

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 03 of 2016

Sitting of Tuesday 12 July 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 12 JULY 2016

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

- (No. B/59) - Lagoon and Marine Resources of Rodrigues
- (No. B/60) - Rodrigues Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd.
- (No. B/61) - Development of Pig Feed Diet – Locally Available Feed Resources
- (No. B/62) - “Revisiting the Linguistic and Ethnographic Specificities of Rodrigues”
- (No. B/63) - Procurement Notice – 05 May 2016
- (No. B/64) - Hotel Project/s- Baie Pistaches & Anse Nicholas
- (No. B/65) - Agricultural Permits Delivered
- (No. B/66) - Capital Budget from 2012 - Projects & Works Orders
- (No. B/67) - Development - “Scoutisme” in Rodrigues
- (No. B/68) - Motor vehicles in Rodrigues
- (No. B/69) - Number of humps/location
- (No. B/70) - ‘Retenues Collinières’/Completed, Fully Operational, Budgeted for 2016/2017
- (No. B/71) - Health Care Assistants
- (No. B/72) - Regional Health Director
- (No. B/74) - Pig Breeding – Measures taken (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/75) - Public Officers – Island Chief Executive (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/78) - Transfer of State Land Lease/Selling of Property (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/79) - Road Development Programme (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/86) - Training – MITD (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/87) - Patients – Queen Elizabeth Hospital/Health Centres (*Withdrawn*)

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

- **The Deputy Chief Commissioner:** One-Stop-Shop

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- (No. B/73) - Recruitment/General Workers
- (No. B/76) - Projects Undertaken/L'Union
- (No. B/77) - Students - Distance Learning/Tertiary Education
- (No. B/80) - Ambulance Drivers
- (No. B/81) - Nine Year Basic Continuous Schooling Programme
- (No. B/82) - Medical Doctors/Recruitment
- (No. B/83) - Baie Diamant Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) Park/Slaughter House Project
- (No. B/84) - International Day Of Family 2016
- (No. B/90) - Graviers Lime Processing Unit

MATTERS RAISED

The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe):
Sagesse/New Building/Recognition To People Having Contributed In The Development Of Rodrigues

The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina):
Motor Cross Threat – Security/Pollution

The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Spéville):
Nine-Year Schooling

The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine):
Re-asphaltage - Route D'anse Aux Anglais/Colonnes en Bois

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.

Acting Clerk - Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick

Serjeant-at-Arms - Constant Perrine, Mr. Stenio

Debate No. 03 of 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPARTURE OF MR. GOPALL

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I have an announcement to make. You have probably noticed a vacant seat in front of me. Thus I have to inform you that Mr. Navin Gopall has left the Office of the Clerk on Wednesday 29 June, at the end of a two-year contract.

We understand that he has to resume duty at the National Assembly where he is badly needed.

On behalf of the respected Members of the Assembly and the staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to him for the tremendous work he has done during his tenure of office here at the Assembly.

Mr. Gopall has always done his work dedicatedly with professionalism and integrity. He was always keen to share his knowledge and impart his experience administratively as well as legislatively whenever requested.

I wish him a continued fruitful career back to the National Assembly and sincerely hope that he will, as usual, leave no stone unturned in his responsibility.

I therefore wish to reiterate my thanks and gratitude to him and send the best wishes to his wife and children.

Respected Members, I am also pleased to inform you that following the departure of Mr. Navin Gopall, the Deputy Clerk, Miss Yannick Legentil, has been officially made responsible for the proper organisation and good conduct of the business of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly until the filling of the post of Clerk, Regional Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.

[Applause]

VOTE OF THANKS

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je voudrais dire quelques mots, remerciant M. Gopall pour tout le bon travail qu'il a fait. On l'a connu depuis assez longtemps et nous le souhaitons pour ce retour à Maurice qu'il travaille aussi bien à l'Assemblée Nationale. Nous tenons aussi de notre côté de la chambre féliciter Mme Legentil pour avoir été promue comme *Acting Clerk*. J'espère qu'elle va continuer encore beaucoup de temps. Merci.

[Applause]

The Minority Leader : Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to join myself to you and the Chief Commissioner to say a few words on Mr. Gopall. We have been used to him here in this House for the last two years and prior to that, he was there also, yes. So, as you rightly said, he has done a tremendous work here and of course, his absence will be deeply felt for a long time. However, I know that Mrs. Legentil who has been his close Collaborator, will assume this responsibility well and I congratulate her now being given she is acting as our new Clerk. I wish her a good luck in her career. But, I would reiterate my wish to say that the post of the Clerk is being filled in the near delay so as to fill this vacancy and so as to have a Deputy Clerk, to have both at work when the Assembly is sitting. I wish Mr. Gopall good career, I wish him a good luck in his way back to Mauritius. Thank you for giving time to express myself.

[Applause]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LAGOON AND MARINE RESOURCES OF RODRIGUES

(No. B/59) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to lagoon and marine resources of Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the measures, if any, taken or being envisaged for the protection thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the protection of the lagoon and marine resources is high on the agenda of this Government in line with its vision of making Rodrigues an ecological island where, there is smart exploitation of resources for sustainable development. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will now elaborate on the measures taken or envisaged for the protection of the lagoon and marine resources. Firstly, the octopus closure. My Commission has, since 2012, undertaken four Octopus Closed Seasons. The aim is to increase the stock of octopus for the protection of the species during the closure period

thereby, increasing the number of mature octopus. This will increase the chance of more female octopuses to spawn thereby producing more juveniles.

The stock of octopus has increased from some 200 tons in 2008 to some 500 tons in 2015. In this financial year, my Commission will initiate two closures: one for the reproductive purpose and the other one to enable the newly born octopuses to grow in size before being caught. Secondly, beach and lagoon clean-up. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are many basket traps that get lost at sea and pieces of fishing lines which get broken after being entangled in the corals. These cause a lot of damage to the coral reef. The basket trap will do ghost fishing as it will attract live fish which will get caught and die of starvation and become baits for attracting other live fish and the process goes on and on. Lagoon Clean-Up Campaigns have been organised by SEMPA at Mourouk in 2014 and Rivière Banane in 2015.

Additionally, beach and islets clean-up are also carried out regularly to collect waste that may pollute the marine environment. Thirdly, enforcement of SEMPA Regulations. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Fisheries Protection Officers and the Field Rangers supported by the Community Resource Observers conduct regular patrol at sea to detect and deter illegal fishing activities within the marine park. A lot of illegal fishing implements have been seized and number of police cases established against defaulters for molesting of public officers. My Commission has recently destroyed exhibits composed of some 4 km of illegal nets; basket traps and other fishing equipment worth Rs 1.5 m. This will be a deterrent to illegal fishing within the marine protected area. The SEMPA Interpretation Centre. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a building is currently under construction at Port Sud-Est to house the SEMPA Interpretation Centre.

The Minority Leader : I understand that the question deals with measures that the Commissioner has taken to protect the lagoon. But, according what the number of pages he is reading, I understand that he is making a statement, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can you see to it that he sticks to Standing Order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes, but everything is short here. The question is about the measures.

Mr. Chairperson: Proceed, Commissioner.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: A building is currently under construction at Port Sud-Est to house the SEMPA Interpretation Centre. The Interpretation Centre will be a kit tool in the sensitisation and awareness raising of the local community and international visitors on the importance of the protection and

conservation of the marine ecosystem. Coral plantation. Scientists from Reunion Island were in Rodrigues to train local staff on coral diseases. Field surveys were undertaken to assess whether any such disease was present in Rodrigues and this has demonstrated that there are some coral diseases which exist in Rodrigues.

Therefore, studies will be undertaken to evaluate the extent of the disease in Rodrigues' lagoon and appropriate mitigation measures will be taken accordingly. One such mitigation measure involves the planting of coral to the reestablishment of key habitats for the colonisation by different species. There has been the plantation of coral species at Anse Ali and the growth of the coral is being monitored for the extension of the surface area under plantation. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a new future rapid patrol boat has been acquired for the fisheries protection service in April 2016 for quick intervention and rapid response time. They have already proved its importance as 160 m of illegal nets was seized on the 30 April 2016 at.... *Regat*.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of a watchtower has been completed at Montagne Plate to detect the illegal fishing activities in the lagoon in the region of.... The additional watchtowers, three additional watchtowers will be constructed in the future at Corail, Rivière Cocos and Mon Chéri. The objective is to use the topography of the island for better surveillance. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, new patrol aid such as drones equipped with cameras will be acquired shortly by the Department for Dissuasion and Detection of Illegal Fishing around Rodrigues. Last page, last one.

A new Flying Squad Unit has been set up at the level of the FPS, 13 Fisheries Protection Officers will be recruited shortly to reduce the lack of personnel, 31 Fisheries Officers are currently following a Diploma Course in Forestry and Fisheries to enhance the knowledge and skills of officers in handling complex management, conservation and projection of lagoon fisheries and marine resources and the marine ecosystem. Survey of the abundance and distribution of sea cucumber in the lagoon of Rodrigues has been done to enable decision taking.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, shorten.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a last page, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Anyway.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: A delegation of Ministry of Fisheries was in Rodrigues last month for further surveys on sea cucumber in collaboration with

the Fisheries Research and Training Unit and Shoals Rodrigues. Their objective is to take actions to replenish the stock. Training in off-lagoon fishing will continue to reduce pressure on the lagoon to protect the marine resources in the environment. Last but not least, one of the main objectives for the introduction of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Prohibition Use of Plastic Bag Regulations in 2014 was for the protection of marine resources since plastic wastes affect the marine ecosystem and kill aquatic animals. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, Minority Leader, to interrupt you. I think the Commissioner has given all the measures to the question and what he said is relevant to the question. Thank you.

The Minority Leader : ...to see that he shortens his answers. Among all the measures that the Commissioner has just stated, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is one thing that I did not hear him mention: a very important measure to help him define policies to optimise the use of our marine resources. It is the setting up of the Rodrigues Fisheries and Marine Council. Can I ask him whether such council exists and what are members who compose such council?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I would like to thank the Member. He said that I was speaking too much but then, he wants me to add. So, concerning the Fisheries and Marine Council, this is still ongoing and all the members that works directly or indirectly with the sea are on this meeting. Any decision that we take with regard to the marine environment/sector, we take it to the Marine Council, we discuss there and then, this helps me as to take policy decision with regard to the marine environment. It is still on, yes.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have so many questions but I will have to ask two first and if you allow me, I will ask further again. Yes, first of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to octopus, there has been an experiment carried out by the Commission for Fisheries as regard to '*ourite dans pot*'. Up to now, I have not heard a single word about this experiment, what has happened to this experiment, whether there has been an increase in octopus in Rodrigues, how many octopus have been caught from the '*pot*' that has been placed off lagoon? This is the first thing. And, second thing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whenever there is price, if the price is Rs 200, whether the price increases, whether there is a demand for fish, it will have always and impact on supply. Can we know from the Commissioner what is the equilibrium between these?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the first question, the Member is talking about the new measures that we are taking to fish octopus. This has nothing to do with increasing or decreasing the number of octopus. It is a new way of fishing octopus in order not to damage the coral

reefs. It has nothing to do to increase or decrease the thing. The experiment is still on. We started the experiment Quad D and it is done in a very scientific way. So, the result will be known soon but the experiment is still on. It is not over yet. And, with regard to the second question, I do not understand what the Member is saying with regard demand and increase, price. Can he be clearer in his question please?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: If we increase the price of fish, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have the demand; the demand for fish is Rs 200. The fishermen will find ways and means to have the fish for me because it depends on the price. Whenever there is a high demand, the fishermen will go and find the fish for me. Therefore, we can say that the price and the demand will always have an impact on the supply. So, can we know what is the equilibrium? Do you know what is the equilibrium?

Mr. Chairperson: Please, sit down. I do not see the relevance to the main question... I do not see that relevance.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, we are speaking of marine resources, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If we want to protect the marine resources, wherever we do, we place the watchtower, we do all these, there will be always supply. There will be always the supply, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the demand is here and the price also.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not understand the question. I do not know where the Member is coming. He has to be clearer in his question. Ask me a question which I can answer. I cannot answer this one. It has nothing to do. Of course, there is fish in the lagoon and people will buy. This is normal. But what is the question? I do not understand.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we listen to the Commissioner, there is a very beautiful picture of the situation here concerning the protection of marine resources in Rodrigues. But one thing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, every day that the Almighty gives us, we see illegal fishers at sea. Every single day, we see illegal fishers. The Commissioner has elaborated on many different measures put in place to protect our marine resources. For example, equipment has been destroyed, setting up of a flying squad soon etc. But, I would like to know from the Commissioner, has the number of illegal fishers being caught increased during the last few years?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, the number of illegal fishers being caught has increased. That does not mean that there was... It simply shows that now, we are very effective but this will continue, you know.

They are people who do good things and people who do bad things, you know. Illegal fishermen will always... It will be impossible. I want to see this Government, the Government that will stop 100% illegal fishing on this island. There is no one who can do that. We can only decrease. This is what we are doing.

The Minority Leader : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know whether the Commissioner is fully aware of the situation that prevails in the Fishers' Community. I just had a meeting and I made a press conference during the last weekend. Do you know what the fisherman said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? They are being used as scapegoats. Yes, they are prepared to help in this protection process. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let us talk about the closure of octopus fishing. The season is closed for two months. Fishermen are paid for only one month, but is it not encouraging them to do illegal fishing in the remaining month they are remaining idle, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? This is one question. And, now, this is why the objective set by the Commission to increase octopus by the different closures has not been met.

Can I asked the Commissioner, now he is coming with a second enclosure, this is a very good initiative, but is he prepared to have further consultations with the fishermen community so that to have their dues on that? They are prepared to collaborate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, provided that the Commission lend good ears to their requests.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: There are a lot of things in this question. Firstly, about consultation, I did not see any reason to do any more consultation. Mauritius is following us. Seychelles will be doing it soon. Everybody knows that it is a measure that you know, is today, internationally known. Why do I have to do more consultation? I would like to say something and ask who is using the fisherman as a scapegoat. I think this is very important to note that who are the persons and when the Member said they, means he is talking about the majority of the fishermen. What I have got is not that. He got about two fishermen talking to him and saying this and these two fishermen after having, you know, stayed with them, drank all the alcohol that they have been providing, these fishermen went and silently agreed that they are going to vote, agree with the system.

[Applause]

The Minority Leader : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, the Commissioner stated that these fishermen were provided with alcohol. Can he give proofs when and where did I give them alcohol?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when I said that, I said they were given alcohol. I am not saying who gave them alcohol. This has nothing to do. Maybe they got it from friends but we know where they got it.

The Minority Leader : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is imputing motives. He was imputing motives.

Mr. Chairperson: “Make allegations”.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: So, you have to withdraw the word alcohol, please.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I remove the word, Mr chairperson Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: In Rodrigues, we see that when there is bad sea, that is, the weather is worst, we see that many fishers used to benefit on this occasion thinking that there is no control to perform other illegal fishing. Can the Commissioner inform the House what is being envisaged by his Commission to control same during bad weather?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is whenever there is the *météo* saying that there is bad weather, normally, people are not supposed to go at sea even the Fisheries officers. Because if ever they got any problem there, they will take their responsibilities. So, again, you know, there are thieves, there are illegal fishers, everybody, if you want to steal something, you will not steal it in front of people. It is the way they do it. But, I can assure you that even if there is bad weather, some of the Fisheries officers, they do go and do their work. And also, we have now, I am happy to maybe announce if people do not know, they are 40 coastguards now and these people are better equipped to go at sea whenever there is bad weather to protect the lagoon. And, we will be having drones as well, I said it in my answer. We will be having drones. So, we will not have to go in the sea with bad weather. We will sit on the ground and take pictures of all these illegal fishermen.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, despite of all these measures mentioned by the Commissioner to protect the marine resources of the island, I will invite him to go on the road of Rodrigues. We can see fishmongers, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, selling fish of this size, *ti la peau vert*, of this size yes, from the road around Rodrigues. We can see fishmongers selling illegal fish around the island from my place up to Mont Lubin. *Pimpimp, pimpimp, pimpimp*

pimpimp! Mr. Chairperson, Sir, almost every day, we can hear the fishmonger around the island. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, apart from all the things that he just mentioned, we do not have only the size of the fish; we have also the price of the fish. The price of fish, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, fixed price, instead of Rs 30, Rs 40, the inhabitants of Petit Gabriel, Mangue and so on, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they are buying fish at Rs 70.

Mr. Chairperson: Set your question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can we know from the Commissioner what is he doing in order to control all these acts of doing in Rodrigues?

Mr. Chairperson: Okay.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a Member of this Assembly, I think the Member, himself, he should be helping in this thing. If the Member sees small fish like *la peau vert* or whatever on the road, I think it is his duty to call us and to tell us. From four years I have been here, I have never had any phone call or anything from this particular Member. With regards to fixing of price, I would like to inform the House that my colleague has already worked on a system and it is coming soon. The price will be fixed soon.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question for respected Member Grandcourt.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le président, le Commissaire, je trouve ça aberrant qu'un Commissaire admet. L'année dernière, il nous disait qu'on doit combattre la pêche illégale est maintenant, il dit que la pêche illégale existera toujours. Il y a un changement de langage, M. le président. Et concernant lui téléphoner, moi-même, j'ai téléphoné plusieurs fois. Je ne veux pas téléphoner au *Fisheries Department Officer*, je ne veux pas téléphoner au *DH*. Je téléphone au Commissaire. Vous savez ce qu'il fait ? Il ne prend jamais son téléphone. Comment peut-il venir ici dire que nous ne faisons pas notre travail ? Concernant la consultation, j'ai une question sur la consultation avec les pêcheurs. Vous savez, M. le président, nous sommes mandatés pour venir défendre la population, qui que ce soit. Nous sommes mandatées pour venir dénoncer et être porte-parole de ces gens-là.

Les pêcheurs souffrent, M. le président. Ils souffrent ! Qu'est-ce qu'ils vont faire ? Vous parlez d'alternatifs ? Vous savez ce qu'ils font ces pêcheurs-là ? Ils arrivent le matin, ils s'assoient et puis, ils repartent. Allez voir ! Yes, *I am coming*. Allez voir, M. le président! J'aimerais poser la question au

Commissaire. Quand était la dernière fois qu'il a rencontré les pêcheurs ou bien Association des pêcheurs concernant la fermeture de l'ourite ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le président, le membre repose la question. Est-ce qu'il doit y avoir des consultations encore avec les pêcheurs ? Pas besoin ! Quand je vais rencontrer les pêcheurs, je ne vais pas téléphoner au membre pour lui dire: attend, regarde, je vais parler aux pêcheurs là ! Non ! Non ! Je fais mon travail, je sais ce que je fais. Les pêcheurs sont contents et là, je dois dire qu'au niveau des gens qui font les trucs pour les travaux alternatifs et tout le monde est là. Et je n'ai pas changé de langage quand je dis qu'il y aura toujours de la pêche illégale.

On a un lagon comme ça, énorme et nous, avec des mesures qu'on est en train de prendre, il y aura beaucoup plus de poisson et c'est normal, voleurs, qui va arrêter les voleurs ? Combien de policiers là, récemment, ils ont pris 28 encore qui sont à Maurice mais il y a toujours des voleurs. Qui va arrêter un jour les voleurs ? Donc, ce n'est pas aberrant de dire que comme si, je dis que je suis honnête quand je dis qu'il y aura toujours de la pêche illégale et surtout parce que nous, avec les mesures qu'on est en train de prendre, le fait qu'il y a beaucoup plus de poisson dans la mer. Quand il y a de l'or, les gens vont voler. C'est normal.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please! Minority Leader.

RODRIGUES AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COOPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.

(No. B/60) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd., she will state:

- (a) when it was created and indicating the purpose thereof;
- (b) the composition of its members together with its share capital as at to date; and
- (c) if the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has made any grant thereto and, if so, the amount thereof and the purpose therefor?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since 2012, our Government took the decision to instill a new dynamic amongst the cooperatives in Rodrigues. Cooperatives in Rodrigues are actually having an overall turnover of more than 75 m. annually. I am pleased to inform the House

that in 2012, when we took office, there were some 45 active cooperatives. And, after four years, we have been able to bring the number of active cooperatives to 75. To encourage them in their endeavour, the Regional Government is in constant dialogue with the cooperatives with a view to help them to better serve their members and the population at large. Cooperatives are enterprises, that is, they are expected to do business, to be professional, to make money but to always treasure people as per their fundamental basis.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a) of the question, the Rodrigues Agricultural Marketing Corporative Federation (RAMCF) Ltd. was registered on the 09 September 1992. It is composed of 16 primary cooperatives. The purpose was to promote the economic and social interest of its members in accordance with cooperative principles by inter alia, encouraging improved methods of agricultural production. As regard to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think it is not ethical to disclose the names of the board members. But, as every cooperative, the RAMCF Ltd. has got its board members comprising of President, Vice-president, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, members and Secretary Managers. And, these information are available at the Cooperative Division.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the share capital, I am informed that to date, the share capital of the Federation amounts to Rs 10,550 and this is paid by the 16 primary cooperative societies. With regard to part (c) of the question, in fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has made two grants to the RAMCF as follows: in December 2014, Rs 2 m. were granted for the purchase of four power tillers and one tractor. And, in May 2016, an amount of Rs 541,000 were granted for the conversion of the Government pigsty at Maréchal into a garage in the context of the Land Mechanisation Project in the west.

The Minority Leader : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the name, itself, indicates, this Cooperative Federation is for agricultural marketing. And, according to the reply of the Deputy Chief Commissioner, the main purpose was to increase agricultural production. Now, the Executive Council decided to grant this Cooperative Federation Rs 2 m. for acquiring ploughing machines. Is it? Can I ask her whether, there is any private enterprise in Rodrigues which has this required equipment in land mechanisation? And, if yes, why is it instead of giving that grant to this cooperative federation which have other objectives instead of doing land mechanisation, why has the Executive Council not taken the decision to hire through contract any private firm in Rodrigues to do that job?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : M. le président, premièrement, je voudrais dire au *Minority Leader* que le mot '*marketing*' dans le nom, c'est un mot que toute autre coopérative peut utiliser. Et si je me réfère à la liste de ces 16 coopératives qui sont membres de cette fédération, vous avez parmi les coopératives polyvalentes des fermiers Rodriguais, *Marechal Credit and Marketing Cooperative*, *Eco Farm Multipurpose Cooperative*. Donc, le mot '*marketing*' ne veut pas dire que la coopérative doit obligatoirement que faire du *marketing* des produits quelconques. Et c'est bon que je mentionne que depuis l'existence de cette coopérative, ils se sont sentis concernés par la production même au niveau des productions locaux, pas seulement que la vente. C'est vrai, au départ, ils vendaient des oignons et de l'ail.

Ils fonctionnaient comme un agent d'*Agricultural Marketing Board*, de l'AMB, mais notre politique, quand on a mis en place le RTMC pour vendre les produits des entrepreneurs, des coopérateurs, on a vu qu'il faut dialoguer avec eux et même s'ils ne continuent plus à vendre, à être agent de l'AMB, il y a tellement des choses qu'ils peuvent faire dans le cadre de leur mission pour permettre aux gens de produire plus. Ils travaillent aujourd'hui, comme activités, ils font l'importation des pesticides, des graines, des outils, ils font du *spraying* au niveau de Rodrigues en général. Ils ont quatre stores au niveau de Port Mathurin, Port Sud-Est, Maréchal, Citronnelle où ils offrent des facilités aux planteurs. Ils sont aujourd'hui engagés au niveau de la propagation de cet esprit de *biological farming* and *biological production*. Donc, M. le président, le mot '*marketing*' ne veut pas dire que la coopérative doit se restreindre à ça.

Donc, pour répondre à la deuxième partie de la question, concernant les promoteurs, est-ce qu'il y a des gens dans le privé ? Oui, M. le président. Au contraire, nous, au niveau du Gouvernement, à la Commission de l'Agriculture, le Chef commissaire a permis à un nombreux de planteurs d'avoir leur motoculteur aujourd'hui à travers un *scheme* spécial où ils ont été offert un *subsidy* à 90% pour le montant du motoculteur où le planteur ne fait que payer 10%. Effectivement, il y a les privés qui le font. Ils sont libres de le faire. Si vous voulez contracter un service privé pour la mécanisation, personne ne vous oblige d'aller avec la coopérative. Mais dans un esprit de dialogue, nous avons voulu aussi, comme le Chef commissaire l'a dit tout le temps, comment réduire la dépendance des entrepreneurs sur l'état.

A travers la coopérative aujourd'hui, il y a des meilleurs services qui se donnent et ils ont une facilité plus rapide pour la mécanisation de la terre. A ce moment-là, M. le président, peut-être juste je vais mentionner. Depuis que la coopérative a fait acquisition de ces matériels dont j'ai parlés, c'est-à-dire, quatre motoculteurs et un tracteur, rien que pour les trois mois, à partir du 01 mars 2016 au 31 mai 2016, ils ont touché 276 planteurs et ils ont pu faire la

mécanisation de 369 arpents de terrain. M. le président, contre, ça, c'est sur trois mois. Et si je me compare, je me réfère à la table que j'ai en main, du 01 juillet 2015 au 28 février 2016, ils ont mécanisé 97 arpents, c'est-à-dire, sur huit mois, ils ont fait 97 arpents et maintenant, sur trois mois, ils ont fait 369 arpents. Et c'est les planteurs qui sortent gagnants, M. le président.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Is it in order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that on the 29 August 2014, the Executive Council took decision to grant the.... Cooperative, to give them a grant of Rs 2 m. for mechanisation. They have received a grant and on the other hand, they asked the planters to pay for mechanisation. Is it in order?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is effectively in order parce qu'ils ont des coûts. Et ce qui s'est passé, M. le président, ce qui a changé c'est qu'aujourd'hui comme je disais, le planteur, il ne doit pas nécessairement être un membre d'une coopérative. Tous les planteurs qui veulent avoir accès à ce service, ils peuvent avoir accès et ils payent. Mais le prix normal avant que l'Assemblée Régionale donnait le *grant* à RAMCF, au lieu de.... comme le dit le Membre ici, le prix normal était de Rs1200 par heure pour la mécanisation. Quand nous avons donné le *grant*, bien sûr, je vous disais qu'on est constant dialogue avec eux. On a discuté avec eux. On leur a fait comprendre.

D'ailleurs, on va signer très bientôt un MOU après qu'on a fini avec le garage qu'on est en train de construire pour protéger les équipements. On leur a fait comprendre que quand on leur a donné ces *grants*, c'est pour donner un service à la population et surtout ne pas faire de profit à tout prix. C'est pour ça, qu'en discutant, nous sommes tombés d'accord sur un montant de Rs800 à Rs1200 par heure au lieu de Rs1200 fixes dépendant du terrain. Donc, bien sûr aussi, je pense que la qualité du terrain, ça aussi, ça a une influence sur le prix. Même si les motoculteurs, au lieu de Rs400 par heure, donc aujourd'hui, ils offrent à Rs350 par heure pour un *subsidised price*.

Mr. Chairperson: Minority Leader.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: On the same ideas, Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

The Minority Leader : Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I remind the Deputy Chief Commissioner that according to an Executive Council's decision dated 15 April 2016, the Executive Council has agreed for the provision of a grant to the RAMCF Ltd. for the implementation of the Land Mechanisation Project in Rodrigues. But I heard her just earlier mentioning that in January up

to February this year, this cooperative... Maybe I missed an... July, not February? Okay.

So, this project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner? In the Council Decision, it is vague; it is in the western part of Rodrigues. There must have been a survey carried out to identify which are the lands that require land mechanisation. Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner how has this process been carried out? What are the planters' concerns and for what purpose has this land been mechanised?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : M. le président, pour quelle raison les gens mécanisent leur terrain ? *It is obvious !* Les gens mécanisent leur terrain pour produire. Et pourquoi on a commencé dans l'ouest ? M. le président, il y avait une statistique que le bureau du Chef commissaire avait commanditée au niveau de l'agriculture et c'était clair que la région où les gens manquent le plus, c'est dans l'ouest. Se basant là-dessus, on s'est dit autant donner les moyens là où les gens plantent plus au départ mais l'objectif après, c'est de pouvoir donner, rendre cette facilité accessible aux autres régions aussi. C'est-à-dire qu'aujourd'hui, les gens de la région de l'ouest, on a vu principalement, ils sont des grands planteurs d'haricots. Et là, je vois que de mars 2016 à mai 2016, 70 planteurs d'haricots dans l'ouest ont bénéficié de leur service.

Donc, je pense qu'il n'y a pas de questions à se poser là-dessus. Les gens aujourd'hui sont contents de cette facilité et à l'avenir, on travaille avec eux, on regarde comment ça marche, on met en place le système et à l'avenir, on va étendre ce service. Demain, peut-être, il y a d'autres coopératives qui seront appelées à offrir ce service dans d'autres régions de Rodrigues avec l'objectif premier de permettre aux gens de produire davantage et d'avoir un service de qualité et rapide.

The Minority Leader : The Deputy Chief Commissioner said that the question should not be asked. I maintain that I asked the question for one reason. Actually, the beans are overseas over.

Il n'y a pas de pluie. Ces planteurs ne vont pas faire d'autres plantations en attendant la saison de pluie étant donné que c'est vrai que la région de l'ouest, c'est là où il y a la plus grande superficie de terre agricole et ces gens, ces planteurs, normalement, ils font une seule récolte de maïs, par exemple.

Il peut arriver, M. le président, que la mécanisation ait été faite pour le haricot mais arrivé au moment de la plantation du maïs, les terres demandent encore à être labourées. C'est pour ça je demande au *Deputy Chief*

Commissioner whether there has been a planning to see that during the whole year, for all the crops that will be planted, the land is ready for that.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : M. le président, je pense c'est bon que je dise ici, moi-même, j'ai appris avec les techniciens que ce n'est pas une bonne pratique de labourer son terrain chaque année. Ce n'est pas une bonne pratique. On l'a fait une fois et puis, les gens vont continuer à planter. Mais, M. le président, qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire ? On ne devrait pas labourer leurs terres parce qu'il y aura que la plantation d'haricots, parce qu'on n'est pas sûr d'avoir de la pluie ? Donc, pour moi, encore une fois, la question ne se pose pas. Les gens ont besoin de travailler. Un Gouvernement responsable doit mettre à la disposition de ces personnes les facilités pour leur permettre de travailler. Au contraire, aujourd'hui, ils sont préparés. S'il y a la pluie, tant mieux, ils peuvent continuer à planter. Et ça, bien sûr, c'est par rapport à... C'est le planteur qui décide quand il va planter. Mais nous, on est là pour offrir le service et pour les accompagner dans leurs projets.

Mr. Chairperson: We have two last supplementary questions: one for Member Spéville and the last one for Respected Member...

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether for all tenders to be launched for services in the Agricultural Sector concerning the RAMCF, same is empowered to do so or it is being done by the Commission for Agricultural and then, same is being granted to them?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner :la question.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: For all tenders launched for services in the Agricultural Sector or commissioning of equipment, is the RAMCF empowered to do so or same is being done by the Commission for Agriculture and then, granted to them?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Regarding the acquisition of the materials? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot see where the Member is coming.

Mr. Chairperson: Could you clarify, repeat it in a clearer way?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Is the RAMCF empowered to launch tenders to commission equipment of the Commission of Agriculture, it is being done by the Commission for Agricultural and granted to them?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : En effet, M. le président, c'est la Commission de la coopérative. Donc, il y a des procédures très claires au

niveau des *grants*, au niveau de l'Assemblée Régionale. Il y a des procédures très claires, il y a des formulaires qui sont remplies et bien sûr, les officiers de la Commission de la coopérative travaillent en étroite collaboration avec le RAMCF pour l'achat des équipements, pour toutes les procédures et ils sont contraints de suivre les procédures comme on devrait le faire au niveau du Gouvernement. Et à chaque fois qu'ils doivent faire un paiement, c'est l'officier de la coopérative qui les accompagne, doit d'abord donner un *clearance*. Donc, il y a une transparence totale au niveau de l'utilisation de cet argent et de tous les *tenders* qui sont fait à ce niveau.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I put three in one then. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first question is on the 29 August 2014. The Executive Council took decision to grant RAMCF Rs 2 m. for mechanisation and pasture. And, on the 15 April 2016, the Executive Council took another decision to grant the RAMCF for the implementation of the Land Mechanisation Project in the western part of Rodrigues. The first question is whether the RAMCF has got two grants. This is the first question.

Secondly, does the RAMCF process a Business Certificate? Because I see that they bid for the Agricultural Scheme, they supply cement, macadam and all these, whether it is according to Cooperative Act section 13 (5). And the last one, I heard the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioning that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding which will be signed later. On the 14 December 2014, the grant was granted to RAMCF on the 04 December 2014. How come that now we are in July that up to now, prior to the granting of the grant to RAMCF, they should have a Memorandum of Understanding, Grant Memorandum signed by the Commission? How come that now, she will sign now?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Premièrement, M. le président, j'ai bien mentionné dans la réponse que j'ai donnée à la question qu'effectivement, l'Assemblée Régionale a donné de *grants* au RAMCF selon toutes les procédures *established as per the...* donc, il y a des procédures *established* pour donner un *grant*. Toutes les procédures ont été données. J'ai bien mentionné que les deux *grants*, en décembre 2014, Rs2 millions et en mai 2016, Rs541,000. Effectivement, quand on a donné le *grant*, on a travaillé un *MOU*, on a discuté. Donc, il y a le *vetting* aussi de *Legal Adviser*. Mais M. le président, entre-temps, je dois dire que s'il y a des officiers qui sont vraiment méticuleux dans ce pays, ce sont les officiers de la coopérative.

Ils sont vraiment très conscients du rôle de ces coopératives. Ils sont vraiment très conscients de qu'est-ce qu'ils peuvent faire, qu'est-ce qu'ils ne peuvent pas faire. Et comme je disais au départ, puisqu'il y a des rencontres très réguliers, il y a un comité qui est mis conjointe coopérative et mon bureau pour assurer que ces projets sont mis en œuvre comme il se doit. Oui, même s'ils achètent ces matériaux pour faire leurs pâturages et autres, ils peuvent le faire parce que la coopérative est mandatée pour faire du business et il n'y a pas à sortir de là. Donc, ils le font, il n'y a rien d'illégal.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please ! Yes, Chief Commissioner. B/61. Now, quiet, now please!

DEVELOPMENT OF PIG FEED DIET – LOCALLY AVAILABLE FEED RESOURCES

(No. B/61) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the project “development of a pig feed diet based on locally available feed resources” undertaken by the Mauritius Research Council in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) where matters stand as at to date;
- (b) if any report thereon is available and, if so, to table a copy thereof; and
- (c) the local resources that have been identified therefor and to elaborate on their sustainability?

The Chief Commissioner: As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that the development of pig feed based on locally available feed resources is a research project having as objective to look into the feasibility of formulating home-produced pig feed diets. It also aims at reducing importation of concentrate pig feed and developing our pork products based on taste differentiation for the production of meat, sausages and ham for our export market and local upmarket clients.

This is in line with the policy of our Government to promote bio and organic local products which have high value added.

So far, the following activities have been completed:-

- (i) Designing and piloting of questionnaires for a field survey involving 162 local pig breeders

- (ii) Identification of local feed materials
- (iii) Laboratory feed analysis

The study is funded by the Mauritius Research Council through a grant of Rs 747,000 under the Unsolicited Research Grant Scheme following the signature of a contract in June 2014.

So far, funds disbursed for the survey amounts to Rs 41,000. A request for extension of the project has been filed with the Mauritius Research Council in July 2015. I am informed that a second disbursement of Rs 50,000 is expected soon from the Mauritius Research Council.

I am also informed that the project has experienced a major delay because a request for technical assistance from FAREI has not yet been obtained though this request was made in July 2015.

However, this has not deterred our will to move forward. An alternative solution which we are working on is to seek technical expertise and assistance from *Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) de la Réunion*.

As regards part (b) of the question, no report has been published as of to date. The only report will be the final one which will be ready at the end of the research for publication by the Mauritius Research Council as provided for in the contract.

In regard to part (c) of the question, seven local resources have been identified namely:-

1. Cassava tubers
2. Cassava leaves
3. Sweet potato
4. Taro (Arouille)
5. Corn flour
6. Accacia leaves
7. Accacia pods.

Regarding their sustainability, we will have to wait for further research and farm trials to determine it. These trials would measure growth rate and back fat percentage.

When the pigs would have reached 90 kg live weight, which is the optimum slaughtering stage, further evaluation on carcase quality and taste would be made.

The Minority Leader : *Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner confessed that there has been delay in the implementation of that project. C'est vrai mais en attendant, les objectifs fixés, c'était de réduire les prix des aliments pour animaux qui sont importés et qui sont utilisés par nos éleveurs. Étant donné que dans le cadre du projet, il y a sept... c'est-à-dire, local resources, comme le Chef commissaire avait mentionné, qui ont été identifiées pour l'engraissement des animaux, c'est-à-dire, les porcs.*

Etant donné que le Chef commissaire a misé beaucoup sur la production du cochon noir, étant donné que le projet justement pour permettre une meilleure production de ce type de porc, le projet prend du temps, qu'est-ce que la Commission de l'Agriculture fait en attendant, M. le président, pour permettre aux planteurs de prendre avantage de ces aliments tels que patates, manioc, *cornflour* etc. afin qu'ils produisent à grande échelle afin que les éleveurs de cochons en profitent ? Est-ce que la commission de l'agriculture travaille déjà dans ce sens en attendant justement la finalisation du rapport de ce projet qu'il a commandité avec le MRC ?

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, M. le président, la patate, le manioc, l'arouille, le *cornflour*, on les plantait dans le passé. Mais là, nous avons demandé aux agriculteurs de retourner vers ces plantations et il y a des agriculteurs qui le font. Et même, je dois dire que la patate apporte beaucoup à nos cochons et aussi le manioc, le *cornflour* et ce que je dois dire que même la patate, d'après les recherches, la patate apporte beaucoup plus même pour les humains. La patate apporte beaucoup de choses aux humains. Et c'est pourquoi, nous voudrions maintenant ne pas trop abandonner.

Il y a beaucoup de terre abandonnée, des gens qui abandonnent leurs terres, qui vont à Maurice. Il y en a même qui retourne justement, qui voit ce qu'il est en train de se faire aujourd'hui en ce qui concerne le développement de l'agriculture à travers ces *schemes* que nous sommes en train de lancer et même ces 22 étudiants, ceux qui ont suivi des cours au Lycée Polytechnique de Saint Joseph, ils retournent et aussi, se lancent dans ces plantations. Alors, ça va prendre un peu de temps mais nous faisons tout le travail et que c'est ce qu'on plantait autrefois et surtout doit être utilisé pour l'alimentation de nos porcs surtout le porc noir.

Il y a une question qui va venir plus tard. Parce que là, il nous faut aller vers le produit, produire, transformer et exporter et il nous faudra aller dans ce

sens mais un produit exporté, le jambon, je reprends un peu la question qui va venir, le jambon qu'on va produire ne devrait pas avoir le même goût que le jambon mauricien et c'est ça justement. Nous sommes condamnés à produire un produit du goût différent que ce soit le poulet local et ainsi de suite. Je sais que je vais un petit peu trop loin, excusez-moi. Alors, justement, et tout ça, c'est dans notre vision de développement de l'agriculture de retourner un peu à ce qu'on plantait autrefois pour nourrir les cochons noirs.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: Merci, M. le président, entendre le chef commissaire, on croirait que tout est facile, maintenant on peut produire comme avant, on peut produire de la patate, le manioc. Mais juste, je lui demanderais de prendre en considération un fléau qui décourage, juste à titre d'exemple, M. le président, décourage les planteurs, ce sont les perdrix. Savez-vous, à l'ouest... Vous rigolez parce que vous êtes coupés de la réalité. Vous savez combien de personnes à l'ouest n'arrivent pas planter le maïs ? Vous savez combien de personnes à l'ouest n'arrivent pas à planter la patate parce qu'il y a une prolifération de perdrix à Rodrigues ? Est-ce que le chef Commissaire prend sa en considération ? Juste à titre d'exemple, je voulais mentionner.

M. le président, concernant le projet, le chef commissaire dit qu'il va chercher les *technical assistance* de la CIRAD. N'y-a-t-il pas des officiers à la Commission de l'Agriculture qualifiés pour aider à produire *manzé cochon* ? Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans le *manzé cochon* ? Quels sont les différentes composantes ? Vous allez demander à n'importe qui, il pourra savoir qu'est-ce qu'il y a. Ça peut-être un peu technique mais n'y a-t-il pas, première question, n'y a-t-il pas d'officiers à l'Agriculture qui puissent aider à faire avancer le projet ? Première question. Deuxième question, il a dit de *trial*. *The project is at trial stage*. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire après tout ce temps s'il a eu *sampling*, si on lui a présenté un *sampling* de ce fameux *manzé cochon* ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, les perdrix, mais il y a un politicien qui a dit qu'il faut faire l'élevage des perdrix pour les touristes. Ah *bein*, oui. Mais oui, faire l'élevage des perdrix pour les touristes.

Mr. Chairperson: No comment, please !

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président...

Mr. Chairperson: Please, listen now !

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il y a des techniciens agricoles autour de M. Jean Maurice Ravina de *Mauritius Research Council*, est en train de travailler sur le projet mais aller vers CIRAD, c'est pour avoir

beaucoup plus d'informations et de voir parce que vraiment, au niveau du CIRAD, on a signé un *MOU* avec eux et là, ce sont des experts au niveau international. Alors, c'est pourquoi je dis il y a des techniciens agricoles qui travaillent sur ce projet-là. Alors, nous voulons aller beaucoup plus loin et moi, je suis confiant qu'on doit aller beaucoup plus loin. Mais il nous faudra justement que ce qu'on propose, l'Accacia, de ceci, de cela vraiment qu'on puisse développer tout cela est qu'on voit exactement. Puisque l'Accacia aide aussi, les grains d'Accacia aident aussi les agriculteurs, les planteurs et les éleveurs et ainsi de suite.

Alors, concernant les perdrix, nous allons voir qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire. C'est vrai, il n'y a pas seulement les perdrix. Il y a aussi les poules locales. On voit les poules locales sur les routes aujourd'hui, circulant sur les routes et qui vont dans les jardins, qui vont déterrer. Je les vois chez moi, hein. Les poules des voisins viennent chez moi, gratter, pour manger ce qu'il y a sous la terre. Vous comprenez la ? Non, non. Mais c'est les habitudes des animaux de notre pays, des oiseaux de notre pays. Alors, tout ça, il faut savoir ne pas les tuer comme on tue les chauves-souris. M. chauve-souris là... Mais il faut quand même savoir protéger. Ça aussi, la question a été soulevée. Je suis content qu'on soulève tout ça, même l'opposition soulève tout ça et on va faire tout ce qu'il faut faire pour que nos plantations soient protégées contre les poules, contre les perdrix ou autres.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, on peut amener tous sortes d'officiers d'ailleurs mais la réalité sur le terrain, M. le président, on connaît la réalité. On fait face à la réalité tous les jours au quotidien, M. le président. Et M. le président, j'inviterais le Chef commissaire à aller à Grand La Fouche Mangue *plot*. *Agricultural plot* de Grand La Fouche Mangue, M. le président. Même en temps de sécheresse, on a eu des maïs, M. le président, des gros, pas n'importe quoi. Même les haricots, on a eu à Grand La Fouche Mangue. Mais le problème à Rodrigues, M. le président, c'est l'eau ! Est-ce que le chef commissaire peut trouver des solutions pour solutionner le problème d'eau que les planteurs font face surtout dans la région de l'ouest de Rodrigues ? Merci.

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, M. le président, nous sommes conscients de ce manque d'eau et nous avons pris une décision de donner l'eau du tuyau qu'on donne pour les besoins domestiques, qu'on donne ça aussi aux planteurs. Et on a décidé aussi de leur donner des réservoirs d'eau. Il y a tout cela. Et même au niveau de l'électricité, pour pouvoir avoir de l'électricité pour arroser et là, on vient... Alors, là, avec quelque chose de plus important : c'est le goutte-à-goutte. Le goutte-à-goutte, on économise de l'eau avec le goutte-à-goutte. J'ai vu ça partout dans des pays. Aux États-Unis, j'ai vu ça en plein désert, le goutte-à-goutte, même pour les arbres fruitiers.

Je dirais même pour les arbres qu'on va planter dans nos forêts, il faut le goutte-à-goutte. Il ne faut pas laisser mourir ses arbres. Alors, on sait, il y a beaucoup de gens qui ont demandé et on a pris la décision dessus, de leur donner de l'eau du robinet qu'on donne pour le besoin domestique mais il faut avoir cette eau. Je suis conscient que mon collègue peut faire des recherches et là, on va aller beaucoup plus loin encore, faire des recherches sur des eaux souterraines. Et ça c'est ce qu'il faut continuer à faire depuis des *boreholes* pour justement avoir un peu plus de pluie. Mais nous demandons aussi aux planteurs de récolter l'eau de pluie.

J'ai vu ça à La Réunion. À la Réunion, justement, ils font comme une sorte de varangue comme ça et ils récoltent l'eau quand il pleut et ça, c'est très important. Ramasser l'eau de la pluie même dans les jardins. Ça, c'est très important. Le Rodriguais, et c'est pourquoi nous leur donnons toutes les facilités justement pour arriver jusque-là. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

The Minority Leader : M. le président, on aurait pu en poser beaucoup plus d'autres mais pour revenir à la question principale, c'est-à-dire l'aliment destiné à réduire le coût sur l'importation, tout à l'heure, le Chef commissaire, il a mentionné qu'il mise beaucoup sur la jeunesse, la jeune génération pour comme si remplacer nos aînés qui, autrefois, plantaient beaucoup de patates, de manioc etc. Mais actuellement, M. le président, si vous allez partout à Rodrigues, vous allez voir que ceux qui s'adonnent à la culture de la patate, du manioc etc., sont toujours ces personnes d'un certain âge. Parce que, eux, ils ont le *know-how*, ils ont la patience, ils ont vécu pendant tant d'années à faire cette pratique. Est-ce que je pourrais demander au Chef commissaire comment ont-ils utilisé justement ces ressources locales dans l'implémentation justement de ce projet à faire étendre justement la production de ces différents aliments pour le cochon ?

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, M. le président, nous sommes très conscients de cela et c'est pourquoi nous disons toujours qu'il faut des jeunes pour remplacer les grands, nos parents et ainsi de suite. Et c'est pourquoi, dans les écoles primaires, nous avons depuis des années en 1982, appris aux enfants de travailler la terre. Mais malheureusement, quand l'enfant fait ça, il y a des parents qui disent : « *Mo envoie mo zenfan lekol pou pioche la terre ?* » Il y a tout ça. Et même les jeunes qui vont à l'université, il y en a qui dise : « *Ah, pou retourne Rodrigues pou vine sali mo lamain ?* » Et c'est pourquoi aujourd'hui, nous voyons même des jeunes qui sorte de l'université se lancent dans ce qu'on appelle, des *schemes* qu'on a lancés justement au niveau de la plantation, au

niveau des... Il y a même des gens qui sont partis pour l'Inde pour le bio. Il y a d'autres personnes qui vont partir bientôt.

Alors, c'est pourquoi nous disons, il faut former la nouvelle génération même dans les collèges, par exemple. Regardez, il n'y a pas un jeune qui a été couronné premier prix au niveau international dans l'agriculture ? Mais ça, c'est un exemple ! Regardez Frère Rémy, ce jeune Agathe. Vous comprenez là ? Et qui vraiment, ça, c'est extraordinaire. Ça, ils montrent aux grandes personnes que les jeunes sont là. Ils sont un exemple pour les jeunes qui arrivent. Il nous faut avoir beaucoup d'exemples comme ça. Et c'est ça, justement, l'avenir de Rodrigues. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

**“REVISITING THE LINGUISTIC AND
ETHNOGRAPHIC SPECIFICITIES
OF RODRIGUES”**

(No. B/62) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Arts and Culture and Others whether, in regard to the project “Revisiting the linguistic and ethnographic specificities of Rodrigues”, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the modus operandi put in place with the different stakeholders for the implementation thereof and to table a copy of the Terms of Reference thereof, if any; and
- (b) the cost implication therefor?

The Commissioner Responsible for Arts and Culture and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in light with the correspondence and project write-up received from the Prime Minister's Office, the Executive Council in its meeting held on Friday 26 February 2016 has decided to approve the implementation of the project “Revisiting the linguistic and ethnographic specificities of Rodrigues” by the University of Mauritius and the Creole Speaking Union provided that the project is complementary to the work being achieved by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project is led by Professor A. Carpooran, O.S.K, as he is the Personal Chair in French and Creole Studies and President of the Creole Speaking Union in Mauritius and is assisted by two Researchers and Collaborators, namely from the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities, University of Mauritius, Creole Unit, Mauritius Institute of Education and two

other project collaborators from the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities of the University of Mauritius again and one Student who is registered on a B.A French Programme will also give a helping hand of the project.

Mr, Chairperson, Sir, subsequently, the Executive Council at its meeting has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Mauritius, the Prime Minister's Office and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with regards to the project mentioned above and Mr, Chairperson, Sir, Cabinet has, on the 10 June 2016, taken note of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three different entities.

My Departmental Head was designated for the signature of the MoU on behalf of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) and the University of Mauritius was represented by the Vice Chancellor and by the Prime Minister's Office by its Permanent Secretary.

The official launching of the project is scheduled in Rodrigues for August 2016 and a date is yet to be determined. Mr, Chairperson, Sir, a Steering Committee for the project will be set-up and will be composed of two representatives each of the University of Mauritius, Prime Minister's Office and Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Other members could be co-opted as and when required. The Steering Committee would meet on a quarterly basis and would ensure that the project is implemented.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, this project would allowed Rodrigues Regional Assembly to preserve and promote its oral tradition mainly its language and, at the same time, promote the intangible cultural heritage of the Island.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the objectives of the research are as follows:

- (i) producing a digitised version of audio and visual fieldwork data collected in Rodrigues during the late 1970's by Pasteur Robert Chaudenson and al.;
- (ii) training and encouraging students of University of Mauritius (UoM) and/or other Tertiary Education Institutions of Rodriguan origin to become full-fledged native researchers;
- (iii) to impulse research dynamics within the scientific community, e.g researchers of Social Studies and Humanities;

- (iv) diffusing knowledge on the findings of the research work to the community at large.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the scope of collaboration include:

- (a) digitisation of the existing audio, visual and written data;
- (b) creating a virtual platform and uploading of the above data;
- (c) writing, edition, publication of volumes 1 and 2 of “Atlas Linguistique et Ethnographique de Rodrigues (ALERO)” (as mentioned previously);
- (d) collection, transcription and analysis of data on the contemporary Rodriguan Creole;
- (e) submission of raw data collected to the Commission of Arts and Culture;
- (f) ensuring the complementary of the project to the work achieved by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the same field;
- (g) production of a final report on the findings and conclusions of the research work; and
- (h) organisation of seminars and workshops to diffuse findings and exchange knowledge on the contemporary Rodriguan Creole.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the total cost of the project is approximately Rs 2.1 m. out of which Rs 1.2 m. will be met by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in equal share.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the whole project would include cost relating to:

1. preliminary workshop for members of the project and meeting of the Steering Committee,
2. preliminary go and see visit to five survey spots in Rodrigues,
3. activities relating to the diffusion of the digitalised field work data,
4. intermediate workshop for members of the project/Steering Committee,

5. research and field work,
6. activities relating to publication of research work and,
7. collection of new data.

A first disbursement of Rs 200,000/- for the project from the Prime Minister's Office and Rodrigues Regional Assembly has been effected for the financial year ending 30 June 2016. In this respect, the University of Mauritius has submitted a detailed budget breakdown to enable the transfer of funds. The fund disbursed will be used for the different procedures mentioned previously. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this project of "Revisiting the linguistic and ethnographic specificities of Rodrigues" has been subject to a work by Chaudenson as the Commissioner said in the early 70s, that is, 44 years back. Let me quote what Chaudenson said. He said, I quote:

« Il est donc tentant de considérer Rodrigues comme une sorte de musée linguistique et culturelle qui permettrait de découvrir in vivo des très anciens, des parlers et des cultures créoles de l'Océan Indien. »

Alors, ce projet, c'était un projet qui était financé dans le temps par... Non, c'est l'agence de coopération culturelle et technique. Je ne sais pas si cette agence existe encore. Mais au-delà de cet aspect justement que la Commission veut venir préserver notre identité linguistique, figurez-vous, M. le président, ça fait 44 ans déjà. Et vous savez déjà à l'époque, Chaudenson, qu'est-ce qu'il pressentait ? Il a dit : *« Néanmoins, on doit se montrer circonspect sur plusieurs raisons »*. Et une des plus importantes, c'est la très sensible évolution récente du Rodriguais. À l'époque, c'était les postes de radio, c'était la MBC, Radio Seychelles etc. mais pendant 44 ans, M. le président, beaucoup d'eau a coulé sous le pont. Rodrigues a connu un changement drastique.

Mr. Chairperson: Come to your question.

The Minority Leader : *Alors, my question is : in this project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, il y a eu la collaboration de l'Université de Maurice, the Creole Speaking Union of Mauritius, but what about the concrete participation of Rodrigues? Is there any particular structure which has been set up under the Commission for Arts and Culture in Rodrigues that deals specifically with the research à l'intérieur de Rodrigues qui peut contribuer justement dans le cadre*

de ce projet? Les partenaires principaux comme mentionnés, c'était l'Université de Maurice...

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Minority Leader is delivering a lecture. He is making a statement. Please....

Mr. Chairperson: This is why I have just asked the Minority Leader to just ask his question. I have just told him.

The Minority Leader : If you give me time to ask the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: No, it is too long.

The Minority Leader : By the time I was asking the question, he interrupted me. Yes, my question is: there are stakeholders from Mauritius, University of Mauritius, Creole Speaking Union in Mauritius. What about any structure here in Rodrigues which forms part in the process to assist in the research?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that in my reply, I have been very clear on the partners in that project, meaning that the Minority Leader is saying that what is the appropriate structure to be part of the project. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly, I think, is an appropriate structure. And, in a meeting where myself, I attended at the Prime Minister's Office and the University of Mauritius, we ensured, we discussed, we agreed that Rodriguans should be part of the project, should be on the project. And, in my reply in the first paragraph, I have mentioned the Executive Council approved the project only on the basis that it is complementary of the work being done right now. It should not be any duplication or they should not be doing things that put Rodriguans aside.

So, care was taken to ensure that Rodriguan researchers, Rodriguan students and others are taken on board and participate in that work. And, you have mentioned that Chaudenson in his work dates years back. But, indeed, what we want is that we want to *reactualise* things and see whether, things have evolved or have remained the same. Because linguistic is a dynamic field, because otherwise, we would be like Greek, a dead language. So, since I think the creole language is *bien vivante, donc*, we are here to see what are the changes, what are the alterations, what are the cultural aspects that have affected or not affected the Rodriguan Creole because it is not only linguistic that also ethnographic study whereby, the people will be studied in their own cultural environment. I think all parameters have been respected on this project.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what assurance can be obtained from the Commissioner that Rodriguans will be taken on board apart from herself taking part into the meetings in Mauritius, at Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and University of Mauritius? Whether, any Rodriguans have been invited to any meetings held in Mauritius.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the context of this project, an MOU was signed and the Departmental Head of my Commission was, of course, the one to go on mission for this. And, we agreed with the University of Mauritius that a launching has to be done here. And, for the launching to be done, we need to communicate with all Rodriguans that are working or have done something in relation to the Creole language and of course, they will be taken on board but if meeting are to be held in Mauritius, it is clear that one or two persons will have to be designated to go. Because the meetings have not started yet but we are communicating via phone and emails so to ensure that all these parameters are respected and Rodriguans are on.

The Minority Leader : Okay, then. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I remind the respected Commissioner that in reply to Question B/11 on Tuesday, 04 March 2014, the Chief Commissioner mentioned that a committee has been set up to deal with the Creole Rodrigues. That is why I asked the Commissioner whether there is a need, unit or structure here which deals specifically to our Creole which forms part under the purview of the Commission and whether, she feels it necessary to set up a Creole Unit under her Commission, Commission for Arts and Culture.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, indeed, the Chairperson of the steering committee for education has indeed decided to establish a Creole committee which is under my chairmanship and of course, we meet quite often and there are all the stakeholders in education and in culture and in history as well that deal directly or indirectly with the Creole language in Rodrigues. Reason why we said that any work being done has to be complementary because a certain amount of work, a certain load of work are to work has already started. We should not be duplicating actions that have been taken and information that has been gathered.

So, this is why we said that complementary action is needed. Because for Creole Committee as well, we have also invited in one of our meetings, the MIE who has given advice on how to go through this project. And, of course in the meeting with Dr Carpooran, I mentioned that we have a Creole Committee and

things have to be done to allow our projects to emerge but also to build and scaffold on what has already started in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Be quick and direct too. That is the last question. We have already been too long.

Mr. R. Perrine: Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Be quick and direct.

Mr. R. Perrine: Yes. Première question, je vais mettre deux questions en un. La première question, connaissant les remous qu'il y a eu dans les journaux incessamment concernant une étude qui a été menée par M. Noël Allas, j'aimerais demander à la Commissaire si M. Noël Allas fera bien parti de ce comité ou de cette structure qui va justement aider à revisiter cette étude qui est en train de se faire maintenant premièrement. Et deuxièmement, lorsqu'il s'agit de l'archive sonore, est-ce qu'il y aura la participation de l'archive sonore? Et si oui, à quel niveau pour que cette étude soit prise en compte, parce que je sais que le travail d'archivage est quelque chose de difficile, est-ce que cela va être pris en considération ?

Mr. Chairperson: Please, you want to answer?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Yes. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member is reacting to articles in the newspapers and I think he can react or not. I think that M. Noël Allas has the qualification and experience required and I think that there is no need that some people come and try to make things on it, to make mountains out of molehills. So, what happens is that indeed, his experience and collaboration will be sought as and when required. As the English would say, as goes the adage, '*we will cross the bridge when we reach the bridge*'. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: I beg your pardon?

Mr. R. Perrine: She has not answered the second part of my question.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please!

PROCUREMENT NOTICE – 05 MAY 2016

(No. B/63) Mr. J. D. Spéville (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the procurement notice dated 05th May 2016 advertised in the press bearing reference No. OAB: RRA/PI/40/2015-2016, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) why only Building and Civil works were advertised in the notice;
- (b) where matters stand as regards the installation of the desalination equipment for the Pointe Coton plant; and
- (c) the number of bids, if any, received to date and, if so, to give details thereof?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I propose to reply to questions B/63, B/85 and B/89 which related to the same matter.

As you will recall, a previous contract for the design and commissioning of four desalination plants was terminated before its completion due to unsatisfactory performance of the Contractor. It was noted that the said contractor who was not specialised in civil works had serious difficulties with building and civil component of the works which could not be completed at Pointe Coton and Baie Malgache sites.

In view of these difficulties encountered with the previous contract, it was considered that it would be better to have separate procurement exercises for the building civil works and the construction of the plant and equipment.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a specific and separate procurement exercise for the Design Build and Turnkey Contract for Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants and Equipment at Baie Malgache and Pointe Coton was launched through the Central Procurement Board on the 03 February 2016 whereas, the procurement for Building and Civil Works for the Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant at Pointe Coton was launched on 05 May 2016. The tender document for building and civil works for the Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants at Baie Malgache is being reviewed for re-launching. The last procurement exercise was unsuccessful as bids received were substantially above the cost estimate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the tender document for the Design Build and Turnkey Contract for Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants and Equipment at Baie Malgache and Pointe Coton, Rodrigues, the Central Procurement Board conveyed its approval on the 20 June 2016 for my Commission to notify the selected and unsuccessful bidders. The notifications were issued and an unsuccessful bidder, Joint Venture Aqua Science and Technology Ltd. and Aqualia DPI Ltd. has challenged the decision to award the contract to Odis Filtering Ltd. as approved by the Central Procurement Board.

After consultation with the Central Procurement Board, my Commission has replied to the aggrieved bidder. The latter has submitted an application for review to the Independent Review Panel which has suspended the procurement proceedings until the appeal is determined. My Commission is consulting the Central Procurement Board before submitting the comments requested.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, two bids were received concerning the Building and Civil Works for the Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants at Pointe Coton and the contract has been awarded to the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder Laxmanbhai and Co. (Mtius) Ltd. for the sum of Rs 18,995,735.65 inclusive of VAT. The contract duration is 112 days from the commencement date.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, the Tender Committee of his Commission makes a tender evaluation and vetted same before having the final bid outcome from the CPB?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the CPB evaluated the tenders for the plant, desalination plant at Pointe Coton and Baie Malgache. No officer from our commission went to Mauritius for the Evaluation Bid.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: As regards the two bids received for Pointe Coton, can be know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the responsive Contractor has done such a similar work in the past?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Laxmanbhai and Co. Ltd. has done similar works over Rs 10 m. in the past.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner saying that one of the tenders is being relaunched due to the different bidders who quote above cost estimate. So, can I ask the Commissioner who estimated/evaluated the work to be done by the Contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I would like that the Member be more precise regarding the question for what site he is mentioning.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner, he said that one tender, there is only one tender that has been relaunched due to bidders quoting higher than cost estimate. It is in his answer! So, he has to look in his answer and answer me. What is the problem, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? I told him who...

Mr. Chairperson: Address the Chair, please.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am addressing the Chair. I asked him who carried out the cost estimate. Who estimated the costs, the works to be done by the Contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the estimated cost was done/worked out by the consultant, Sir.... and the evaluation was done by the officers of my Commission.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Tendering, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first tender launched, in a reply to the IRP which means the Independent Review Panel, on the 08 October 2013, the Commission for Public Infrastructure stated that there is an urgency, urgent, they have to proceed urgently because it is of public interest. How come that now, there has been a tender on procedures, there is no urgency with tendering proceed with only two bidders now?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, again, it is an urgency. The IRP panel will begin its steering on Friday next.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether his Commission has made a cost estimate of the extra cost expenditure for the project above the initial project of Rs 156 m.?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have provided an overestimate which is more than Rs 100 m., Rs 125 m. it is.

M. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is above the initial project which is about 156 and now, he says 125? Rs 125 m. more due to the lack of vision, lack of seriousness of the Commissioner. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I asked Commissioner whether he is going, why is he going on a Turnkey Project with one of the tenders or two tenders?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that out of the Rs 156 m., only Rs 61 m. have been paid for works done by the previous Contractor. And, for the question, we are going to, while we have, we will do it on a Turnkey Project with specification that the Contractor who will have the project will have to manufacture the plant completely self before coming to Rodrigues so that when it comes to Rodrigues, everything is ready, we have only to adjust. I will not manufacture... We will not construct the desalination plant in Rodrigues. So, everything will be done with the Contractor from, I do not know whether, in Mauritius or other.

Mr. Chairperson: Member Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Merci beaucoup. J'ai cru entendre le Commissaire dans sa réponse à l'Assemblée annonçait que Hydro Five and Consortium n'avait pas suffisamment d'expérience dans la matière de *civil works despite it is a turnkey project. I would like to refresh the mind of the Member with regard to the IRP Review Panel of 2014, paragraph 13, I quote* "the panel considers that there have been shortcomings in the evaluation process and that there were major commissions the bid of both bidders, the Central Procurement Board should have sought clarification from the two bidders during the evaluation stage before it reach a decision."

M. le président, nous avons attiré l'attention du Commissaire et de la majorité sur ce projet qui est un *turnkey project*. Nous avons maintes maintes reprises dire que ce projet en étant un turnkey va être une catastrophe pour Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Now you please come to your question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, my question. Can the Commissioner inform the House why – *pourquoi le fait qu'il s'avait déjà que cette compagnie avait des shortcomings pourquoi ils ont acceptés pour que cette compagnie puisse run this desalination plant ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the finding of the CBB er findings of the CBB but it is well after that we have found that Hydro five has no experience in civil works and the CBB that has taken this decision. It is not the Regional Assembly but the CBB who makes this comment.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the plant itself, according to the Chief Commissioner, according to the contract is being assembled and then is being brought to Rodrigues. Can I ask the Commissioner what

mechanism has he put in place to ensure that the plant is made up of genuine parts? I do not know whether he has put specifications in the contract, whether we have experts in Rodrigues to check the various parts of the plant because we know some countries they used to use second-hand parts and in put in the plants to get maximum profit, whether we are not buying some sort of '*ti cochon dans sac*' which is not in the interests of the population. This is very serious, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you are laughing. This is very serious because it may happen that they do not give us value for money we get wrong parts of the plant.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the pigs in the bag will cry. So, according to the tender document of the contract, the officers of my Commission will travel to the country where the desalination plant will be constructed and will then supervise the work to make sure that everything is working and every test will be done before the plants is sent to Rodrigues so that we can have value for money.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that it is a turnkey project. Turnkey means you have the key in your hand and you just click on there is water. Yes, click or turn water just flow. Yes, we do not bother about the civil works, all these. This is under the authority of the contractor. We just have to turn the key and we have water. The second thing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is there from the bidders any propositions, I make a plea to you, Commissioner, is there any propositions that the bidder provides all the equipments, arranges all that we have to construct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and we pay only for the output, that is, only for the water. Because in Rodrigues we do not have the expertise. We do not have the qualified officers. And Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a first thing. And secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the equipments that have to be supplied, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I ask the Commissioner to go and visit the two desalination plants both at Caverne Bouteille and English Bay. He will have the answer. Apparatus, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which meant to be in inox, is rusted. How come that inox is rusted in Rodrigues. What apparatus do we have in Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to see that we have real inox in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: If you want to reply, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: If you want ? You have to !

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member is seen as if our officers/technicians are not qualified. But no, we have qualified technicians here in Rodrigues to look after the desalination plants.

Mr. Chairperson: Please do not argue. You do not argue, you listen to the answer of the Commissioner first.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: And the plant will be commissioned by the contractor and will have a period for maintenance, a maintenance period, so we are not afraid of going again together for a turnkey project.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Can I ask the Commissioner whether he can state the eligibility criteria for the different bidders. The eligibility criteria found in the contract for different bidders.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, main criteria, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that the bidders should have 10 years experience in mounting desalination plants.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner whether he is prepared to give some information to the population on the issue of the lowest bidder who is not necessarily the awardee. And the decision of the CBB which is sometimes not in line with the final validity and operation of project in Rodrigues taking into consideration the problem of Hydro Five.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the lowest bidder was Aquascience Technology Ltd. and Aqualia DPI Ltd., a joint venture which quoted the sum of Rs 91,929,299 whereas the CBB has approved the sum of Audisiltering Ltd. of Israël which has quoted Rs 103,010,470.

Mr. Chairperson: We break for one hour lunch, please.

At 12.25 hours the Assembly was suspended for one hour

On its resumption at 13.25 hours with Mr. Chairperson in the chair

HOTEL PROJECT/S- BAIE PISTACHES & ANSE NICHOLAS

(No. B/64) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to hotel project/s in the vicinity of Baie Pistaches and Anse Nicholas, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) give information on each project under consideration or already granted, indicating the name of the promoter/s; and

- (b) table a site plan showing the extent of land granted or reserved therefor together with the respective status thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform this House that Ultra Marine Resource Ltd. has applied for a lease 18,000 m³ on a plot of state land at Anse Nicholas for the implementation of a high-class eco-tourism project. The project has been considered and a letter of intent has been issued to the promoter on 26 April 2016 for an industrial lease of 10,000 m³ for a high-class tourist residence and a tourism development complex and 8,000 m³ for an agricultural lease for landscaping, fruits trees and food crops cultivation. The report from the government evaluator has already been obtained as regards to the rental and communicated to the promoter.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, once a promoter would have complied with all the conditions of the letter of intent, an industrial and agricultural lease will be drawn. Copy of the site plan is being tabled.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: In the meantime, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner explained to the House whether prior to the approval of a hotel scheme, whether there is an assessment which has to be made, whether the promoter has sufficient capital in order to go ahead with the project?

The Chief Commissioner: I cannot understand, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. When a promoter comes for a hotel project it seems that the promoter have all the capital in his hand to start the project. I cannot understand that question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that the same promoter has been granted a lease in the past in the vicinity of Pointe Coton and nothing has been done up to now despite the Honourable Berenger put labour foundation stone there. Is he aware of that?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je n'ai pas le droit ici de révéler ce que le projet, le premier projet, si je dévoile ici ce qui s'est passé 'incroyable', je ne vais pas le dire mais ces personnes ont beaucoup souffert dans le passé. Là je dis carrément ils ont beaucoup souffert et là je vais pas aller beaucoup plus loin comment. Je ne vais pas aller beaucoup plus loin que ça.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that his Commission being given that he is the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, the Commission for Agriculture has already granted some agricultural leases on the same plot of land.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, that is what I said. C'est ça ce que j'ai dis. Il ne voulait pas simplement construit un hôtel mais aussi *an agricultural lease* à l'intérieur. Si vous regardez le plan ils veulent aussi faire de l'agriculture. Pourquoi pas ? Planter des arbres fruitiers. Pourquoi pas ? Pour que les touristes puissent voir vraiment justement ce qu'il y à l'intérieure de cet hôtel qui fait le tour justement de promoteur de Anse Nicholas.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Sorry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will be clearer. May be I have forfeited one information. The Commission has granted agricultural permit to another person on the same plot of land despite he is the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture.

The Chief Commissioner: Non, M. le président. Non, on n'a pas donné de terrain agricole sur ce bout de terrain. D'ailleurs c'est un terrain qu'il faut travailler beaucoup, il y a beaucoup de pierres et ainsi de suite. Et ensuite nous on ne va pas donner un bout de terrain agricole sur ce terrain qui a été donné pour l'hôtel.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: M. le président, le plan ? Je ne peux pas accepter ce plan, M. le président. Ce n'est pas assez explicite. Un plan comme ça, 10,000 m³, 8,000 m³ à Anse Nicholas, où ça se situe à Anse Nicholas, c'est grand, on ne sait pas. Moi, j'aimerais poser une question au Chef Commissaire, qu'en-est-il des éleveurs d'Anse Nicholas ? Qu'en-est-il des éleveurs de Montagne Croupier ? Qu'est-ce qui va se passer si on donne à quelqu'un 18,000 m³, 18,000 diviser par 4,200, ça fait dans les 4.5 arpents, M. le président. 4.5 Arpents à Anse Nicholas équivaut presque à la moitié d'Anse Nicholas. Est-ce que c'est juste ? On n'est pas contre le projet, la politique du gouvernement, mais est-ce que c'est juste de donner 4.5 arpents à quelqu'un pour un projet hôtelier et parmi on donne deux arpents pour faire de l'agriculture. Ça va être une source de conflit direct avec les villageois. J'aimerais poser la question au Chef Commissaire est-ce qu'il y a eu des consultations avec les villageois et comment on va pallier ce manque à gagner des villageois, des éleveurs de Anse Nicholas, parce qu'il y a pas mal d'éleveurs de moutons, pas mal d'éleveurs de cabris à Anse Nicholas et je connais très bien ces gens là comment ils vont réagir. Merci.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, j'ai été plusieurs fois sur ce terrain. C'est un terrain au bout un promontoire, la mer. J'ai été là-bas et je n'ai pas vu, et la plupart des animaux ils sont vers la montagne. Je n'ai pas vu des animaux vers ce promontoire. Laissez-moi expliquer s'il vous plaît. Et les animaux sont beaucoup plus qu'à Montagne Croupier, un peu plus vers les hauteurs. Je n'ai pas vu des animaux par là-bas. Écouter nous allons voir vraiment s'il faut trouver des endroits pour les animaux et ainsi de suite. Mais

M. le président, j'insiste, ce qu'on fait à ces personnes dans le passé, je n'ai pas le dire, ils ont beaucoup souffert du gouvernement d'avant. Ça je ne vais pas dénoncer qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait pour ensuite leur dire non on vous retourne vous n'aurez pas la terre là où vous avez demandé et voilà avec le chèque tout ça, on retourne.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Ici dans cette chambre M. le président on est pas contre d'avoir un projet d'hôtelier dans la région de l'Ouest parce qu'il y a manque. On est d'accord qu'il y a un projet d'hôtelier dans la région de l'Ouest, M. le président. Mais ce qu'il faut faire, M. le président, il faut d'abord contacter les gens de la région, expliquer, les promoteurs doivent venir de l'avant expliquer quels seront les bénéfices à tirer de ce projet-là. C'est ça qu'on est en train de poser la question.

Mr. Chairperson: This question has just been asked by Respected Member Grandcourt.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, un hôtel là dans cette région où il y a pas d'hôtel du tout. Ça ça va permettre aux gens de la région peut-être de travailler dans cet hôtel et de vendre leurs produits à cet hôtel là. Alors, eux ce qu'ils veulent faire ils veulent planter des arbres fruitiers. Il n'y a pas tellement d'arbres dans ce promontoire. Il y aura des..

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Eh ben, M. le président, je pensais que le Chef Commissaire allait dans cette direction. Il a dit qu'il y aura de l'emploi pour les personnes de la région. Est-ce que le promoteur dans son plan quand il demande la permission pour opérer cet hôtel, il a mis dans *proposal* combien de possibilités d'emploi et *economic prospect for Rodrigues*.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous n'avons pas tout ça en tête mais c'est sûr que les gens de l'endroit, il y a pas des gens qui vont sortir. Et d'ailleurs le promoteur a accepté de faire une route pour aller jusqu'où il va construire son hôtel. Il n'y a pas de route pour aller là-bas. Donc, il y a tout cela et c'est toute une route qui passe autour et qui va jusqu'à la calinière. La calinière où quelqu'un dans le passé a reçu un bail sur la calinière pour faire un campement. Vous voyez ça de loin. La calinière, c'est là où on tire les roches plates pour mettre sur la véranda de quelqu'un, d'un politicien à Terre Rouge et faire sortir un maçon de Maurice pour remettre ces..

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, concernant la partie agricole. Je vais faire une proposition au Chef Commissaire. Est-ce que le promoteur, M. le

président, au lieu de faire le projet lui-même est-ce que ce n'est pas préférable de demander aux éleveurs de la région de produire et puis vendre les produits avec les promoteurs.

The Chief Commissioner: Mais justement, M. le président, qui sont ceux qui vont planter ces arbres fruitiers là à l'intérieur de l'hôtel. Evidement la personne doit faire appel aux agriculteurs d'un l'endroit evidentement. On va lui en parler de tout cela.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Le Chef Commissaire a mentionné que le projet touristique sera *a high class eco tourism project*. Et il a parlé aussi parce que c'est un *high class tourism project* on a donné de la terre pour faire de l'agriculture. A part ce faite donner de la terre à l'agriculture quel sont les autres aspects eco tourism dont le projet comporte ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il y a la mer, il y a la pêche. C'est autour de là. J'ai été à cet endroit j'ai vu ça extraordinaire et les touristes peuvent aller pêcher et même les pêcheurs peuvent conduire ces touristes là pour aller pêcher. Que les touristes peuvent aller dans les lagons Rodriguais. Il y a tout ça. Mais il faut aller sur le terrain, M. le président. Ce n'est pas comme un terrain touristique qu'on voit un peu partout. On a donné dans l'ancien gouvernement on a donné 30 projets d'hôtels. 30 projets ! Et aucun n'est sorti de la terre. 30 projets d'hôtels ! Mais là justement ce monsieur a beaucoup souffert dans le passé, je ne vais pas dire comment est là justement il a demandé, il a voulu sortir là-bas et nous sommes d'accord avec lui pour aller trouver un endroit vraiment isolé pour construire son hôtel.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, the promoter of this project is he the same or is it the same as the project hotel which has been cancelled by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly some years back at Fumier ?

Mr. Chairperson: But the answer has been replied by the Chief Commissioner. Yes, I heard. Next question, please.

AGRICULTURAL PERMITS DELIVERED

(No. B/65) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to agricultural permits delivered for agricultural projects and the official function recently held therefor at Rivière Banane, he will:

- (a) table the names of the planters and farmers who benefitted from same, indicating their date of registration;
- (b) state if any person living outside the village and not working at Rivière Banane have obtained their respective permit during the same official function and, if so, to table their names; and
- (c) state the policy of the Executive Council with regard to approval/delivery of agricultural permits?

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Please be quiet, you listen on both sides of the House, I said. I am impartial and I will take the necessary measure now.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I have to inform the House that 86 planters of Rivière Banane Valley have been granted Agricultural permits during an official function held at Rivière Banane on 03 March 2016 to regularise the use and occupation of the agricultural plots of land on which they were already cultivating vegetable crops.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, tabling the list of names of these farmers is not ethical. All the plot occupants of Rivière Banane Valley have been issued their permits.

As regards part (b) of the question, during the same official function, no Agricultural permit was given to any person living outside the village and not working at Rivière Banane Valley.

With regard to part (c) of the question, 2000 farmers have applied for and are awaiting renewal of their agricultural permits while 2800 farmers have made new applications. 85 land surveys have already been carried out and applicants are awaiting their permits. Only two Agricultural leases are still valid because they were issued quite recently. Surveys of the land of the applicants are being carried out region-wise with a view to deliver the permits.

The policy of the Executive Council is to grant Agricultural Permit to:

- (i) Farmers possessing a valid farmer's card from the Commission for Agriculture and who derive most of their income from agricultural activities;

- (ii) Beneficiaries of Agricultural Incentive Schemes;
- (iii) Agricultural Cooperatives; and
- (iv) All trainees who have completed their Brevet Professionnel Agricole.

This Regional Government does not believe in discrimination. Every applicant who satisfies all the eligibility criteria would get their permits “*en temps et lieu*”. Agricultural permits will henceforth have a longer validity period (4 years) and the land will be properly surveyed for site delimitation.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, I would ask the Chief Commissioner whether according to his policy he will valley to valleys in order to deliver Agricultural permits?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, that is what I said. We going by region-wise and the work is being done by Technicians of the Agricultural Services and they are now at the Region 1 – La Ferme and after Region 1, they are going to Region 2 and so on.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, according to my information, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a problem of DIS which has been broken down. DIS System. Yes, is the problem resolve now in order to survey the land ?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, okay. A vehicle will be put at the disposal for the work and extra officers also.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, can I ask, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the policy of the Executive Council to go for lease, not only for Agricultural permit but for lease.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, we have not decided on the level of the Executive Council. We know that in the past either at Baie Malgache, the EDF Project, there was a lease given. But many people had the lease but they did not work on their land. That is why we prefer going, for the time being, for a permit. You know. The Agricultural permit now will be for four years. We have not yet taken decision for a lease. But we can give a lease whether the person will go to the bank for a loan and so on. Then we will see. We will take case by case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

CAPITAL BUDGET FROM 2012 - PROJECTS & WORKS ORDERS

(No. B/66) The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to Capital Budget from 2012 to date, he will:

- (a) state the number of projects and works orders issued;
- (b) table the number of projects exceeding Rs 5 million where Mauritians born in Rodrigues were the lowest and responsive bidders; and
- (c) state which project/s did not receive any responsive bid and re-tendering procedures therefor were resorted to?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, 110 Works Orders has been issued. As for parts (b) and (c) of the question, the information asked for is being compiled and will be tabled.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, unfortunately the information is being compiled as for (b) and (c). But that at least, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state to the House whether Rodriguans have been able to bid, and be responsive bidder for projects exceeding Rs 5 m. At least, one.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodriguan contractors have been able to bid.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Were they successful ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as said the information is being compiled and will be tabled.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have information, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes, that Rodriguans cannot bid for projects exceeding Rs 5 m. I give you an example, why. Because they have to be, first of all registered for that. This is why Rodriguans are not able to bid for projects exceeding Rs 5 m. But, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner, for projects exceeding Rs 5 m. where Rodriguans are not responsive, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen that the contractors are coming from Mauritius, they came with all their accessories, their lorries and excavators. Yes, Mr.

Chairperson, Sir, can he discussed with these contractors, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, or bidder so that these articles that are available in Rodrigues, like excavator, lorries and all these can be made available on the local market.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not true to say that Rodriguans contractors cannot bid over Rs 5 m. I do not know where the Respected Member has this information. There are Rodriguan contractors who bid but their bids are not responsive. Because over Rs 5 m. the bids are opened. So, we cannot make Mauritian contractors not to offer their bid. But it is not true to say that Rodriguan contractors cannot bid.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner see to it that when the tenders are prepared there are clauses in the tenders so that equipments are sought locally before and then if need be same will be sought from Mauritius.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the Respected Member, I will see to it that Rodriguan contractors can put their equipments at the disposal of other contractors.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner says that he will see to it that equipments are being sought here in Rodrigues by the contractor. How is he going to do that ? Does he has the right to do that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is intefering in a contract. He has no right to do that. How can he come here and say that he will see to it. How is he going to see to it that equipments are being sought from Rodriguans people. He cannot do that.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, we can do it we will put policy for that matter.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

DEVELOPMENT - “SCOUTISME” IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/67) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture and Others whether, in regard to the development of “scoutisme” in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state on same from 2012 to date, indicating the actions taken, if any, for the improvement thereof and the outcome following the different actions taken in relation thereto?

The Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Scout aims at building and developing young people's confidence and sense of adventure and outdoor skills as well as encouraging them to explore their beliefs and attitudes and be creative. Scouts offers our youth the independence..

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry madam, once again I say on both sides of the House. If you want to talk you go outside to discuss your affairs. Now you listen to the Commissioner and you listen to the Respected Members on the other side. Thank you, carry on.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Scouts offers our youth the independence to put these skills into practice at camps, at exchanges and even on international trips. On the whole, Scouts provide a programme for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Scouts movement started in 1963 under the leadership of the Rodrigues Scout Council which itself is under the aegis of the Mauritius Scout Association under the Mauritius Scout Association Act of 1976.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a caring Regional Government and in line with the Commission's policy for the empowerment of the youth, the Commission has spared no efforts to support the development of the Scouts in Rodrigues. Since 2012 to date, many actions have been taken for the development of Scouts in Rodrigues and many "First" were organised in collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and my Commission in particular.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from 23 November to 02 December 2013, my Commission collaborated with the Rodrigues Scout Council for the organisation of the First Jamboree in Rodrigues and some 900 scouts were invited to participate in same (that is, 850 youths from Rodrigues and 50 from Mauritius). Secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the same 2013 my Commission funded the casting of slab and the upgrading of the Reverand Cathan Scout Head Quarters at Saint Gabriel to enable the Rodrigues Scout Council to have an appropriate place for scout actions in Rodrigues.

I am pleased to inform this House that contractor has already started landscaping work at the premises and same is to be reopened this year. My Commission is facilitating and supporting exchanges between Scout groups of Mauritius and Rodrigues through the provision of accommodation and transport facilities in Mauritius for Scout groups that visit the main land. My

Commission also annually collaborates with the Rodrigues Scout Council to organise the annual Founders Days.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since 2012 to date, through various actions and facilities provided for the development of the Scouts in Rodrigues, we have seen a keen interest of our youth to participate in scout activities. There has been an increase in the number of Scouts groups and Scouts passing from 15 Scouts groups to 19 groups and hence moving from less than 1000 Scouts to over 1700 Scouts to date. Scouts today are involved in a wide range of activities as part of their programme and in national events such as National Day, Rodrigues Day celebrations and in sensitisation marches amongst others.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am also pleased to announce that to complete their uniforms my Commission will proceed with the provision of hats to all Scouts groups around Rodrigues to ensure that they are fully equipped for events they are to undertake. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, le Scout a comme moto ‘*toujours prêt*’. Oui, M. le président, est-ce la Commissaire peut nous dire est-ce que les Rodriguais, les Scouts de Rodrigues a eu ou bien a pu participer dans des sessions Jamboree à l’étranger à part l’Ile Maurice ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at date, no. But we know that as I said earlier they here they are under the aegis of the Mauritius Scouts Council but we are working at it because on various occasions the Commissioner for Scouts has come towards the commission and has proposed that we give a helping hand in the organisation of same so that the participation is extended on international level. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: But unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, up to now no leader has been able to go abroad even for Jeux des Iles, Jeux de SOI and all that. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will make a plea to the Commissioner regarding the dress. She just mentioned that she will provide kepi to the Scouts, the dress – kepi. As regards to the uniform, Mr. chairperson, Sir, in order to be ‘*toujours prêt*’ the Scouts should be well dress, not well dress *la haut*, but well dress *partout*. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the first thing and second thing, I want the Commissioner to give a yearly grant to scouts for Rodrigues. Thank you.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to laugh for a second only because I think that the Scout of Rodrigues are dressed very well *de partout*. What happened is that we have agreed to give a hat just to supplement as a tool against the sun. *De toute façon le chapeau est le symbol de Rodrigues,*

non. En même temps he is talking about grants to the Scouts, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Executive Council would agree to help the Scouts as and when they present a project to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and I think that we have collaborated even more if a grant would have been given to them. Because let us say, for example, the Jamboree which was first organised in Rodrigues, millions of rupees was invested in that and I do not think if with a grant they would have million of rupees. It is an example amongst others.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in order to organise a seminar or a one-day session, they do it outside. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they are using tents which are *troué*. Est-ce que la Commissaire peut voir dans ce sens si on peut avoir, pas les tentes que j'ai achetées depuis des temps, si elle peut donner des tentes à ces scouts. Neuve.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: *Des tentes neuves. M. le président, je crois que* one of the things that guides the Scouts *c'est la débrouillardise*, I think that this is one of the main thing that encourages parents and citizens to make their children, the youth go towards that movement. But indeed, we do help when they request for help, when they ask for help. If they do not ask it means that they are able/capable to deal with the situation. And then you have talked about tents, there are tents available at the Commission indeed and only last year, this year, we had some new tents, new ones. Last year also we had some new ones and this is accessible at the level of the Commission when ever they want to have access to it. So, they can make a request and same will be given to them.

Mr. Chairperson: Question B/78 is withdrawn. Next question, please.

MOTOR VEHICLES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/68) Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (Fifth the that was meant Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to motor vehicles in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) obtain, for the benefit of the House, from the National Transport Authority, information as to the
 - (i) number thereof per category presently registered thereat;
 - (ii) percentage increase/decrease in the number thereof, per category, from 2002 to 31 December 2015; and

- (b) state where the owners thereof pay for the registration and fitness fees, indicating where the fitness tests thereof are done?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am tabling the details on the number of vehicles per category presently registered and the percentage increase between year 2002 and 2015.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c), part (b) of the question, owners of vehicles have to pay registration and fitness fees at the Cash Office of the National Transport Authority at Baie Lascars. I have requested the National Transport Authority to make arrangement for the payment of vehicle registration fees at the Post office on the same basis as in Mauritius. The issue was discussed with the Manager, Financial Operations during a visit of a delegation from the National Transport Authority in April this year and proposal will be followed up with the Authority. Fitness tests are being carried out at the Government Mechanical Workshop by a Vehicle Examiner.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the meantime I can have written answer from the Commissioner. I would like to draw the attention of the Commissioner to the fact that even I have not been seen the paper he has tabled, everybody know that the every trip of the MV Anna and the MV Trochetia, new or second hand vehicles arrived in Rodrigues which means that the number of vehicles in Rodrigues is increasing constantly. In this context, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he has envisaged to decentralise the payment of test at Baie Lascars because one has to go to Baie Lascars for the payment of test, for the fees of test and and move on to Government Mechanical Workshop for the test itself and and come back, queue up again. We have seen these days people queueing in long queues at Baie Lascars. Is he envisaging to have a counter at the Mechanical Workshop in the meantime?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the Respected Member. As I have said for the payment of fitness test and payment of declaration fee, we have asked the owners of vehicles that they can pay their fitness or their declaration fee on the sixteenth day of the month prior to the expiry of registration of the vehicle. And we have broadcasted communiqué over the radio and public notice also. But I agree that the number of vehicles in on the increasing trend and for the payment of the post, this will follow.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may be I have been a bit long, the Commissioner has not got my point. I was asking the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure whether he could envisage the fact that fees for fitness

test be paid at the Mechanical Workshop itself there, so that people do not have to go and queue up at Baie Lascars then go to the Mechanical Workshop and go back to queue up at the National Transport Authority's Office at Baie Lascars.

Mr. Chairperson: But sorry, I think he said he agreed.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We are working on it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, motor vehicles in Rodrigues. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there has been cases where the chassis number does not tally with the engine number and what has been done in Rodrigues for the owners to represent themselves? Chassis number and engine number do not tally?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We have not receive any case here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, like this has been happening in Mauritius. There has been no complaints.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. Yes, Commissioner B/69.

NUMBER OF HUMPS/LOCATION

(No. B/69) Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to roads in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of humps presently on the roads together with their location, indicating the number thereof his Commission has installed or intends to install, if any, during the financial years January-June 2016 and July 2016-June 2017 and where?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others
Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are a total of 17 humps on roads, around the island, of which one was installed during period January to June 2016. The humps are found as follows:-

Sn.	Places	No. of Humps
1.	Jeantac	1
2.	Palissade	3

Sn.	Places	No. of Humps
3.	Accacia	1
4.	Accacia 2	1
5.	Rue Max Lucchesi - Port Mathurin	2 humps with pedestrian crossing
6.	Grand la Fouche Corail	1 hump with pedestrian crossing
7.	Rue Solidarité - Port Mathurin	4
8.	Rue Francois Leguat - Port Mathurin	2
9.	Rue Cotoc Templin	2

Many village communities have made request that humps be installed at some critical points in their villages. Same will be visited during this financial year with the Road Safety Committee and necessary actions will be taken with their recommendation in this year.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Commissioner to the reply he gave in this House on 28 December 2015 at adjournment when I talked about installation of humps namely at Ile Michel amongst others. I quote, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, « *M. le président, je suis très concerné à propos de la sécurité routière sur nos routes. On voit beaucoup d'accident et dès qu'on a mit des ralentisseurs sur certaines routes à Rodrigues il n'y a plus d'accident et je suis d'accord avec le Respecté Membre Emilien que ça doit se faire dans plusieurs village de Rodrigues.* » Et le plus beau est à venir, M. le président. « *Nous sommes en train de faire des visites partout mais ça va se faire très bientôt l'année prochaine* ». Unquote, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can I ask the Commissioner in December 2015 he said that this would be done *très tôt l'année prochaine*. Now we are in July, can I know from the Commissioner when does he intend to have these humps made along these specific roads ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the Respected Member. We have a new budget. This year has not been terminated yet. We will do it first surely.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I ask the Respected Commissioner why on Friday last at 19 hours during the visit of the Prime Minister in Rodrigues there

was workers painting at Grand La Fouche Corail, the hump. Can I ask the Commissioner why ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it was under the responsibility of the contractor who has put the hump there so that it be painted to avoid accident to make the drivers know that there is a hump there. It was under the responsibility of the contractor which has not done it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House when the contractor received orders/work order to paint this hump at Grand La Fouche Corail.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have already answered, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is administrative. He has constructed a hump so he has to mark it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I was there one week ago before the arrival of the Prime Minister. I took photos of this hump because there was no paint on this hump, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can I ask the Commissioner to see to it that in the future when humps or obstacles are being placed on roads to make sure that communiqué is being placed on radio or newspaper whatever they want, to inform the population of this obstacle which has been placed on road.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to this question. The contractor has received orders/work order to construct a hump at Grand La Fouche Corail. The hump was marked with paint which has been faded. So, when the sub-contractor of the main contractor arrived in Rodrigues it was then that the hump was marked with thermoplastic paint. But also humps will be erected on Rue de la Solidarité. Two humps to avoid people entering into metal barriers.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Commissioner has mentioned that there is a new budget which mean that he was awaiting for funds for the construction of humps and also being given that in his reply in December he said that : *nous sommes en train de faire des visites partouts*. Which means that the visits have already been done and the places already located. Can I ask the Commissioner the places where these humps have been identified to be built?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the visits have began but not yet terminated. It has not been finished but as I have said a hump will be placed on Rue de la Solidarité to avoid people entering in barriers, La Ferme Youth Centre, Ile Michel, Anse aux Anglais Cemetery, Quatre Vents, Terre Rouge,

Oyster Bay and at Mangles. Other places will be visited soon. And works will begin just after.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all, what is the quoted price for the construction of one hump. And secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will make a plea to the Commissioner that road signs be placed at a distance for drivers in order to know that there is a hump ahead.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the price for humps varies by the contract. And last year we had a contract and now we have another contract. I do have the exact price here but regarding road signs this will place as the Respected Member has mentioned.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from Commissioner whether the humps should cross the road width in toto because at Mont Lubin in front of late Will Félicité, this is not the case. The motorcyclists abuse on the size of their wheels to avoid the humps, to avoid diselerating before the humps. And this is causing some road security problem at Mont Lubin. The humps do not cross the road in toto. There is a problem here.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I agree with the Respected Member. We will see to it. And the hump at Mont Lubin, plastic hump will be removed and be replaced by asphaltic concrete humps.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Commissioner's policy of putting humps on the roads around Rodrigues, he is doing that in a view to decrease accident. It is good. So, I would like to ask him what are other ways, measures and policies by his Commission or himself is taking to prevent accident in Rodrigues. We cannot stress only on putting humps but there are also other means of preventing accident. So, what are these means/policy about this matter?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le président, pour éviter des accidents à Rodrigues il y a deux choses qu'on doit faire. Premièrement, changer la mentalité des automobilistes et surtout des motocyclistes qui roulent très vite qu'ils ne respectent pas les limites des vitesses. Mais une façon de réduire les accidents aussi c'est de mettre des ralentisseurs sur les routes comme ça a été fait à Pallisade. Il y avait huit morts à Pallisade mais depuis qu'on a mis les ralentisseurs on n'a pas eu d'accident à Pallisade.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

**‘RETENUES COLLINIÈRES’/COMPLETED,
FULLY OPERATIONAL, BUDGETED FOR 2016-2017**

(No. B/70) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of ‘retenues colinéaires’ in Rodrigues from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number thereof already completed together with the number fully operational and indicating where matters stand regarding those budgeted for the financial year 2016-2017?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that since 2012 the construction of only one “retenue colinéaire” of storage capacity of 1,500 m³ has been completed at Montagne Piquant/Roche Bon Dieu. It is already operational since 2014 and is satisfactorily serving some 21 planters in the Anse Ally Valley.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the construction of the three “retenues colinéaires” budgeted for the financial year 2016-2017, contracts have already been awarded for those at Montagne Goyaves and Baie Malgache. Tenders have been floated for a third one at Batatrand. The site at Montagne Goyaves has already been handed over to the Contractor on 25 June 2016 and the site at Baie Malgache will be handed over in a matter of weeks after clarification of some minor technical details.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner as at to date for the ‘retenue collinière’ at Montagne Piquant, Roche Bon Dieu, how much water is there, which is being used by the 21 planters at Anse Ally and as from when exactly has these planters been using this water?

The Chief Commissioner: The one at Montagne Piquant is 1500 m³ has been completed at Montagne Piquant, Roche Bon Dieu and after that the water is being distributed to planters of Anse Ally. But I have been told that there is a *petit problem* at Montagne Piquant. Yes, except for a slight puncture in the membrane caused by the corpse of a dog, which accidentally fell inside the structure. The ‘retenue colinéaires’ at Roche Bon Dieu has some leakage; repairs will be carried out when works will start on the new ones by the contractor. To date seven ‘retenue colinéaires’ have been constructed in Rodrigues to provide irrigation water to planters out of which five are functional; Rivière Banane, Port Sud Est, Citronelle, Roche Bon Dieu and Nassola. One is damaged at Baie Topaze and one where the membrane has been removed at Papayes. The capacity for Baie Malgache is 9000 m³, Motagne Goyaves 5000 m³ and Batatran 5000 m³.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: M. le président, est-ce que le commissaire pourrait nous informer, est-ce que la retenue colinéaire à Rivière Banane fonctionné au début de l'année parce qu'il a dit *that five are functional out of which the one at Rivière Banane. Because I am a bit surprise to hear him say that and even more surprise to hear about the Montagne Piquant 1500 m³ being used.* Parce que la plupart du temps ces retenues colinéaires, M. le président, sont vides. Et j'ai été très étonnée aussi ce matin lorsque j'ai entendu le Chef Commissaire parler de donner de l'eau domestique aux planteurs quand on a justement des retenues colinéaires qui sont faits/construits avec l'argent du gouvernement pour les planteurs et les éleveurs. Dont, *which is which? At one point in time* c'était l'eau du dessalement maintenant on est arrivé avec l'eau domestique. On investit de l'argent dans les retenue colinéaires qui ne sont pas utilisés. Je redis, *the one at Rivière Banane, it has some millimetres of water in it.* Mais ça ne peut pas être fonctionnel comme le dit le Chef Commissaire parce que moi-même j'ai vu il n'y avait pas de dedans. Donc, est-ce que c'est vrai que les retenues colinéaires fonctionnent et est-ce que la retenue colinéaire à de Rivière Bananes fonctionnées au début de cette année?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, tout dépend de la pluie. En principe ces retenues colinéaires sont alimentées par l'eau qui coule à travers les canalisations. Alors c'est ça justement, on donne de l'eau non pas chez les planteurs qui sont alimentés par l'eau domestique, ce ne sont pas ceux qui sont alimentés par les retenues colinéaires. Ce sont des personnes qui se situent en dehors de la superficie qui sont alimentés par les retenues colinéaires, vous comprenez la. Mais malheureusement, regardez la retenue colinéaire de Papayes. C'est incroyable! On enlève, on vole ces membranes là. C'est ça, M. le président, il y a tout un problème dans ce pays du respect. Du respect justement du bien qui appartient à l'État et aussi qui est utilisé pour le peuple, pour les planteurs. C'est ça justement. Il y a ses éleveurs qui lâchent leurs animaux pour aller manger le maïs de quelqu'un. Alors qu'ils doivent respecter ceux qui plantent justement pour gagner leur vie. Alors là je pense qu'avec ce qu'on va faire je me demande s'il faudrait, par exemple, c'est pourquoi maintenant les routes quand on construit il y a toujours une canalisation pour justement faire l'eau aller quelque part pour ramasser cette eau là.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Oui, M. le président, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire, concernant Baie Malgache, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire est disposé à rencontrer les planteurs de la vallée de Baie Malgache car à Baie Malgache nous avons un problème d'eau et retenue colinéaire il faut qu'il y a la pluie pour qu'on puisse irriguer le champ. Mais, M. le président, à Baie Malgache nous avons une pompe souterraine, au fond des vallées de Baie Malgache, au fond, est-ce que c'est possible d'avoir une unité d'eau *brackish water in order to*

transform the water to make it to ('retirer l'eau sale'), treatment plant, yes, so that people can cultivate in the valley of Baie Malgache.

The Chief Commissioner: Bon nous allons étudier la question posée et voir ces grandes possibilités et combien ça va coûter justement s'il y a de l'eau souterraine et qui ne sont pas de l'eau douce et voir s'il faut desaliniser cet eau. C'est tout ça. Alors ça on va aller étudier. La question a été posée. Nous allons étudier nous allons voir combien ça va coûter et à ce moment-là on pourra venir avec une bonne proposition. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether at the level of these *retenues colinéaires* in villages there are water users group and also an emergency team at the level of his Commission to manage the good running of these *retenues colinéaires*, namely, on the presence of mud and ills which blocks the water flow from the *retenues colinéaires* to the agricultural plots.

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, c'est ce que nous avons pensé, M. le président, ces retenues collinéaires, même mettre des personnes pour surveiller. Parce que nous avons eu là même un chien qui est allé à Roche Bon Dieu. Mais il faut quand même, à Citronelle *fine gagne ene licien ladan*. On a posé une question dessus. Pour quoi est-ce qu'il est mort dans le retenue collinéaire de Citronelle. Alors, il y a tout ça, M. le président. Je sais que la question qui se lève demande beaucoup d'attention pour surveiller cette eau là et s'il faut clôturer même les retenues colinéaires, je pense qu'à Roche Bon Dieu aussi ce n'est pas bien clôturé, il faut voir et en suite empêché que même les gens, les chiens viennent dedans ou d'autres personnes viennent. Alors, ce qui est terrible, M. le président, on vient même voler la clôture. Ça qui est terrible. C'est partout ça. Même les pâturages qu'on a faits, pour protéger les pâturages, on vient voler les clôtures. C'est ça qui est terrible. Il faut arriver à éduquer cette population, concernant les biens qu'on met à leur disposition pour les protéger. Et c'est ça à mon avis on veut une population responsable de ce que ce gouvernement là fait et qu'eux ils peuvent en profiter. Alors c'est ça justement. Il n'y a pas qu'installer quelque chose mais aussi le faut éduquer. Et c'est là l'autre jour on a parlé au Premier Ministre le rôle de la MBC dans ce pays là. Le rôle de la MBC. Arrêté avec ça *ti bisou, gros bisou, ti bisou, gros bisou*. Il faut que là MBC qui éduque la population, qui éduque la population et qui justement rappelle à la population leurs responsabilités. C'est ça qu'il faut. Vous comprenez ? Et encore, excusez-moi un dernier mot, nous on veut envoyer des communiqués, des communiqués. Mais on nous demande de payer ses communiqués. C'est ça qui est terrible. Alors, la MBC doit être au service de la population. Une radio au service de la population. On avait voulu dans le passé faire une radio communautaire. Une radio communautaire pour former la

population et ensuite informer la population. Ou il ne faut pas payer ceci et payer cela. Vous comprenez ? Alors, voilà Monsieur le président. Merci.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Please you, Respected Member Rosaire. I am going to take action against you. You want action? I am going to take action against you. Next question, please.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS

(No. B/71) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to Health Care Assistants in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number thereof recruited yearly since 2012 to date together with the rationale for the recruitment thereof and give details as to their scheme of service including their working conditions?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that in regard to Health Care Assistants in Rodrigues, there are four presently in post out of which one is on temporary transfer to Mauritius. A first batch of five Health Care Assistants was recruited in 2007 whereby only four assumed duty and one declined the offer. Consequently, upon the revised scheme of service in 2010, the post was readvertised. I am informed that one officer assumed duty and left after about one year and the vacancy was filled in 2012.

Being aware of the valuable contribution of Health Care Assistants in health care delivery, my office has negotiated and obtained funding for three new posts during the financial year January to June 2016.

I am further informed that procedures for recruitment have already been initiated by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly since January 2016 and same is being processed at the level of the Public Service Commission in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the scheme of service of Health Care Assistant includes among others the following:-

1. To carry out any activity in connection with personal hygiene and welfare of patients;
2. To make beds and special beds;
3. To serve meals to and feed patients;
4. To assist in giving care to incontinent and unconscious patients;

5. To care pressure areas of patients;
6. To give to and remove from patients sanitary utensils;
7. To provide assistance to nursing personnel in nursing procedures;
8. To assist in pharmacy unit;
9. To assist in pathological laboratory;
10. To assist patients in radiographic test and physiotherapy;
11. To help patient in post-operative ambulation;
12. To participate in physiotherapy and health education activities oriented towards patients' welfare;
13. To change nappies of infants and bathe, weigh and feed them;
14. To assist Nursing Officers in –
 - (i) checking blood pressure and vital signs; and
 - (ii) glucometer reading.
15. To participate in health education/counseling on physical exercises, HIV/AIDS Diet and Nutrition;
16. To assist Blood Bank Officers in mobile blood collection.

The other working conditions of the Health Care Assistant are as prescribed in the PRB Reports.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner whether the Health Care Assistants also tonight duties.

Mr. I. Valimamode: They are supposed to do night duties as and when required, if need be.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: And how how do you decide what are the criteria to decide who goes on night duty and who does not?

(Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it depends. As I said we have as at date only four in posts. We have to prioritise the service because taking into consideration that most of the work is being carried out during day time we prefer to put them on day duty.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: And whenever the Health Care Attendants are recruited are they on a permanent basis or are they recruited on a contract basis and then afterwards they are considered as permanent Health Care Attendants. How does this go?

(Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as any public officer they are recruited on a permanent basis. Of course, they have to go through the probationary period and then they are appointed, like the four, they are full-fledged Health Care Assistants.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Can the Commissioner inform the House at this moment in the Health Sector there might be any Health Care Assistant who has not yet been promoted after the one year probation.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of this case. Anyway I will enquire.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, I am informing you that questions B/74, B/75, B/79, B/86 and B/87 have been withdrawn.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: B/72, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

REGIONAL HEALTH DIRECTOR

(No. B/72) Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the Regional Health Director for Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) if a new Regional Health Director has been appointed and, if so, since when and by whom;
- (b) the experiences of the incumbent, if any, in hospital administration;
- (c) if the latter was under employment by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly at the time of his/her present appointment and, if so, in what capacity and indicating his/her past experience in the particular field he/she was employed; and
- (d) table the terms and conditions of the contract, if any, between the new Regional Health Director and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to point out that no new Health Director has been appointed so far in Rodrigues.

So, question related to (b), (c) and (b) does not apply. Nevertheless, for the information of the House, I wish to let you know that the post of Health Director on the establishment of Rodrigues Regional Assembly is now vacant. A recommendation has been submitted to the Public Service Commission in November 2015 to advertise the vacancy.

However, for the smooth running of the Medical and Health Services, Dr. Luchman, Acting Community Physician now posted on tour of service in Rodrigues has been assigned the duties of Health Director since 01 June 2016 for administrative convenience for a period of six months or until the filling of the vacancy whichever is earlier.

The officer is a registered Medical Practitioner since October 2015 and possesses a Degree in Master of Public Health from the University of Mauritius and a Master of Business Administration with MANCOSA. Dr. Luchman is not employed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. I repeat, Dr. Luchman is not employed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly but is working on the establishment of Mauritius and posted on tour of service to Rodrigues since 28 April 2016 for a period of six months.

There are no terms and conditions of contract between the Health Director and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly since nobody is now employed on a contract/gratuity basis in that grade.

Mr. Chairperson: Questions time over, please.

TRANSFER OF STATE LAND LEASE/SELLING OF PROPERTY

(No. B/78) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to transfer of State land lease in connection with the selling of property, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of property sold and lease transferred since 2012 to date together with the number thereof still being processed; and
- (b) the policy of this Regional Government regarding the sale of property located on State land in Rodrigues?

[Withdrawn]

(No. B/79) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) *asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to road development program around Rodrigues, he will state and table the:*

- (a) total cost incurred for the resurfacing of the English Bay and Grand Baie roads; and

- (b) cost incurred for the construction of the Grand Baie to Baladirou road to date together with the works order or contract, if any?

[Withdrawn]

(No. B/85) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the re-launch of tenders for the Pointe Coton and Anse Goeland desalination projects, he will inform the House as to where matters stand?

(Vide Reply PQ B/63)

TRAINING – MITD

(No. B/86) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to training dispensed at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) in (i) agriculture, (ii) cabinet making and (iii) mechanical workshop from 2012 to date, she will inform the House on the:

- (a) number of trainees who have completed a course; and
- (b) duration of each module and certificate received in regard thereto?

[Withdrawn]

PATIENTS – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/HEALTH CENTRES

(No. B/87) (Mr. D. L. Guillaume Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to patients who have been attending treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Health Centres in Rodrigues for the period January 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the :

- (a) number thereof sent to Mauritius for further medical treatment and who passed away thereat; and
- (b) rate of death as per disease?

[Withdrawn]

(No. B/89) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to a new bidding exercise in relation to the desalination projects undertaken by his Commission, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand as at to date?

(Vide Reply PQ B/63)

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

ONE-STOP-SHOP

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, permettez-moi de dire quelques mots par rapport à un projet bien important que l'Assemblée Régionale, le Gouvernement Régional, nous avons promis à la population dès notre arrivée au pouvoir: c'est la mise en place d'un *one-stop-shop* pour les entrepreneurs. En effet, c'est quelque chose que nous avons voulu mettre en place depuis quelque temps et j'ai le plaisir d'informer la population et les entrepreneurs en général qu'à partir du 20 juillet à Malabar, nous avons pris la décision de mettre en place un *one-stop-shop* qui sera un local, un lieu où les entrepreneurs qui ont besoin d'avoir des informations sur les services offerts, les facilités et d'autres informations qui sont importantes pour la mise en place d'une entreprise sera données.

Aussi, au niveau de ce *one-stop-shop* où on a les jeunes gradués sous le *STM* et le *YEP Scheme*, gradués dans le domaine de l'entrepreneuriat, savoir Marketing ou Management. Ils seront là pour accompagner bien sûr avec le support de l'officier responsables de ce bureau. Ce bureau aussi facilitera l'émission du *SME Development Certificate* qui est un document essentiel pour avoir accès à certains services qu'offre la MauBank à Rodrigues en vue d'aider les entrepreneurs à avoir accès aux services financiers. Donc, dans le cadre de ce *one-stop-shop*, nous avons pensé aussi mettre en place un centre de documentation où les entrepreneurs pourront venir gratuitement utiliser l'internet et utiliser d'autres services que nous allons mettre à leur disposition.

Et dans ce contexte, nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec la SMEDA qui, aujourd'hui, dans le cadre de la mise en place de ce *one-stop-shop*, sera appelé à jouer un rôle beaucoup plus en tant qu'institution qui va organiser des formations pour les entrepreneurs et pour ne pas avoir du *duplicate* avec ce que fait le *Invest Rodrigues*. Donc, désormais, M. le président, les entrepreneurs n'auront plus à parcourir les différentes Commissions pour les démarches administratives dans le cadre de la mise en place d'un projet entrepreneurial à Rodrigues. Donc, merci pour votre attention.

[Applause]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

MATTERS RAISED

SAGESSE/NEW BUILDING/RECOGNITION TO PEOPLE HAVING CONTRIBUTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RODRIGUES

The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe): M. le président, pour faire de la politique il faut avoir de la sagesse. La sagesse nous amène à détecter nos forces et faiblesses. C'est grâce à la politique et aux politiciens que les quotidiens des gens sont transformés. Les exemples sont vastes, tels que l'éducation, livres, bus gratuit et aide sociale au dépourvu de la société etc. Malgré tout ce bon travail bientôt il nous faut emmener une lutte collective pour contrer l'abstention lors des élections. C'est le temps où jamais de reconnaître le bon travail entrepris par nous, les politiciens. Comment veut-on que des gens, des pays amis nous reconnaissent si chez nous-mêmes on est locataire. Quand sortira-t-on de ce bâtiment pour construire un autre digne de ce nom avec des espaces pour caser les bureaux du gouvernement sans oublier un bureau pour le Minority Leader et un autre pour le public le Public Accounts Committee avec des accessoires pouvant admettre des invités, sans oublier une salle commune où tous les membres sans distinction peuvent s'asseoir ensemble et prendre nos repas dans la convivialité. Cela donnera à la population une toute autre idée de la politique active.

M. le président, la sagesse veut qu'il faut reconnaître le travail abattu par des politiciens de Rodrigues, tel que les défunts France Félicité, Zita Jean Louis et Wills Félicité. M. le président, c'est un petit peu écœurant qu'aujourd'hui ni un seul bâtiment public ni une rue ne porte le nom de ces personnes. Par contre d'autres en ont. Mais, M. le président, il faut faire le nécessaire pour que ces personnes puissent avoir au moins une rue en le nom, M. le président. Dès fois aussi il nous faut déroger les règles et reconnaître l'effort. Pourquoi attendre la mort de quelqu'un pour lui exprimer toutes nos gratitude pour le travail bien

fait. J'ai en cœur ici la chanson de Prosper intitulé : « *ça ti ene bon dimoune lor la ter* ». Si la personne est décédée comment voulez-vous, M. le président, qu'ils entendent tous les éloges des gens y compris ses pires adversaires surtout lorsqu'il était vivant il a entendu toute sorte de mépris sur son compte.

M. le président, il faut pouvoir, ici dans cette Chambre pouvoir écouter les membres. Rester dans la chambre écouter les Membres, écouter les propositions, M. le président. C'est un défaut avant que les gens est en train de parler, M. le président. Par contre, M. le président il faut reconnaître la personne qui vient de partir, il faut reconnaître le bon travail qu'il a fait pour M. le président. Par exemple, l'organisation du service publique à Rodrigues entre autres. Je vois en ce moment, il faut qu'on déroge à la règle, M. le président. Il faut pouvoir donner des rues, des bâtiments, des noms des personnes vivant aussi. Oui, M. le président, oui. Et cette même personne, M. le président, si l'on donne bâtiment ou une rue à ces gens-là, M. le président, croyez moi que ces personnes là vont entretenir l'environnement de ce bâtiment et en même temps garder la rue en bon état. Merci beaucoup.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, madam.

MOTOR CROSS THREAT – SECURITY/POLLUTION

The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina):
Merci, M. le président, de me donner l'occasion de parler sur un problème. Il y a un sport émergeant à Rodrigues et c'est un sport très apprécié par le peuple, c'est le motor cross, *ki zot tou appel maho*. Tous les sports sur tous les sports non-violents sont les bienvenus chez nous et aussi il est très louable d'organiser de tels événements parce qu'il nous faut du sport pour l'épanouissement de notre peuple. Mais il y a l'aspect social et environnemental qu'il faut tenir compte avant car il y a des personnes qui vivent dans les parages. Une chose que je vais faire ressortir aujourd'hui, c'est l'aspect de la pollution que cette activité de motor cross apporte à chaque fois qu'il y a des rallyes ou quand il y en a des entraînements. Dans les deux cas il y la pollution sonore, mais ça on ne peut rien faire. Mais le plus gros problème c'est le problème de poussière. Cet problème de poussières encore malheureusement, le voisinage surtout pendant les moment d'entraînements. Les personnes avoisinant avec la piste en souffre et même certains ont eu des problèmes respiratoires, des problèmes de santé. Autre chose aussi que je voulais faire ressortir c'est la quantité des déchets qui reste dans la nature faute des poubelles. Il y a pas des poubelles là-bas alors on jette les déchets. Et cela apporte de nuisance aussi à ces personnes. Je peux vous dire *la brize envol tous ça la dans zot la cours*. Deuxièmement, M. le président, il n'y a pas de toilette publique dans les environs. Dommage pour ces spectateurs parce qu'ils s'en vont dans la nature. Vous êtes en train de rire,

peut-être vous allez rire certains iront même derrière les maisons de ces personnes. Il n'y a pas de toilette, ils vont dans la nature. Mais là bien sûr c'est pas joli et c'est pas beau à voir. Alors là, je fais un appel aux Commissaires, je sais bien il a plus d'un Commissaires qui sont concernés, de pencher sur ces problèmes bien sûrs pour soulager ces personnes de ce gros fardeau. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Member Spéville, please.

NINE-YEAR SCHOOLING

The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Spéville): M. le président, l'éducation est dynamique. Les projets de réforme éducative de *nine-year schooling* commence à avoir des remoues et des questionnements au sein de la population surtout les parents. D'après nos informations, il y a un mutisme de la part des autorités régionales et nationales pour les préparer à enclencher ce changement en 2017, surtout à Rodrigues les parents donc les enfants fréquentent la cinquième au primaire. Certains disent que Rodrigues n'est pas encore prêt pour entrer dans ce système. Où est la spécificité de Rodrigues ? On a entendu dire qu'une équipe était à Maurice pour ce dossier mais les retombées tarde. On va commencer le troisième trimestre bientôt et au nom des parents je demanderai à la Commission de l'Education de préparer des sessions de communication pour préparer et aider les parents qui sont dans un flou total. Merci.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member Perrine.

RE-ASPALTAGE - ROUTE D'ANSE AUX ANGLAIS /COLONNES EN BOIS

The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine): Merci, M. le président. M. le président, j'aimerais attirer l'attention de cette Assemblée sur les différents projets qui sont exécutés actuellement surtout dans la région Nord. Là je parle principalement dans la région d'Anse aux Anglais, Grand Baie et Baladirou. Nous avons tout dernièrement assisté à une re-asphaltage de la route d'Anse aux Anglais. Mais malheureusement, M. le président, nous avons l'impression que ces travaux qui a été effectués sur cette route la a été fait à la va-vite, comme si il n'y avait rien de planifier, *ben nou reste impé l'argent bé nou fer fini*. Pour dire que sur la route, ils ont bien asphalté la route et à côté il y a un petit bout de *retaining wall* qui a été brisé et qu'ils n'ont pas pris la peine de réparer et que la route fait un zigzag. Donc, M. le président, moi je considère

que c'est un manque de respect, manque de professionnalisme envers ses habitants là et en même temps il est temps de proposer quelque chose de professionnelle à la population. Parce qu'il y a des gens qui y habitent, oui c'est vrai ils ont asphaltés oui, mais pourquoi ne pas faire quelque chose de bien. Pour une fois. Ça c'est une chose. Aller à Anse aux Anglais, Madame dans votre circonscription, *kot où ti ale fer réunion où ti gagne après lot zour là !* Deuxième chose, M. le président, sur la nouvelle route de Grand Baie/Baladirou, M. le président, comment peut-on accepter que sur une route neuve, on a invité le Premier ministre a allé inauguré cette route là et qu'il y a encore des colonnes, je ne sais pas si c'est des colonnes en bois, je ne sais pas si c'est pour la CEB ou le Mauritius Télécom, je ne sais pas mais des colonnes en bois qui ont été asphaltés dans la route. M. le président, sur la route ? Mais quelle sécurité pour ces gens qui roulent ? Quelle sécurité pour ces piétons qui vont traverser ? M. le président, c'est aberrant ! On ne peut pas accepter une telle chose. Nous avons des personnes qualifiées à Rodrigues pour pouvoir dire si c'est possible ou bien non. mais par contre allant un peu plus loin, plus loin sur cette même route vous allez voir qu'il y a eu provision pour deux colonnes soit ancré dans le bordure de la route et il y a même qui est attaché les deux côtés. M. le président, monsieur le Chef Commissaire nous a archi dit qu'il veut du professionnalisme dans ce métier. Mais ça fait des années qu'il dit ça mais jusqu'à maintenant nous voyons toujours qu'il y a des problèmes de professionnalisme et qu'il y a pas un qui veut faire des améliorations. *Of course these documents will be tabled in the Assembly.* M. le président, en 2016 on ne peut pas accepter une tel abbération/amateurisme. Regarder MBC, la Presse. Ce n'est pas possible, alors que beaucoup d'argent sont mis sur les marquages des routes, de gauche à droite, ici. Alors on laisse deux ou trois colonnes ancrés dans l'asphaltage de la route. Mais qui c'est qui a donné des instructions ? M. le président, c'est une Commission, est-ce qu'il y a quelqu'un à la tête de cette Commision, de l'Infrastructure Publique ? *Mo dire ou ti gagne après l'Anse aux Anglais, dire rouge tou ti gagne après ! Pou gagne encore !* Autre chose, M. le président, dernier chose. J'avais une fois déposée, je pense que j'ai dit ça ici, le pont de Grand Baie, on a asphalté la route de Grand Baie, on a fait le tour on a fait la route, au moins il y a eu permanence de l'État tous les quatre ans, ils on reconnaît qu'il fallait faire cette route de Baladirou ou parce qu'il y avait des pressions de la part de leurs mandants. Donc, finalement comment ils ont accepté. Mais, M. le président, ce pont de Grand Baie, c'est un danger. Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait pour masquer l'insulte ? Ils ont balisonés avec du béton, pour cacher, le camouflage. Madame les photos sont là, regardez. Ces photos ont été prises ce matin. Ce matin. Je vais vous emmener si vous voulez. Je vous emmènerai là-bas pour voir un peu ce qui se passe. M. le président, l'amateurisme n'a plus sa place ici. Monsieur le Chef commissaire nous a tout le temps dit ça. Mais malheureusement, je vois que dans ses actions il ne contrôle rien et que le Commissaire en question fait la

pluie et le beau temps. Donc, *I would like to table these documents for history purpose and to inform this House that this Regional Government is playing. Asizé bez cas !* Merci, M. le président.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RECRUITMENT/GENERAL WORKERS

(No. B/73) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recruitment of General Workers from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of times selection exercises have been carried out, indicating the criteria used therefor;
- (b) the number of males and females recruited per year and to table their respective name, address, qualification/s, date of registration and registration number of each selected candidate at the Employment Information Centre; and
- (c) if any of the former 243 ex-General Workers on contract have also been recruited and, in the affirmative, to specify the conditions of their present recruitment therefor and to table their names?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the house that four selection Exercises have been carried out from the year 2012 to date. The criteria for each selection exercise are:

Date	Criteria for academic level
July 2012	CPE and NTC Level 3 + all Ex-Water Company employees possessing at least the CPE
June 2013	CPE
June 2014	CPE
May 2016	CPE and NTC Level 3

The basic criterion for all the recruitment is that the list of candidates was obtained from the Employment Information Centre on the basis of first chronological date of registration.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to stressed on the fact that the policy of my government with regards to the recruitment of manual grades is to recruit people on a permanent basis not on a month to month basis.

Up to now 234 General Workers have been recruited for the first three selection exercises. The selection exercise in May 2016 is being finalized. It is expected that during this financial year some 150 additional General Workers will be recruited.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I consider it not correct to table the names, addresses, qualifications, date of registration and registration number at the Employment Information Centre of each selected candidate as these are personal information pertaining to each person.

As regards to part (c) of the question, twenty one (21) out of the former 243 ex General Workers on contract that fully satisfies the above mentioned criteria and having passed the selection exercise have been recruited.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN/L'UNION

(No. B/76) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture and Others whether, in regard to projects undertaken in the village of L'Union by her Commission, she will state:

- (a) the costs incurred in relation to (i) the Community Centre (ii) the kiosk in front of the Community Centre and (iii) "La Case Kreol" in the *Lieu de Mémoire* and to table a copy thereof; and
- (b) how the kiosk and "La Case Kreol" will be managed and by whom?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding to part (a) (i) the cost of the Community Centre is Rs 4,103,882.66 including VAT. The centre consists of a single storey building of 118 m² with the following facilities, craft room, kitchen, hall, one single toilet, bathroom and veranda. In addition to that there is paving works and fencing of yard.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a)(ii) the cost incurred for the Kiosk is Rs 377,692.20 including VAT. It has been constructed in view of the economic empowerment of women in the region owing to the fact that the lieu is considered as tourist site.

I am tabbling a copy thereof.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a)(iii) the cost incurred for the "La Case Kreol" is Rs 263,384.84 and the erection was undertaken on a self-

help basis. Whereby my Commission has provided materials of about Rs 213,384.84, paid a grant of Rs 50,000 through the Rodrigues Council of Social Service as part payment for the erection of the building and the community has provided part of the labour. The objective of the project is to safeguard and showcase our local traditions.

The building was made of iron sheets and wood and its surface area is about 38m² and comprise of two rooms and a veranda. La Case Kreol has been completed and will be inaugurated shortly. The floor of the room is made of local materials, that is, (beef excrement), “tiffe” and the other one with “rouge” as in the past.

(b) How the Kiosk and La Case Kreol will be managed and by whom?

Kiosk

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Kiosk will be managed by the Association Feminine of the Village Committee of L’Union through an agreement and meetings have already been done in that sense and the support of the Deputy Chief Commissioner’s Office will be sought for the finalization of same.

Lakaz Kreol

Lakaz Kreol will be managed by my Commission including the management of the whole Lieu de Memoire. The daily maintenance and cleaning of the site are performed by a worker from RODCLEAN. Proposal has been submitted to the Chief Commissioner’s Officer for the posting of three General Workers at Montagne Cimetiere, L’Union and Pointe Canon Historical Site. The General Worker will also oversee the cleaning of La Case Kreol. In the same respect, it is also proposed that fishermen involved in the closure of Octopus Season be enlisted for the embellishment of these sites and around Lakaz Kreol. Arrangements will also be made for a weekly visit by a field supervisor to ensure that the site is properly maintained. Please note that Pruning has already started by the Commission for Forest and will be carried out on a continuous basis.

STUDENTS - DISTANCE LEARNING/TERTIARY EDUCATION

(No. B/77) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to students following distance learning in Rodrigues and tertiary education in Mauritius and abroad

and benefitting from any form of assistance from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly from 2012 to date, respectively, she will state and table:

- (a) the names thereof in each case together with their different fields of study;
- (b) the costs disbursed in terms of stipend, exam fees and rental of accommodation by her Commission in relation thereto; and
- (c) the number thereof who have completed their studies and returned to Rodrigues?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since the setting of this current government, the human capital is one of our priorities as we want to ensure that Rodrigues experiences a properly planned development strategy. Lifelong learning has become one great concern to our citizens including the youths and their parents, and this current government has left no stone unturned to ease the process of our youths in their endeavour to acquire new knowledge and competencies.

From 2012 to date the assistance schemes have increased from one to five, which are being awarded to our youths leaving Rodrigues to study in Mauritius or abroad. Specific criterion are applied to each scheme so as to ensure that the cake is being properly and equally shared.

As regards to part (a), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I find it not appropriate to table the names of each student and their different fields of study.

I am, however, tabling the fields of study as well as stipend, exam fees and rental of accommodation related thereto from 2012 to date.

As regards to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is being compiled and will be submitted soon.

However, it is noted that many of the graduates returning to Rodrigues are employed as Education Officers in the different colleges of Rodrigues, we are also encouraging the students to gain experience in Mauritius or abroad before returning to Rodrigues. Hence, the YEP Programme, for example, gives the possibility to Rodriguan youths to be on job placement, gain experience before returning to Rodrigues.

AMBULANCE DRIVERS

(No. B/80) MR. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to Ambulance Drivers posted at his Commission, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of established posts for the year 2016-2017 and indicating the number thereof that have retired or will retire for the years 2015 to 2017;
- (b) the number of officers, if any, performing the duties of Ambulance Drivers at the Commission although not being promoted to such post; and
- (c) on his policy, if any, to maintain a stable ratio thereof in view of the increasing demand for transportation of patients by ambulance to and from the Hospital and Health Centres in the island?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the Question, I am being informed that there are 28 established posts for Ambulance Drivers on shift for the year 2016-2017. Since 2015 till date three Ambulance Drivers have retired.

Moreover, the number of Ambulance Drivers who wish to retire by 2017 is unknown since it is optional to the officers to retire or not at the age of 60. The officers beyond 60 years of age may retire at any time with one month's notice.

With regard to part (b) of the Question, I am informed that two officers are being assigned duties as Ambulance Drivers.

(c) I wish to inform the House that the post of Ambulance Drivers on shift has been advertised in February 2013, October 2014, June 2015 and April 2016 and each time only one or two qualified candidates applied.

Therefore, my Commission has put a request to the Island Chief Executive's Office to make a special case to the Public Service Commission in order to open the advertisement to the general public instead of restricting it to those already in service in the grade of Driver.

NINE YEAR BASIC CONTINUOUS SCHOOLING PROGRAMME

(No. B/81) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Nine Year

Basic Continuous Schooling Programme more specifically the first batch taking part in the Primary School Achievement Certificate Examination in 2017 in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) where matters stand with regards the Report of the Technical Committee concerning Rodrigues in relation thereto and to table same;
- (b) where matters stand as to the training of educators therefor and indicating the number thereof together with their respective course contents; and
- (c) on the mode of assessment of the Primary School Achievement Certificate Examination and indicating who will be assessing the pupils for the modular and written assessments, respectively?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues shares the same education system as the rest of the Republic of Mauritius. Whilst the policy of education rests with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources in Mauritius, 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 implying that 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.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that a Technical Committee has been set up to work on a detailed implementation plan as regards this education Reform for Rodrigues. The technical committee thereafter recommended to have three sub-committees to look into three aspects namely:

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

which are considered as fundamental for the successful implementation of the NYS in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after several meetings and discussions, the three committees have submitted their findings and the report has been tabled to the Executive Council on 29 April 2016.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on Monday 13 June 2016, the Committee has made a representation on the findings to the Executive Council prior to effecting the same exercise to a larger audience comprising all stakeholders.

Such exercise is deemed necessary as a Consultative Platform so as to finalise a comprehensive Report which will be handed over to the Parent Ministry in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed that all the sixteen primary schools are now staffed with Teachers on contract (one per school) to carry out remedial classes at the level of Grade 1 classes. These teachers will be trained by the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) during the forthcoming school vacations. The course contents will be determined by the MIE.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the new curriculum materials which have been developed for 2016, the Mauritius Institute of Education have conducted training sessions in December 2015 with all teachers of Std I, II, III, IV and V , Inspectors, Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers. Some 210 Officers have been trained in their respective levels of intervention. The training focused on core subjects for all participants, the Primary School Readiness (PSR), Development Learner Profile (DLP) and Cahier d'Ecriture for Grade 1 Teachers as well as other non-core subjects like the arts, Communication Skills, ICT Skills, Values and Civil Education, Health and Physical Education and Scheme for Support Teachers.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the implementation of the Nine Year Schooling will entail the enlistment of the services of additional human resources particularly for the teaching of non-core subjects. My Commission is working on the mechanisms for the recruitment of required staff and their training in due course.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) has produced the Annual Programme for the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Assessment for 2017 which provides an overview of the organization of the assessment in 2017.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the modes of assessment are as follows:

1. The PSAC assessment will comprise a combination of
 - (a) External assessment conducted by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate and
 - (b) School based assessment (except for private candidates)
2. English, Mathematics, French, Science, History & Geography and Asian Languages/Arabic and Kreol Morisien will be assessed through written assessments at the end of Grade 6 in 2017.
3. For Communication Skills, there will be school-based assessment which will be moderated by the MES.

Arrangements will be made by MES for private candidates to be assessed in the non-core subject.

MEDICAL DOCTORS/RECRUITMENT

(No. B/82) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to Medical Doctors in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if there have been any offers for the recruitment thereof overseas and, if so, indicating the actions initiated, if any, by the Commission in relation thereto?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in view of the difficulties encountered by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to have full time Mauritian Specialists/Senior Specialists to be posted on tour of service to Rodrigues in the fields of Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Anaesthesia, approval of the Public Service Commission (PSC) has been obtained for the recruitment of Specialists/Senior Specialists abroad.

Following an advertisement, a Selection Panel approved by the Public Service Commission proceeded to India from 23 to 29 April 2016 to interview shortlisted candidates. The report of the Selection Panel has been finalized and submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval.

Once PSC approval has been obtained, letter of offer for appointment has been issued as per prevailing regulation to Specialists in the following fields:-

- One Gynecologist
- Two Anesthetists
- One Orthopedic Surgeon; and
- One Pediatrician.

BAIE DIAMANT SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME) PARK/SLAUGHTER HOUSE PROJECT

(No. B/83) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the setting up of the Baie Diamant Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Park/Slaughter House Project, she will inform the House as to where matters stand?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, in view of the operationalization of the Baie Diamant slaughter house, the technical assistance of the Chambre de l'Artisanat de l'Ile de la Reunion (CMAR) was solicited for the preparation of a technical report for operational concepts of the slaughter house. The services of a Consultant, Mr. Frederic LEOCADIE was made available by the CMAR in November 2015.

The technical report was presented to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 19 April 2016, with details of modifications to be made to the building, and equipment to be purchased so that it can operate effectively.

Pending the coming into operation of the slaughter house, thirteen (13) trainees have been formed in Reunion Island at CMAR Ste Clothilde and Le Port, so as to be fully capable of working in the slaughter house when it opens. In January 2016, ten (10) trainees were sent to Reunion Island, for training '*formation aux métiers de la viande*' and in April 2016, three (03) trainees were sent for training in 'Maintenance and repair of cold rooms' for a period of two (02) months.

Additionally, request for proposal for the appointment of consultancy services to provide technical assistance in the field of animal production and hence develop the chain of production of porc and local poultry for use in the slaughter house has been launched and is under evaluation. The tender documents for implementing the operational concepts are also under preparation and will be ready shortly.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILY 2016

(No. B/84) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the International Day of Family 2016, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the activities her Commission is planning to organize?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the International Family Day is commemorated annually on the 15th of May.

In this context, my Office has started a series of activities as related thereto as follows:-

- A family Fun Day for all workers placed under the “Employment Relief Programme” and their families at the Mourouk Public Beach on Sunday 15 May 2016..
- A three days working session by Mrs. Roselyne ROY, Resource Person from Canada on the theme “*PARLER pour que les enfants écoutent, Ecouter pour que les enfants parlent*”, whereby the programs for Parental Education have been upgraded and resource persons who will implement these programs have also been trained.
- The Family Integrated Centre has been uplifted and my Office is working on giving back its essence to this place which was set up primarily as a centre for the family.

GRAVIERS LIME PROCESSING UNIT

(No. B/90) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Graviers Lime Processing Unit, she will inform the House about activities that are to be undertaken thereat in the short and long term?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Lime Processing unit of Graviers is an ambitious project, which started some three years ago and which is being currently implemented by the Deputy Chief Commissioner’s Office. It is considered to be a model of collaboration due to the successful involvement of various different stakeholders including the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, donor agencies and the local people among others.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am utterly convinced that the SME sector alone will not be able to blossom and reap the expected socio-economic outcomes without the support of the Regional Government, at least for a certain time. In addition, all too often, entrepreneurship is regarded as being the affair of a particular class of people, usually those at the grassroots level. Furthermore, the lack of success stories in the SME sector is such that people are disinterested in entrepreneurship.

Thus, the objective of this project as other incubator projects presently being implemented, is to instil the entrepreneurship competencies of our people as well as to encourage entrepreneurs to set-up technology oriented enterprises.

In the short-term, the activities planned thereat are as follows:-

- Improving the extraction efficiency and final product quality
- Developing of new products such as:
 - picsidou (flavoured)
 - pate de fruit limon
 - lime juice concentrates
 - frozen lime juice cubes.
 - Pectin from lime seeds
 - Jams
- Training of members on all aspects of the processing project
- Improving the traceability system of fresh lime fruits and frozen lime juice pulp
- Improving pickled lime products

In the long term, emphasis will be put on:-

- Production of :
 - essential lime oil
 - sweets
 - packed preserved lime juice
 - cream lemon sorbet

/UNREVISED/