents when an application is still in process.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I indeed, to agree that to further promote the tourism sector in Rodrigues, we have to come up with innovative projects. That is one thing. However, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I personally had a visit there and I was amazed to see that I was invited to cross the bridge but as a Commissioner rightly said, this is for those who are in search of *sensation forte, n'est-ce pas?*

Mais quand même, M. le vice-président, le projet a déjà commencé. Quand on se présente là, il n'y a aucun bureau, pas encore. Je vois tout de suite surgir du néant quelqu'une qui vient me dire « *est-ce que vous voulez traverser ?* » Mais quels sont les conditions ? Elle me donne un papier,

« *Voilà, les conditions sont là.* » Mais quand même, M. le vice-président, pour un tel projet, pour que Rodrigues justement, pour que cela ne ternisse pas l'image de Rodrigues si sait jamais un problème surgit, il faudrait que la Commission responsable mette en place le mécanisme nécessaire, de sécurité etc. Il a parlé de sécurité.

Can I ask him whether, his Commission has issued any operational guidelines to this Promoter? And, if so, can he inform the House what are the scopes of these guidelines?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we have obviously delivered some sort of guidelines to the person and we made sure that this project is really some sort of secured thing. But, as I said, it is for people. It is not for, you know, for everybody. It is not for everybody. If your heart is not well, you do not go there. It is just like the *tyrolienne*! It is the same thing! It is the same thing but in a different way. And, concerning the office, not all business needs an office! Do we need an office there for what? And, we do not want to change.

On ne veut pas casser le cachet naturel de cet endroit à mettre un bâtiment là-dedans ! Non ! L'office est en plein air. C'est extraordinaire de voir un bureau en plein air. Et dans l'idée de faire passer des gens, c'est vrai, on commence à faire passer des gens là-dessus. Mais pour le moment, le projet n'est pas officiellement ouvert, pas encore. Mais oui ! Pourquoi on fait passer les gens ? C'est un test. On ne peut pas ouvrir... Vous voulez répondre ou quoi ?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Laisse mo repone!* On ne peut pas ouvrir un projet, après, on se dit personne ne veut passer là-dessus ! Si on veut ce projet, si moi, personnellement, le Commissaire, bien sûr un truc sera organisé officiellement. Une grande fête sera faite là-bas bientôt. Mais pour le moment, le projet n'est pas officiellement ouvert parce que moi, ce sera ridicule pour un Commissaire d'aller ouvrir un projet où personne veut passer et tout le monde a peur. Donc, c'est pour ça que voilà, *as a test*. Donc, on fait passer les gens tranquille pour voir si c'est un projet fiable. Mais je dois dire que ce n'est pas fini ! Ce ne sera pas que ça. Il y a un bout qui sera attaché. On va sauter avec l'élastique bientôt aussi là-bas. Donc, ça va venir. Donc, le projet n'est pas terminé, n'est pas complété mais là, c'est à phase de test, voir un peu. Il faut tester, il faut les tests de cœur avant.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Il faut tester ! *Pa kapav manze ene piment ler gueter penan piment ladan !*

The Minority Leader: Oui, M. le vice-président, mais si on doit tester, est-ce que la Commission ou le promoteur a mis un enseigne pour dire aux gens '*écoutez, ici, c'est testing, on est en train de tester*' ? Ça, c'est une chose. Mais écoutez, M. le vice-président, on n'est pas là pour rigoler. C'est du sérieux. J'ai été en contact avec les gens de l'endroit. Vous savez, tout récemment, l'année dernière, il y a eu un cas de suicide dans cette cascade. Pourquoi ? Parce que, paraît-il, la cascade n'était pas clôturée. Et suite à une question que j'avais posée ici, je constate que peu de temps après, il y a des travaux qui ont été faits et là, je félicite ceux concernés. Mais les travaux ont été faits seulement aux alentours du kiosque de Pistache.

Hors, donc, la cascade de Pistache est longue de plus d'un kilomètre et des deux côtés, il est nécessaire que ces cascade soit bien protégée. Et là à l'endroit où les gens vont faire la traversée, la cascade, les clôtures existantes sont en délabrement. Est-ce que le Commissaire en question est au courant de cette situation ? Deuxièmement, la traversée de ce pont, M. le vice-président, ce n'est pas seulement aux gens. Figurez-vous, s'il n'y a pas de control, pas de mesures de sécurités, les animaux tels que les bœufs ou autres peuvent faire la traversée. Et le soir, M. le vice-président, qui a le control de ce pont ?

Si quelqu'un veut, je ne sais pas qu'est-ce qui est dans sa tête, il veut faire une traversée nocturne et fait un plongeon dans le vide, qui garantira cette traversée, M. le vice-président ? D'où la question de voir, de ne pas minimiser sur cet aspect de sécurité, M. le vice-président. C'est pourquoi donc, je demande à la Commission, c'est la Commission qui a la responsabilité, de donner les directives au promoteur de veiller à ce que ce pont soit non seulement en sécurité et pour ceux qui font la traversée mais pour le public en général.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le président, ça me fait rire d'entendre par le coup de le côté suicide. Si on veut se suicider à Rodrigues, est-ce qu'il faut aller à Cacade Pistache pour le faire ? Montagne Tonnerre, c'est l'endroit idéal. Est-ce qu'on va voir Rodrigues...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Bon, ce n'est pas notre politique de toute façon. Ce n'est pas la vision de ce Gouvernement de passer dans chaque endroit à Rodrigues ou quelqu'un peut se suicider pour mettre une clôture. On ne va pas

appeler Rodrigues l'île des clôtures. Ça, c'est une chose très importante. Il y a des endroits où des clôtures ont été mises. Je prends l'exemple de l'ancien Gouvernement avait mis des clôtures a Trou d'Argent. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? Une dame est venue s'appuyer avec la clôture et elle est tombée, la pauvre. Parce que ça s'est cassé, elle est tombée. S'il n'y avait pas de clôture, elle ne serait pas tombée. Elle ne serait pas tombée.

Venant des *maintenance*, très important, c'est pour ça, au niveau de *maintenance*, c'est pour cette raison, *sa même raison de maintenance* qu'on ne veut plus, là, on a mis un côté seulement mais l'autre côté, on va changer de tactique. Il n'y aura plus cette clôture... Je ne sais pas, vous avez été dans le Gouvernement, vous savez combien ça coûte pour faire de clôture avec du *pine*. Ça pourrisse vite fait et c'est de l'argent gaspillé. C'est de l'argent gaspillé par l'état. Et nous, comme on est du bonne *governance*, on va changer, vous verrez, Anse aux Anglais bientôt, on va commencer par Anse aux Anglais à mettre des clôtures magnifiques et qui vont rester plus long terme. Nous, on regarde dans cinq ans, 10 ans, 20 ans, 50 ans. Donc, on ne va pas parler de jours. Donc, suicide, j'ai parlé.

Au niveau de sécurité, si quelqu'un veut passer sur le pont, le truc là, le *bridge*, le pont la nuit, vous n'avez pas posé la question au promoteur ! Parce qu'il y a un pont, un truc qui est enlevé. Personne ne peut passer là-dessus la nuit. Il ne peut pas passer là-dessus la nuit. Il n'y a personne qui peut passer sur ce pont pendant la nuit parce que pendant la nuit, ils enlèvent le... Il y a un pont qui est levé et qu'il y a des cadenas qui sont mises. Il n'y a personne à moins qu'on soit *superman*. On ne peut pas passer là. Deuxième truc, au niveau de sécurité, quand on passe sur ce pont, il y a ce qu'on appelle une ligne de vie.

Moi, je suis plongeur professionnel, je sais de quoi je parle. Vous, peut-être, vous ne savez pas que c'est une ligne de vie. Donc, on ne marche pas sur le truc comme ça. On est attaché avec une ligne spéciale de vie au cas où la personne a un malaise, la planche se casse et la personne restera en pendant comme ça comme avec la tyrolienne. Donc, il n'y a pas de... Mais je dois dire, il est important pour moi de stresser, on parlait de permis, on parlait d'opération. Il y a un projet de tyrolienne à Montagne Malgache qui a été initié, approuvé par l'ancien Gouvernement et que la demande a été faite le 19 mai 2009. L'opération de l'activité a débuté en janvier 2011 sans aucune licence et ce n'est que nous, ma Commission, en 2013, c'est nous qui avons donné le permis.

Donc, on n'a pas de leçon à prendre de vous parce qu'on sait que ce projet, c'est un projet extraordinaire. En plus de ça, ça met en valeur la cascade.

Si on veut vraiment, là, malheureusement, la météo est un petit peu contre nous, mais quand on aura de la pluie et la cascade va marcher, vous savez, vous allez au milieu de cette cascade et vous regardez en face et vous regardez la cascade. Parce que des deux côtés... Malheureusement à Rodrigues, il n'y a pas d'hélico pour survoler cet endroit. Mais avec ce *bridge*, ce pont, on pourra survoler. Moi, je trouve que c'est un projet magnifique pour Rodrigues et je vous invite mais il faut faire le test du cœur d'abord. Merci.

The Minority Leader: M. le vice-président, une dernière question. Le Commissaire a parlé aussi qu'il y aura dans ce même projet, le saut à l'élastique. N'est-ce pas ? C'est ce qu'il a dit. Je vais lire ce que j'ai pu avoir sur le saut élastique. *'Le saut à l'élastique procure des sensations fortes... [ça, c'est vrai] mais à condition d'être prudent et être conscient des dangers en cour.'*

Voilà, je vais citer quelques dangers parce qu'il y a quelqu'un dans la région même qui est un professionnel de santé qui m'a dit :

« Bein, écoutez, si jamais on va de l'avant avec ce type de projet, il faudrait que certaines mesures de précautions soient prises. [Il y a le risque cervical.] En sautant à l'élastique, chaque pratiquant peut être victime du coup du lapin dans le cas d'un choc comme celui provoqué d'un rebond de l'élastique, la tête non maintenue ballote brusquement. Les vertèbres cervicales peuvent être plus ou moins gravement affectées avec éventuellement une blessure de la moelle et du nerf. »

Ça, c'est un risque certain. Deuxième, problème cardiaque. *« Etre sujet à des problèmes cardiaques est une contre-indication à la pratique du saut à l'élastique. »* Comment justement faire le choix des clients, M. le président ? Moi, je suis un client. Je viens là, j'ai un problème cardiaque, est-ce qu'il y aura des médecins sur place pour justement avant que je fasse le saut, qui peut certifier que je suis apte de le faire, M. le président ? C'est ça, la question.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ce n'est pas la première fois, M. le vice-président, qu'on a des projets comme ça de hautes sensations. Moi, étant professionnel de la plongée, je peux vous dire. La plongée aussi, c'est dangereux. Mais il y a des contre-indications pour chaque sport et il y a une fiche qui est remplie par chaque personne. On doit être responsable de ses actes. Donc, au fait, la personne arrive, c'est comme ça que ça se passe, et le promoteur te dit, *« Oké, tu veux faire de la plongée, l'asthmatique, si tu es asthmatique, tu n'as pas le droit de le faire, tu ne peux pas le faire mais si tu veux le faire, tu signe le papier tu le fais, c'est ton problème. »* Mais il y aura une contre-indication pour

l'asthmatique, problème de cœur, si tu as des crises épilepsies, tout ça, c'est écrit dessus.

Après, la personne mets une petite signature, dit '*oké, moi, je n'ai pas de problèmes, je peux sauter ou bien je peux plonger*'. Et c'est exactement ça qui va se passer, on n'a pas besoin de docteur ! Pas besoin de docteur. À ce moment-là, la personne vient, lit le papier ou l'autre personne fait lire. Dans n'importe quel projet, c'est la même chose pour la tyrolienne. Vous pensez si quelqu'un est cardiaque, il veut faire tyrolienne ? Et pourtant, c'est une activité qui est là. Il y a des contre-indications pour plusieurs types de sports à haute sensation mais c'est la personne qui prend sa responsabilité.

Si vous sentez déjà vous ne pouvez pas marcher sur le truc, il ne faut pas signer le truc, il ne faut pas le faire. Mais si vous sentez que vous êtes Rambo et si vous voulez tester le coup, c'est à vous de faire. Il n'y a personne, il n'y a pas sur le papier 'vous êtes forcés à le faire' ou 'vous êtes obligés de le faire'. Tout est là. C'est un choix qu'on fait. C'est pour ça j'ai dit au début c'est une activité de haute sensation pour ceux qui sont forts et ce n'est pas la première fois.

Saut à l'élastique, on connaît le saut à l'élastique. Ce n'est pas qu'à Rodrigues. Est-ce que ce sport, c'est la première fois qu'on le fait ? Dans n'importe quelle discipline, il y a des risques et le risque, on le prend, on ne le prend pas. Donc, c'est un choix que le client, la personne, le touriste a. Je suis sûr qu'il y en a beaucoup qui a cette sensation, qui veulent se lancer là-dedans et moi, je serais le premier à le faire.

The Deputy Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le vice-président, en écoutant le Commissaire du Tourisme faire son intervention, répondre à ces questions, nous avons l'impression qu'il pense qu'on est contre ce projet à tout bout de champ. Ce n'est pas là, la question. M. le vice-président, nous sommes conscients des risques. C'est pour cela, en tant qu'une opposition responsable, c'est notre devoir d'attirer l'attention de ceux concernés sur l'implémentation de ce projet.

Prior to the implementation of this project, can I ask the Commissioner whether, there have been any consultations with people living in the vicinity of this region where this project is being implemented?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le vice-président, il est de mon devoir aussi de répondre à vos questions de l'opposition. Vous posez des questions et vous ne voulez pas que je réponde. C'est du n'importe quoi ! Mais aussi en question de

la communauté, oui, effectivement, on a eu plusieurs réunions avec la communauté. On a même emmené le promoteur avec le comité de village pour discuter avec eux. Ils étaient tous contents parce que cet endroit, il n'y a pas... C'est vrai on peut passer, visiter un petit peu mais il n'y a pas grand-chose dans cet endroit qui vraiment attire les touristes à aller directement là-bas. Donc, il y a eu consultation et les villageois de Pistache, ils sont très contents de ce projet et d'ailleurs, ça crée de l'emploi dans la région.

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

At 12.26 hours the Assembly was suspended for lunch.

On resuming at 13.29 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

**EXCAVATION OF SOIL – ANSE GOELAND/MT. DU SABLE
PERMIT GRANTED/CONDITIONS ATTACHED**

(No. B/8) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to excavation of soil being carried out for road access at Anse Goeland towards Mt. du Sable, between the desalination plant and the bus terminal, he will:

- (a) state and table the authorization or permit granted, if any, for same and indicating the date for the application thereof together with the permit delivered therefor; and
- (b) state the conditions attached to the permit, if any, and to table the site plan and lease of the applicant(s)?

The Commissioner responsible for Tourism and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I will answer question B/8 originally addressed to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure and others as the subject matter falls under the purview of my Commission.

Looking at the question, I think it is too vague a question as it does not have a clear indication of the exact location the Respected Member, is talking about. It can either be on the left of the desalination plant or on the right and I do not know which bus stop the Member is referring to, as there are many bus stops there. But nevertheless, since we have nothing to hide I will try to answer, hoping that we are talking on the same issue.

An inhabitant of Anse Goeland, who have been living there for long and who had an access road leading to his house which was in a really bad state, applied to my Commission for environmental clearance to improve the access road in July 2014. Permission was granted on the 25 July 2014 but unfortunately, the applicant had 30 days to do the work. But due to lack of facilities and unforeseen problems, the work was not done at that time. Early this month the applicant applied for a new clearance, which was approved by my Commission. Please note that my Commission is doing a follow-up on the matter to make sure that it is being done in the right way.

I do not see the importance of tabling the site plan and lease of the applicant as it is just about improving an existing access road and it is not ethical to table application of the applicant, as I do not know if we are talking about the same person.

The Minority Leader: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are talking of the same person and the Commissioner knows rightly well whom I am talking about.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the purpose of asking such a question is that when you look, there is actually if you go there, you will see a JCB excavating the land and the land as you know there it is sloppy and the risk of environmental damage is very high. The question is, why is it that the Commissioner is telling us that there is no need for a land permit, a lease? Yes, he gave clearance, but he said that the site plan and the lease and so on, are not necessary. On a web site of the Public Infrastructure, I just downloaded an application form for permission to level and excavate land. And in this form, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one of the conditions attached, it is said: *"I enclosed a true and faithful copy of land lease and building permit whichever applies"*. Therefore, in an application for such a project, the promoter had to ensure that he has a land lease. This is one.

Secondly, the Commissioner said that it was an existing road but why is it that there is a machine there excavating the land and the road is going far beyond his house. And where is the newly excavated road, where does it go to?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am also in possession of one of these land clearance form but what the Honourable Member is talking about is an old form. Because it is a form that was used by the time the Commission for Environment was together with the Commission for Public Infrastructure by that time, couple of years ago. But this, actually it is not the case, it is Commission for Public Infrastructure and something else and I am responsible for the Commission for Environment and I am in possession of the clearance

which has been duly delivered/approved by my Commission. And it is clear and it is true that it is on a slope. No question to ask about this. Everywhere on Rodrigues, Rodrigues is a sloppy island, it is a mountainous island. So everywhere, people will have in one way or another to build or to draw access road on a slope. But it is true that we have to look, to make sure that it is limited damage, I am not saying “no damage” because this is impossible, limited damage is caused to the environment. But this why that person that we are talking about duly applied for an environmental clearance and it was approved by my Commission and my officers are following the works that is being done.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner tell us whether this road access, is it a private one or is it for public purposes as well.

Mr. R. Payendee: This is not a private access road, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and this is not even a new access road. It is an old access road which is being, you know, renewed and putting in the right way and we have to be thankful to that person because the Commission for Public Infrastructure would have had to build this road to do the work ourselves. But the fact that somebody from a private person wants to build a road leading to his house where everybody else can use. I think that it is more than positive.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that in this same vicinity, in the same place, there is already an existing road which this person could have used. Why is he trying to build a new road? What is the Commissioner hiding us, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not hiding anything. What I know from what is on paper is that the person that we are talking about did apply for a clearance and the clearance has been given by my Commission. Looking at this, as if, you are saying that the staffs of my Commission are not doing their works, the technicians. Because it has been approved and I have it duly signed here but unfortunately, I am not tabling it because the question itself is not very clear and I do not want to give the paper, the question is not clear, I do not want to give the paper. Next time you come with another question, I will table the required information.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner what steps are being taken by his Commission to ensure that the environmental norms are fully adhered to by the person concerned.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is followed by my Commission and there is a couple of guidelines on the form itself. On the approval, it is said that, no damage should be caused by any public infrastructure, no drain should be obstructed. There are a couple of conditions attached to the clearance and we will make sure that these conditions are followed and this is the job of the technicians of my Commission.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner as one can see marine sand being exposed there, on the land. Can we know from the Commissioner, what is the procedure to obtain these marine sands?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot answer this question because it is not related to the original question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner how many times do the officers responsible for the following of this excavation works have been on site till today?

Mr. R. Payendee: This is a question which is not really.. I will have to go through the logbooks or of the attendance book of my officers to check how many times they are going there. But one thing is sure is that my Commission is responsible of the environment of this island and we will do the best. And I will, I often go through this road and I will do my best to make sure that this work is being done in the right way so that there is limited, I say again there will be some damages, whatever development you do, where ever way you do it, there will be some damages, so that limited damages is caused to the environment.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I would like to ask one question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in general. I would like to ask the Commissioner, whether he will give clearance to those who applied for an access outside their lease or leases? Whether it is his policy to give clearance for anybody to create an access outside his lease to his residence?

Mr. R. Payendee: You know, this is again another question, which is sort of, I could have said the right word you got for this question but I prefer not. But you know someone has got a house, by doing a sort of access road there is no damage, they are not crossing any private land, the person needs to have.. And also they are talking about the environment as if they know more about the environment than us. You know, this place, I will give them the answer that they are looking for. This place, I know it is a sloppy land but this is the bay downward, is already silted and there are a lot of mangroves growing

there. Why did we plant mangroves on these places? To prevent the silt from going to the reefs! So there is no way to assess all these. You think that we are sitting down and doing nothing about this in my office? We have gone through all the things before we approved this and what is, the Chief Commissioner keeps saying, what is the reason of us being politician? *Pou améliore la vie dimoune*. So this is what we are doing. This guy needs an access road; there is no problem about giving him an access road. He wants to build it himself. Why not? Why not? Why should we not give him the permission? And this is what we do.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has not answer my question. I am not talking about that specific case at Anse Goeland. I am asking him, in general, whether it is his policy to give clearance to anybody who wants to create an access road outside his lease to his residence, in general, not at Anse Goeland but in Rodrigues?

Mr. R. Payendee: No, it is not the policy of my Commission to give lease or whatever for roads. But it is the policy of my Commission to give clearance whenever someone wants to do some sort of levelling to any land. It does not matter, access road or whatever. Even for a lease, someone who wants to build a house, they have to get clearance if they are going to use heavy machines.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

PURCHASE OF ANIMAL FEEDS FOR LIVESTOCK

(No. B/9) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the purchase of animal feeds for livestock by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the period 2012 to date, he will:

- (a) table the amount purchased per livestock feed together with the name of the respective suppliers and the quoted price;
- (b) state if any irregularities had happened at the different livestock breeding centres in relation thereto and if so, to give details thereof; and
- (c) state the facilities extended or to be given, if any, to the respective supplier/s thereof in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the purchase of animal feeds is carried out in accordance with Public Procurement Act and prevailing procurement procedures and regulations as established by the Procurement Policy Office.

Tender is launched at the beginning of each year to choose the most responsive bidder. I am tabling the name of the successful bidders, the amount purchased as well as the price quoted.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that an internal control exercise carried out in December 2012, detected a discrepancy in stock of animal feed at Baie Topaze Breeding Station. About 1,765 kgs of sow feed was unaccounted for.

The case was referred to the Police for investigation. Two officers were provisionally charged and have since then been interdicted. The matter is still before the Court. I will not comment further on this issue before the Court gives its verdict as it is sub-judicial.

Furthermore, I am also informed that in August 2014, shortages of some animal feed were reported at St. Gabriel Livestock Production Unit. It was found that the following animal feeds were unaccounted for:

Sn.	Type of Feed	Shortage (kgs)
1	Ruminant Feed	346
2	Dairy Feed Concentrate	845
3	Calf Grower	260
4	Cow Feed	184

I am informed that the matter has not been reported to the Police. I have already given firm instructions to the Island Chief Executive to initiate an internal inquiry as to why the case has not been reported to the Police yet and as to why no actions have been taken up to now.

As regards part (c) of the question, I am informed that the freight for suppliers/importers of animal feed is subsidised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to allow our breeders to buy their livestock feed at a reasonable price.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the cases involved at St. Gabriel. It seems that the two cases, one at Baie Topaze, there have been

cases reported to the Police and St. Gabriel, no cases have been reported to the Police. And you all know according to financial instructions on the very day, on the very day when loses have happened, loses, shortages happens, the Accounting Officer, the Officer in Charge there should, first of all, informed the Departmental Head and the Departmental Head shall call for the officer to report the case immediately to the Police. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner, why such thing has not been carried out on the very day?

The Chief Commissioner: I am sorry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to reply to this question. I do not know. I need notice of the question. As I have said, I have already given firm instruction to the Island Chief Executive to initiate an internal inquiry as to why the case has not been reported to the Police yet and as to why no action has been taken up to now. The Island Chief Executive is going to make an enquiry. Enquiry, this means, why these discrepancies have not been reported. You know, there is a question of management. The Island Chief Executive will see whether there was a default in the management of the breeding at St. Gabriel.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Is the Chief Commissioner aware that in a written letter, there has been an enquiry, there has been an enquiry and the latter has reported back that he will refund the shortage.

The Chief Commissioner: The case has been reported he said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? To whom?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: There has been an enquiry.

The Chief Commissioner: Who initiates the enquiry?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the level of the Commission, there has been an enquiry and the person involved stated in a written letter that he/she is agreeable to refund. Is he aware of that?

The Chief Commissioner: We are not aware of this enquiry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I refresh the memory of the Chief Commissioner that this question, he has already answered a kind of this question, in some previous sessions in this Assembly. Is he aware that the same answer that he gives today; he mentioned that he will ask the Island Chief Executive to see that action be taken.

The Chief Commissioner: Well could the Member table what he is saying concerning what he said.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This question has been replied by the Chief Commissioner before. And the answer that the Chief Commissioner gives today with regard to St. Gabriel, no enquiry has been made. He already answered this question in the past. May I ask the Commissioner whether he is aware of it? If he is not aware, I will ask you to suspend the assembly to look for this answer.

The Chief Commissioner: I remember it was a reply concerning Baie Topaze Breeding Centre.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: There was also St. Gabriel.

The Chief Commissioner: I take note of the question and find out whether this enquiry has been made. I have already instructed the Island Chief Executive to do it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I did not have an answer to my question. This question has been replied. And if, the Chief Commissioner does not even remember, I would ask you to suspend the assembly to look for this answer because since that time, the Island Chief Executive has not done his work.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, I will not suspend the Assembly. I will not suspend the Assembly. The Chief Commissioner said he took notice of this. So, we proceed.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are going to find it. We are going to find it. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the statement of loses, the account of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether the loses happened, appear on the statement of account of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for last year?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Vini bonhomme là, vini !*

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. B/10, next question, yes.

The Chief Commissioner: Do I look like a “*bonhomme là*”? Please come in.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, you should avoid such word to pay respect to the decorum of the Assembly. Even that young man is not a “*bonhomme*”. Next question.

**APPROVED PROVISION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
- FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

(No. B/10) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the approved provision for capital expenditure for the financial year ending 31st December 2015 by the Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the amendments brought item wise, if any, to same and, if so, to table same together with the reasons therefor; and
- (b) if there has been any budget deficit or surplus and to indicate the quantum accordingly?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that as per usual practice; several reallocations have been made on capital items for the financial year 2015. Those are currently been audited by a team of Auditors from Mauritius. The details of each changes for each item are being compiled and will be tabled shortly.

Out of the amount voted of Rs 600 m. for investment projects for the year ending 31 December 2015, a sum of Rs 579,019,285.34 has been disbursed.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a problem here in this House, the Assembly do approve a budget for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and at times there are amendments, which mean there has been reallocation and the reallocation is done at the Central Administration. Are these procedures correct? Can I ask the Chief Commissioner, being given that the Assembly has approved a given figure here in this Assembly and at the level of the Central Administration they do the amendments, they do the readjustments without the Assembly knowing what is happening there?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, as I have said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all the details, there has been many reallocations. All the details of each changes for each item are being compiled. We cannot give an answer in one day or two days. This is what I said and will be tabled shortly.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Okay, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I will make a plea to you. Most of the time, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we ask question and figures have been compiled but up to now nothing have been received. Nothing! Even the Office of the Clerk, phoned, phoned over phoned and nothing is being received at the level of the Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson: So, what is your plea you are making to me?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: We need to have these information here.

WATER PROJECTS – MONEY ALLOCATED

(No. B/11) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to water projects in Rodrigues from 2012 to date, he will:

- (a) table the amount of money allocated or to be allocated by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the National Assembly and any Donor Agencies/countries in relation thereto;
- (b) state the projects already completed and undertaken together with their respective completion period; and
- (c) table the output of each project?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information sought at part (a) of the question is being tabled whereas those requested at part (b) and (c) are being compiled and will be tabled later.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have many projects at the level of the Commission responsible for Water. We have reservoirs to be constructed; we have many things to be done, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But as regards to the budget when it has been allocated to the Commission responsible for Water, “NO”, even for desalination plants, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, “NO” project has been completed 100%. I said completed “NO” project. Can he account for that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have already answered the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, he has not replied, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What answer did he mention? Compiled? Yes, it is a fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can he, in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have four projects, I will name the projects. We have Water Supply Development Projects, Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs, Promotion of Rain Water Harvesting at household level, Desalination projects, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. No projects have been completed up to now since 2012 up to date. Can he explain why since 2012 up to date no project has been completed?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these are ongoing projects and will be completed in due course and the other information will be tabled soon on the table of the Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to water. Fortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today is the International Day for Water. Today is the World Day, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will ask the Commissioner, what is being done, even for today to mark the date of the International Water Day? What is being done at the level of his Commission as regards to Capital Project related to water today?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this question will be answered in the statement after questions time.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Question is question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If he wants me to ask question at statement, I agree.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: You cannot answer question at statement time.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. Last question for you? Okay.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We have to be serious in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. He cannot say he will answer the question in statement time, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. *Met ene lord.* This is not correct. This is not correct for the Assembly. We have a certain level here. We have to respect, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: So, what is your point?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: My point is that he has to answer what has been put to him during question time. He cannot say he will answer the question after questions time. What is this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Where are we?

Mr. Chairperson: You want to say something.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

FAMILY WELFARE

(No. B/12) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to family welfare in Rodrigues for the period 2012 to date, she will state:

- (a) the policy of this Regional Government, and actions undertaken, if any, by her Commission to alleviate the problems affecting the family welfare of the Rodriguan population; and
- (b) the number of youth admitted to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre in Mauritius and the shelter at Baladirou, respectively; and
- (c) the number of persons attending the family protection service and the main reasons therefor?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since 2012 to date, my Commission has fought to alleviate the problems affecting the family welfare in Rodrigues. A first step was the setting up of the Family Support Bureau (*Service de Soutien et de Protection aux Familles*), whose main aims are working for Prevention, for Protection, Rehabilitation and Empowerment to families in Rodrigues.

By setting up this Bureau it allowed a better coordination of the services working towards Family Welfare, that is, the Child Development Unit, the Police Family Protection Unit, Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs and the Family Protection Unit.

Numerous activities are being organised in the context of prevention, such as Boot Camp and others. In the context of empowerment many families, mostly women headed families, are encouraged into small enterprises under supervision of technicians at the Commission. Furthermore, for protection of children emergency protection orders are emitted by the Magistrate and the victims sheltered at the Foyer at Baladirou. Protection Orders are also emitted for women victims of violence. As regards to rehabilitation, the service of a

Psychologist is available and a Rehabilitation Youth Centre will also soon be available for youths with behavioural problems.

Families in distress are supported as follows:-

- (i) Provision of foodstuffs and others in cases of emergency;
- (ii) Provision of houses to families in distress;
- (iii) Mentorship support to families with children beyond control;
- (iv) Counselling and Mediation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, the number of youths admitted at the shelter of Baladirou is as follows:

Year	No. of Youths
2012	23
2013	21
2014	10
2015	17
Feb 2016 up to date	25

The number of youths at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre:

Year	No. of Youths
2012	1 boy
2013	5 boys 2 girls
2014	4 boys
2015	2 boys
2016	4 boys

The number of persons attending the Family Protection Service, under my office:

Year	No. of persons
2012	70
2013	77
2014	55
2015	45

The number of persons attending the Police Family Protection Unit are as follows:

Year	No. of persons
2012	376
2013	492
2014	628
2015	480
2016 up to now	78

And they attend the services for both the Family Protection Unit and the Police Family Protection Unit for the following reasons mainly:

- (a) for Counselling Service;
- (b) for Psychological Support;
- (c) for Protection Order;
- (d) for Mediation Service;
- (e) In cases of domestic violence and family conflicts.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, first of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know the number of officers who man the CDU and Family Protection Unit at the level of your Commission.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: So, at the level of my Commission, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have got one person at the CDU and one person at the FPU.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if these numbers of cases increasing, for me it is increasing, is the number of officers attached sufficient to meet all. *Nous avons le problème, il faut recevoir les gens, il faut diagnostiquer et de pratiquer des thérapies aussi par rapport à la situation selon les circonstances. Est-ce que the number is sufficient to cater for the number of cases?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Effectivement, M. le président, le nombre de personnel n'est pas suffisant mais il faut que je fasse ressortir que depuis ces derniers trois ans, on a eu l'occasion d'avoir des STM, les jeunes gradués dans les domaines tels que Psychology and Counselling qui prêtent un coup de main et on a aussi fait la proposition auprès de la PRB, au niveau de la structure même du département pour qu'on puisse avoir des ressources additionnels pour amener à bien tous ce travail. Et aussi il faut dire qu'on a la collaboration des ONGs ainsi que le Child Mentoring Committee, les Child Mentors qui nous aide dans le travail qu'on a à faire.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, maintenant elle parle des enfants pour monitor mais quand même, M. le président, au niveau des officiers qualifiés, vraiment qualifiés qui peuvent pratiquer les thérapies adéquat, comme par exemple, M. le président, la Psychologue Clinicienne, M. le président. Combien de Psychologue on a au niveau de la Commission, officiellement au niveau de la Commission.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je pense qu'on ne peut pas dire que les gens qui font ce travail actuellement ne sont pas qualifiés. Déjà la Commission, on vient de sponsoriser leurs études. Donc, les personnes qui sont affectés à ces départements viennent de terminer leur Diploma in Social Work ajouté avec leurs expériences, je pense qu'ils font un travail formidable. En effet, on n'a pas de Psychologue Clinicienne posté en permanence jusqu'ici. J'ai eu l'occasion d'étaler longuement durant le discours budget sur cet état de chose. Là il y a un recrutement qui est en cours. On a déjà fait l'appel à la candidature. On attend la PSC pour recruter un Psychologue Clinicienne qui va rester dont sur le long-terme. Mais actuellement, on a un Psychologue Clinicien du Ministère qui vient pendant une semaine chaque mois et qui vient pour faire les suivis. C'est vrai, ce n'est pas suffisant mais entre temps on le fait jusqu'à ce qu'on a le *appointment* de ce Psychologue ou de cette Psychologue dont on a lancé l'appel à la candidature.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, au niveau de Baladirou Shelter at Baladirou, M. le président. A Baladirou qu'est-ce qu'on a? On a des enfants. On a des enfants avec toutes sortes de problèmes et chaque problème demande une attention particulière. Est-ce qu'au niveau de Shelter de Baladirou on a quelqu'un ou bien quelqu'une ou bien une sœur qui donne une thérapie adéquate par rapport au problème individuel d'un enfant ?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: M. le président, depuis son existence à Baladirou on a eu des enfants avec toutes sortes de situation. Donc, ce n'est pas quelque chose de nouveau ça. Ce qui est nouveau maintenant c'est que parmi les sœurs qui sont affectées au foyer, il y a des sœurs qui ont fait leurs études de formation dans tout ce qui appelle l'accompagnement des enfants et qui ont des expériences quand même régional. En plus, on a le Psychologue qui vient chaque mois. Le Psychologue rencontre les enfants qui ont besoin de ce service et aussi, je salut donc l'initiative surtout la démarche du vicariat apostolique qui depuis l'année dernière avec le support donc, des deux conseillers, les deux *Counsellors* qui sont attachés à la RCEA, ces deux *Counsellors*, chaque samedi chacun à son tour vient pour encadrer ces enfants au niveau du foyer. Donc, toujours *there is room for improvement* mais on doit dire que tout les efforts sont fait pour donner un meilleur encadrement à ces enfants.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question for Mr. Emilien.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has mentioned in her reply that the number of people attending the Family Protection Service is increasing year and year out. According to me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these figures are alarming because there is a problem concerning our families in Rodrigues. I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether an enquiry has been made or is being made at the level of.. is being envisaged, sorry, at the level of her Commission to find out the reason behind these alarming figures and to find remedial actions?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Effectivement, M. le président, on n'a pas fait une enquête a proprement dit mais on continu à travailler avec tout les partenaires, les stakeholders. Donc, je ne vais pas dire que les chiffres, ça monte, ça descend, *it is fluctuating*. Il y a plusieurs raisons. Est-ce qu'aujourd'hui on peut dire que les gens sont plus sensibilisés par rapport aux services qui sont offert ? C'est une des raisons pour lesquelles ils peuvent venir en grand nombre. Il y a d'autres raisons aussi effectivement. Je ne peux pas nier qu'il y a beaucoup plus de cas qui sont rapportés. Les raisons sont multiples mais ce qu'on a fait, on a eu des rencontres, plusieurs rencontres avec les stakeholders avec lesquels ont travail, les PTAs, les ONGs œuvrant dans différents domaines auprès des enfants, auprès des femmes et on a discuté comment on peut faire pour améliorer tout le service et surtout pour travailler pour travailler à la prévention. C'est pour cela que l'année dernière dans le discours budget, le Chef Commissaire a mentionné comment on va mettre cette année sur pied tout un programme de *Empowerment of the Families* avec les ONGs en partenariat. Qu'est-ce qu'on va faire. On a déjà démarré des rencontres pour bien mettre en place le projet. Au lieu que juste la Commission va faire les rencontre de sensibilisation, les ONGs seront appelés dans quelques jours à porter des projets que la Commission va commencer, va financer plutôt et ces ONGs vont avoir plus de moyen pour aller sur le terrain pour les formations, au niveau des PTAs, au niveau des villages, ainsi de suite. Donc, nous travaillons de concert avec les ONGs pour toutes un travail de prévention par rapport à ces fléaux.

Mr. Chairperson: You know we have got still about 60% of the questions, more of about 60% of the questions. Next question.

TRACK ROADS/FOOTPATHS

(No. B/13) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others

whether, in regard to track roads/footpaths to be constructed around the island under the contract/s already awarded since 2015, he will:

- (a) state if there has been any change in the policy for the construction thereof; and
- (b) table a breakdown of the length thereof constructed per locality and electoral region following the issue of the works order to date?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the policy for the construction of track road is to create and facilitate access for the inhabitants of Rodrigues, such as handicapped and old age persons and to facilitate access to essential services such as ambulances and other transport and this general policy has not been changed.

Information with respect to part (b) of the question is being tabled.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know that there has been no change in policies, that is, track road is being built to handicapped and old-aged persons. But, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have noticed that some track roads are being constructed to the house of certain persons who do not fall in the category as mentioned by the Commissioner. I would like to ask him whether this is the case and to give his explanation.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are cases where we have constructed track roads near to the house of persons and these persons at their own cost has completed the track road up to their house.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have one case at La Ferme. The track road, this is the main one and this one towards Mrs... Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is not quite explicit. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this at Citadel, this goes directly to one person, political agent whereas on the other side there are more than three or four families and the Chief Commissioner is aware of this. The Chief Commissioner is aware of this because these people, because the Chief Commissioner has done this picture. At Montagne Croupier, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, look, I will show everybody. The people, this is the normal track, the people they go this way and the track road goes that way towards the residence of one person only. Will you tell me this is an old-aged person? Will you tell me that this is an handicapped person? This is false, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I will like to ask the Commissioner whether it is his policy to decide.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *Nou enan pouvoir nou decidé !*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Zot enan pouvoir zot décidé*, very good, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is, I will like to ask him whether it is his practice, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is one part of a question. Second part, of a question, we know we have seen that this 5 kms track road is still ongoing. Is it not? Yes. But referring to question B/93, which I have in hand, the hansard. The Commissioner said that he will complete, he said he would complete the 5 kms track road last year, for the last financial year and we see it is still ongoing. I would like to ask the Commissioner what has happened?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le président, concernant la route de track road de Citadel, la personne en question que le Respected Membre est en train de dire, il a complété, il a ajouté une partie de ce track road pour aller chez lui avec son argent. Et pour Montagne Croupier, we decide. And regarding the time taken by the contractor to complete the track road, the contract of 5 kms, it is because of the supply of cement which they had problem with the supply of cement and you do not worry, the penalty will be applied to them and they will pay the...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am coming back to Citadel. 50 metres have been given to this person, 50 metres of track road. Yes, he built some 2 metres to reach his house, his *salon*, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, behind his doorstep. And then, you come here and say that person has... How much percentage has that person contributed? This is not correct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is not correct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I would like to ask the Commissioner here why is it that he has not given details of the different track roads or footpaths which have been constructed?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Is the Respected Member's information given to this House based on rumours? I do not know. But I confirm that this person at Citadel has completed his track road at his own cost.

Mr. Chairperson: Question to..

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner two questions in one because I think this question is important for him and for me also. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to refer to Hauteur Accacia, the Commissioner mentioned that his Commission will construct 470 metres of *route bétonner* since 50 days ago and the Commissioner mentioned that he will start this work *toute suite*. The inhabitants of Hauteur Accacia and others are still waiting today for the 470 metres *route bétonner ki ou ti dire toute suite!* They are still waiting. I would like to ask the Commissioner when these works will start. Secondly, whether he has received request from inhabitants of

Accacia near his house, his *voisin* to build a track road on a private land near the Commissioner's house?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first part of the question is not related to the main question. I will ask the Respected Member to come with a substantive question. And for the second part of the question, I have not received any request from person living outside my house.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The question refers to track road. This is track road. If the Commissioner wants to tell me the track road is different from *route bétonner* that he mentioned. So, fair enough, right? But I am still asking him when the *route bétonner* or track road or footpath that he promised to the village of Hauteur Accacia will be constructed. When?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: So, I repeat, the concrete road towards Hauteur Accacia is not related to this question, it is not in the contract.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, I refer to Region No. 3. I will make a plea to the Commissioner as regards to the track road Bois Noir Blanc, Bois Noir Blanc. Yes, here it is, we call it Bois Noir Blanc, 70 metres of footpaths. I have been there, Mr. Chairperson, *mone ale fer ene letour cote mo belle mère*, yes and where the footpaths is being constructed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is on a steep slope. I will make a plea to the Commissioner whether it is more convenient to build a track road instead of a footpath there?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I will look into the matter, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But to come back to the question of the Respected Member Perrine, I would like to inform him that works at Hauteur Accacia has already started.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before proceeding to my question, I would like to make a plea to have the floor for the question referring to B/9, that I insist the Chief Commissioner, I do have the answer in my hand but I would like you to give me permission to state what has been replied in this Assembly?

Mr. Chairperson: Next question. I said, next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I table the answer.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. No more question? Next question I said. See the time is already..

ICT – TRAINING/EXPENDITURE/INCREASED OF BANDWIDTH

(No. B/14) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Rodrigues, she will:

- (a) state on the outcome of those youths who benefitted from training at the ICT Centre for Excellence;
- (b) give a detailed breakdown of the expenditure incurred out of the Rs 14 million earmarked therefor in the 2015 budget; and
- (c) state as to when the bandwidth will be increased and, if so, by how much?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, 460 youths have been trained at the ICT Centre for Excellence in the digital literacy courses being provided there. As at date:

- (1) some of the youths have secured employment in government institutions;
- (2) some have joined the university for further studies;
- (3) some are still unemployed and will be recruited under the Youth Employment Programme; and
- (4) others will be recruited to work in the CSL Call Centre which will open shortly.

As regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has never been a sum of Rs 14 m. earmarked for ICT in the 2015 budget.

As for part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since 20 May 2015, there has been an increase in bandwidth from 155 to 200 Mbps following negotiations between my Commission and the Ministry of ICT and ICTA and we are working at a further increase in bandwidth up to 500 Mbps, by end of September 2016 to alleviate the constantly increasing demand as per the last Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner in October 2015.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Respected Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned that there has been no mentioned of Rs 14 m. in

ICT, whatever it is, but I have got something under my hand here in the Budget 2015 where at page 10 point 32, the Chief Commissioner mentioned, I quote: “*pendant la première année le salaire de ces jeunes sera assuré par le Youth Employment Programme (YEP) à la hauteur de Rs 14 m.*” So this was to what my question referred to and for the first question that Madam answered, the Respected Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned, she mentioned in her statement, Budget Speech that in 2015 these youths will be, all of them, will be recruited, either in Call Centres or in ICT sector. But up to now we are nearly three months after 2016; can I ask the Commissioner when she intends to place these young people in that she promised us?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have never said that all these youths will be employed. I have always mentioned the amount of hundred youths to be employed under the YEP programme and what has happened is that, in fact, the project, I agree we have had some sort of lateness in implementing the project. It is only because we have had to re-launch the refurbishment project at DBM and re-launching is only, we cannot do otherwise, there has been a bidding process and we have seen that there is the need to re-launch for some technical reasons and actually the contract has been awarded, actually there are maintenance works being done over there and the good news is that all the equipments, all the facilities, the amenities required by the CSL have already been shipped to Rodrigues and we are waiting for the building to be refurbished completely, in terms of cables and so on and very soon the project will be launched.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, *Sir, when we talked of ICT, comme-ci il y a quelque chose qui bouge en moi. Comme-ci, oui, oui ! Parce que c’est un projet qui me tient à cœur, M. le président. M. le président, à chaque fois j’entends la DCC vienne dans cette Chambre, on a augmenté le bandwidth, on a augmenté ceci, on a augmenté cela. On a commencé à 155. On a augmenté à 200 pour atteindre à 500. Oui, M. le président, la situation reste la même, M. le président. M. le président, quand ? Quand est-ce qu’on va mettre en avant le projet de fibre optique, M. le président ? M. le président, il y a comme-ci un étranglement quelque part. Est-ce que l’Adjointe au Chef Commissaire peut regarder la possibilité si on peut venir de l’avant avec un projet *Bill Operate Transfer as regards to fibre optical cable.**

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: M. le président, il y a pas d’étranglement à aucun niveau par rapport à ce projet. Comme on avait annoncé l’augmentation de la bande passante ce n’est pas de 155, en 2012 quand on est rentré c’était à 37. Actuellement c’est à 200 et on veut bien sûr comme mesure transitoire on l’a ci-bien dit jusqu’à septembre ça va passer à 500. J’ai bien dit mesure transitoire. Il n’y a pas d’étranglement. Le projet va arriver bien plus tôt que le

Membre Agathe n'attend. Le câble optique, le projet est *ongoing* et ça va voir le jour avant que nous quittons, avant la fin de notre mandat. Ça c'est l'engagement que je prends.

“PROGRAMME DE PRESTATION TRANSITOIRE”

(No. B/15) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the project “Programme de prestation transitoire” he will:

- (a) state on the outcome of the project;
- (b) table a detailed list of beneficiaries who have received grants/financial help in connection therewith and indicating in each case the scope of the project together with the sum granted; and
- (c) state if any incident has occurred during a meeting with the beneficiaries thereof in January 2016?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I presume that the respected Member is referring to the “Plan de Prestation Transitoire”. Okay, so I will answer accordingly. In fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a budgetary measure which is being implemented by my Commission since December 2014. The objective is to provide financial assistance to beneficiaries of Unemployment Hardship Relief (UHR) and Social Aid with the view to enable them to start an Income Generating Activity so that they can earn their living independently, without the need to depend solely on UHR or Social Aid. As at date, financial assistance has been granted to two batches of some 36 beneficiaries.

For the first batch which comprised of 15 beneficiaries, cheques were issued on 26 December 2014. An interim evaluation report dated 15 July 2015 showed that 11 beneficiaries, representing about 73% have been successful and are deriving their livelihood from their project activities. The other four beneficiaries have encountered difficulties and now they are being closely monitored and arrangement for appropriate training are being made by my Commission to ensure that their enterprises become successful.

As regards to the second batch, cheques were issued to 21 beneficiaries on 24 December 2015. They have all purchased the necessary inputs to start their project activities. At this stage, it is too early to state whether they have been successful or otherwise.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I consider that it would not be appropriate to provide the information as requested in part (b) since these are personal details which need the consent of the beneficiaries. However, in general terms, I am submitting a summary of the different categories of projects which have been selected and the total sum disbursed for each batch.

As regards to part (c) of the question, I must inform the House that there has never been any incident during any meeting held with the beneficiaries of the “Plan de Prestation Transitoire”. And above all, I must point out that no meeting at all was held with these beneficiaries in January 2016.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all, as regards to part (c), I would like that the Commissioner express his interest as regards to part (c), because he is directly involved with this incident. He has to express his interest in it.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, as regards to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I clearly mentioned, there has never been any incident with beneficiaries of “Plan de Prestation Transitoire” and any other meetings also held.

Mr. J. Roussety: We understand that these beneficiaries today have accepted to forfeit their Social Aid pension that they were receiving prior to them being engaged in this programme. And now some of them, most of them they have no means of living, even though the Commissioner is saying that they are doing some projects enterprises. I would like to know whether these persons, those who meet the criteria will be considered for Social Aid.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I think, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the Respected Member is getting confused between the different programmes. This question was about “Plan de Prestation Transitoire” and these people have prepared their projects submitted to the Commission. There has been evaluation by a committee and they have already forfeited. It has nothing to do with the other programme, the ERP.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, out of the 300 beneficiaries who benefit from the programme in December 2014. There are 36 persons who have been selected for a project. But, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know if it has been mentioned in the contract but when the Commissioner explained to this House about this project, he told us that all of them who can be eligible, most of them, can be eligible to have a project at his Commission would be considered. Actually, like my colleague here, just mentioned most of them are suffering from inadequate funds to run their house, to send their children to

school. Can the Commissioner consider on a humanitarian basis to help these people who are waiting for a social aid?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I am sorry to say that the Respected Member has not done his homework properly. He is getting very much confused about two different programmes of the Commission. He asked question about “Plan de Prestation Transitoire” and now he is talking about something else. I answered that only 36 persons have benefitted from this project of “Plan de Prestation Transitoire”. So, you are confused, go and find out please what you want, whether you are talking Employment Relief Programme or “Plan de Prestation Transitoire”. Do your homework properly.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner mentioning that we are lying in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I did not say that you are lying but you are confused and this is what I have said and I confirm that you are really, completely in the dark, you are confused completely.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: May I ask the Commissioner to enlighten us because he said that we are in the dark.

Mr. Chairperson: I think that the Commissioner has already given the answer. A reply has already been given.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I myself was a bit confused but now it is clear for me now.

M. le président, can I ask the Commissioner from the beneficiaries how many have failed and how many have succeeded? And those who have failed what problem they have encountered?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It is because you were confused that you have not listened to the answer. I said that there were two batches. The first batch, there were 15 beneficiaries and 11 are successful and 4 are encountering difficulties. But for the second batch, it is too early to evaluate to know whether they are successful or not.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, from the evaluation, therefore 11 out of 15, there are 4, even if it is meagre but four failed. And he mentioned one day in this Assembly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there is someone at Montagne du Sable, someone at Montagne du Sable, who has succeeded and employed so many people. Can I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what has happened to this project?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project is still on and he has just confirmed that he can still employed some 6 to 10 youths on and off when there are demand for the product that he is offering.

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

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the amount disbursed to these beneficiaries is a grant or a sort of *emprunt*?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It is a grant, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, nothing has to be reimbursed.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Is there a monitoring committee managing this project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is why, I said that there are evaluations from time to time to see whether the projects are going on correctly as planned.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a last one?

Mr. Chairperson: Okay.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the case at Montagne du Sable, the one he mentioned at Montagne du Sable. I will put the question to him, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The guy that he mentioned here in this Assembly has not succeeded, has not succeeded. I will not mention the Police cases. The one at Montagne du Sable has not succeeded, go and find.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As I said we based our information on facts about reports that we obtained from the persons but we do not bother about rumour and things that come out from informal sources.

Mr. Chairperson: Questions B/18, B/20 and B/25 have been withdrawn. B/18, B/20 and B/25. Questions time over.

“UNITÉ SPORTS POUR TOUS”

(No. B/18) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Sports whether, in regard to the “*unité sports pour tous*” he will, for the benefit of the House, state the rationale behind

same together with the objectives thereof and indicating the major achievements so far?

[Withdrawn]

FREQUENT SEISMIC ACTIVITIES – SINCE 2012 TO DATE

(No. B/20) Mrs. M. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the frequent seismic activities occurred around Rodrigues since 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if the island is equipped with any seismometer and, if so, the number thereof in good running condition; and
- (b) the protocol adopted, if any, by his Commission in relation to earthquake in Rodrigues?

[Withdrawn]

EXPORT - COWS, GOATS & SHEEP TO MAURITIUS/2014 & 2015

(No. B/25) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Commerce and Others whether, in regard to the export of cows, goats and sheep to Mauritius for the years 2014 and 2015, he will:

- (a) state the number thereof exported in each case; and
- (b) obtain, for the benefit of the House, information as to the number thereof exported by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd. to the Mauritius Meat Authority for the same period, if any and indicating their prices after negotiation?

[Withdrawn]

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

LA JOURNEE MONDIALE DE L'EAU

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): M. le président, en cette journée mondiale de l'eau, je voudrais faire cette déclaration à cette Auguste Assemblée.

La Journée mondiale de l'eau est célébrée chaque année le 22 mars. Instituée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies après le Sommet de Rio en 1992, la Journée mondiale de l'eau a pour objectif de sensibiliser la communauté internationale aux problématiques de l'eau. Le thème choisi par l'Organisation des Nations Unie pour l'année 2016 est L'EAU ET L'EMPLOI. Cette journée est célébrée dans le monde entier et aussi à Rodrigues

Tout Rodrigues est concerné par le problème d'eau. Pour nous une goutte d'eau vaut de l'or. Une goutte d'eau est puissante. L'eau vitale est un élément primordial de la vie. Elle est non seulement vitale en matière de santé mais aussi d'emplois en permettant de subvenir au développement économique, social et humain. Ce sera l'opportunité de valoriser les métiers des secteurs relatifs aux ressources en eau principalement l'agriculture et le tourisme, mais aussi pour distinguer les hommes et les femmes qui y exercent leur passion.

M. le président, sans l'eau il n'y a plus de l'humanité. L'eau est au cœur du développement durable. Les ressources en eau, ainsi que la gamme de services qu'elles peuvent rendre, contribuent à la réduction de la pauvreté, à la croissance économique, et à la sauvegarde de l'environnement. De la nourriture et à la sécurité énergétique, à la santé humaine et environnementale, l'eau contribue à l'amélioration du bien-être social.

A Rodrigues, le changement climatique se fait sentir et cela affecte notre production en eau. Nous souffrons d'un manque d'eau. D'où la production est nettement inférieure à la demande. La distribution varie de 10 à 35 jours dans certain régions de l'île. Notre pluviométrie est en nette régression. La solution pour améliorer notre production d'eau dans le court, moyen et long terme, c'est le dessalement de l'eau de mer.

Tout était prêt pour le lancement d'un appel d'offre pour produire 4000 m³ d'eau d'une station de dessalement à Mourouk en 2006 avec la possibilité d'augmenter la production à 12000 m³.

M. le président, à la suite des événements que tout le monde connaît en août 2006, le gouvernement venu au pouvoir avec l'aide des personnes qui ne sont plus dans cette a préféré mettre le projet au placard. Plus de Rs 17 millions a été dépenser pour la réhabilitation du barrage de Cascade Pigeon par ce même gouvernement, le MR qui avait mis le projet de dessalement de Mourouk dans un tiroir jusqu'à ne jamais le retirer jusqu'à leur départ. Mais qu'est ce qui s'est passé avec le Cascade Pigeon ? Ils sont allés pêchés des anguilles ! Jamais ils n'ont pu produire une goutte d'eau. La réparation du barrage n'a pas était fait dans les normes. L'eau se perd.

Hier, on a vu à la télévision le MR tenu une conférence de presse à Cascade Pigeon, parler du problème d'eau, c'est vraiment de l'ironie. Dépenser Rs 17,306,000,116.30 pour rien. Si le MR avait réalisé tous les projets que l'OPR avait projetés de faire, Rodrigues n'aurait pas autant souffert de ce manque d'eau.

Nous disons à la population que ce n'est pas à cause le MR est allé faire une conférence de presse que nous allons réhabiliter le barrage de Cascade Pigeon, c'était déjà dans notre programme. Cela se fera avec l'aide du financement de L'Union Européenne à la hauteur de quelques Rs 24 millions.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, three other projects, together with the rehabilitation of Cascade Pigeon Dam, that is, upgrading of Crève Coeur and Terre Rouge Reservoirs area and burying of associate pipelines submitted by my Commission to the European Union. A contract agreement to the tune of € 630,028 was signed for the implementation of this project in January this year. The time frame for the completion of all activities is 38 months. The Regional Assembly decided to fully optimize the water production from one catchment dam found along the river of Cascade Pigeon through rehabilitation work. Once the dam has been rehabilitated a new pipeline will convey the water from the dam to Crève Coeur Treatment Plant. The pipeline will be buried in order to reduce the maintenance cost and to avoid vandalism and provided with essential equipment and supply to render the water from Cascade Pigeon dam safe for drinking. Henceforth, a new pipeline will convey the same drinking water from Crève Coeur Treatment Plant to Terre Rouge area along a distance of 2.2 kms. Terre Rouge reservoir under a cumulative capacity of 700 m³ and provide the inhabitants of the regions of Terre Rouge and English Bay with potable water. In this same project it has also been proposed to rehabilitate the reservoir area of Terre Rouge. It is worth noting that this region of Rodrigues has encountered a steep increase in the water demand over the years mainly due to increasing number of household, primary schools and new college.

The initial storage capacity of the Cascade Pigeon dam is supposed to be 25000 m³ but due to whether condition the dam and its vicinity has experienced some constraints which has resulted in loss of water to be 2200 m³ and 3600 m³ which represent a leak of 3 to 5 m³ per hour.

M. le président, le Gouvernement Régional OPR veut vraiment s'attaquer au problème de l'eau. C'est vraiment dommage que la construction de quatre unités de dessalement n'ait pas pu se concrétiser et qu'on ait dû résilier le contrat pour incompétence. Mais on continue avec la construction de ces quatre

unités de dessalement pour produire les 4000 m³ par jour qui actuellement produit que 720.

M. le président, l'eau douce est la ressource la plus importante pour l'humanité à la convergence de toutes les activités sociale, économique et environnementales. L'eau est la condition de toute vie sur notre planète, terre. Nous devons assurer la sécurité de l'approvisionnement en eau. Nous devons protéger les réseaux vulnérables, atténuer les impacts liés à l'eau telle les sécheresses.

M. le président, je voudrais faire une autre déclaration à la Chambre concernant un incident qui s'est produit il y a deux semaines sur le chantier d'une firme de construction. Il y avait un arrêt de travail de quatre jours et les sous-contracteurs qui travaillent pour cette firme parce qu'ils n'ont pas été payés au moment voulu. Leur contrat avec la firme en question stipule qu'ils doivent être payés après 30 jours dès que leur compte était fermé. Tel n'a pas été le cas pour leur paiement. Pour le mois de janvier 2016, qui aurait dû être payé au plus tard le 02 février 2016. Si ces sous-contracteurs avaient fait savoir leurs mécontentements à leurs employeurs à ne pas travailler jusqu'à ce qu'ils ont été payés après 46 jours au lieu de 30 jours. 16 jours de retard qui était inacceptable. Ma Commission en a prit note de la situation entre les deux parties concernant et on prendra des négociations avec les deux parties pour que ce genre de situation ne se reproduise pas, pour ne pas faire souffrir les travailleurs et le retard pour les travaux. Merci, M. le président.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Mr. Commissioner.

ROCHE BON DIEU DUMPING SITE

The Commissioner responsible for Environment, Forestry, Tourism, Marine Parks (Mr. R. Payendee): M. le président, merci de me donner l'occasion d'éclaircir un point concernant un petit incident, si je peux appeler ça comme ça, qui s'est produit au dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu la semaine dernière. En fait, la semaine dernière les habitants de Roche Bon Dieu ont du subir un dérangement causée par la fumée qui provenait du dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu.

M. le président, ce problème ne date pas d'hier, et ne s'arrêtera pas demain. Ce n'est un secret pour personne qu'aujourd'hui à Rodrigues on produit beaucoup de déchets et que quelque part pour s'en débarrasser on a recours au dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu. Malheureusement, M. le président, on n'est pas

encore arrivé au point où on ne jette plus les déchets organiques dans nos poubelles. Je suis confiant qu'un jour, M. le président, on y arrivera car je crois dans l'intelligence et la bienfaisance des Rodriguais.

M. le président, puisqu'il y a beaucoup de déchets organique qui est enfuit dans le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu il est impératif qu'il y aura un processus de méthanisation qui se produit et le méthane qui est un gaz très inflammable est libéré. C'est pour cela que dans le monde entier ce phénomène est exploité pour produire de l'énergie renouvelable à partir des déchets. En anglais on appelle ça *Waste to Energy*.

M. le président, ce phénomène se passe dans tous les dépotoirs du monde entier et le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu n'est pas une exception. Il est impossible pour n'importe quel gouvernement – je redis il est impossible pour n'importe quel gouvernement d'empêcher la production de méthane et en conséquence la production de fumée dans ces centres d'enfouissement à moins qu'on soit des magiciens.

Ce phénomène se passe tous les jours, M. le président, mais ne se fait pas trop sentir parce que normalement le vent souffle dans une direction du Sud Est et même à l'école primaire on apprend le South East Trade Wind ce qui empêche la fumée de partir tous les jours sur le village de Roche Bon Dieu. Mais, M. le président, il y a des exceptions et c'est ce qui s'est passé la semaine dernière. Le vent avait changé de direction et a soufflé du nord ce qui a forcé la fumée à partir en direction du village de Roche Bon Dieu. Qu'est ce qu'on a fait pour diminuer l'impacte de cet incident sur les villageois de Roche Bon Dieu, M. le président ?

Je me suis personnellement rendu sur le lieu et on a dépêché les pompiers pour s'y rendre afin de diminuer l'intensité de la fumée et j'ai contacté le responsable de l'éducation qui s'est tout de suite rendu sur place afin de permettre aux élèves de l'école de Roche Bon Dieu de rentrer chez eux. On ne pouvait pas faire mieux, M. le président, face aux intempéries dame nature. J'ai entendu des personnes dire qu'on doit construire un gros bassin ou un dam, je ne sais pas, un réservoir tout près pour éteindre le feu. Mais non, M. le président, ce n'est pas la solution parce que même la pluie n'arrête pas cette production de fumée.

Passons maintenant aux choses sérieuses, M. le président. Je sais que beaucoup de personnes ici dans cette Auguste Assemblée ou ailleurs à Rodrigues se posent la question « est ce que ce sera toujours comme ça ? » Comme le dit ci bien le Chef Commissaire, le gouvernement au pouvoir regarde Rodrigues dans cinq ans, 10 ans et 50 ans à venir. Ma réponse à cette question

est non. Ça ne sera pas toujours comme ça et ce problème sera réglé une fois pour toute dans un délai pas trop lointain. Bientôt, M. le président, se sera chose du passé. Comment on va faire, M. le président ?

Il ne faut pas oublier que la vision du gouvernement en place est de faire de Rodrigues une île écologique. On n'aura pas gagné notre combat si la situation du dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu reste pareille. Il y aura du changement et d'ailleurs on a déjà initié des démarches allant dans cette direction.

L'année dernière pour marquer La Journée Mondiale de l'Environnement, on a déjà montré notre intention d'installer un centre de tri à Rodrigues pour justement empêcher que les déchets organiques massifs soient enfouis dans le dépotoir, on est conscient que c'est un gaspillage de ressources alors qu'on peut produire du compost de haute qualité avec et qui nous permettra de faire de l'agriculture bio. On a commencé à installer à la gare routière de Port Mathurin, à titre d'essai, une poubelle de tri pour séparer les bouteilles en verre, en plastiques et les cannettes. Bientôt ce genre de poubelles sera placé dans plusieurs endroits à Rodrigues. On a déjà contacté une compagnie spécialisée dans la conversion de déchets organiques en énergie renouvelable pour justement nous aider à ne plus gaspiller le méthane produit par les déchets organiques.

On travaille également sur une meilleure gestion des eaux usées qui sera recyclée afin de produire de l'énergie, du compost et de l'eau pour l'irrigation. On travaille pour que chaque famille Rodriguaise puisse avoir son propre compost bin à la maison pour traiter ses déchets organiques. On a banni l'utilisation des sacs en plastiques. Les bouteilles en verre sont collectées et placées dans un endroit spécial en attendant d'être broyées et réutilisées. Les huiles de vidange sont collectées et retournées à Maurice pour être recyclées et réutilisées. On travaille sur une loi pour mettre des consignes sur les bouteilles en verre, en plastiques et les cannettes en aluminium.

Mais plus important, M. le président, on a mis en place un programme de conscientisation et d'éducation où on veut montrer ou réapprendre au Rodriguais comment diminuer massivement la quantité de déchets qu'on produit. Oui, M. le président, on va montrer au Rodriguais qu'il nous faut apprendre de nos ancêtres comment gérer les déchets d'une façon durable.

Dans le passé, M. le président, les lentilles, le riz, et autres commodités venaient dans des sacs *gouni* et étaient vendus à la livre pour ensuite les mettre dans des cornets en papiers. Et plus intéressant ces sacs *gouni* étaient utilisés pour faire des paillasons. Aujourd'hui, M. le président, tout vient dans des sacs en plastiques et c'est une catastrophe pour notre île. Il y a plein d'exemples comme ça et il nous faut empêcher cela et c'est dans cette direction qu'il nous

faut aller, M. le président. Ma Commission travaille un programme d'éducation qui nous permettra un jour de fermer pour de bon le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu.

M. le président, l'avenir s'annonce meilleur et j'aimerais ici remercier tout ces gens de bonnes volontés qui aiment ce petit paradis et qui veut tout faire pour le protéger pour qu'un jour on arrive a cette statue d'île écologique. Merci, M. le président.

[Applause]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

MATTERS RAISED

Mr. Chairperson: Now we come to adjournment matters. Please wait, one minute. I must tell you something. We have 30 minutes for adjournment matters but we have got nine interveners. We will have at least three, not more than 3.1 minutes and then you should be very careful of what you say. You do not go outside the limit. Thank you.

LA JOURNEE MONDIALE DE L'EAU

The Minority Leader: Oui, M. le président, merci de m'accorder le temps de la Chambre. Aujourd'hui mon discours va être accès sur La Journée Mondiale de l'Eau. N'entendant pas le Commissaire intervenir ni à la radio ni à la télévision, je croyais qu'il allait garder une journée aussi importante sous silence. Mais voilà il vient de faire une déclaration. Mais quand même, M. le président, quand on regarde le thème choisit pour cette journée, c'est-à-dire, L'eau et L'emploi, le Commissaire est passé outre, toute à fait à côté de ce thème choisi, M. le président. Il a parlé de l'eau mais il n'a pas fait mention comment à Rodrigues sa Commission est en train d'utiliser cette ressource ci

rare, ci précieuse en vue de permettre de l'emploi à Rodrigues, M. le président. Pour moi, personnellement, quand je l'ai entendu, je l'ai entendu revenir avec le dessalement qui aurait être fait en 2006 et qu'on n'a pas fait. Mais que lui, M. le président, entendez bien, lui il a eu de l'argent. D'ailleurs, il a dit, le Chef Commissaire a dit. Il a dit, voilà il a cité une augmentation de plus de 360% comparait à l'allocation budgétaire de l'année 2012 pour l'eau. Mais qu'est-ce qu'il en a fait, M. le président ? Qu'est-ce qu'il en a fait ? Regarder le discours programme du Chef Commissaire de 2012 à 2017. Il a dit je cite : *l'eau pour tous. L'eau pour tous.* La priorité de notre action gouvernemental et le développement et la restructuration du secteur de l'eau qui se feront à travers, entendez bien, M. le président, un renforcement de son personnel, une réorganisation du système de distribution, une révision complète des réseaux de distribution, une meilleure gestion des eaux des sources, des rivières, des digues et souterraines. M. le président, tout à l'heure, le Commissaire a fait référence à la conférence de presse qu'on a tenue hier à Cascade Pigeon et là je le redis, M. le président, ce n'est pas pour rien qu'on a été à cet endroit. Parce que, M. le président, à un moment où on parle du problème d'eau à Rodrigues, il est inacceptable de voir que ce barrage, il a mentionné les chiffres plus de Rs 17 millions. Investie des fonds publiques et de l'eau déborde de ces réservoirs, M. le président. Il y a l'eau en abondance. Si on ne peut pas utiliser cet eau, pour le traiter pour des besoins domestiques, M. le président. On parle de l'agriculture en étant un pilier économique de ce pays. Pour quoi cet eau n'est pas utilisé pour des besoins d'irrigation, M. le président. Et là ça c'était un exemple. Si vous allez dans plat, Morico, l'eau va continuellement vers la mer. Si vous allez à La Fouche Castor, il y a l'eau qui part et dans beaucoup d'autres endroits, M. le président. Donc, aujourd'hui, moi quand j'ai entendu le Commissaire dire que sur 4000 m³ d'eau que ce gouvernement avait prévu de donner à la population, il ne peut que produire que 700 m³ par jour. Il affirme lui-même, M. le président, qu'il a échoué lamentablement. Et ça, la population ne pourra pas le pardonner, M. le président. Si on additionne tous les budgets que ce gouvernement a eu depuis 2012 à ce jour pour permettre à notre pays de sortir de cette situation, M. le président, on serait allé très très loin s'il y avait une meilleure gestion, s'il y avait une meilleure gestion et si ce gouvernement *really means business* comme il avait dit.

Pour terminer, M. le président, je demanderai, heureusement, le ridicule ne tue pas, heureusement. Parce que là pour se justifier on met le tort sur les autres, M. le président. Regardez ce que le rapport de l'Audit avait dit, avait dit, M. le président, et ça le Chef Commissaire avait dit depuis 2012 dans son discours programme, pourtant le Directeur de l'Audit la dit : « *a proper assessment needs to be conducted to develop a long-term strategy for water sector* ». Où est cette stratégie à long terme ? On n'a pas encore entendu ça du Commissaire de l'Eau. C'est-à-dire, means business as usual, avec le Water

Unit dépasser. Il avait aussi dit : *together with the introduction of water prizing*. Maintenant on est arrivé en 2016 bientôt 2017, on n'est pas encore venu avec un *Regulation* ici, M. le président ! Mais comment on va pouvoir gérer un secteur aussi important. Donc, à mon avis, M. le président, le Commissaire en question est passé à côté des vrais enjeux, il est passé à côté des vrais enjeux. Bien sûr on a encore du temps pour rectifier si on veut vraiment un avenir meilleur pour ce pays en termes de distribution, de production et d'un système de gestion de l'eau. Merci, M. le président.

[Applause]

FEU AU DEPOTOIR DE ROCHE BON DIEU

The Third Island Region Member (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): M. le président, moi aussi je vais intervenir sur le feu qui c'est déclaré dans le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu. C'est la deuxième fois que ça se produit pendant le mandat du Commissaire actuel. Il faut le dire, M. le président. On a dû dépêcher les pompiers pour éteindre le feu mais pourtant, M. le président, ils ont hérités de notre politique menant vers Rodrigues vers une île écologique, écologique, M. le président. Ils auraient pu éviter, M. le président. Ce qui c'est passé à Roche Bon Dieu forçant les élèves à quitter l'école, à partir chez eux. Ça aurait dû être évité. Laissez moi expliquer, M. le président. Je voudrais poser la question au Commissaire. Où est le projet de tri des déchets dans les maisons. Nous avons initié ce projet et le projet a commencé chez lui à Pointe L'Herbe. Pour quoi, M. le président ? Parce que nous savons tous que 75 à 80 pourcents des déchets ménagers sont des déchets organiques. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons voulu, nous avons donné à des gens, des maisons, trois poubelles. Trois poubelles pour pouvoir justement faire le tri des déchets à la maison. On ne peut pas venir nous dire aujourd'hui qu'on va faire un centre de tri à Roche Bon Dieu lorsqu'on aurait tous mélangé. Lorsqu'on a mélangé tous les déchets ensemble. On va nous dire qu'on va trier là-bas. Ça doit se faire *at source*, M. le président. Et nous avons déjà commencé le projet. Et ça je dis aurait pu être évité si jamais ils avaient continués avec ce projet, M. le président. Parlant du dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu, ça aurait dû être fermé. A l'heure actuelle ça aurait dû être fermé. Parce que nous savons que depuis bien longtemps c'était saturé. Nous avons déjà à Pointe au Sel, déjà trouvé une place, faire le EIA avec les différents échelles pour pouvoir mettre les déchets là-bas. Où est le projet, M. le président ? Il arrive, il cancel le projet. Il cancel le projet et puis il vient nous dire que voilà on va voir ceci, on va voir cela. Nous avons acheté deux JCB justement pour pourvoir placé un JCB au dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu pour pouvoir justement gérer les déchets. Lui je ne sais pas ce qu'il en a fait. Le Commissaire a parlé de valoriser les déchets. C'est vrai ils ont essayés de ramasser le plastique. Est-ce qu'il peut nous dire combien de

kilo de plastique il a exporté sur Maurice ? Zéro à l'actuel ! Il a demandé à quelqu'un d'aller compacté les plastiques à Baie aux Huitres, la personne ne veut pas. Parce qu'il sait très bien que cela ne va pas marcher, M. le président, et on ne lui donne rien. Et autre question qu'on se pose, que je me pose, c'est que la Police de l'Environnement. Que fait la Police de l'Environnement ? Que fait la Police de l'Environnement, M. le président ? J'avais demandé au Commissaire, je viens de demander là, s'il a eu une notice de la part commission. Normalement la Police de l'Environnement doit donner une notice à la Commission pour lui dire que le dépotoir a prit feu, machin, tout les précautions qu'il faut prendre. Il ne l'on pas fait. Il ne l'on pas fait. Et là je vois qu'il y a connivence entre la Police de l'Environnement et la Commission. Et aller voir, M. le président, sur les plages, vous allez voir sur les plages, vous allez voir sur les plages. Les plages sont sales. Rodrigues est sale. Parce qu'on n'a pas prit les bonnes décisions. On n'a pas continué, ce qu'on appelle la permanence de l'état. Tous les projets qu'on a mis en place, tous les projets, le projet de tri qu'on a mis en place pour vraiment gérer les déchets solides à Rodrigues. Merci beaucoup.

FARMERS' FACED BY FARMERS

The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. D. L. Guillaume): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me say some word on the name of farmers who are actually faced with lots of problems. Firstly, the long period of drought season coupled with shortage of water for the crops and the number of land occupied by *piquant loulou* is being increased resulting to the lost of many animals. Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during festivals, such as, *Eid-ul-adha*, qu'on appelle *qurbani* et la fête de fin d'année. Beef, goat and fish were sold at a fixed price despite the increased in production cost. Furthermore, the quality of our local one has not been taken into account compared to same abroad resulting to the decreased of farmers' revenue.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I invite the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture to look into the matter and carried out a survey and compensate the farmers concerned.

[Applause]

GESTION - BREEDING CENTRES

The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine): M. le président, merci de me donner l'occasion pour dire quelques mots. J'ai dû changer mon fusil d'épaule vu la situation qui est arrivé actuellement. M. le président, la Commission de l'Agriculture, la gestion des affaires, la gestion

surtout des *breeding centres*, cela ne date pas d'hier. Des irrégularités persistent et des directives ont été données par le Chef Commissaire à ces officiers mais voilà on se retrouve presque deux ans après, rien n'a été fait concernant les *animals feeds* qui a disparu dans le Breeding de St. Gabriel. Par contre, à Baie Topaze, on sait qu'il y a eu interdiction des fonctionnaires, quoique on sait aussi qu'il y a certains fonctionnaires, bon on sait aussi on ne sait pas comment ça se passe. Mas à St. Gabriel, M. le président, ça date depuis 12 août 2014, le Chef Commissaire avait dit dans cette Chambre. C'est pour ça que je voudrais attirer votre attention tout à l'heure. Le Chef Commissaire avait dit dans cette Chambre que, *I quote : « as regards to the shortage of St. Gabriel Livestocks Production Unit is concerned, the matter was recently reported to the Departmental Head of the Commission for Agriculture on 12 August 2014 and an internal inquiry was carried out on the matter at Commission's level. »* As mentioned before once the investigation internal inquiry at the Commission's level has been completed and if the shortage is confirmed the matter will be dully referred to the Police. On est en 2016, M. le président, presque deux ans après. Le Chef Commissaire a confirmé ce matin que ces choses là a été reporté *at his Commission*. On est en 2016 ! Comme mon collègue a dit ce matin *as soon at the very outset of the incident or shortage of "mis" whatever it is, the Departmental Head or any other officer shall report this matter to the Police*. On est en 2016, deux ans après! Why did the Chief Commissioner did not take any action to bring this matter to the Police or he should ask his Departmental Head or whatever and other officer to bring this matter to the Police? M. le président, dois-je comprendre qu'il y a complicité ou il y a couverture ? On est dans les affaires de l'état et cet argent qui est déboursé pour acheter les manger, les produits pour les animaux, c'est aussi mon argent. Je suis un contribuable je paye. Je demande au Chef Commissaire solennellement qu'il nous rende des comptes dans cette Chambre et qu'il vienne s'excuser pour ce manque de respect vis-à-vis de notre Assemblée. *M. le président, action should be taken immediately* et s'il ne va pas à la Police moi je vais le faire.

[Interruption]

SECTEUR DU FOOTBALL A RODRIGUES

The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina):
M. le président, merci de me donner la parole. Je voudrais m'associer à d'autres Membres de ce côté de la Chambre pour attirer l'attention du gouvernement sur une situation qui ne fait pas honneur au monde foot balistique de Rodrigues. M. le Commissaire, il y a un gros problème dans le secteur du football à Rodrigues. Il y a eu trois matchs consécutifs récemment et il y a eu trois bagarres sur le terrain. Bagarre entre joueurs, bagarre entre joueurs et arbitres et bagarre entre joueurs et spectateurs. Des personnes on dû quitter les lieux en vitesse pour

éviter des problèmes. Il y a un autre problème aussi qui récemment a été vu sur le terrain. Il n'y a pas de marquage de terrain et là le match n'a pas pu avoir lieu. Je constate qu'il y a un mal grandissant dans ce secteur et je demanderai au Commissaire responsable de se pencher sérieusement dans cette affaire parce que ça ne fait pas honneur au monde sportif en particulier celui du football. Merci.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member, Emilien.

“LE PROJET DE PEPINIERE COMMUNAUTAIRE”

The Firth Island Region Member (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for granting me the floor. First of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for getting into contact with some village communities in so far as production of small plants is concerned for *“Le projet de pépinière communautaire”*. Ceux qui ont écouté le JT de hier soir on entendu une dame, en l'occurrence Mme. Alane Louis, qui parlait de ce projet comme quelque chose qui allait alléger le fardeau des femmes qui sont au bas de l'échelle. C'est un très bon projet qui aide les dames. Il y a un projet à Tamarin/Anse Raffin. Il y a un autre à Ile Michel et ailleurs. M. le président, la raison pour laquelle je voudrai attirer l'attention de la Chambre cette après-midi, c'est que, c'est bien de venir en aide aux gens, c'est bien de venir en aide dans la communauté. Tout à l'heure, le Commissaire acteur, mon ami Richard Payendee là, a dit, si on est politicien c'est pour rendre la vie des gens meilleurs. Donc, quand on vient avec un projet pour les femmes pour la production de plantules, pour des projets de reboisement, projet de forêt, c'est bien. Mais, il faut quand même respecter des conditions. A Ile Michel, M. le président, il y a des dames qui se sont données corps et âmes, sous un soleil de plomb, avec la sécheresse, la chaleur qui a perduré pendant ces derniers jours pour aller récolter des graines, des petites plants venir mettre ça dans des *glass pot* comme on dit, arroser tout les jours et puis les Officiers des Bois et Forêts sont venus. Ils ont constatés que les plants étaient prêts. Les dames ont été payées correctement. Jusque là tous va bien. Mais le Service des bois et Forêts devaient fournir les *sun-filters* pour couvrir, pour protéger les plantes contre les rayons de soleil, comme nous savons tous, ça a été très fort ces derniers temps. Et de ces 25000 plants, 22000 plants sont morts. Parce que le Service des Bois et Forêts n'ont pas donnés les *sun-filters*. Ils n'ont pas pris la peine d'emmener les plantes à la Nursery de Solitude ou ailleurs et ils ont exigés à ces dames reproduisent les 22000 plants qui sont mort et ces pauvres dames l'ont fait gentiment. C'est de l'esclavage. Hier elles ont

signés un nouveau contrat pour un nouveau projet. J'espère de tout cœur que tel ne sera plus le cas et que cette expérience ne se reproduira plus. Donc, voilà je lance un appel pour qu'on n'exploite pas nos gens. Si on veut vraiment aider à améliorer la qualité de la vie de nos citoyens. Merci, M. le président.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Spéville.

« COUPURES REPETITIVE DE L'ELECTRICITE »

The Second Local Region Member for Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Spéville):
M. le président, j'avais une question sur les coupures répétitive de l'électricité pendant les trois derniers mois écoulés mais faute de temps je n'ai pas pu intervenir. Je sais que le réseau électrique à Rodrigues demande d'être revu. Il n'y a pas un vrai power policy à Rodrigues. Le réseau demande d'être revu de part son ancienneté et réparation répétitive après chaque cyclone, l'utilisation accrue de l'électricité pendant les heures de pointe avec utilisation des nouveaux appareils qui augmentent de jour en jour, au niveau des ménages, bâtiments publics et privés. Mais forte est de constater que les coupures d'électricité ont atteint une fréquence hautement répétitive pendant ces dernières semaines au niveau des régions et des villages. Cela affecte les dysfonctionnements des appareils, a fait beaucoup de ménage parce que les coupures interviennent souvent pendant les heures de cuisson le soir. Les devoirs et révisions planifiés des étudiants sont aussi touchés entre autres. A cet effet, je demanderai au Commissaire de l'Infrastructure Publique *to use his good office* pour voir les causes et pour demander au CEB *to be more customer caring*. On sait que les coupures sont indépendantes de notre volonté. J'entends dire que les désordres sont causés par des saute-secours. And this can be heard say. De cet côté de la Chambre, on croit que le CEB doit être plus *customer friendly* pour venir donner des explications à la population parce que sans nous, sans la population le CEB n'existe pas.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member.

« PROBLEME DE SOUS-EMPLOI »

The first Local Region Member for Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe):
Merci, M. le président. M. le président, j'ai fait un petit calcul Mathématique dans le budget 2016-2017, M. le président, la Rodrigues Regional Assembly

dépense en moyenne Rs 600 millions annuellement sur l'item Allowance et Overtime. Rs 600 millions annuellement sur l'item Allowance et Overtime.

M. le président, actuellement les jeunes font face à plusieurs problèmes parmi il y a un majeur, parmi, M. le président, c'est le problème de sous-emploi. Il y a pas mal de jeune, M. le président, qui n'ont pas réussi au CPE ou bien qui on réussi au CPE, SC et HSC, qui sont concernés par ce problème. Et aussi, M. le président, il y a des diplômés, des universitaires, M. le président. M. le président, actuellement, ces gens là nous interpellent tous parce qu'ils font fasse à un problème majeur qui est le sous-emploi. Il y a certain qui faute d'un emploi fixe à Rodrigues restent à Maurice et autres partent ailleurs pour trouver un emploi fixe. M. le président, l'Assemblée Régional de Rodrigues à le devoir de trouver des emplois durable, surtout avec la somme de Rs 600 millions dépensait annuellement sur l'item Allowance et Overtime pour ces jeunes qui sont sous emplois. Mais en même temps, M. le président, je suis écœuré par ces jeunes qui ont été éjecté par l'Assemblée Régional. J'ai ici en tête, M. le président, les 245 travailleurs, M. le président. Jusqu'à maintenant, ils attendent, ils attendent, M. le président. Ils attendent les jours meilleurs pour que l'Assemblée Régional puisse les faire embaucher par l'Assemblée Régional. Il n'y a pas que ça. Il y a les jeunes là, 245 qui ont été embauchés sur le projet ERP, M. le président. Et M. le président, plus tard je reviendrai là-dessus. Merci.

Mr. Chairperson: Oui, Madame.

NINE-YEAR SCHOOLING - PRIMARY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE (PSAC)

The second Island Region Member (Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier): Il me reste deux minutes et demi. Merci, M. le président, de me donner l'opportunité cette après-midi d'intervenir sur un sujet d'actualité et qui me tient très à cœur. C'est un sujet qui touche plus d'un millier de jeune de notre pays, de nos jeunes étudiants, qui touche les parents, qui touche pas mal de stakeholders à Rodrigues, je mentionne ici, le *nine-year schooling*. Malheureusement, les personnes concernés, les Commissaires concernés, les Departmental Head et tout ça ils sont partis, ils ne vont pas entendre ce que j'ai à dire. Mais se sera on record quand même qu'on aurait dit cela en mars 2016. Justement, M. le président, on sait très bien que le projet de *nine-year schooling* a été enclenché depuis l'année dernière et ça va bon train. On sait aussi que ici à Rodrigues, j'avais une question dessus malheureusement, on n'a pas eu le temps de passer dessus, on sait aussi qu'à Rodrigues on a lancé le *nine-year schooling*. Comme je l'ai entendu redire par les petits élèves dans leurs naïvetés, leurs innocences qu'on a lancé le PSAC. On a lancé ça à l'école Arocaria il y a quelques

semaines par le Chef Commissaire et le Commissaire de l'Éducation. C'est très bien la machine est en marche. La machine de *nine-year shcooling* est belle et bien en marche. Cette année-ci, aujourd'hui même et je souhaite bonne à tous les petits élèves qui prennent part aux examens à partir d'aujourd'hui du fin du premier trimestre. Cette année-ci, les enfants de la cinquième, ils sont déjà sur le chemin de *nine-year schooling* et on a entendu dire, je dis bien, on a entendu dire, ce n'est pas encore sûre ni certifier par quiconque les autorités concernés qu'à partir de cette année les enfants de la cinquième, leurs Histoire Géo, l'examen qu'ils vont prendre va être pris en compte comme étant *continous assessment* jusqu'à la fin du cycle le Sixth Grade, comme on appelle Grade Six de l'année prochaine. Mais, M. le président, le plus gros souci, en ce moment c'est que là j'interviens au nom des parents, au nom des ces enfants là aussi, en mon nom personnelle, parce que moi-aussi j'ai un enfant qui passe à travers ce *nine-year schooling*. On est beaucoup confus, très très confus même. On ne sait pas comment ça va être, comment ça va être, qu'est-ce qu'on doit dire à nos enfants s'ils nous posent des questions. Moi je voudrais tout simplement que la Commission concernée prenne les décisions nécessaire pour décider une bonne fois pour toute à Rodrigues comment le *nine-year schooling* va être implémenté ? Parce que personne à valeur du jour ne peut répondre à une question sur le *nine-year schooling*. Vous allez à la Commission, vous demandez aux personnes concernées. Ils vont vous dire, ben vous savez on ne sait pas encore. Mais moi je pense qu'on est en mars si nos élèves doivent prendre part aux examens de Histoire Géo qui va être considéré comme *continuous assessment* pour l'année prochaine, il faut qu'on sache comment ça va se passer. L'année prochaine Histoire Géo c'est *examinable, not examinable*. Qu'est-ce qui va être considéré comme *examinable*. Les enfants aussi, ils sont très confus. A la fin du cycle Grade Six on va où ? Dans quel collège ? On est une région ici, on va être subdivisé en différent régions ? Quel collège va être considéré comme académique, quel collège va être considéré comme Regional Secondary School ? Quel collège Vocational School ? Tout ça, M. le président, est encore dans le flou total. Donc, moi je demande au personne, aux autorités concernées de définir une bonne fois pour toute quel sera la marche à suivre pour Rodrigues pour que nous parents, pas seulement les parents, pour les enfants et pour que les autres parents aussi savent exactement comment ça va se passer. Même pour les collèges, ils sont dans le flou. Ils ne savent pas exactement. On nous répond sur que ben ça va peut-être comme ça, personne ne sait. Tandis qu'à Maurice on voit très bien dans le petit pamphlet qui a été fait par le Ministère de l'Éducation, c'est clairement indiqué comment ça va se passer à Maurice. L'implementation comment ça va se faire. Mais ici on n'entend rien. Pourtant on sait qu'il y a des personnes qui ont été désigné pour aller sur des comités à Maurice, le Ministre est venu, on nous a promis on va prendre en considération Rodrigues. Mais malheureusement, encore une chose à déplorer le petit pamphlet sort, mon enfant arrive chez moi avec ce petit

pamphlet là l'après et me dit : maman on a lancé PSAC à Arocaria. Mais malheureusement, pas un mot sur Rodrigues et notre spécificité bien à nous. Merci, M. le président, et j'espère bien que nos recommandations seront prise en considération.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you Respected Member.

*At 14.57 hours the Assembly was, on its rising adjourned
to Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 10.30 hours*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEVELOPMENT - PORT/PORT AREA IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/16) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the development of the Port/Port Area in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) state as to where matters stand as regards the marina at Pointe L'Herbe and to give details thereon; and
- (b) table a copy of the new updated master plan for the Port of Rodrigues, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to remind the House that the Port Development is one among the priority of my Government and clearly spelt out in my "Discours Programme 2012-2017". Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our vision to develop the port sector focuses on three axes namely:

- (i) A modern Fishing Port/Marina with associated amenities at Pointe L'herbe
- (ii) Development of a safe berthing area at Pointe Monier
- (iii) Re visit the whole operational area of the Port, assess the existing facilities and provide a new Port layout.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the Port Master Plan 2009 by Messrs Halcrow the development of a fishing port to boost the fishing sector was recommended at Pointe L'Herbe and to support the outer lagoon fishing which was not important to implement for the previous government since the recommendation was not adopted and nothing was done.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that application for the expression of interest for the construction of Fishing Port at Pointe L'Herbe and removal of outcrop was launched in November 2015 and opened at the Central Procurement Board on 19 January 2016. The Bids are presently being assessed at the Central Procurement Board.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concurrently the draft request for proposal to appoint the consultants has already been prepared and forwarded to the Mauritius Ports Authority for vetting. The final design report is expected to be approved by August 2016 and bids would then be issued to the appointment of a contractor by end of year 2016.

In addition, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an evaluation for consultancy services for the construction of quay facilities at Pointe Monier is presently on and same will be awarded shortly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the Mauritius Ports Authority has appointed Messrs Royal Haskoning as Port Master Plan Consultants for Port Mathurin.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Consultants made a presentation of the Port Mathurin New Port Master Plan 2015-2040 in February 2016 in Rodrigues. Discussions were thereafter held on the Master Plan and the consultants have noted our views and comments for necessary actions

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the consultants would submit the final report of the Port Mathurin Port Master Plan in June 2016.

**CONSTRUCTION 1000 BASSIN RONDS
- "RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECT"**

(No. B/17) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the construction of 1000 bassin ronds under the "rainwater harvesting project" he will:

- (a) state as to where matters stand in relation thereto;
- (b) table a detailed list of beneficiaries per electoral region/categories to date who benefitted from same; and

- (c) state if his Commission has received complaints, if any, from individuals who have not been considered under the actual criteria as proposed by the Rodrigues Council of Social Services (RCSS)?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a list of 701 beneficiaries for 1000 water tanks has been submitted to the Commission for Social Security for the construction of water tanks. Of these, 120 beneficiaries of regions 1 & 2 have already signed their agreement form.

It is expected that the remaining 581 beneficiaries would have signed their agreements by May 2016.

With respect to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is considered inappropriate to disclose details of the beneficiaries to avoid causing prejudice to anybody.

With regard to part (c), no complaint has been received by my Commission as the criteria were set up by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

MV TROCHETIA

(No. B/19) Mrs. M. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the ship MV Trochetia, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the relevant authorities information as to if the ship encountered any problem during a voyage to Rodrigues for the year 2016 and, if so, to give details thereon?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have been informed by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd that the MV Mauritius Trochetia encountered some berthing problem at Port Mathurin on 05 February 2016.

According to the Ship Master of the MV Mauritius Trochetia, the vessel did not have any technical/mechanical problems but manoeuvre to enter the channel was difficult due to unfavourable weather/wind conditions prevailing on that day. In that context, the Ship Master has taken the decision to drop anchor to put the vessel in safety whilst waiting for a favourable weather/wind condition to proceed into the channel.

Following a favourable weather/wind condition the M/V Mauritius Trochetia berthed safely at quay on 06 February 2016 at 14.12 hours

FIRE OUTBREAK - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/21) Mrs. M. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the recent fire outbreak at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the damages caused as a relation thereto and table a copy thereof; and
- (b) the measures taken, if any, to prevent the disruption in the smooth running of the activities of the hospital?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on Wednesday 03 February 2016 at about 3.00 a.m, a fire broke out on the first floor of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's administrative block. All staff was vacated and Fire Services as well as Police Force were on site from about 3.20 a.m.

No casualties were reported. The fire was extinguished completely around 6.00 a.m. The whole building was cordoned off by the Police until Thursday 04 February 2016 in the afternoon once the Forensic and Electrical Experts completed their enquiry.

All clinics were maintained on Thursday 04 February 2016 and were carried out in the chemotherapy unit so as to maintain the daily services delivered at QEH as far as possible.

On Friday 05 February 2016 around 1.00 p.m, the daily routine work was restored at the ground floor of the Out-Patient Department. I am tabling a copy of the damages reported after the fire.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that as from 3.30 a.m, I was on site to coordinate the activities with my Departmental Head, the Acting Health Director and senior officers based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As from 4.00 a.m, decision was taken to cancel all clinics scheduled for the Wednesday 03 February 2016 and I wish to emphasize that all measures were taken to maintain the health delivery at QEH with limited disruption. All activities of the Out-Patient Department were shifted to the ground floor of the Maternity Ward at the Ante-natal Clinic. All blood tests were diverted to Male and Female Wards respectively.

A radio communiqué was broadcasted by the MBC from 5.00 a.m every 30 minutes to inform the population of the diversions at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Administrative offices have been shifted to the New ICU building pending completion of renovation works at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, once the building was handed over to my Commission on Thursday 04 afternoon, all measures were taken for the general cleaning and clearing of site and carting away of debris. Same was completed within one week of the fire outbreak.

Under supervision of the Electrical Expert of the Police, all electricity points of the first floor were isolated and electricity was restored safely on the ground floor.

I wish, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to thank all the staff of my Commission as well as the Police and Fire Services for their prompt and professional collaboration while dealing with the fire at QEH. A special thought goes to all the staff who is delivering the services at QEH despite the present difficult conditions pending the complete renovation of the administrative block.

NINE-YEAR SCHOOLING PROJECT

(No. B/22) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the nine-year schooling project in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand in relation to the implementation thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as this House is aware, the policy of education rests with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources in Mauritius whereas the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has the responsibility of the administration of Education in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education commonly known as the Nine Year Schooling (NYS), is an educational reform put forward by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. The Nine Year Schooling aims at a holistic transformation of the education system where major changes will occur in the educational landscape namely:

- (i) Remedial education will be embedded in the system starting with Grade I classes in 2016.
- (ii) The Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) will be replaced by the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) as from 2017 to assess pupils in both core and non-core subjects.
- (iii) The National Certificate of Education (NCE) at the end of Grade 9 will replace the Form III National Assessment.

- (iv) Form Grade 10 to 13, which is termed as Upper Secondary level, students will have the choice to attend Academies, Regional Secondary Schools or Vocational schools

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my regional government is of the opinion that the Nine Year Schooling project that will be implemented in Rodrigues should take on board the specificity of the island of Rodrigues. In that context, following a meeting with the Minister of Education and Human Resources, the latter has agreed to give due consideration to any proposals submitted by Rodrigues Regional Assembly. A technical committee has therefore been set up to work on a detailed implementation plan of the Nine Year Schooling for Rodrigues taking into account the specificities of the island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the technical committee has also recommended that three sub-committees comprising members of Technical Committee as well as other local resource persons with relevant expertise and experience in the field of education to work on the three main aspects of the reform namely:

- (a) Curriculum;
- (b) Training; and
- (c) Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in December 2015, all Primary School Teachers, Head Masters, Deputy Head Masters and Inspectors have been involved in a three day training sessions on the Nine Year Schooling Project.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am also informed that in February to March 2016, a Primary School Readiness Exercise has been administered to Grade I pupils (formerly Standard I) for an early identification of pupils who have not mastered relevant competencies at this stage so as to bring in timely remedial actions.

I am also informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a batch of 'Remedial' Teachers will be recruited shortly to be posted to each primary school to provide assistance to the Grade I teachers. These 'Remedial' Teachers will be trained by the Mauritius Institute of Education

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Agriculture being one of the pillars of our economy and vital for the development of our children, I had consultation and negotiation with the Minister of Education for the eventual introduction of Agriculture as a 'non-core subject' in the curriculum in Grade IV as from 2018.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards infrastructural requirements, secondary schools are being constructed at Pistaches for intake on January 2017 as mentioned in my last budget speech. A new secondary school will be constructed at Songes as well as a new community school at Bay Malgache.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there have also been meetings which have been held with parents of Grade V pupils at the beginning of March during which pamphlets on the Nine Year Schooling Project have been distributed and explanation provided on this education reform.

Along the same line, all Head Masters have been provided with a copy of the Annual Programme for the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Assessment for 2017.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the technical committee of the Nine Year Schooling will submit a report on their findings and recommendations on the best way of implementing the reform in Rodrigues by the end of this month. It is expected that wide consultation with all stakeholders will be carried out before the recommendation are submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WOMEN

(No. B/23) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the celebration of the International Day for Women on 8th March 2016, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the different activities organized and the expenses incurred for each; and
- (b) the theme chosen for this year's celebration and indicating the major outcome thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the International Women's Day is celebrated each year on the 08 of March. This year's global theme was "Pledge for Parity". Women, worldwide continue to contribute to economic, cultural and political achievement and Rodrigues is no exception. The theme chosen for the celebration in Rodrigues this year was "*Fam pilier nou socyete, to la santé enn pryorite*", a continuity of the theme chosen last year.

As regards to part (a), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the activities organised for the 08 of March were as follows:-

1. “Marche de sensibilisation” from *Grande Montagne to Malabar with emphasis on Women’s Health and well-being*. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, dans le cadre de cette marche, un travail en amont a été fait au niveau des collèges de Rodrigues sur des thèmes forts qui touchent la femme Rodriguaise, tels que « la violence domestique », l’alcool et les drogues, le cancer entre autres ; les chartes travaillés par ces enfants dans leur collège ont animé la marche de sensibilisation touchant les enfants eux-mêmes ainsi que tous ceux présents durant la marche.

2. Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a « *Salon de la Santé des Femmes* » was organised the same day at Malabar. The women present thus had the opportunity to undergo medical tests for hypertension, diabetes, breast cancer detection and HIV/Aids. The participant also had the opportunity to donate blood. NGOs providing services on issues such as depression/suicide, drug/alcohol were also present, as well as the Midwifery Services. Overall, Rs 622,000 was earmarked for the celebration of the IWD.

As regards to (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as previously mentioned, the theme chosen for Rodrigues was “*Fam pilier nou socyete, to la santé enn pryorite*”. The major outcome was this possible granted to these women to undergo “*toute une batterie de tests le meme jour sous un seul toit*” si je puis dire.

The response from the women were very positive; more than 2000 women attended the event and all of them were eager to undergo all the medical tests provided that day, as shown by the long queues in front of each stand that day.

STREET LIGHTINGS

(No. B/24) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to street lightings in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if newly constructed roads and other roads are being provided therewith and, if so, the roads concerned;
- (b) the main reasons for placing of these lightings there; and

- (c) who is responsible for their maintenance and the time frame for the maintenance thereof, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question the answer is yes. My Commission is providing street lightings to stretches of roads throughout the island. This includes newly constructed roads and other roads where light had not been installed. New street lighting lanterns have been installed along roads Trefles to Pointe Coton, Baie aux Huitres, Baie Lascars-Crève Coeur, Crève Coeur-Roseaux, Songes-Port Sud Est and Mont Limon-Carrefour.

Action is being taken to extend street lighting network on the Route des Limoniers towards Graviers, that is, at Coromandel, Batatran, Graviers, Fond la Bonté and Citronelle, Grande Montagne to Centre Dominique Farla, Function Brûlé to Colin's shop, Petit Gabriel, Roseaux, Oyster Bay, Allée Tamarin, Terre Rouge, English Bay, Anse Goeland and L'Union.

As regards to part (b), of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the main reason is to enhance the security in village and provide safety to road users.

With respect to part (c), of the question, my Commission is responsible for the maintenance and in exceptional cases the help of technicians from the Central electricity Board is sort.

The repairs of street lighting lanterns has to be done as quickly as possible as it is an unmetered account. We pay for the time consumption and load declared and it is not registered by a meter.

TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION SCHEME

(No. B/26) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Technology Modernization Scheme, , she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom together with the number of entrepreneurs who benefitted from same; and
- (b) the number of entrepreneurs awaiting for same?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, considering the many obstacles faced by SMEs in Rodrigues, my office came forward last year, with the Technology Modernisation Scheme. The Scheme aims at helping entrepreneurs involved in productive sectors make acquisition of new machinery and technology to

improve the efficiency and productivity of their enterprise. Hence the grant under this Scheme covers 50% of the cost of the equipment up to a ceiling of Rs 50,000.

As regards to part (a), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the date of Scheme implementation in April 2015 to date, 36 entrepreneurs have benefitted from same.

As for part (b), number of applicants awaiting to benefit from the Scheme amounts to 69.

PRODUCTION/AGRO PROCESSING SECTOR – FACILITIES

(No. B/27) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to production in the agro processing sector, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the facilities put in place by her Commission to help the entrepreneurs and indicating the number thereof having the pre-market certificate to date?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Agro-processing is one of the most important SME sectors in Rodrigues. This sector alone contributes massively to the economy of the island and employs actively hundreds of women. Over years, Rodrigues has built a strong reputation as it offers agro-products, which are exceptional in taste and quality. Yet, the Commission has observed that to maintain such competitive advantages, it important to keep this sector very dynamic and to constantly keep benchmarking our products with regional products. Among the various actions initiated and put at the disposal of entrepreneurs involved in this sector is the Pre-Market Certificate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the lack of a pre-market certificate was hampering Rodriguan agro-products to reach the shelves of supermarkets in Mauritius. I wish to point out that the price for undergoing pre-market test for only one product oscillates around Rs 40,000. This prohibitive cost was a major disincentive for our entrepreneurs to test their products. However, after I personally negotiated with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund, the pre-market certification scheme, which already existed in Mauritius, was extended to our Rodriguan entrepreneurs. I am happy to announce that with the support of my Commission, samples from 18 entrepreneurs – mostly women, were sent to Mauritius in December 2015 through the Government Analyst Division for chemical tests under the aforementioned scheme. Subsequently, I wish you to note that those 18 entrepreneurs combined, have obtained pre-market approval for 33 of their products – since some entrepreneurs have had more than one product tested. I do consider that this is a great leap in the development of the

agro-processing sector in Rodrigues as it now opens new avenues for our products to reach markets which a few months would have been inaccessible.

LA FERME AREA HEALTH CENTRE

(No. B/28) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to La Ferme Area Health Centre, he will give a description of progress of the project for the extension thereof to date and state on the infrastructure and sanitary conditions prevailing at the ground floor thereat?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the upgrading of La Ferme Area Health Centre is one of the top priority projects of the present government in the Health Sector. As such, the extension of La Ferme Area Health Centre comprising the construction of first floor of 410 m² of reinforced concrete building with metal roof sheeting was awarded to the contractor in May 2014 for the sum of MUR 14,025,144. The works have been completed in June 2015 and the defects liability period is expiring in June 2016.

The first floor will house all out-patient activities such as:-

- Casualty Ward and minor operating theatre
- Records
- Dental Clinic
- Specialists' Clinic
- Laboratory Services
- X-Ray Services
- Toilets and Rest Rooms

Moreover, the ground floor will be restricted to all in-patients' wards, pharmacy, catering unit, ante-natal and baby clinics.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the upgrading of La Ferme Area Health Centre, let me remind the House that it has been one of the priorities of this present government since 2012. Being a caring government, we are fully aware that the conditions at the ground floor are deteriorating since the building dates back to the 1980's. Hence the reason behind the complete upgrading and extension of La Ferme Area Health Centre.

Considering the fact that La Ferme Area Health Centre is a busy centre with a large catchment area and the closest health infrastructure to the airport, the upgrading had to be planned in phases. The first phase being the first floor

which I mentioned earlier is completed and the second phase is under evaluation process.

However Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is somehow regretful that the previous government being in office for seven (7) years never noticed the state of La Ferme Area Health Centre and the importance to renovate it.

It is only now that my Commission has already taken on board this project that my colleagues are feeling concerned. As we say, Mr. Chairperson Sir, its better late than never.

DESALINATION PLANTS - NEW TENDERS LAUNCHED

(No. B/29) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the desalination plants in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand in relation to the new tenders launched to make them operational?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following the termination of contract for the installation of four desalination plants due to unsatisfactory performance of the initial contractor procurement exercises are being carried out for the rehabilitation and installation o desalination plants as follows:

- (i) A contract has been awarded on 01 March 2016, for the supply of water pumps for the rehabilitation of Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille Desalination plants for the sum of Rs 3,900,915.00 inclusive of VAT;
- (ii) Procurement exercise for the supply of other materials and equipment for the rehabilitation of the two desalination plants is at evaluaton stage;
- (iii) Tender for the building and civil works for the desalination plants at Pointe Coton was relaunched on 14 March 2016 with closing date for submission of bids on 14 April 2016. A previous exercise initiated in November 2015 was not successful as no bid was received.
- (iv) Bids for Design Build and Turnkey Contract for Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants and Equipment at Baie Malgache and Pointe Coton has been sought on 03 February 2016 and the closing date is scheduled for 12 April 2016; and

- (v) Procurement exercise for Building and Civil Works for the desalination plant of Baie Malgache has been launched on 26 February 2016 with closing date set for 31 March 2016.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY

(No. B/30) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the supply of electricity island wide in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board information as to the causes of the recurrent cut off thereof for the period January 2016 to date together with the measures being taken to reduce its frequency?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the cut offs in the supply of electricity for the period January 2016 to date, the Central Electricity Board has informed that the cases are due to bats causing short circuit between two phases of bare high tension network and because of transient faults. Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one general breakdown occurs on 01 March 2016 at 18.26 hours due to a faulty interconnector between Pointe Monier and Port Mathurin.

The Central Electricity Board further informed that in regions where bat population is high, bare conductors are being gradually replaced by insulated cables, action is being taken for the installation of auto-reclosers and a third inter-connector has been commissioned to improved reliability of supply.

PAYMENT OF FEES – SC & HSC

(No. B/31) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the payment of fees for students taking part in the School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) examination, he will state:

- (a) the category of students who will be granted full subsidy; and
- (b) who, if any, will be granted part or no subsidy at all; and
- (c) the respective percentage of same for the different categories in each group, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that Central Government has approved on 10 April 2015 that as from 2016, Government will meet the full

cost of the examination fees of all school candidates attending State and Private grant-aided and private fee-paying secondary schools registered with PSSA and sitting, for the first time, irrespective of their social background.

Repeaters will not be covered under this measure. Request for the payment of examination fees from school going candidates having failed at a first attempt will be referred to my Commission for consideration on a case to case basis after a means test has been conducted. I am informed that modalities are being finalized at the level of the Ministry of Social Security. The House will be informed in due course when same has been finalized.

DENTAL SERVICE

(No. B/32) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the dental service in Rodrigues, he will state on the different changes, if any, brought thereat and indicating on the projects, if any, his Commission is contemplating in the short term together with its objectives, cost, starting and completion dates?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to enumerate a few major development in the dental service in Rodrigues since this government took office in 2012.

- Recruitment of two (2) Dental Surgeons on the Rodriguan Establishment;
- Procurement of new dental equipment amounting to about Rs 1 m for Mont Lubin Area Health Centre;
- Upgrading of dental services for La Ferme Area Health Centre;
- Extension of Dental Services to seven days a week including Sundays and Public Holidays with effect from 14 March 2016 from 09.00 to 12.00 hrs at Creve Coeur.

In the short term, my Commission is contemplating the following projects:-

- Acquisition of a Mobile Dental Clinic to enhance sensitization on health care in schools, colleges and communities;
- Procurement of new set of dental equipment for Creve Coeur Dental Clinic;
- Recruitment of additional Dental Assistants.