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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 10 of 2017

Sitting of Tuesday 19 December 2017

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2017

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The Executive Council

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

Mr. Louis Serge Clair, G.C.S.K.	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (Administration), Education (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Services, Registration, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, State Lands, Town and Country Planning, Tourism
Mr. Nicolson Lisette	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure including Highways and Roads and Public Buildings and Utilities, Transport, Water Resources
Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K	Commissioner responsible for Child Development, Cooperatives, Family Welfare, Handicraft, Industrial Development, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Prisons and Reforms Institutions (Administration), Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Vocational Training, Women's Affairs
Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety	Commissioner responsible for Civil Status, Community Development, Customs and Excise (Administration), Fire Services, Health (Administration), Judicial (Administration), Meteorology (Administration), Postal Services (Administration)
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste	Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection, Employment, Housing, Labour and Industrial Relations, Social Security (Administration)
Mr. Jean Richard Payendee	Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries. Food Production, Forestry, Marine Parks, Plant and Animal Quarantine
Ms. Marie Rose de Lima Edouard	Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Library Services, Museums, Archives, Historical Sites and Buildings, Youth and Sports

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Madam Chairperson	-	Spéville, Mrs. Marie Pricie Anjela
Clerk	-	Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick
Serjeant-at-Arms	-	Constant Perrine, Mr. Stenio

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ANNOUNCEMENT

2017 WESTMINSTER SEMINAR – PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have the pleasure to inform the House of the attendance of officials of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly at a capacity building seminar at the Houses of Parliament, United Kingdom.

Indeed, Ms. Legentil, Clerk of the Regional Assembly and myself as Chairperson, participated in the 2017 Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK Branch at the Houses of Parliament in London from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November 2017.

This annual seminar, which has been run for decades, is CPA UK's Flagship Capacity-Building Programme for first term parliamentarians and newly appointed procedural or committee clerks from across the Commonwealth, has recently been reinvigorated to facilitate rigorous discussions between delegates on the evolving challenges faced by parliamentarians. The seminar programme brought together examples of good practice and case studies to build capacity, knowledge, skills and confidence of parliamentarians in their roles as representatives and legislators.

It is the first time that the Regional Assembly through extension of invitation by the National Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius was able to attend this seminar. As participants, we were provided with a unique platform to network and engage with counterparts, exploring different approaches to parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure in the context of the Westminster System and comparative Commonwealth parliamentary structures.

We were able to deepen our knowledge, understanding and practice of our respective roles at Parliament all whilst having extensive access to the Houses of Parliament at work and being privileged to hear from the experiences of the ranged keynote Speakers including the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Honourable John Bercow, MP.

It is my wish and objective that respected Members of this Regional Parliament, particularly first term parliamentarians, are able to have the opportunity to experience this capacity-building seminar in the near future. Thank you for your attention.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**EASE/ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAVEL
– MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES**

(No. B/126) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to forecasted increase in the number of passengers travelling in and out of Rodrigues during the forthcoming festive season, he will obtain, for the benefit of the House, information from the relevant authorities and state the measures implemented to maintain ease/accessibility of travel between Mauritius and Rodrigues, by air and sea, respectively, indicating the number of supplementary flights scheduled or passenger boat trips, if any, to be effected for the months of December 2017 and January 2018?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, my Government is constantly working towards the strengthening of the good working relationship with Air Mauritius and Mauritius Shipping Corporation. I headed a high-level delegation in July 2017, to meet and discuss with the top management cadre of Air Mauritius with regards to the upgrading of services along the Mauritius Rodrigues route.

During the meeting, the issue of flexibility in the number of supplementary flights were raised amongst others. Air Mauritius has reassured my office that the increase in demand to travel by air will be closely monitored and supplementary flights will be added over and above the planned flights as and when required.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the operation of Air Mauritius between Mauritius and Rodrigues consists of three daily base flights. In order to cater for the increase in demand for the month of December 2017 and January 2018, Air Mauritius has already planned 125 supplementary flights for December 2017 and 93 supplementary flights for January 2018 respectively. Thus, a total of 218 flights have been planned for December 2017 and 186 flights for January 2018.

Madam Chairperson, I am further informed that the above figures represent an increase of 5% in seat availability on the Rodrigues route for the period December 2017 and January 2018 compared to same period last year.

With regard to travel by sea, I am informed by Mauritius Shipping Corporation that one passenger boat and three cargo boats are scheduled for December 2017 and one passenger boat and two cargo boats scheduled up to 21 January 2018.

I am further informed that should the need arise, Air Mauritius as well as the Mauritius Shipping Corporation will schedule additional trips in January 2018.

The Minority Leader : I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that despite the number of supplementary flights that Air Mauritius is having in December and January, it is and it will be very, very difficult to have a ticket in January especially on the routes from Rodrigues to Mauritius and in January up to the 14 January, no air tickets from Rodrigues to Mauritius? In December, from Mauritius to Rodrigues, we do not have any air tickets available and many tourists who want to come to Rodrigues cannot do so. Is the Chief Commissioner aware of that?

The Chief Commissioner: I will find out with air Mauritius!

The Minority Leader: I am already aware. I think the Chief Commissioner, he must be aware also because the people of Rodrigues, they are finding it very, very difficult to have an air ticket. And coupled with that, you have the poor people who are forced to pay an air ticket because there is no sea ticket available. Can the Chief Commissioner say what his Government is doing in order to increase the number of seats on the boat? Whether there will be a passenger boat, a special passenger boat in the routes of Rodrigues and Mauritius.

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

Madam Chairperson: Madam Chairperson, is the Chief Commissioner aware that the Mauritius Pride used to carry about 1000 passengers monthly? Now, we have only one passenger ship, the MV Trochetia, that has only 140 passengers. So, the poor people of Rodrigues are forced to travel by air. Can I know whether this regional government we do something for these poor people, especially those who travel by boat?

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of the question.

The Minority Leader: *Am I to note that he is not aware that there is such a problem on the route between Mauritius and Rodrigues? Est-ce que le Chef commissaire est en train de dire qu'il se lave les mains comme Ponce Pilate?*

The Chief Commissioner: Pour qui me prend-il? Pour qui me prend-il, Madame la Présidente, pour m'insulter ainsi ?

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader: Madame la présidente, je ne suis pas en train de l'insulter. We are here to debate. We are here to work for the people of Rodrigues and the people of Rodrigues, they are having problems I am asking the Chief Commissioner to take decisions....

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please!

The Chief Commissioner: We are also working...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Minority Leader, be concise, put your question and no statement, please. Put your question.

The Minority Leader: There is no statement! He has made a statement. He is imputing motives on me! I am asking whether he will take the decision. He is the Chief Commissioner of this country, of this island. He has to take decisions! People are suffering. There are many people in Mauritius, parents, Rodriguans in Mauritius who want to come here in Rodrigues...

Madam Chairperson: Come up to your question!

The Minority Leader: Yes, I am coming! There are many Rodriguans who want to come here on holidays during respective seasons and they are not able to do so. This is why I am asking the Chief Commissioner...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader!

The Minority Leader: Whether he will do...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader!

The Minority Leader: The necessary to allow...

Madam Chairperson: I am on my feet!

The Minority Leader: I am putting the question!

Madam Chairperson: I am on my feet!

The Minority Leader: Whether he will do the needful to allow...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, resume your seat, please!

The Minority Leader: I am putting the question!

Madam Chairperson: You are repeating yourself. Put another question, okay?

The Minority Leader: But look here, Madam Chairperson, he has not answered the question. I would like to know whether he will do the needful to...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader! I would like to refer the Minority Leader to standing order 21 that '*...an answer to a question cannot be insisted upon*'. So, put another question!

The Minority Leader: One straight question, a single question I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner. Will he arrange with the Mauritius shipping to have a supplementary passenger ship between Mauritius and Rodrigues in December and January?

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of the question.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam*, je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire le fait que s'il est courant que le fret de Maurice à Rodrigues dans les containers, le fret a augmenté considérablement, s'il est au courant et que fait-il au niveau de son bureau pour essayer de régler ce problème ou bien empêcher que ça, que le shift, le fret grimpe encore davantage ?

The Chief Commissioner: Nous entretenons de bonnes relations avec le *Mauritius Shipping Corporation*. Nous discutons de tous ces problèmes et nous allons le faire bientôt.

The Minority Leader: If I may, can I ask the Chief Commissioner concerning the replacement of the MV Mauritius Pride, can we know where we stand with that? Whether the procedures have started in order to replace the passenger ship and the Mauritius Pride.

The Chief Commissioner: Could the Minority Leader come with a substantive question?

The Minority Leader: I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, we are talking of passenger ship, this is in the question, we put it in the question. He said

that he has good relationships with the Mauritius Shipping. So, I think he can use his good office, he can use his good relationship to ask Mauritius Shipping and the Central Government to go ahead with the replacement of the Mauritius Pride, either to rent another cargo *comme* passenger ship or to buy another one. This is what I am asking.

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, could the Minority Leader come with a substantive question and then, I reply to this question?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner since he has good relationship with the Mauritius Shipping, can he give reasons why the freight of goods and commodities has increased from Mauritius to Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: We will find out with the Mauritius Shipping Cooperation.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

DESALINATION PLANTS INSTALLED

(No. B/127) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the desalination plants installed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly around the island, he will, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) state the number thereof that are fully operational, indicating the volume of potable water and brine/waste produced in each case; and,
- (b) specify how the brine/waste is being disposed of for each plant, indicating if it is as per the Environmental Impact Assessment documents?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson,

(a) Actually, there are two desalination plants located at Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille which are operational. Each of the plant is producing potable water at a rate of about 17m³/h and the brine is rejected at a rate of 43m³/h.

I would like to add that as regards to the two plants, that bids have already been launched for the upgrading and rehabilitation of same. The closing date for the submission of bids has been fixed for 22 December 2017.

(b) At Pointe Venus Desalination Plant, the brine rejected is conveyed through an HDPE pipe and discharged beyond the reefs. I am informed that the discharged pipe at the outfall of the channel is slightly damaged and my Commission has already initiated action for repairs of same.

As regards to Caverne Bouteille Desalination Plant, the brine is conveyed through an HDPE pipe and the brine discharged is lower than the salinity of the surrounding seawater of the lagoon given that the water that is being desalinated is only brackish.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the brine at Pointe Cotton Desalination Plant will be disposed outside the lagoon?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I think that the question refers to desalination plants that are operational. The one at Pointe Coton is still not operational. Yes, it is not operational. Whether it is fully operational indicating the volume... So, there is no brine at the time being which is being discharged at Pointe Coton.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members from a sitting position, please allow the Commissioner to answer the question!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, the project of desalination plant at Pointe Coton with regards to the EIA Report that we already got in the past, will he assure that the brine will be rejected off-lagoon instead of in-lagoon as he mentioned in certain region of Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : If I refer to the case of Pointe Coton, Madam Chairperson, I think that the Members of the Minority are somehow being wrong in the sense that there are different technologies that may be applied whenever we install a desalination plant. In the case of Pointe Coton, as far as I have been informed, the brine is to be diluted before being rejected in the sea. So, as such, whenever the brine is to be rejected, the salinity will be more or less or rather slightly lower than the salinity of the seawater itself. So, as such, the technology is going to be adapted after the technology that is going to be installed for the desalination plant.

The Minority Leader : Once simple question. Can I know what will be used to reduce this salinity? Are we going to use desalinated water to reduce the salinity of a brine?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, we are going to install a dilution tank and when the brine is going to be rejected from the desalination plant, it is going to be diluted first before rejecting all the salt into the sea.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as if I am hearing the former Commissioner for Water talking about these...

Madam Chairperson: Come to your question, please!

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: As if I am hearing the former Commissioner talking about these. Technology or not... No, I have to introduce the question to make it more, you know, clear for everybody. I am not used to take time of the Assembly. So, technology, this is not our problem! This is your problem! We have said there are technologies last year and what has happened? Only two are working. We have heard about that! Coming to the desalination plant of Dans Cocos, the Commissioner is telling this House that the brine will be less concentrated but brine is brine as per EIA! Take a dictionary and look for the definition of brine! Brine is brine; you have to be very careful about the disposal of brine. I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that the brine at Caverne Bouteille is being discharged on the coast. On the coast, that is, you have marine ecosystem which is being damaged by this. I have been visiting! I am doing my job!

Madam Chairperson: You please address the Chair!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, I have been there and I can say that the marine/coastal ecosystem is being damaged due to the discharge of the brine.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, brine is brine, yes but brine may have different concentration. Whatever is rejected from desalination plant is defined as brine but this is what I am trying to make the Minority Leader understand it is the fact that the brine that is rejected by Caverne Bouteille Desalination Plant, its concentration or its salinity is lower than that of the seawater. If you want to have that figures, I can provide it to you so that you can compare the figures. The salinity of seawater at Caverne Bouteille, it is 29,000 parts per million but the brine that is being rejected at Caverne Bouteille, it is 27,000 parts per million. Why? It is because we are not using seawater for the desalination of the plant; we are using brackish water from the cavern and this is why after removal of the water and its subsequent rejection into the sea, it does

not have any effect because its concentration is even lower than that of the seawater.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, since we are talking of Caverne Bouteille, whether we can go at Caverne Bouteille on the spot, there is a point or tap where can get water directly from the desalination plant?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I do not think that the question is related to the main question. The question is related to the question of brine and to the question of operation of the desalination plant, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we are talking about the plant being operational. Operational, this means producing water! So, the end product of this operation is water. So, I am asking a question about water, whether the water is made available right on the spot, right on the side, that is a tap or I do not know, of the desalination plant.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I have been told, Madam Chairperson, that the plant is operational and the proof that it is producing 17 m³ per day indicates clearly that the plant is operational.

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : So, being given that he said that there is no problem with the brine that is... Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner...

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Wait a minute please, Minority Leader.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: He is disturbing me!

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, Commissioners, I make an appeal. No cross talking, please!

The Minority Leader : I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner, is he saying that the brine that is being rejected causes no threat to the environment either at Anse aux Anglais or at Caverne Bouteille?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There is constant monitoring of the ecosystem at the discharge point. Actually, there was a contract with one Contractor, Scene-Ries Consult Limited and they have provided a report and, they have assessed the impact on the ecosystem as well as the flora and the fauna at the

point of discharge. So far, as per the EIA, we were supposed to submit report to the Ministry of Environment. This is what is being done. As I am speaking right now, there have been no discrepancies noted by the Ministry of the Environment as per the report that has been submitted.

The Minority Leader : Long-term, we will know. Maybe long-term; not in short-term. Tell me, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, well since he is monitoring the concentration of the brine, can we know whether he is also monitoring the type of water, the concentration of water provided to the inhabitants? Because in certain places, we are having salty water which is dangerous for health and in certain places, the water stinks!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I do not think, Madam Chairperson, that water coming from desalination plant will stink neither from Caverne Bouteille nor Pointe Venus but as far as my mind goes, as regard to the salinity of water that can be distributed to the inhabitants, we can go up to 1000 parts per million. Yes, this is what the WHO standards stands for. We can go for up to 1000 parts per million but of course, it is subjective, Madam Chairperson, if I provide a person with a water of salinity 250 parts per million and another, I provide...

[Gap in recording]

COMMUNITY CENTRE – MONT LUBIN

(No. B/128) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Community Development and Others whether, in regard to community development in Rodrigues, he will state if there is a community centre at Mont Lubin and, if so, to specify the date of the last renovation thereof together with the total costs incurred therefor, if any, and to indicate the current state thereof, as at date?

The Commissioner for Community Development and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, as a responsible Government, we have at heart the welfare and wellbeing of the inhabitants of Rodrigues and together with the RCSS and other NGOs, we have left no stone unturned with regards to community development in Rodrigues. For the past years, since 2012, three new Community Centres have been constructed and four Community centres will be completed shortly and various actions/initiatives including innovative ones have been taken targeting community welfare and engagement:

- (a) Training on leadership social for NGO and Community Leaders;

- (b) Award of certificates to NGO volunteers through the recognition of Prior learning for Social Work Practice Level 1 in collaboration with the NGO Trust Fund and the Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA)...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Point of order. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, so, the question is asking about community development in Rodrigues. We do not see the Community Centre of Mont Lubin. So, I do not know whether the Commissioner is still asking the question or he has taken another file, another answer. I do not know but it seems that.

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner has not yet finished his answer.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Respected Member, your point of order is not valid. The Commissioner will assume the responsibility of his answer. Let him answer. Thank you.

The Commissioner for Community Development and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

- (c) Training of *Agent de Santé Communautaire* on NCD Diseases Funded by the World Health Organisation.

Madam Chairperson, in the Discours Programme 2017-2022, this Government...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, on a point of order, you just stopped us on this side of this House referring that we are wasting time of the Assembly. I refer to the Commissioner. I think he is wasting the time in the Assembly. He must answer the question directly. He is making statement. We cannot wait for that.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: I have already ruled on this matter. Again, I am telling you the Commissioner, let him reply first and then, we will see. Yes, Commissioner?

The Commissioner for Community Development and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Yes, Madam, in the Discours Programme 2017-2022, this Government has taken engagement to set up '*des espaces communautaires et de*

Loisirs'' in the different villages of Rodrigues. The Government will also continue its initiative of constructing new community centres in villages and Mt Lubin is among the priority village to be granted with a Community Centre.

Following the demand of village of Mont Lubin to be provided with a gathering and meeting place pending the allocation of a Community Centre to them, Quarters A56 at Mont Lubin was converted into a temporary Community Centre and some upgrading works amounting to Rs 339,625.00 was carried out in 2012 to render the building safe and in good condition.

This year, Madam Chairperson, with the construction of the Social Security House at Mont Lubin, the building was pulled down and with the view not to deprive the villagers with the related facilities pending they are provided a Community Centre, arrangement has been made by the Village Committee so that the villagers can make use of the Mary Gontran Senior Citizens Centre.

The Minority Leader : I would like to ask the respected Commissioner does he find this normal to renovate a building to the tune of Rs 339,625.00 and then to pull it down a few months after? Is it not wastage of public money?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam, at that time in 2012, it was normal to spend money to renovate the Quarters A56. Five years have passed and the community of Mont Lubin have enjoyed the money we spent on that renovation.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Commissioner whether this space, was it not to be used to have more space for modern hospital at Mont Lubin?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Commissioner when does the project of building this huge building at Mont Lubin, construct this huge building at Mont Lubin for Social Security, whatever, when was this project put in place?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This question, Madam Chairperson, should be addressed to the Commissioner for Social Security.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire de la Santé parce que ça concerne aussi le développement communautaire, ce projet de la construction de ce bâtiment à Mont Lubin et qui a été à un certain moment donné, vous avez écrasé le centre communautaire de Mont Lubin, ce projet-là date de quand ? C'était hier ? C'était aujourd'hui ?

Parce que, Madame la Présidente, le Commissaire venait à plusieurs reprises nous dire que *forecasting*, un développement d'une façon politique autrement. Donc, est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire de la Santé est-ce que ce projet était en projection pour le budget de 2017 jusqu'à 2022 ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Au fait, ma réponse, Madame la Présidente, que cette question doit aller au Commissaire de la Sécurité Sociale.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, nous constatons avec regret que nous sommes en train de, nous, nous sommes en train de dilapider l'argent des contribuables au profit de certaines personnes. Madame la Présidente, *can I ask the Commissioner, can I make an appeal to the Commissioner of Finance to see that things like this* ne se répète pas dans l'avenir parce que c'est aussi notre argent qui est dépensé à tort et à travers ?

Madam Chairperson: Next question !

MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORT PERMITS DELIVERED

(No. B/129) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to motor vehicle import permits delivered by his Commission for all vehicle categories since the 1st October 2017 to date, he will state and table:

- (a) the number of applications received, indicating if any individual or company has applied for two or more permits; and,
- (b) a breakdown per vehicle category including the age of each vehicle?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson,

- (a) The number of applications received from 1st October to date is 195. Five individuals/company applied for two or more permits during that period.
- (b) I am tabling the relevant information.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether with the Regulation being applied, whether he is aware that certain clause of the PRB concerning Rodrigues will not be able to be applied because of this Regulation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I believe that the question relates to applications for the import permits and not to condition of PRBs. Nevertheless, Madam Chairperson, if any person feels aggrieved as regard to the insertion of any section in the regulation, I think they have to go to the relevant authorities and I should say and I should add, Madam Chairperson, that the minority group did have the opportunity to debate on the regulation in this very House on 24 October 2017 and they did not come up with any suggestions nor did they come up to disclose or come up with these matters that they are raising right now. The debate is over.

The Minority Leader : We did debate, we... With the public uproar that we have in Rodrigues, this Regulation was not properly ventilated. Many people of Rodrigues did not know anything about this. Only a few days before presenting this Regulation, then you come to this House and you say that you should have debated more about that? Well, he should know himself. Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware that concerning the PRB, concerning the workers of Rodrigues, *les fonctionnaires, ils ont le droit d'importer, d'après le PRB, une voiture de plus de sept ans. Le PRB est claire dessus, jusqu'à huit ans. Mais là, le règlement va à l'encontre de ça. Qu'est-ce qu'il va faire pour ces fonctionnaires-là ? J'aurais aimé savoir.*

Madam Chairperson: Wait a minute, Commissioner. I would like to remind respected Members of this House, of Standing Order 19, Content of Question, part (c) where the Standing Orders are clear stating that:

"No question shall be asked seeking for information set forth in official publications, statute books or accessible works of reference..."

I have been lenient and allowed the Minority Leader to put his question though but this is not the time to debate on the Regulations. So, I would make an appeal to the Minority Leader as a seasoned politician, he is well aware of the proceedings of Parliament. I would make an appeal once more for his collaboration to uphold the decorum of this House and to maintain the Standing Orders. Thank you

The Minority Leader : I believe that I am upholding the decorum of this House. I have put a question concerning the import permits. *Il y a des fonctionnaires qui ne peuvent pas avoir ces import permits.* So, it is in line to the question. I am putting this question et *j'ai essayé d'éclairer la lanterne du* Deputy Chief Commissioner. That is all! I am not asking him to go through the files spelt out. *Je suis en train d'éclairer cela. Oui! He should have known....*

Madam Chairperson: Order, please !

The Minority Leader : But he is speaking from a sitting position!

Madam Chairperson: You address the Chair, Minority Leader!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioners, please! Minority Leader, you address the Chair and you be concise in your question. You put your question now. Okay?

The Minority Leader : I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, well, there are several...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members from a sitting position, please!

The Minority Leader : There are...

Madam Chairperson: From both sides of the House!

The Minority Leader : There are several individuals who have import permits to have vehicle coming. As he has said, there are more than 195 vehicles coming to Rodrigues. That is, it defeats the purpose of the Regulation. Can I know whether out of these individuals who have got import permits, if any of them are drivers of Commissioners or close members of Commissioners or parents of Commissioners?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I think I need notice of the question. I have tabled the categories of vehicles. The question refers to categories and not to the names of persons. So, it was not up to me to go and assess each and every person who have applied, what are they doing, what is their work? I do not think that there is any point to answer that question, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether, as regard to this figure he has just given to this House, whether he will agree with us that this figure as compared to last year, the number has boosted up. A boost in the number of applications for import permits due to this Regulation.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The table I have tabled speaks for itself. It speaks for itself in the sense that normally, every month, we used to have 55 to 60 applications but exceptionally for the month of November, I think we

have up to 100 applications. For the case of December, for the time being, it is 33 or 35 if I am not mistaken. It is expected of course because the Regulation is coming into application as from 01 January. So, it is expected that there will be a boost for persons to go and apply for application before the coming into operation of the... So, this is why when the Minority Leader is saying that the Regulation is defeating our purpose, it is defeating our purpose maybe for the time being but as from 01 January, everything will come into order.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as far as those people have been granted import permits, so, what will happen for those who cannot import their vehicles before 01 January, whether there will be a sort of buffer period where they can still bring their vehicle for those who have been granted import permits now?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Normally, Madam Chairperson, the Regulation is coming into operation on the 01 January 2018. We understand that there are some persons who may not be in the capacity due to the number of ship's shipment from Mauritius to Rodrigues during that month of December, that they will not be able to ship their vehicles or motor vehicles to Rodrigues. We are at the time being, issuing import permit valid up to December, 31 December but we are aware that it may be possible that some of them will not be able to do so. This will be considered as a case of *force majeure*. What will we expect from these persons? We will expect from these persons to go to the Mauritius Shipping Company and have a correspondence, a letter certifying that they applied for the ship so as to be able to ship their vehicles to Rodrigues and of course, we are also to consider their *déplacement sans gage*. When the sale was made in Mauritius, when they did not proceed for the sale in the month of December, we are going to be very lenient on the matter.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I think the shipping, when you go to shipping, you asked for the shipment of a... you put the date, just ask for a shipment. I can go, I can ask a receipt for a shipment without telling them when I am going to buy the car. So, I can hand it over to the Commission. You have to be very careful. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner for the time being, being given the RRA Act and so on, all the parameters we have here, is he allowed to cancel or not to give an import permit to an applicant as per RRA Regulations, as per the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? *Dans l'intérêt public, bien sûr.*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The application that we have passed on 24 October clearly defines who are the authorities that are allowed either to cancel or not to give/reject a permit. And, we have also within that same regulation, provide/make provisions for the person to make an appeal if ever he

feels that he has been aggrieved by the decision of the Departmental Head. In fact, it is the Departmental Head that may reject the.... of a person.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Maybe the Commissioner has misunderstood my question. Let us forget about the Regulation. As now, today, if I come to your office I ask for a building permit... the import permit, sorry, can you reject as per RRA Act, as per existing Regulations, whether he can reject a permit?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I do not think, Madam Chairperson, that any permit has been rejected by the Commission so far.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, when referring to the...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Madam Chairperson, Madam,* lorsque je regarde le détail que le Chef commissaire adjoint nous a donné dans cette Chambre, Madame la Présidente, nous constatons qu'il y a beaucoup de véhicules qui ont plus de 20 ans, 34 ans. Madame la Présidente, nous parlons d'une île écologique, le concept d'une île écologique. Nous parlons de la pollution et de tout ça. Madame la Présidente, le nombre de véhicules pendant cette période a augmenté considérablement. C'est-à-dire que le problème de pollution est devenu encore énorme comparé à l'année dernière !

Madame la Présidente, avec tout ce brouhaha, avec tout ce mécontentement qu'il y a dans la population, je fais un appel au Chef commissaire adjoint, tout ce mécontentement qu'il y a dans la population, je fais un appel au membre, au Commissaire, à toute son équipe de faire un effort d'étendre ou mettre un *timeframe* pour que ces personnes-là puissent au moins faire venir leurs véhicules jusqu'à allons dire au moins cette année-ci. Je fais un appel pressant... L'année prochaine.

Je fais un appel pressant au Chef commissaire adjoint, je fais appel à votre bonne volonté, je fais appel à tout le monde dans cette Chambre. Nous, nous avons les moyens d'acheter de véhicule mais ces pêcheurs, ces planteurs, ces agriculteurs qui doivent dépendre surtout sur les véhicules qui ont plus de sept, huit, neuf ans, 10 ans...

Madam Chairperson: No statement, please! Put your question! This is question time! You put your question now!

Mr. R. Perrine: *My question is :* je fais un appel à la Présidente, je fais un appel au Chef commissaire adjoint, je fais un appel au Chef commissaire, je fais un appel à tous les Commissaires de cette Chambre pour retirer ce règlement et faire en sorte que....

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member! Next question.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question, now !

**‘SPORT DAN VILLAZ’/‘SPORT POUR TOUS’
/VILLAGE ON THE MOVE**

(No. B/130) Mr. .J. N. Volbert (The Second Local Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others whether, in regard to ‘*sport dan villaz*’, ‘*sport pour tous*’ and “Village on the Move”, she will, for the benefit of the House, give details thereon indicating the expenses incurred and/ or disbursed therefor as at date, detailing the involvement of officers from her Commission therefor and to state any incidental effect of ‘*sport de masse*’ over ‘*sport d’élite*’?

The Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, with regards to the ‘*Sport pour tous*’ Programme of my Commission, I would like to enlighten the House that the same project was created in 2013 and the objectives have already been spelt out on various platforms.

The programme is manned by the ‘*Sport pour tous*’ Unit under the responsibility of a coach of my Commission and voluntary animators. It comprises mainly of the three components below, that is:

- 1) ‘*Physique dan Villaz*’,
- 2) ‘Village on the Move’ and
- 3) the Intervillage Games.

The implementation of the programme involves one main stakeholder, that is, the RCSS, the Zone leaders, the Coaches of my Commission who are responsible for management and coordination of activities and affiliated Village Communities, to whom I want to express heartfelt thanks, for their support in mobilization of participants right from the zone level preliminaries until the finals of the games. I would like also to highlight, Madam Chairperson, that initially,

“Physique dan Villaz” Programme involved activities such as talks on Sports Medicine, nutrition, yoga and exercise to music. For this new edition, athletic games, recreational activities and small sided team games have been added to the said programme. Other new elements have been brought to the programme which includes walks on and development of *“Parcours de santé”* in respective villages. It should be noted that my Commission is planning to set up two major *“parcours”* at Baie Lascar and Malabar.

Moreover, Madam Chair, in view of optimum use of resources, my Commission has decided to reserve the “Village on the Move” Programme to the participants, that is, the youth aged between 13 and 39. These activities along Village on the Move will be centered on three aspects that is, the youth sensitization, arts and culture and sports itself and traditional activities will be added to the said activity, of course.

On the other hand, the Inter Village Games comprise of five heats at zone levels of the Rodrigues Council of Social Services and which culminate with the final. This year, we have added new components that is, table tennis, demonstrations of rugby and karate in the opening ceremony to promote these new elements and disciplines.

Madam Chair, since the onset of the programme of *“Sport pour tous”*, we have managed to reach an audience of around 15,000 people every year under the three components I mentioned previously. The budget allocated to the *“Sport pour tous”* Programme is around Rs 1 m. yearly.

Madam Chairperson, my Commission will leave no stone unturned to promote the participation and engagement in sport activities of the population. This implies activities at the level of *‘Sport pour tous’*, *‘sport de masse’*, and of course, *‘Sports D’élite’*. All the three levels are having the full consideration of my Commission and are sine qua none for the holistic development of modern and professional sports.

Madam Chairperson, as announced in the budget speech 2017-2018, my Commission is setting up a ‘High Level Sports Unit’ to provide a more professional follow-up of our high-level athletes. A draft copy of the project is already available and is under implementation right now because we have already inaugurated the Medical Sport Unit at Malabar whereby, nutrition, doping control and other services are readily available. The creation of the High-Level Scheme will be developed very shortly and the creation of High Performance Training Centre which is underway.

/UNREVISED/

Apart from the creation of the High-Level Sports Unit, Madam Chair, I wish to inform the House that the highest percentage of the Commission's budget is devoted to activities of licensed athletes. Licensed athletes, that is, regular participants of regional committees benefit from the following facilities that is;

- a) Air tickets... (The question is quite bulky.);
- b) Cash prizes for outstanding performances ;
- c) Transport facilities ;
- d) Sports equipment etc.;
- e) Sports infrastructures free of charge;
- f) Technical support from my Commission free of charge, of course;
- g) Refreshment and lunch and;
- h) Specialised training centres including sports training schools, *Centre de formation* and '*centre d'entrainement*'.

Madam Chairperson, my Commission is working on the plan to revamp our "*Ecole de Sport*" and "*Centre de formation*" and we are planning to have an Under 21 Selection to be established in specified disciplines.

So, the budget allocated to the elite sport for the year 2017-2018 amounts to Rs 19,200,000 against Rs 1 m. for "*Sport pour tous*". In this respect, Madam Chair, the question with regards to the incidental effect of the "sport de masse" over "*sport d'élite*" does not arise since the right balance is being struck between the two. Madam Chair, there are various national, regional and international events that athletes are participating. High-level and international training being done and visits of DTN (*Directeur Technique National*) that are done regularly at the level of my Commission. Thank you.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam the Chair, may I know from the Commissioner who was the responsible of the "*Sport de masse*" and whose coach is responsible for "*Sport de masse*", "*Sport dans village*", "*Sport pour tous*" and whether the coach is being paid overtime for this?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: There is a coach as I said in my answer, Madam Chair, that is responsible for the "*Sport de masse*".

Some Hon. Members: Overtime!

Ms. M. R. Edouard: There is no officer working at staggered hours, Madam Chair. Thank you.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Is it true to say that a certain coach is abandoning the discipline which they are paid to have supervision on the "*Sports de masse*" and

“*Sport dans village*”? The result for the recent “*Jeux des Talents*” speaks for itself.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, this is I think, an interpretation of the Member because according to us, we are bringing new ideas, trying to have a new system. So, the results of the recent “*Jeux des Jeunes Talents*” was conclusive. There are highs and there are challenges, of course because we have been surprised by so many things positively but I will not venture to say that people are abandoning their disciplines to focus on the other one because as I have told you, we rely very much on voluntary support of the RCSS and all these things. So, this is not the work of one person but it is a collective job. Thank you.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: May I know from the Commissioner, Madam the Chair, whether the Commissioner is satisfied with the number of medals obtained during the “*Jeux des Jeunes Talents*” for the... of her Commission and if not, why?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, as I said, we have seen the results of the “*Jeux des Jeunes Talents*” and we have had really nice surprises. I have told you previously, Madam Chair, that we have sent for the first time, teams in basketball for example and their boys came with the silver medals and the girls came with bronze medals. So, we are analysing in terms of quality and quantity. So, I think these results are really promising and we have to deal on it.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I would like to ask the Commissioner, well, *les jeunes talents, ils font bien quand ils sont jeunes mais quand ils deviennent adultes, la qualité baisse, les performances baissent et on sait pourquoi*. Concerning football, can I know from the Commissioner when did the Official Football League end and whether the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee is still working?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, with regards to the... There are so many parts of your question. You have mentioned about young people being in school and *centre d'entraînement* and *centre de formation*. This is why we decided, Madam Chairperson, to have a selection, an Under 21 Selection. That is, to address where there are situations where there are discrepancies, I would say. So, what happens is that for football, there are Regulations, there is the Sports Act. So, everything regarding football will go according to the Sports Act, according to what is prescribed within the legal framework of its operation. So, according to me, the Football Regional Committee according to the Sports Act as well as the Federation, they are autonomous and they are the one to fix when the... *Non*, I am not in the Committee, unfortunately.

Madam Chairperson: Please address the Chair, Commissioner.

The Minority Leader : I would like to know from the Commissioner, she is the Commissioner for Sports, can I know whether we have a legal Rodrigues Regional Football Committee?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Yes, I am not in the Committee, Madam Chair, as I have said. What happens is that, I have said it previously, everything in sports is governed by the Sports Act 2016 and the MFA is the one who directly deals with the *Comité Régional*. If ever it happens that the *Comité Régional* is not functioning well or is illegal as someone may pretend, so, there are legal parameters for these and there is the Ombudsperson for Sports now. The Ombudsperson for Sports is a new prescription in the Sports Act 2016 and whether there are things that are not respected, so, any case can be forwarded to the Ombudsperson.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, well, the Commissioner is the Commissioner for Sports. We have a Rodrigues Regional Football Committee. She does not know whether it is in order or not? Well, does she know that this committee actually has got no quorum? I would like to know. And, does she know that the Football League has stopped/ended since June last year and that this Rodrigues Regional Football Committee is not... This year. Rodrigues Regional Football Committee is not in order since August this year. Then, I think she should, as Commissioner, put order in that. Otherwise, *nou football fini net!*

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, I will not repeat myself. There is the Sports Act that regulates every action of the Football Committee. But allow me to enlighten the House that we have come with a reform. We have come with a reform in Football. We have met all the teams concerned on three occasions and we have discussed the reform. At my level, when it comes to policy, I am working on policies but for implementation, there are responsible bodies for that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Madam the Chair*, en ce qui concerne les prochains Jeux des Iles de L'Océan Indien qui auront lieu à Maurice en 2019 où il y aura beaucoup de disciplines sportives considérées comme élites qui seront présentes. Peut-on savoir de la Commissaire s'il y aura des compétitions qui auront lieu ici à Rodrigues ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, indeed, with regards to the coming *Jeux des Iles*, in Rodrigues, we have proposed that three disciplines be organised in Rodrigues. So, we have had confirmation for two disciplines already and we

are discussing for the third. So, definitely, there will be disciplines that will be taking place in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Madam the Chair*, peut-on savoir de la Commissaire quelles sont ces disciplines qui auront lieu ici et s'il y a un comité déjà mis en place pour *chair ce committee* ?

[Interruptions]

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Can you please repeat the question?

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Madam the Chair*, peut-on savoir de la Commissaire du Sport quelles sont ces disciplines qui auront lieu ici pour les Jeux des Iles 2019 et s'il y a un comité qui est déjà mis en place pour ces compétitions?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, I have gone through the question very deeply, this is not related to the main question. I think that the Member may come for a more substantive question on *Jeux des Iles* specifically. Thank you.

The Minority Leader : Can I ask the Commissioner since she is Commissioner for Sports, whether she is aware that since the Football League ended in June last year, the referees have not paid, there are overtime that have not been paid to drivers and even the *l'équipe championne n'a pas reçu de prix jusqu'à maintenant*. *Est-ce qu'elle peut le confirmer?*

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I need notice of this question, Madam.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner says as far as policy is concerned, it is her responsibility. But for the implementation, there are other officers or bodies responsible for implementation.* Mais ce qu'on trouve drôle, Madame la Présidente, c'est lorsqu'il y a à partir, à quitter Rodrigues pour diriger les délégations sportives, Madame la Commissaire est présente. Comment se fait-il ? On n'arrive pas à comprendre comment se fait-il qu'elle ne semble pas maîtriser le dossier mais elle maîtrise lorsqu'il faut partir pour aller à l'extérieur, pour aller représenter Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: We are still waiting for the question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Non mais j'ai posé la question ! Oui, j'ai fini de poser la question. Enfin, je vais terminer la question. *Galopé ale saute dans licou athlète kan gagne médaille d'or.*

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, it is the common practice when there is an official delegation going abroad, the Minister invites the Commissioner to be part of the delegation. It is not something that is new. Every Commissioner even in the former Governments, Commissioner for Sports, they travelled. But what happens also, we have seen that in various delegation, we see unrelated persons going there but with regards to us, we are sending the strict minimum, those who can talk. Let me not go into details because there are people who are related to certain issues, they have gone to represent Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

STATE RECOGNITION ALLOWANCE SCHEME

(No. B/131) Mr .J. N. Volbert (The Second Local Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the ceremony of the State Recognition Allowance Scheme held in Ebene, Mauritius on 03 October 2017, she can inform the House on if there were any retired athletes from Rodrigues who were invited thereto and if so, the number thereof, indicating if all of them have been able to assist same; and, if not, why not?

The Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, with regards to the State Recognition Allowance, it is a scheme for retired athletes, which was announced in the National budget for the financial year 2017 – 2018. The extent of the scheme is applicable to sport persons who are Mauritian citizens and have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, Paralympics Games, a World Cup, the Commonwealth Games, Francophonie Games, African Games, and the African/World Championships in an Olympic or non Olympic discipline since 12 March 1966.

The Scheme is implemented by the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports under the aegis of the Ministry for Youth and Sports. Eligible sportspersons who have attained 35 years of age and have retired from active sports is paid a monthly allowance based on the competition attained. Madam Chairperson, retired athletes is subject to the following additional conditions:-

- a) In the case a person is still engaged in active sports career beyond the age of 35, payment will start once he or she has retired.
- b) In case an athlete retires before the age of 35, payment will be deferred until he or she reaches the age of 35.

- c) Retired eligible athletes who are convicted of criminal offence or who in one way or another having, having brought disrepute to the Sports Sector and the Motherland will be disqualified from benefiting the scheme.

Madam Chairperson, with regards to the abovementioned theme, in a mail dated 01 September 2017, addressed to my Commission, the Trust Fund for Excellence requested the Commission to assist them and to communicate a list of retired athletes residing in Rodrigues. We were also informed that a ceremony was provisionally scheduled for the 09 September and my Commission would be informed at a later stage.

Madam Chair, with regards to the Official Ceremony of the State Recognition, held effectively on the 03 October, my Commission did not receive any official correspondence inviting eligible retired athletes to attend the function and to arrange their travel and other matters.

However, I was verbally informed by one retired athlete on the eve of the ceremony that he had received a personal invitation but it was too short notice for us to arrange for him to go.

Taking into consideration the importance of this award for the beneficiaries, on our request, the Trust Fund for Excellence, through the C.E.O., submitted the names of the four beneficiaries of the scheme from Rodrigues and recommended that the cheques be remitted officially to them in Rodrigues by an eminent personality.

Madam Chairperson, my Commission seized the opportunity therefore of the visit of the Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Rodrigues, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K., Q.C., in the context of the 15th Anniversary of the Autonomy to remit the cheques to three eligible athletes and the fourth name being an athlete who is established in Mauritius. The award was made during the cocktail which is a very solemn event, at la Residence on the 12th October and the Award was made before the athletes' family, coaches and the *Comité Régional* and all Rodriguans who have acknowledged the effort the athletes have made.

I wish to point out that the State Recognition Allowance Scheme is a National policy and my Commission is acting as a facilitator for enlistment of beneficiaries.

Mr. J. N. Volbert:Un renseignement. Un mail a été envoyé à la Commission de Sport une semaine avant la date de la cérémonie. Moi-même, j'ai confirmé avec Mme S.... que le mail a bel et bien été envoyé pour que ces athlètes

internationaux puissent participer dans cette cérémonie. Mais vous, vous étiez... *Madam the Chairperson*, la Commissaire était tellement prise avec la marche de l'autonomie qu'elle n'a pas pris la peine de faire le nécessaire pour envoyer ces athlètes à Maurice.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, allow me, I do not know if I can infer on the issues as the Member has gone because we have discussed with the officers. I confirm here we did not receive official invitations with regards to the recognition of athletes going to Mauritius. They received their invitations individually, I said it. But since you are insisting that mail was received, you have to check whether mails are being hacked or the mails were redirected to some other persons. But my Commission did not receive that mail unfortunately, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

CT SCAN – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/132) Mr .J. N. Volbert (The Second Local Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the CT scan at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) the actual connectivity speed thereof indicating if same has been subject to any disruption in relation to the internet connection, if yes, to state when and why; and
- (b) if there is any outstanding bill relating to the operation thereof and, in the affirmative, to give reasons therefor and to table any document in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the CT Scan Unit of Queen Elisabeth Hospital was connected to high speed internet of 2 megabytes to facilitate image transfer to Mauritius.

I am informed that necessary arrangements have been done for Mauritius Telecom Services to disconnect the EVLL 2 megabytes since the services were no longer required since a full time Radiologist has been posted in Rodrigues and the latter has the required competencies to interpret images and provide diagnosis.

Administrative procedures have also been undertaken to transfer the EVLL 2 megabytes to the IT Unit of the Central Administration where it will have a more optimum use to be. The CT Scan Unit has been provided with an ADSL line instead.

As regards to part (b) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I am informed there are no outstanding bills and all payment has been effected to date.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can I know from the Commissioner whether he is aware that out of hundred photographs taken by the CT Scan, at least 15 of them are blank?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I am not aware, Madam Chairperson. I will look into the matter.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: J'aimerais savoir du Commissaire de la Santé combien le CT Scan, on a fait le *servicing* du CT Scan depuis son opération.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame, la question n'a rien à voir avec le *main question*. Que le membre vienne avec une autre question, on va lui répondre.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the question is in regard to the CT Scan at QEH. So, I put one question. I would like to put one question as regard to CT Scan at QEH, will he for the benefit of the House, say how many times this apparatus has been under servicing?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I repeat, Madam Chairperson, it is about connectivity.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

WATER DISTRIBUTION

(No. B/133) **Mr. Z. Félicité (The Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to water distribution in villages of Mangles, Montagne Du Sable, Grand La Fouche Mangles and Châteaux de Fleurs, he will, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) state how water is distributed to these villages;
- (b) give and table the different dates of water distribution in these villages for the period of January 2017 to date; and
- (c) state the policy of his Commission to attend complaints in these villages in the shortest delay?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson,

- (a) The above villages are provided with water through water network and supplemented by lorry water tankers upon request of consumers as and when required.
- (b) The information is being tabled.
- (c) Madam Chairperson, Part of these villages are served from water coming from Anse Raffin Dam. Being given that no water is being obtained from the dam for the time being, water is being transferred from Petit Brûlé to Papayes reservoir for distribution. Water is also supplied by RRA and by private lorry tankers to the villagers.

In the medium term, the situation will be improved by the construction of the Baie Malgache and Songes desalination plants and the complete rehabilitation of Caverne Bouteille.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House about the frequency of water distribution in these villages?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : If the Member refers to the information I have tabled, he will be able to get the frequency of water being distributed.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that there is public uproar as far as distribution of water is concerned and this morning at Ile Michel, people are very angry, they are on the road there. Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he is contemplating the possibility of changing certain Members of the team that is responsible for water distribution in order to give a better service to the population? – Because this is the worse crisis that we have had in Rodrigues since years.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I do not think, Madam Chairperson, that the matter is with the team but it is with respect to the question of production of water. I have stated in my answer that the villagers of Grand La Fouche Mangue, of Château de Fleur, Maréchal and Mangue, they are normally served with water coming from Anse Raffin Dam and formerly, they were also being served with water coming from Songes Desalination Plant. Songes Desalination Plant is not operating. The water level at Anse Raffin is very low and we are not able to treat the water so that we can distribute the water to the villagers. So, what is the option that is left? We have to transfer in a spirit of equity, transfer the water from where it is available and to where it is not available. So, this is why

we have decided to transfer water from Petit Brûlé to Papaye through Quatre-Vent so that these persons can be served at least with the minimum amount of water that is available. So, I do not think that at this particular time, as the Minority Leader is stating that is a question of the team. We are sharing the limited amount of water with the maximum villagers that is possible.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: You can come to my place; I will give you water. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam...

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we see Montagne du Sable got water in December, Mangué – November and Grand La Fouche Mangué – 13 October. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, how is it? There is a problem. We understand the point of the Commissioner, the fact that he is redirecting water and so on but at the...

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I put my question? There is a Commissioner disturbing me.

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, so, will he agree with us that there is the problem at the La Ferme...? I do not know who is responsible but there is a problem. Why is it that the nearby villages, Château de Fleur, Montagne du Sable, Mangué got water but Grand La Fouche Mangué which is a very large/big village and we have Telfair next to it, they take water from Telfair and they do not give it to the villagers of Grand La Fouche Mangué? How is it that the villagers of Grand La Fouche Mangué got water on the 13 October, nearly two months back? How is it? So, this is why...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, please allow the Deputy Chief Commissioner to answer now.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, can you please answer?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Member is generalising...

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On a point of order, the Commissioner Payendee is saying that '*nou ine vole délo*'. So, I would like to ask him to kindly withdraw. This is unparliamentary! So, he is imputing motives on me. So, if he wants water, he can come and ask me, I will give him! So, why is he saying that? As I give everybody!

Madam Chairperson: Whatever you are saying also is unparliamentary, respected Member. So, I have not heard whatever you are saying that the Commissioner has stated because I was concentrated on the answer being given by the Deputy Chief Commissioner at that time. Thank you.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Second Island Region Member and Commissioner! Respected Members from both sides of the House, please! Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner, you may proceed now.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes. Referring to the question of the Member, he should not generalise the matter by stating that the villagers of Grand La Fouche Mangue have not been served with water since October. The table depicts on the first, second, strict proof that the villagers have been served in September, in October and as well as in November. But for Grand La Fouche Mangue, *Atelier de Savoir*, yes, they were served with water on the 12th and the 13th and of course, as per availability of water, there is what is known as a rotational distribution based on a frequency that is set up. The Member should note that when we speak of a particular village, there are so many laterals that are present in those villages and depending upon the water that is available in the reservoir, we have to assess as regard to the distance from the reservoir to the village when the distribution is to be done so that we can have minimum amount of pressure so that the person can get a limited/minimum amount of water. This is why there is so much change in frequency sometimes depending upon the availability in the reservoirs.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam*, le Commissaire est en train de se contredire lui-même. Pourquoi ? Il a dit que l'eau est distribuée par des camions-citernes, *private lorries* et là, il vient nous raconter distance avec le réservoir, *network* tout ça, c'est la raison pour laquelle il y a ce décalage dans la distribution de l'eau à Grand la Fouche Mangue. Mais qu'en est-il des camions-citernes ? Est-ce qu'il n'aurait pas pu ? Parce que si on regarde bien, ils parlent de tour, *gagne délo lor tour*. Montagne du Sable qui est à côté de Grand la Fouche Mangue a eu de l'eau le 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 et 14 décembre ? Mangue: 13, 17, 18, 20 jusqu'à 24 novembre ? De Château de Fleur, pareil - 10 12 tandis que le village de Grand la Fouche Mangue, on a comme si le problème, Madame la

présidente, c'est que des fois... Comment on dit ça en...? On ne donne pas les villages qui suivent juste après. On a tendance à donner des gens... *'saute village comment dire'*. Est-ce que ce n'est pas possible pour le Commissaire de donner à ces gens-là de l'eau à travers des camions-citernes ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I did state it in my answer, Madam Chairperson, yes but we have to be very careful. There is one issue that you have to understand. Maybe I will take the time of the House, Madam Chairperson, if you allow, to explain to the Member what is happening. We have normally a production of water of about 700 m³ to 800 m³ of water at Mourouk in the normal periods and now, the production at Mourouk stands to 500 m³. There has been a decrease of 200 m³. It is right to say that we can distribute water to the villages by fetching the water from Mourouk but when we are doing so, what is happening? We are decreasing the water that were to go for over villages in the East, the eastern part. On Monday, on Wednesdays, on Fridays, we are delivering some 30 permits.

This means that these lorries, they are taking some 150 m³ out of the 500 m³ at are being produced at Mourouk. Of course, this is going to cause a change in frequency for the villagers that are in the eastern part of the island. So, in a spirit of equity, we are fetching water from Mourouk to the south and I have told you in my answer during the weekend, once a week, we are transferring water also from Petit Brûlé. That water from Petit Brûlé, comes from Mourouk itself. It is transferred from Mourouk to Petit Brûlé and it is transferred back to Papaye where it is used to serve the region that is there. So, is it not a spirit of equity that we are doing, distributing from where it is available to where it is not available?

The Minority Leader : So, from the Deputy Chief Commissioner, whether we are depending solely on Mourouk to distribute water. Do we not have other boreholes, other sources to take water and distribute? Or are we depending solely on Mourouk?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Of course not, Madam Chairperson. We have so many other sources of production. If I take the case of Quatre-Vent, Quatre-Vent gets its water from the borehole at Lataniers. The villages which are found – Petite Butte, Ile Michel, Grand Var, they are being served water from Vangassailles which itself got its water from Caverne Bouteille. So, the question here as we stand, it is the question that we have a decrease in the amount of production because Anse Raffin is no longer producing and also, there has been the breakdown of desalination plant of Songes which cannot be rehabilitated. Otherwise, if we were producing water from Anse Raffin and also from the desalination plant stating say some 400 m³ of water, we would not be having such a problem in the south of the island.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam...

Madam Chairperson: Wait a minute. For the sake of conducting the business of the House in an orderly manner, I would like to remind respected Members about Standing Order 35 part (3): *'If two or more members rise at the same time, the Chairperson shall call the member who first captures his eye'*. So, which is not happening here today. I would like to remind respected Members that you cannot take the floor like this, you have to be given the floor, you have to be called by the Chairperson in so that you can take the floor. Thank you.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Dans un pays, tout le monde s'adresse au Commissaire responsable de l'eau mais je voudrais demander à l'adjointe au Chef commissaire si c'est possible de voir que les responsables de chaque section de distribution soient sur le terrain pour voir comment la distribution est faite. Quand il faut répondre, c'est l'adjoint au Chef commissaire qui doit répondre. Il n'est pas sur le terrain. Il a autre chose à faire mais les gens, il y a les *public officers* qui sont sur le terrain responsables pour la distribution d'eau, est-ce que tout le monde travaille de la même façon ? Parce que moi, j'ai constaté là où il y a des femmes *Valve Operators*, le problème d'eau est moins aigu. Donc, je demanderais si l'adjoint au Chef commissaire pourrait demander aux responsables de chaque section d'être sur le terrain, de voir comment la distribution est fait.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chair, we are having a meeting every week and instructions stated by the Member have been given to the section leaders in the different regions. I do agree that maybe there is a lack of communication between the public officers and the public members. So, I will try as far as possible through the different water committees that I am holding to address this issue and to make sure that communication and information reach the public.... Thank you very much.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can I take the floor? Thank you, Madam. Madam Chairperson, Madam, la gestion et la distribution de l'eau à Rodrigues est mauvaise. Si je dois m'expliquer, il y en a beaucoup. Comment expliquer que pendant cette période-là, nous sommes en période de crise, il y a des camions qui vont à Mourouk chercher de l'eau pour la construction ? Mais vous autres, il faut trouver autre chose, ce n'est pas ça ! Il faut trouver autre chose ! Ce n'est pas de l'eau de Mourouk qu'on va prendre pour la construction ! On aurait dû utiliser l'eau de Cascade Pigeon ou n'importe où mais pas à Mourouk. Alors, voilà, Madame la Présidente, comment expliquer, deuxième question, je demanderais au Chef commissaire adjoint comment expliquer dans cette région de Mangue, Grand la Fouche Mangue, Château de Fleur, qu'il n'y avait pas de l'eau pendant tout ce temps et une fois qu'il y a eu une manifestation, l'autre coule à gogo dans le tuyau

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? Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça ? Madame la Présidente, j'aurais aimé que le Commissaire...

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chair...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! You allow the Deputy Chief Commissioner to answer now!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chair, this is a misperception of the public stating that whether there is a sort of public uproar that water will be distributed to them. This is wrong, this is a misinterpretation of the public. If I take the case of say, Montagne du Sable, for us to be able to distribute water from Montagne du Sable, we have to get it transferred from Quatre-Vent. We have to get it and we cannot do the transfer during the night because we know that some person will tamper or will cause vandalism on the network. So, what we have to do, we have to wait for the morning and start the transfer from Quatre-Vent to Papaye or to Montagne du Sable and of course, this will take some four to five hours. Just to give an example, if we are to transfer 200 m³ of water to Montagne du Sable at a rate flow of 50 m³ per hour, this will take some two hours.

So, what has happened? We did tell the villagers that water is going to be distributed to you on that particular day but before distribution, we should allow the water to be transferred from Quatre-Vent to Montagne du Sable. So, if we start to transfer at six o'clock, the complete transfer to the Montagne du Sable will take some four hours. So, it will be vice ten hours by ten in the morning. And, as such, if the person starts to manifest at night, it is impossible for my Commission to provide them with water but being given that the transfer is completed by ten, of course, it was the day of distribution, we are going to provide them with the water. It is not because they are doing the manifestation that they were given water; it was to set to be distributed on that particular date.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, je voudrais *remind* M. le Commissaire adjoint ça a été le cas à Montagne du Sable, ça a été le cas à Anse Goéland, à Baie du Nord, à Dans Cocos, ça a été la même chose. Moi, je dis il ne faut pas voiler la face ! Nous avons un problème. Nous avons un problème de gestion. La distribution est mauvaise. Il y a certains *Valve Operators*, c'est vrai, qui font la pluie et le beau-temps. Il y a ça. Il y a ce problème-là. Il faut *admit*.

Nous, en tant que Membre de l'opposition, nous voulons donner un coup de main pour régler ce problème-là ! Moi, je mets des pelles dans mon 4x4 pour aller donner aux gens. Quand ils ont des périodes de pluies, je le fais, Madame la Présidente. On veut donner un coup de main mais il faut *admit* qu'il y a un problème de gestion de distribution et je dis bien, fermer la *Rodrigues Water Company*, c'est une des grosses bêtises que vous avez faites.

Madam Chairperson: Come to your question, now !

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question is that will the Deputy Chief Commissioner see to it that a good plan together with all people on board to see how to distribute? And, secondly, stop giving water for construction at Mourouk! Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I have already insinuated in my answer before that we are having a Water Committee. There is a Water Committee that is meeting every week and of course, in that Water Committee, we are taking all that question of management of water distribution and I should say also that there has been instruction given to the different sections through the leaders to set a calendar for the distribution of water within its regions. So, water is being distributed on a regular rotational basis, on a precept schedule. This is one. Now, as regard to the question of fetching water at Mourouk for construction purposes. I did meet the "*camionneurs*" yesterday, the lorry owners to discuss about the matter of the fetching of water at Mourouk.

We cannot at this particular point in time, say that we should stop all construction industry on the island. We should not stop that but there is one thing that you have to note that in the contract for a particular construction, there are some specifications about the quality of water that is to be used and depending upon the stage of construction of that particular project, we have to provide a particular quality of water. We have discussed yesterday with the "*camionneurs*" that we have to find other dug wells. We have to find other dug wells where water will be fetched for the construction industry but it remains that some lorry tankers/owners will have to keep on having some water for the construction from Mourouk. This, we have discussed and they know about it, why it should be like that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, une dernière chose. Madame la Présidente, moi, je vais à Fond la Digue tous les jours pour récupérer l'eau. Il y a un réservoir, un tank, un gros réservoir, un gros tank pour de l'eau. Tous les jours, ce seul bassin blanc-là est rempli, a débordé et l'eau part à la mer. Il y a plusieurs années, on a demandé de mettre encore deux ou trois. Cette eau-là aurait pu être utilisée pour la construction et c'est l'eau de l'autre source. Pourquoi ne

pas utiliser ça ? Pourquoi ne pas mettre encore deux ou trois bassins dans la région de Fond la Digue ?

Madame la Présidente, la question est simple ! A Anse aux Anglais, là où j'habite, il y a une digue remplie de l'eau. Ah, comment on appelle ça là ? A Grand Baie, Bassin Moriko, c'est rempli, ça part vers la mer. Ah, comment on appelle ça encore ? A Saint D'Or. Hier, j'étais à Eau Vannée, à Citron Donis. De l'eau ruisselle pour aller dans la mer. Madame la Présidente, il faut arrêter de se voiler la face. Descendez sur le terrain, on va voir. Il y a des problèmes, il y a aussi des solutions à Rodrigues. C'est un problème de gestion et de distribution. Voilà.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Z. Félicité : 13 October, the villagers of Grand la Fouche Mangue did not receive water through the network. So, my question is concerning collecting of surface water during rainy season, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner what is his policy. Especially in these villages, since at Mangue, we do have many small reservoirs.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Collecting of surface water during the rain. Yes, our policy remains, Madam Chair, to tap the maximum of surface water but we have to be very careful about the matter and this is why.... We have got a dam today at Anse Raffin. Yes, it is used when it rains. When it stops raining, the level decreases and when we come to the dry period as we are right now, there is no more water for producing. Yes, this is a matter. So, what we have to do, what we have to focus on, we have to focus on projects that will be able to provide us with a constant production of water whether in the dry or whether in the wet season. So, this is why at this particular point of my mandate, I am focusing mainly on the construction and rehabilitation of desalination plant because my focus for up to next year, my focus is that through the different desalination plants, we will be producing some 4200 m³ of water and whether we are in the dry or in the wet season, this production will be constant unless there is a breakdown. So, if we are to rely on surface water, this is good for wet season but whenever we come to the dry season, it is not of great use. So, we have to be very careful on that, yes.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**RENOVATION/UPGRADING – MARC ETIENNE
ROCHE BON DIEU GOVERNMENT SCHOOL**

(No. B/134) Mrs. M. T. Agathe: (The Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the renovation and upgrading of Marc Etienne Roche Bon Dieu Government School, he will state and table on where matters stand as at date together with the total cost of the project?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I announced in my budget speech that for the well-being of the pupils in primary schools, my Commission will proceed with the construction of Preau and kitchen in all the schools devoid of such facilities. This facility will be used during lunch time for our school kids and also as a multipurpose open hall to hold meetings with parents and other activities.

With regards to Question B 134, I am informed, Madam Chairperson, that the following works have been completed on 10 July 2017:-

- (i) Construction of new Preau block inclusive of kitchen of about 170 m² gross floor area in reinforced concrete beams and columns and partly with concrete slab and metal roof coverings;
- (ii) Renovation works to existing classrooms including removal of existing roof sheeting and replacing by concrete slab;
- (iii) Electrical and plumbing works;
- (iv) Construction of grease traps, water tanks, septic tanks and service trenches;
- (v) Civil works consisting of soil pipes drainages; and
- (vi) Additional works comprising renovation of existing Quarters.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the handing over of site was done on the 11 May 2016 and the duration of the project was 224 days.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that prior to the start of the works, there was the need to renovate an old Quarters to relocate temporarily the Head Master's and Deputy Head Master's Office as well as a store. Hence, additional time was extended to the Contractor.

Subsequently, Madam Chairperson, the construction of the kitchen and Preau started after the renovation works.

I am informed, Madam Chairperson, that the site was handed over to my Commission on 14 July 2017 and I am also informed that liquidated damages amounting to Rs 528,000 have been applied as per the conditions of the contract.

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Madam Chairperson, I am further informed that the Contractor has been instructed to attend to some additional works and same are being completed during the holidays namely:

- (i) Completion of storm water drain and soak away;
- (ii) Retaining masonry wall with 1.0 m high fencing;
- (iii) Ramp from new building for existing; and
- (iv) Footpath 1.2 m wide.

Madam, Chairperson, the total cost of the project is Rs 10,916,950 inclusive of VAT.

I am also informed, Madam Chairperson, that the procedures are presently ongoing for the procurement of furniture and equipment for the kitchen and Preau to be fully operational.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire...

[Gap in Recording]

ROAD SAFETY - ELECTORAL REGION - GRANDE MONTAGNE

(No. B/135) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to road safety in the electoral region of Grande Montagne, he will, for the benefit of the House, state measures undertaken by his Commission to: -

- (a) minimise the danger represented by road drains which are, in some places, more than two metres deep; and
- (b) fit road lighting in strategic places and especially at dangerous curves?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, normally roads are designed with road side drains of depth varying from 0.5 m to 0.7m. However, masonry walls for road edges can reach up to 2 m or more and to minimize the risks handrails are guardrails are erected. To minimize hazard due to open road-side drain, 1m shoulder is normally provided annex to carrying way. Action has been initiated to have open drains from Grande Montagne College towards Giro shop covered.

As regards to part (b), my Commission has already launched tenders for the purchase of some 400 street lightings to be installed not only in the region of Grande Montagne but all over the island. The Commission also encourages the villagers to report on locations where existing lightings are not working so that the Commission can intervene as fast as possible. Checks are also being effected at night to ensure the proper functioning of the street lightings.

[Gap in Recording]

The Minority Leader: ... *Why do not we put ces panneaux solaires un peu partout à Rodrigues ? Des panneaux solaires avec des ampoules solaires. That will do. Everywhere we can do that.*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: It is an idea, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we have actually focussed and think over the matter. But, I think that it is quite expensive. There is one issue but, of course, if you are going towards that concept of an ecological island, this is the direction in which we have to go. We have already made a survey of where these spots, these lanterns will be placed. But we will remember also that there has been a pilot study, *80 tonnes*, in Rodrigues. And, if you go along the route from Baie aux Huitres to Baie Malgache, you will notice that there are some *panneaux* which have been set but unfortunately, sometimes there is vandalism because of the battery that is found in that... So, maybe we have to find a way how to better secure these *panneaux*/lanterns which are being, how do I say, energised by the sun.

The Minority Leader: *[...] In the long way, I think we will save a lot of money with that. But, now we have the panneaux solaires plus que performant. Avant ce n'était pas tellement performant. Donc, je crois qu'on peut aller dans cette direction-là.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN RODRIGUES - FACILITIES & PROTECTIONS/SEVERE COLD & FEVER

(No. B/136) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to public health in Rodrigues, he will state and table on facilities and protections currently being offered to patients and the population at large in connection with the severe cold and fever which has been persistent in the island for the past five months and indicating if his Commission is adequately equipped to deal therewith?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, severe cold and fever is a seasonal phenomenon and occurs two or three times a year. All measures taken and treatment provided to patients are in line with the prevailing protocol for this type of seasonal diseases. As preventive measures, sensitization programmes were carried out by doctors and radio communiqués were issued and vaccination programme was carried out on, from April 2017 and is still available. Furthermore, all necessary drugs are also available in pharmacies at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the two Area Health Centres at La Ferme and Zita Jean Louis, Mont Lubin.

In addition, Madam Chairperson, laboratory services are well equipped to carry out the necessary tests. In case, further investigations are needed, samples are sent to Mauritius following an established protocol.

Mr. M. T. Agathe: Est-ce que, M. le Commissaire, peut dire à la chambre, comme il nous a dit dans sa réponse, qu'on va au laboratoire pour examiner, pour faire des examens mais est-ce que les personnes ont des résultats, est-ce que vraiment on sait qu'est-ce qu'on a ? Parce que moi-même j'ai une petite fille qui a été admise à deux reprises pour la fièvre. *Madame oune bien pren ou zenfant ale lakaz.* C'est tout, un point à la ligne.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame la présidente, tous les tests que nous faisons ici, c'est performant et il n'y a pas eu des graves problèmes concernant cette *seasonal diseases*.

Madam Chairperson: I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.29 p.m. the Assembly was suspended for one hour.

On its resumption at 1.31 p.m. with Madam Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Third Island Region Member.

AGRICULTURAL STATIONS/CENTRES/SERVICES OFFERED

(No. B/137) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the different agricultural stations/centres, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table on all services offered per station/centre and to indicate the respective officer in charge in each case?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, being given that the information requested is lengthy and as

I do not want to waste/abuse on the time of the House, I am tabling the information accordingly unless, the Respected Member want me to read the whole of it. *Tro long, tro tong*. I am tabling the information.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: As regards, to services, which are available at these stations, since his coming into office, what are the new services he has introduced in these stations?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, there are no new services introduced.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: What is he doing? A new commissioner with new policy has to come forward with new services, if any. So, how come, that he is not planning to come up with services, being given that, this sector is a sector which is lagging behind - no productivity, lots of environmental problems and so on. So, it is a service. So, if we are facing difficulties, he should come up with new services at these stations. So, when will he come with new services, if any?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I do not understand his question, Madam Chairperson. What are new services? There is a lot of things to do [...], which is already working and some things need to be improved and this is what I am doing. But new services, I do not understand unless, he has something in mind.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Commissioner for Agriculture, how many of these centres are fully operational?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, all the centres are fully operational.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au commissaire, s'il peut voir à ce que les *maize milling machine* de Trèfles puissent être opérationnel parce qu'à l'ouest il y a beaucoup de vieux planteurs, il faut se déplacer vers Citronelle. Il y a le moulin mais d'après nos informations il n'y a pas d'opérateur. Et puis, la dernière fois lui-même il a dit, que dans sa commission : *This is the commission with the most of competencies*.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I will look into the matter, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Thank you, Madam Chair. Can I ask the Commissioner for Agriculture, being given that all these centres are fully operational and they are providing good services to the population, can he explain

why the agricultural production has gone down steeply these few years from 2012? Now, in 2015, it has gone down steeply? Can he explain that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is not the services that produce, it is the planters. So, we are offering the maximum of facilities that we can for these planters to succeed. And, also there are environment condition. We know that we are facing the drought now. You know, it has been like this for years that we are getting this drought problem. But, we are working, we do our best to help these planters to produce. But if they do not want to produce, I can do nothing about it.

The Minority Leader: Well, it is pitiful to hear the Commissioner for Agriculture saying that if the planters do not want to produce he cannot do anything. There is encouragement. You have to encourage these planters. We have not had very, very severe drought during these periods. I think, what they need is encouragement. What they need, is good services. It would rather be *bien encadrer*. *Si on fait cela, Rodrigues va devenir le grenier quel était avant. Donc, je sais qu'il n'était pas le Commissaire de l'Agriculture avant, je sais qu'il doit faire un gros travail mais je lui demande d'avoir une nouvelle direction et d'essayer de reprendre les taureaux par les cornes.*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is my objective, Madam Chairperson.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Je voudrais que le Commissaire de l'Agriculture puisse donner une réponse à cette chambre. Etant donné que nous savons que nous sommes dans la période de sécheresse, il y a beaucoup de nourriture – tout comme le Chef Commissaire et nous-même qui sommes en train de prôner de manger rodriguais. Vous savez, actuellement il y a les maniocs qui pourrissent, les patates, les feuilles sont brûlées, les planteurs subissent beaucoup d'effets. Quelle compensation ils ont ? Je compare ça aux pêcheurs, par exemple, les pêcheurs en cas de mauvais temps ils ont une allocation mais les planteurs, surtout nous savons que, la plantation traditionnelle ça concerne plus les vieux. On est un peu découragé. Et, est-ce que ce n'est pas une résistance pour les jeunes de s'adonner à l'agriculture quand on voit que dans les périodes de difficulté, parce que dans tous les domaines il y a des difficultés, rien n'est fait pour compenser ces vieux planteurs-là.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, madame parle de compensation. C'est trop facile de parler de compensation à chaque fois. Tellement qu'il y a de la compensation, il paraît qu'on devient un peuple assister. Et, concernant le manioc, patate, tout ça, je ne sais pas si la membre est au courant, que tout récemment on est en train de transformer le manioc, on produit la farine de manioc, la farine de patate et il y a une pénurie. Ces gens de Montagne

Goyaves, je pense que pour ces personnes qui ont des maniocs ou patates qui n'arrivent pas à vendre. Même au marché le manioc se vend assez cher. Donc, le marcher est là et Montagne Goyaves, ils ont demandé plus de terrain pour planter parce qu'ils n'arrivent pas à trouver. Mais c'est dommage que - la prochaine fois contactez-moi, je vais vous dire comment aider ces personnes, moi je ne suis pas au courant qu'il y a des personnes qui ont du manioc. Contactez-moi, je vais vous mettre en contact avec ces gens qui transforment le manioc et tout, pour qu'ils arrivent à écouler leurs produits.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Je crois peut être que je me suis mal exprimé pour que le commissaire n'a pas bien compris ma question. Ce que je dis bien, le manioc, parce que moi-même, je suis déjà allé à Trèfles qui sont attaqués par les *coshnis* et ça meurent. La patate aussi ça brule, ça meure. Quand je dis compensation, ce n'est pas simplement, on pense toujours, ce n'est pas une question d'assister. Compensation, il y a plusieurs sortes de compensation. On guide les gens, comment est-ce qu'il faut faire, quels sont les produits qu'il faut mettre pour empêcher que ça se détruise. C'est ça que je suis en train de dire aussi, mais en même temps, disons-moi si disons, si j'avais, parce que j'en ai, avant que ma plante de manioc ne se détruit, je peux subvenir à mes besoins, mais il y a des personnes qui dépendent de ça. Ça n'atteint même pas la maturité parce que même si on cherche le manioc ou la patate à acheter mais si c'est pourri - mais qui vont acheter ça ? Mais la personne lui, il dépendre de ça. C'est ça que je suis en train de dire, peut être que monsieur le commissaire ne m'a pas bien compris.

Mr. R. Payendee: ... mal exprimer, madame. Mais maintenant, je comprends ce que vous voulez dire. Au fait, vous parlez des maladies qui attaquent les plantations de manioc ou de patate. Mais ça il n'y a pas de soucis, mais c'est la première fois que j'entends ça. Donc, il faut venir de l'avant avec. Et, c'est exactement ce qu'on dit. Le service, on a notre service d'agriculture partout à Rodrigues et jusqu'à maintenant personne n'est venu. Je me souviens des problèmes de limon avec les *coshnis*. Mais le truc de patate, manioc, là je vois, si vous regardez les journaux - *madame Vespa ine gagne ene patate coume ça avec ban forme impé drôle*. Donc, ce qu'il y a, ils n'ont pas vraiment de problème si vous regardez les patates que même madame Vespa a pu avoir dans son jardin.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je crois que le commissaire est en train de plaisanter comme d'habitude. Mais ce que je suis en train de lui dire, c'est sérieux. Parce que moi-même, je suis déjà allé à la station de Trèfles. Il y a des techniciens qui sont venus chez moi, ils ont pris des échantillons. Jusqu'à l'heure - rien, il y a presque qu'une année. Donc, à quoi ça sert d'avoir une station *fully operational* qui ne donne pas les résultats qu'il faut. Il faut répondre au question qu'on demande et de ne pas essayer de broder, de ridiculiser les gens aussi.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ce n'est même pas ça, madame. Je ne suis pas au courant qu'il y a ce problème. Je vais enquêter sur ce que vous dites et bien sûre on va prendre les actions qu'il faut.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, I would like to ask the question concerning the La Ferme Station. One of the facilities offered is about irrigation. So, can the Commissioner enlighten the House about this facility, so how is it and whether there is an officer in charge of this irrigation...?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: About irrigation, it is not the right time to talk about irrigation, of course. Yes, but this is a service that we offer. What we are talking is - we try to help the people, the farmers to come with a new ..., to talk about services, new scheme may be, it is not service, a new scheme, we are working. I am working with the Commissioner for Water to separate the water for domestic purposes and water for irrigation. And, this is what we are doing and there is a couple of actions that we are going to put into practice and this is our section for irrigation. And, also they are there to talk, to help people, to show them what are the best way to put irrigation system, drip irrigation or whatever system. They are there to help the planters. It is not a new service. Irrigation has always...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Irrigation has always been there. It is a new way of looking at things. It is not a new service. The service has always been there.

Madam Chairperson: The table has been advised that PQ B/145 has been withdrawn. Next question.

STATE LAND LEASE/EX-POINTE VENUS HOTEL

(No. B/138) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to State land lease originally granted to ex Pointe Venus Hotel, Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the date of the last payment of rent on leasehold therefor;
- (b) if the lease thereof was cancelled for breach of lease conditions and, in the affirmative, to state when;
- (c) the quantum of arrears thereon, if any, and to indicate if same have been recovered by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as at date, and, in the negative, to state if and when same will be done?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, a portion of land of the extent of three hectares and four thousand one hundred and twenty-two square metres situated at Pointe Venus was originally granted to Mauritours Ltd. I am informed by the Cadastral Office that:

- (a) As per existing records, the last date of payment of rent was effected by the Company on 14 October 2013 for the period ending 30 June 2013.
- (b) With regard to part (b) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I am informed that Article 15 (c) of the lease agreement provides that, “the lease is cancelled *de plein droit*” and without payment of compensation if rent has remained unpaid for more than three months after its falling due to a 48 hours’ notice served upon the Lessee by registered post.

Actions were initiated since then and the promoter was informed that the industrial lease was cancelled “*de plein droit*” with effect from 03 August 2015 in accordance to Article 15 (c) of the lease agreement. Legal action has been initiated against the lessee for a writ “*habere facia possessionem*” to resume possession of the site pursuant to the provision of the lease agreement. Meanwhile, the company Mauritours Ltd went under receivership and all the court cases had to be withdrawn and re-lodged under the Deed Administrator.

In the year 2015, proposal has been made for the setting up of a technopole on Rodrigues at the ex-Pointe Venus Hotel site. A delegation from the State Land Development Co. Ltd. visited the site and found same suitable for implementation of the project.

In view of the repossession of the site, the Government Valuer was requested to determine the compensation for added value of the land. The Government Valuer has determined the compensation to be Rs 55 million excluding furniture, plant and equipment.

However, as the court case was dragging on in court for more than two years and upon advice of the Legal Adviser, it was decided to proceed with an out-of-court settlement between Mauritours Ltd through its Deed Administrator and the RRA to proceed with the payment of Rs 55 m. as per Government Evaluator’s Report. The offer was accepted by the Receiver Manager of Mauritours with the condition that all unpaid rent be waived by RRA. The Executive Council in its sitting of 05 May 2017 decided to waive the quantum in arrears and both parties reached an agreement before Supreme Court. Upon

clearance from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in May 2017, the acquisition was completed.

With regard to part (c) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I am further informed that the quantum of arrears as at 03 August 2015, date of the cancellation of lease, amounts to about Rs 1.7 m.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner just said that Article 15 has been applied for the cancellation of lease “*de plein droit*” but for Article 15, it is stated that the lease is cancelled “*de plein droit*” and without payment of any compensation. Can we know why Mauritours has been compensated? Why there has been compensation for Mauritours Ltd?

The Chief Commissioner: Excusez-moi. La compensation c’est pour le bâtiment et non pas pour le terrain.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Chief Commissioner, being given that he has said that there has been an out of Court settlement between Mauritours and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Can I know whether the Rs 55 m. have already been made fully to Mauritours?

The Chief Commissioner: Evidement, oui. (*On n’a pas payé encore ?*) La cour a nommé un Receiver Manager pour voir le paiement de Rs 55 million.

The Minority Leader: *Donc, d’après ce que le Chef Commissaire a dit, que l’accord est intervenu et dans l’accord on a dit qu’on doit payer les Rs 55 million et if there is a waive of the rent. But how can he reconcile the fact that in the legal document, la compagnie Mauritours receivership Rodrigues Regional Assembly, in the legal document it is said that, all unpaid rent ‘kine fini’ would be deducted from the said amount of Rs 55 million. And now, I have been told that you have paid ‘totally, the Rs 55 million’. What about the unpaid rent?*

The Chief Commissioner: On n’a pas payé encore. Pas encore.

The Minority Leader: Therefore, I might understand that the rent will be deducted from the Rs 55 million? He has said that he has already paid the Rs 55 m. This is why. Because this is public money. The Rodriguan people must know.

The Chief Commissioner: J’ai dit qu’en ce moment que le Mauritours étant en *receivership*, donc il n’avait pas, absolument, il n’avait absolument rien d’argent pour payer. C’est ça. C’était une compagnie qui était en faillite. Il n’avait

rien. Au contraire, il nous avait demandé, si on pouvait ne pas enlever ce qu'il doit sur la terre.

The Minority Leader: Mais dans l'accord il est bien dit qu'on va enlever les *unpaid rent* de Rs 55 million. J'espère que cela va se faire. Mais pourrais-je demander au Chef Commissaire ce qu'il en est des travailleurs de l'hôtel Pointe Venus. Cela n'aurait-il pas été mieux de revendre l'hôtel à un autre promoteur pour sauvegarder l'emplois de ces travailleurs de l'hôtel Pointe Venus ?

The Chief Commissioner: Parce que, M. le président, nous nous avons vu que cette hôtel pourrait servir au développement de Rodrigues et c'est pourquoi on a parlé de Technopole. Cette hôtel pourra être utilisé pour des Call Centres (des centres d'appels) et autres projets lancer par des étrangers à Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: On est en train de déshabiller St. Pierre pour habiller St. Paul. Donc, pourrais-je savoir quand le Technopole va être opérationnel ?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner just said that the Government *Evaluer* evaluate the site of Pointe Venus and the building. Can we know whether there is a report from the Government *Evaluer*?

The Chief Commissioner: Évidemment, il faut qu'il y a un rapport.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can the Chief Commissioner table the report?

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, well I think this concern public money, everything must be done in all transparency. Personally, I see that the whole thing stinks. This is why, I think this report must be tabled.

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, you should withdraw what you have just said. This is unparliamentary.

The Minority Leader: C'est pas dans une assemblée qu'on peut dire ça ?

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, you should withdraw. You withdraw, now.

The Minority Leader: Withdraw what?

Madam Chairperson: You withdraw, now. This is the last time, Minority Leader. I am asking you to withdraw now.

The Minority Leader: I am not withdrawing. Withdraw what?

Madam Chairperson: You are challenging the authority of the Chair. You have to withdraw. ‘Stinks’, this word is un-parliamentary. You withdraw now. Minority Leader. I am giving you the chance to choose another word but you withdraw that one. This is un-parliamentary. I am telling you for the last time. You withdraw. I am giving you the chance to withdraw now, you use another word. I am sure you have the capacity to use better word to uphold the decorum of this Assembly. I believe in your capacity, so withdraw this word.

The Minority Leader: Okay. I was saying that the whole thing does not stink but it is not transparent.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order, order from both sides of the House. Yes.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chair, as we know that the Government *Evaluator* evaluate Pointe Venus, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the Government *Evaluator* knows that Mauritours has an arrearage since 2013? The arrearage has been taken into consideration before the Government *Evaluator*.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, everything has been taken into consideration in this report.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**GYNAECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS -HEALTH SERVICES/QEH
PRE/POST-NATAL, CAESAREAN SECTIONS PERFORMED**

(No. B/139) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to gynaecology and obstetrics health services provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, including pre/post-natal, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of caesarean sections performed, specifying if within or outside normal working hours, respectively, together with the number of infant deaths reported thereat for the corresponding periods of:

(a) 1st August 2016 to 11th October 2017;

- (b) 12th October 2017 to 31st October 2017; and
- (c) 1st November 2017 to date?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, returns of Caesarean Section for period August 2016 to 12 December 2017 are as follows:

Period	Normal Working Hours	After Normal Working Hours
From August 2016 - 11 October 2017	117	148
From 12 October 2017 - 31 October 2017	3	19
From 01 November 2017 - 12 December 2017	10	31

Infant deaths for period August 2016 to 12 October 2017 are as follows:

- January 2016 to December 2016 : 11
- January 2017 to October 2017 : 16

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know, Madam Chairperson, from the Commissioner for Health whether when caesarean sections performed after normal working hours, whether overtime is paid during these periods or compensation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, overtime is paid.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, can we know the rate, please?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: At the normal rate, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, according to the PRB Report.

The Minority Leader: Can I ask the Commissioner for Health, to have a close scrutiny on that. Because it is not normal that during certain periods all women that goes there, they have caesarean sections being done and then all of a sudden there is none. Well, these are our mothers, our sisters, we have to pay attention to them. I ask the Commissioner for Health to do the needful. Try to see that this fishy business stops.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé a trouvé que le meilleur moyen pour une dame d'avoir son enfant est peut-être par une césarienne. Mais nous, moi en tant que politicien, je ne peux pas

contester la décision d'un gynécologue, l'heure qu'il fait la césarienne, si c'est *urgent* ou si ce n'est pas *urgent*. Il est le professionnel dans ce domaine. *And this is purely technical and I cannot say.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**OFFICIAL VEHICLES, RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY/LIST,
AMOUNT DISBURSED, OVERTIME, PARKING SITE LOCATION**

(No. B/140) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to official vehicles of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly attached to Commissioners and/or other high ranking officials, from January to October 2017, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table:

- (a) the list thereof, indicating the respective vehicle per official;
- (b) the amount disbursed for overtime per driver per month per official car/vehicle;
- (c) if all overtime work claimed by the respective official drivers have been settled as at date and, if not, to give details thereon; and,
- (d) the night parking site location for each vehicle and to indicate whether any derogation is applicable therefor?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I have to inform the House that official vehicles are attached to Commissioners and the Chairperson of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in line with the provision of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Allowances and Privileges) Act.

I am tabling the details with regard to the respective vehicle per official, the amount disbursed for overtime per driver, per month, per official vehicle from January to October 2017 as well as night parking site location.

I am further informed that due to shortage of vehicles, some of the vehicles attached to the Commissioners are also being used after working hours to cater for transport of delegation to and from airport and official duties such as dispatch at the respective commissions.

I am informed that some overtime has not been paid and is under process. Payment will be made thereafter.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the fourth part of the question - whether there is any interrogation in regard to applicable and in regard to night parking? Can the Chief Commissioner answer?

The Chief Commissioner: It is in the paper tabled. In the paper I have tabled.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Anyway in the meantime - let me have the paper. In the meantime, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we have noticed several times, several times, during late in the night, the vehicles attached to some commissioners, I mentioned, to some commissioners who are supposed to be parked in the indicative areas mentioned on this piece of paper, they are not there, and they are at their place, at home of the respected drivers. Can the commissioner inform us, why?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I will find out.

Mr. J.L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner, I think, is not telling us the right information. The vehicle attached to the Chief Commissioner, himself - can the Chief Commissioner inform the House, why at many/several times at 11.00, the vehicle is parked at the place of his driver?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the vehicle is parked at Citronelle – at Citronelle Commission but not at his place.

Mr. J.L. R.Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I will not come to this House spending time of this House. This is true what I am saying. Right? I have got lot of pictures, lot of pictures. Anyway, they do not want to answer. Anyway. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, question of overtime. With regard to Commission for Social Security, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Rs 49,000 a month, Rs 38,000, Rs 25,000. Whereas, the Chief Commissioner - Rs 14,000 and others - Rs 5,000. Commission for Environment - Rs 4,000. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House what special driver, what special things these duties, these drivers are performing after office hours to have this sum of money?

The Chief Commissioner: I have told that in my reply, Madam Chairperson. I am further informed that due to shortage of vehicles, some of the vehicles attached to the commissioners are also being used after working hours to cater for transport of delegation to and from airport and official duties, such as, dispatch at the respective commissions.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: If you are mentioning late night duties, can the ... Commissioner confirm to this House, whether there has been case of, police case

referring to alcohol with regard to several drivers driving commissioners' in this government?

The Chief Commissioner: I have not heard of that, Madam Chairperson. We will find out with the Police Headquarters.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I make a plea again to the Chief Commissioner. Je fais un appel au Chef Commissaire, nous constatons qu'il y a des abus et c'est notre devoir, de dire et d'informer qu'il y a des abus au sein de certaines commissions par rapport à certains chauffeurs qui véhiculent les officiels du gouvernement. Et, en plus de ça, l'argent, des deniers publics sont payés. Le Chef Commissaire nous a, à maintes reprises, mentionné dans cette chambre, fait des allocutions extrêmes pour dire qu'il y aura transparence, qu'il y a *good governance*. But quand nous voyons tout ce qui se passe aujourd'hui, nous constatons avec regret que tel n'est pas le cas. C'est un abus de la part de certain. Alors, je vais demander, je vais faire un appel pressant au Chef Commissaire de veiller à ce qu'il n'y a plus ces abus parce que c'est l'argent du public, l'argent des contribuables qui sont utilisés pour payer tous ces *overtimes*, *abuse*, moi, j'appelle ça un *abuse*, pour qu'il y a plus de la transparence et le souci de transparence dans l'avenir. Merci.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

(No. B/141) Mr. J.L.R. PERRINE (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others whether, in regard to internet service providers in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) and table the name of the organisations concerned, if any, from 2012 to date;
- (b) if there has been any agreement signed thereby with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and, if so, to table a copy of each; and,
- (c) if any government/public infrastructure/building has been made available thereto and, if so, to provide the conditions thereof and to table all related documents in connection thereto?

The Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others (Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis):

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (a) of the question, there are actually two Internet Service Providers in Rodrigues namely: -

- (i) Mauritius Telecom (Orange); and
- (ii) Emtel Ltd.

I am tabling the names of the two organisations concerned. However, Madam Chairperson, one company namely, Millennium Internet Exchange Ltd, a duly licence company by the ICTA (Information and Communication Technologies Authority) is actually proceeding with the installation and testing of satellites for provision of internet services.

As regards, to part (b) of the question, Madam Chairperson, an agreement has been signed between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and Millennium Internet Exchange Ltd. on 06 July 2017. I think it is inappropriate at this time to table a copy of this contract.

As regards, to part (c) of the question, Quarters FED 1 at Pointe Venus has been put at the disposal of the company free from rental charges for the first five years of operation to be used as the technical building hosting the operations centre. The building and keys were handed over to the promoter on 06 July 2017 after signature of the agreement.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, le bâtiment DBM de Camp du Roi, a été rénové presque *free of charge* par l'Assemblée Régionale. Le bâtiment de Pointe Venus alloué à Millennium Exchange Ltd., *free of charge for a period of five years*. C'est pour ça que *l'agreement* ne peut pas être *tabled*. Madame la présidente, *enough is enough*. We want transparency in this Assembly and we want transparency with public money. If the respected Commissioner does not, have nothing to hide, I will humbly ask her to table the contract agreement between the RRA and the Millennium Exchange Company Ltd.

Mrs. R.M.F.Gaspard-Pierre Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, we have got nothing, absolutely nothing to hide. I have been here numerous times to explain about these details, about the incentives, the RRA has given to ICT operators, in various sectors, to incite them, to inspire, to come in Rodrigues to invest, to provide employments and to have additional services in Rodrigues. So, there is nothing to hide. We have signed an agreement with all the different companies who are settling in Rodrigues for their operation.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: The Respected Commissioner is inviting people to have a business plan for a proper business for three years. Can you explain why you give five years exempt to this company?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madame la présidente, c'est pour vous dire que nous sommes conscients du montant du coût d'installation des entreprises à Rodrigues, ça coute vraiment très cher. D'ailleurs, si on allait attendre que ces investisseurs viennent pour construire leurs bâtiments, ça allait prendre beaucoup de temps et au lieu de pouvoir opérationnaliser toute suite, ça allait prendre un an, deux ans. C'est pour cela qu'à Maurice on donne de *l'incentive*, ça existe, pourvu qu'il y a transparence. Nous on a pensé qu'aider ces entreprises en terme de bande passante, le contrat est bien déterminé, en terme de bâtiment, ça va aider à booster dans ce secteur qui est l'informatique à Rodrigues.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Oui, Madame la présidente, je comprends, nous ne sommes pas contre ce projet. Mais, j'ai dit et je redis encore, pourquoi les entrepreneurs de Rodrigues eux ils ont trois ans pour faire un *business plan* etc. et la personne en question, la compagnie en question, ils ont exempté cette compagnie-là pendant cinq ans. Là, il y a un injustice. *That is why my question and I want you to table the documents. You passed an Executive Council's decision on that matter. Why do you not table it? Where is the ... in that matter?*

Madam Chairperson: Please, address the Chair.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, please madam. I want the commissioner to table the documents because it is public funds and we must know why, instead of three years, she gave the company five years?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madame la présidente, je crois que les entrepreneurs de Rodrigues n'ont rien à envier à ces entrepreneurs. Si un Rodriguais qui est prêt à venir avec un projet dans l'informatique, on lui donne les mêmes facilités que ce qui vienne d'ailleurs. D'ailleurs, on a vulgarisé ces facilités. On attend. On serait content qu'il y a des Rodriguais qui viennent. Le jour où ils viennent avec des projets concrets et viables, on leurs donnent les mêmes facilités. Et, je dois dire aussi que, pourquoi on a donné cinq ans, cette entreprise qui vienne, donc c'est un vieux quarters, qui n'était pas en service aujourd'hui et qu'on donne pour cinq ans simplement pour installer l'équipements, donc au niveau technique. Je ne vois pas où est le problème si on donne à un vieux bâtiment qui n'était pas utilisé. Parce que aussi ce bâtiment est situé dans un endroit stratégique pour l'installation donc, des antennes. C'est pour cela qu'on a donné ce bâtiment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: C'est un vieux bâtiment, c'est un bâtiment qui était utilisé pour *house Departmental Heads, high officials from Mauritius*. C'était un bâtiment qui était en service. Ce n'est pas un vieux bâtiment. L'autre bâtiment qui est à côté, ça je suis d'accord, c'est un vieux bâtiment. Mais qu'est-ce qu'on fait

de nos patrimoines ? On est en train de dilapider. Non, ce n'est pas possible, madame. *You must not come to this House and tell us that this is an old building. This is not true. This is not correct. And, you mentioned in your reply that if ever some Rodriguans come with a sustainable project, like you mentioned, you will give the same facilities. Madam, what the Commissioner has done up to now? From 2012 up to now.* Vous êtes toujours dans la Commission d'IT. Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait depuis 2012 jusqu'à maintenant pour promouvoir le IT concernant ce genre de projet à Rodrigues ?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madame la présidente, juste pour vous dire, que ce bâtiment a presque 40 ans déjà. Presque 40 ans. Donc, je laisse le soin maintenant, aux membres du parlement ici d'interpréter 40 ans, c'est un bâtiment comme le décrit donc, *the Respected Member*. Et, ces *incentives* qu'on a mis en place depuis 2013, on nous a vulgarisé, on a invité les jeunes professionnels de l'Association de l'Informatique. On leur a communiqué ces *incentives*. On les encourage à venir avec ces projets. Et, je redis, le jour où un Rodriguais vient avec un projet dans le même sens, au niveau de l'informatique, on lui donne les mêmes facilités qu'on a donné aux autres.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Madame, pour le ... de la transparence.* This company is a private company. It is a private company, so it is making profit. Whether here or not, but he is making profit. Right? At least, for transparency, you should have claim at least Rs 1 for rental to this company. This is ethical. What you have done is not correct. And, I am asking the Commissioner to see to it that things like this does not happen and see to it how to claim money with the internet service provider.

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, I am really sorry, it is very petty what the member is saying. It is normal that, it is stipulated that, any government asset should be given for a nominal fee. So, whether it is Rs 1 or Rs 10, it will be done, yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The Respected Commissioner mentioned the word petty. This is not correct. I am asking her to remove that word.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Your point of order is not valid.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Okay, thank you, Madam.

The Minority Leader: *Just to ask some clarification. I was made to understand that this company is a profit making company and ce n'est pas une*

institution charitable. Ce n'est pas une institution charitable. Donc, il aurait pu louer des bâtiments de certains Rodriguais. Mais là, on est en train de donner des bâtiments du gouvernement, on est en train de créer un dangereux précédent. Mais s'il n'y a pas de problème mais vous n'avait qu'à *table the agreement so that everyone can see to it that there is nothing fishy*.

[Poor quality of recording]

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam la présidente, c'est vrai la compagnie n'est pas [...] profit making. [...] le gouvernement loue un bâtiment pour donner ça [...] Qu'est-ce qu'on veut ? On veut donner la chance aux jeunes afin de permettre certains [...] Mais nous ce qui nous intéresse ici, c'est la création d'emploi pour les jeunes. Et, comme le disait bien mon collègue ici, on va donner aux gens, aux Rodriguais qui investit dans le secteur informatique ou bien sinon plus parce qu'on veut qu'ils soient les premiers à être des acteurs du développement à Rodrigues. Et, d'ici 2019, on va encourager d'avantage d'entrepreneurs à investir dans ce domaine à Rodrigues.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner how many work/employment has been created by the company [...] installation?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam la présidente, j'ai bien répondu. Donc, dans ma réponse j'ai bien dit, qu'actuellement nous sommes en train de faire des tests et une fois que le test terminer [...] bande passante, ils vont commencer les opérations et nous prévoyons que les opérations vont démarrer d'ici fin de janvier.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner whether there is a business plan available prior to the setting up of this [...] if there is any, I would like to have access to these documents, please.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Yes, Madam Chairperson, there is a business plan. I do not have it with me now but [...]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, can the Commissioner assure this House that these documents will be tabled in the library of this assembly for us to [...]?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, we will table it, yes, because we have got nothing to hide, we have absolutely nothing to hide.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner until 2019, how many jobs will be created in the company?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, in the business plan it has been clearly stipulated, it is according to the capacity of [...] the company [...] So, it is being clearly spelt out in the business plan [...].

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

OFF-LAGOON FISHING

(No. B/142) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to off-lagoon fishing in Rodrigues, from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of:

- (a) fishermen per category per year, if any, who have been trained for off-lagoon fishing techniques and table the list thereof;
- (b) off-lagoon fishermen cards delivered for the corresponding period and table the list thereof together with the amount of money disbursed to date for bad weather allowance for the new cardholders?

The Commissioner for Fisheries and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a), the number of fisherman trained in off-lagoon fishing techniques are as follows:

2012 - 12 fishers
2016 - 24 fishers
2017 - 112 fishers

Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I am tabling the requested information.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b), I have to inform the House that my commission delivered off-lagoon fishermen cards to 12 large net fishers from the Port Sud Est Multipurpose Fisherman Cooperative Society on 28 June 2012 after they have agreed to relinquish their large net fishing activities. One fisher was delivered his card on 09 January 2012 since he was absent when fishermen cards were delivered in December 2011.

Madam Chairperson, on 22 September 2017, fishermen cards were issued to 23 fishers who completed the training in 2016. For the whole period therefore, a

total of 36 fishermen cards have been issued. Fishermen cards will be issued in due course to the 112 who completed their training this year.

Madam Chairperson, a sum of Rs 264,743 has been paid as Bad Weather Allowance to each of the fishers who obtained their cards on 28 June 2012 whereas the one who was issued a fishermen card on 09 January 2012 has been paid Rs 252,513 from the time of issue of the card to date.

Madam Chairperson, no Bad Weather Allowance has been paid to the 23 fishers who were issued their cards on 22 September 2017. An enquiry is still ongoing to determine their eligibility for Bad Weather Allowance. A decision will be taken regarding payment of Bad Weather Allowance depending on the outcome of the enquiry.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner for Fisheries delivered 24 off-lagoon fishermen cards to fisheries already [...] 24 in 2016. My interpretation [...] entitled to have Bad Weather Allowance [...] enquiry ... eligible or not ...? [...] what was these training? This means [...] that these fishermen [...] and why from 2016 to September 2017 these fishermen have not been paid [...]?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is with great pleasure that I will enlighten the Member concerning that issue. We trained the fishermen in off-lagoon fishing techniques, we did not train the fishermen in Bad Weather Allowance. They were not trained in that. We trained them in off-lagoon fishing. This means that this will help them to go fishing with the right techniques and the right equipment. Regarding Bad Weather Allowance, it is a pity to say that, you know, with years we have noticed that fishermen try to have fishermen cards because they want... it is something hidden. It is not because they want to go and fish outside, it is because they want to get Bad Weather Allowance. And, this we want to stop this. And, how many people, how many fishermen actually getting Bad Weather Allowance are really fishing? This is a question that I put. And, the reason why my commission is going towards differentiating on professional off-lagoon fishermen and off-lagoon fishermen. Anyone can go fishing but we recognize these people, we show them, we teach them the best techniques and we give them all the facilities that we give to all fishermen except Bad Weather Allowance, because contrary to the meaning of why we give people/fishermen Bad Weather Allowance is Bad Weather Allowance is taken/is seen as *la paye pêcheurs*. This is not *la paye pêcheurs*. This is a social aid and as all social aid, with regard I am talking under the correction of my colleague, Social Security, social aid you give to people who really deserves it, on merits. And, most of these people that are being trained, we have noticed that they are not professional fishermen. How can we give Bad Weather Allowance to someone who is a

contractor? This is wrong and we will enquire also on those who already have, because we will differentiate between professional off-lagoon fishermen and off-lagoon fishermen simply because, it is bad. Actually, a lot of fishermen, real professional fishermen are not benefiting from this facility, simply because their names do not appear. That is why, we want to create/give. With regard to Bad Weather Allowance, the Member ask the question who is doing the enquiry. It is being done by Social Security itself and officers of the government are looking into this matter to make sure that this practice, bad practice stops and we give to professional fishermen, Bad Weather Allowance. So, it is not *la paye pêcheurs*. This is how people see it but this is what we need to change. We do not give *la paye pêcheurs*, we give a social aid to those professional fishermen who go fishing. For the time of bad weather, they cannot go fishing so they do not earn any living. So, all the other fishermen, that I am talking about, bad weather or not bad weather they go and construct a house, they go and do contractor business, they do something else. So, this is what is happening and we will be enquiring on the other fishermen as well. So, this will be given on merits.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regard to the policy of training in the Commission for Fisheries, when fishermen are getting trained there is a sum, an allocation given to them during the period they have their training. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether such allocation has been given to these fishermen, 24 fishermen or prior to these one has his commission paid allocation to these fishermen?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, all fishermen being trained will be paid, if they have not been paid yet, they will be paid this money that we know money... Because while we take them for training, they cannot get another form of living, that is why we give them this money. All fishermen that goes for training with us will be getting, if they have not got it, they will get it.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Si telle est le cas, Madame la présidente, le commissaire en question, le commissaire Payendee, occupe le poste de Commissaire du Fisheries depuis 2012 et jusqu'à 2017, il est toujours Commissaire of Fisheries. Enfin, je ne sais pas jusqu'à quand, jusqu'à nouvelle ordre [...]. Mais, Madame la présidente, ces pêcheurs qui ont été *trained as soon as they finished their training, there should be an assessment made*. And, the officer responsible for training should give a report to the commission stipulating that if ever these people can be considered as professional or not. May I ask the commissioner; can I ask him whether this thing has been done or not?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this has been done. I said it already. These people are getting an off-lagoon fisherman card, which means that we recognise them as off-lagoon fishermen. We are already doing the enquiry;

these people, that is why we took them in the sea as well to make sure that they know how to fish. The enquiry has been made with regard to, whether they are off-lagoon fishermen. If it was not the case, they would not have got the chance to go on our boat for training. But the question is about bad weather and I have already explained this one.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I am talking why these 24 fishermen is not, since one year, considered as professional fishermen since they have already done their training at the Commission for Fisheries. And, there is a report supporting that. Why are all these fishermen not eligible to have a professional fisherman card?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I said in my reply that the 23, we talked about 24 but 23 have already received their cards. We gave them the cards. The one which is, it is the 112 that have just been trained who have not received their fishermen cards yet. But the enquiry is on. These ones which have received their fishermen cards to see whether they can be considered as professional off-lagoon fishermen or just off-lagoon fishermen.

Madam Chairperson: The table has been advised that PQ B/151, B/152 and B/153 have been withdrawn. Next question. Next question. The Fourth Island Region Member.

ALLOCATION – CONTRACTS/PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

(No. B/143) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether in regard to the allocation of contracts for public infrastructure in Rodrigues, since 2015 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the number of contractors who have been awarded contracts, indicating the grading designation of each contractor and their respective area/s of specialisation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): Madam Chairperson, 34 contractors have been allocated contracts for public infrastructures in Rodrigues since 2015 to date. I am tabling the grading designation together with the respective area/s of specialization for each contractor.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SETTING UP - SLAUGHTER HOUSE/BAIE DIAMANT

(No. B/144) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the

setting up of a slaughter house at Baie Diamant, she will state where matters stand as at date in relation thereto and the time frame for the implementation of the project?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam the Chairperson, with regard to the operationalization of the slaughterhouse, a Technical Committee consisting of the main stakeholders – both public and private has recently been set-up at the level of my commission. The mandate of this committee is to develop the appropriate action to kick-start and to make this project sustainable.

Madam Chairperson, the House would recall that on numerous occasions, I sought out from the agreement signed between the RRA and the CMAR (la Chambre des Métiers de la Réunion) for the processes in connection with the operationalisation of the Slaughter House of Baie Diamand. One and all, would note that a consultant was recruited under the agreement and a report was submitted in relation thereto by the consultant. Several recommendations were made in the report, that is, the need to bring some infrastructural changes to the building, the need to set up essentials amenities, such as, waste water treatment plant, the need to organise *les filières* to be concerned and the report also provide indicative cost required for the acquisition of the equipment for the operationalisation of the Slaughter House.

Madam Chairperson, the House would note that the building constructed for the Slaughter House by the former government for the cost of nearly **Rs 70,000 m.** would rather be used for both slaughtering and processing now. That is why, instead of talking about the slaughter house we are now talking about the SME Park of Baie Diamand. Being given that, a huge extra amount is required for the SME Park of Baie Diamand to be fully operational, the decision to seek private partners have been taken. That is why, my Commission seeks the concurrence of the Executive Council so as to launch an International Expression of Interest so as to insight private partners with experience to associate themselves to the project. The document for the EOI is now ready and the Central Prucurement of the RRA will launch same in early January 2018. In parallel, a consultant has been recruited to work with the Commission for Agriculture for different associations of animal breeders and cooperatives and the youth trained at the Chambre des Métiers so that a coordinated approach is developed towards the project. I am happy to inform the House that the youths trained at Chambre des Métiers are now organized in cooperative. They are now being coached by the consultant to develop standardised products and new products also for the market testing and at the same time for continuous training programme.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, well this project was to be a Slaughter House Project according to European norms and, up to now we are still slaughtering animals here and there without any norms at all. Am I to understand, that now, the Slaughter House Project will be no longer a Slaughter House Project, it will be an SME Park. So, am I to understand that there will be no slaughter house according to European norms in Rodrigues?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, may I inform the Minority Leader that slaughtering is one activities of SMEs'. So, what is an SME Park? It is a place where people are gathered with facilities to undertake their activities. I mentioned in my answer. So, there will be slaughtering but also processing at European norms effectively.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam Chair, we have many young who have courses. Why launching an International Expression? Why not helping these young to operate the slaughter house?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, in fact, I mentioned it, I would mention again, the building costed at nearly Rs 70 m. For equipping the building now, because a building is not a slaughter house, it is a slaughter house until and unless it is equipped and duly equipped. And, the equipment will cost nearly the same amount as the building. That is why, we are, of course, favouring these youths, which we ourselves sent to Reunion Island for training and we are coaching them, I mentioned it again in my answer, we are coaching them, we are giving them additional training to develop standardise products. And, what we are proposing, is that, if ever there is a private company who want to invest in this project, priorities should be given in term of human resources to these trained people. So, they will be involved and because it will cost very, very high to the RRA, that is why we are trying to seek partnership with private organisations.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, the purchasing of Pointe Venus Hotel has cost Rs 55 m. And, Madam, the Respected Commissioner is saying that the sum to develop, to equip the slaughtering house will be at least Rs 55/56 m. Is money a problem for RRA? We are spending lots of money since 2012. Rs 400 m. in water and nothing has been done up to now and then you just come here and tell us that you have to launch an International Expression to have people coming from abroad to here? *Est-ce que les Rodriguais ne sont pas capable d'investir dans ce projet-là ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas des personnes à Rodrigues qui sont compétent et qui sont capable d'investir un PPP ? Pourquoi l'Assemblée Régionale ne rente pas dedans, Madam Chairperson, Madam?* Can the Commissioner inform the House, whether she considers this correct, in giving

all the facilities to strangers prior to the Rodriguans who are capable to do things here?

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, opening the EOI to international partners, private does not mean that Rodriguans are excluded? Should there be Rodriguans with the capacity, the know-how, the capacity to invest in the project. Of course, they will be favoured. Of course, the question is not to be asked. Because they should know, those people they have been also travelling abroad, slaughtering is may be not so much difficult/technical but to be competitive in terms of processed products, it is not given like that. So, if we can have private partners to associate, this will be also something additional to what the government will be doing. Because the government already invested Rs 70 m. I should not say that money is a problem. But if we can bring along, you mentioned it, the PPP, if we can have a good partnership with the private, I do not see anything wrong in it and if there should be Rodriguans capable of investing, we will, of course favouring them, of course in a transparent manner.

Madam Chairperson: Time is over. Time is over.

ONGOING CAPITAL PROJECTS

(No. B/145) Mr. F.A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to ongoing capital projects initiated by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if any thereof is behind schedule, as per contract documents/obligations, and:

- (a) table a list thereof not completed to date, per Commission, including the penalty applied per project as at date, if any, and indicating the respective delay in each case; and
- (b) indicate what measures are being taken by his regional government to remedy this situation, if any?

[Withdrawn]

PROJECTS ALLOCATED TO: HOLDERS OF '*ATTESTATION DE FIN DE FORMATION*' LEADING TO THE *BREVET PROFESSIONEL AGRICOLE* (BPA)

(No. B/151) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to projects allocated to holders of the '*Attestation de fin de formation*' leading to

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the *Brevet Professionnel Agricole* (BPA) by the Commission for Agriculture, he will state, for the benefit of the House, the number of applications received at his Commission in relation thereto together with the number of approved projects currently being implemented following this training?

[Withdrawn]

PROJECTS AWARDED - BENEFICIARIES OF EMPLOYMENT RELIEF PROGRAMME (ERP)

(No. B/152) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Employment and Others whether, in regard to projects awarded to beneficiaries of the Employment Relief Programme (ERP), he will, for the benefit of the House, state

- (a) the number of beneficiaries of agricultural projects with respect to the first and second batches thereof, indicating the implementation status of the respective projects as approved and funded; and
- (b) the measures set for the monitoring of the said projects detailing any collaboration between his Commission and other stakeholders, including the Commission for Agriculture, in connection thereto?

[Withdrawn]

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN RODRIGUES
EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACTS/MINIMISE RISKS/COMPLAINTS**

(No. B/153) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Employment and Others whether, in regard to employment in the construction industry in Rodrigues, he will state to the House on any:

- (a) non-Rodriguan worker(s)/contractors who has been awarded contracts in the construction industry in Rodrigues for this financial year; and,
- (b) measures set by his Commission with all contractors to minimise any risk of exploitation or discrimination towards the female and male workers onsite; and
- (c) complaints registered with regards to dismissal or unduly low pay rates or tardy payments by contractors to the workers thereof?

[Withdrawn]

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

Madam Chairperson: Order please.

ALLOCATION OF SEATS –SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that the allocation of seats in all secondary schools for mainstream in Rodrigues was done by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate on the basis of the following criteria:

- (i) Parental choice;
- (ii) Residence of the pupil;
- (iii) Grade aggregate of the pupil at PSAC.

Madam Chairperson, I can inform the House that the number of pupils admitted to the mainstream is 649.

With respect to pupils who sat for the Primary School Achievement Certificate but who have not attained the required level of competencies, the process of allocation of seats in the Extended Stream/Programme was done based on the proximity of their residence of the regional secondary school. As such, a team from my Commission was mandated by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate to provide assistance in the exercise. The number of pupils admitted to Extended Stream is 289.

The House is being informed that out of the 940 school candidates who sat for the Primary School Achievement Certificate in October last, 649 got through with an overall pass rate of 69.26% as compared to 69.22 in 2016. 65 candidates missed one subject and these candidates have been given the opportunity to take that subject in a re-assessment exercise which will be held on Thursday 21 December 2017.

Madam, Chairperson, prior to the re-assessment the candidates have been given an opportunity to follow remedial classes to enable them to succeed in that particular subject. The remedial classes are being run from 13 December to 20 December 2017 in four lead schools namely:

- (i) Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School;
- (ii) Notre Dame de Lourdes RCEA;

- (iii) Mangues Government School;
- (iv) Ste Thérèse de L'enfant Jésus RCEA.

The Assessment Question Papers have been dispatched to my Commission by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate on Monday 18 December 2017 and once the re-assessment exercise is completed the scripts will be forwarded to the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate for marking.

Madam Chairperson, in the context of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Schooling, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Education has organised a three-day workshop for Grade 7 Educators of the main stream and Extended Programme from 05 to 07 December 2017 at Le Chou College. The training aimed at introducing the National Curriculum framework and materials for Grade 7 Educators while familiarising also participants with the new differentiated approach in the teaching and learning process. Some 271 Educators attended the training.

In the same light, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research has informed this office in a correspondence dated 05 December 2017 that following the revision of the National Curriculum Framework in the context of the Nine Year Schooling, new textbooks for Grade 7 have been developed by the Mauritius Institute of Education and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute as from academic year 2018. They said, Madam Chairperson, the Ministry has also informed that all books for Extended Programme will be provided free of charge and these books will be available at the beginning of 2018. Subsequently, my Commission in the context of the Free Book Loan Scheme has made necessary arrangements to procure books for Grade 7 for the main stream from Editions de l'Océan Indien. Grade 7 books will be provided to students from next academic year.

INSCRIPTION - SEGA TAMBOUR OF RODRIGUES ISLAND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

The Commissioner for Youth and Others (Ms. M.R.L. Edouard):
Madam Chairperson, it is with great pride and honour that I wish to bring to the attention of the House that the Inscription of the Segha Tambour of Rodrigues Island on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at the Republic of Korea was proclaimed on Thursday 07 December 2017 during the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Jeju, South Korea. Indeed, it is a major achievement for Rodrigues in terms of worldwide recognition, visibility transmission and protection.

Madam Chairperson, a delegation from Rodrigues comprising of three artists and myself have joined the Ministerial Delegation of the Ministry of Arts and Culture and attended the twelfth session of the meeting from 04 to the midst of December 2017. The Delegation was welcomed with Segga Tambour performance on their arrival in Rodrigues on Monday 11 of December and a '*Point de presse*' was organized on 13 of December with the tambour practitioners.

Madam Chairperson, the Segga Tambour of Rodrigues is now recognised by UNESCO as a vibrant, exhilarating and rhythmic performance of music, song and dance with the origins in slavery, based on tambour, *triyang*, *bwat* and *mayos*.

Madam Chairperson, with the origin in defiance and resilience, the Segga Tambour provides a strong sense of identity, belongingness and continuity to Rodriguans, bridging the gap between classes and status in unity of purposes, celebrating common identity. It also provides practitioners with the opportunities to showcase and transmit their knowledge and skills contributing to social and economic welfare and environmental sustainability through concept of recycling, embedded in the use of items like '*bwat*' and '*tryang*'.

Madam Chairperson, as a State Party, before the inscription of the Segga Tambour, the Republic of Mauritius has only two elements, namely the Traditional Mauritian Segga and Bhojpuri folk songs of Mauritius Geet-Gawai, inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2014. Segga Tambour of Rodrigues is the first element of the Rodrigues Island forming part of the Republic of Mauritius to be listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Madam Chairperson, during the mandate 2012–2017, it was clear that a major achievement in the field of culture would be to submit the Segga Tambour of Rodrigues dossier for possible inscription on the list of UNESCO. It is to be noted that the National Heritage Fund regularly does consultations and inventories on tangible and intangible heritage in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to the Segga Tambour dossier itself the mounting started with the first Heritage Trip in 2015 with the delegation comprising of Prof. Abungu, UNESCO Expert working with the National Heritage Fund, Dr Janoo from the University of Mauritius, University of Mauritius faculty members, twelve MA Students and cadres of the National Heritage Fund to carry out an inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Rodrigues including our traditional music and dance. Various consultations and workshops in Mauritius and Rodrigues on Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

were done from 04 to 12 August 2015 to prepare the Nomination Dossier. This exercise was the starting point of the preparation of the nomination dossier on 'Sega Tambour' for possible inscription on the UNESCO list.

Madam Chairperson, the dossier was finalized by a team led by Prof Abungu with the full collaboration of the officers of my Commission and was approved by the Executive Council on 22 February 2016 and, on 31 March 2016, the Nomination Dossier was submitted to the UNESCO by the Ministry of Arts and Culture following the various consultative meetings with the different stakeholders, including practitioners and local community in 2015 and 2016.

Madam Chairperson, with this major achievement, Rodrigues will have to ensure that Sega Tambour remains an active component of the Rodriguan life. It represents a huge step towards bringing the Sega Tambour of Rodrigues at the highest and most prestigious international level and it gives our local practitioners, community and Rodriguan culture a deserved recognition.

Madam Chairperson, the government recognizes the need to empower the community to benefit from the Intangible and Cultural exchange while acknowledging the challenges especially that come with the inscription of Sega Tambour and the resulting visibility in place measures to respond to negative consequences. These measures are as follows, I will not mention all but some:-

1. Establishment of a platform of professionals, that is, 'Maitre d'Arts' in the field of Sega Tambour;
2. The Commission for Arts and Culture working with artists to set up of a code of ethics and conduct, providing artists with guidelines on Sega Tambour performance to avoid negative effects and influences of potential over-commercialisation related particularly to tourism industry;
3. Setting up of an association of artists with scholars from Rodrigues and MBC, to document and disseminate the history of the Sega Tambour;
4. To collaborate with the NHF to draw guidelines to safeguard the element through documentation, research and dissemination;
5. To establish the archive of Rodrigues, that is, to consolidate it with the Sega Tambour and to ensure the Library Service does the promotion of same;

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6. The Commission for Education and the Ministry to include the history of the Segá Tambour Rodrigues within the curriculum and to ensure its transmission to the very young;
7. To continue encouraging families, groups, individuals to perform the Segá Tambour; and
8. To seek opportunities to promote public performances to ensure that various platforms are readily available for artists amongst others.

Madam Chairperson, during the last meeting of the Executive Council on 15 December 2017, discussions have already started to mark the 07 of December every year - Rodrigues Segá Tambour Day, the day on which the Segá Tambour has been nominated as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Madam Chairperson, my commission will spare no effort that will lead to the promotion and safeguarding of Segá Tambour. In the first instance, a meeting will be held with all Rodriguan artists to explain the implications behind the inscription and also, we shall in an immediate future as is the vision of the Chief Commissioner to create cultural clubs in schools to ensure the transmission of knowledge to our young generation.

Madam Chairperson, let me remind this assembly that the first cultural exchanges between artists of the region was held in the late 70's where Rodrigues has been able to showcase its traditional music which is unique in the Indian Ocean and the creation of the Regroupement des Artistes Rodriguais has led to a fortification of the musical identity of the island.

Madam Chairperson, coming back to the Inscription of Segá Tambour in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, there are two major elements that have retained the attention of UNESCO:

- (i) a community based approach was adopted;
- (ii) actions that authorities are taking to promote and protect the Segá tambour have been highly considered.

Madam Chairperson, when it comes to measures that should be taken to safeguard our traditional music, first of all, great tributes should be paid to our pioneers who contributed a lot in the transmission of the practice of Segá Tambour. A working session will also be held on the UNESCO Convention 2003 to ensure people are acquainted and are aware of its content. Further attention will be given to our Ecole de Tambour which is already in place to ensure our youngsters are able to have enough expertise in the field.

Madam Chairperson, to end I wish to express heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who have really been of great help and support in the mounting of the dossier. First of all, allow me to thank the Chief Commissioner and all my colleagues who have been very supportive and encouraging in the mounting of the file since 2015 and 2016 when everything concretely started. I will thank the Ministry of Arts and Culture that accepted to present our dossier as well as Mauritius Heritage Fund for all support, Prof. Abungu, his team, the Conseil Culturel, our practitioners, partners and collaborators, the officers of my commission, the local community and the whole of Rodrigues people who have been part of this rich adventure in 2015 and 2016. Thank you, Madam Chair.

END OF YEAR GREETINGS

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, comme veut la tradition, permettez-moi d'adresser quelques mots à la Chambre. Je voudrais tout d'abord présenter à vous et à Monsieur Spéville et votre famille nos vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Bonne et Heureuse Année 2018. Permettez-moi, Madame la présidente, de présenter aussi nos vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Nouvel An à tous mes collègues commissaires et à leurs familles, au Minority Leader et à sa famille ainsi qu'aux membres de cette assemblée et à leurs familles. Je voudrais surtout féliciter et remercier mes collègues pour leurs prestations, leurs courages et leurs participation active aux travaux de cette assemblée. Nous l'avons fait dans le respect et la dignité comme des hommes et des femmes responsables. Nous ne nous sommes jamais écarté et nous nous écarterons jamais de notre vision de construire ce pays et d'accompagner les Rodriguais dans la construction de leur avenir. Nous croyons à la réalisation du câble optique, à l'agrandissement du port et de l'aéroport, à une meilleur distribution d'eau et au projet de dessalement. Avec ferme conviction, mon gouvernement a pris l'engagement que d'ici la fin de notre mandat tous les projets deviendront une réalité visible. Nous continuerons à prendre la responsabilité d'assurer le développement sociale, culturelle, économique et infrastructurelle.

Madame la présidente, puis-je vous demandez en mon nom personnelle et au nom de tous les membres de cette assemblée de transmettre à la Présidente de la République, son Excellence Ameenah Gurib Fakim et sa famille, au Vice-président, M. Barlen Vyapoory et madame, au Premier Ministre l'Honorable Pravind Jugnauth et madame Jugnauth ainsi qu'aux membres de son cabinet, au Leader de l'Opposition, l'Honorable Xavier-Luc Duval et madame et aux membres de l'Assemblée Nationale et leurs familles, nos vœux de Bonne et Heureuse Année 2018. Nos meilleurs vœux de Bonne et Heureuse Année vont aussi au Clerk de l'Assemblée Régionale, à tous les personnels de l'assemblée et à leurs familles, les policiers et leurs familles. Nos souhaits vont également à

l'Island Chief Executive et les personnels de mon bureau, le Departmental Head ainsi que toute les personnels de différentes commissions et leurs familles.

Madame la présidente, une fois de plus, nous remercions très sincèrement les Rodriguais et Rodriguaises pour la confiance qu'ils ont dénié placer en mon gouvernement lors des dernières élections de février 2017. Je voudrais donc, présenter à toutes la population de Rodrigues, tous les enfants, les jeunes et adultes mes vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Bonne et Heureuse Année 2018. Je les remercie pour leurs intérêts et dévouements pour le développement de Rodrigues et leurs courages à travailler pour la réussite de cette île Rodrigues autonome. Je tiens à rassurer le peuple que mon gouvernement continuera à bâtir l'île Rodrigues de nos rêves car nous voulons que chaque Rodriguais et Rodriguaise vivre heureux dans notre petite île. Aux enfants et aux jeunes qui vont prendre et qui prendrons le chemin de l'école, nous leurs souhaitons une bonne rentrer de classe pour 2018. Nos vœux de Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année vont aussi à toutes ces familles Rodriguaises qui vivent et travaillent à l'île Maurice. A ceux et à celles habitant l'île Maurice et qui travaillent à Rodrigues et à nous *ban grands dimunes*, qui durant les fêtes de fin d'année vont vivre les souvenirs inoubliables de leurs vies.

Je vous remercie de votre attention, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

The Minority Leader: Madame la présidente, je voudrais aussi exprimer mes vœux à vous et à votre famille et je vous demanderais aussi d'exprimer nos vœux à madame la Présidente de la République, Mme. Ameenah Gurib Fakim, le Premier Ministre, le Leader de l'Opposition, les membres du gouvernement, les membres de l'Assemblée Nationale. Et, je voudrais aussi exprimer mes vœux à tous les Commissaires et les autres membres de..., le Chef Commissaire, les Commissaires et les autres membres de l'Assemblée Nationale. Je ne voudrais pas oublier les membres, les dignitaires religieux, le Clerk, les staffs de l'Assemblée Régionale, les policiers qui nous ont bien aidés, le staff qui nous ont bien aidés durant cette année à l'Assemblée Régionale. Je voudrais ne pas oublier le peuple de Rodrigues, exprimer mes vœux aux peuple de Rodrigues et de Maurice, sans oublier la diaspora Rodriguaise qui sont un peu éparpiller à l'étranger, je ne voudrais pas oublier les étrangers qui sont ici en vacance, je voudrais leurs souhaiter un Joyeux Noël et une Bonne et Heureuse Année et tout le peuple de Rodrigues, tous ceux qui nous ont supporté, ceux qui ont voté pour nous au dernier élection, les jeunes, les vieux. En cette fin d'année, je crois que c'est une occasion, je n'ai oublié personne, si j'ai oublié quelques-uns, je m'excuse déjà. Donc, je voudrais exprimer mes vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Bonne Année à tous qui sont à Rodrigues ou à l'étranger. Merci.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I wish to associate myself with the seasons' greetings as expressed to Her Excellency, the President of the Republic, Mrs. Ameenah Gurib Fakim and Mr. Fakim, to the Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Barlen Vyapoory and Mrs., to the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Mrs., to the Minister Mentor and Minister for Rodrigues, the Right Honourable Sir Aneerood Jugnauth and Lady Jugnauth, to Madam Speaker, Mrs. Hanoomanjee and Mr., to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition of the National Assembly, to the Honourable Ministers and Honourable Members of the National Assembly and their respective families. I thank the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader for their kind words and good wishes. In return, I am pleased to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas 2017 and a Happy New Year 2018 on behalf of the Secretariat of Rodrigues Regional Assembly and on my own behalf to the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Louis Serge Clair and Mrs. Clair, to the Deputy Chief Commissioner, to the Commissioners, to the Minority Leader and to all Respected Members and their respective family. I seize this occasion also to thank the Respected Members of this August Assembly for their collaboration and understanding all throughout the year. I also extend my thanks and best wishes to the Clerk of the Regional Assembly, the Serjeant-at-Arms and his staff, all the staff of the Regional Assembly for their contribution the whole year round. I direct the Clerk, to transmit the seasons' greetings of our Regional Assembly including those of the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader to all concerned. Once again my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Thank you.

SOUND RECORDING SYSTEMS

Respected Members, I have one last announcement for today, you are all aware that we have been experiencing serious difficulties over the past months with the sound recording systems of the Regional Assembly Chamber. In that regard, I am pleased to inform the House that contract has been awarded for the upgrading of the Assembly's Recording Systems in the Chamber, together with the installation of new recording equipment in our Committee Room. The contractor will start to mobilize for work at our assembly premises as from the 08 of January 2018 and same will be completed in March 2018. As such, it is expected that these works will likely caused much noise and disruption within the precinct of the House, I am therefore, calling upon the good understanding and collaboration of all Members, especially those Members who spend considerable time in the library throughout the duration of this upgrade. I thank you for your attention.

/UNREVISED/

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly be now adjourned to Friday 30 March 2018 at 15.00 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

INVESTISEUR ETRANGERE - CRIMINEL

The Minority Leader: Merci, Madame la présidente. Il est de ces choses qui doivent nous interpeller et j'aurais aimé ne pas avoir à intervenir en ce moment mais il faut le faire pour le bien de notre pays. Rodrigues est une île accueillante, on n'accueille pas mal d'étrangers qui habitent ici mais il paraîtrait qu'il y a certains étrangers qui abusent de l'hospitalité Rodriguaise. Il y en a qui ont commis des délits dans leurs pays et arrivent à Rodrigues, ils se croient en pays conquis et ils font un peu de n'importe quoi. Ils prennent de l'argent sale et viennent investir dans notre pays. C'est pourquoi j'aurais aimé interpellé le Chef commissaire, peut-être on pourrait travailler de concert avec le bureau de l'immigration à Maurice, avec le bureau du Premier Ministre pour essayer de faire de sorte qu'on ne se laisse pas abuser, je dis bien, certains étrangers, pas tous, il y en a qui sont vraiment *genuine*, qui font des belles choses mais il y en a qui utilisent Rodrigues comme-ci dirait comme un repère, comme une cachette pour fuir la justice de leur pays. Et là, actuellement, il y a un exemple qui nous interpelle et dans la presse française ça fait les gros titres. Je ne vais pas citer le nom, dans le Parisien, par exemple, dans les journaux, sur l'internet, on line, dans plusieurs journaux français, il est question d'un français, d'un certain C.J. qui a été condamné à un an de prison ferme par le tribunal de Nantes avec mandat d'arrêt. Il est accusé d'escroquerie de plus de Rs 5 million en France. Il est venu tranquillement s'installer à Rodrigues et ils font du business ici à l'hôtel Cotton Bay. Et, les français qui viennent ici, ils se demandent mais pourquoi est-ce que nous laissons des gens comme ça venir investir ici. Mais ça, gâche un peu notre réputation. Ce n'est pas bon pour la réputation de notre pays. Je crois que ça doit être *above* parti politique ça, parce que ça nous affectent tous. Il ne faut pas que certains étrangers viennent dire que Rodrigues est une cachette pour certains bandits. S'ils viennent investir de l'argent propre, d'accord mais pas de l'argent mal gagné. Et là, ces personnes-là, il y en a plusieurs, je cite un exemple. Il y en a plusieurs. Et, vraiment il y en a qui se comporte très mal vis-à-vis de la population Rodriguaise. Il y a des Rodriguais qui restent tranquilles. Il y en a qui se comporte très, très mal. Donc, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire, essayer de voir

si ce ne serait pas possible de mettre en place une petite unité avec les éléments de la police, le bureau du Premier Ministre, le Tourism Authority et le bureau de l'Immigration et essayer de voir s'il y a des personnes louches qui viennent ici, d'essayer de voir leurs profiles, de voir si ces personnes-là sont vraiment *genuine*, s'ils ne viennent pas cacher la justice de leur pays ici en emportant de l'argent sale. Sinon, ils vont donner le mauvais exemple. Je ne voulais pas citer de nom mais il y en a plusieurs, il y en a plusieurs. Et, il y en a qui mange à tous les râteliers et qui font... (*non line dir la vérité mo bizin accepté*). Il y en a plusieurs, il y en a plusieurs. Vous avez été victime de ça, nous avons été victime de ça. Et vous serez encore victime si on ne fait rien. Si on ne fait rien, se sera grave pour le pays. Donc, la France, par exemple, c'est un pays ami, la France est un pays ami. Nous, nous devons de le respecter tout comme nous nous devons de respecter Rodrigues et les Rodriguais en empêchant de tel bandit de venir faire leur nid dans notre pays. Merci, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

ALLEGED CLOSURE – INTERNAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert): I thank you, Madam the Chair. The RRA obtained grants amounting to billions of rupees from the National Budget annually. To ensure that the funds, which are contributed by tax payers are used judiciously and intelligently and, utilise in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Financial Management Manual, management must ensure a good and trustful internal control system. Internal control and internal audit are vital elements of good financial management to ensure that appropriate procedures, practices and good control are in line with the good objectives and good governance by preventing errors with an extravagance in commissions and departments. According to Financial Management Manual, the objectives of internal audits are numerous and the main one are listed as follows:

- (i) To evaluate control system;
- (ii) To ensure compliance, rule, procedures and regulations;
- (iii) To evaluate organisational efficiency and effectiveness;
- (iv) To access accuracy and reliability or departments reporting process;
- (v) To evaluate effectiveness of department, accountability, framework and the extend of adherence to ethical standard; and finally
- (vi) To recommend courses of actions at valid organisations.

Since the advent of the autonomy, commissions have benefited of the services of Internal Control staff who have contributed towards the attainment of the internal control objectives. The internal control must ensure the of a

proper performance system. Instead, we have recently observed the dismantling of the Internal Control System. The Internal Control System [...] I wonder [...] detection of illegal activities in various commissions and departments.

Mrs. Chairperson, according to the Financial Management Kit, Volume VI of 2013 - Internal Control can help as an entity, active its performance target and prevent loss of resources. It can help ensure that the organisation comprise with law and regulation and other consequences. Accountancy, transparency, words that the Chief Commissioner likes to use, does not exist however in that present case. It is not save for a country to do without an Internal Audit.

Mrs. Chairperson, I humbly request, the Chief Commissioner, *kan mem line alé*, the Executive Council to reverse the decision of the Island Chief Executive of closing the Internal Control Office and ensure that the Internal Control System is put in place anew and as soon as possible so that control of RRA range as it is an important tool for the management. Thank you, Madam the Chairperson.

TROISIEME AGE – ANIMAUX A LA LARGUE

The Third Island Region Member (Mrs. M. T. Agathe): Madame la présidente, je me fais un plaisir, je vous remercie de me donner la parole pour pouvoir parler au nom des troisième âge, concernant surtout deux points. Nous savons tous que, ce n'est pas le Commissaire de l'Agriculture qui va nous démentir, parce qu'il ne me demande jamais, que les plus grands éleveurs traditionnels sont les personnes âgées surtout en cette période de sécheresse, les éleveurs font la pluie et le beau temps avec leurs animaux. Surtout, je me réfère à l'Est, il y a beaucoup de plantations qui ont été dévaster. Bien sûr il y a eu des communiqués à la radio disant qu'il faut se rapporter à la Police, à la Police de l'Environnement etc., mais le problème avec les personnes âgées, c'est que c'est difficile pour eux, parfois même de téléphoner à la police s'ils n'ont pas une aide. Et, quand on téléphone à la Police, ils viennent. Mais que peut faire la Police ? ils ont beaucoup de chose à faire. On attrape les bœufs, il n'y a pas de tag, la police-même ne sait pas quoi faire. Quand on attrape les bœufs avec les numéros, il faut aller au bureau de l'agriculture, ça tarde. Maintenant le plus jolie, c'est que, si on peut attacher un bœuf avec la corde et avec tag, on ne peut pas garder ça chez soi, parce que se sera possession illégal. Et, à la police, surtout dans l'Est, il n'y a pas de place pour garder les animaux. Donc, je demanderais au Commissaire de l'Environnement de voir à ce qu'une solution soit trouvée vite parce que les grandes personnes, comme a dit le Chef Commissaire, nous voulons vivre bien notre fin d'année sans quiétude et léguer des valeurs aux gens. Quand il y a des dégâts comme ça, est-ce que ce n'est pas possible, au niveau de sa commission d'instituer une commission pour voir, quand on a eu un numéro de bœuf, d'avoir une personne pour évaluer les dégâts et de faire une entente ? Parce que quand on

va à la police, il faut donner une déposition et ça prend du temps et nous les grandes personnes nous n'aimons pas aller en cour. Donc, voyez monsieur le Commissaire de l'Environnement, ce que vous pouvez faire pour régler ce problème-là pour que nous vivons en bon voisinage.

Deuxièmement, ma question sera adressée à mon grand ami, monsieur le Commissaire de la Santé. Alors, il y a beaucoup de grande personne arrivait à cette *[poor quality of recording]*. [...] qui m'entendent je vous souhaite Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année et que les commissaires en question prennent compte de nos doléances. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Fifth Island Region Member.

HANDBALL SITUATION IN RODRIGUES

The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Z. Félicité): Thanks, Madam the Chairperson. My statement is based on handball situation in Rodrigues. So, I remember, when handball was introduced in Rodrigues in the 1990. At the beginning, there were seven *[poor quality of recording]*. The Rodrigues Football Committee was responsible to organize the competition, such as, the championship, the Independence Cup and also *les inter-collèges*, in view to promote the discipline among the youth. Furthermore, the league champion and the runner up used to participate indirectly in the knock-out competition in Mauritius and also in Coupe Champion de l'Océan Indien. Today I wonder how many teams are left. Why? Since, the Commissioner of Sports does not give this discipline her priority. Madam the Chairperson, it has been more than two years now that the Commission of Sports has not organized any handball competitions in Rodrigues. Two years. I remember in 2015 during a prize giving ceremony for handball at Manique, the late former Commissioner of Sports has announced in his speech that his commission will construct a gymnasium at Manique. So, I am calling upon the good faith of the present Commissioner to enlighten up the House where matters stand concerning the construction of the gymnasium at Manique. Whether, she will fulfill the dreams of the late former commissioner and all the people involve in handball. It is good to note that handball is an Olympic indoor game since Rodrigues athletes have potentials to do better. So, why not one day we can participate in this event. Moreover, a gymnasium for handball in Rodrigues will help to organize local and also international games in Rodrigues. So, in the meantime, Madam the Chairperson, I am calling upon the good faith of the Commissioner for Sports to look upon the existing infrastructure, *les complexes sportifs*, for handball. There are many people who are interested to play handball in Rodrigues. However, there is no proper handball court with marking lines. Mostly on all sports complexes, there is no goal post for handball player to practice. There is no lighting on certain sports complex to allow handball players

to perform at night. Moreover, since the last competition, some referees are still waiting for their due. So, the lack of infrastructure and also the *laissez faire* of the Commissioner have contributed to the failing of handball in Rodrigues. But it is never too late to take good resolutions. So, once more, Madam Chairperson, I am calling upon the good faith of the Commissioner of the Sports to see to it so that, next year we can at least have one handball competition organise in Rodrigues. Thanks, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner for Sports.

REPLY OF COMMISSIONER FOR SPORTS – HANDBALL

The Commissioner for Sports (Ms. M.R.D. Edouard): I should like to give only few details, very few. I think the Respected Member, is already aware because I have already made organising meeting with all those who are involved in handball, recently. And, we have already decided to do a major event next year. And secondly, to enlighten the House, in the context of the Rodrigues trail, the DTN for handball was here in Rodrigues and he proposed us a series of actions, training that ought to be taken pending that the *comité régionale met li en ordre. Donc*, this has to be done at their level. And, also to note that, he has been talking about infrastructure, a survey has already been done over the infrastructure around the island and I wish to enlighten the House that, indeed he is right, handball was really thriving in Rodrigues, was really flourishing but as from 2007, it has dropped up considerably, not to say to disappear. So, with regard to the gymnasium, indeed we have already planned to construct one. We are going to confirm the place where the gymnasium will be constructed. And, on top of it all, beach handball also, is being practiced in Rodrigues at night because we are promoting beach games. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Fourth Island Region Member.

ACTIVITES/INFRASTRUCTURES SPORTIVES

The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin): Madame la présidente, année après année dans toutes les activités sportive, que ce soit dans les discipline collective ou individuelle, Rodrigues écrase tout sur son passage surtout chez les jeunes poussin, benjamin, minime et cadet. Et après l'éphorie de cette belle prestation et victoire, quel avenir est réservé à ces jeunes ? Que sont devenu les médaillés des précédents jeux ou compétition ? Combien parmi elles a pu atteindre la sélection nationale ? Quelle est la politique du gouvernement régionale pour ces sportifs ? Le sport d'élite est relégué au second plan par rapport au sport de masse. Dans combien d'année encore aura-t-on des Eric Milazar, Fernando Augustin, Enrico Louis, Antonio Vieillesse et Bernadette Perrine etc. ?

Existe-t-il une bonne relation entre la commission et les différents comités régionaux ? Est-ce qu'ils reçoivent tous les mêmes considérations ? Madame la présidente, Rodrigues a représenté Maurice lors des championnats du monde du beach handball de moins de 17 ans en juillet dernier à Maurice. L'équipe tentait leur chance pour trouver de la place sur l'avion, tandis que le match d'ouverture se jouait à Flic en Flac. L'Equipe Rodriguaise a pu se qualifier pour les Jeux Olympique Jeune prévu l'an prochain à Buenos Aires en Argentine. Est-ce qu'il y a un suivi après leur participation à ce championnat ? Quel sont les moyens qui ont été mis à leur disposition ou qui les sont déjà, pour leur permettre de s'entraîner régulièrement ? En ce qui concerne la lutte, Madame la présidente, il existe qu'un seul club dans la République de Maurice est c'est bien le Club de Rodrigues. Et, la fédération il est où ? A Maurice. Et le comble, la lutte ne figure pas sur la liste des disciplines aux prochains Jeux des Iles de l'Océan Indien. A propos des jeux des îles de l'Océan Indien, Madame la présidente, à Maurice deux gymnases sont en construction, un financé par la Chine et l'autre a bénéficié du financement de l'Inde. Un terrain synthétique est déjà prêt. A Rodrigues combien d'infrastructure nouvelle seront ou qui sont construction afin d'accueillir les quelques disciplines programmer chez nous ?

Le sport roi, Madame la présidente, le football. Le football Rodriguais traverse actuellement le moment le plus sombre de son histoire. Un moment où les jeunes font face à beaucoup de fléaux, des problèmes sociaux etc., et sans réfléchir les dangers les attendent. La Rodrigues Regional Football Committee, est-ce qu'il existe encore ? Qui sont ces personnes qui forment encore parti de ce comité ? Le *caretaker* comité dirigeait par Monsieur R. est-il dans la légalité ? Depuis la fin de la *league* en juin dernier, les clubs et les arbitres attendent toujours leurs dues. Les chauffeurs de la commission attendent toujours *zot largent overtime*. On a les ressources nécessaires, Madame la présidente, pour la réforme de notre football. La commission prend-t-elle en compte la compétence Rodriguaise ? Rodrigues, Madame la présidente, peut avoir son affiliation directement de la FIFA au lieu d'attendre les miettes de la MFA. Dans le statut de la FIFA, Article 10 – Admission partie 6, je cite : '*An association in a region which has not yet gained independence may with the authorisation of the Association in the Country on which it is dependent also apply for admission to FIFA.*' Pourquoi n'allons-nous pas dans cette direction ? Rodrigues avec son statut d'île autonome ne peut participer à des compétitions en dehors de Maurice sans l'aval des fédérations à Maurice. Comment Rodrigues pourra participer en tant qu'île aux Jeux des Iles de l'Océan Indien ? Un *sport tax* élaborer par Maurice et appliquer à Rodrigues, sans la prise en compte, de la spécificité de nos comités régionaux ? Quand le gouvernement régional viendra-t-il de l'avant avec des propositions d'amendements concrets aux Sports Act ? A quand la mise en place d'un comité régional olympique et d'un Rodrigues Sports Council ou d'un Rodrigues Sports Committee ? Autant de piste, que j'espère aidera la commission et le monde

sportif Rodriguais à franchir. Et, ce sont ces étapes qu'il faudra qu'on franchisse afin d'être vraiment autonome dans le domaine sportif? Merci, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner for Sports.

**REPLY OF COMMISSIONER FOR SPORTS
- ACTIVITES/INFRASTRUCTURES SPORTIVES**

The Commissioner for Sports (Ms. M. R.D. Edouard): Very few details again. Madam Chair, I wish to enlighten the House with regard to the sports d'élite, I have already answered in my question, that there is no disequilibrium, there is an equilibrium between sports d'élite and sports de masse because nineteen million is devoted to sports d'élite and one million to sports de masse. So, there is no issue about it. And, we have talk about various actions that are being taken and the 21 selections and all these things and, also the reform in football. I wish to remind the House also about the problem, not the problem, the issue that we are governed by the Sports Act, and indeed, we ourselves we are going through it, over and over again. We have asked for sensitisation campaign with *comité regional* ourselves and all actors in sports. And, we are going to draw the conclusion after we have mastered every item of the Sports Act. We cannot jump to conclusions just like that. We have to study the whole thing. And all this... and you have also... *voilà*. This is the MFA that declares a committee illegal or not. We have no say in that nor in the elections nor in anything. So, it is under the Sports Act. I wish to enlighten the House also about the Jeux des Iles. I will come forward very soon with an infrastructure plan and all the technical plans for the Jeux des Iles and my colleagues themselves said that a committee will have to be set. So, I will end here. But he raised a point about *la lutte*. So, this is a serious issue that my commission, the Chief Commissioner himself is taking good care of and we are going to follow the issue. I, myself have dealt personally with the minister and all these things and we are following. That is it.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Second Island Region Member.

DISTRIBUTION/GESTION D'EAU/SOLUTION

The Second Island Region Member (J.L.R. Perrine): *Yes, madam, thank you very much*, de me donner l'ocassion d'intervenir. Donc, tout à l'heure nous avons eu pas mal de discussion sur ce problème, qu'on appelle l'eau. La distribution et la gestion de l'eau. Mais je veux faire des critiques et en même temps proposer des solutions pour monsieur l'Adjoint du Commissaire pour qu'il

puisse prendre en considération et pour ne pas dire que nous n'avons rien fait et que nous n'avons rien dit.

Madame la présidente, *de l'eau tir dan ene l'endroit amene dan ene lot l'endroit*. Par exemple, à Crève-Cœur, on prend l'eau on pompe dans le camion, on va donner à Baie Malgache ou bien à Baladirou. A Crève-Cœur, alors qu'il y a des aménités, il y a des réservoirs dans les parages qui sont sous-utilisé, par exemple, je parle de Cygangue, je reparle encore, je dis encore de Morico et je parle à Bassin Saint D'or. Toutes ces régions-là nous avons de l'eau. Nous avons de l'eau, Madame la présidente. Mais le problème, c'est qu'il faut descendre sur le terrain pour aller voir comment est la situation. A l'époque, je me souviens on avait mis des *treatment plants, mobile treatment plant*. Ce sont ces *treatment plants*-là qui sont placés devant les digues, devant les réservoirs, pour pouvoir remettre l'eau dans l'état qu'il faut et donner directement à la population. Aujourd'hui, ce n'est plus le cas. Je ne sais pas où sont passé ces *treatment plants* mais il y avait ça à l'époque. Je demanderai au commissaire d'aller vérifier et de faire en sorte que ces *treatment plants*, s'ils sont abimés de les faire réparer et les mettre en service pour que la population ait au moins un service d'eau adéquate et correcte pour qu'ils ne subissent pas de l'hyper tension avec tout l'eau salé qu'on consomme actuellement. Les travailleurs qui travaillent dans ce secteur-là, on a placé des chefs politiquement parlant, des chefs qui sont à la tête et qui ne savent rien dans cette distribution d'eau ni dans la gestion d'eau. Parce qu'ils sont les petits copains de monsieur un tel, de madame un tel, alors il est placé là-bas pour ne rien faire, s'asseoir. Et, ça ce n'est pas correcte. On va demander au commissaire, *if this is true, this is a reality. We will ask the commissioner to see to it that the right man or the right woman be placed in the right place, depolitise this sector. We want to give a helping hand to solve this problem. We want to help but you must listen some times. Right ?* Et, nous devons écouter la population. *Vox Populi, Vox Dei*. Tout ce qu'on dit actuellement, tout ça ne vient pas de nous directement mais ça vient de la population, c'est le cri de la population. Regardez, par exemple, je vous donne un autre exemple, à Anse Goeland, un réservoir a été kidnappé par une famille. Si tu vas demander un peu d'eau tu as *coute sab*. Madame la présidente, ce n'est pas correcte. A Anse Goeland, tout près, entre Anse Goeland-Baie du Nord, un réservoir a été kidnappé par une famille. *Si to ale là-bas to gagne coute sab. Délo pou nou*. Ce n'est pas correct. Il faut qu'il y ait de l'ordre. C'est pourquoi dans mon intervention tout à l'heure dans une question, j'ai dit il y a une mauvaise distribution et une mauvaise gestion. Monsieur le commissaire, il faut descendre sur le terrain. Sur le terrain on va vous donner tous les informations. Ce qu'on vous donne dans le téléphone, au bureau etc. *this is*, des fois il faut vérifier, contrevérifier. D'accord ? Les travailleurs maintenant, ils en ont marre. Les Valves Operators. Ceux qui font leurs boulots correctement, ils ont la pression. Et, le chef dit fait ça alors que ça ce n'est pas correct. Donc, *they*

are fed up. Zot ine plein avec la situation. Maltraité par la population. C'est vrai. Gagne sipoté, gagne ici, gagne là-bas. Et après, fini.

Madame la présidente, nous avons parlé de la gestion de l'eau. *This should be above politics. This should be above politics. Right?* Parce que cette eau-là c'est un droit. Avoir de l'eau c'est un droit. Si on prive des milliers de gens de ce droit, donc ce qui fait qu'on est en train de commettre un crime envers la population de Rodrigues. C'est pour ça, qu'aujourd'hui vous avez des manifestations. Là maintenant à l'instant où je vous parle, il y a, à Ile Michel, les pêcheurs, la famille là-bas ils ont mis des bateaux pour bloquer la route. On a vu à Pointe Diable des gallons. Une seule femme. On a vu à Grand La Fouche. Partout, il y a eu ces manifestations et il y aura encore d'autre, je suis sûre. Parce que la question n'est pas prise au sérieux. Il faut le prendre comme il se doit. La question de l'eau c'est une question sensible. Il faut des communications à la radio. Donner des *right information* et il faut un suivi. Comme on a dit tout-à-l'heure, c'est vrai monsieur Lisette veut défendre son cas mais il ne faut pas autoriser les camion-citerne d'aller prendre de l'eau pour aller vendre à des firmes de construction. Ça c'est inadmissible. Aller prendre de l'eau à Cascade Pigeon, aller prendre de l'eau à Cygangué, aller prendre de l'eau n'importe où. Mais à Mourouk, il faut réserver cette eau-là pour la consommation potable de la population. Et, il y a même des policiers... Excusez-moi. Oui, je vais terminer. Madame la présidente, on a dit que toute cette affaire-là, il contrôle. Dans Coco, un chef, un haut gradé de la police avec son 4 x 4, il va à... le 4 x 4 du gouvernement, il va à Anse Quitor, il va récupérer l'eau à lui ? Ça ce n'est pas correcte. L'abus du pouvoir, il ne faut pas, il faut arrêter.

Maintenant, les propositions. Il faut mettre en place un *monitoring squad* pour travailler le jour comme la nuit. Mettez-les sur *shift system*. A Lataniers dimanche dernier, un *borehole*, la pompe, le tuyau est sorti de son *bracketing*. *Lavalasse dan Lataniers*. Alors, que les gens meurent de soif. A Fond la Digue, le bassin blanc, je vais vous emmener monsieur Lisette, ne vous en faites pas, je serai là avec vous. Un bassin blanc mit-là depuis 2006/2007, on a mis ça. Il fallait mettre encore deux ou trois. Tous les jours, le bassin déborde vers la mer. Personne ne fait rien. Personne. Et pourtant on a dit, on a archi dit, à vos agents de Fond la Digue. Ils sont au courant. Ils sont au courant. Non, il ne faut pas mettre de *bold cock*, il faut mettre un deuxième, un troisième et un quatrième bassin. Pas de *bold cock* pour que l'eau, parce que l'eau, c'est l'eau de la source. C'est l'eau qui descend naturellement. Madame la présidente, une *hot line*. Il faut mettre une *hot line* dans les différentes régions. Une *hot line* pour dire que, voilà j'ai un problème. Les problèmes de fuite. Nous on passe sur le terrain. Qui c'est qui donne des directives ? Qui c'est qui informe ? Il n'y a personne. Je vais téléphoner à qui moi ? Quand je vois une fuite quelque part. Personne, j'ai numéro de

téléphone. Il faut une *hot line* dans toutes les régions de Rodrigues pour pouvoir gérer ce problème d'eau.

Madame la présidente, l'eau il y en a à Rodrigues. Il y en a de l'eau. Il y en a suffisamment pour pouvoir subvenir au besoin de la population. Mais malheureusement, il y a certain qui préfère couper le Mahogani pour avoir l'eau mais malheureusement, jusqu'à aujourd'hui, il n'y a rien. Il n'y a rien comme de l'eau à Solitude. Mais par contre, il y a de l'eau un peu aux alentours de Rodrigues. Il y a de l'eau partout. Il faut y aller, il faut descendre sur le terrain. Et, je suis sûre qu'il y a des gens de bonne volonté qui veulent aider. Darcet, l'autre, l'autre, beaucoup de personnes qui ont travaillés dans ce secteur-là. Chez Franceau, à Grand la Fouche, si tu veux venir chercher de l'eau monsieur Payendee, il y a pour toi aussi. Il y a, venait chercher mais donner à la population et non pas ségrégation. Jusqu'à l'eau il y a ségrégation. Ce n'est pas correct. Donc, Madame la présidente, je fais un appel, voilà je dis, je donne des exemples et je donne des solutions. Right ? Pour pouvoir aider à sortir le peuple de Rodrigues dans la misère qui s'appelle, l'eau. Merci, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner.

**REPLY OF DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER -
DISTRIBUTION/GESTION D'EAU/SOLUTION**

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): Let me thank you, Madam, for allowing me just to give a reply to the Respected Member. The management of water in itself, it is a complex matter and we have to take things from its production towards its distribution, taking into consideration the quality that is to be distributed. The situation that we are here and, you all know that since two or three months, even more, we have not had any/enough rain so that we have enough tapping as regards, to surface water. This is one thing. We have had, if you look at the different means of rainfall for the different months, you will realise/note that for the different month we could have had up to 90 mm of water, sometimes 100 mm of rainfall but yet the mean rainfall per day is very low. For example, you can have 3 mm of water today, 3 litres of rainfall tomorrow. When you add it for one month you come up to 100 mm but this is not enough to cause an increase in our boreholes level nor in the surface of water distribution, in the surface of water ... This is one thing; this is one thing that you have to know. So, what you have to do? We have to ensure that we use the minimum amount that we have, effectively. Just to give you an insight of where matter stands. Because we are monitoring the production on a weekly basis. I am having a committee and we are monitoring the situation on a weekly basis just from one week to the next. We

have had a decrease in production from 5915 m³ per day to 5235 m³ per day, meaning a decrease of minus 13%. This is subsequent, this is significant. And, as such 900 – 700 m³ which is decreased within one week is equivalent to the distribution for, say 700 divide by 4, it is for about 200 families. And, when you add this for one week, it makes a lot. It makes a lot. So, I have told you this morning as regards to the south section, we have only one spot of production, one site of production, it is Caverne Bouteille and we are producing 350 m³ of water for that region whose water we have to distribute for all the south region. Anse Raffin is not producing enough, Songes it is breakdown, it is no longer working, it has broken down. Its rehabilitation would have cost more than it would be to purchase a new one. So, this is why we have gone into the idea of installing a new one and the contract has already been awarded to Laxmanbhai. And, we hope that in three or four months' time we are going to have a new desalination plant at Songes which will be producing 500 m³ of water. 500. Yes, next to the next place. Of course, in the next place because we have already got the EIA report and all. So, it is better that we just consider what has been done there and we go more quickly than changing the site where we would have gone to... It is better that we used the actual EIA with the boreholes and all, all junctions and that. This is one thing. You have mentioned about mobile treatment plant. So it is, I think in the year, just after cyclone Kalundé, if I remember well in 2003, there were two mobile treatment plants which were available in Rodrigues. And then, it is no longer there but we discussed it in the Water Committee, of going through procedures for the purchase of a mobile treatment plant and I am even suggesting that we proceed for emergency procurement for the purchase of a mobile desalination plant, at least two. Just so that we can move around the island. Because we do not know if the situation like we are now and if we continue, we do not have any rain for the next five months, six months, for how long is this drought going to last? We do not know. If it lasts up to June, if it lasts up to May, what will be the situation? So, this is why we have to take emergency suggestion, this is why at this particular point in time, I am proposing that we look into the possibility of at least pending the coming into operation of all desalination plants that I have already been mentioned this morning, we have at least two mobile desalination plants so that we can move around the island and distribute the water. So, it is to say that we have to tap existing surface water like you have mentioned at Morico, you have mentioned. All this has been discussed yesterday with the *camioneurs*. I mentioned it, I think, yesterday and this morning in my answer. Because before taking that decision, I have had to liaise with the lorry tankers. I cannot just take a decision and say ok, you are going to stop taking water from Mourouk. There would have been an uproar. So, what we have decided we have called upon the lorry tankers, we discussed ... and we are changing the operation itself at Mourouk. Because I told you this morning that, taking 250 m³ of water out of Mourouk is causing harm to the people of the eastern part of the island. So, this is why upon discussion with the lorry tankers, they have suggested sites where

they can explore water, where they can take water. They have mentioned Baie Diamand, they have mentioned Cascade Pigeon, they have mentioned Pajerome and they have mentioned Fond La Bonté. There are at least five, six, or seven sites that they have proposed. So, this is why at the level of my commission – I think six, seven may be it is among the list but we have already sited some of the places. So, this is why there is a work that is being done and of course, along with this infrastructural work, it should be coupled with the education of the Public Officers. I am not going to say that all the Valve Operators are not doing their job properly. I know that they are under pressure. I know that some may be not giving the right information as it should be to the public as it should be done. They are not giving the right information to the public. This is why during our weekly discussion emphasis is laid upon how best to use our Valve Operators as ambassadors to help, to give information to the public at large. You mentioned also about what happened at Lataniers. Yes, I did know about it but imagine yourself that something happen. Just two minutes, madam. Imagine yourself that there is a breakdown that happen at one in the morning. I cannot have a squad that is going all around but I have got three squads that have been set up since my coming to the commission. I have got a squad at La Ferme sector. I have got a squad at the north. And, I have got a squad also at the central. Why? Why? Because, let me finish, please. Because at a particular point in time whenever there is a breakdown during the weekends, we have to wait up to Monday to repair same. So, this is why we have set squads in the different sections so that whenever there is a breakdown there is immediate intervention to get the matter repaired.

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Deputy Chief Commissioner. The time is over now. I will now invite every one of you for a refreshment. The House stands adjourned.

The House stands adjourned.

At 3.51 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 30 March 2018 at 3.00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

CONSTRUCTION – DESALINATION PLANTS - OVERVIEW/STATE OF PROGRESS

(No. B/146) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of desalination plants around the island, he will, for the benefit of the House, give an overview of the state of progress of the different on-going projects concerning same?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the status of progress with respect to the construction of desalination plants around the island is as follows:

1. Building and Civil Works Pointe Coton Site

The building and civil works have been completed in October 2017.

2. Bay Malgache Site

The contract for “Building works for Proposed Desalination Plant at Bay Malgache, Rodrigues” was awarded on 07 September 2017 and the commencement date was 06 November 2017. Works are ongoing on site and the progress is about 15% completion.

As regards to the Construction of Seawater Intake Structure and Associated Pipeworks at Bay Malgache Desalination Plant, Bids were closed on 23 November 2017. Three bids were received and evaluation of same is in progress.

3. Equipment for Pointe Coton and Bay Malgache Sites

The installation of the equipment for the mentioned two sites falls under the contract ‘Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plants and Equipment at Bay Malgache and Pointe Coton, Rodrigues (CPB/55/2017)’ was launched on the 09 October 2017.

Opening of bids was carried out on 06 December 2017 at the Central Procurement Board (CPB) and five bids were received.

The Bid Evaluation Committee is being set up at the CPB for evaluation of the bids received.

4. Construction of Songes Desalination Plant and Burying of Associated Pipeline

Evaluation of bids for the project ‘Construction of Songes Desalination Plant and Burying of Associated Pipeline’ has been completed at the CPB and notification for award has already been issued. The deadline for challenge was the 5 December 2017 and no challenge was received from unsuccessful bidders. Contract has already been awarded for a 500 m³ desalination plant

5. Rehabilitation of Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille Sites

Bids have been launched for the repairs of these two plants with closing date on 22 December 2017.

6. Pilot Project for Solar Desalination Project at Caverne Bouteille

A pilot project for the installation of a solar power desalination plant is being set up at Caverne Bouteille desalination plant. The project is financed by AFD in conjunction with Mascara. The contractor has already carried out site visit and location for the solar farm field has been identified as well as the civil works to be carried out. The equipment is actually being mounted in France.

MOU – UNDERSEA FIBRE OPTIC CABLE MARS

(No. B/147) Mr. J. R. Rambally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others whether, in regard to any recently signed memorandum of understanding for the laying of the undersea fibre optic cable MARS, she will inform the House about the scope of works together with the respective timeframe, indicating the funding method thereof, together with any additional works that have to be carried out so that Rodriguan houses are connected to the fibre optic cable?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the contract for the procurement of Internet Connection Bandwidth Services through Undersea Fibre Optic Cable from Mauritius to Rodrigues Island was launched on 10 April 2017 and closing date for submission of bids was fixed on 30 June 2017. Only three (03) bids have been received and the contract was awarded to the successful bidder, Mauritius Telecom Ltd on 20 September 2017.

The launching ceremony of the project, which was named Mauritius Rodrigues Submarine Fire Optic Cable, commonly known as the MARS project was held on Saturday 18 November 2017 by the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development and was followed by the signature of contract between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and Mauritius Telecom Ltd.

Madam Chairperson, I have been informed that the contract period is as follows:-

- 20 years for provision of minimum internet connection bandwidth of 100 Gigabyte per second (Gbps); and

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- Provision of internet connection bandwidth within 24 months from letter of award.

While payment to the Contractor on the other hand will be made every quarterly on basis of fixed cost and any additional bandwidth services purchased.

The scope of works/services includes the provision of internet connection bandwidth through undersea fibre optic cable from Mauritius to Rodrigues and the following requirements should be met, namely: -

- A dedicated undersea fibre optic cable with a minimum design of 32 wavelengths consisting of at least 100Gbps per fibre pair. The system shall initially be equipped to provide at least 100 Gbps.
- Dedicated cable landing station in Rodrigues and at other end with connectivity to existing landing stations.
- A Network Operating Centre (NOC) for management of undersea fibre optic cable system and landing station.
- State-of-art technology equipment for the undersea fibre optic cable system and landing station.
- Provide the RRA with an internet connection bandwidth capacity of 100 Gbps in the first instance.

The connectivity to international internet shall be provided as follows:-

Connectivity	Period
2Gbps	Year 1-2
5GBps	Year 3-20

On instructions by the RRA, provide additional internet connection bandwidth in multiples of 50Gbps within a period of 3 months.

In that respect, Madam Chairperson, I have further been informed that a team from Huawei Marine (HMN) with their agent EGS has planned to carry out a survey in Mauritius and in Rodrigues in connection with the MARS submarine cable on 21 and 22 December 2017.

However, with regards to any additional works that have to be carried out so that Rodriguan houses are connected to the fibre optic cable, I wish to inform the House, Madam Chairperson, that no additional works are planned nor been identified so far by the Contractor at this stage of the project but all technical issues thereto are presently being worked-out by the latter and as such updated programme of work will be submitted in due course.

NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS PROJECT 2016

(No. B/148) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the National Health Accounts Project 2016, he will inform the House about the project, detailing the activities scheduled in relation thereto, including past, on-going and future ones, indicating the respective objectives, completion date and expected outcomes thereof?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the National Health Accounts (NHA) is an internationally accepted tool that measure all expenditures on health, including spending by Government, the private sector, households and all other stakeholders engaged either directly or indirectly in the provision of health services.

The main objective of developing health accounts is to provide evidence-based information for the cost-effective allocation of financial resources. NHA also enable us to determine health financial indicators, such as per capita expenditure on health as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product. These indicators are vital to determine the health status of a country. Here, I am referring to life expectance and maternal and child health indicators.

Besides, NHA is a pre-requisite to monitor progress related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health.

Madam Chairperson, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends Member States to develop NHA on an annual basis. These Health accounts are also published in the Annual Global Atlas Health Expenditure of the World Health Organisation.

Development of NHA inextricably depends on both primary and secondary data. As far as primary data collection is concerned, 675 households are actually being interviewed in Rodrigues. This exercise aims to capture household out-of-pocket spending on health in Rodrigues.

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In addition, the NHA Team from Mauritius has also had working services with all Non-Governmental Organisation, the Commission for Health and Others and the Commission for Social Security to capture expenditures incurred from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

Madam Chairperson, data collection in Rodrigues is expected to be completed by 23rd December 2017. The NHA Report for the Republic of Mauritius, including the island of Rodrigues is expected to be finalized in April 2018.

World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life have provided both financial and technical support for this project.

The expected outcomes of the NHA Report 2016 are in line with the objectives I have outlined earlier the last NHA Study undertaken in 2014, indicates that total health expenditure, in the Republic of Mauritius, was Rs 21.5 billion, out of which Rodrigues spent Rs 414.2 million on health. This amount included an expenditure of:

- Rs 306 million by the Commission for Health and others
- Rs 5.0 million by Commission for Social Security and Others
- Rs 94.1 million by Households in the private sector (Rodrigues, Mauritius and foreign countries)
- Rs 7.2 million by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Rs 1.9 million through Employer's Contribution for the health of their workers.

NHA 2014 also reveals that per capita expenditure on health (both public and private sector) in the island of Rodrigues was Rs 9,911.46. In the public sector, it was Rs 7,442.58 whereas in the private sector it was Rs 2,413.91.

Madam Chairperson, in line with the recommendation of the World Health Organisation, Mauritius has institutionalized National Health Accounts (NHAs). This implies that NHA should be produced every year.

FIFTH EDITION OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT

(No. B/149) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the fifth edition of the Youth Parliament, she will inform the House about the outcomes thereof, stating the major recommendations made by the youths and indicating measures being envisaged by her Commission to implement same?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the Youth Parliament is an initiative set up by my Commission in order to allow our youth in Rodrigues to participate in decision making and help the policy makers in formulating policies.

Madam Chairperson, I am proud to inform the House that since 2012 more than five hundred youths have had the opportunity to live parliament experience and develop their leadership skills through these five editions.

Madam Chairperson, during this 5th Edition of the Youth Parliament, some 200 youths debated on the two following themes namely sustainable communities and secondly ‘Les aspirations pressantes de la jeunesse Rodriguaise qui est notre atout, notre défis et notre Devenir’.

Madam Chairperson, the following major recommendations were made during this 5th Edition of the Youth Parliament: -

Under the theme “Les aspirations pressantes de la jeunesse Rodriguaise – Nos atouts, nos défis et Devenir”, the members of the Youth Parliaments debated under three main fields namely:

- (i) Education
- (ii) Work and Employment
- (iii) Leisure and Sports

and recommended the following: -

- (a) to introduce civic education from grade 7 onwards;
- (b) to recruit career counselors for all colleges and have as target to recruit 3 career counselors by August 2018. The work of the career counselors would be to guide the students in the choice of subjects especially for Grade 9
- (c) to provide students with information on job opportunities in Rodrigues Island before going for Tertiary Education.
- (d) to organize cultural exchange for students of grade 8 and 10. The purpose of this activity is to make sure that the upcoming generations will not forget their culture and the history of Rodrigues.
- (e) to urgently place nurses permanently in all schools;
- (f) to place a psychologist in schools to cope with the situation of our youth;
- (g) to introduce the concept of night school to offer a full-fledged opportunity for late learners to have a better and higher education;

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- (h) to construct a specialized school for the disabled children; they will have access to an education which will enable them to assimilate in the main stream and find jobs and support their families later;
- (i) to ensure access of the youth to tertiary education.
- (j) to introduce the concept of creative economy.
- (k) to open an “ecole des pecheurs”
- (l) to instigate the “Auberge Culturelle”
- (m) to build an online marketing platform to create employment for our youth;
- (n) to work towards the concept of the “Niche Economy” – that is concentrating all marketing efforts on small and specific sectors such as agriculture and fishing

Madam Chairperson, with regards to the above recommendations made by members of the Youth Parliaments, I am hereby giving status of actions and/or actions that are to be implemented related to same.

1. Education

- (a) With regards to civic education programmes, as from grade 7 onwards, the youth leadership and civic engagement programme implemented last year under the youth programme is being adapted to fit educational institutions of Rodrigues and is expected to be implemented next year.
- (b) With regards to career counselors, I would like to enlighten the House that it fits the vision of the Regional Assembly to allow our youngsters to be able to follow a career path that best suits their aspirations and the requirements of the island. The Commission for Training, through regular career fairs, activities like “*salon de la formation et des métiers*” for youngsters is doing their best in that sense. With regards to career opportunities, information is readily available at Antoinette Prudence Human Resource Development Centre, Commission for Training.
Madam Chairperson, furthermore, scholarships in scarcity areas are being allocated to students willing to undertake these particular fields to ensure qualified human resource in those scarce areas.
- (c) Madam Chairperson, with regard to cultural exchange for students of grade 8 and 10, presently there is a project with students of Rodrigues College “*Rakont lavi lontan*” emphasizing on research and exchange with youths and other generation. My Commission will also restart next year the programme “*Zeness cone to identite*”.

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Same was organized for youths of region 5. Other platforms like Festival Kreol are good example whereby exchange and exposure to other cultures are possible.

- (d) Madam Chairperson, the programme on Sexual Reproductive Health Education in schools is being presently reviewed by a UNFPA Consultant and a first report has already been submitted for his final recommendations are being awaited and implementation of actions is tentatively scheduled in 2018.
- (e) A psychologist and a social worker have already been recruited by REDCO.
- (f) The regional government is providing many facilities to various tertiary institutions to deliver courses in Rodrigues. Such institutions are the University of Mauritius, University of Technology of Mauritius, Open University, MANCOSA, UNISA, MIE, University of Middlesex, Rushmore University, BSP School of Accountancy and Management.
- (g) Creative industry: My Commission has had consultations with Dr. Jimmy HARMON to explore the concept of creative economy and some discussions have already started with some artists. In the programme “Youth Entrepreneurship” of my Commission, a new module on creative economy is being developed to enhance youth to indulge in new industries.
- (h) Discussions will be held with the Commission for Fisheries to check the feasibility and a *modus operandi* to open an “Ecole des Pecheurs” in Rodrigues.
- (i) It is the vision of the Commission for Arts and Culture to have either a “village traditional” or a village “sega tambour” in Rodrigues.
- (j) With the advent of the fibre optic cable MARS, this will enable the youth to explore and implement new ways of doing business.
- (k) “*Niche Economie*” – projects already being done by the Commission for Entrepreneurship via Invest Rodrigues.

The recommendations of the Members of Youth Parliaments concerning leisure and sports are as follows: -

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- (1) To create and give more opportunities for exchange among all the Rodriguan youth;
- (2) To supply equipment and qualified trainers to the disabled sportsmen and women in order to give them the opportunity to shine in their sports nationally and internationally;
- (3) To introduce the concept of recreational cultural activity which stems from the concept of “colonie de Vacances”.

Madam Chairperson, with regards to the above recommendations made by members of the Youth Parliaments, I am hereby giving status of actions and/or actions that are to be implemented related to same.

2. Leisure and Sports

- a) Madam Chairperson, Youth exchange is being organized in Rodrigues and in Mauritius and even abroad. Scouts, participants of Duke of Edinburg Award, Members of Rodrigues Youth Council, Youth Officers have already been given the opportunities to participate in exchanges, conferences, seminars and meetings in Mauritius and abroad.
- b) **Sports for the disabled** – the Commission for Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Commission for Social Security sponsor every year organization of local competition for all types of disabilities including physically, mentally, aurally and visually and provision of transport facilities for training.

With regards to mission abroad, we have funded the following: -

- (i) major competitions and training course in Mauritius this year of which: -
 - Participation of 1 Coach and 3 athletes in the National Championship 2017 on 24th November 2017;
 - Participation of 11 athletes and 3 Coach in the National Championship for Intellectual disabilities on 24th September 2017;
 - Participation of one Coach in a training course for Coaches from 12 – 20th August 2017.

On the other hand, we are working on a project of organizing a National competition in Rodrigues in 2018 in a view to promote

further development of handicapped. Handicapped athletes from Mauritius will be invited.

- c) Recreational activity – Indeed the programme Special Vacances is revisited every year. My Commission has introduced youth community camp which act as a “colonie de vacances” but we can go further in the reflection to have a new revisited programme.

Madam Chairperson, Sustainable Communities. The regional government has taken many initiatives for the promotion of sustainable communities in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, Sustainable Community and development have now firmly emerged as the paradigm in which our Rodrigues future is rooted particularly since 2012 where this present regional government launched the concept Rodrigues Ile Ecologique in the Rodriguan consciousness.

Making policy is about forging the way forward and we have made a solid start through different policies and legislations since 2012 such as: -

- (i) establishment of closed octopus season (twice a year);
- (ii) banning of the use of plastic bags thus creating jobs in handicraft sector;
- (iii) consolidation of the SEMPA;
- (iv) the Commission for Agriculture is providing incentives/schemes to planters and farmers to produce food crops, livestock and marine products for domestic consumption. Sustainable agriculture and fisheries can improve food security and the quality of food that Rodriguan eats.
- (v) through the establishment of the Atelier de Savoir Agricole, the concept of organic farming and the use of compost is being encouraged.
- (vi) the concept of community schools in Rodrigues
- (vii) the improvement of the Health System and different actions/initiatives taken by different Commissions to fight the problems of drugs, HIV/AIDS, tobacco and alcohol through proper prevention and treatment;
- (viii) the prevention of energy efficiency and renewal energy;
- (ix) the prevention of cultural identities and heritage through the different activities organized by my Commission such as Festival Kreol thus allowing our people to practice and protect their culture.

- (x) the Regional Government through the Commission for Housing initiative to collect rain water. The implementation of new housing units accessible to a greater number of persons.

The aim of these policies together with the strategy and action plan would be to attain a situation in which the needs of the present generation are met without jeopardizing the chances of future generation to meet their needs.

The recommendations, Madam Chairperson, throughout these five editions have been thought provoking, which concludes that our youth is indeed “responsable de son avenir”.

All these recommendations will be compiled and referred to the appropriate Commissions and authorities for enabling appropriate strategies and policies for the wellbeing of our youth and the population at large.

Madam Chairperson, indeed, various recommendations proposed by the previous youth parliaments have already been implemented and taken on board by the present regional government. A major one is the coming into reality in 2019 of the fibre optic cable which I am sure will boost up youth entrepreneurship and creates employment for our youths.

Madam Chairperson, I am greatly honoured to form part of the government that keeps on inspiring our youths through the youth parliament to give the best of themselves.

LAKAZ CITE – RODRIGUES/ROOF SLAB SCHEME

(No. B/150) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether, in regard to *Lakaz Cité* in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of beneficiaries thereof who have applied for roof slab scheme, indicating if provision was made therefor and, in the affirmative, to state when and, if not, why not?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, as regards Part A of the question, I am informed that there are six (6) non-Rodriguan Contractors who have been awarded contracts in the construction industry in Rodrigues for this financial year.

I am also informed that no non-Rodriguan workers have been awarded any contract in the said industry for this financial year.

/UNREVISED/

With regards to Part B of the question, my Commission has taken the following measures as provided by the Employment Rights Act 2008 to minimise risk of exploitation or discrimination toward female and male workers on site: -

- (1) The Social Security Division ensures that contributions to the National Pension Fund are made on behalf of all workers irrespective of gender according to the minimum prescribed rate in the remuneration order;
- (2) The Labour Unit carries out inspections at places of employment to ensure compliance with the various provisions of all the relevant legislations including the Occupational Safety and Health Act. In case of discrepancies, formal recommendations are made to employers for remedial action. In cases of recurrent non-compliance, Court action can be considered subject to the aggrieved workers being willing to depone as witness; and
- (3) Aggrieved workers may also register their complaints at the Labour Office where conciliation and mediation meetings are held between parties with a view to settle matters. In case no settlement is reached, statements and documents are secured for possible reference to the Industrial Court, again subject to workers' willingness to depone as witness.

Madam, Chairperson, regarding Part (c) of the question, I am informed that for period January 2017 to November 2017, a total of 113 cases of "termination of employment" (dismissal) have been registered. Following enquiry and confrontation meetings, it was observed that only 40 cases were in fact dismissal or termination of employment.

Out of these 40 cases, 06 have been rejected, in 05 cases workers have been reinstated in their job, 26 cases have been settled with the payment of compensation of an amount of Rs 220,143.00 to workers and enquiry is still ongoing in the remaining 3 cases.

The other 73 cases were mainly short term determinate contracts which have not been renewed on expiry date. These 73 workers have been admitted in the Workfare Program and they are now benefitting from the Transition Unemployment Benefits.

Regarding Part (c) of the question, I am informed that no complaint has been registered regarding "underpayment or reduced payment in wages" (unduly low pay rates) or "late payment of wages" (tardy payments).

PER DIEM – COMMISSIONER RRA

(No. B/154) Mr Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to per diem paid to Commissioners of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, on mission to Mauritius and abroad, from 2012 to date, he will state and table the amount paid individually?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I have to inform the House that the per diem are paid to Commissioners of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly proceeding on mission abroad as per rate established by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Those proceeding to Mauritius are either paid Rs 1500 as subsistence allowance per day if no hotel accommodation is provided. In case hotel accommodation being provided, they are entitled to meal allowance.

The details with regards to amount paid per individual Commissioner are being compiled and will be tabled shortly.