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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 5 of 2017

Sitting of Tuesday 04 April 2017

The Assembly met in the Assembly House,
Port Mathurin, at 10.30 a.m.

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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Debate No. 5 of 04.04.17

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 04 APRIL 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

Debate 04.04.17

MOTION – CHIEF COMMISSIONER – RESUMPTION AND CONCLUSION OF DEBATE

RODRIGUES – DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2018

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I would like to congratulate you once again for your election as Chairperson of this Assembly and my congratulation also goes to the newly nominated Clerk. I would also like to congratulate all the Members from both sides of the House who have delivered their speeches to this Assembly for the first time and which I should add some of which have been quite inspirational. I am sure that so many respected Members who have gone before me have found it incredibly a difficult task to put satisfactorily into words the great honour and privilege it is to be elected to represent our fellow people in this Assembly.

Each of us, Madam Chairperson, brings to this place the hopes, the dreams of the people who choose us. We should keenly be aware of both the incredible opportunity that they are bestowing upon us and the very great responsibility which the opportunity entails. Madam Chairperson, I was party to this Assembly and to the Regional Government in 2002 when we started this Rodrigues Regional Assembly. We set the ground-based for the autonomy and now, I am very pleased to be back and it is an honour to be back *pour consolider et aider à franchir cette nouvelle étape de notre autonomie avec la nouvelle équipe*. The Chief Commissioner's budget theme is: *"Franchir Une Nouvelle Etape"*.

The theme, Madam Chairperson, is all about a whole philosophy in itself. It is a driving force and a whole concept in itself. If one wants to *franchir une étape*, what should one do? One should *statuate*, one should evaluate where one stands. In fine, the Chief Commissioner is inviting everybody to have a halt and do some thinking and then move forward with a change of mind-set, with clear objectives and know exactly what is the next step ahead. As for this Government, the theme emphasises the commitment to maximising the use of resources. It also emphasises the strengthening of capacity. It emphasises the harnessing of potentials, prioritising of projects and importantly improving the quality of service delivery to all our citizens.

This is the objective set by the Chief Commissioner as regard to the new Government. But, Madam Chairperson, I believe that the Minority also should go ahead *à franchir une étape*. It is known, Madam Chairperson, that the Minority as the opposition, they should act as watchdogs of our democracy, they should act as watchdogs of good governance. This is their role and it is an indisputable fact. However, Madam, to use an anecdote, if you are the master of a dog guarding your property, does it mean that you should set it on every passer-by? I do not think so. This is why I somehow deplore in some way, the way that the opposition is acting. They see almost everything with suspicion, they see almost everything with a black eye, they see almost everything as if everything is opaque.

No, Madam Chairperson, there are good things that are happening in this country and you should recognise even as being a Member of the Minority, that there are good things that have been done by the Government. Madam Chairperson, the Rodriguan Society is changing of course and we should not find it hard to understand that. We must understand, the opposition Member should understand that it is not by soiling nor by besmirching the Commissioners the projects that are being put into place that the population will say that they are doing a good job. One has to prove worthy, one has to be realistic in order to be considered as reliable. This is why I am humbly making a pledge for their common-sense.

I am now going to elaborate on the policies to be taken by my Commission to move ahead as the Chief Commissioner has spelt out in his speech last Friday. As regard to the transport sector, there has been attack made on the subsidy that has been proposed as regard to the 50% freight on importation of buses. Madam Chairperson, the bus owners came for the budgetary consultation at Mont Plaisir. I even met them with my Departmental Head and Representative of the National Transport Authority at my office and we undergo a whole review of the bus industry and do you know what was of price during the budgetary consultation? They say aloud in front of all the people who were there if this Regional Government can give us even Rs 1000 to subsidise our freight on importation of our bus, we will be happy. We have not provided them with Rs 1000; we provided them with 50% on the freight that they have to pay.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: And, let me remind the House during the discussion that we had with the bus owners, they told us that for the importation of a bus from Port Louis to Port Mathurin, they have to pay Rs 150,000. So, this means we are providing them, Madam Chairperson, with a minimum of Rs 75,000 per bus owner who will be called upon to bring a bus in

this country. Is not that dread? There have been proposals, at least three proposals which have been made by the bus owners, which I consider loadable and I am going to fight for that, Madam Chairperson. First, I have spoken about that Rs 150,000 that they have to pay for importation.

Secondly, they mentioned about the grant and I think one of the Member from the other side yesterday mentioned it also. They mentioned about the grant that bus owners are benefiting in Mauritius following the change in regulation made by the Minister for the purchase of semi low floor bus and we know that those wondering that mechanism, that scheme, they are benefiting to an amount of up to Rs 1 million in Mauritius. When I go through the mechanism, to benefit from that grant, it is clear, Madam Chairperson, that we people also in Rodrigues, we are contributing in the fund because in the budget speech of 2014 by the Minister for Finance, it was stated that, I quote:

"We are today announcing a comprehensive bus replacement mechanism to enable the purchase by our companies of semi low bus floor annually. This mechanism will provide Rs 1 million per bus and will be financed through a levy of Rs 1 per litre on petroleum products."

So, I consider though our petroleum products from Mauritius is being subsidised on freight, but yet, because we are paying the same price, when I go to the filling station, when we are filling our tank at the filling station, I consider that we also in Rodrigues, we are contributing to that fund and it is almost loadable that people, bus owners in Rodrigues also benefit from that fund. This is why I am going to make a pledge to the Ministry of Transport in Mauritius so that bus owners in Rodrigues also benefit for that grant as far as possible. So, Madam Chairperson, we are going to make that pledge so that this facility, that scheme is extended to our bus owners.

Yes, we have seen, Madam, that there is a problem, not really a problem but an issue with regard to the bus industry. It is seen that most of the time, whenever there is importation of bus in Rodrigues, the bus is second-hand one. Why is it? It is because the bus owners, they wait for the companies in Mauritius to renew the floats and then only, they go to buy these buses from Mauritius. I consider this somehow a bit degrading. When it is being renewed in Mauritius, due to lack of funds, then only bus owners from Rodrigues will go to purchase the second-hand buses and bring in to Rodrigues to put it at the service of the public. This is why the Rs 1 million grant, I consider it as very important so that bus owners can also buy new buses to be brought to Rodrigues.

I am pleased to mention as regard to the transport industry, that up to June this year, there will be at least new six buses will be bought in order to cater for

the transport industry in the island. We will, as a matter of fact, be able to serve routes such as Terre Rouge, Citronnelle and other roads that have come into operation since they have been constructed in the last past years. Another issue that has been touching our transport industry, it is the payment of fees as regard to renewal of license and this, as it has been the case throughout the years, most of the time, it is done at the end of the month. We did, Madam Chairperson, faced a problem in the month of February. We did face that problem but we have reacted promptly and at the end of March, we have been able to palliate the problem but I should say that the way that we have palliated it, it is not permanent.

So, this is why in the budget speech that has been spelt out last Friday, the Chief Commissioner has spoken about the decentralisation for the payment of these fees. We want, as I said, *franchir une nouvelle étape* and *franchir une nouvelle étape* means delivering a better service to the population, smoothing the suffering of the population, reducing the suffering of the population. We have to act, we have to stop, think what is going wrong and from what we evaluate, we move forward for the betterment of this country. *C'est ça nouvelle étape* what we are speaking about from the other side of this House.

This is why in Mauritius also on this case, Madam Chairperson, this particular case that I am speaking about, the payment of fees, there is an agreement between the NTA and the post office and bus owners as well as any vehicles owners in Mauritius, they are able to renew the licence in the post office. We are starting discussions and negotiations with the NTA in Mauritius so that this agreement is extended to Rodrigues in a fit way as far as possible. Finally, Madam Chairperson, as regard to the bus industry, in general, we should not forget how the Regional Government of 2012 and 2017, they have helped in the decentralisation of filling stations. This is a major improvement.

People living in the southern part of the island, they no longer have to come to Port Mathurin to make the filling-up. People living in the eastern side, there is no need for them, no longer the need for them to come to Port Mathurin to get their tanks filled. This is an improvement in the life of the people. Yes, for Baie Lascars, this is a controversy, Mr. Rosaire. This is a controversy. We did provide a bigger part of land. Buses do not have to cross to come to Port Mathurin. That was the vision for decongestion of the Port Mathurin. That was the vision: so that most of the vehicles who come to the other side even the big buses, they do not have to come to cross Port Mathurin to cause the congestion of roads. Unfortunately, I am not going to get into the matter. You know that. I am going to go in the details.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As regard to the Water Sector, Madam Chairperson, it is a fact that all Rodriguans should have the right to safe, clean, affordable, accessible water for human consumption and sanitary purposes. When I took office as Commissioner for Water one month back, I knew that I will be under crossfire. I am perfectly aware of the challenge that lies before me to ensure that water is distributed to every household at least once every week by 2022. I know that challenge and I am aware of it. The only month that I have been at the head of the Commission for Water, so far, have been a very instructive and I can say to the people *que j'ai entendu leurs cris* and this is my driving force to meet that challenge *et faire Rodrigues franchir cette nouvelle étape dans le secteur de l'eau*.

Madam Chairperson, amongst all our uncertainties, weather is one of the most basic. We cannot control it; we can only live with it and we are right now living with a very serious drought of uncertain duration. Let us go to the figures, Madam Chairperson. For the period January to March 2017, the mean rainfall for Rodrigues has been below 40% of the long-term mean. Below 40%. To be more precise, for January - 37%, for February - 30% and up to 15 March - 36%. Managing such a condition is no easy job. It is not easy job, Madam Chairperson. I am aware of it.

As a direct consequence of the poor rainfall, we are having a water production of only 3500 m^3 from the boreholes and from the surface water while the demand is about 8000 m^3 per day for domestic purposes only and if I include water for agriculture, for tourism and for the public infrastructure overall, this will amount to some 12000 m^3 that is needed daily in order to satisfy all these users. Fortunately, Madam Chairperson, we have had an additional production of about 1000 m^3 from the desalination plant which I should add, I should say is somehow palliating the problem.

If we did not get that 1000 from the desalination plant, the situation would have been more chaotic. Fortunately, we have these 1000 m^3 additional from the desalination plant. This is why during that drought period, we have been able, Madam Chairperson, to be able to manage more or less satisfactorily people from the south and the western part of the region. There has been less cries from these regions and I should say it is a fact that the cries these days mostly come from the region of Terre Rouge, Crève Coeur and Baladirou.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Respected Member, I am interested to hear what the Commissioner is saying.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: These are facts. We cannot deny this. I was saying, Madam Chairperson, that the situation would have been worse in the South and even in the North if these desalination plants were not implemented. My preoccupation these days is to get through this present drought and prepare better for the next. There are, Madam Chairperson, no silver bullets, there are no single projects that will fix the problem. We must have a portfolio of actions to comprehensively address the challenges that we are facing now. Some actions must be taken immediately to assess, to address the current risks of the threatening drought and ensure that there is the provision of drinking water for the Rodriguans.

This is why an issue cropped up yesterday during the debate where it was said it is controversial that we are speaking of providing water once a week to the Rodriguans and at the same time, we are coming with *les fontaines publiques*. Yes, even myself, I did question when I think over that issue but the question remains that we are in a situation that is existent and we do not know how long this drought is going to endure. And if this situation prevails up to December, there would be, we have, we should have a *Plan B* until all desalination plants come into operation, until we are able to set other policies that the Chief Commissioner has himself spelt out in the budget and which I am going to spell out in a few minutes.

The *fontaine publique* will be a palliating problem for the existing drought situation and we have already started to identify the sites where, these *fontaines* have to be set. And, in a spirit of providing water to the population, using as example, the case of Bigarade, using as example, the case of Grand La Fouche Corail and Maréchal, we are going to ensure that these *fontaines publiques*, they are going to be replenished from our mains in villages on a 24-hour basis so that at any time, if this drought prevails, at least, every household will know where he can collect a minimum of water to undergo his household activities.

This is what is hiding behind. It is not a policy that is going to be applied continuously up to 2022 but it is a policy that is applied as per the existing weather conditions, Madam Chairperson. So, this is why I was saying we must address fundamental changes to our approach to the Water Management Resource. It is of twofold, Madam Chairperson, one with respect to the present situation, another one in the middle and the long-term effect. As spelt out last Friday, we are moving ahead with the completion of all the desalination plants. My colleague, Mr. Roussety, has been quite unlucky unfortunately. There has been the political will, Madam Chairperson, to palliate the suffering, to reduce the suffering of this population as regard to water.

Unfortunately, there has been technical difficulties, administrative difficulties in order to really resolve fully that problem of water and I hope, Madam Chairperson, that I will be luckier in order to solve that problem of... I am sure. I think I am born under a bright star. We are moving ahead also, Madam chairperson, with the construction of additional reservoirs for a better distribution at Hauteur Accacia and Montagne Cabris and the philosophy behind these is in line with our policies to complete these desalination plants because we are opting and we are figuring that in future, desalination water even from Pointe Venus will have to be distributed up to Accacia and to do so, we need additional reservoirs for distribution purposes.

In the same line, the construction of Montagne Cabris/Corail will allow a better stock of water in the upper land so as to be distributed to the people of Baie Topaze, to the people of Camp Pintade. In fact, actually, Madam Chairperson, we are proceeding with the extension of additional network from Vangassailles to Montagne Cabris because as I am speaking right now, Anse Raffin is providing us with 0 m^3 of water and normally, water from Anse Raffin, they are distributed through our network up to Camp Pintade and Baie Topaze. In order to palliate that problem, what we are doing, we are extending the network from Vangassailles to receive desalination water from Caverne Bouteille and distribute them to Camp Pintade and to Baie Topaze. There is no water. It is drought. Yes, it is drought!

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes. It is a wholesome vision looking at the sector from what I will call as a bird's eye view and not in isolation but rather how much links we have made to the different networks and how we can improve in the distribution of that so useful element to human beings. Our policies go further, Madam Chairperson. We are proceeding in our target for taping of new additional sources and springs in villages and here, I am going to take an example and I used to take it with my officers also. We have a model, two models that need to be replicated across the island.

We have a model at La Fouche Castor using solar energy where water is tapped from a source and used by the villagers. We have a model at Fond La Bonté where I live which was built in 2003/2004 that this small project is serving up to 80 families, Madam Chairperson. A particular network from a source serving 80 families at Fond La Bonté and Fond Baie aux Huitres. This is why in my quest for additional production of water, I consider that if we are able to have up to 10, if we are able to build, to tap two subsystems per year, in five years' time, we can have 10 subsystems which we can serve up to 500 and 600 families, maybe even more. So, the fact remains that we are going to do our utmost best

so that we tap all possible source of water and in the same line, focusing on the target that every family should be served with water at least once every week by 2022.

With all these policies that I am describing, there should be, Madam Chairperson, reforms at the institution level. We have up to now, some limitations which we have to improve in order to come, in order to give a better service delivery to the population. We still do not have a desalination unit. We are having up to, as at now, five desalination plants. We are coming in a few months with another one which is going to be energised with solar energy but still, we should admit that we lack competence in that unit. There is still scope for improvement. There is still scope for training in that unit. This is why with the institutional reform that we are proposing, there should be incorporated in that institutional reform, a unit dealing with desalination. Other matter that is of concern is the recoup of information. There is also request in that part as regard to hydrology. We have also witnessed, Madam Chairperson, as regard to Water Quality Control.

All these units will have to be reinforced. This is why I am happy and I am pleased when I see with the EU Fundings, there has been money which has been earmarked for helping the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the setting up of a Water Control Unit at the Commission. And, we are proceeding with all procurements that have to be done in order to set that unit. I spoke formerly about the installation of a desalination plant up to capacity of 6280 m^3 which is going to be coupled with the existing Caverne Bouteille Plant. We have found it useful at a first instance to use that installation as a pilot one, pilot study and, if the results are conclusive, in that way, we can replicate it on other desalination plant, Madam Chairperson. And, above all, we should continue with the principle of conservation. Last time, I spoke about it in my press conference. I said *que les Rodriguais sont les champions dans l'utilisation de l'eau* and I am not afraid to say it.

Because when we are provided with water once every month and we are able to live up to the next month, making use of every droplet, recycling, this means we have somehow genetically engineered for conservation of water in this country. It is a fact. Of course, that does not mean that we have to stay in such a state. We have to improve the matter. And, I have read, Madam Chairperson… I know that the Standing Orders do not necessarily allow to do it. There is an article, with your permission of course, there is an article in *"Weekend"* this week on *"Humeur"* and we are speaking about *"la leçon Rodriguaise concernant l'utilisation de l'eau"* and it is a very nice article.

Bow to the Rodriguans, Madam Chairperson. *Le maitre-mot*, Madam Chairperson, remains conservation as I was saying, we need everyone in this country to conserve water. The bottom line remains our storage capacity. There is no magical solution. We have production from groundwater, surface water and we know also about the impact of the climate change. This also has to be assessed. We have to assess that: what will be the effect of climate change on the production of water. In Rodrigues, we already have the effect in this island. We have at present, 60% of production from groundwater and 30% from surface and the other percentage comes from the desalination plant. We have to be very careful how we are harnessing that water for use especially, when I am speaking of the groundwater use.

Je dois vous dire pour terminer sur ce chapitre, Madame la Présidente, toute ma détermination à obtenir gain de cause sur ce dossier car il y va de la santé de notre population et de la relance économique de Rodrigues. Ma Commission, je le dis avec gravité, sera intraitable sur ce dossier.

We are going to do our utmost best to serve and provide a better delivery to that population, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, we have had to make informed choices in prioritisation of projects in every sector. We had to challenge ourselves to find the creative and effective ways to achieve our goals with the limited resources as we continue to implement our vision *de faire une île Rodrigues de nos rêves*. While we are forging ahead, we should think of improving our road infrastructure but while building new roads, we should not forget, Madam Chairperson, accesses especially and particularly in residential areas. This is why we have embarked ourselves since sometimes on the construction of track roads in villages in order to improve access, in order to improve mobility and in order also, Madam, to reduce the suffering of our citizens.

We recognise the fact that any country should see the need to invest in infrastructure development in order to drive the economic growth and at the same time, to improve the quality of life of our citizens. Hand-in-hand, while constructing new and modern roads as I have just said, we are also moving ahead with construction of track roads. I am pleased to state in this House that up to 20 km of track road is targeted to be constructed up to, Madam Chairperson, July this year and we have placed provisions in the budget for 2017/2018. We have roads such as Camp Pintade, Baie Topaze, Rivière Banane, Brûlé, Montagne Malgache, Port Sud-Est. Many of these villages, Madam Chairperson, they are suffering from such facilities and it is our duty as a responsible Government, to provide them with such facilities.

As regard to the Housing Project, there has been many initiatives, especially to those persons who are not able to purchase or even to rent a house and as we know, shelter is a basic need. It is a basic need and the provision of affordable housing is an imperative for any responsible Government. From now on, Madam Chairperson, for many of our citizens with the setting up of the new Housing Scheme, for many of our citizens, the dream of owning their own home is no longer an illusive dream. It is no longer an illusive dream. What is incredible with the new Housing Scheme is that it not only provides a good shelter for our people but it promotes growth, it creates employment opportunities to everyone from contractors, Madam, to service providers such as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters and it stimulates the manufacturing and retail sector in all area from the woodwork to the provision of hardware supplies.

This is driving the economy: the circulation of money. Yes, this is it! This is a whole philosophy, Madam! We have spoken in the budget about the creation of 300 jobs in the construction industry. I know that it is going to be more. We did underestimate that figure but we did agree to set that figure to 300, knowingly that it is going to be above 300. There may be argument, Madam Chairperson, that these jobs are not durable but we need to build houses! We need to build other infrastructures: roads! Does it mean that in this case, that these people who are having a job right now, they necessarily will be out of job after the project is over? Not necessarily.

We have a vision from this side of the House to create and to come with projects so that they are ongoing and all these sectors that I have just cited, these workers that I have just cited, there are ongoing projects so that they can move from projects to projects and they can earn a living. And, we have been doing it since five years as regard to construction of roads, as regard to construction of infrastructure. Now, we are coming with the construction of houses, with project to build 1500 for a new housing scheme and 500 for the vulnerable who cannot get into that net of the new housing scheme. So, we can from now on, project in the five years to come what will be the need of the steelworkers in the construction industry.

We can project that and we are preparing the budget. Among our colleagues, we do have that worry in our mind how to proceed to ensure that those who are in the construction industry, they do not get out of work after the project is over. There is an implementation roadmap, Madam Chairperson. In other words, as regard to the housing, I should say that the return of investment, it filters down all the sections. As I have mentioned, it affects positively the carpenters, the painters, the contractors, electricians. It transgresses all through it, Madam Chairperson. This is why I can say that this Government Policy as regard to

housing, is one of the most comprehensive scheme that is found in the Republic of Mauritius.

It is one of the most comprehensive scheme that is being put in place as regard to job creation and as regard to the reduction in the suffering of our people. There have been in the debate the other day, questionings about matters regarding youth and sports, which I consider has brought food for thought. The Member, respected Member Augustin, questioned about the cost that this will imply as regard to the implication of the youth, *Jeux des Iles de L'Océan Indien à Rodrigues*. He spoke about the accommodation and spoke also about the infrastructure. Yes, these are worries that we should have. Their is no doubt in that but to lessen his worry, I can tell him when I came in office in October 2002, I had only eight months to prepare for *Les Jeux des Iles de 2003* because it was in August 2003 that it was done in Rodrigues. Now, we are in 2017 and the *Jeux des Iles* is scheduled for 2019 and I believe that the Commissioner for Youth and Sports have ample time to think about what you have been questioning. It needs to be questioned!

I do approve it needs to be questioned. The Commissioner for youth and sports will without any doubt because we are still at a stage of negotiation about what are the disciplines that are to be completed here. We have proposed *le semi-marathon, le judo et la boxe*. In 2003, we hosted for one discipline and I believe that 16 years after, we should opt for no more no less than three. We have the capacity to do it because we have had the opportunity to host international games here, inter islands in different disciplines. Our *dirigeant* and sportsmen have had enough experience, even our Administrative/Sports Administrators, enough experience as regard the hosting of these. But I do consider as regard to your questioning, that we need to also question about infrastructure. In 2003, we did not have time because normally, there is a package that is set up.

If I am not mistaken, there is about Rs 2bn for construction of new infrastructures with respect with the *Jeux des Iles*. In 2003, we do not have time for negotiating because it was too short but we are having, Madam Chairperson, an opportunity because we still have two years' time where we can construct from the whole fund of the *Jeux des Iles*, at least one infrastructure for this island. I believe that the Commissioner for Youth and Sports will have the negotiating power, the negotiating style to make argument for such matter. We have also mentioned about the sports awards. I do agree that there should be. We should encourage our sportsmen for the efforts that they have been providing for the year. Yes, we should make alive once again this sports award. And, there has been also the big controversial about the Maréchal Swimming Pool.

Yes, there has been that controversial issue which has been arisen. You know, Madam, I do not want to make an attack on that but I think it is still necessary to point it out. That swimming pool, it was announced in the National Budget of 2001/2002, National Budget when Mr. Paul Bérenger was the Finance Minister and I remember well there was one Minister of Sports in Mauritius who said that Rodrigues does not need a swimming pool because it is surrounded with water and that causes an uproar in the Republic of Mauritius and that causes an uproar also in the island of Rodrigues. It caused rather an uproar among the population.

This is why at that time, and I believe that there was a change in Government in Mauritius, they did provide us with a gift in the National Budget to start the construction of the swimming pool and that very budget was then relocated in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.... in October 2002. Because the law provides that we had three months after coming into office to relocate that National Budget into the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Budget and we did it in December. I am asking myself what would have been your point of view from the minority side if when we came in power in 2002 and we said that we are abolishing this project.

Non, I am asking about their view, Madam Chairperson! You should be, Madam Chairperson, faithful to yourself. This is why I do not want to make an attack on that. But I want you to reflect because when I go to your manifesto of the first Rodrigues Regional Assembly in 2002, I can even mention the page, at page 45, you mentioned about the construction of several swimming pools, several! Several swimming pools!

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This is the matter. So, you should be faithful to yourself, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: What we did only was to transfer the project from Port Mathurin to Maréchal. Why? It was in a philosophy, Madam Chairperson, of distributing the wealth, infrastructural wealth throughout the island and it was in that mind-set of the forthcoming of *Sports Etudes* where we have one major infrastructure which is attached to a particular college. We have for example, Rodrigues College which is close to the stadium and when we set the *Sports Etudes* at that time, those who are doing well in the athletic sector, whatever were their studies, their performance at CPE even if they were having four Ds, they were having admission in Rodrigues College in order to pursue their

sport at Camp Du Roi. The same applies for Le Chou. We did go for *judo*. I am coming to swimming pool. There was the case for...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please, address the chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: With respect to Malabar and with the coming of the swimming pool and it started well also in Maréchal, there were so many, Madam Chairperson, clubs in different classes set up at Maréchal for the swimming pool. And, I think and I know this project was not abandoned in 2007, we would have had by now, many swimmers from Maréchal College. I am sure.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I am sure.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There has been neglect unfortunately. I will not go into details with respect to that but there has been neglect, yes. Madam Chairperson, it is almost impossible to personally thank all the people whose ideas and advice have helped to shape this budget. However, a very special thank is due to those whose professional skills and patience led to the procuration of documents. I think here of the officers of the Finance Section, of all the Commissions, their Departmental Heads and the Island Chief Executive. My profound appreciation is also extended to the Chief Commissioner and Executive Council colleagues who share with me collective responsibility for this budget and of course, our backbenchers.

The road, Madam Chairperson, the road to true success is never easy. A country's ability to cope with difficulties is always tested when striving towards loadable and enduring goals. Madam Chairperson, inspired by our theme *à faire Rodrigues franchir une nouvelle étape"*, we will overcome obstacles and keep our goals in sight for the benefit of the present and future generation of Rodrigues. I thank you for your attention, Madam Chairperson, and may God bless Rodrigues. Thank you.

[Applause]

SUSPENSION OF S.O 9(3)

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provision of Standing Order 9(3).

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Now, I invite the Chief Commissioner for the summing up.

SUMMING UP

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, c'est avec joie que nous avons de ce premier budget de notre mandat de cinq ans. Je félicite tous mes collègues qui ont su justement vouloir franchir cette nouvelle étape. Ils ont parlé de ce qui s'est passé de 2012 à 2017. Ils ont mentionné tous les projets et cette nouvelle étape fait partie de ce que nous appelons la vision de l'autonomie de Rodrigues. Je dois rappeler ce que *Sir Aneerood Jugnauth* avait dit. Quand il a donné l'autonomie de Rodrigues, il a dit ceci :

«Nou pensé ki nou bane frères ek sœurs de Rodrigues, zot enan capacité. Nou besoin done zot l'occasion pou ki zot occupe zot zafer parski zot à Rodrigues ici, zot mieux qualifié pou koné ki zot bane besoins, ki zot bane priorités. Nou enan capacité. Montré nou seki zot kapave fer.»

Madame la Présidente, c'est dans cette vision de l'autonomie, cet encouragement de *Sir Anerood Jugnauth*, Premier ministre avec qui j'ai travaillé pendant des années comme Ministre de Rodrigues. Nous voyons dedans cette affirmation, cette déclaration que la population de Rodrigues doit développer ses capacités et nous avons vu quand nous avons donné des bourses à des Rodriguais pour des études en médecine et aujourd'hui, ils sont des médecins. Il y en a même qui est en train d'étudier pour devenir spécialiste. Que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans, 10 ans, 20 ans, 25 ans, 50 ans ? Et c'est pourquoi, Madame la Présidente, cette vision d'autonomie doit nous permettre d'avoir un autre regard sur les capacités des Rodriguais. Et justement, en regardant la télévision hier soir, télévision nationale, on a montré un atelier de meubles, fabrication de meubles qu'on pourra exporter vers les Nations Unies.

Mais je me souviens il y a quelques années de cela, il y a un magasin à Rodrigues qui achetait les meubles fabriqués par les menuisiers Rodriguais et qui

les vendait au lieu de faire venir des meubles d'ailleurs et c'est ça justement. Et là, je tourne vers Madame Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis qui justement, c'est ça ce qu'on voulait, que justement professionnaliser les Rodriguais dans tous les domaines, qu'ils soient aussi capables que nos frères et sœurs de Maurice ou d'ailleurs et que demain, nous pouvons exporter nos produits, que ce soient des produits agricoles, des produits d'élevage, des produits de la mer et c'est ça que nous voulons.

C'est ça. C'est ça, montrez-nous ce que vous pouvez faire, développez votre intelligence. Et il arrive des fois quand on parle d'autonomie dans le passé, *enan dire guette l'autonomie pe tombé dan la mer là-bas*. *Ler la pluie tombé, dir guette l'autonomie pe tombé dan la mer*. Madame la Présidente, excusez-moi de vous le dire. J'ai été Ministre. J'ai été 20 ans à l'Assemblée Nationale, dix ans comme Ministre dans le Gouvernement Mauricien.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioners, please!

The Chief Commissioner: Et deux ans de 1999 à 2001 comme le Co-Président de l'Assemblée Parlementaire, Paritaire, ACPUE. J'ai eu l'occasion de voyager dans pas mal de pays. Même au cours d'une mission, en Éthiopie et Érythrée qu'on a surnommée des frères ennemis. Pour aller à l'Éthiopie de l'Érythrée il fallait aller à Djeddah et c'est là, j'ai vu, Madame la Présidente, ses usines de dessalement de l'eau de mer. Extraordinaire ! Et c'est pourquoi nous aussi, en 2005 et 2006, on avait fait une étude par des Allemands pour un grand projet de dessalement de l'eau de mer à Mourouk mais malheureusement, nous avons eu que trois ans et demi pour gérer l'autonomie. On n'a pas eu cinq ans. Madame la Président, notre vision et c'est pourquoi nous disons *«franchir une nouvelle étape»* et là-dessus, on voit un monsieur qui part et derrière qui il y a une jolie petite fille.

Ce qui veut dire il faut voir Rodrigues et nos enfants aujourd'hui dans les années à venir. Et c'est pourquoi au niveau de l'éducation, nous refusons les écoles de masse. Nous préférons aller vers des petites écoles communautaires où les parents sont aussi responsables de ces écoles. Et c'est pourquoi je dis aux parents ce n'est pas l'école du Gouvernement, c'est votre école à vous. Et dans chaque école communautaire, 200 enfants et dans chaque classe, une vingtaine d'enfants, que l'enseignant doit avoir une attention spéciale pour chaque enfant et les parents aussi peuvent assister à la classe. Et c'est pourquoi nous avons commencé à Montagne Charlot et puis on a laissé ça entre les mains d'un parti. Ils n'ont pas pu terminer.

Lorsque nous sommes arrivés, on a pu terminer. Ensuite, il y a eu Araucaria et ensuite, il y a eu Montagne Goyaves, des petites écoles et là, tout

dernièrement, il y a eu Anse Quittor à tel point que des parents parlent: *«Nou bien konten ki lekol la vine kot nou»*. Au lieu que l'enfant prenne le bus, se lever le matin pour aller vers l'école, l'éducation va vers l'enfant et l'enseignant doit avoir une autre formation pour enseigner dans les écoles communautaires. J'ai même dit à des enseignants au cours d'une causerie: allez rendre visite à cet enfant-là chez lui, comme ça, vous pouvez savoir si cet enfant vit seul avec son papa ou seul avec sa grand-mère ou seul avec sa maman et est-ce qu'ils ont un petit jardin pour cultiver la terre, est-ce qu'ils ont un petit élevage. Et ça, l'enseignant doit savoir. Et là, l'autre jour, quelqu'un m'a rappelé qu'il nous faudra...

Je vais essayer de voir, ce n'est pas dans le budget, un carnet de santé pour les enfants et là aussi, on veut que le médecin aille dans les écoles s'occuper des enfants, dans les collèges, voir tout ça. Ça fait parti de notre vision. Ça fait parti de cette étape qu'il faut franchir ! Et l'autre aussi, il faut franchir l'étape! Regardez ça, il faut marcher, il faut monter les marches pour y arriver. Il faudra toujours les voitures pour y aller? Il faut savoir monter, il faut savoir utiliser son corps, son intelligence, sa volonté ! Un jour, il y a en a un enfant qui se promenait avec sa maman dans un jardin. L'enfant était paralysé. Je dis ça toujours à des personnes, à un certain moment, l'enfant tombe. Le premier geste qu'il fait à sa maman, lui donner la main pour que la maman le soulève. La maman dit *«Lee, lève-toi, toi-même »* et c'est là où l'enfant fait travailler son intelligence, fait travailler sa volonté, fait travailler son esprit et il arrive à se mettre debout et un seul mot il dit à sa maman, *« merci »*.

Et c'est ça que justement tous les Rodriguais doivent dire à l'avenir quand il y a un Gouvernement qui s'occupe de leur intelligence, de leur volonté et de leurs sentiments et qu'ils sont capables de se mettre debout sur les deux pieds, *Rodriguais, deboute lor to deux lipieds, depi 76,* on disait ça. Pas juste simplement mettre debout, ça veut dire débrouille-toi aussi. Quand les gens viennent nous voir, on pose la question :

« Ki ou fer dans la vie ? *- Chômeur ». « Non, non, dir moi seki ou fer. Dir moi la vérité. – Mo enan mo plantation maïs, mo zarico, mo plante zoignon tousa. Mo enan mo ti cabris, mo ti mouton, mo ti poule, mo ti cosson ». Mo dir li mais se travay sa !*

Et c'est ça justement que le travail n'est pas seulement de travail dans le Gouvernement ou ceci ou cela mais le travail aussi, c'est savoir se débrouiller, debout sur ses deux pieds et c'est là où justement notre éducation, l'éducation des jeunes, on a parlé de tout ça. Ces jeunes-là doivent pouvoir demain, se mettre debout et se dire que nous avons reçu une éducation, comment vous appelez ça, Madame ? À la beauté ? Une éducation à la beauté. Et c'est ça justement. Et tous ces jeunes qui vont à l'université et c'est là j'ai aussi ma façon de penser de

l'université. *« To pou retourne Rodrigues ? – Quoi faire ? Pou vine sali mo la main ? »* Ce qui veut dire l'université lui a donné tout simplement une connaissance, une instruction académique mais il lui manque quelque chose. C'est ça ce qu'on veut faire, nous, même avec les jeunes d'ici qui vont au collège. Et là, je me souviens d'un ami à moi, M. Michael…. qui m'a toujours dit : *« Il faut a year gap »*.

Il sort de HSC, avant d'aller à l'université, il y a cette année de *year gap* où il peut apprendre beaucoup de choses et quant il va à l'université, il va étudier d'une autre façon. Voyez-vous, Madame, peut-être beaucoup n'ont pas compris justement cette vision que nous avons sur cette île Rodrigues et justement, on se moque de nous parfois. On se moque de nous. On fait toutes sortes de remarques. Regardez les décisions que nous avons prises. Là, je ne vais pas parler encore sur les sacs plastics, sur ceci, sur cela mais vous savez, un politicien de l'autre côté a donné une conférence de presse. Il a dit ceci : *« Toutes les décisions que nous prenons ont fait Rodrigues reculer 50 ans en arrière ! »*

Ce n'est pas possible ! Notre vision d'autonomie, on est dedans, nous. Peut-être lui, il n'était pas dedans ! Il n'était pas dedans ! Nous, on est dedans ! Pourquoi on a mené le combat pour l'autonomie de Rodrigues ? Nous savons, c'est vrai il y a un peuple et qu'il y a eu des politiciens qui sont venus. La façon dont ils ont traité ce peuple, nous avons dit non ce n'est pas possible qu'on traite des humains comme ça. Ce n'est pas possible. Nous avons été menacés. On a beaucoup souffert pour cette autonomie mais nous continuons à travailler pour cette autonomie, pour ce peuple ! Et c'est pourquoi nous voudrions mettre en place que ce soit au niveau de l'éducation... C'est un beau visage ! Regardez-moi ça ! Cette photo.

Pas kapav gagne ene photo coumsa mette sa dan nou lakaz? Regardez ce petit-là, regardez ça avec son sac à dos. *Bisin guetté dans lekol pas bisin trop bane sac comsa hein. Trop lourd sa. Trouvé la?* Et ce monsieur-là qui monte avec toute sa fierté *mem si li in pe gros tousa mais li fer l'effort kan mem pou li arrivé*. Et c'est ça ! C'est ça qu'il faut, Madame ! Tout en peuple qui se met en marche mais ce peuple a besoin des personnes pour l'aider à marcher et à aller beaucoup plus loin. Et c'est pourquoi dans ce budget, vraiment, on n'a pas vu à l'intérieur qu'est-ce qu'il y a. On regarde peut-être les chiffres mais à l'intérieur, il y a toute une vision par rapport à l'enfant, par rapport aux jeunes, par rapport aux adultes, par rapport aux handicapés, par rapport au papa et à la maman.

Il y a toute une vision dans ce budget-là et c'est pourquoi je dis toujours et là aussi, avant de venir ce matin, j'ai reçu une photo de *Man and Power, Scout* qui dit ceci: « *Vous, les Scouts... »* Alors là, il a parlé d'instruction, au lieu de faire de l'instruction, il faut faire l'éducation. C'est différentes : éducation et

instruction. Et quelqu'un d'autre disait l'instruction doit petit à petit céder le pas à la formation, très importante, Madame la présidente, la formation, qui n'est pas simplement l'instruction académique mais il y a aussi la formation de la personne, avoir une personnalité pour s'engager. Très important. Et c'est ça là, notre gros souci, nous, à Rodrigues justement avec ces jeunes qui montent, il faut qu'ils développent une personnalité et tout cela, pas suffit d'avoir un *School Certificate, HSC* ou un *degree holder* mais aussi il faut une formation de la personne.

Ça, c'est très important. Je vais vous dire quelque chose. Tu as parlé pendant combien de temps, toi ? Une heure de temps. Je peux aller aussi une heure de temps ? En 2005/2006, je m'occupais de l'éducation, il me semble. Oui. J'ai fait une rencontre avec les universitaires Rodriguais à Marie Reine de la Paix à Port Louis. On a causé justement et à la fin, on prenait un petit rafraichissement. Il y a un jeune là-dedans qui a fait l'agriculture. Je lui dis :

« Je te donne un conseil. Tu retournes à Rodrigues, tu fais un élevage de 200-300 cabris, des chèvres. Tu vas à la banque de développement, tu prends un petit Rs500000 pour faire des abris. Je t'envoie en France pour aller voir comment est-ce qu'on fait le fromage de chèvre ».

Je pense c'est ça qu'il faut aboutir, savoir faire nos jeunes qui ont été à l'université, les faire découvrir ce qu'il y a dans les autres pays et ainsi de suite et ce qu'ils peuvent faire. Il retourne à Rodrigues, il dit à ses parents : *li pou fer ene élevage 200-300 cabris*. Mais peut-être, quelqu'un m'a dit qu'il n'aurait pas dû dire ça comme ça. Alors, il aurait dû dire à ses parents, ajouter qu'il va faire un élevage de chèvres pour faire du fromage de chèvre. Alors, j'ai dit je t'envoie en France pour aller voir comment on fait du fromage avec du lait de chèvre. Moi, j'ai été en France, j'ai vu spécialement en Corse, ils font du fromage avec du lait de chèvre. Mais il n'a pas dit ça à ses parents. Il a dit à ses parents *«pou fer l'élevage 200-300 cabris, bane chèvre»*. Ses parents lui dit : *« Eta mo envoye toi l'université pou ale fer l'élevage cabris ? »*

Il y a aussi très souvent dans la mentalité des parents, quand les jeunes étudient tout simplement pour étudier, pour devenir, pour aller travailler dans un Gouvernement, travailler dans le secteur privé et c'est tout. Vous comprenez là ? Mais il n'y a pas… Vous savez, Madame, quand nous sommes arrivés en 82 il me semble, on avait demandé de faire des jardins scolaires dans les écoles, apprendre aux enfants à travailler la terre. Il y a des parents qui ont dit : *« Ki nou envoye zenfant lekol pou ale pios la terre ? »* Il y a beaucoup, beaucoup de choses comme ça. Ça veut dire, l'esprit des parents même, quand on va à l'école, ce n'est pas pour l'agriculture, ce n'est pas pour l'élevage, ce n'est pas pour les petites entreprises, non ; c'est pour aller travailler dans le Gouvernement, dans le secteur privé, *dans bane la banques* tout ça. Alors, et c'est pourquoi, nous, à

travers ce budget, il nous faudra justement transformer cette mentalité. Et c'est pourquoi maintenant dans les jardins scolaires, a l'école, on donne de l'argent à la PTA pour qu'au moins, les parents puissent venir donner un coup de main aux enfants comment travailler la terre.

Même moi, je dis aux enfants : *« Kan to papa ale dans zardin, accompagne li, ale guetté comment li fer ».* Vous comprenez là ? Alors, il y a tout ça. Il y a tout un travail de transformation de la mentalité pour que Rodrigues, dans cinq ans, 10 ans, 20 ans, 25 ans, soit une autre île Rodrigues. Mais ce qui est vraiment intéressant, c'est qu'il y a des jeunes qui vont à l'université qui viennent et qui se lancent comme on a fait l'année dernière en 2015, des *schemes*. Des *schemes* en l'agriculture, des *schemes* dans l'qui élevage et tout ça. Il y a des jeunes sortant de l'université qui se sont lancés dedans. C'est extra! Et nous souhaitons que ces jeunes qui vont à l'université ou étudier ailleurs puissent se retourner pour se lancer vraiment dans des *schemes* et on va continuer ces *schemes* cette année-ci encore et que vraiment, là, on va voir.

Il ne faut pas simplement étudier mais il faut se lancer dans l'entrepreneuriat. Et cet entrepreneuriat justement va connaître un développement extraordinaire jusqu'au niveau des jus de limon. *Kan sa pou arrivé sa? Fini arrivé.* Jus de limon qu'on peut exporter sur Maurice, sur La Réunion, partout. Il faut cela. C'est pourquoi on dit: produire, transformer et exporter. Il nous faut avoir cette vision-là, pas se dire que nous sommes petite île Rodrigues, on ne peut rien faire. On peut faire beaucoup de choses. Jusqu'à même, on a été à La Réunion. On dit on peut exporter nos ourites à La Réunion, le poisson rouge à La Réunion. Mais il y a beaucoup de problème au niveau pour avoir un certificat pour envoyer ça à La Réunion. Et tout ça qu'il faudrait voir.

Il ne faudrait pas qu'il y ait des lois qui nous bloquent et qu'on ne peut pas exporter vers les autres pays. Madame la Présidente, cette autonomie de Rodrigues nous a fait voir aussi au niveau du tourisme comment préserver le tourisme à Rodrigues. Nous ne voulons pas imiter les autres pays. Il nous faut quand les gens viennent ici, ils découvrent notre richesse, nos valeurs, ce que nous pouvons faire, qu'ils découvrent notre nourriture, notre culture, nos bonnes manières. *Bonzour Madame, bonzour missié.* Nos bonnes manières. Et c'est ça qui est important. Le développement touristique par ce développement à Rodrigues peut attirer. Au lieu que dans les journaux, on va dans les salons, très souvent, ce sont les gens qui viennent dans notre pays.... justement parlent et qu'ils parlent de Rodrigues, de son peuple. C'est ça, notre plus grande préoccupation.

Notre plus grande préoccupation, c'est ça. Vous comprenez? Et nous avons rassemblé les opérateurs touristiques, les hôteliers, les tables d'hôtes, les

gîtes et ainsi de suite, nous leur avons dit que le développement touristique à Rodrigues, c'est vous. Et là, ils ont donné pas mal de conseils, comment est-ce qu'il faut faire, tout ça. Et c'est pourquoi nous, nous sommes en train de revoir complètement l'accueil du tourisme à Rodrigues. C'est vrai, on leur fait venir mais il y a aussi toute cette façon d'accueillir, comment embellir notre pays, tout ça, c'est très important. Je vois que c'est là où nous demandons à notre radio, à notre télévision de faire bien attention aussi, de montrer à la radio et à la télévision les richesses de notre culture. Ça, c'est très important, les richesses de notre culture et même au niveau de notre *séga tambour*, Madame, essayez de voir un peu.

Arrêtez, fodré pas imite les Mauriciens ni les Réunionnais mais nous avons notre français, notre manière justement de danser, de chanter. Il ne faut pas perdre tout ça. Vous comprenez là ? Qu'est-ce qu'on voit à Maurice? Les femmes s'habillent dans des grandes robes *«chu-chu, chu»*. Or, le Séga Tambour Rodriguais, il n'y a pas ça. Il y a : on attrape la robe ici et on danse. Alors, tout ça, c'est d'autres cultures. Le touriste va à Maurice, il y aura tout ça. Il vient ici, il voit le show, il dit mais où est Rodrigues? Vous comprenez là, tout ça? Alors, moi, je pense qu'il y a des belles habitudes d'autres fois. C'est notre culture. Il ne faut pas la perdre, notre façon de parler et même notre créole. On est en train de voir justement des instituts de créole. Il y a notre créole et nos enfants doivent apprendre à parler notre créole tout ça. Alors, moi je dis, Madame la Ministre... *Ayo, mo pe dekoné la.* Madame la Présidente... Elle ne sourit pas. Elle est sérieuse.

Madame la Présidente, voilà ce que je voulais dire au niveau de Rodrigues mais vraiment de 2012, nous avons vu pendant cinq ans ce que nous avons fait. C'est vrai, il y a des choses qu'on n'a pas pu faire et nos collègues ont dit nous sommes dans une situation très souvent : on lance un appel d'offre et puis, donc, il y a des contestataires et puis, ce n'est pas en mode *responsive* ainsi de suite et ce qui fait que ça tarde. Alors, là aussi, il nous faudra très souvent... J'en ai parlé une fois au Ministre Lutchmeenaraidoo qui était Ministre des Finances à cette époque-là, il faudrait voir quand on donne des contrats à des personnes, il faut que ces personnes aient une expérience dans ce domaine. Et très souvent, on donne des contrats à des personnes qui n'ont pas d'expérience. Et là aussi, nous avons voulu essayer plusieurs fois de demander à des Rodriguais de lancer des compagnies de constructions, des compagnies d'élevages ou de ceci ou de cela.

Lancez-vous dans tout cela et on peut vous aider. On a parlé dans le budget si on peut mettre à leur disposition, un comptable pour les aider. Alors, c'est ça qu'il faut. Nous voulons que les Rodriguais... Très souvent, les Rodriguais disent: « *Ah, ce ne sont pas nous qui avons des contrats ; ce sont les gens de l'île Maurice.* » C'est vrai. Alors, moi, il faudrait que ces Rodriguais qui veulent se

lancer dans des compagnies de contracteurs, il faut qu'ils reçoivent une formation, il faut qu'ils acceptent aussi de se faire aider par quelqu'un qui a fait de la comptabilité. Il y a tout ça. Donc, on va se lancer dans tout cela parce que nous voulons que Rodrigues franchisse une nouvelle étape. Ce n'est pas nous ; c'est le Rodriguais qui doit franchir cette nouvelle étape. Et ça, c'est très important. C'est les Rodriguais/Rodriguaises qui doivent franchir cette nouvelle étape. Et cette nouvelle étape, Madame la Présidente, elle se trouve dans l'autonomie de Rodrigues. Je redis:

« Nous, nous pensé ki nou bane frères ek soeurs dans Rodrigues, zot enan capacité. Besoin done zot l'occasion pou ki zot occupe zot zafer parski zot à Rodrigues ici, zot mieux qualifié pou koné ki zot bane besoins, ki zot bane priorités. »

Et ça doit tout le temps nous interpeller : ce que Sir Aneerood Jugnauth a dit le 19 mars 1982 à La Ferme au cours d'un *meeting*. Et après en 2002/2001, la loi a été voté à l'Assemblée Nationale par tous les partis politiques et 2002, l'Assemblée a été élue. Ce sera le 12 octobre cette année-ci que nous allons célébrer nos 15 ans de l'autonomie de Rodrigues. Alors, nous allons, au niveau de notre parti, faire une sorte de réflexion pendant ces 15 ans comment l'autonomie a fait progresser Rodrigues, comment l'autonomie est entrée dans l'esprit des Rodriguais ou bien l'autonomie, justement, ce qui est important ne doit pas faire de Rodrigues un pays assisté. Ça, c'est mal. C'est mauvais. Ce n'est pas dans l'esprit de l'autonomie.

Et c'est pourquoi nous, nous disons que l'autonomie va permettre aux Rodriguais d'agir afin que le développement de Rodrigues soit entre ses mains et l'éducation, la santé, le tourisme et tout ce qu'on peut faire, sont entre les mains du Rodriguais et quand les gens viennent... Et déjà justement, Madame la Présidente, à Maurice, on dit beaucoup de choses sur le développement de Rodrigues. Très souvent, quand je vais à Maurice, des gens m'interpellent dans la rue et me félicitent pour tout ce qu'on fait: *«Ah, ine tane ou kozé dans télévision untel, untel, untel, untel »*. Voyez-vous, nous sommes condamnés à justement montrer ce que nous pouvons faire, ce que nous sommes capables de faire par notre intelligence, notre volonté et notre cœur.

Madame la Présidente, que ce budget que nous avons présenté soit en budget qui justement va nous permettre de franchir une nouvelle étape. J'ai parlé de cette étape tout à l'heure. Cette étape, ce n'est pas juste développement des routes ou de ceci ou de cela cette étape, c'est aussi une transformation de la mentalité du Rodriguais, que le Rodriguais puisse se dire: *nou kapave, nou kapave déboute lor nou deux lipieds, nou kapave, Rodrigues, li dans nou la main*. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. That will do for the debate. I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.09 hours, the Assembly was suspended for one hour for lunch.

On its resumption at 13.13 hours, with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, we have completed the debate on the Motion of the Chief Commissioner who has just delivered his summing up speech and in accordance with Standing Order 55A, paragraph 3, the Draft Estimates now stand referred to the Draft Estimates Committee.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Drafts Estimates Committee

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to make an announcement for the guidance of Members for the proceedings of the Draft Estimates Committee. In line with Standing Order 55A, we will consider each vote of expenditure in turn and as usual, when reaching same, we will move page by page until the question is put thereon. Respected Members, I have to further inform the House that I have under Standing Order 55A, paragraph 4, discussed with the Commissioner and the Minority Leader and I have decided to allot a maximum of 30 minutes for the consideration of the vote items for the financial year ending 30th June 2018. Of course, I will be flexible where the need arises.

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk was called

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to move that Vote 1-1, Office of the Clerk, is amended as per amendment circulated.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, page 1, page 2.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, page 2. Sub-Head 1-101: Parliamentary Affairs. The Chief Commissioner just circulated an

amendment with regard to the Deputy Clerk, Regional Assembly: delete nil insert 1. The figure should be 24 instead of 23. So, I wish if you could consider.

Madam Chairperson: The total has just been circulated for your information, respected Member. Yes, page 3.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, page 3, Item 31. Just I would like to have some enlightenment concerning New Regional Assembly House. I would just like to know whether this site has been identified.

Madam Chairperson: Chief Commissioner, please.

The Chief Commissioner: …. Consultancy.

Madam Chairperson: For consultancy purposes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Madam Chairperson, in order to have a consultancy, the money is supposed to go for consultancy, there should be a site which has been chosen. You cannot just go and look for consultants without having an idea where you want to build the Regional Assembly House. So, it has to be clear. The Chief Commissioner has to be clear on the matter.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner?

The Chief Commissioner: Consultancy means that we and the Consultant, we are going to see where the House can be constructed, you know?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, the Chief Commissioner has provided you with an answer.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Anyone, page 3?

The Chief Commissioner: Excusez-moi, Madame la Présidente, d'après le monsieur de l'autre côté, il dit que c'est le consultant qui va venir nous dire. Non ! Nous allons travailler avec le consultant et en même temps, la question du bâtiment, où ce type de bâtiment pourra être construit, n'importe quel type de bâtiment. Le consultant ne veut pas dire qu'il va choisir pour nous. Nous travaillons avec le consultant. C'est ce qui se passe régulièrement quand on a des consultants, on va à des réunions avec eux pour voir et ils vont sur le terrain avec

nous et ainsi de suite. Le consultant n'est pas là juste simplement pour décider pour nous !

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk (Rs 19,614,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-1: Chief Commissioner's Office was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 4, 5.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Page 4. Yes, "To provide inclusive education through greater parental involvement and social responsibility". Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House about how he is going to achieve this mission, goal?

The Chief Commissioner: I have just said in my summing up: we are here with parents. We are also to have meetings with parents. It is not only teachers but also with parents. Parents also have some responsibilities in the education of their children. We are going to work together with parents. As I already said in my summing up that even the parents are going… As I said in my summing up, the school is not the school of the Government but the school of the community.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to question the Chief Commissioner with regards to strengthen the mission statement, "…strengthen the quality of education provided at Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary". Since a long time ago, we heard the Chief Commissioner state in this House that he will bring developments in the question of creole language in Rodrigues. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner does he have a report on that? What has his Commission done up to now? Can he inform the House with this matter?

The Chief Commissioner: So, we have stopped with the Mauritian Creole in the schools. At that time, my colleague is working for a Creole, a Rodrigues' Creole for the school. She is working on that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Chief Commissioner inform he House when these documents will be ready?

[Gap in recording]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, will the Creole dictionary form part of this policy, of this strengthening of education? Yes, but the Chief Commissioner did not answer the former question.

The Chief Commissioner: I just replied; I said yes!

The Minority Leader : I have read on page four that the strategic direction for 2017 and 2020 is to *'[i]mprove the visitors' authentic experience through sustainable destination management'*. Can we know how will he be doing that?

The Chief Commissioner: I just said in my summing-up that we do not invite people to come to Rodrigues but we have, here, to be well aware of our culture. When I mean culture, it is not our way of speaking, our way of eating and everything else and the number of sites we are going to visit and so on. This is, I did say in my summing-up.

The Minority Leader : But my question is I would like to know how he will do that, whether, there will be booklets, there will be causerie and so on to help the visitors and so on.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Madam Chairperson, we are going to set up a committee, a strategic committee with all the different partners in tourism.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, still on page four. Directions 2017 – 2020: Provide a statutory framework for sustainable land use, planning, environmental and land development. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us about the statutory framework he is talking about?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I think it is a question for enforcement of laws. Land Management System, *Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire*. It is a *Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire*. *Nous l'avons déjà ce Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire.*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Le Chef Commissaire vient nous dire qu'il y a déjà le Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire. Et puis, il dit : pas de *statutory framework*. Pourquoi faire des répétitions si on dit qu'il y a déjà le Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire ? Est-ce qu'il va venir avec des règlements ? Si oui, quels seront ces règlements ?

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, mais justement, ce que j'allais dire, il y a des règlements qu'on va passer afin que justement, tout ça sera

rendu légal. On va passer, on va travailler sur des règlements pour que tout ça puisse légaliser.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: En lien avec la question, pourquoi après, il n'est pas venu avec des règlements avant et ce n'est que pendant ce mandat qu'il va venir avec ces règlements ?

The Chief Commissioner: Franchir une nouvelle étape !

The Minority Leader : Page 5. Concerning the: "Implementation of nine-year schooling while taking into consideration the specificity of Rodrigues", can the Chief Commissioner specify what type of specificity, if he has an idea how this will fit into the nine-year schooling, just give us a hint on that?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes. Well, we are not here to submit our plan on nine-year schooling to the Minister. We are working on that but what I would say that agriculture will be a non-core subject in the nine-year schooling.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can I move to the page 4? Not finished.

Madam Chairperson: No, we cannot go back.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Okay.

Madam Chairperson: Let us move further…

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Non, non, non, non! We have still on page 5. Survey of 40 sites for government projects. So, is this going to be done by his Commission?

[Gap in recording]

Madam Chairperson: Let us move on now because I wish to inform the House that according to Standing Order 10 of our Standing Orders and Rules… Paragraph 10. Sorry. Standing Order 55A, paragraph 10 of our Standing Orders and Rules, respected Members are kindly requested to go to their Standing Orders and Rules and to see, I quote: *"[thou] shall not refer to the general principles of the Executive Council policy and administration"*. We move to the votes.

[Gap in recording]

Madam Chairperson: Page 6, 9.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Assistant Manager, Human Resources. In post – 2, funded – 2 and the estimates for 2016/17 – Rs 108,000 and the revised is Rs 1 m. So, I would like to know what has happened. Can the Chief Commissioner explain this difference in figure for this item?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is for payment of salaries July 2017 to June 2018 including increment from January to June 2018.

The Minority leader: Page 9, item 21, concerning the Social Worker, Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House on this? And, also, the Management Support Officer (*formerly General Services Officer (RRA)*), we have seen that the fund allocated has been reduced drastically about Rs 4 million. Can we have some enlightenment on that?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided represents be made of six months' salary.

Madam Chairperson: Page 10, 11.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, page....

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to internal control, we see that for the whole Assembly with seven Commissions, we have only one Internal Control Officer for all the Assembly. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us whether there are sufficient staffs to manage that unit or what is his policy with regards to this?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, there is only one Control Officer.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, but, Madam Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner talked about the good governance, audit, everything to control finance in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us with regards to the delivery of output, with regards to this one Internal Controller? Does he find it fit or normal that we have only one Internal Control Officer for the whole Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Madam Chairperson, two Mauritian officers are posted in Rodrigues and one post is being created to allow Scheme of Service to be finalised.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner mentioned two Mauritian officers in Rodrigues whereas, here, we have only one. Is he Mauritian or Rodriguan? What is this?

[Gap in recording]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, je vois ça triste parce que le Chef commissaire, quand il a pris le pouvoir, quand il a pris l'Assemblée Régionale surtout la section finance en 2012, il nous a fait une leçon sur la bonne gouvernance. Je suis d'accord avec toutes ses leçons qu'il a faites mais en pratique, Madame la Présidente, on ne voit rien depuis 2012. Aujourd'hui, on vient dire qu'il y a deux Mauriciens qui sont à Rodrigues ? Alors qu'on aurait pu former des gens pour s'occuper de notre finance à Rodrigues pour donner un coup de main pour faire de la bonne gestion de nos finances ? Madame la Présidente, je trouve ça triste.

[Gap in recording]

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, still concerning the Internal Control. Being given that we have skeletal staff, are we to understand that the Chief Commissioner's office is doing away with the Internal Control? – Because we are having a skeleton staff.

[Gap in recording]

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, this is an unfilled funded position in practice. The Internal Control is functioning with two Mauritian officers. The Internal Control is fully functional. Action is being taken to fill the post with Rodriguan after Scheme of Service is finalised.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Senior Analyst, Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Madam Chairperson: Which page, please?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Page 10. EPMU. Estimates – Rs 439,000, Revised Estimates – Nil 2016/2017. *Est-ce que le Chef Commissaire peut nous expliquer comment se fait-il que* Revised Estimates, *il n'y a pas de* funding for Senior Analyst ?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of salary July 2017 to June 2018 including increment from January to June 2018.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la Présidente, est-ce qu'il y a un *Senior Analyst* en poste à Rodrigues ?

The Chief Commissioner: There is no post of Senior Analyst in Rodrigues.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Justement, Madame la Présidente, j'avais posé la même question l'année dernière. Le Chef commissaire a dit que d'ici décembre, on allait recruter le *Senior Analyst*. Comment se fait-il que cette année, il vient me dire encore une fois qu'il n'y a pas de *Senior Analyst* à l'Assemblée Régionale ? Comment se fait-il qu'EPMU, un département, une section très importante de l'administration, il n'y a pas de *Senior Analyst* affecté à ce poste ?

The Chief Commissioner: We are looking forward for the promotion of an analyst as Senior Analyst.

The Minority Leader : Page 10. The Legal Services: Attorney, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Legal Officer, Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Since there is blank everywhere, are we to understand that we are doing away with the Legal Advisors for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: They are recruited as Advisors and not in a substantive post.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : They are Advisors.

The Minority Leader : Advisors? Can we know who is actually the Advisor for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? We have one or two?

Madam Chairperson: Next, 11, 12.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, 11. *Aller toi.*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Okay. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner informed that he will subsidise *couche* for *adulte*. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner under which Item he will subsidise this *couche*?

The Chief Commissioner: Subsidies for *couche* are included in Item 25110005: Subsidy to Shipping Services to and from Rodrigues included in that Item.

The Minority Leader : Page 11. Item 22900003: Passage Costs. I can see that the budget has almost doubled from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1 m. Can we know the reason thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is met for payment of air tickets for officers on mission in Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 22110001: Overseas travel – Expenses and Allowances of Delegates on mission.

Some Hon. Members: *Sa 200 la tipti!*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Exactement*, why is it that the figure is so small? So that we do not see it? Where is the problem? Where is it that if you want for example, to promote tourism in Rodrigues or any other destination, you have put only Rs 200,000. So, we do not understand. So, it is not in line with your mission statement. So, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner why is it that he has put only Rs 200,000 on that Item?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Madam Chairperson, promotion for tourism has its own budget: Discovery Rodrigues.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam…

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Non! Oui!* Promotion of tourism, this is different. Expenses and allowances of delegates on mission, this is different from tourism promotion. Yes, missions. So, why is it only that Rs 200,000 has been earmarked for that item?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is to meet payment of subsistence allowance to delegation proceeding on mission abroad.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to 22120: Fees, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner with regards to Fees, Fees to Chairman & Members of Board & Committees, Legal Fees, Fees i.c.w Capacity Building, all these fees have been doubled, trebled, fourbled, can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House with….

[Break in recording]

The Chief Commissioner: Amount provided is met for payment of fees to Members of Board and Committees such State Land Committee, Departmental Bid Committee and Bid Evaluation Committee.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes but, my question is the Chief Commissioner, why did the sum from Rs 300,000 to Rs 450,000 and then, estimates Rs500,000. The same thing happens to Legal Fees: Rs 800,000, 1.8 m. and then, Rs 800,000

again. Why this increase? Whereas, the Capacity Building Rs 2.5 m. decreased from Rs 1.4 m. and then, to Rs 5 m. estimates 2017/2018. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House why such an increase and decrease?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Legal Fees, the decrease in provision will be sufficient as the number of cases has been disposed of. Fees in Capacity Building: increase in provision is met for payment of fees to Consultants in Agriculture *agroalimentaire*, Expert in the sea desalination and for the recruitment of a Consultant for the reform of the Public Sector.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, page 11. Item 25110: Subsidies. Well, I am made to understand that the Central Government and the Minister of Commerce, they do have subsidies on the shipping service from Rodrigues to Mauritius. Here, we have another subsidy. Is it another subsidy or is it the same as that for the Ministry of Commerce?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is due to the payment of 50% fret on private buses up to Rs 75,000 maximum, raw materials for Small and Medium Enterprise and for payment of fret rebate on animal feed, essential commodities such as milk, tea and edible oil.

Madam Chairperson: One last question. Page 12.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 31121: Transport and Equipment. So we have…

Madam Chairperson: We have two minutes left for this vote.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Oké, pénan problème.* Transport and Equipment. Revised: Rs 9.4 m. Estimate was Rs 5.2 m. and revised was Rs 19.4 m., sorry. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner why is it that this figure has been more than doubled and can he speak a bit louder, please?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the purchase of five 4x4 van, one 16 seater van, one lorry and one van for veterinary purposes. Electrical works at Central Administration, purchase of equipment for setting up of Printing Unit.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can I ask the Chief Commissioner where has he got this fund/money to add on the estimate 2016/2017?

The Chief Commissioner: Printing. It will be from reallocations of sum.

Madam Chairperson: That is it for vote 2-1.

Vote 2-1: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 245,705,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-2: State Land was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 16.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, Surveyor. Page 16. Yes, 16. Surveyor: in post March 2017 – 2, 2017/2018 – 3.* Il y a différence de chiffre dans *estimate* et *revised estimate*. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous expliquer pourquoi il y a cette différence dans les chiffres ?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of salary July 2017 to June 2018 including increment as from January 2018.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Planning Assistant. We see here is nobody in post. So, if he wants to go for a good* aménagement du territoire, gestion des terres, pourquoi est-ce qu'il n'a pas trouvé bon de mettre dans ce budget, le poste de *Planning Assistant* ou bien *Development Control Officer* ? Pourquoi ? Dans le *Planning Unit*, il y a seulement une *Town and Country Planning Officer*. C'est très important ! Pourquoi est-ce qu'on n'a pas mis ça dans le budget ?

The Chief Commissioner: The Scheme of Duty is being prepared.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to the thousands of leases, of projects that we have to see in Rodrigues, did the Chief Commissioner find it normal that we have only one Planning Unit, a skeleton Planning Unit with only one officer? Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Chief Commissioner...

Some Hon. Members: *Non, pas dir skeleton.*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Skeleton em. Ene sel comment pou fer ha? Robot? Ene sel dimoune pou fer tou sa travay la?*

Some Hon. Members: Non, c'est vrai. *Vrai mem.*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Penan esclave ici. Nepi !* Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us on this ?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the Scheme of Duty is being prepared and then, we are going after the Scheme… Sometimes the Scheme of Duty takes a long time and then, perhaps, we are prepared to insert the post of Assistant Planning Officer.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I will make a plea to the Chief Commissioner so that he can speak a bit louder. Okay? Because we do not hear. Or you increase the volume of the… *Vine fer ti la voix? Ki fer ti la voix? Koz pareil !*

Madam Chairperson: 17.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to Airport Fire Officer, can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us why there has been a transfer to Sub-Head – Firefighting, Rescue and Fire Prevention?

The Chief Commissioner: Airport Fire Officer: the salary transferred under Sub-Head 5-105.

The Minority Leader : Page 17, Item 31: Intangible Fixed Assets, the Cadastral Survey/Equipment for GIS/Land Management System. I have seen that there is a tremendous increase, almost doubled. Can we have more information about that?

[Gap in recording]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I would like to know from still Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Acquisition of Property. So, we have seen that there is only Rs 140,000. So, I want to know what property the Chief Commissioner intends to acquire and what about all the properties: museum, all the private businesses on state land, they will acquire? So where will they get the money?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the equipment for GIS: because there is an increase in the number of surveys made by private surveillance. There has been an increase.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Acquisition of Property, there are two questions. I will put one more question. I am waiting for the answer. So, it is about the same Item, Acquisition of Property *en bas net*. So, what….

The Chief Commissioner: Rs 140,000 are an estimate of what would be paid for land acquired for construction of roads. The procedures are ongoing.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I have put also one more question about the buildings, the private buildings on state land which the Government is intending to acquire or has already acquired. So, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner under which Item will it fall if not under the same Item?

The Chief Commissioner: Only one building has been paid in last year Item.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 18.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes! Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Item 21110003 – Extra Remuneration, Item 21110004 – Allowances. Decrease from Rs 976,000 to Rs 600,000. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner is there any officer which has had problems: they have not been remunerated or they have been sacked? Extra Remuneration 003, 004 – Allowances. Why this huge decrease?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of allowances such as disturbance allowance and public holidays allowance.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets. For Development, so, we have seen that there is an estimate of Rs 20 m. and then, revised – Rs 11.9 m. and we see this year estimate is Rs 27 m. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain these figures, please?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment for Consultancy Services for the Airport Development and Geotechnical Investigations. The Geotechnical Investigation consist of two contracts: pilling works to the tune of Rs 19.8 m. awarded in January 2017, structural evaluation of the payments to the tune of Rs 3 m. approximately to be launched by May 2017.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, does this figure also include the relocation of the villagers/inhabitants of Sainte Marie? If he has earmarked money under this Item for the….?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Respected Members, Commissioners, order, please!

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

The Chief Commissioner: Well, this amount does not include relocation. I think it will be under what we call a Housing Scheme. The relocation will be under the Housing Scheme. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, does this mean that he will relocate the inhabitants of Sainte Marie?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes because when we talk about the extension of the runway, so, there will be bigger airplanes that will come and this means that we have to relocate the different families who are near the airport.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House to whom contract has been allocated for filling of the first contract he mentioned?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I need notice of the question.

The Minority Leader : The village of Sainte Marie, I make an appeal to the Chief Commissioner. Being given that we are going ahead with the extension of the runway and that the Sainte Marie Family for leaving the vicinity, the area, the airport area, so, I think prior to the extension of the runway, we should go ahead with relocation of the Sainte Marie Family. We should wait for the extension to be done and then, to relocate this family. I think this should be done urgently.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, as I said, before the works start the runway, we are going to relocate those families.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 19, 20.

The Minority Leader : Page 19, sorry. Item 22060018: Embellishment of Tourism Sites. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether these tourist sites include Ile aux Cocos, Caverne Patate and Trou D'Argent?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for minor works at existing tourism sites: Caverne Patate and Ile aux Cocos.

The Minority Leader : Trou D'Argent?

The Chief Commissioner: *Nou pou guetté après.*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Dan prochaine étape nou a guetté.* En parlant de prochaine étape, le Chef commissaire a parlé du tourisme, très important. Le

tourisme, secteur important dans le développement de Rodrigues, mais pourquoi ? C'est vrai qu'il y a eu le… On a mis *Tourism Promotion Officer* mais pourquoi il n'y a pas de *Head of Tourism* ? Pourquoi il n'y a pas de *Tourism Planner, Ledger Officer, Management Support Officer* dans le bureau du tourisme ? Si on veut développer le tourisme, pourquoi ne pas remplir ces postes ? Surtout, on parle de la prochaine étape. Donc, je demande au Chef commissaire de bien vouloir nous éclairer sur le pourquoi on n'a pas encore recruté ces gens-là.

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, nous allons travailler beaucoup avec le *Discovery Rodrigues*. Nous allons donner beaucoup plus de responsabilité au *Discovery Rodrigues* et à l'Office du tourisme.

Madam Chairperson: Next ! 20.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente…. quelque chose un peu drôle. En 2016/2017 concernant l'item 31113 : *Other structures, Tourism Sector Development,* en 2016/2017 *estimates*, je vois qu'il n'y a eu rien *earmarked* comme budget. En 2016/2017, *revised estimates* zéro mais en 2017/2018, je vois Rs5 millions. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous expliquer est-ce qu'il y a eu un genre de pénalisation ? Du moment que le secteur change de main, je vois qu'il y a de l'argent alors qu'avant, le Commissaire du tourisme n'avait pas d'argent pour développer ce secteur. Est-ce qu'il peut nous éclairer là-dessus ?

The Chief Commissioner: *The provision is meant for the setting up of a master plan for tourism development, upgrading of existing and setting up of a new tourism site.* Ça veut dire mon collègue, membre de l'Assemblée, que l'Office du tourisme, le *Discovery Rodrigues* travaille en étroite collaboration avec le *Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority* (MTPA) et la MTPA contribue justement au développement du tourisme à Rodrigues. C'est pourquoi que chaque fois qu'il y a une sortie dans d'autres pays pour des salons du tourisme, la promotion touristique de Rodrigues travaille en étroite collaboration avec la MTPA qui contribue justement au développement du tourisme.

Madam Chairperson: That is it for Vote 2-2.

Vote 2-2: State Land (Rs 83,008,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-3: Education was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 21, 22.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21111100: Overtime – Rs 400,000 to Rs 1,144,000. Can the Chief Commissioner explain to this House why? To whom overtime has been paid and explain for what purpose?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase is revised estimates due to payment of overtime to driver for convenience of staff after office hours. Convey of fresh officers on mission at the airport, to staff of the Procurement and Supply Department for classification of books prior to delivery to primary and secondary schools and to staff of registry for computation, of sick leave and finance staff for preparation of variances and urgent bills to be submitted within the deadline.

The Minority Leader : Item 31, I see there are 18 Tradesman's Assistants but the estimates for 2016/2017, there were Rs 122,000 for the estimates and the revised estimates have increased about 20-fold – Rs 2,225,000. I would like to have some enlightenment on that. And also, Item No. 21111: Other Staff Costs, here also, there has been a tremendous increase from Rs 1,757,000 to Rs 2,577,000. I would like to have some enlightenment on that.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, estimates 2016/2017 represents salary for one Tradesman's Assistant only. Revised estimates to meet salary for 18 Tradesman's Assistants;17 recruited in year 2016.

Madam Chairperson: 23.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 22030001: Rental of Building – 1.2 m., 1.2 m., 1.2 m. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner to whom this money is being paid?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of rental of office and parking space for the Commission amounting monthly – amount of Rs 89,248.05. Building – Rs 66,885, Parking – Rs 1000, Air conditioner – Rs 9,722 and Tax – 11,641.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Mutual Aid Building. So, is there a contract between the Commission and the RRA and whether, there has been an impression of interest prior to the renting on that building?

The Chief Commissioner: There has been an evaluation by Evaluation Office prior to renting.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us with regards to the Evaluation Office? Is it found in Rodrigues or in Mauritius?

The Chief Commissioner: The Evaluation Officers come from Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, this means that, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, if the RRA wants to rent a building, if the RRA wants to rent the *Cocotiers*, he just calls an Evaluation Officer from Mauritius, evaluate and we rent. This is not in order! There should be… Yes, you should allow everybody who own building in Port Mathurin to participate in that exercise! There are many people around Port Mathurin who have buildings and who can also rent and give parking, rent offices and give parking. There are a lot of space, there is a lot of buildings in Port Mathurin. Why Mutual Aid Building and why looking for an Evaluation Officer coming to Rodrigues, evaluate and we rent? This is not in order, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we cannot rent a building wherever it is situated. That is why we choose for the building where we can rent the building, not elsewhere. At Camp Du Roi? Fond La Digue? *Ceci cela?* No! We choose the site where the building can be rented. Why should we go rent the *Cocotiers*? Why should we go there?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Chief Commissioner why the Chief Commissioner removed the Commission for Education from the HRC to bring to Port Mathurin?

The Chief Commissioner: It is the policy of the Government. Why should we move ourselves from Malabar to Port Mathurin? You know, this is a question of also the number of places available there. Also, we would like to look for other places of the rent of the building where we can have some places, where we have some more places for the Education Officers.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House who choose place for the Commission for Education?

Madam Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner has already answered this question, Respected Member. Let us move on, 24, 25… 24.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 31: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Education Infrastructure Development – 7.5 m. So, can we know…

Madam Chairperson: Which page are you referring to, respected Member, please? Which page?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: You are on page 24?

Madam Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 23. *Alé ok pas fer narnien.* Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 25.

Madam Chairperson: 25, yes?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I would like to make a general comment on the huge increase from estimates to revised estimates. I will take the example of Item 28211002: Block Grant to RCEA and then, Item 31112001: Non-Residential Buildings to Education Infrastructure Development Project from Rs 39 m. to Rs 98 m. When we add all these revised estimates, we see that there is an increase of 94 m. for this block. Rs 94,317,000 surplus revised estimates. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us on this huge amount, huge increase? Inform us also about the projects.

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is meant to meet payment of PRB Salary Performance Grant of 10% of total Block Grant for the year to the RCEA, year 2016, Management Grant and use of private buildings.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Second question: Educational Infrastructure Development Project – Rs 39,700,000 to Rs 98,907,000. Yes, I would like to have details of this Education Infrastructure. To whom? Whether the project has already been awarded. To whom? The contract value etc.

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in revised estimates for payment of the following projects: Kitchen and *Préau* in Five Schools, Rainwater Harvesting Project in Schools, Advanced Payment for Construction of Primary School at Montagne Charlot. Provision for estimates 2017/2018 for payment of Retention Money and Advanced Payment for Construction of New Toilet Blocks at Grand La Fouche Corail and Mangues Government Schools.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: …. To have details on the…. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, *excusez-moi*, c'est difficile tout ça.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On va s'y habituer.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Oui, ça viendra. Madame la Présidente, le Chief Commissioner nous a fait mention de la cuisine communautaire qui a été faite dans des écoles. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner to whom these

contracts… Was it the same, one contract for the five kitchens? Was it separated contract and can he inform the House to whom this contract has been awarded?

The Chief Commissioner: C'est des appels d'offre qu'on lance, Madame la Présidente. Il y a des fois qu'un contracteur est pour telle école, un autre contracteur pour l'autre telle école. Tout dépend des contrats et la plupart du temps, ce sont des contracteurs de Rodrigues qui font ce genre de travail, surtout les préaux qu'on a lancés un peu partout. Et ces préaux-là, je profite l'occasion pour dire que ces préaux, justement, c'est un peu ce qu'on a fait à Montagne Charlot. C'est où l'enfant peut s'asseoir quand il pleut ou pour manger et ainsi de suite. On a vu que c'est très important ces préaux pour les enfants. Et là, justement, nous allons faire l'expérience d'un repas chaud à Port Sud-Est et Anse Quittor. Anse Quittor a déjà un préau. J'étais là-bas la fois dernière. Et Port Sud-Est, on vient de construire le préau. Merci.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: New toilet blocks at Grand La Fouche Corail. Can the Chief Commissioner give us details of the amount spent and to whom the contract has been awarded?

The Chief Commissioner: On n'a pas encore lancé le contrat. Effectivement, on nous a signalé qu'il faut refaire ces toilettes et surtout les toilettes dans les écoles. Autrefois, c'était construite de telle façon. Maintenant, ces toilettes à Grand la Fouche Corail, on doit refaire mais on n'a pas lancé encore l'appel d'offre.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Trainee Educator. Funded position 2017/2018: 5. Kreol Morisien. Même page, 24.

Madam Chairperson: We are on page 25.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *25 la?*

Madam Chairperson: 26!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes 25! Yes, Item 31: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – Construction of Community Schools. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain the change in figure?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please, respected Members!

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in revised estimates for Construction of New Community School at Anse Quittor. Provision for estimates 2017/2018 for Payment of Retention Money for Anse Quittor Community School and Advanced Payment for New Community School at Baie Malgache.

Madam Chairperson: 26.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Sub-head 2-305: Tertiary Education. With regards to RRA Scholarship, I see, I observe that there has been a decrease from Rs 7 m. to Rs 5 m. with regards to revised estimates and estimates – revised scholarship. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether, there has been no award of scholarship and why has there been such a decrease?

The Chief Commissioner: Certain amount has been transferred to Mrs. Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis' budget.

Madam Chairperson: That is it for Vote 2-3.

Vote 2-3: Education (Rs 608,336,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 3-1: Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office was called.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: General Worker.

Madam Chairperson: Page 31.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes! So, I would like to know why is it that there are only four General Workers at the Commission. A Commission like the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office, why is it that there are only four General Workers?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I believe, Madam Chairperson, that there are other General Workers in the other fields/units of the Commission but this is the main unit at the, how to say, the headquarter.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: There is one thing I would like to correct the Deputy Chief Commissioner. He cannot believe; he has to be sure of whether…

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I am sure.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, sure. Okay, good.

Madam Chairperson: Page 32.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us with regards to Head, Public Infrastructure. Does he have one person? Who is this person? Can we know?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : One Head of… It is on page 31? Yes, he is post already. Mr. Nathaniel Perrine.

The Minority Leader : Item 2290081: Setting Up of a Civil Test Laboratory in Rodrigues (MSB). Can we know whether this test laboratory is in the pipeline and what is the timeframe for setting up such laboratory in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson, it is very useful to have such a laboratory for performing in our Commission and I think that procedures are on the way to complete the laboratory.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, 33.

The Minority Leader : Concerning Item 21: Architect/Senior Architect, Quantity Surveyor/Senior Quantity Surveyor and Electrical Engineer/Senior Electrical Engineer, I see there is no fund allocated for 2016 and 2017. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us on that? The same for Technical Design Officer.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, that there is no one in post as at March 2017. So, in fact, if there is no one in post, it is ultimate that you are not going to have any sum allocated for that. But of course, there is a funded one for 2017/2018. So, this is why we have made provisions for Rs 413,000, for 2017/2018 because we intend to recruit all these posts that you have mentioned.

Madam Chairperson: Next! 33.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regards to three posts: Blacksmith, Welder, Plumber and Pipe Fitter. Blacksmith, I see there is no Blacksmith at the Commission for Public Infrastructure and there is money allocated to the post. This is the first question. And then, afterwards, you see in estimates 2017/2018,

no money again. So, this is first question. Welder, Plumber and Pipe Fitter, same applies to 2017 and then, no money available for the next years.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : For the Blacksmith case, the post has been phased out. The Blacksmith, it has been phased out; this is why there is no provision. If it has been phased out by 2017 and 2018, there is no need for any provision for that. Yes, there is money for 2016/2017. There is a fund. There is fund for 2016 and 2017; there is no fund for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Since there is a person in post and I think that he is going to retire by the time that we reach 2017 and since the post has been phased out, there is no need for other allocations in that budget. And, then, you are speaking of the Welder. I am going to give you the answer. For the Barbender. Let me check it out. Barbender. There is no such… There is a provision for that. Yes, there is a provision for 2016/2017 but no provision for 2016 and the other financial years to come.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes but to whom the money has been paid?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The person was in post during the financial year 2016/2017 and he has retired during that year.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Let me put one question, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, does it mean, Mr. Deputy Chief Commissioner, this means that Blacksmith and Pipe Fitter will no longer be available, the service of these people, these professionals will be no longer available in the Commission for Public Infrastructure or they have been transferred elsewhere?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It could be that the duties being performed by these officers are now incorporated in another scheme.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, écoutez, là, nous avons un problème parce que ces gens-là sont des professionnels et nous savons tous très bien que la Commission des Infrastructure Publique a besoin des *Pipefitters specially for maintaining or carry on* les travaux qui ont été commencés par l'ancien Commissaire pour tous les enfouissements de tuyau dans la terre etc. pour *repairing/maintaining of the pipes*. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner see to it…. professional remains in post of the field? *Be si penan lote dimoune, ine fer IVTB pour narnien?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I am informed, Madam Chairperson, that there are Welders at the Mechanical Workshop, also. Yes.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

The Minority Leader : Can I, Madam, please? There is one… boggling. Page 33, Item 21111: Other Staff Costs to quite a huge amount of money – Rs 3,729,000 which has an increase for Rs 3,929,000. Can we have some information concerning the Other Staff Costs? What are the Other Staff Costs for?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, for Other Staff Costs, about what you are mentioning – Rs3,729,000. Is that it? Travelling, Overtime and so on. Yes, provision made for payment of end-of-year bonus to officers under the Vote Item. Travelling and Transport – the monthly payment of travelling expenses incurred by staff, bus fares, travel grant, commuted travelling, car allowance, mileage claim, which averaged to approximately such sum. There is Overtime also which is included in that and then, Staff Welfare.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 34.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 31: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – Construction of Market in Villages, Rs 6 m. earmarked. So, we have heard in the budget speech that two markets will be constructed: one at Grand La Fouche Corail and the other one, I have forgotten. So, will this sum be enough to build two markets in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Only one market earmarked for next financial year at Grand La Fouche Corail and one…. at Rivière Cocos.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Maintenance of Vehicles. Automobile Electronic Technicians. Madam Chairperson, Madam, we are in 2017. We have lots of vehicles at the Marine Parks who are under electronic… *Pas marine do* – mechanical workshop. *Excuse-moi, Missier Richard! Mone tous ou boubou, excuse-moi!* Mechanical Workshop which are under electronic devices etc. Can I ask the… make a plea to the Deputy Chief Commissioner to see whether he can put young people, send them to have courses in order to be able to repair these vehicles which sometimes *pé dormi dans car park for long, long… for mild electronic problems, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam*?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The Automobile Electronic Technician. Just give me one minute, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Ce que je demande, Madame la Présidente, je suis en train de faire un *plea*, *a request*. Le fait qu'il y a tellement de véhicules qui arrivent actuellement… *Ecoute-moi, mo ene kréol moi, arrête fatigue moi do.* Le fait qu'il y a tellement de véhicules, presque tous les véhicules qui arrivent actuellement, c'est ce genre de véhicules électronique et que ces machines-là, ils

dorment trop longtemps dans le *Mechanical Workshop*. Est-ce qu'il y a une possibilité d'envoyer quelques uns de ces jeunes qui viennent de l'*IVTB* ou je ne sais pas moi, mais qui ont des formations en électromécanique, en électrotechnique, de les former dans des garages à Maurice, dans le Gouvernement ou quelque chose comme ça pour pouvoir venir par la suite réparer ces véhicules qui dorment pour un petit moins que rien. Est-ce que c'est possible ? Je vous demanderais si vous pouvez faire ça.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The work is actually being performed by the Automobile Electrician and as far as possible, we are going to see how best we can accede the request of the Member.

Madam Chairperson: Next! 35, 36.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 36, yes.

The Minority Leader : 36, Item 31 – 022: Construction and Upgrading of Bridges. Can we know which bridges are concerned, whether there are new bridges that will be built and where in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There are for Item Vote 31113022. In fact, there is provision made for…. for Anse aux Anglais. Yes, Anse aux Anglais. There is still money for Anse aux Anglais. The question was whether there is going to be…

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I believe that… *Non.* There are some bridges that are going to be done by the NDU Unit. Yes. But as far as I remember, there is one which is going to be done at Camp du Roi but I do not have the others in mind. But I know that the NDU Unit is pondering over that matter.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to these constructions of bridges, Mr. Deputy Chief Commissioner… We know that…

Madam Chairperson: Please, address the Chair, respected Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, excuse me. Yes, with regards to…* Par rapport à la construction des ponds, les radiers qui devraient être remplacés. Surtout, je parle de Anse Fémi, la région 6, je parle de Baie du Nord, je parle de Mourouk, Port Sud-Est/Mourouk, Baie Malgache. Je sais qu'il y a eu des ententes, d'accord, des arrangements qui vont être faits au niveau de la NDU. Je sais qu'il

y a eu provision de Rs50 millions pour la construction de ces *bridges*. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform us when these bridges will begin ? Yes, give us details on that, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson, as far as I remember, there is an ongoing project right now by the NDU which I am not going to comment because it is not under the purview of this Regional Assembly but I know that there is a new list of projects that has been sent by the PPS to my Commission and among these items that you have mentioned, they are labelled under same.

[Break in recording]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : …. of the NDU Unit.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I would like to ask a question on that. Again, I see a huge amount of increase with regards to revised estimates. There are approximately Rs40 m. surplus. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House about this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, yes, there is an increase from Rs 81,300,000 to Rs 123,633,000. Yes, some roads which are already under construction: you have le Chou/Port Mathurin. For the revised estimates, yes, the value that is going to be paid for this road of Le Chou… Soupir to Port Mathurin, it is included in that and we know very well that we have started the procedures for Camp Pintade/Baie Topaze Road also.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Sorry, I have one. Will this sum, Rs 75 m., will it be sufficient for the construction of all these roads? And, if yes, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner give us a breakdown if he has in hand the estimates of all these portions of road.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Unfortunately, I do not have it in hand, Madam Chairperson but yet, I believe that we are going to phase it in such a way that the sum that has been incorporated, the Rs 75,000 that has been incorporated will be used for the next financial year and if need be, we are going to phase a road in next financial year.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, because as per the trend in the estimates 2016/2017, it was Rs 78 m. and the revised estimate is Rs 120 m. which is almost doubled the sum earmarked. So, following the same trend, that is why I wanted

to know whether this amount will be sufficient for all these roads which I think you, also know, that it will not be sufficient. That is why I wanted to know and if yes, whether, he will reallocate money from other items.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It is well-known, Madam Chairperson, that there has always been reallocation of budgets for construction of roads or rehabilitation of same. I do not think that it will be wise since we are discussing about budget allocation right now in this Assembly, to say that we are going to proceed with allocation in the next financial year. If there is a need to do it, I think we will do it but at this stage, I will not say that we are going to proceed with allocation. It will be a disrespect to this Assembly in some way.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, next! 37, 38, 39.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I see that there is a duplicate. I am talking about the Blacksmith again. There is a duplicate for Maintenance of Buildings and Other Assets. Blacksmith – Rs 257,000 and again, Blacksmith under Improvement of Public Infrastructure in villages, the same amount of money. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner explain to this House why this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It is the…. There is the Blacksmith under the other Item and there is a Blacksmith under this Item and with the same figure. This means that the person in post is having his top salary and they are going to remain in post until they retire. This is why there has been no provision which has been made for financial year for future financial years.

The Minority Leader : Page 39, Item 31: Other Structures – Improvement, Renewals, Minor Projects and Infrastructural Works in Villages, Infrastructure to Morcellements for which Rs 51 m. is earmarked. Can we have more details concerning all these works, minor works, infrastructural works concerned?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : For Acquisition for Non-Financial, there is a provision of Rs 50 m. Yes, Rs 40 m. for 2017. So, we are speaking about the capital. There are track roads that will be ongoing as I have already started. *Non*, track roads. Retaining walls, of course, and I think there are also some *radiers* to be constructed in villages, yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, what about the other structures? For example, green spaces and so on in villages. So, what… The improvement of such structures, is it included in this budget or does it fall under your responsibility?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The Vote Item here also includes the construction of *des abribus*. And, as we have made in the… It is under the Commission for Environment.

Madam Chairperson: Next page! 40.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to Head of Water Resources, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us on the post? Whether there is someone, who is that person and why there has no money voted for that? *Mo pa koner moi, mo pe demander.*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I think there is someone acting on the post. No. Yes, the Head for Water Resources (formerly Officer-in-Charge, Water Unit), Scheme… There has been the launching of vacancy but here has been no response. So, this is why we are going ahead for the recruitment of one under the Expert Development Skills from the Ministry for Finance and Economic Development.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, you know why this question? – Because last week or two weeks ago, I phoned an officer at Malabar with regards to water distribution at Rivière Banane. An officer which is paid by Government's money *'cut the phone in my face'*. That is why I would like to know who is responsible… Yes, *'he cut the phone'*. *Enfin, to koner comment ine dir toi. 'Cut the phone.'* Yes, I would like to know… That is why, this question, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, because I think it is not okay and we have to know as Member of Parliament, to whom we can address whether there is a problem to help, good faith. We want to help, to solve problem but on the other hand, there are some officers, I do not say everybody, there are some officers who do not do their work well. I would inform the Commissioner; I would like to make a plea to the Commissioner to see for a good response in that direction for better improvement of water distribution in Rodrigues. Because on that week, I brought 10 galloons of water to the people of Rivière Banane on my own. Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I take note of what the respected Member has informed the House but I would like to add two points on the matter. In the Budget Speech, the Chief Commissioner has spelt out of the setting up of a Counting Committee at his office. It is in line with what you are saying. It gives the public the possibility of giving suggestions and making complaints whenever there is a bad delivery of service which is offered to them. That is the thing. The second matter that I would like to raise but I did not do in my speech this morning is that thing that is controversial with respect to Rivière Banane. I am speaking here and I wanted not to say it. It is with respect

to the vandalism aspect of the matter at Rivière Banane. I am not going to dwell further on the matter. You know very well what I am speaking about.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Time is almost over. Next question, please!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, in line with what you are saying, there is only… What is the role of the Field Supervisor? Field Supervisor and Senior Field Supervisor, what is their role? Chair, I have one more question.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This is an administrative matter, Madam. We are speaking of the Scheme of Duties of the Field Supervisor which falls under the administrative duties of the Departmental Head. But as from the name itself, they are supposed to supervise the water attendance and report any matter that is not going well with respect to our network, anything with respect to water distribution.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have nothing against the Senior Field Supervisor and the Field Supervisor but the thing is that there is only one in post; one Senior Field Supervisor who supervise, who is the senior of only one other Field Supervisor. This is a problem! You have to put more Field Supervisors in the budget so that you do not have to come here and say we have vandalism and so on. This is the problem. Do you understand my point? Why is it that you have not increased the number of Supervisors, Field Supervisors on this budget?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The question of vandalism as you have sorted it out, it will continue as long as we have *des gens avec l'esprit tordu*. We have, of course, to try as far as possible to scale that *maladie* with respect to our network. – Because these persons never think that when they are causing harm to our distribution network, they are also causing harm to villagers and this is something that I condemn. But overall, Madam, we are in a phase of institutional reform as it has been spelt out in the budget speech. I have mentioned and the Chief Commissioner has mentioned that there will be institutional reform to review the whole system of the Water Production Unit or the Water Sector and I think that when we are going to come with that reform, ultimately, we are going to deal with the lack of officers that will have to be incorporated for a better service.

The Minority Leader : On page 41, concerning the Scientific and Laboratory Equipment and Supplies, Chemical for Desalination Plant, can we know which chemical and which amount? – Because it is quite a huge amount. Page 41, Item Number 22150: Scientific and Laboratory Equipment and Supplies,

Chemical for Desalination Plant. Can we know which chemicals and the amount? – Because it is quite a huge amount though the revised estimates have gone from Rs 7.5 m. to Rs 4.5. And, the second question, Item 31: Other Structures, Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs and Desalination Project. Can we have details where these dams will be constructed? Which dams will be rehabilitated and the Desalination Project, can we have more details where they will be installed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, as regard to… You are speaking about the capital expenditure. Is that it? Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs which includes some on others the Desalination Project. There are these desalination plants right now which are yet to be completed at Pointe Coton and Anse Goéland. We have yet to complete the desalination plant to make it fully operational at Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille. Yes, to complete, to make it 100% fully effective. Now, there are some items that have to be bought under this. There are some items that are to be bought and we have made provisions for consultancy and feasibility study for Pavé La Bonté and Anse Baleine. As regard to the chemicals that you have asked about, they include antiscalants and flocculants for better water treatments.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam,* je voudrais demander à l'adjoint du Chef commissaire concernant la qualité de l'eau *dessalinée*, did we have a laboratory here in Rodrigues to control the water out and to give water which is at a respected norm to the population? Did we have this in Rodrigues? And, if not, does he intend to put one?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I mentioned it this morning, Madam. This is a unit that needs to be reformed at the level of the Commission. I do agree with you. But, nevertheless, as at now, we are performing analysis of water be it from the desalination plant or from other sources, production sources for turbidity, acidity and other physical tests. Bacteriological tests are being done at the level of the hospital and as regard to pathological matters, we do send samples of water in Mauritius to be analysed.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, that is it for Vote 3-1.

Vote 3-1: Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 395,441,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-1: Commission for Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Child Development, Industrial Development, Information and Communication Technology, Vocational Training, Cooperatives, Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Prisons was called.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can we know, *Madame la Présidente*, what are these asterisks to the Deputy Chief Commissioner and then Commissioner, one, two asterisks? Can we know why this?

[Break in recording]

The Minority Leader : On page 48, Item 21: Matron, Shelter Care Attendant (on shift). Well, are we to understand that all these posts have been removed and we will no longer have Matron and Shelter Care Attendant?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, Madam Chairperson, since 2013, when the management of the Foyer Baladirou has been shifted to *Vicariat Apostolique*, so, we no longer have to have these persons because in the grant, we provide them. They recruit their own personnel for working there.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 49!

The Minority Leader : Yes, 49, Item 21111100: Overtime. We have seen that there has been a tremendous increase in overtime from Rs 350,000 to Rs 800,000. Can we have some enlightenment on that? And, Item 26: Grants, Contribution to Rodrigues Regional Women Committee and Women's Association. Can we know which associations we are talking about? Whether there is only one or whether there are several of them and .142: Grant to Fille de Marie for Shelter. Can we know how these funds are given? Whether they are given directly to the Fille de Marie or to the Church or I would like to know how this is done.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, for the overtime, the provision was made for payment of overtime for Drivers and Office Auxiliary and Management Support Officers. With regards to the budget for Women's Association, in fact, we have the Rodrigues Regional Women Committee that for years, obtained a grant from the Government. For the question of the grant to Fille de Marie, an MOU signed with them and the grant is being disbursed in different parts over the year.

Madam Chairperson: Page 50.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, I have one question, Madam.* Madame la Présidente, pourrais-je demander à la Commissaire en question, Madame Gaspard, concernant le *Family Training Centre, yes, give us explanation on the figures, please*.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : …. What we do is we upgrade the different women's centres around Rodrigues and the provision here for the year 2017/2018, it is for acquisition of the equipment for Anse aux Anglais and also for acquisition of equipment for Montagne Croupier Women Centre.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 51!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Rental of buildings under Industrial Development and Handicrafts. Can I ask the Commissioner whether the rental of Invest Rodrigues do fall under her Commission?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Yes, it does.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: What amount are we paying for that rental?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, you can divide this sum by 12 and you get the number.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, next page, 51!

The Minority Leader : Yes, 51, Item 28: Other Expense. Transfers…. had quite a big sum of money. There has been a change from Rs 3,350,000 to Rs 3,428,000. Can we have some enlightenment on that? Support to Handicraft Sector. Which support we are talking about? Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), can we have more details on that? And, Item 31: Construction of *La Maison de L'Entreprise et des Cooperatives*. Can we know where this will be set up ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, under the provision made for Support to Handicraft Sector, it is catered for the different training programmes that we do with the SMEDA. And, also, we assist handicrafts, Craftsmen for their activities. As regard to Support to Small and Medium Industries, budget earmarked refers to the provisions made for participation of entrepreneurs in fairs for the different schemes at the Commission. And, regarding the Bringing Technology to SME's, so, it is obvious, it is the Technology Modernisation Scheme. With regards to the setting up of La Maison de L'Entreprise et des Cooperatives, I am pleased to inform the House that this construction is being finalised at the SMEDA compound.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 52! 53, 54.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 54, Madam, please. *Centre de Formation Hôtelière*, Capital Expenditure, Item 31. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House about

the setting up of the *Formation Hôtelière*, where this *Formation Hôtelière* will be set up and when the project will begin if ever?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : As I told here numerous times in this House, so, this Training Complex will be set up at Contour Oblass, ex-Coralie La Différence, if you want to hear these words. And, the Government made acquisition of this building and as the Chief Commissioner mentioned in his budget speech, we have had the launching of an expression of interest to see the interest of the private schools in Mauritius with the experiences to come and set up and we hope that by the end of this year, we will have the setting up of this Tourism Academy.

Madam Chairperson: 55!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Officer-in-Charge of Co-operatives, I see there is nobody in post.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Donc, la personne qui occupait le post est en retraite.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: …. quelque part?

Madam Chairperson: Next, 56 !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Item 21: Compensation of Employees, Senior Inspector (Health and Food Safety). So, can we know why is it that the Senior Health Inspector is posted at her office and whether, there has been a transfer? And, if yes, who gave the instruction for the transfer of the Senior Health Inspector to her Commission?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Donc, Madame la Présidente, étant donné que depuis notre reprise de bureau, *taking of the office*, j'ai sous mes attributions, *Trade, Commerce and Licensing*. Donc, le Conseil Exécutif a pris note du besoin d'avoir un *Health* et *Senior Inspector*, à la Commission, donc, parce qu'on veut consolider le *one stop-shop*. Donc, le *Senior Inspector* aura pour tache, comme il faisait depuis toujours, de visiter les agro processeurs. C'est dans un esprit de consolider et de donner un meilleur service à ces personnes. Et puisque comme le protocole le veut, le transfert d'un officier d'un bureau à un autre, c'est le bureau du Chef Commissaire, l'*Island Chief Executive Office* qui est responsable pour faire ce transfert et il est à noté que cet officier fera strictement le travail qu'incombe son *Scheme of Service*. Donc, c'est juste une question d'où il se trouve au niveau de l'Assemblée Régionale pour donner un meilleur service à la population.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la Présidente, pourrais-je demander à la Commissaire si on a eu la probation de la PSC pour transférer ce monsieur de la Commission du Health…

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mo kav kozé la ?*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, the Commissioner has already given this information, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: No, I am coming with another question. I am not finished. I have been disturbed by the Commissioners. So, I would like to ask whether… I am talking about the PSC. Whether, PSC has given its approval prior to the transfer of the officer?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : En effet, Madame la Présidente, je confirme bien l'incompréhension du fonctionnement de l'autonomie bien qu'après 15 ans aujourd'hui, il y a des personnes qui ont siégé dans cette Assemblée. En effet, c'est un arrangement au niveau de l'administration de Rodrigues. La personne va faire strictement le travail qu'il doit faire, la personne, va comme son *scheme of service* le dit, il sera *accountable to his Supervising Officer, the Principle I suppose*. *So, there is no problem at all. So, this is autonomy. We are managing our people. At no point in time, it is a punitive transfer as the Minority Leader said.*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We have not been talking about punitive transfer but referring to the PSC Regulation, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, section 25 (1):

"No public officer may be transferred from his present Ministry [or Commission] *or Department to another Ministry or Department unless approval for such transfer has been given by the Commission…"*

The "Commission" means the PSC. There is no PSC in Rodrigues. The Island Chief Executive is entitled only to transfer minor grades; not senior officers!

[Applause]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Not senior officers! This is contrary to the PSC Regulation! This is illegal!

Madam Chairperson: …. to shout like this.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la Présidente, illégal ou pas illégal, je pense que déjà, toutes les facilités, tous les privilèges que le Monsieur, ce *Senior Inspector* avait, il continuerait à l'avoir. Tout *public officer* a Rodrigues est appelé à servir ce pays pourvu que ses conditions de service sont respectés. Donc, si vous pensez que vous allez faire polémique pour que les gens ne travaillent pas, on est désolé, vous n'avez rien compris de l'autonomie et votre place n'est pas ici !

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

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that this officer, his service has been restricted to Health Sector only?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Je pense que quand cet officier était attaché ou bien venait chaque matin mettre son *attendance* au niveau de la Commission de la Santé, une de ses attributions, il avait à accompagner les agro processeurs. C'est le travail qu'il va faire. J'espère que c'est vous qui polémiquez, que dans la tête de cet officier, ce n'est pas cet état des choses…. que *PSC approval is only required for transfer of establishment and there is only one establishment in Rodrigues Regional Assembly*.

Madam Chairperson: Let us move on, please, 57.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente…

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, no cross talking, please! Commissioner, respected Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Est-ce que la Commissaire en question ainsi que toute l'équipe qui est derrière cette affaire, est-ce que la Commissaire en question est au courant que cette personne, l'officier en question, perdra plus de Rs20,000 chaque mois comme *allowance*. *Is she aware of this, Mrs. Chairperson ?*

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la Présidente, j'ai l'impression que le débat est faussé ici. Ce n'est pas la question d'une personne ; c'est la question d'une institution, c'est la question du travail du Gouvernement qu'il faut faire. Et à aucun moment, cet officier va perdre quoi que ce soit. Moi, je dois vous dire que je suis fière ; c'est un ami de classe. J'ai eu l'occasion de lui parler. A aucun moment, il a ses soucis-là. Donc, il est heureux de travailler, de continuer son travail. Donc, c'est la démagogie pure est simple.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please !

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, wait a second ! Respected Members, order, please! From both sides of the House, order! Yes, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader : Page 56, Item 26.146: Support to Cooperative Societies. Can we know what kind of support we are talking about and which Cooperative Societies are concerned here?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la Présidente, depuis quatre ans déjà, on accompagne les coopératives dans le cadre de leurs projets, d'améliorer les services pour le public et donc, depuis deux ou trois ans déjà, on les permet aussi comme les entrepreneurs de pouvoir avoir accès à des financements pour moderniser leurs activités. Donc, c'est dans ce cadre-là que le budget de Rs2 millions est prévu. On va continuer cette aventure avec les coopératives parce qu'ils trouvent que ça les aide beaucoup et bien sur que le support est donné par rapport aux projets que les coopératives portent. Et toutes les coopératives de Rodrigues, les 80 qui sont actives, elles sont au courant qu'elles peuvent venir a n'importe quel moment pour demander ces projets et bien évidemment, par rapport aux projets qu'ils présentent, par rapport à *availability of funds*, on les accompagne et aussi, on a des activités qu'on fait couramment pour encourager, pour former les coopératives pour devenir des professionnels. Le Chef commissaire a annoncé dans son budget le *Cooperative Excellence Programme* pour cinq coopératives par an. C'est-à-dire que nous invitons et nous incitons les coopératives eux aussi à franchir une nouvelle étape. Cet argent sera utilisé dans ce sens-là.

The Minority Leader : If I well understood concerning the 86 cooperatives, there is no picking and choosing?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : We have never been doing picking and choosing as they are saying because it was their way of doing. So, every cooperative who holds a project, they…. And, of course, the project should be according to the vision and what we want to achieve with them.

Madam Chairperson: I would request respected Members to allow the other Members to answer, please. Next 58, 59, 60.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 60, yes. Youth Rehabilitation Centre. Can the Commissioner explain this change in figure? Youth Rehabilitation Centre.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, as you might be aware, Madam Chairperson, we are actually setting up a Youth Rehabilitation Centre at Fond Baie aux Huitres because we want to accompany youths who are in conflict with justice in Rodrigues. Up to now, these youths, they have to go for rehabilitation in Mauritius and this budget provision is for the setting up of the second phase of the RYC comprising of yards and facilities for leisure and so on.

Madam Chairperson: That is it for Vote 4-1.

Vote 4-1: Commission for Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Child Development, Industrial Development, Information and Communication Technology, Vocational Training, Cooperatives, Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Prisons (Rs 169,920,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 5-1: Commission for Health, Community Development, Fire Services, Meteorological Services, Judicial Services and Civil Status was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 63, 64.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 64, yes. Travelling and Transport as well as Other Staff Costs.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you can…

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please! Respected Members, I have been very patient with you today. Order! Yes, page 64, anyone?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Other Staff Costs, Travelling, Overtime. Overtime, it has been revised from Rs 550,000 to Rs 800,000. So, can we know why there has been such an increase in the… *Hey, assize atane mo repone! Non, be atane, penkor fini. Non, non, atane!* Why the increase and can he also explain the increase in the transport?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, provision is being made for payment of extra hours put in by employees in pursuance of their duty. Revised estimate is being based on actual trend where the rise is due to basis salaries and extra remuneration. The provision for 2017/2018 has been made taking into account the National Policy by the Ministry of Finance to curtail such expenditure.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner under which Item? Since there have been several times that the CT Scan is breaking down due to internet connection, non-paying of internet connection fee. Can I ask the Commissioner under which Item the internet connection…

Madam Chairperson: To which page are you referring to, please?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Telephone, 64. Can I know from the Commissioner under which Item the internet connection for the CT Scan is being paid?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the CT Scan does not work with internet connection.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner how images are transferred form the CT Scan to other departments in Rodrigues or in Mauritius? Give us details.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as I have said, it is not connected by Internet. There is a Radiologist on fulltime basis in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 65!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Accommodation Costs. So, can the Commissioner explain what is this money used for under this Item?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this provision is being made to cater for board and lodging to Specialists on a month-to-month basis visiting Rodrigues, Nursing Officers form Mauritius on short time mission and also for officers under Commission for Health and Others on short mission in Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: For Specialists, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, do we not have quarters available to cater for their lodging?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Madam Chairperson, there are no quarters readily available for specialists on a one month-to-month basis in Rodrigues.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Why are there no quarters? You have put some Rs 6.9 m., Rs 7 m. So I think to cut costs, we have to either renovate a building put at their disposal or build quarters for the Specialists who come on a month-to-month basis. Because we pay for a Specialist to stay for example, in a hotel for one month. So, it costs a lot of money. So, we can… I know there are quarters which can be renovated. We provide them all the services and I am sure that it will cost much less money.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is not practical on a monthly rotation for these Specialists coming to Rodrigues.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next! The Commissioner has given an answer.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: 66!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Anyway, I have one more question. I am on my feet, please. I have one more question. He always does not understand questions.

Madam Chairperson: Come to your question please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming with the question. Is he going to upgrade or build quarters for the Specialists who come on tour in Rodrigues?

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

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, Health Infrastructure Development Project. Can the Commissioner inform the House with regards to the new paediatric which is under renovation, inform the House about the Contractor, the name of the contractor and the cost of the project thereon?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the Contractor is Laxmanbhai Ltd. for about Rs 21 m.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner inform the House when this building will be ready and patients with be sent in it? Yes, I have a question on the same thing. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether there has been precaution for these workers with regard to *l'amiante* which exists in that building?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The expected date for the completion, the renovation of the ex-maternity ward to a paediatric ward will be terminated by July 2017.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we move on. 66.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am still waiting for my answer!

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame, il n'y a pas de l'amiante dans ce bâtiment.

The Minority Leader : Item 26: Grants. Contribution to local organisation. I can see that for CRAC, there has been an increase from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000 while for the others, Lumière et Vie, Blood Donors Association and Diabetic Pro, the grant has remained the same. Why is this so?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Members from sitting position, please!

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this provision is being made to provide assistance to local organisation on its day-to-day running. The increase in the revised estimates is due to rise in administrative costs and wages for CRAC.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, in same line, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, a new Commissioner, this means new policy! He could have increased that sum for the others also! It is not a question of admission. Yes, what about *Lumière et Vie*? What about Blood Donors? What about Diabetic Pro? You are the new Commissioner; you should provide more fund! Why is it that...

Madam Chairperson: I want to know who is putting the question; Mr. Perrine, Minority Leader or...

Mr. F. Grandcourt: *Non, non,* it is me because I am on my feet.

Madam Chairperson: I am having problems hearing you properly.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: That is why I have to shout because...

Madam Chairperson: But those members from sitting position, please.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: So, why is it that you have not increased the grant to these other associations?

Mrs. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mrs Chairperson, if I am not wrong, I think that the standing order.... They cannot move for questions for increase; they should only question for decrease.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

The Minority Leader: We are talking of public funds and public funds are being given to one organisation because there is an increase in so-and-so but the others, *Lumière et Vie*, Blood Donors Association, Diabetic Pro, all these also, there has been an increase in the day-to-day running. Why have you not increased the grant?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Once more, Madam Chairperson, the Standing Orders stipulates that they cannot move for an increase but I will answer the question. The others have not requested for an increase.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we move on, please! 66.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. So, can the Commissioner explain for the Ward Managers, female and male? So, why is there that there is no Ward Manager, female Ward Manager?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, two charge nurses; one male and one female are assigning the duties of Ward Manager, one at Mont Lubin and one at La Ferme and we are working and we are reviewing the staffing position of nursing officers and charge nurse in Rodrigues so that the post could be funded in the next budget.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can we know since when the nurses are acting as Ward Managers?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, they acted as Ward Managers since September 2016.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to Medical Laboratory Technologist/Senior Medical Laboratory Technologist, why is there a decrease? We observed that we have six persons in post whereas, the funded position is four. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on that matter, please?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, there are two officers from Mauritius.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, 67.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have one, sorry. 66, still. Trainee Pharmacy Technician. Funded position to five and we see that the estimates for these technicians do not tally with the estimate of 2016/2017. So can we know, you have explanation on these figures, please?

Madam Chairperson: In the meantime, we take another question.

The Minority Leader : 67. Communication Officer. Are we to understand that we no longer need the service of a Communication Officer? – Because we see that the post is no more there.

Madam Chairperson: I think the Commissioner has the answer for Trainee Pharmacy.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Trainee Pharmacy. For 2017/2018, it covers the salary inclusive of the PRB and for the Communication Officer, there is no funded post at the Commission.

Madam Chairperson: 68.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Sorry, with regards to 66…

Madam Chairperson: No, we cannot. We have just reached page 67; we cannot go back.

The Minority Leader : I waited for the answer.

Madam Chairperson: You just asked the respected Member whether he had a question on page 66 and he answered no. We moved to page 67 and now on page 67, we cannot go back.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but after the answer…

Madam Chairperson: 67.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Now, we see that okay…

Madam Chairperson: 68.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: You know what to do now. 68, yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I ask one question. Can I know from the Commissioner with regards to E-Health…

Madam Chairperson: Which page, please? Page 67?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, 67. With regard to Health Records, the project of E-Health, I do not see nothing related to the E-Health Project. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the E-Health Project will be made jointly by the Commission for Health and the Commission for ICT with Mrs. Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis.

Madam Chairperson: Page 68, 69.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Subsistence Allowance to Patients on Treatment in Mauritius, we see that the figures have remained the same: Rs 2 m. to give patients as subsistence allowance in Mauritius. Can the Commissioner explain to us what does this mean and what is the procedure to obtain the subsistence allowance and when does that person eligible for such allowance gets same?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, on the departure of the patient with his parents, with the relatives, they are being paid Rs 1000 as advance and when all the necessary documents are cleared from Mauritius and all the medical certificates reach Rodrigues, the patient and his relatives are being paid for all the days they spent in Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, at times, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, some people going to Mauritius, they do not have enough money. They rely on this subsistence allowance and the Commissioner is saying that he has to wait until he gets all the papers from Mauritius and then, he will give the… Maybe he will say that he has given Rs 1000 but what is Rs 1000 in Mauritius for somebody

who is being treated in Mauritius? So, how can he solve this problem of giving…? I am the one who puts question. How is he going to solve this problem? – Because people are facing much difficulties when they reach Mauritius. We cannot wait until… At times, the people come back to Rodrigues and then, they get the allowance. Is there the possibility? I know at the time we have the Rodrigues Desk at the Ministry of Rodrigues. We do have a Ministry for Rodrigues in Mauritius. Why do you not liaise with them and see to it that these people get paid?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Regarding the allowance to parents accompanying patient, of course, sometimes, the patient remains a long time in Mauritius. This allowance will be subject to a review whenever needed, *en terme de temps* but if we liaise with the Social Worker, Medical Social Worker in Mauritius, sometimes to have the news of the patient and whether they can send an interim medical certificate to prove that the patient is still at the hospital and the patient who has a bank account, we credited the allowance there.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Chief Commissioner explain to us… Sorry. The Commissioner, can he explain to us? He said that the allowance will be reviewed when needed. Can he explain what he means that will be reviewed when needed? First question. Second question, how much money is given as subsistence allowance daily to the patient?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the review will be on the time; not for money at the time being and the allowance paid to patient is Rs 200 per day for caring of transport to Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam,* on va franchir une nouvelle étape, un patient part à Maurice gagne Rs200 par jour. Vous avez parlé… C'est ça une nouvelle étape ! Vous avez parlé de l'autonomie, vous avez parlé de qui que ce soit…

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming to the question.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I wish to remind you that the budget debate was yesterday.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I know. I participated. Does he think that Rs 200 is enough to give? No, let us be serious. Is Rs 200 enough according to the Commission?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, from 2006 to 2012, not a hundred rupees was given to the patient and we returned back 60 years with those in power there and for the amount, we… the Executive Council will look into the matter whether it will be reviewed or it will be the same because it is only a transport allowance.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one question.

Madam Chairperson: The Minority Leader is already on his feet.

The Minority Leader : Item 31: Medical Equipment. There has been a huge increase from Rs 13,000,000 to Rs 17,285,000. Can we know the reason behind the huge increase and what type of equipment he is contemplating to acquire?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, Madam, the medical equipment we need is quality equipment. *Nous avons besoin des équipements de qualité pour le meilleur service pour les patients de Rodrigues.*

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, he has not answered my question. Which equipment are you contemplating to acquire?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yesterday, I mentioned the two most important equipment in my statement regarding the budget for 2017/2018. I do not know whether the Minority Leader listened to it but I will not repeat the equipment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, again, I am coming with the revised estimates which increased from Rs 308 m. to Rs 333 m. Madam Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House why there has been such an increase in the Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Capital Expenditure?

Madam Chairperson: The respected Member Mrs. Agathe had one question, no? Yes?

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: No.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, it is due for new and replacement of vital equipment. It is the total for all these budget items.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, 70.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Psychologist. Being the Commissioner for Health, I know the Psychologist has been transferred to the other Commission. Why is it that the Psychologist has been transferred? In the hospital, you offer healthcare and you transfer the Psychologist? Is it the policy of the Commissioner? So, why is it that he has transferred the Psychologist?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, it is the RRA who recruited the Psychologist and the RRA has the right to transfer it to the Commission for Women.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: It is not the reason why it has been transferred. It is, I am talking about the importance of having a psychologist at the hospital, itself.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we move on. 71.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I have one question to 71. Yes, Madam, Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets with regards to Minor Works and Improvement to Community Centres. Can the Commissioner inform the House the lease of Community Centres that will be affected under the Minor Works and Improvements?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, we will work with the Rodrigues Council of Social Service to know which Community Centres which will have to be upgraded and we will continue to the final construction of the community centres which have already began like Palissade Ternel, Terre Rouge, Accacia and others, Petit Gabriel.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Will the money be sufficient to build up these new community centres?

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

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Have the sites been identified for all these community centres?

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

Madam Chairperson: Time is over for this Vote.

Vote 5-1: Commission for Health, Community Development, Fire Services, Meteorological Services, Judicial Services and Civil Status (Rs 540,533,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 6-1: Commission for Social Security, Housing, Labour and Industrial Relations, Employment and Consumer Protection was called.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, page 80.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I have one question. Can the Commissioner inform us with regards to Security Guards? We see that there are two in posts, two funded posts but we do not see any money for 2016 and 2017. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on that?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The Security Guards will be posted as from this new financial year, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: 81.

The Minority Leader : 81, Item 31: Training Complex for the Disabled. I would like to know whether the site has already been identified and where.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Not yet, Madam Chairperson. It will be a Consultancy Service and we will work out the appropriate place to locate the building.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item .821: Construction of Administrative Block at Mont Lubin. Can the Commissioner enlighten us about the site?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Ex-Hospital Complex. The site has already been identified and all the procedures have started.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 82!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one question, Madam. The Commissioner mentioned that there would be construction of administrative blocks at Mont Lubin, Ex-Hospital of Mont Lubin. There are buildings related to the first hospital which are still stand, rocks, built with rocks. In my opinion, these buildings are *patrimoine*. Will the Commissioner consider the possibility to renovate this building and use this building in the context of these administrative blocks?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, when we made our survey, the main building, the most important building was already destroyed by the previous government.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we move on. 82.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Non, ti gagne complaints avec bane villageois Mont Lubin.* There were complaints!

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming with my question. Fees for Medical Board Domiciliary Revisits – Rs 4 m., Rs 5.7 m., Rs 5.4 m. So, can the Commissioner did give details about to whom the money is paid and how is it disbursed?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Money is paid to the medical officers who effect the domiciliary visits for bedridden patients.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So approximately, how many, if you know, if you have the figure in hand, how many bedridden patients we have? And, secondly, the patient, how much money is paid to the officers?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, the rates are according to PRB and there are about 700 bedridden patients.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner enlighten us on the procedure to have visits of…

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, address the Chair, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mo ti croire ou pou dir moi sipa ki zafer.* Yes. Can the Commissioner enlighten us with regards to the procedures for bedridden? If for example, I have one person that I know who is bedridden, to whom we will have to address to have the domiciliary visits?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Normally, there are recommendations made by medical officers treating the patient and then, we go to counter check. Generally, we use the help of the Health Director to confirm whether it is a real case requiring this service. But de facto, for those benefiting from Carer's Allowance, then, they can benefit from it.

Madam Chairperson: 83.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, concerning the respite, Operation of the Respite Care. So, we see has been Rs 1 b. earmarked for this year. So, can the Commissioner explain to us about the operation? Who will operate the Respite Care? Who would run this Care Centre?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It will be run by officers. Maybe by the Commission but there will be training courses for Carers we already recruited and it will be managed also by the Medical Staff and Nursing Officers.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner has built the Care, the Respite Care, very good and then, he tells me maybe it will be run by officers of his Commission. But he should know! He should know who will run. We want to know who will run the Respite Care Centre. He cannot come here and tell us maybe. You have built that building, you have invested our money and then you come here... By the way, can I ask him how much money… Sorry, what is the cost, the final cost of this building?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Madam Chairperson, I have already mentioned that the Carers will be recruited. We do not have Medical Officers, Non-Nursing Officers from my Commission but obviously, in collaboration with the Health Services, we will run the Respite Care but officers of my Commission obviously will have the responsibility to ensure that including officers from Social Security Services… Will ensure, yes but we can have Social Workers from outside. We will recruit from among Government Officers, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question! Yes, in the meantime.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Rs 29 m., Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: May I know from the Commissioner, Madam, Chairperson, Madam, what would be the modus operandi to get access to this Respite?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I put two questions in one. This is my first question.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Obviously, as I said, we will work in collaboration with the health services. So, caregivers as we know, at times, they have to care for the members of their family 24 hours a day for the whole year. Then, at times,

the recommendation could come Medical Practitioners or from the families who wish to have some respite for a certain period of time. It will be temporary service only. They will not stay permanently but mainly recommendations can come from families, from Medical Officers and from the Commission also in certain cases, from Social Security Officers for example.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, has a Commissioner worked out on the conditions or… I would say conditions or terms of reference...

Madam Chairperson: No, page 84. We move on, page 84.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Concerning the housing and rehabilitation programme, can the Commissioner explain the figures? Housing and rehabilitation.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Which figures? So, we have Rs 100,000,000 for the new Housing Scheme, Rodrigues Housing Scheme, for implementation of the new Rodrigues Housing Scheme. I do not know what you want exactly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: What are the different schemes?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: We have the Casting of Slab Scheme for Elderly, Special Casting of Slab Scheme for Elderly. We have the Rodrigues Housing Scheme for beneficiaries, for people earning less than Rs 10,000 and we also have the Basic Sanitation Scheme which will be implemented from this amount.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner mentioned lots of time the terms of transparency. The Commission for Social Security has huge responsibilities. Now, then, we got also the item of Housing Scheme, Casting of Slabs etc. Can I ask the Commissioner whether he can make it possible to have a kind of guidelines at his office to everyone who can come at his office to see the conditions to have access to these facilities, to his grant, to his casting of slabs, once for all? Instead of going to Mrs. Officer, next officer, right?

Madam Chairperson: I hear your point, respected Member, but this concerns mostly policy. But if the Commissioner wishes to answer.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, I think that the Member only is not aware but there were radio communiqués. Everybody is already aware that the scheme, 1,200 applicants have come for the application to the Social Registrar of

Mauritius (SRM). They have to go through the SRM and then, there is the evaluation process. So, everybody knows about it except maybe the Member.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, concerning the Casting of Roof Slab Grant, I see Rs 5 m. has been earmarked. So, I want to ask the Commissioner whether, it will be as per the same condition as the NHDC in Mauritius.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The answer is yes, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 85.

The Minority Leader : 85, Item 22120: Fees. Fees to Chairman & Members of the Board Committees – Rs 920,000. Can we know which board committee you are talking about and how much they are paid?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: For the Rodrigues Commission Conciliation and Mediation (RCCM). Donc, fees… Secretary Rs 1,225 per session and other Members Rs 615 per sitting.

Madam Chairperson: 86.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. The RP. So, the Relief Programme. So, how many Rodriguans are concerned with this programme? What changes he has brought to this programme? What new changes have there to this programme and what are the activities that these people perform under this programme?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, we all know about this programme. So, normally, the trainees are attached to various Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to carry out works that are decided by the Commission but there is this important aspect of training whereby they have to work at least once a week… five days and it could be professional training or something relating to basic skills. We are happy to note that with this programme, many trainees have been able to get some form of skills to carry out some kind of economic activities. For example, last year, we had 25 new entrepreneurs who learned about handicrafts and they are now operating, they are now working in this field.

Madam Chairperson: Next 87.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Sorry.

Madam Chairperson: 86.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have one question. So, as far as per the programme, the beneficiaries, they can opt for either they continue their pension or they go for a project. So, does the Rs 26 m. cater for these projects as well?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Rs 26 m. is meant mainly for the stipend and it is not included. The amount for the project is not included in this item.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Which item?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, *Plan de Prestation Transitoire*. They can also benefit from other projects from different Commissions. For example, from the Commission for Agriculture. So, we give a fast track for them so that they can also…

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Where is the Plan ….?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: 966

The Minority Leader : Item 22966 : the Plan de Prestation Transitoire. Can we know more about this *plan*?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: *Donc, prestation social, la transition* from Social Aid to economic activity whereby, we accompany the beneficiaries from the Employment Relief Programme, those who have opted for a project for a maximum period of twelve months, we give them a monthly sum of Rs 3,000 until their project can take off.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So., how many people are concerned with this *Plan de Prestation Transitoire*?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, I know that actually 140 of them have already opted for a project. Their projects have been approved but out of the first two batches from the 600 and…

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you cannot put question in sitting position.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I will give you the number.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, another question in the meantime, respected Member.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: 88 actually are already benefiting from this *accompagnement*.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but I believe that most of them are agricultural projects. So, if ever and we know that these projects are not working due to drought…. other adverse natural conditions. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner if ever they cannot go ahead with the project….

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is hypothetical.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I know it is hypothetical. What will happen… I rephrase the question. What will happen if they cannot run the project?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: We will provide additional support. That is why we have said that we will continue to have a follow-up of the situations of all these enterprises, all these people who have opted for this project and that is what we have done. So, we will accompany them and we will try to see what kind of additional support we will give to them.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to monitoring, we all know that one of the biggest problems that we have in Rodrigues with regards to entrepreneurship, entrepreneur is the question of monitoring. These persons who benefit, ex-ERP, who benefit from the project, agricultural whatever project, at the level of the Commission, can the Commissioner inform the House whether he has a monitoring structure to monitor and to help these entrepreneurs to start the project and to monitor their project until they reach maturity?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Madam Chairperson, in fact, we are working closely collaboration with Commission for Entrepreneurship and they provide support in terms of capacity building, in terms of monitors… Mentors, *pardon. Et aussi, il y a les STM qui sont attachés à la Commission de la Sécurité Sociale et de l'Emploi.*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: In case, Madam Chairperson, Madam, to whom shall I…

Madam Chairperson: This is hypothetical again, respected Member

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Madam Chairperson*, je repose la question. J'ai quelques cas, des personnes qui ont des projets mais qui ont besoin d'aide. Pourrais-je demander au Commissaire comment faire pour avoir la réponse. À qui dois-je m'adresser pour pouvoir référer ces cas ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, they should know because we have a structure at the Commission for Social Security, for Employment. There is an office especially for this project. So, they should call to the office.

Madam Chairperson: That is all for Vote 6-1.

Vote 6-1: Commission for Social Security, Housing, Labour and Industrial Relations, Employment and Consumer Protection (Rs 800,541,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 7-1: Commission for Agriculture was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 92.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Page 89.

Madam Chairperson: 92.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Other Staff Costs. Can we or not?

[Gap in recording]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. Other Staff Costs. Item 21. Can the Commissioner inform the House with regards to the figures, revised estimates Rs 1,666,000 from Rs 851,000?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is because of *la Fièvre Aphteuse*. Everybody knows we have had to put cost, give increase because of lots of time we had to put in it.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – Research and Development. So, can the Commissioner explain to us Rs 14 m.? So, what research and in what field? So, can he enlighten us on this item?

Madam Chairperson: We have moved to page 93? Yes. Okay, 93.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is mainly for the laboratory, for veterinary and also for food, analysis for food and stuff.

The Minority Leader : Page 93 concerning the Item 22003: Plant and Equipment. Can we know which plant and which equipment are we talking about? – Because I have seen only Rs 9,000 for this.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Minor equipment…. with regards to maintenance.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to equipment, the tractors which have been bought recently, can the Commissioner enlighten us under which project these tractors will be made available, will fall, please?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It would be mainly for ploughing of land. Unfortunately, they are still there but somebody asked the question yesterday was the tractors are still at Citronnelle? It is mainly because all the equipment which goes with the tractor have not yet arrived.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Will that equipment be used on a regional basis or will that equipment be under the Commission for Agriculture or will be delivered to cooperative societies etc.?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a question which I do not even know! We are working on the best ways to use the tractors. For the time being, it is with the Commission but time will tell how we are going to use it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Page 93. Agricultural Research and Extension Officer (Crop and Livestock). The Chief Commissioner, the then Commissioner for agriculture mentioned the project of *Cochon Noir*. With regards to these new projects, I see that the Agricultural Research and Extension Officer is still vacant. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I do not understand the question because he is talking about vacancy of post, he is talking about *Cochon Noir*. And, what is the… I would like to know what is the question, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner enlighten us on the Agricultural Research and Extension Officer (Crop and Livestock)? We see that in post, there is no one but that there are money funded for estimates 2016/2017.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a new grade which has been proposed by the FAO but has not been retained by the PRB.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes but why has there been money disbursed in 2016/2017 estimates?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The money was not disbursed.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 94.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one question on 94. Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner with regards to Insecticide Sprayer Operator? Can the Commissioner enlighten the House about these operators, their function mainly?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is self-explanatory! It is Insecticide Sprayer Operator. What do they do? They spray insecticide!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to *cochenille*, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, there has been contract out to spray for *cochenille*. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether these sprayers have formed part of these *projets*?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Of course, Madam Chairperson. Of course! These Insecticide Sprayer Operators they do their job but at the time, we have this problem with *cochenille*. We needed to spray the whole island! So, we needed to contract out to get more Insecticide Sprayer Operator.

Madam Chairperson: 95.

The Minority Leader : Item no. 22954: Fruits Flies Control. I would like to know whether this is ongoing over the whole island. Item 22959: Incentive for Agricultural Crop Production. What type of incentive you are giving? Also concerning the Fruit Production Scheme, Item 22978. – Because most of the *pépinières* are less to shallow.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I would like the Minority Leader to ask one question any time. So, I will answer the first one and he puts the second one and then, I answer. We go like this. Thank you. For the first one, about fruit flies, yes the project is on. That is why we put quite a lot of money in it and we have noticed yesterday, there was a question on that. We are talking about fruit flies. We know there is a problem with fruit flies. That is why with the money in to control fruit flies. It is ongoing.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming to the next question. Yes, how is it done, the control? How the fruit flies control is done at the level of the Commission for Agriculture?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this is technical. It is done how it should be done. We use the insecticides that we need with the technique, we have quite a lot of technicians around. This is done the way it is. It is not me who have to tell you how it is done. You have to go and see.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: You should enlighten the House how it is done! You have officers here to assist you. You should have at least told us the simplest way of controlling the fruit flies. That is why fruit flies are invading Rodrigues because the Commissioner does not know or even does want to answer.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, in due time, you can come with a question later with that.

The Minority Leader : Concerning…. 959: Incentive for Agricultural Crop Production. Can we have more details on the incentive that you are giving all over the island?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, according to agricultural crop production, incentives for chilly, for example. We give fencing, we give quite a lot of stuffs. We have for beans, mechanisation, we provide some *semence*. In all the main crops that Rodrigues produced, we try to help the planters whenever they need the help. Sometimes, the help is already planned, sometimes, the help comes when needed.

The Minority Leader : Concerning 978: Food Production Scheme. Because most of the nurseries are left alone. This is why I would like to know whether this is ongoing, incentive, Food Production Scheme is still on.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the scheme is still on. The money is money grant given to students of the BPA to set up the five model orchard that is for pitaya, mango, lychee.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Improvement of Food Crop Production. So, I see we have put some money. So, can the Commissioner enlighten us on how he is going to improve the Food Crop Production in Rodrigues? Briefly.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, again, this is a bit technical. We want to improve the Food Crop Production. We give incentives to the people. Before, we were talking about fruits and all. This is all about the other food production

that we do. *Be mo koze touzour ta…. mo tane li.* So, we have a lot of new projects like Rehabilitation of Agricultural Land, Setting Up of Processing Unit for Coffee at St Gabriel, Extension of Coffee Production at L'Union, Propagation of Melliferous Plant, Land Rehabilitation Scheme.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regards to Water Distribution for Irrigation, we observe that the estimates have gone down from 26 to 12. Can the Commissioner inform the House about this drastic change?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this is the money which is being paid mainly for the three *retenues collinaires*. Some have already been paid and some still will be paid. So, that is why we have these figures.

Madam Chairperson: Next! 96.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Livestock Production. *96…*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I move for suspension. Madam, can I move for 15 minutes for tea ? *Non? Be oké, penan problème.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, 96. Goods and Services. Can the Commissioner explain the increase in figure for 22, the whole? Yes, the whole item.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, this increase is on all the expenses, goods and services, it is mainly because of *la fièvre aphteuse*. Anything goes up, we have to use vaccination, there is a lot of money which we have to put in this because this is a continuous... This project does continue.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Money which has been paid to of breeders is included in the breeders. The money which has been handed over to those who have lost animals. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, which is which? The Commissioner is saying something, the officers are saying another thing and we are in the middle of everything.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, but we do not know. The Commissioner has to be…

Madam Chairperson: Sit down, Respected Member!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I sit down.

Madam Chairperson: You should be addressing the Chair while putting your question. How can you observe where the Commissioner is? You should be addressing the Chair.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The answer is yes. So, can we know from this figure, how much money out of this has been paid to the farmers, to those concerned?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this is… I need notice of this question. This is technical.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, are there cases still pending at his Commission?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: No, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next. 97.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one question, Madam, with regards to Animal Feed for Breeding Centres. Can I ask the Commissioner these past five years where the Commission purchased animal feeds for breeding centres? Secondly, with regards to cases which have been reported to Police, theft. Explain the House.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, normally, you can come in due time with a question on that but if the Commissioner wishes to answer, it is up to him.

Madam Chairperson: 97.

The Minority Leader : Page 97, Madam Chair, Item 31 : Other Structures – Improvement of Livestock and Local Poultry Production. Can we know what are the incentives that are given to increase the local poultry production? Are we talking about the local poultry or the *poule enflée, enflée mette pikir gauche à droite*?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mrs. Chairperson, it is clear. Improvement of Livestock and Local Poultry, I do not see any local poultry with these things. This is not local poultry.

Madam Chairperson: Next!

The Minority Leader : What are the incentives? ....to have the answers. I would like to know what are the incentives that you are giving?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Livestock Production.

Madam Chairperson: Wait for the answer of the Commissioner before.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mainly about infrastructure, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, under which Item? For example, the Production of Piglets. So, I believe that it is under the improvement of livestock. Yes? So, is it still meant for the production of piglets? For example, the Breeding Centre of Baie Topaze, is it still for the production of piglets? – Because there have been remarks from the Audit Report saying that it is no longer producing piglets. So, I would like to also Commissioner whether he will review this and produce piglets for local breeders around the Island?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, it still produces piglets. Yes, Madam, Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to Foot and Mouth Diseases, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam can the Commissioner inform the House, how much money has been disbursed up to now?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is in the budget, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: ….to have the exact figure, Madam Chairperson, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

The Minority Leader : 98. Item 22970: Bird Net for which about Rs 3 m. is earmarked. Are we to understand that these are in fact, the bat net to prevent bats from damaging fruits and so on? And, whether this scheme is still on. Can I put another question?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Non*, one by one. Yes, this one is mainly to protect the plant against mainly bats and birds and it is still on.

The Minority Leader : Can we know how this is provided? How is it implemented?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The scheme is on until April 2017. People just apply for it.

The Minority Leader : 981. He has told me to give the question one by one. Setting up of a Food Testing Laboratory in Rodrigues. Has this started? Have you chosen the site for that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, we already have a laboratory. We just need to equip it. This is mainly for equipment and consumables too. Citronnelle.

Vote 7-1: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry (Rs 160,587,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 7-2: Commission for Environment was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 100, 101, 102, 103.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – Protection of Environment. Can the Commissioner explain the figure? So, the sum has dropped from Rs 15 m. to Rs 8 m. And, yesterday, he was talking about environment, he was talking about many things but here, we see that his budget has been reduced by 50%. So, can he explain this decrease here?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, just to note, I want the Member to note that before the Commission for Environment was attached to the Commission of Tourism and a lot of work was being done with the Commission for Tourism with same money for both because environment is most of the time for tourism. Most of the time because we have people visiting. So, that is why we have shifted some of the budget. The budget is still there. It will be for the environment but it will be implemented under the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, the budget is the same. So, the Rs 8 m., what will it be used for? He has not answered my question. What are the projects? Or, I do not know, we want him to enlighten the House, please.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mrs. Chairperson, yesterday, I talked a lot on the projects that we want to implement in the environment. I do not know if the Member wants me to do another speech which I can, of course, on what things that we will to. You know, we are talking about *tris de déchets*. We have to give to people different bins and we have to clean, do some stuffs on the beaches, tuck shop and it is a lot of projects. And, also, you know, we are getting a lot of money. You are talking about Rs 8 m. is not enough that we will get a lot of more money because we are working, we are in line with Switch Africa Project and there is, I think, about Rs 20 m. something for that.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 104.

The Minority Leader : 104, Item 22923: Fisheries, Research and Training. Can we know what type of research is being done, what type of training is being given?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly about the training that the FRTU is giving. So, we take fishermen. We want to give fishermen cards to these fishermen. The procedure is they have to follow some sort of courses and this is mainly training in off lagoon.

The Minority Leader : About the research, is it being done together with the Albion Fisheries Research Centre or you are doing it in isolation or with other bodies anywhere else?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, most of the research are done with Albion because we recently did a sort of survey with regards to *Comcombre de Mer* with Albion and we are also working with the MRC and some work is being done by us but mostly... And, also, we have experts coming from everywhere in the world. Somebody came recently to work on these sponges. So, yes, different organisations, different people helping.

The Minority Leader: So, am I to understand that the Item .973: Collection of Marine Data for Rodrigues, this concerns also the collection of sponges? I know that in Mauritius, in Albion, the MRC is doing quite an excellent job where there is research on sponges to see the chemicals that can combat cancer and so on. Can we know whether this is being done here and how is it being done?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this project about collecting data for sponge is mainly done with experts from the University of Reunion but this one, the item that you are talking about, is not for that. It is mainly we are helping Shoals of Rodrigues, for example for collection of data. They are the ones who gave us the

data for us to be able to do this octopus closure. So, they keep doing a lot of studies. So, we have to keep helping them in doing that.

The Minority Leader: Concerning the Social Benefits, Assistance to Professional Fishermen. Can we know what type of assistance you are giving them? Whether those who go off lagoon for fishing, what type of assistance they are benefiting?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is for the in lagoon/off-lagoon net fishers. It is mainly bad weather allowance.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, 105.

The Minority Leader: Only one last question. Item 28023. I said Assistance to Professional Fishermen, he said mainly compensation. Now, there is .023: Support to Off-Lagoon Fishers. Is this the same thing or another support?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is something else, Madam Chairperson. It is mainly about giving equipment. We have all these boats. You know these big boats going fishing on *Banc de l'Est*, *Banc Hawkins* and they keep needing new techniques/equipment and this money goes mainly to them.

The Minority Leader: Can I know, Madam, which type of equipment that you are giving to these fishermen?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Equipment, we are talking about GPS for example and also something called a…. You know, for people used to fish deep sea... You want me to talk and then... Let me explain. People used to go to fish in a depth of about 100 m to 200 m with their hands like this and this is over. Now, we as a responsible Government, we are giving them some sort of…. electric *"Poop! Zzzz!"* This is what….

Madam Chairperson: 105.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one question, Madam, with regards to fisheries development, can the Commissioner for fisheries enlighten us what kind of development will take place for this item?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly about acquisition of equipment and construction of a new fisheries post at North Bay.

Madam Chairperson: Next! 106, 107, 108.

The Minority Leader: 108, Item 31: Cultivated Assets - Improvement of Cultivated Areas (Reafforestation). Can we know what are the areas concerned and the places where this is done?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this will mainly be on the East Coast like the top of the East Coast like Tamarin, Anse Raffin and all these places.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner with regards to *piquant loulou*? It all does sometimes back but he has a good plan to kill *piquant loulou* and we still see that *piquant loulou* is taking too much place in our country. Can the Commissioner enlighten us with regards to his policy, new policy, whatever he has to combat?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is true that we found the way to get rid of *piquant loulou*. I can do a big speech on that but I will refrain myself. But, I talked about this yesterday in my speech we have the plan to remove. My plan is if we could… My dream is to remove *piquant loulou* completely on this Island but of course, we need some time for that and I am sure the technique, we have already but we just need to implement it and in the future, we will use mainly the population to do that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, this is very vast. I know you are a showman but I would like to have at least an idea of what has been done since you mentioned that....

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is a question on policy decisions.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: How many hectares have been cleared?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, I do not have the exact amount because this is...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We have done a lot. We do not have the exact area now but if you come to the office, I will give it to you. Everything is in the report. This is technical. Or, you can come with a question for the next Assembly because these figures, I cannot have all these figures in my head.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please! You can come with a substantive question.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Item 31410003: Botanical Garden, Nature and Golden Bat Reserves. Can we know where we have arrived at concerning these projects?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, also, this was in my speech yesterday. For the Botanical Garden, we put some money in it because everybody knows it would be Mourouk Valley but we put some money because the work is already being done with regards to maintenance of the site. So, we have to keep putting money in it but the project is much bigger than this. It is a project which will cost around Rs 65 m. and this, we are working in collaboration with Mauritian wildlife and Missouri Botanical Garden and they are trying to get the fund to implement the big project, which we want to be a big project. But, this money is mainly for maintenance of the site which is under the botanic garden.

The Minority Leader: So, am I to understand that the area will be increased, this will go up to Montagne Chérie and so on? – Because you are talking of the very big project like you know?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: You made a good point because… You made a good point, I agree. When you say good, I say good. You made a good point. The valley of Mourouk is one of the best in Rodrigues and also, we have noticed on the other side by the road of Montagne Chérie which goes down in the valley, it is quite good in terms of native endemic species. There are quite a lot of ebonies and quite a lot of plants there and the plan is to extend it to the other side as well. That is why we need about Rs 65 m.

Vote 7-2: Commission for Environment (Rs 209,297,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 8-1: Commission for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Library Services, Museum, Archives and Historical Sites and Buildings was called.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to move that Vote 8-1, Commission for Youth and Sports and Others is amended as per amendments circulated.

Vote 8-1, Commission for Youth and Sports and Others is amended as per amendments circulated.

On question put the amendments were agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Page 113, 114, 115.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Promotion of Sports and Sports for All. I have seen there is a post for Senior Coach. Can I know in what discipline has been this promotion?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: For Sports Coach, it is not related to a specific discipline. So, afterwards, we will have to decide which discipline he or she will be attached to.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: There is a promotion for Sports Coach and you do not know what discipline? Senior Coach, yes.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: No, for Senior Coach, actually, we have one which is acting and the procedures will be done very soon.

Madam Chairperson: 116.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Advisor Coach in Wrestling and Advisor/Coach in Judo and there are no estimates for the two posts. Advisor Coach in Wrestling and Advisor/Coach in Judo, you have two: one in wrestling and one in judo, 2017/2018 and in the estimates, there is nothing.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Advisors are under the Chief Commissioner's Office. So, this is why there are no estimates.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, with regards to upgrading of sports ground, can the Commissioner enlighten us on this upgrading aspect? What are the sports ground to be concerned?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: so, as mentioned in the five-year programme of the Chief Commissioner, we will have to cater for upgrading of sports infrastructure. So, it includes all sports grounds around Rodrigues that will be improved. And, this is why I have mentioned yesterday a joint committee with the *RCSS Comité Régional* and the Commission will have to be set up to cater for same. But since we have various projects that are being undertaken, we are taking into account Roseaux, Dans Bégué and Mourouk for a time…

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The football ground of Vangard also forms part in it because I see that there the light… *La lumière* has been broken. Can you see to it to have something new for these people?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, we are already working on that and the officers are already taking the necessary actions regarding that since weeks.

The Minority Leader : Concerning the same item, I would like to know being given that we are talking of professionalisation of sports in Rodrigues, can we know whether we have one stadium? Un stade homologué à Rodrigues. Si on n'a pas, est-ce que vous êtes en train de contempler la possibilité d'avoir un stade homologué à Rodrigues ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, indeed, when we talk about professional sports in Rodrigues, it means that the people have to be professional as well as the infrastructure. Since, already, the stadium of Camp Du Roi is recognised and taken under consideration under Sports Act... Allow me to finish. This is why we are undertaking for upgrading works to have you new bleachers, new infrastructure around Camp Du Roi to get it modernised and to the level that is required and we will have the heats for *la piste d'échauffement* also will be improved in that sense.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to the equipments for *les clubs sports*, football etc., can the Commissioner inform the House whether there has been a refresh… *Comment on appelle ça…* Est-ce qu'il y a eu des dotations pour les nouveaux équipements ? Parce que bien souvent, quand j'ai visité…. Ce n'est pas tout. J'ai visité quelques uns surtout le gymnase de Malabar où il y a des personnes, des entraineurs, des boxers par exemple, qui pratiquent le sport avec des équipements abimés. Est-ce que dans ce budget, il y il a fait provision pour les remplacements des nouveaux équipements pour ces personnes, pour ces jeunes athlètes surtout ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, indeed, as and when required, we go for a new equipment when the different structures ask for same and in this budget, we are going to cater for these things and allow me to highlight also that with Mauritius, we have support in terms of equipment and it is done on a regular basis, Madam Chair.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: ….Equipment, when you deliver to these clubs etc., are the equipment kept at their place or at, I do not know, the gymnasium for example? Do they have a specific place to collect their equipment? Or they can collect them at their….

Ms. M. R. Edouard: It will depend on the type of equipment we are talking, Madam Chair. If we are talking about heavy equipment for basketball for example… For balls, it depends on the Comité Régional. The *Comité Régional* deal with… So, we are talking about huge equipment, indeed, these will have to remain in the centres, in the sports infrastructure that are concerned.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Concernant les Ecoles de Sports – Centre de Formation/Pré Formation, est-ce qu'il y a un budget prévu pour les équipements dans ces différentes unités ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Indeed, there is a budget reserved for that, Madam Chair, because even last year, I, myself, went to different *Ecoles de Foot* and I gave the necessary equipment to the children practicing football: shoes, singlets and shorts and all these things. So, this is done on a regular basis for *Ecoles de Sport* around the Island.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Et les clubs?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: For the clubs, we have been working on a form of grant as you know, for football and volleyball. We are going to see how to give them the right equipment, pending they deliver and they put in the effort necessary for the professionalisation of their different disciplines. But, this is being done on a pilot basis with two disciplines but for the others, I think this is usual business.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: You were talking about the grants. Can we know in which period of time these clubs will have their grant?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, I think we will be doing that very soon because every parameters, everything has been done and every action, all the ideas have been put together. We just need the ratification of the Football Committee and the Volleyball Committee to be able to move forward.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: You are talking about as if only the football team will have this grant, is it not?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, yesterday, I highlighted a very important thing that usually, we give much more attention to individual sports. This is why we are bringing in newness with *sport d'équipe*. This is the newness and I said it; it is a pilot project. So, we are trying with two to extend afterwards.

Madam Chairperson: 117.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, 117. Allowance to Sports Animators. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, *nous avons reçu pas mal de complaintes des animateurs qui sont découragés*. *Il y a des clubs qui sont fermés parce qu'ils ne reçoivent pas leur* stipend, *leurs* allowances à temps. Can I ask the Commissioner to put in place a sort of fast track to these… fast track mechanism to these animators suffering from non-payment of their allowance at time? I would make a plea to

Madam the Commissioner to see to it that these things do not happen because *nous avons... Rodrigues, c'est une pépinière d'athlètes mais ces athlètes ne reçoivent pas à temps leurs dues et ils sont découragés.* Yes.

Ms. R. Edouard: So, the Member is making so many pleas since this morning. So, let me reassure him that the dossier *Animateur Sport* is being taken with much seriousness at the Commission because we have noted certain things and we have noted that in terms of effort delivery and all these things, we have to put things straight. However, payment is made upon the submission of claims and actually, if they delay in submitting claims and there are discrepancies, it means that there will be delays in their payment. So, these are...

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Concerning Sports Complexes, can we know from the Commissioner how many sports complexes will be concerned and where these sports complexes are situated?

Ms. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, allow me to highlight that these sports complexes deal with the Roche Bon Dieu Stadium, Camp du Roi Stadium, Swimming Pool, Football Ground at Mourouk, Sainte Famille and Roseaux. These are the Sports Complexes that will be concerned with that amount.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, can we have details about the *Jeux de Rodrigues*? Yes, it is on these. Can we have more details, the date? Will there...

Madam Chairperson: The respected Member, I invite you to come later on in due time with a substantive question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: No, *Jeux de Rodrigues* is found on the budget.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, it is in the budget. I would like to have more...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 946.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 946: *Jeux de Rodrigues.* The budget Rs 2.5 m. has been increased to Rs 2.8 m. Can we have details on that?

Ms. R. Edouard: Yes, the details are that we promote sports in the Island: *les jeux intervillages*, Village on the Move and *« Physik dans Village »*. Rodriguans are involved in them, is it not?

Madam Chairperson: 118. 117.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: *Concerning Indian Ocean Games*, dans les estimations, ils ont mis Rs1 million. Est-ce que c'est suffisant pour préparer pour les Jeux des Iles de l'Ocean Indien?

Ms. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, I have mentioned yesterday that we are negotiating to have three disciplines here in Rodrigues and I have mentioned also that an infrastructure plan, a training plan as well as other related issues will have to be catered upon the confirmation of everything but let me assure you as I have said, it is the first time that we have a budget to really prepare the inter island games. So, this is meant for the preparation of our athletes, of our coaches, of our trainers to ensure that the delegation that will be participating in that event are ready and deliver their goods.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce que vous parlez des athlètes locaux ou ceux qui viendront participer ici ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: *Ezoto pou nou!* For us.

Madam Chairperson: 118.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I have two questions. *Ou lai mo dir tous les deux ene fois ene sel cout?* 118, yes. With regards to Cultural Animators, I would like to ask Madam to brief us on what discipline concerned actually. How many cultural animators do we have? And secondly, he wants me to ask the question, a second question or wait?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, we have actually two Cultural Animators at the level of the Commission for Arts and Culture, that is, for music and for theatre but we are planning to recruit other people to consolidate the team. But allow me to tell you that there are different groups that are giving a helping hand in promoting arts and culture at the level of the Commission, at the level of Leisure Centre.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The second question is, with regards to production of *Dictionnaire Créole-Rodriguais*. Yes, can we have more details about the project? Has the project been finalised? Please, Madam.

Ms. R. Edouard: Yes, indeed, for us to be able to have the dictionary, we have to seek the support advice and expertise of University of Mauritius and as the Executive Council already agreed to go according to the *Graphie L'Harmonie*. So, we decided to adapt to the orthography and the writing style and all these things. So, we met the concerned persons for that and there are

developments that are to come and we already have the protocol of how to act to get this dictionary produced and all the different parameters that.... it respected.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to Acquisition of Artefacts, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner enlighten us on the kinds of artefacts that we do have actually and where are they situated actually?

Ms. R. Edouard: So, we have started the collection of artefacts for the museum as a preliminary action. So, we have different resources, very huge fish. They are found at the level of the library, at the CELPAC Port Mathurin, you can find them but there are other objects that are stored in our stores and we are calling for people to come. And, also, there is the tortoise that we just discovered and we are trying to negotiate how to get things moving to promote and to protect these new findings.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to artefacts which are found in countries like Mr. Payendee mentioned yesterday: England or France, yes, has the Commissioner already started the kinds of projects to see whether we can have these artefacts back in Rodrigues in the future time?

Ms. R. Edouard: Yes, we have started discussion with for example, …. Pandeyu who is an expert in that domain and we are going to see how to establish a working agenda to see how we can have certain things back.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 119.

The Minority Leader : 118, …. Item. On page 118, the Financial Assistance to Artists. I would like to know whether the financial assistance concerns only musicians, singers or the other artists and how the financial assistance will be given to these artists?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Financial assistance is given to all artists: painters, musicians, writers, whoever is performing an art is eligible to have it but indeed, they are criteria depending on the number of entries, applications that we have and actually, since there is an increase also, a slight increase in the budget allocation, so, we are trying to see how to upgrade more the Artist Assistance Scheme to benefit better and to better accompany our artists.

Madam Chairperson: 119, 120.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Promotion of Creative Creole in Rodrigues. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on the project, please?

Mr. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, as you already know, our policies to promote a reading and writing culture in Rodrigues. So, what we want as a basis for the introduction of Creole in schools, we have to have a literature ready for that. So, this is why this item comes as a project to encourage people to write in Creole and we have had people writing in Creole and all these writings in Creole, just to have a literature in Creole and to get all the aspects around the Creole *Rodriguais* respected so that we do not have controversies in the end.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: ….A kind of incentive, a kind of fund you have made available to these people or yes, how can we apply for?

Mr. R. Edouard: If you have a project, you just have to come to the Commission. We are going to check the validity, we are going to check the seriousness, we are going to check the impact on our people and of course, if you satisfy the criteria, why not?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Is there a maximum sum of funds?

Mr. R. Edouard: Are you planning to submit things to our Commission? I have seen the album of Mr. Nicolas Von-Mally at the Commission, a song, I have forgotten what it was. Since we have only a budget of Rs 100,000, we are only catering for not huge projects but small projects.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Concerning the Creole, the Commissioner has been speaking about Creole being at school. So, I have seen I have missed that part, that question. In education, there is *Créole Mauricien*. So, will it be the same or the Creole will be adapted to our… The teachers will teach Creole *Rodriguais*. So, we want to know about it.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: If you want me to answer that, only one thing I would like to add. I have already answered that question but for teachers, we are talking to the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). There is the Department for Creole. We have already had discussions in that sense and we are working in close collaboration with the Commission for Education with the Chief Commissioner because alongside, we have to deal with the manual. Actually, we have discussed on the content but not on the *graphie* but the teachers also will have to be on board. There will not be great nuances except for the vocabulary and the pronunciation but the autography will remain the same.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Are you sure? – Because there is that risk of losing our *Créole*. This is very important. Demain, au lieu dire *« ti piment »*, *pou dir « ti pima »*. So, this is…

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please, this is out of order.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, we have already….

Madam Chairperson: Yes, next! 121.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: One question on staffing. I would like to have one question on staffing with archives. Can the Commissioner enlighten us with regards to staffing and how is the project of archives going on at the level of her commission with regards to collecting of data to *bane grands dimounes etc. ?*

Ms. M. R. Edouard: At the level of staffing of the archives of Rodrigues, we already have one Archivist who is in post. An officer, sorry, an Archive Officer who is in post and I can say that the department is conciliated with the audiovisual archives which is being referenced, which is being put in place in an order but actually, we are working on how to get documents also referenced here in Rodrigues but we have to decide. We are waiting to decide of what kind of archives we want to be able to move forward but the Archive Officer is doing cultural work at the time being.

The Minority Leader: On page 121, Museum, Archives and Art Gallery. Are we to understand that the Museum, the Archives and Art Gallery will be housed in same building? And, secondly, do we have a timeframe when this will be done? And, thirdly, whether for the archives, there would be a team or an officer who will go and retrieve all documents that we may have in England, in France, in Australia and so on to bring them to Rodrigues?

Ms. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, the Museum, the Archives and the Gallery are three different entities. They are three different entities but we are…. for this financial year on the museum and then, we will move on to the other things. But indeed, if there need be to get our heritage back to the Island, we will have to work necessary protocols and working arrangements with concerned parties.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner enlighten the House on the amount of money which has been disbursed or to be disbursed for the setting up of a museum of Rodrigues? And, secondly, can she tell us whether museum will be situated if ever there has been consultancy to see if this place or not is the correct one at?

Ms. R. Edouard: Regarding the Museum, the procedures for acquisition of the building is underway because it has been a long procedure but things are being finalised. What happens also is that indeed, a museum expert from Kenya

came to Rodrigues with the whole team and they went to see, to inspect, to analyse the potential of this building to become a museum. And, indeed, he said that it will be appropriate for the setting up of a Museum of Rodrigues. So, no worries about that. The museum will be at Baie Lascars.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner has not mentioned the price, the amount of money to be disbursed for the purchase of this building at Baie Lascars. This is the first question and secondly, to refresh the memory of people here, that in 2004, this building found at Baie Lascars was underwater due to tsunami. If we are spending a lot of money to invest in that museum and then, we do not know because Rodrigues is situated on a plateau where seismic activities are very frequent.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you have had the opportunity to debate on this yesterday but come to your question, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am not debating, Madam; I am asking question. My question has already been set. I reput the question again. Can the Commissioner inform the House with regards to the amount of money to be disbursed for the purchase of this building at Baie Lascars? First question. Secondly, is the place at Baie Lascars suitable for the setting up of this museum? Since I got pictures where the building is underwater with regards to tsunami of 2004 that I can produce to this House!

Ms. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, the procedures for the acquisition of the building is underway and I cannot disclose the figures for the time being. When the moment will come, we will know about how much the building has costed the Government but what happens is that I want to reassure the House that if a building is there and is remaining unused and we will have it and to build a new building will cost twice the price, I think it will be on a cost benefit analysis, it is better to ask for something that already exists. If you are talking about tsunami, so, the whole Port Mathurin is going to tsunami, is that not? We have to displace Port Mathurin itself to Mont Lubin.

Vote 8-1: Commission for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Library Services, Museum, Archives and Historical Sites and Buildings (Rs 132,018,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 9-1: Contingencies and Reserves was called.

Vote 9-1: Contingencies and Reserves (Rs 75,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 9-1: Revenue, Summary of Revenue was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 124, 125, 126.

Revenue Projections (Rs 3,450,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: That will do for the Draft Estimates Committee.

REPORT STAGE

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to report to the House that the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue and Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for the financial year ending 30 June 2018 has now passed the Draft Estimates Committee with amendments.

The Draft Estimates of Revenue and Draft Estimates of Expenditure for Financial Year ending 30 June 2018 were, as amended, agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 17.36 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 10.30 hours.