

/UNREVISED/

RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 6 of 2017

Sitting of Tuesday 16 May 2017

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

PAPERS LAID

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT: Supply of Electricity to the House

PAPERS: (i) Certified Financial Statements of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the year ended 31 December 2015 (original);
(ii) Certified Financial Statements of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the six-month period 1 January to 30 June 2016 (original); and
(iii) Report of the Director of Audit on the accounts of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for 18-month period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016 (original).

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| (No. B/1) | - | Montagne Charlot – Montagne Fanal Road |
| (No. B/2) | - | Ex-maternity Ward – Queen Elizabeth Hospital |
| (No. B/3) | - | Excavation/ Clearance/Derocking
– Montagne Baie Topaze & Montagne Croupier |
| (No. B/4) | - | New Housing Scheme |
| (No. B/5) | - | Government Premises/Assets – Cooperative Societies |
| (No. B/6) | - | Fruits Flies in Rodrigues |
| (No. B/7) | - | Football Teams – Grant Allocated |
| (No. B/8) | - | Acquisition of Private Buildings– Rodrigues Regional Assembly |
| (No. B/9) | - | Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site |
| (No. B/10) | - | Social Aid to Vulnerable Groups |
| (No. B/11) | - | Subsidy on Animal Feed |
| (No. B/12) | - | Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd (RTMC) |
| (No. B/13) | - | Building - Housing Invest Rodrigues |
| (No. B/14) | - | Alternative Work – Octopus Closed Fishing Season 2017 -
(<i>Withdrawn</i>) |

/UNREVISED/

- (No. B/15) - Internet Connection – Connectivity Speed/Call Centre
- *(Withdrawn)*
- (No. B/16) - Grant to Breeders – Foot and Mouth Disease
- *(Withdrawn)*
- (No. B/17) Citronelle to Terre Rouge Road– Transport Facilities
- (No. B/18) Airport Development – Study/In Line with Tourism
Development Strategy - *(Withdrawn)*
- (No. B/19) Promotion of ICT - number of investors/ total project cost
- *(withdrawn)*
- (No. B/20) Domestic Violence in Rodrigues - *(Withdrawn)*
- (No. B/21) Queen Elizabeth Hospital &Area/Community Health Centres
- Sanitary Measures - *(Withdrawn)*
- (No. B/22) New Bus Routes - Eligibility Criteria/No. of Applications
Received/How many
- (No. B/26) Centre Gonzague PIERRE LOUIS - Inter-Island 7-aside
Games *(Withdrawn)*

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS:

- **The Chief Commissioner (Mr. L. S. Clair, GCSK):**
Policy by MOFED – Holiday Stimulus Package
- **The Commissioner for Sports & Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard)**
Delegation from Centre Gonzague Pierre Louis – Inter-Island 7-aside games

MOTIONS

- (a) The Chief Commissioner (Mr. L. S. Clair, GCSK)**

(i) Public Accounts Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 63 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following four Members to sit on the Public Accounts Committee:-

- (1) Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally;**
- (2) Miss Marie Roxana Collet;**
- (3) Mr. Jean Noel Nemours; and**
- (4) Mr. Jean Nicolas Volbert”**

(ii) Standing Orders Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 64 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following three Members to sit on the Standing Orders Committee:-

- (1) Mr. Nicolson Lisette;*
- (2) Miss Marie Roxana Collet; and*
- (3) Mr. Louis Joseph Von-Mally, GOSK”*

(iii) House Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 65 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following four Members to sit on the House Committee:-

- (1) Miss Marie Rose de Lima Edouard;*
- (2) Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety;*
- (3) Mr. Joseph Reddy Augustin; and*
- (4) Mr. Zepth Felicite”*

(b) The Chief Commissioner (Mr. L. S. Clair, GCSK)

“This Assembly is of opinion that the name of Sir Gaetan Duval Airport of the airport at Plaine Corail, Rodrigues, must be changed so that, as from such date as may be decided by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, it shall bear the name of Plaine Corail Airport.”

ADJOURNMENT

QUESTIONS (Written)

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| (No. B/23) | - | Transport Difficulties – Students |
| (No. B/24) | - | Lycée Agri-Business at St. Gabriel |
| (No. B/25) | - | Foot and Mouth Disease - New Development |
| (No. A/1) | - | Construction/Upgrading/Renovation – Building/Roads |

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

/UNREVISED/

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I wish to inform you that due to circumstances falling beyond the control of the Regional Assembly as regards the supply of electricity to the house, work at the Regional Assembly has been seriously disrupted over the past few days. As some of you have already noticed, the House of Assembly is being powered by our independent generator today. I wish to apologise for all inconveniences this may have caused and rely on the kind understanding of one and all. Thank you.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MONTAGNE CHARLOT – MONTAGNE FANAL ROAD

(No. B/1) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the ongoing work on the Montagne Charlot to Montagne Fanal Road, he will state: -

- (a) the scope of work and the contractor/s concerned: -
- (b) the precautionary measures taken to prevent or minimize soil erosion and landslide;
- (c) the cost of the whole project; and
- (d) if an environment impact assessment was made prior to work being started?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, in order to kick-start the question time for that session, that sitting, well, the road from Soupirs to Port Mathurin has been split into three zones. Zone II starting from Mt Charlot up to Mt Fanal is presently under construction over a length of 850m comprising of the following scope of works namely: -

- (i) site clearance
- (ii) earth works
- (iii) masonry works

- (iv) road works
- (v) laying of asphaltic concrete
- (vi) fixing of security equipment and road marking.

The works has been entrusted to Transinvest Construction Ltd under the annual rates contract for Maintenance, Upgrading, Re-surfacing and Construction of roads in Rodrigues.

As regard to part (b), at design stage, measures have been taken in order to mitigate the risks of soil erosion which include the following:

- (i) The construction of retaining walls at every unstable excavated surface.
- (ii) The inclusion of a drainage system along the site to channel storm water to existing nearby rivers.
- (iii) The carting away of all soils which will not be used again.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to add that there are still some excavated materials being stocked on site to be used afterwards as backfilling materials. Officers of my Commission and that of the Commission of the Environment are constantly monitoring the situation to see to it that the contractor abide by the contract terms. After backfilling works are completed, any unused soil will have to be carted away to approved site.

I would like to add, additionally, Madam Chairperson, that the contractor has proposed to do some landscaping works which include the planting of grasses and palm trees to remove the eyesore effect. The proposal has been sent to the Commission for Environment for consideration.

As regard to part (c), the cost of the present ongoing works for Zone II is Rs 77.6 m. including VAT.

As regard to part (d), no EIA is required as road construction is not a scheduled activity requiring an EIA under the Environment Protection Act.

The Minority Leader : Thank you, Commissioner. Well, we know that we do not need any EIA for that but surely, you have to monitor damage done to the.... Whether you have had PER, a preliminary environment report on that.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : We even think, Madam Chairperson, that a PER is required.

The Minority Leader : If you want to protect the environment, this is something that should be done. Can I know whether the respected Commissioner has seen with his own eyes, has been on site to see what has happened?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Of course, Madam Chairperson, my Commission is performing some work and it is my duty to see that works are being done as per contract service. So, this is why we have had visits with officers of my Commission and officers from the Commission for Environment and this is why I added in my answer that we are monitoring the progress of the work and to see to it that the contractor abides by the contract service.

The Minority Leader : So, if you are monitoring the work, can I know whether the retaining walls that you have been talking about have been built prior to the excavation work especially downhill or after the excavation work?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The works are being done in conjunction, Madam Chairperson, view the position of the site, it is, how to say, it is a site which is quite sensible. So, this is why as per the topography of the site where the road is being constructed, the Contractor together with the Commission, officers of my Commission, we are doing conjunctively so that matters are taken into consideration and to avoid that matter of soil erosion, also.

The Minority Leader : So, if he has been there, is he aware that the walls now downhill are being built on loose soil that have been catered there downhill and this is causing serious damage/problem to villagers downhill who have lost animals and so on and there are landslides. So, will the Contractor be taken to task and will the Commissioner say whether he will do the needful to stop this environmental catastrophe?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There is no such environmental catastrophe as such as the Minority Leader is trying to make it out but I can tell the House that as at now, we have had only one complaint during the rainy seasons and whatever complaints we have, it is going to be the task of the Contractor to make good, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, I would like to also Commissioner being given that he... Sorry, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, being given that he rightly said that the site is quite sensitive, but I would like to

ask him whether prior to the design of the road, whether there has been geological survey being carried out on the site before doing, before constructing the road?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I am informed that there have been reports which have been made by the Yadav Servansingh Consultant and of course, before the building/construction of the road, the expert from my Commission will see to it that the site is appropriate for such construction.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Madam, the Deputy Chief Commissioner is talking about expert in his Commission. Can we know who are these experts and what are their grades?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, they are officers of my Commission, the Engineers. Of course, they are!

The Minority Leader : The Deputy Chief Commissioner is saying that drains have been built. I hope that it is according to norms but if it is according to norms, can you say whether during the heavy rains that we have had recently, the road was closed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, on a matter of security to road users, we have found it useful to close the road and any time that there is heavy rainfall, we are going to make sure that we provide safety for road users, especially vehicles.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, but in the meantime, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, who close the road? I would like to know who took the decision to close that road or part of it.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, there is a liaison between the Police Department of my Commission and whether there is any threat to the security and safety, we decided alongside with the police to get the road closed.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, one more question: has there been any notice prior to the closing of the road? And, secondly, whether this decision has been taken by the Road Safety Committee prior to the safety of the road as stipulated by the Road Traffic Act.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, there is a problem of safety and it is raining. What should be our first objective? We have

to secure the road first in order to prevent any accident from taking place. That should be the first reaction that we should have. Whenever there is rain going on, I remember it was on a Saturday, there was a communiqué which was delivered on the radio to inform all the public that the road will be closed accordingly.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, this problem of insecurity, whether it is not linked with the misconception of the drains?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : No, Madam Chairperson. There are works which are going on. Sometimes, the road is muddy and slippery. So, in light of this security threat that may cause any accident on the road, I think it is more than vital that we decide on such a measure to get that road closed during heavy rains.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have been on the site on that Saturday at 06:30 and the road was not closed and the Commissioner comes here and say he has taken the decision. He could have taken the decision before that because it rained all the night, during all the night. Another question. You are paid for that. It should be the Road Safety Committee to decide. He has liaised with the police. It is not bad but it should be under the Road Safety Committee. That is why I am putting the question once more whether, this decision has been taken by the Road Safety Committee or not.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, Madam, I insist because I, myself, I was also on site on the day that it was raining and I told you, I told this House that the road had a no entry sign, yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On 06:30? No.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have one more. I insist saying that the road was not closed. I was on the site. I had pictures. The road was... *To pe riye moi? Ah to gagne pou riye moi tou!*

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

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The road was not... We were not able to cross from Jeanté to that part of the road, Montagne Charlot. The road was not closed and I was myself on the site. It is not good to mislead this House, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam! I can substantiate because I was on the road!

Madam Chairperson: This is out of order, respected Member. You cannot say that the Commissioner is misleading the House.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I can substantiate. I have pictures.

Madam Chairperson: You have to withdraw. You have to withdraw, respected Member!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I withdraw.

Madam Chairperson: You have to...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Though I have been on the site, I said that he may be misleading the House, I withdraw.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner since she mentioned in his reply that a retaining wall will be built along the road, can I know the diameter, the height of the retaining wall on the northern part of the road, not the southern part but the northern part.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Uphill? You mean uphill towards the inhabitants? Of course, as I have told you in my answers, we are building the road if we are going towards Soupîrs. We are building the road on the right hand side of it. And, of course, we will have to build retaining walls in order to prevent any landslide for those inhabitants who are living uphill. I also stated in my answer that there would be backfilling. There would be backfilling that is going to be done because as we see the work right now, the walls are quite high when we move up and there would be quite a lot of backfilling that is going to be done from the soil that has been piped downwards. So, depending upon the backfilling, we are going to make sure that the road is of required height to ensure that those inhabitants which are living upward, above the road, there is minimum possibility for any soil or any landslide to move down.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Bon, j'accepte la réponse du Chef commissaire adjointe mais je n'ai pas eu de réponse à ma question. Quelle hauteur ça va être le mur de soutènement ? Parce que j'ai été sur le site, moi aussi. Comme vous savez, j'ai été sur le site. J'ai vu des coulées d'eau de plusieurs parts, des coulées de boue et de roches qui revenaient de ce coin dont je vous parle. C'est pour ça que je voudrais savoir quelle sera la hauteur. Si on veut combattre l'érosion, si on veut faire de Rodrigues, une île écologique, quelle sera la hauteur pour

empêcher que ces terres-là et ses roches-là n'aillent pas vers la mer ou ses maisons qui sont en suspens ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson, it will be as high enough as will be required to prevent the threat that is stated by the Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know the height.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Approximate height!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Approximate height! Let me have an answer! A right answer.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: There are problems of erosion. That is why I am asking this question.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It is a question of technical. I do not have the required information in hand but I can assure the Member that everything is going to be done so that we protect and prevent any erosion from upwards on the road.

The Minority Leader : Because I think the Deputy Chief Commissioner...

Madam Chairperson: Can we hear the question of the Minority Leader, please?

The Minority Leader : I thank you for this because we have this problem in Rodrigues where the walls normally, in different parts in Rodrigues, the walls are lower than the height of the land so that you have much soil erosion. If you heighten the wall, we can protect Rodrigues. We can prevent millions and millions of metre cube of soil going to the sea if you do that because environment is a matter for all of us to be concerned of. One last question, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner when the work will be completed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The work was to be completed by 31 May but I think that the Contractor has requested for additional time and it is now expected to be completed by July.

The Minority Leader : Can we know whether there is any retention money that is kept and how much is that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The project is still going on, Madam Chairperson. And, of course, if we are going to apply liquidated damage for any delays that are going to be observed, then, we are going to apply it and abide by the terms of the contract.

Madam Chairperson: Next question, Minority Leader.

EX-MATERNITY WARD – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/2) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the work being carried out at the ex-maternity Ward of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will state:-

- (a) the scope of work;
- (b) the cost implication thereof;
- (c) who is the successful bidder for the execution thereof;
- (d) if precautionary measures were taken when removing any hazardous waste on site; and
- (e) when the work is due to be completed?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, Madam, as regard to part (a) of the question, the scope of works is as follows:

- Removal and replacement of existing steel roof sheeting.
- Demolition and alteration to external blockwall and internal blockwall and including new blockwall with finishes.
- Demolition and replacement of part of concrete floor bed and providing new finishes.
- Removal of existing openings and provision of new openings.

- Removal of existing false ceiling panels and replacing by new panels.
- Mechanical and electrical works.
- Associated site works.

Regarding part (b) of the question, the cost of the project – Conversion of Ex-Maternity Ward into a Paediatric Ward is Rs 19,179,823.86, including VAT.

As for part (c), Madam Chairperson, the successful bidder for the execution of the works is Laxmanbhai & Co. (Mauritius) Ltd.

As regard to part (d), Madam Chairperson, precautionary measures were taken in consultation with the local authorities, for disposal of all wastes on site.

It is anticipated that the works shall be completed by the end of this month.

The Minority Leader : Well, I think the Commissioner... I would like to know as far as part (d) is concerned, concerning the hazardous waste, he has said that precautionary measures have been taken. Can I know what type of precautionary measures have been taken and what type of hazardous wastes do we have in this ward?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, all wastes are dangerous and hazardous if not removed on site. The local authorities have been contacted, the Commission for Environment, that the disposal of the wastes be sent to Montagne Plate.

The Minority Leader : This is a matter of concern. Being given that the Commissioner has said that all wastes are hazardous, well, there are wastes that are more hazardous than others. He has not said what type of hazardous wastes we have there. I have good reasons to put this question because there is the health of these poor workers there that is at stake. I would like to know what type of hazardous wastes we have there.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have answered the Minority Leader regarding wastes. I have said all wastes are dangerous and hazardous and I do not know any waste that he is talking about.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, I said it is a matter of concern. The Commissioner must know that we have false ceiling made of

asbestos and asbestos is very, very, very dangerous. Can we know whether we have taken special precautionary measures to prevent these workers from being infected?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson Madam, the Commission of Environment is following this matter, has followed this matter and up to now, no *amiante*, no asbestos has been informed to the Commission.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, I wonder whether he knows his files well. I would like to ask the Commissioner, a few years back, I put a question at the National Assembly. I was told that there are false ceilings made of *amiante*. If this is not made of *amiante* now, can the honourable, the Commissioner tell us of what material the false ceiling is made?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This is technical, Mrs. Chairperson Madam. I cannot answer it.

The Minority Leader : You should know your files! Shame on you if you do not know your files because these poor workers...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Minority Leader, please, as you know as well, the provisions of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, no question can be insisted upon. The Commissioner has answered.

The Minority Leader : He has not answered!

Madam Chairperson: He has given an answer to you it and he is responsible for the answer he has given.

The Minority Leader : But I would like to put another question on that because he has to bear responsibility. Tomorrow, if one of these workers, you know, the *amiante*, asbestos, that can cause lung cancer and in order to deal with that, you have to put on special mask. If you have just allowed our poor Rodriguan workers to work without proper facilities, without proper precautionary measures, I think you bear the responsibilities. Will he enquire together with his colleagues of the environment, to see how these *amiante*, these asbestos sheets have been disposed of?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have already answered all these questions and I do not know where the Minority Leader has found that

there is *amiante* in this building and no test has been made regarding whether there is *amiante*. As far as I know, there is no *amiante* in this building.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can we know prior to the upgrading of this building, who carried out the survey for the scope of work?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The survey was carried out for the scope of work by Consultant Servansingh Yadav.

The Minority Leader : Can we know, Madam Chair, when the work will be completed?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This work will be completed by the end of this month.

The Minority Leader : Can we know, the last question, whether he will enquire if the *faux-plafond* was made of *amiante*? It is very, very important.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have already answered this question, Madam. There is no *amiante* there.

Madam Chairperson: Next question, Minority Leader.

**EXCAVATION/ CLEARANCE/ DEROCKING
– MONTAGNE BAIETOPAZE & MONTAGNE CROUPIER**

(No. B/3) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the excavation, clearance and derocking works being carried out at Montagne Baie Topaze and Montagne Croupier, he will state:

- (a) the scope of work indicating if proper tender procedures have been followed there for, giving the name of the successful bidder;
- (b) If an Environment Impact Assessment (E.I.A) was done and an E.I.A certificate given prior to the start of work, tabling same; and,
- (c) The measures taken to minimize any ecological catastrophe in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the surveys being carried out at

Montagne Croupier and Montagne Topaze form part of the overall investigation in relation to the extension of the Runway Project. As already stated in this House, a Consultant was appointed by the RRA in May 2016 for the “Design, Cost Estimation and Preparation of Tender Document for the Extension of the Runway at Sir Gaëtan Duval Airport”. The first deliverables are the submission of the Preliminary Design Report and Preliminary Cost Estimates, geotechnical investigations around the Airport.

Madam Chairperson, a contract for the geotechnical investigations was awarded to one company, Water Research Ltd, after an open bid exercise. The aims of the geotechnical investigations are to determine the existing pavement strengths, ground, seabed and seawater conditions and design parameters for the proposed SGD Airport Extension and to provide information on the subsurface ground conditions. Moreover, in view of the magnitude of the project, additional materials may be required for the works despite existing rock quarries. Such information is vital to the Consultants in the preparation of the best design options for the extension of the runway based on factual and scientific findings as well as accurate cost estimates.

As such, Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the contract for the geotechnical investigations located in the vicinity of Sir Gaëtan Duval Airport was launched on 20 October 2016 through open advertising bidding, with closing date fixed for 23 November 2016. Two bids were received and were sent for evaluation by a Bid Evaluation Committee. The evaluation team recommended that the bid be awarded to the most responsive evaluated bidder, that is Water Research Ltd, and the contract was awarded on 25 January 2017 for a duration of 133 days for the sum of Rs 17,166,440 excluding VAT.

I am informed, Madam Chairperson, that the Contractor has completed the investigations at Montagne Baie Topaze on 12 May, 2017 and is mobilising his equipment to Montagne Croupier to complete the survey.

The scope of works for the geotechnical surveys at Montagne Baie Topaze and Montagne Croupier comprise the following:-

- (i) Drilling of nine boreholes of diameter 76 mm formed by rotary coring methods to various depths (10m to 25m) at Mont Topaze.
- (ii) Drilling of 12 boreholes formed by rotary coring methods to various depths (10m to 25m) at Mont Croupier.

- (iii) Trial pits at Mont Topaze and eight trial pits at Mont Croupier.
- (iv) In situ sampling and laboratory testing.
- (v) Submission of logs including photograph of cores and Factual Report, providing all information obtained from the investigations.

With regards to part (b) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I have to inform the House that this specific type of survey or investigations does not require an EIA licence as per Environmental Protection Act.

However, Madam Chairperson, I wish to reassure the House that all measures have been well stipulated in the contract document in view of minimising any risks and a list of potential impacts anticipated from the works as well as management and mitigating measures to be implemented by the Contractor during the duration of the Contract.

Madam Chairperson, in order to conduct the investigations, appropriate clearance has been issued to the Contractor for accessing the different sites mentioned.

Moreover, my Commission has issued “Environmental Clearance for Land Levelling” imposing some conditions to the Contractor to further minimise environmental damage and all conditions have been respected.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that this project is linked with that of the extension of the airport and I have been made to understand that the work at Montagne Croupier and Montagne Baie Topaze was to be effected after the report on the Option 3 of the airport is submitted. Can we know whether the report on the Option 3, the geological report has been submitted?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the question is mainly with regards to, if I go back to the question, the excavation clearance, all the work being done at Montagne Topaze and Montagne Croupier. I will stick my answer to this but whatever option the Member is talking, he has to come with another question. Thank you.

The Minority Leader : But, Madam Chair, he himself talked about the airport. He said that it is in conjunction, it is linked to that. So, if it is linked, he should know, whether he has had a report before starting work. You cannot start work prior to the report being submitted. So, *mette charrette devant boeuf*?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, there is no work started with regards to the extension of the airport. We are doing surveys. There is a big difference between doing surveys to see where we are going, to plan the activities and to do the work. There is no work started! It is just surveys being done if I am clear on that.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, you are right to say that everything must be planned and fail to plan is planning to fail. Before starting the work at Montagne Topaze, if he said that it is being planned, can we know whether the board saying who is contractor, who is the architect, who is the designer, whether the board was placed there prior to the start of work at Montagne Topaze?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I do not know what board you are talking about but yes, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, on every side of work, we have to put a board, saying who is the architect and so on. There was no board placed there! We have been there. No board! Can he know if this is in order?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The board, we have put a board there maybe a bit afterwards. But the board, again, I am saying, is there is no... We put a board when you are doing the work. We are not doing the work! We are still at the stage of survey. And, also, this is planning. The guy is talking about planning. Yes, this is what we are doing and also, we are just... Do you put a board to create an access?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please, allow the Commissioner to answer the question. Please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We will put a board whenever necessary but for this survey, there was no need to put a board, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : I know whether the Chief Commissioner is joking. When you see the type of work that is being done on that mountain, Montagne Baie Topaze, you normally go there with TVs and so on but this time, you have not done so. Why? *Li en catimini!* I would like to know being given the type of work that is being done there, many roads, rocks that fall down, there are safety hazard there, environmental hazard, erosion, big, big work going on there and he is saying that there is no need to put a board there? So, anybody can

go there and being judge without he is having a problem with that? Is this what the Commissioner is telling us?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, there are a lot of places on Rodrigues where we are doing access. What we are creating at these places for the time being, let me be clear on that, for the time being, is we are creating access for this machine to be able to the drilling exercise. So, in order to create an access... Of course! We need to have environmental damage. *On ne peut pas faire l'omelette sans casser les œufs!* Madam Chairperson, *donc, c'est tout à fait normal* but what the Members are not looking is what are the benefits of putting this road, creating this access. We went there with my friends last week. It is the first time that I have been on this mountain, I must admit. And it is great! Today, when you look at... Tourists have started to go there!

There was no access on this mountain. I am sure the Commission for Tourism, this would increase the activities, you know. When I look at this, if I could connect my head to make these people see what I have seen on these mountains, it is marvellous! Of course, we need to bear some damage, yes, I admit. Of course, you cannot... How can you create a road and not digging the soil and create a bit of erosion? So, there is no big issue with regards to this! What we are doing, we are doing, in order to bring the machine there, we had to create an access and this is all that have been done there. You know? And, we have used the best way to do the access with limited damage to the environment.

The Minority Leader : The Commissioner is talking of limited damage. I do not know whether he understands what is meant by limited damage. Can he say how many roads have been cleared on that mountain?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It does not matter the amount of access. We have to create the access for the machine to drill! Unfortunately, we do not have helicopters on this island. If we did have helicopters, it would have been easy! We would not have to dig to make a road over there. So, the Contractor had a contract. He had... to do the survey. So, we had to make the access. Now, the best thing to do now is how do we make use of this nice access. You know, to Montagne Croupier, it is marvellous! Just go! I will be happy to take you there to see what you can see.

The Minority Leader : *Montagne Baie Topaze*, in fact, there has been several access. It is like a gruyere! Everywhere, many, many trees have been pulled down. Can I know from the Commissioner whether... Well, he said we are just doing tests, drilling to find out what types of rocks we have there. Can

he tell us how many lorries of rocks have been removed from this site of *Montagne Baie Topaze*?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is not related to the question! You know, I am not supposed to sit down there and to count the number of lorries. Whenever any lorries of soil or rocks have been removed, if they have received any clearance from the Commission! And, this is what we said! You know, this is the vision of the Government. Before, when people were digging rocks and whatever, all these rocks were staying there and then, the... Welcome for example, had to go to the quarry to remove the rocks for the quarry. But what we are doing now? We are already removing the rocks. So, we give it to the quarry! It is not a problem of rocks going somewhere! The rocks are going to the quarry to prevent more damage to the environment! So, *une pierre, deux coups*, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Le Commissaire prétend que* rocks are being sent to the quarry. This, he knows but he also said that he could not sit down and watch the lorries taking the rocks from this. Which is which? We do not know. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we got the impression that a company has been awarded a contract to investigate and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA), they just allow them to do whatever they want! They investigate, they do a lot of harm to the environment without the Environment Unit doing anything! We have been on the site many times. The Commissioner said contract document measures. It is not the contract document measures which will ensure that everything goes as should be on this site. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner who did the monitoring and how often him or his officers went to the site to monitor the site and whether report has been put on his table.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the monitoring was done by my Commission and my officers, at least once a week, they were going to the site to monitor of the situation. But there was something else, talking about trees being pulled down. What sort of trees have been pulled down? It is a policy of Government to remove *Acacia Nilotica*, *piquant loulou*, on this island. And what have we done? We have cleared *Acacia Nilotica*! We have cleared the place of *Acacia Nilotica*. And, last Wednesday, there is a lady who came to see me and said, "*Thanks a lot, Commissioner*". I said, "*For what?*" She said:

"You know, for years, I was trying to plough my land to plant beans but unfortunately, I could not do it because there was no access to my land and now, there is an access suddenly!"

So, look at the benefits! We should look at the benefits of this project; not just look at the damage. What damage are they talking about? They were talking before of ecological. What is ecological? Can someone define ecological catastrophe?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I would like to remind you that you should let the Commissioner answer the question without any interruption and then, you will have the floor to set your questions after that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Question to the Commissioner.* Le Commissaire a parlé d'investigation. Il a parlé des sentiers, des *access roads* qu'il a ouverts pour voir la beauté de Montagne Topaze. Madame la Présidente, on fait un accès pour monter sur la montagne de Baie Topaze mais si vous allez sur la montagne de Baie Topaze, aujourd'hui, là, vous allez voir qu'il y a un accès qui fait le rond de la montagne, qui fait le tour de la montagne et qui redescend vers le bas. Si cela n'est pas une catastrophe écologique, je me demande ce que c'est. Peut-être que je suis un ignorant ! Mais parlons d'autres choses, Madame la Présidente. M. le Commissaire vient de dire qu'il est un fanatique de l'écologie et c'est lui qui a initié beaucoup de choses etc. Est-ce que le Commissaire est au courant qu'il y a des oiseaux endémiques qui nichent sur la montagne de Topaze ? Est-ce que le Commissaire est au courant de ça ? Il faut qu'il arrête de dire des bêtises ! *I would like to ask the Commissioner what precaution has been taken prior to the destruction of Montagne Topaze and Montagne Croupier which is a crime!*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I must say that there is no destruction. No destruction to these places! We are creating access and he was talking about bird nesting on these mountains. What endemic are you talking about? I know endemic birds much better than these people. There are no endemic birds nesting on these mountains.

Madam Chairperson: Members from sitting position, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This, I can prove. There is no bird endemic to Rodrigues nesting on these sites and also, all the work that is being done is for the benefit of the island. Everybody wants, you know, let me say something about the runway. Everybody wants more tourists; everybody wants a big airport without doing a little bit of harm to the environment. So, either we leave Rodrigues as it is and everybody leaves the island and go and leave on Saint Brandon or we try to do something for the benefit of the people, for the future and this is what we are doing, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The Commissioner, I think, is misleading the House because I have been on the...

Madam Chairperson: You have to withdraw!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: No, I would not withdraw; I would substantiate what I am saying. I would substantiate what I am saying because there are endemic birds on this Montagne Baie Topaze. He cannot come here and say that there is no bird and that mountain. I have pictures. I shoot the pictures, myself!

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you have to withdraw what you have just said: that the Commissioner is misleading the House!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I will withdraw the 'misleading the House' but I would say that the Commissioner is not telling the truth to this House!

Madam Chairperson: You have to withdraw what you have just said, respected Member!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Misleading, okay. I remove misleading!

Madam Chairperson: 'It is not the truth', you have to remove.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I remove the words. I would like to also Commissioner again one question. Yes, Madam, I think we are joking here. This is serious matter! I will come again to that board that you are... *faire in pe polémik ek sa*, the board is... Normally, when you give a contract to a contractor to do something with the environment, direct environment of a country, you should put a notice board prior to the construction or whatever excavation or whatever work you how to do which is a big work, this kind of work is a big one. This is investigation. I think I am right on that.

Madam Chairperson, on the board, there should appear the name of the client, the name of the Contractor, the name of the Architect, the name of the design. Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, we do not have any. We do not have any name of the Engineer, of the Architect on that piece of board. And, this board was placed one week after we have gone on this mountain on a filao tree! This is not serious, Madam! That is why we are coming with these questions today – because we have to be serious. Rodrigues is ours; not only for Commissioner Mr. Payendee. We have to do things right! That is why I am asking Mr. Payendee can he inform the House with the Designer, who is the Architect of this project of Montagne Topaze and Montagne Croupier?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I just want to raise a point that this project, I am the Commissioner for Environment; not the Commissioner for Airport. So, if they want to ask technical questions about this project itself, they have to come with another question to the Chief Commissioner.

Madam Chairperson: We have many questions still to consider. We have been on this question for twenty minutes. Other Members have the right to put their questions. So, no long statements, please. Only brief supplementary questions.

NEW HOUSING SCHEME

(No. B/4) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (The Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the new Housing Scheme of his Commission, he will elaborate on the criteria to benefit therefrom together with the conditions attached thereto and to table the names and address of the beneficiaries up to now, if any?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, in the Discours Programmes 2012-2017 and 2017-2022, we have reiterated our commitment to realise our ambitious project of “*ene fami ene bon lacaz*”. The construction of 1500 social housing units has been announced for the coming five years.

In line with this, this caring Regional Government has set up the New Social Housing Scheme which consists of the construction of a Housing Unit with size up to 50 m², valued to a maximum of Rs 600,000.

Madam Chairperson, our objective is to improve the housing conditions and the overall standard of living of vulnerable families and to help those who cannot afford to build a house on their own due to low household income. The project consists of:

Scheme I which has the following criteria:

- Household earnings of applicants must not exceed Rs 5,000;
- Applicants must be registered under the Social Register for Mauritius (SRM),
- Applicants must also own a plot of land or be a lessee of State land;

- The RRA will finance $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost while the rest is to be financed by the beneficiary either through a bank loan or from personal savings.

Scheme II has the following criteria:

- Household earnings of applicants must be between Rs 5,001 and Rs 10,000;
- Applicants must be registered under the Social Register for Mauritius (SRM),
- Applicants must also own a plot of land or be a lessee of State land;
- The RRA will finance $\frac{2}{3}$ of the cost while the rest is to be financed by the beneficiary either through a bank loan or from personal savings.

Madam Chairperson, on 28 March 2017, 56 applicants had obtained a loan from a financial institution and were awarded a firm Letter of Offer from the Commission for Social Security and Housing. It is worth noting that out of these 56 beneficiaries, 32 among them have already started constructing their house.

On 11 May 2017, an additional 50 beneficiaries whose application for a loan have been approved by their respective bank, were awarded their letter of offer. As at date, 106 families have already benefitted from their Letter of Offer for the construction of the Housing Unit. It is not ethical to table the list of names and address of these beneficiaries.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the respected Commissioner, he has talk of people of low income, having low income, can I know if somebody has some problems for example, his house has been destroyed by arson? Can we know how his Commission will help this people? By fire.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, we have other schemes but as the question was mainly relating to the New Housing Scheme, but we have other schemes for catering to such type of situations.

The Minority Leader : It is good that he has answered that because I have an example of a person, a family whose house has been burnt down, totally burnt down near Port Sud-Est/Songes four years ago and up to now, he has been given

a house like this. I think you should, Government should construct the house, either the National Empowerment Programme (NEF) or... I think we should do the needful for these persons. Is his Commissioner eager to look into this matter and try to see how they can help, especially this family at Songes?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Okay, Madam Chairperson, I know the case very well. There are some issues that should be solved out first before we can proceed because there are some legal issues that we should sort out first. But I know the case very well and we have addressed to the situation.

The Minority Leader : Can I know whether these houses are built by these families themselves or whether, the Government contract out to find the contractors to build this house?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, beneficiaries should select their contractors... At the time being, there are 17 small Contractors which are licensed under the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB). So, the list is also given to the beneficiaries so that they can choose from the list on their own.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, admettons que moi, je suis maçon, je peux construire ma maison et que je n'ai pas besoin de contracteur pour faire la construction de ma maison, can I ask the Commissioner how... Will I proceed?*

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, designing the new scheme, we have also considered what has happened in the past. We know some good masons who have not been able to complete their house which was given only on a self-help basis. For example, we know about the 186 houses which are still now not yet completed. We know cases about the trust fund houses. However, we have discussed, we have taken this type of situation also on board and we have discussed with the contractors so they can employ the person to construct his own house and being paid for it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: You mentioned earlier that the *plafond* for benefiting from this Housing Scheme is the person of a family should not have more than Rs 5,000. Is it not? Yes? But, can I know from the Commissioner since the level, the minimum salary is Rs 6,200 normally which has been approved by the NEF, the Government, can the Commissioner see to it that this sum, Rs 5,000, be increase to Rs 6,200 as the NEF already mentioned in policy?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Madam Chairperson, we have said that there are two schemes for post below Rs 5,000 and for those between Rs 5,001 to Rs 10,000.

So, all those earning less than Rs 10,000 are eligible to be either in one of two schemes depending on the level of income.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner being given that the beneficiaries be chosen from a list of 17, is it not? Yes, 17 Contractors, so, who will pay the Contractors? Is it NEF? Is it the Government or is it within the sum from the loan? And secondly, what is the rate for building such a house and who determine that rate in order to build these houses?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, the payments are effected directly to the Contractors either by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the sum/amount that is being contributed by the RRA and the other amount, the rest by the bank directly to the Contractors but it does not go to the beneficiaries directly because our objective is to ensure that all the houses are completed up to the final stage.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes! Je peux comprendre l'esprit derrière simplement pour faciliter la construction de ces maisons-là. Mais comme le Commissaire vient de dire, comment peut-on prendre une liste de contracteurs, vous choisissez et on prend l'argent du Gouvernement, on paye ces gens-là directement, si la personne a choisi tel X personnes, on prend l'argent du Gouvernement, à ce moment-là, on paye ?

Is it in order ? Has there been a sort of contract ? It is not that we are against Housing Scheme in Rodrigues but we have to put the question. We are here to put the question. We have been paid to put questions here, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether it is in order to... And, then, I did not get the second part of my question, the answer: what is the rate for building such houses, the rate put by the RRA or I do not know, the estimated rate for these houses?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, we do not have a specified rate but the idea behind is that we have based ourselves on the existing housing units that the NEF was giving to beneficiaries and obviously, there are Analysts who have worked out relating to the different contract rates that are existing around the island but it is also important to note that we do not impose a Contractor. There is a sort of competition which automatically leads to better offer amongst the contractors. So, the beneficiary can negotiate with all the 17 contractors so that they can get the better offer. This is the idea behind it and I think that it is working properly and all the beneficiaries are happy and we should also note that we are encouraging our locals, small local Contractors to become professional so that they can also emerge, become more professional and take all the matters relating to

construction in the future. But it is worth to note that there is a contract sign and it is being certified at different stages by Work Inspectors of my Commission.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: There is no rate! We are taking Government money, we are paying people, there is no rate! No fixed rate! Not enough! A sealing! This is not serious! Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner should come here and give exact answers and he cannot come here and tell me that there is no fixed rate. How is it? When you build a road for example, you have the rate. You build house without rate? You are taking Government money you are paying these Contractors; you do not have rates? So, I put the question so that he can answer. I would like to ask him what is the estimated cost for these houses per meter square?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, just make a simple calculation: 600,000 divided by 50 m². But the fact that we do not have a standard size of the house; it depends on the beneficiary. So, he has to construct accounts to suit his purpose. So, the site can be varied but what I am sure, what is certain is that we have made a very fair calculation of the cost taking into account the cost of materials and people are very happy about it.

The Minority Leader : One last question, Madam Chair, being given that the Commissioner has said that the funds come from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, are we to understand that we will no more have funds from the NEF or from Central Government; that all the funds now will come from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly itself? *Pou perdi lerala.*

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, funds are being transferred from NEF and Central Government to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly *dans le cadre du renforcement de l'autonomie de Rodrigues.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can the Commissioner tell us the time frame, the application of the beneficiaries until the approval of his document?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It mainly depends on the time it will take for the bank to approve the loan or if the beneficiary already has her contribution, it will take less than one month.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire de nous dire comment est-ce qu'on fait parce qu'il a dit dans sa réponse qu'il faut avoir a *plot of land* ou un bail résidentiel. Si la personne est

éligible pour ce plan et qu'il n'ait pas ce bail ou *plot of land*, comment est-ce qu'on procède ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, a survey has already been carried out. There are as at now, about 1,200 applicants and officers from the social security have already made an enquiry to determine the most priority cases and we will go through a fast tract for Commission for Lands so that those who are in need on the priority, top priority, so that they can obtain their lease.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, next question.

GOVERNMENT PREMISES/ASSETS – COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

(No. B/5) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Cooperatives and Others whether, in regard to Government premises/assets granted or leased to cooperative societies in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) table a list of items granted per cooperative society to date; and
- (b) state what mechanism, if any, has been set up by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to monitor the smooth running thereof?

The Commissioner for Cooperatives and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam Chairperson, as regard to part (a) I am tabling the list of items granted per Cooperative Society to date.

As regard to part (b) the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has given grants to Cooperative Federation for recruitment of bookkeepers on a contractual basis. The bookkeepers are accountable for the daily recording transactions of the societies. The bookkeepers fill the necessary prescribed books of the Cooperative Societies and Federation and help in the preparation of final accounts and balance sheet.

- Officers attend board meetings/general meetings to advise members on their problems and to ensure that they operate according to the Cooperative Act and their rules.
- Officers also ensure that:-

- (a) the Cooperative make optimum use of buildings and assets put at their disposal for the socio-economic benefits of their respective members;
- (b) the management safeguards the assets of the society;
- (c) constant visits are done in Cooperative Societies to monitor activities and inventory of assets at the end of each financial year.

Madam Chairperson, last but not least, it is good to note that a Monitoring Committee has been set up to ensure timely completion of the different projects as per the grant given to cooperatives.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, we put a question. So, I do not know if he had heard well but I would like to ask the Commissioner about the bookkeepers. Who choose the bookkeepers and by which mode?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, Madam Chairperson, it is the Commission with the help of the Cooperative Societies. In fact, what we do: we sit with them, we give them the sort of terms of reference and then, they proceed with recruitment. We provide a grant to the Cooperative and of course, the officers provide training to these bookkeepers.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Commissioner whether the grant, the assets provided to the Cooperatives, whether there have been requests from these Cooperatives to obtain same and how he proceeds to give these assets to these Cooperatives?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Of course, Madam Chairperson, what we did: when the scheme came out after consultation with the different cooperatives, we have seen that after meeting them, after various meeting, after consultations, we have seen that if we want these Cooperatives to perform better their activities, they are some facilities that we can provide to them. And, during these consultations, there were proposals that the made and out of these proposals, we put a budget and they were informed democratically through media, through meetings that these facilities are available and it is up to the cooperatives to put in front of the Commission, their needs.

And, after they submit their demand, the officers, they assess the capacity of the Cooperatives to handle these facilities and also, how we can better and accompany them and empower them to make good use of these. So, there is a

procedure and on choosing these... Of course, the Council should approve that such and such facilities will be given to the Cooperatives. There are Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed and also, the Cooperatives members, they are expected to follow all these different aspects that we agreed upon.

The Minority Leader : Can we know how many of these Cooperatives obtain these facilities?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, in fact, in the list, you will see there are more than 40, I suppose. So, in the list, you will see there is a list of cooperatives.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, can I ask the Commissioner for Cooperatives? There are two cooperatives which the Government grant money: one for land mechanisation and one for pasture development. Can I know from the Commissioner where does the project... Actually, give a brief and whether, there has been a kind of understanding with the RRA for the transfer or a grant off of this one-off grant to these Cooperatives or Federations of Cooperatives.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Effectivement, Madame la Présidente, les deux coopératives, j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer qu'ils ont complété à 100 % leurs projets et ce sont deux projets qui sont vraiment... qui répondent à un besoin des membres de la population pour la mécanisation, donc, au niveau de l'agriculture. Comme vous savez bien, dans la région de l'Ouest, c'est l'endroit où on a le plus de planteurs et les facilités sont accessibles bien plus vite qu'avant parce que quand le Gouvernement donnait le service, c'était plus difficile. Donc, que ce soit pour le pâturage, le projet a été terminé, les membres sont satisfaits et bien sûr, il y a des formulaires bien spécifiques dans le cadre de l'allocation des *grants*. Toutes les procédures ont été suivies comme il se doit pour donner les *grants* et un *MoU* avait été signé avec les coopératives pour assurer qu'ils utilisent toutes ces facilités donc, bien dans le cadre de l'accord du projet entre le Gouvernement et la coopérative.

The Minority Leader : The Commissioner has been talking of agriculture. Can I know how many cooperatives have been given tractors belonging to the Government and whether these tractors, they will work freely for all the agriculturists in their region? Because this is public money and can I know whether there is only one or two who have obtained the tractors and implements?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la Présidente, en effet, il y a aucune coopérative ; on a donné aucun tracteur a une coopérative. On a donné un *grant* selon les formules que je viens de dire ici. On a donné un *grant* et la coopérative a suivi des procédures pour l'acquisition des équipements. Et non, les facilités de la mécanisation ne sont pas gratuites. D'ailleurs, les planteurs sont bien partants pour contribuer dans le cadre de leur travail mais il y a des subsides que le Gouvernement apporte pour assurer que, donc, la mécanisation est faite à un coût réduit mais ce n'est pas gratuit. Pour l'instant, il y a qu'une coopérative qui a eu des facilités mais dans le futur, on envisage à *empower* aussi d'autres coopératives pour donner un bon service aux planteurs.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mais, Madame la Présidente, je ne comprends pas.... On a donné de l'argent pour acheter des tracteurs. Mais là, dans la *list of items granted per Cooperative Society to date*, et c'est écrit '*one tractor plus equipment*'. *It is a bit... I would not say misleading because I will have to withdraw afterwards.* So, we have to be... I do not understand! So, the Commissioner has said no tractor is being given but here, we say name of Cooperative Society RAMCF, one tractor plus equipment as item given to them. So, what is it? So, can the Commissioner explain?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la Présidente, peut-être administrativement, la manière dont c'est libellé, donc, c'est l'interprétation du *respected Member*. En effet, en donnant un *grant*, on tombe d'accord qu'est-ce qu'on fait avec ce *grant*. Donc, dans le cadre de ce *grant* donné à RAMCF, ce sont les équipements qui étaient prévus, qu'ils doivent faire l'acquisition. Donc, c'est peut-être une question d'interprétation dans la manière dont *the Member is reading the paper*.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but in other words, we cannot say grant; we can also say, rightly put here 'yes, we have been given a tractor'. So, the Commissioner has to be clear. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir... Mrs. Chairperson, sorry, Madam, some cooperatives are dormant. So, what happens, as per the documents which have been signed, if any, as per the MoU, which has been signed if ever there are MoUs signed with these people, what happens if they are dormant, to those who are dormant ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : It is hypothetical what happens if they are dormant. No, in fact, Madam Chairperson, what we do, we work closely with these Cooperatives. If the Cooperatives come with a project, it is not dormant! So, it is only upon the submission of the project that the grant is given. So, at no point in time, there is the risk of giving any grant to dormant cooperatives.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: It is not that. What I was saying is that some cooperatives which have been given grant or equipment or whatsoever before they are dormant! They are dormant! Let us take for example of... I am not blaming these people but I am just taking the example. If we go to Mont Limon Multipurpose Cooperative Society for *Le Restaurant*, at times, when you go there, you ask some items, you do not have! At times, it is closed! So, what should you do if for those... Sorry, I remove the word 'if'. For those who are dormant, what is the Commission doing for those who are taking/has earned money, public money, either through grant or item, what is the Commission doing?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chairperson, can the respected Member give me the name of any restaurant that is working 24 on 24 on this island? It does not exist! It does not exist! Of course, at some point in time, so, even though the investors, even though there is private investment, no restaurant in Rodrigues is working 24 hours over 24. So, it is not good that we come here to blame these people. Of course, I said it in my answer, I clearly stated that there is a close monitoring of these projects. Of course, each project functions differently. I cannot expect RAMCF to be in a garden at midnight because we do not plough land at midnight.

So, also, we are not here to control the time at which they are doing their duties but up to now, I can assure the House that there is a very close monitoring. I can say that we have very good officers. At the level of the Cooperative Division, they are doing close monitoring of these grants. Also, they are working with other cooperatives though grant has not been given because according to the Cooperative Act, they are supposed and they are requested to monitor every month with these people and also to have audit reports on these cooperatives.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire si l'usine *Ti Mamzelle* qui se trouve à Petite Butte et l'usine fabrication de bloc à Petite Butte également, si ça tombe sous le *scheme* qu'elle vient de nous dire ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : En effet, ce projet, Madame la Présidente, donc, a été porté par une association et pas une coopérative. Donc, c'est un projet qui a été formulé indépendamment de notre... On n'a pas été informé. Tant mieux d'ailleurs, au contraire, il y a des initiatives privées qu'il faut encourager. Donc, ce projet a été porté par... Il y avait quelqu'une qui était venue pour aider ces femmes. Malheureusement, le projet ne marche pas trop comme il se doit et on a discuté que cette année, on va essayer de les prendre par la main pour les accompagner, le *hand-holding* comme on dit, comme on fait avec

les coopératives. Donc, mais ce n'est pas une coopérative ; c'est une association pour le moment.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

FRUITS FLIES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/6) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to fruits flies in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) table the latest report or study, if any, on the impact thereof on agricultural productions; and
- (b) state the measures his Commission is taking to remedy same, if any?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, with regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the latest report on Fruit Flies Control in Rodrigues dates back to 2008. This was done by the Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry of Mauritius. I am tabling the report. As per assessments made by officers of my Commission, it is known that the percentage loss due to fruit flies is around 30%. In only exceptional cases of severe infections and where planters have not applied any control measures, the level of infections can be higher.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b), the measures taken by my Commission to address the problem of fruit flies are as follows:-

- (i) Weekly bait distribution (*ce qu'on appelle les produits mélangés*) is done at the following agricultural offices on these respective days:
 - (a) Every Tuesday: Port Sud Est, Trèfles and La Ferme
 - (b) Every Thursday: Oyster Bay as well as the valley of Rivière Banane
 - (c) Every Friday: Citronelle
- (ii) Production and distribution of the Male Antination Techniques blocks (impregnated with a sex pheromone and an insecticide). These MAT, we call this MAT. These MAT blocks are effective for up to six months. There are different types of blocks being used as they attract specific flies.

/UNREVISED/

- (iii) Farmers are being sensitised by the Extension Officers during field visits, when they call to offices on sanitation measures, planting of trap crops, applying of bait sprays, and use of MAT blocks.
- (iv) Madam Chairperson, Pamphlets are being distributed to the public for more information.
- (v) Monitoring of fruit flies population by placement of dry traps in fifteen locations.
- (vi) Training and talks with farmers through radio program.
- (vii) Training of Officers at the Entomology Division of the Ministry of Ago Industry.
- (vii) The Pest Control Unit of my Commission is being reorganised.
- (vii) A vehicle will be provided to the Pest Control Unit by the next month for rapid intervention and more effective service throughout the island.

Ki to pose to question? Mo pé reponse!

- (ix) At least three workshops will be held for planters to sensitise them on how to control fruit flies at their own level.

Madam Chairperson, let me give some figures on the distribution of baits to control fruit flies for the past two years:-

YEAR	Bait distribution (Litres)		MAT Block distributed
	Litres	No. of Planters	
2015	2414	2521	2744
2016	2375	2375	3600

Liquid baits are distributed as follows:-

Sn	Distribution Point	Average Quantity distributed weekly (litres)
1.	Port Sud Est	110

2.	Trèfles	21
3.	La Ferme	32
4.	Oyster Bay	53
5.	Rivière Banane	62
6.	Citronelle	50

- (x) My Commission is coming up with regulations to reduce the import of chemical pesticides locally to lower the risk of pesticide resistance build-up in pests.
- (xii) Insects discovered in Rodrigues are sent to the Ministry of Agriculture for specimen analysis and control measures.

This is all, Madam.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Madame la Présidente, je trouve ça choquant ! On a parlé de 2008 jusqu'à 2016. Ça fait combien d'années ? 2017 – neuf ans. Le Commissaire de l'Agriculture d'alors parler de « *le pilier de l'économie* ». Mais lorsqu'on pose la question, on a posé cette question-là deux ans ou trois ans de cela *concerning fruit flies*. On nous a donné des réponses. Mais là, lorsqu'on pose une simple question demandant s'il y a eu des *reports*, des *studies*, on nous dit que ça remonte à 2008. Madame la Présidente, cependant, tous les fruits se font bouffé par les mouches de fruit ! Et on entend le Commissaire dire *will be*, *will be*, *will be*. *Everything will be*. On parle de nouvelles étapes. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire de l'agriculture s'il a bien vérifié ses informations concernant la distribution des produits mélangés dans les stations, dans les bureaux.

Par exemple, Madame la Présidente, à La Ferme, j'ai été plusieurs fois chercher et on me dit d'aller Citronnelle, plusieurs fois ! Si vous voulez, aujourd'hui, c'est mardi. On suspend l'Assemblée, on va tous à La Ferme, on va chercher. Je mets au défi le Commissaire. Comment se fait-il qu'il vient nous dire quelque chose comme ça mais la réalité est autre ? J'aimerais lui poser la question s'il a bien vérifié ses informations avant de venir ici, de venir nous dire n'importe quoi.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, le membre vient nous dire que le dernier rapport date de 2008. C'est vrai ! Mais est-ce qu'on fait des rapports tous les ans ? Ça, c'est un rapport. J'ai bien dit c'est le rapport fait par le Ministère ! Mais à la Commission de l'agriculture, il y a des experts ! Comme tout à l'heure, on a dit, il y a des ingénieurs au *Public Infrastructure (PI)* et on a des ingénieurs aussi à la Commission de l'agriculture ! C'est la Commission où

il y a plus de personnes qualifiées dans Rodrigues. Donc, il faut mettre ces personnes-là en valeur, leur donner les possibilités de s'exprimer, de faire des travaux !

Donc, il y a beaucoup de rapports qui ont été fait depuis 2008. Ça ne veut pas dire qu'on s'est assis sur ce rapport de 2008. On fait un rapport pour *update the other one. For the time being, there is no need to update*. Les officiers de ma Commission n'arrêtent pas. Et pas plus tard qu'il y a quinze jours, j'étais partie pour Maurice ; on m'a donné un insecte pour emmener à Maurice pour être identifié ! Donc, je ne peux pas mettre ça dans les journaux, aller dire à tout le monde j'emmène un insecte. J'aurais pu l'emmener à la télé par contre. Emmener ça pour dire : « *Regardez, j'emmène un insecte pour être identifié à Maurice* ». Donc, le travail se fait. Le rapport date de 2008 et on n'a pas trouvé besoin encore et on n'a pas besoin. L'autonomie, c'est quoi ? On n'a pas besoin de chaque fois demander à quelqu'un de Maurice de venir faire un rapport sur le truc. Il y a des rapports qui se font et ça, ce sont des rapports internes que je ne peux pas donner aux membres. Le rapport officiel. Ça ne veut pas dire qu'on s'est assis, qu'on a dormi sur nos deux oreillers.

Concernant les produits, j'ai bien montré que les produits sont distribués. Maintenant, si le membre... Là, il dit de suspendre l'Assemblée pour y aller parce qu'il sait c'est impossible de faire ça. On ne peut pas faire ça. C'est impossible ! Donc, si le membre... Le membre n'a jamais. Il n'y a personne qui est venu. Je reçois depuis... Je pense, je ne sais pas, le Chef commissaire aussi faisait la même chose : on reçoit tous les mercredis ! Il n'y a personne qui est venu dire qu'il n'y a pas de produits ! Donc, c'est son devoir en tant que membre. Il est payé pour, je crois, pour rapporter s'il y a des trucs ; pas attendre quand il y a l'Assemblée pour venir parler de ça. Il aurait pu me téléphoner/m'appeler ou venir me voir dans mon bureau ; il aurait eu... Je lui aurais donné un petit café tranquille et il aurait dit, on aurait su qu'il y a un petit problème.

Maintenant, concernant ce *bait*, ça aussi, c'est important ! Le contrôle des insectes, c'est important ! Aujourd'hui, il y a deux types d'insectes qu'il faut faire attention. Je crois le professeur de l'agriculture, qu'il faut donner un petit cours à vos amis. Il y a deux types d'insectes : il y a ce qu'on appelle, des *beneficial insects* et il y a les *harmful insects*. Maintenant, est-ce que le membre veut qu'on prenne de l'insecticide ou de n'importe quoi, on fait le tour de Rodrigues et on en *spray* partout parce qu'il y a un petit problème de mouches de fruits ? Est-ce qu'on doit faire ça ? Il doit savoir aussi. Là, je vais faire peut-être un petit cours. Il faut savoir aussi qu'on a besoin d'insecte pour polliniser les fleurs. Donc, si on n'a pas d'insectes, on n'a pas de fruits et maintenant, vous voulez tuer tous les insectes pour qu'il y ait des fruits mais il n'y aura pas de fruits.

Donc, il faut faire attention. C'est pour ça si vous avez regardé la télé la dernière fois, ma Commission vient avec... je n'en ai pas parlé là, avec de l'insecticide naturel. Bientôt, on va utiliser des insecticides naturels. On a envoyé un groupe de personnes se former en Inde par rapport à ses insecticides. Donc, on ne va pas continuer avec ces *bait, bait, bait, bait*. On va changer et c'est ça ce qu'on appelle dans le dernier budget : franchir une nouvelle étape. Donc, on ne veut pas continuer avec et c'est un peu ça la direction qu'on prend.

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : *Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner seems to be beating around the bush.* Il est en train de parler de tous les insectes. On ne dit pas qu'il faut tuer tous les insectes. Non ! Ce qu'on dit, ce qu'on demande, c'est qu'on ait une campagne agressive contre la mouche des fruits. À Maurice, on est en train de prendre les taureaux par les cornes pour éradiquer la mouche de fruit. À Rodrigues, on doit faire un travail plus sérieux que ça. On ne dit pas qu'à la Commission de l'agriculture, il n'y a pas de bons officiers. Au contraire, peut-être c'est une des Commissions où il y a de plus d'officiers compétents et je les salue. Ils font bien leur travail mais peut-être que leurs compétences ne sont pas utilisées à bon escient. Il faut faire un travail coordonné. Comme je dis, *fail to plan is planning to fail*.

Pour éradiquer la mouche de fruit, j'aurais aimé demander au Commissaire. Il parle de *bait* etc. On peut utiliser d'autres façons plus efficaces. Par exemple, comme à Maurice, on peut utiliser des mouches irradiées, *sterilised flies*. *Why do you not do that ? I have not heard you talking about that. Why do you not ask for help from the MSIRI from Mauritius? You can have help. And, I think we must have a programme island wise.* On doit attaquer le problème à tous les niveaux et en même temps, non pas faire le travail *piecemeal*. Est-ce que le Commissaire va aller de l'avant avec ça et mener une campagne agressive pour éradiquer la mouche de fruit à Rodrigues ? Parce qu'il y a à peu près 40 ans de cela, il n'y avait pas de mouches de fruit à Rodrigues. Ça a été importé. Le « *drosophila melanogaster* », on peut l'éradiquer. Donc, je voudrais savoir du Commissaire s'il va aller dans ce sens-là.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, le membre parle de, je crois, contrôle biologique. C'est ça? Contrôle biologique des insectes. Je crois qu'on va avoir un débat sur le sujet. C'est le contrôle biologique, on ne se lance pas dans le contrôle biologique comme ça. On ne peut pas dire « *Maurice est en train de faire, Rodrigues fait!* » Rodrigues à sa spécificité et Maurice aussi d'ailleurs. Je n'ai jamais entendu Maurice dire qu'on fera de Maurice, une île écologique.

Par contre, nous, c'est notre vision de faire de Rodrigues une île écologique. Maintenant, quand on se lance...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I am interested to hear the answer of the Commissioner, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Si on se lance dans ce contrôle biologique, ça peut être bien. Ça peut très bien marcher mais ça peut être très dangereux et ça peut être irréversible même. On peut se retrouver comme des insectes à Rodrigues comme le *piquant loulou*. Pareil. Qu'est-ce qu'on fait ? Donc, il faut... Il n'y a pas Gouvernement... Un *caring Government* ne se lance pas dans un projet de contrôle... Je ne dis pas que ça ne peut pas marcher ; je dis qu'on ne se lance pas dedans aveuglément et on est en train de travailler là-dessus avec les... Vous savez, le Chef commissaire tout le temps dis « *que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans, 10 ans, 20 ans?* » On peut investir dans le contrôle biologique aujourd'hui. Ça peut marcher pour une semaine. Le *piquant loulou*, quand ça a été introduit à Rodrigues, c'était en 1977.

À cette époque, c'était correct ! Pas de problème à court terme mais à long terme ? Donc, moi, en tant que responsable de la Commission de l'agriculture, je ne vais pas me lancer aveuglément dans le contrôle biologique des insectes, des *fruit flies*. Il y a d'autres moyens. Là, nous, on prend ce côté de l'île écologique, va se lancer dans des insecticides naturels à base d'aloès, de tout ce qu'on appelle des *insecticidal plants*. On fait un mélange de 10 plantes, on écrase, on *spray* et il n'y a pas de risque à l'environnement. Donc, il faut faire bien attention. Donc, le côté de contrôle biologique, on ne veut pas se lancer comme ça aveuglément dans ce projet-là.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *May I ask the Commissioner, Madam, one question, one more question?* Le Commissaire ne veut pas faire le contrôle biologique, il ne veut pas faire de contrôle chimique, il ne veut rien faire. Il veut s'asseoir. On va donner encore une autre proposition pour qu'ils rejettent encore une deuxième fois, une troisième fois, une quatrième fois parce que c'est son habitude ! Madame la Présidente, dans le sud à côté de Plaine Corail, il y a des tonnes et des tonnes de coccinelles. Le Commissaire de l'agriculture, est-il au courant de ça ? Nous savons tous que la coccinelle attaque, elle tue les bêtes qui mangent nos fruits. *Can I ask the Commissioner, will he look into this possibility to propagate, to propagating these coccinelles in order to protect our fruits from invasive bêtes like himself?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, je ne vais pas me baser sur comme si quelqu'un dit, comme on est en train de dire, les coccinelles contrôlent

les mouches de fruit. Ça, c'est la théorie. Il y a une grande différence entre la théorie et la pratique pour que nous, au niveau de l'Assemblée Régionale, on prenne une décision par rapport à ça et les coccinelles vont se reproduire naturellement. Donc, pourquoi faire de l'élevage de coccinelles ? Donc, nous, on ne va pas se lancer dans un truc pareil ! À moins qu'il vient avec quelque chose de très fondé, avec un rapport fondé scientifiquement pour montrer parce que le risque, il y a un truc qui s'appelle le risque. Il y a des formes prend des risques, des fois on ne prend pas et pour une île, pour l'avenir d'un pays, moi, comme politicien, je ne veux pas prendre de risques.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, M. le Commissaire vient de dire, il vient d'affirmer que dans sa Commission, il y a plus de compétences qu'il y en a des autres. Moi aussi, j'ai été témoin de ça. Quand on va chercher les produits à Trèfles, bien souvent, il n'y en a pas. Est-ce que chaque fois on va se déranger pour sortir de je ne sais pas quel village pour venir dire, attendre le mercredi pour venir apporter ce cas ? Et puis, il a aussi parlé de *field works*, les *field visits*. Je n'ai jamais reçu de visite chez moi bien que je sois deux pas de...

[Interruptions]

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Et puis, il a dit qu'ils ont des visions, qu'il a une grande vision. Il veut que Rodrigues soit une île écologique. Donc, je lui demanderais de voir que dans ces centres où on est supposé distribuer des produits pour contrôler les mouches de fruit, que ça se fasse bien et non pas au petit bonheur comme ça se fait très souvent. Merci.

[Applause]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, encore une fois, c'est la première fois que j'entends que la dame a besoin d'aide. Mais si vous avez besoin d'aide, même dans la Bible, ça dit : « *Demandez, on vous donnera. Frappez, on va vous ouvrir la porte* ». Donc, c'est exactement ça qui se passe. Je n'ai jamais entendu. Maintenant, pourquoi, avec tout le respect pour la membre, nous, au niveau de l'agriculture, on ne va pas chez chaque Rodriguais pour voir comment vont ses arbres fruitiers, comment ça se passe ! Ce n'est pas le travail des officiers de l'agriculture pour aller dans chaque maison, chaque cour voir. C'est à la personne de venir voir. Il ne faut pas crier à la fontaine de venir vers vous ! Il faut que vous allez vers la fontaine. Donc, c'est ça. Mais c'est vrai que nous, on veut faire de Rodrigues, une île écologique.

Donc, il faut faire attention à ce qu'on dit par rapport aux mouches de fruit. Donc, j'ai bien dit qu'on doit faire attention. On ne peut pas se lancer dans

n'importe quel type de... L'*Extension Service* est là et c'est exactement l'*Extension Service* qui fait ce travail. Au fait, ça se passe comme ça. Une personne qui se trouve dans les difficultés... qui ait problème, on ne peut pas tout savoir, nous. On n'est pas des *longanistes* ou pour poser la question et dire chez telle personne, il y a un problème. La personne pose la question et nous, on envoie des officiers de l'extension pour voir. Et j'ai été à Gravières l'autre jour chez un monsieur qui fait ce truc d'insecticides naturels. Si vous voyez, c'est le seul endroit, la seule place que j'ai vue de tronc des limoniers vert. Partout, c'est noir avec un peu de cochenilles et tout mélange, c'est noir. Mais là, c'est vert, pourquoi ? Ce monsieur est en train de faire un travail extraordinaire par rapport *insects là*. Maintenant, nous, est-ce qu'on va tout le temps, est-ce que l'agriculture... J'ai bien dit dans ma réponse qu'on donne les pamphlets, on éduque les gens. On est en train d'éduquer les gens...

[Interruptions]

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

Mr. J. R. Payendee: On est en train d'éduquer les gens par rapport au contrôle de mouches de fruit, pas seulement de mouches de fruit. On parle de contrôle. Bientôt, un jour, on va devoir arrêter avec tous ces *bait*s. Donc, peut-être qu'on est en train de prendre la distance et aller vers cette transition qu'on veut dire : franchir une nouvelle étape ! C'est ça que vous devez comprendre ! Dans chaque transition, il y a les petits trucs mais voilà un peu la direction qu'on veut. Donc, Madame, je vous demanderais de passer à l'agriculture même à Trèfles tout près de chez vous mais faites une petite demande et on viendra voir votre plant. Je viendrais personnellement.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

FOOTBALL TEAMS – GRANT ALLOCATED

(No. B/7) **Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to football teams in Rodrigues, she will state to the House if any Grant has been allocated thereto and, in the affirmative, to indicate how much has been or will be granted per team and if all teams will benefit therefrom?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, the Grant scheme for football clubs of the First Division which aims at promoting the capacity building of football clubs with the view to

enhance professional development of athletes in the discipline is an important budget measure as spelt out in the budget speech of this Government for the financial year 2016/2017.

It is to highlight, Madam Chairperson, that the Grant Scheme will be organised in such a way to enable collective and individual upliftment and progress in the discipline.

Madam Chairperson, the Executive Council has approved a set of conditions to be observed for the allocation of the grant to registered football clubs of the First Division.

The proposed two-fold scheme has already been worked out very briefly but the phases are like this, that is:

1st Phase: All eligible Football teams receive a fixed grant at the beginning of the competition season.

2nd Phase: Second phase, teams will receive a performance grant based on their rank in the major leagues.

It is important, Madam Chairperson, to mention that before introducing the Grant Scheme, my Commission has made it a point of holding preliminary discussions with the Football Regional Committee to have their views on the scheme. Furthermore, it is clear that the implementation of the Grant Scheme should be accompanied with a set of reforms which will encourage football teams to re-structure and professionalise.

During the consultative meetings held with the Rodrigues Football Committee on 18 March and 10 May respectively, it was testified that the Committee is in favour of such reforms. Strong proposals have emerged from the different stakeholders consulted till now. Clear proposals have also been made during the last meeting with regards to the quantum of the grant and timing for implementation of the reform to be made, a condition sine qua none to the success and effectiveness of the grant.

A *table ronde*, Madam Chairperson, around football, will be organised by the end of May with the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee and all major stakeholders to find the best strategies to be adopted for the reform. Following that, a final proposal with respect to the grant quantum and the reform will be submitted to Executive Council for approval. I wish to highlight that if things are

moving satisfactorily, this will be effected as from the beginning of the next season 2017/2018.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can the Commissioner give reasons why the other team will not benefit such? division. You talked only for First Division but what will happen to the Second Division and Third Division team?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, this is the reason why I mentioned a reform so that to see how to cater for all those that are in the other divisions as well as those who are in the *école de foot*. So, there will be a thorough reform that will start from the grassroots to the next level. And, allow me to highlight also that this Grant Scheme will be extended to volleyball as well and it is on a pilot-basis that we are trying this new formula.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know how much money has been earmarked for the allocation of grant to First Division team?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Actually, for the amount of money, we cannot say it clearly because there have been different proposals and we are working on the proposals and I mentioned it in my reply that the quantum will be discussed with a larger group and see the views and apprised by the Executive Council.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Commissioner, a few years back, Rodriguan team, a selection, for football was set up for Club R. and funds were put aside for that. Can I know from the Commissioner whether they will go ahead with that? Maybe the Rodriguan team, the Club R. can participate in professional league in Mauritius, whether she will go along with the lines? And, I think this will help the Rodrigues football very well.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: As mentioned, Madam Chairperson, with regards to the reform, I will have to gather more information for all of the stakeholders and as at now, we have had proposals but as a responsible Government prone to *démocratie participative*, we are going to have all these people together and decide after that. We cannot at this stage, say which formula we are going to adopt but proposals are there written black on white that we need to validate with all concerned parties.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madame la Commissaire a parlé des centres de formation. J'ai cru comprendre qu'il y a trois centres de formation et chaque centre de formation, il y a au moins 20-25 enfants et ils ne sont pas équipés. Qu'est-ce que la Commission a prévu pour ces trois centres de formation ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: *Rédir la question. Mo pane tendé.*

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Les centres de formation, il y a au moins trois centres de formation et il y a au moins 20-25 enfants dans chaque centre de formation. Les centres de formation ne sont pas équipés. Qu'est-ce que la Commission a prévu pour ces trois centres de formation ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: *Bon*, the question is related to the grant but for *centre de formation* not equipped, I beg to disagree with that because only last year, we have been giving equipment to the different schools for football, *école de foot*. So, I beg to disagree with the Member right now.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Est-ce que le Commissaire peut prendre en considération de donner ne serait-ce que quelques ballons ou un set de t-shirt à ces équipes qui sont au bas ? Parce que ces gens-là éprouvent beaucoup de difficultés pour pouvoir s'entraîner.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, I have already mentioned it in my reply. There will be a thorough report that will start if things go right at the beginning of the new season 2017/2018. I guess the Member will have to wait until then.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS – RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

(No. B/8) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the acquisition of private buildings in Rodrigues by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, from 2012 to date, he will state the number thereof and to table details, per acquisition, concerning the cost price, geographical site and the surface area thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I have to inform the House that since 2012 to date, two properties: one on state land and the other on private land have been acquired by Rodrigues Regional Assembly for Government projects as follows:

- (i) The Rodrigues Regional Assembly has resumed possession over all portion of state land of an extent of 2800 m² situated at Contour Oblass and a sum of Rs 7.3 m as compensation for added value to

the land. The property standing thereon has been acquired to operate a training academy in the field of tourism.

- (ii) A building which is found beyond a road alignment at Saint Gabriel has been acquired for the sum of Rs 955,000 to allow the completion of the Road Project. The building Ex-Chez Ram situated on a portion of state land of an extent of 2037 m² situated at Baie Lascars, Pointe Venus, is also in the process of being acquired for the sum of Rs 6.3 m. for the implementation of a museum.

Madam Chairperson, in line with the existing Government procedures for acquisition, the Director Valuation Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development was requested to evaluate compensation for added value with regards to the properties standing on state lands and for acquisition of the House on the private land. All fees paid as compensation mentioned above have been determined after assessment by officers of the Valuation Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can the Commissioner inform the House how much the Promoters of Contour Oblass paid each according to the land lease and since when they have not paid same to the RRA?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I did say to acquire the land of the building, I did say it is an amount/sum of Rs 7.3 m. has been as compensation for added value to the land.

The Minority Leader : Concerning the land at Baie Lascars, being given that this was given by the same Government for supposedly an important project, can we know what has happened for this project.... so that today, we have to buy it, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has to buy same? Because we have cut down so many tamarind trees there, centenarian tamarind trees. We would like to know whether, there has been an error while giving this land.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, instead of building a building for the museum, we have decided to buy the building, Chez Ram and, at the same time, we have all the state land there. Well, the Member.... whether this land there, this museum which will be situated there, whether there will be, I think so, he was talking about tsunami. I think the building is higher than the Regional Assembly. If there is a tsunami, the Regional Assembly will be underwater.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: You are renting this building here? Madam Chairperson, I do not know what will happen in 10 years', 20 years' time or 50 years' time. I do not know. We are all taking our precautions so that whenever in the future, there will not be any other tsunami. We have experience in tsunami here in Rodrigues years ago. Well, we will see but we need this building instead of building a new building which will cost us much more than Rs 6.3 million. We have rather chosen to buy this building at Baie Lascars, at Pointe Venus, so that we can implement the museum there. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, one question. One thing which is very important. We cannot compare the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the museum. In the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, we can move and we are here at least five or six times per year. So...

Madam Chairperson: Come with your question, please! Respected Member, come with your question, please

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes! I am coming with my question. Just to see, I wanted to reply. The Chief Commissioner said that 'we chose'. This is one thing but the other thing is that when you build a museum, there are some parameters. There are some criteria which need to be inspected. So, I have not heard this in the answer of the Chief Commissioner. Has he been recommended? Have there been experts coming to recommend that place? – Because it is our archive. I do not know who will be there in that museum. So, my question is whether there have been recommendations from experts, from external experts so that they go ahead with the purchasing of this building.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I would like the member to the next meeting with a question addressed to the Commissioner for Arts and Culture.

The Minority Leader: Concerning this question, can I know from the Chief Commissioner with the buying of this building, are we not opening the door to speculation? Because we can have somebody supposedly is coming to invest in Rodrigues, he has beautiful plot of land, have the project, take money from the bank, put some money in a small house and then, after a few years, he said "*okay, ine fer faillite*" and then, the Regional Government buys it. Are not opening the door to speculation? I think this is coming into force too often in Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: Excuse me, Madam Chairperson, this question is out of order.

The Minority Leader: I beg to disagree because he has talked about purchasing this building. It is no joking matter. We are talking of land in Rodrigues. We cannot allow anybody to come here and take any plot of land and after a few years, say “*ok, mone fer faillite, you can buy the land*”. *A moins*, this is a juicy business!

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, l’honorable membre est en train de nous prendre pour qui ? N’avons-nous pas une intelligence? N’avons-nous pas une manière de voir les choses ? Est-ce que nous ne respectons pas ce qui se passe dans le monde et dans ce pays ? Madame la présidente, je vous prie de m’excuser parce que nous n’allons pas acheter n’importe quel bâtiment, quelqu’un vient pour faire ceci, faire cela pour juste que nous, nous puissions au niveau de l’Assemblée Régionale, acheter ce bâtiment. Ah non ! Non, Madame ! Ce ne sera pas comme ça. Ce n’est pas de la politique ça. Ce n’est pas de la politique ! Nous avons une vision des choses et nous avons faire ça, il y a ça, il y a ça mais la prochaine fois, si nous allons vraiment lancer un projet, nous allons peut-être construire le bâtiment. Tout dépend. Merci, Madame la présidente.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madame, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner. This building of Baie Lascars, *j’ai, à plusieurs reprises, attiré l’attention de la Chambre sur cette affaire. J’étais moi-même un des...*

Madam Chairperson: Come with your question, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I will come to my questions. I will explain...

Madam Chairperson: No statement!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: ... *will come to my question, first Madam. Let me have one minute.* J’ai été moi-même impliqué dans cette affaire de Baie Lascars concernant les abattages des tamariniers de plus de 150 années. J’ai fait campagne et il y a eu des réponses. J’ai tout ce qu’il faut comme dossiers mais finalement, le restaurant a été construit et aujourd’hui, le restaurant a été abandonné, faillite. Ce musée qui va être construit à Baie Lascars est un risque pour Rodrigues. Il y a d’autres bâtiments, il y a d’autres lieux où on peut construire un musée. Je pense que ce n’est pas la démocratie participative.

May I ask the Chief Commissioner to see to it to have a public consultation of this project prior to the purchase of this building in order to make sure that the museum that we will build in Rodrigues at Baie Lascars or wherever the museum

will be built, the museum lasts for long *dans 10 ans, dans 20 ans, dans 30 ans, dans 50 ans.*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you can come later on with a substantive question addressed to the Commissioner for Arts and Culture.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, I do not think you are right! I am not challenging your ruling but this question relates to *ça*.

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of your question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Ça, c'est la diplomatie et j'apprécie.

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

At 12.30 hours the Assembly was suspended for one hour.

On its resumption at 13.32 hours with Mr. Chairperson in the chair.

ROCHE BON DIEU DUMPING SITE

(No. B/9) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site, he will inform the House on the legal status thereof and state if: -

- (a) activities within the dumping site represent health hazard to the surrounding residents;
- (b) wastes are being segregated and disposed of separately; and
- (c) complaints have been received by the relevant authorities on the difficulties that the residents are facing due to the activities being carried out thereat and the actions that have been taken so far in relation thereto, if any?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, the dumping site was legally declared Roche Bon Dieu disposal site under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Dumping and Waste Carriers) Regulations 2005.

The activity which is being carried out on the waste disposal site is the leveling and landfilling of wastes on a daily basis. Such activity does not constitute a health hazard to the nearby region. However, the main factor representing health hazard to the residents is the smoke caused by accidental fire.

The wastes disposed of at Roche Bon Dieu disposal site are categorized as general wastes and are not being segregated and disposed of separately for the time being. Segregation to certain extent is already done upstream. Seven segregation bins have been put around Rodrigues and the waste is being dumped separately.

As regard to part (c), Madam Chairperson, I must inform the House that my Commission has received complaints from the residents about the inconveniences caused by smoke emanating from the disposal site. In order to decrease the effect of the smoke on the villagers, we have decided to implement the following measures:

- (i) The construction of fire-fighting facilities comprising water storage tank, pump and other equipment, adjacent to the disposal site with the view to control accidental fires more efficiently. A contract has been awarded for the works on 13 April 2017. With this measure, the fire will be dealt with by the personnel posted at the site as soon as they occur. We expect that the works will be completed during the month of June this year. In the meantime, we are having recourse to the Fire Services, to which we would like to express our deep gratitude.
- (ii) The second measure, Madam Chairperson, is the extension of the disposal site through the creation of some 6000 m³ additional space to accommodate wastes for the next three years. This will enable a better management of the site and the implementation of the waste landfilling procedure to minimise environmental nuisances. A contract has been awarded for the extension of the site. The works started on 05 May, 2017 with a duration of 17 days.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether, he is contemplating of having *ramassage sélective des ordures, si ça va se faire le plus vite possible*.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, c'est ce que j'ai dit dans ma réponse. On travaille sur ce dossier. Parce que déjà on a mis sept poubelles pour

séparer les déchets. C'est vrai qu'on travaille aussi sur la possibilité *at source*, c'est-à-dire chez les gens et ça va venir dans l'avenir.

The Minority Leader : A une réponse à une question, *I am pertaining to same*, le Commissaire avait dit, je cite « *on a déjà contacté une compagnie spécialisée dans la conversion de déchets organiques en énergie renouvelable* ». Peut-on savoir où on en est avec ce projet ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Bon, tout récemment, on a eu une présentation. Il y a une compagnie qui a prononcé son intention de venir travailler sur ce dossier. Donc, on vient d'avoir une présentation il y a une semaine ou deux et bien sûr, on travail sur le dossier bientôt, on ira plus loin avec les lancements des appels d'offres, des trucs comme ça.

The Minority Leader : Et peut-on savoir étant donné qu'on a déjà acheté un compacteur, un broyeur pour les déchets organiques et plus de 90 % des déchets sont organiques, pourquoi ne pas utiliser ces déchets pour produire du composte ? Je crois qu'on avait acheté cette machine-là auprès de Rs 4 millions. Je voudrais savoir où est cette machine, si elle est encore en état de marche parce qu'on peut commencer par là, je pense.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je crois que le membre est en train de défoncer une porte ouverte parce que ça se fait depuis des années et les gens viennent récupérer du composte sur le comblage de Baie aux Huitres mais c'est vrai qu'au début, c'était centralisé sur Baie aux Huitres mais là, on vient de prendre une décision. On fait un peu le tour. Là, actuellement, le broyeur est à Roche Bon Dieu parce qu'on est en train de nettoyer un site et quand on nettoyait le site, ça veut dire écraser aussi tous les *piquant loulou* qui se trouvent là-bas pour être utilisés justement pour faire du composte. Donc, et on a pris la décision de bouger le broyeur dans trois places à Rodrigues pour justement donner ce service à la population.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la Présidente, le Commissaire vient nous dire que là, on a donné un contrat à quelqu'un. On va donner ou bien on a donné à quelqu'un pour éteindre le feu qui émane du dépotoir. Ça, c'est normal lorsqu'on mélange tous les produits, il y a un processus de fermentation, il y a des gaz qui se produisent et il y a ça mais quelle autre mesure il y a ? Je me rappelle dans le passé, on ne faisait que déblayer tout ce qui est ordure et puis, on mettait de la terre là-dessus pour justement empêcher que ça fermente et puis, qu'il y a le feu mais je ne trouve pas. Est-ce que c'est une bonne initiative de payer des gens qui s'assoient, attendre pour éteindre le feu sur le dépotoir. Mais qu'est-ce que c'est ? Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire, peut nous éclairer là-

dessus ? Parce qu'il y a d'autres moyens, je sais qu'il y a d'autres moyens pour pouvoir contrôler ce feu-là.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, on ne prend pas cette mesure pour justement attendre le feu. J'ai dit qu'il y a deux projets : il y a un projet où on va récupérer, on est en train d'agrandir.... la terre, récupérer de la terre, veut dire combler d'autres endroits. Comme on a fait d'ailleurs dans le passé mais ce qu'on veut mettre en place, c'est que tout le temps, il y aura de la fumée sur le dépotoir. C'est difficile d'arrêter. Le fait que le membre lui-même vient de dire qu'il y a ce côté des gaz qui se produisent. Mais ce qui se passe, quand ça commence à devenir genre de nuisance pour la population, pour les gens de l'alentour, c'est quand il y a ce qu'on appelle, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse : *accidental fires*. Des fois, ça s'éclate et le temps d'attendre que le pompier arrive sur le site pour arrêter ce feu, c'est un peu trop tard. Le truc a déjà propagé et c'est difficile à contrôler. C'est pour ça. Nous, l'action, c'est de mettre ça comme une mesure de précaution pour justement quand il y a ce problème, on peut agir dans les brefs délais et empêcher que la fumée devienne un problème.

The Minority Leader : Est-ce que le Commissaire pourra dire s'il compte prendre des mesures pour empêcher les animaux d'y aller parce qu'il y des hordes de cochons, de cabris, de moutons qui vont là-bas. Mais je crois que ce serait bien de bien le clôturer *because these are health hazards*.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la Présidente, ça aussi, on a pris des mesures dans cette direction. Le dépotoir est clôturé. On a même mis une barrière à l'époque mais sauf que malheureusement, il y a des gens qui ne respectent pas. Et dans le projet, deuxième projet où on va étendre le truc, on va prendre ça en considération.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: The Commissioner has just said in his answer that a contract has been awarded since 15 mai. *Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire quel contracteur qui a pu décrocher ce contrat ?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Bon, on a deux contrats comme j'ai dit. Le premier contrat pour le *Fire Service Facilities*, c'est une construction d'une valeur de Rs366,000 et c'est un certain contracteur, un certain M. Hardy Bégué qui a eu le contrat. Deuxième, c'est pour l'extension, c'est à une valeur encore de Rs337500 et le contracteur, c'est M. Jennifer Hortense.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, M. le Commissaire a dit que le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu ne représente pas un *health hazard*. Il a aussi dit qu'à part qu'il y a de la fumée quand il y a des incendies. Mais je demanderais

au Commissaire un jour de la semaine, n'importe quel jour. La semaine peut-être, c'est plus facile pour lui de venir à Roche Bon Dieu près du dépotoir entre six heures et sept heures. Il va voir l'ampleur de la fumée. Le matin. Et puis, est-ce que ça ne représente pas un danger pour les gens quand on sait qu'on est en train de mener un combat contre la fumée des cigarettes ? Ce n'est pas même chose, ça ? Parce que lui, peut-être, il ne vit pas ça. Le matin quand nous nous réveillons, tout le monde se réveille pour respirer l'air frais. Dans les voisinages du dépotoir, quand nous réveillons, nous respirons que la fumée des du dépotoir. *Is it not this a health hazard ?*

[Applause]

Mr. R. Payendee: Madame la présidente, je crois dans ma réponse, j'ai expliqué, je vais redire pour que la dame. J'ai dit *such activities does not constitute a health hazard to the nearby region*. Je parle des activités qui se fait sur le dépotoir. J'ai aussi dit, *however, the main factor representing health hazard to the residents is the smoke caused by accidental fire*. Donc, j'ai bien répondu, j'ai bien dit, que oui on est d'accord qu'il y a un problème de fumer à Roche Bon Dieu mais c'est aussi lié au fait que c'est en fonction de la direction du vent. Dès fois, je sais, tout le monde sait, que le vent vient plus du, ce qu'on appelle du South East Trade Wind. Mais il y a quelques moments où la direction du vent change donc, c'est là que ça pose un problème. J'admets et je suis d'accord mais pour n'importe quel gouvernement qui a dirigé Rodrigues, je pense que ça a été le problème de Roche bon Dieu et du dépotoir. Et on est en train de prendre des mesures pour corriger à ça.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, un 22 mars 2016, Monsieur le Commissaire avait dit, je cite : *ma commission travaille sur un programme d'éducation qui nous permettra un jour de fermer de bon le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu*. Et voilà, qu'il arrive et nous dit que: *he will extend the area of the dépotoir. What is that?*

Mr. R. Payendee: Madame la présidente, je reconnais que j'ai dit cela et je maintiens que c'est l'objectif à long terme, c'est quelque chose qu'on atteindra à long terme. Déjà, si demain matin, les Rodriguais commencent à ne plus mettre des matières organiques dans leurs ordures, il n'y aura pas de fumer du tout à Roche Bon Dieu. Ça c'est la première chose, deuxième c'est tout le système de recyclage qui se met en place et bien sûre, on n'a pas créé Paris en un jour. Le temps est important. Donc, je pense que c'est la direction qu'on s'est fixé et c'est dans cette direction que je maintiens ce que j'ai dit, un jour le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu on va devoir le fermer parce qu'il n'y aura rien à mettre dedans.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, toujours concernant la fumer. Tous les jours nous respirons cette fumer dans le voisinage, il y a même un commissaire lui aussi, dès fois chez lui, je crois qu'il a cette fumer. Est-ce que Monsieur le commissaire, a pris les dispositions pour voir quels sont les résultats de cette fumer sur la santé des gens, surtout les vieilles personnes ?

Mr. R. Payendee: Madame la présidente, ce n'est pas la prérogative de ma commission, il faut poser cette question au Commissaire de la santé la prochaine fois.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, can I ask the Commissioner ...from 2006 to 2012 come forward with a selective project of waste. We start at source, at the home, at the place of the actual Commissioner, this project. Can I know from the Commissioner why this project has been cut off/stopped?

Mr. R. Payendee: On n'a jamais arrêté de faire ce genre de projet. Sauf que le hic derrière, il y avait un truc politique, ce qui se passait on voulait montrer qu'on est en train de faire des *segregation*. Mais après, on remet tout ensemble. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé après ? Où allait ces déchets, qu'on les séparé *at source* ? Aujourd'hui, si vous allez à Roche Bon Dieu, les déchets sont séparés on les met dans un côté. On est à Baie aux Huîtres, on a donné un terrain pour les canettes pour écraser. Donc, le travail se fait dans cette direction. Mais l'avantage que nous on fait c'est qu'on va jusqu'au bout du projet. Ça a débuté, je reconnais le projet, je suis d'accord que ça a débuté dans ce mois mais à cette époque même, je me posais la question à quoi ça sert de collecter, de séparer les déchets *at source* et après les remettre ensemble dans le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu, je trouve que cela n'a rien à voir. C'est pour ça que nous on a une autre vision de la gestion des déchets par rapport au *segregation*.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Permettez-moi, puisque ça me concerne, Madame la présidente, ce n'est pas bien de dire qu'on a commencé le projet et puis on n'a pas, on ne sait pas où mettre après on mélange tous ensemble. Non, ce n'est pas vrai. Est-ce que le commissaire peut reconnaître qu'il y a des sels, on avait fait des sels, dans un endroit à Pointe aux Sels. On avait reparti, je crois qu'il y avait six à peu près. Il y avait des genres de bac, si je peux m'exprimer ainsi, où actuellement il met les bouteilles en plastique et les autres produits. Et cette époque-là on venait de commencer le projet et c'est vrai qu'il n'y avait pas la quantité significative pour remplir tous ces bacs-là. Mais on la déjà fait. C'est faux de dire aujourd'hui qu'on a commencé le projet mais qu'on ne savait pas où mettre ce projet. Je vais lui demander maintenant, le fait qu'il a continué le projet, très bien, qu'en est-il des matières plastiques où on peut avoir de l'argent,

plastique, carton, entre autres. Que fait-il avec ces produits-là et combien il a exporté sur Maurice, si jamais, il y a un gramme qui a été exporté sur Maurice ?

Mr. R. Payendee: Bon, Madame la présidente, au niveau quand on fait le tri sélectif, définitivement il faut que ça aille quelque part et que ça soit recyclé, c'est pour le recyclage. Le fait que pour le moment même dans le budget dernier on avait lancé, le gouvernement était prêt à donner à n'importe quel Rodriguais qui veut se lancer dans le recyclage, le gouvernement pouvait lui donner jusqu'à Rs 500,000 pour commencer le projet. Donc, l'assemblée régionale a pris des mesures incitatives pour que les ... De l'autre côté on a même dit, là ma commission paie les frais pour que les gens puissent exporter le plastique et tout et les autres, appart la cannette, ça s'est déjà exporté. Mais au niveau des plastiques, on est en train de travailler là-dessus. J'ai fait une mission à Maurice, on est parti voir Power Plastic et l'autre compagnie qui recycle le plastique, c'est vrai qu'on aurait pu prendre le dépotoir et le transporter vers Maurice par le bateau. Mais sachez que ça coûte énormément pour retourner tout ça à Maurice. Mais nous on essaie, avec ma collègue, Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis, on travaille sur des moyens incitatifs pour que c'est recyclable à Rodrigues. Moi-même, j'ai dit dans un discours l'autre jour, on jette de l'or sur le dépotoir. Tout ce qu'il y a dans le téléphone pour le contact des batteries de téléphone c'est de l'or qu'on est en train de jeter dans le dépotoir. Et nous on a donné, le gouvernement, mais bien sûr, pour le moment on a trouvé personne mais il y a un projet qu'on est en train d'étudier, il y a une personne qui a soumis un projet justement dans cette direction pour essayer de recycler le plastique. Donc, comme j'ai dit Paris ne s'est pas fait en un jour et on est en train de travailler là-dessus et bientôt ce sera une réalité à Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SOCIAL AID TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

(No. B/10) Mrs. M.T. AGATHE, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security & Others whether, in regard to Social Aid to vulnerable groups in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the types of social aids being provided in the island, indicating the eligibility criteria and conditions attached thereto;
- (b) the procedures and steps that are followed for the application and approval thereof;

- (c) the number of beneficiaries thereof, to date, and further indicate:
- i. if his Commission will consider giving appropriate notice thereto before any aid is discontinued; and
 - ii. the measures taken to enable beneficiaries going to Mauritius on medical ground to cash their aid?

The Commissioner for Social Security & Others (Mr. L.D. Baptiste):
Madam Chairperson, this Regional Government cares for the vulnerable groups and it is committed to uplift the lives of the needy people. I have to point out that the Social Aid system in place is governed by the provisions of the Social Aid Act of 1983 and as subsequently amended. The Commission for Social Security simply has an administrative role for the implementation of the Act in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that Social Aid is provided either in cash or in kind and all types of Social Aid as established in the Act are being paid to Rodrigues, to people living in Rodrigues who are eligible to benefit from same. However, I should also point out that the most common type of social aid in cash payable to applicants in Rodrigues are as under for:-

- Abandoned woman;
- Unmarried Mother;
- Abandoned Child;
- Ex Gratia;
- Multiple Births;
- Funeral Grant;
- Discharge prisoner's allowance;
- Sudden loss of employment; and
- Fire victims.

Madam Chairperson, the eligibility criteria for Social Aid in cash as provided by the Act are as follows:

Payment are made to any person who is incapable of earning adequately his/her livelihood and have insufficient means to support himself/herself or his/her dependent, as a result of –

- (a) any physical or mental disability;

- (b) any sickness or accident certified by an approved medical practitioner;
- (c) any sudden loss of employment which has lasted continuously for not less than six months; and
- (d) abandonment by his spouse.

Social Aid in kind comprises the following:

- Issue of wheelchairs;
- Issue of Hearing Aids;
- Issue of spectacles; and
- Dentures

Any potential beneficiaries for the above aid will be eligible if his/her monthly household income does not exceed Rs 30,000 and must produce a medical certificate, an audiogram, a prescription from an ophthalmologist or a dental surgeon as the case may require.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, the procedures for application and approval are provided by Section (2) of the Act, a claimant shall-

- (1) apply for social aid in the prescribed manner on a form available in the offices of the Social Security; and
- (2) they should also furnish in support of his application and such information and documents as may be required.

Regarding part (c) of the question, I am informed that the number of Social Aid Recipient as of April 2017 stands at 2461.

As for part c(i) of the question, I am informed that all cases which are discontinued are issued with a disallowance notice mentioning the reason for such disallowance.

And as far as, part c(ii) is concerned, the question does not arise because now social aid in cash is credited directly to the beneficiaries' bank account.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Est-ce que le commissaire est au courant*, is he aware that in March last, Mrs. Baptiste from Graviers, who was at Mauritius with a child, who is sick and unfortunately, the child passed away.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you should not be using the name of a third party in this Assembly.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Mrs. B, of Graviers, who was in Mauritius with her sick child*, avec son enfant qui était malade, malheureusement l'enfant est décédé mais elle a eu beaucoup de difficultés par rapport à la location qui devait être versée. Est-ce que dorénavant vous allez prendre des actions à ce que ça ne se répète pas, Monsieur le commissaire ?

Mr. L.D. Baptiste: I do not know exactly whether the Respected Member is getting confused between Social Aid and other Basic pensions which are under the National Pensions Act. As far as social aid is concerned this has not happened. But, in case, may be, for Basic pensions, it could be Widows or Disability, if the person is being paid through Post Offices, the first thing, the person should inform the Social Security Officers, the officer of the region that he is proceeding to Mauritius and then he could be provided with a proxy, a proxy form. This has happened so many times, but I do not know if you are talking about this. There is already a mechanism for it but simply the person must inform the office and they get the proxy before leaving Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Commissioner, how long it takes for the beneficiary having to go to Mauritius, for the money to be credited in the bank account? Because sometimes it takes long and when the poor beneficiary come to Mauritius, then the money is credited. I would like to know how long it takes?

Mr. L.D. Baptiste: I think that this is not under the purview of the Commission for Social Security. This is an allowance paid by the Commission for Health, which is not under the Social Aid Act. But as a caring government, the Regional Government has taken decision to help those people to come to Mauritius but for the answer, it will be better to come with a question addressed to the Commissioner for Health.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

The Minority Leader: Sorry, Madam, one last question because it pertains to the well-being of these poor patients. Surely, you can take the matter

with your colleague and try to hasten, to make it a point to have these people obtaining their money as quickly as possible.

Mr. L.D. Baptiste: Obviously, as I said, but the question is not related to my question, Madam Chairperson, but I know that there is decision that has been taken by the Commission for Health. If you want to have further information, it is better to ask the question directly to the concerned commission.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SUBSIDY ON ANIMAL FEED

(No. B/11) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to any policy pertaining to subsidy on animal feed, he will:-

- (a) state and table the eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom;
- (b) state the number of beneficiaries for electoral region and to table the list thereof; and
- (c) inform the House on how much money has been disbursed as at end of February 2017 and under which item vote this transaction has been effected?

The Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, the Executive Council decided last year to provide assistance to breeders during and just after the Foot and Mouth Disease period. The House will note that as a result of the FMD, breeders were faced with excess animals due to the fact that there was a ban on export and it was not authorized to slaughter animals for sale from August to November 2016.

Madam Chairperson, the eligibility criteria to benefit from the subsidy on animal feed are that breeders should have registered their animals for the FMD vaccination campaign. Eligible breeders could apply for 50% subsidy for the purchase of 80 lbs (40kg) or more of animal feed. The subsidy was initially from 12 September to 12 December 2016. But following positive response from breeders during that period, the initiative was further extended till mid December 2016. Madam Chairperson, I am tabling a copy of same.

With regard to part (b), the number of beneficiaries per electoral region is as follows:-

Electoral Region	Number of Beneficiaries
1	184
2	175
3	219
4	150
5	156
6	183
TOTAL	1067

I have tabled the number of beneficiaries but however, I will not be tabling the names of the beneficiaries.

With regard to part (c), the amount disbursed as at end February 2017 was Rs 3,351,853. The Vote Item is CCO-2303-22900953-AGRI.QSUBANF - *(Incentive for Livestock Production)*.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, I am a little bit surprise with the criteria. I am waiting for the paper, but meanwhile, I would like to ask the question whether these exercises have been conducted in a transparent, meritocracy and professionalism manner?

Mr. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam. I can assure the Member that this was done the right way until the most important criteria was, the person had to register for the vaccination programme. So, there has not been any sort of whatever the Member may think. The thing has been done, really in a professional way.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, one of the important criteria for this subsidy is, breeders should have registered their animals for FMD vaccination. Can I ask the Commissioner whether he is aware that there are some breeders who have not been paid with regard to subsidy on the food for animals?

Mr. R. Payendee: I am aware, Madam Chairperson, because these people came to see me after that because the reason for that is that their animals were already vaccinated so, they did not go to register. So, one of the most important criteria was that they had to register. So, these cases are being processed, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, I would like to make reference to one breeder, Mr. L.J.R., he has invested more than Rs 15,000. And surprising again, the vaccination has started nearly at his place and when he has gone to the Commission for Agriculture, he has been informed that he was not

registered and he will not have his money back for this subsidy. Can the Commissioner see to it that that these persons who have invested their money, they have all their dues on the subsidies paid on time, for the sake of these breeders, for the people of Rodrigues?

Mr. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I do not recall this case and I will invite the person to come and see me then we can see what we can do.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, you want me to give you the name? After? Then I can table all the documents here, if you wish? No? Okay. Yes, Madam. B/12.

**RODRIGUES TRADING AND MARKETING COMPANY LTD
(RTMC)**

(No. B/12) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Others whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd (RTMC), she will inform the House, obtain from the Company, information:-

- (a) on any debt the Company has with the government and/or any institution and to give details thereon; and
- (b) about the organigram thereof and to table details with regards to salary per category for the staff and others, if any?

The Commissioner responsible for Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis, CSK): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd (RTMC), still has a debt amounting to Rs 1,860,546.60 *vis-à-vis* the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, as at date. In fact, the RRA provided an advance money to the tune of Rs 2,621,970 to help the Company to cater for the different activities scheduled in 2013. So, as at date, the RTMC has been able to reimbursed the sum of Rs 761,423.60.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question. Before going to part (b), I would like to inform the House that necessary action has been initiated to look into the possibility of converting the advance into shares in favour of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as per the proposal of the latter and the coming of the Chairman and the GM of the STC very soon by the end of May will allow us to finalise this process.

And, with regard to part (b), I am hereby tabling the organigram of the Company. I find it unethical for me to table, because it is a private company, I cannot come here and table the salaries of the employees.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, the Commissioner mentioned in her reply that they are waiting for shareholder from Mauritius to see how to convert. Can I ask the Commissioner, this information that she just gave to this House date back to 2013/2014? There was also at time the possibility to make a strategic plan, a business plan for this company to be worthiness. May I the Commissioner, does this strategic plan or business plan exist, if she can enlighten the House on that?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: En effet, Madame la présidente, effectivement il y a un projet en cours déjà. Il y a des consultations qui ont déjà été faites pour développer un business plan et plan stratégique pour la compagnie et justement donc je voulais bien rassurer la chambre que toutes les procédures ont été suivi, la décision est prise pour convertir ce *advance money into equity* mais il y a des procédures à suivre puisque la STC est un shareholder et il faut que.. Donc, il y a le *full board* pour pouvoir passer, finaliser ces décisions. Donc, oui il y a un business plan qui est en train d'être finaliser et donc espère, bien sûre avec les points de vue du *shareholder* on va pourvoir finaliser ce business plan.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madame je suis tout à fait d'accord avec tout ce que la commissaire est en train de nous dire aujourd'hui . Mais, Madame la présidente, ça fait des années, ça fait au moins deux ans que, je ne sais pas si c'est la compagnie qui traîne les pattes, je ne sais pas ce qui se passe mais ça fait deux ans qu'on nous parle de plan et qu'on n'a jamais vu venir ce plan-là et ce plan devait être *tabled into the library up to now*. Mais jusqu'à maintenant on n'a pas vu venir ce plan-là. Madame la présidente, le Chef commissaire nous a archi dit, il nous a archi martelé avec cette expression : « Il faut une autre mentalité, il faut être professionnaliste ». *Can I ask the Commissioner why this plan is taking too long to be finalised for the sake of this company?*

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: En effet le plan ne prend pas nécessairement aussi long que *the Respecte Member is saying here*. In fact, the House would note that in 2012 when we took power, RTMC was in a very bad position and we took the decision to work with the RTMC to help the company to become more sustainable. In fact, il n'y a personne qui traîne les pattes, c'est tout le contraire, c'était presque mort, on a donné la vie, je dois dire à cette compagnie aujourd'hui, on essaye de diversifier, je ne dis pas qu'on essaye, on diversifie les activités. Il y a beaucoup de choses qui ont été faits. Les planteurs aujourd'hui sont satisfaits avec le service qu'offre la compagnie. On arrive à acheter les

produits sur des prix garanti pour exporter. Donc, la compagnie joue son rôle mais bien sûr la compagne ne peut pas du jour au lendemain être ci florissante. Je pense qu'il y a une impatience et surtout peut être, je souhaite que vous vous rappelez de l'état où vous avez laissé la compagnie. Enfin qu'on ne peut pas faire des miracles mais on est sûr que tout doucement, puisqu'on prend les bonnes décisions, la compagnie deviendra encore plus florissante à l'avenir.

The Minority Leader: Merci, Madame Chairperson. L'État dans laquelle nous l'avons laissé, c'est nous qui l'avons créé et comme c'est une compagnie para étatique, *can we know from the Commissioner, since she is saying that the company is not performing well, in fact, it is not performing well, she is also saying that she cannot table the salary of members. I believe for the sake of transparency we can do that. We can, because for the sake of transparency*, un corp para étatique ça. On le fait. A Maurice, on le fait. *And for the sake of transparency*, à moins que vous avez quelque chose à cacher ? Mais concernant les marketings des produits à Rodrigues, puis-je savoir de la commissaire, je ne sais pas si elle écoute la, puis-je savoir de la commissaire si la compagnie est en train de *market* les différents produits qu'il y a en excès à Rodrigues. Parce que je peux donner un exemple, l'année dernière il y a eu des mangues en pagaille à Rodrigues. Mais je n'ai pas entendu la compagnie, on va essayer de *market* ces mangues à Maurice. Il y a eu des mangues qui pourrissaient sous les arbres. Ça aussi ça aurait pu permettre aux Rodriguais d'avoir un peu d'argent. Pourquoi est-ce que cela n'a pas été fait ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madame la présidente, je voudrais d'abord même au tout début rappelais au Minority Leader que c'est le premier gouvernement régional qui avait mis en place cette compagnie dans l'esprit justement de faire favoriser la production, de permettre l'exportation des produits de Rodrigues. D'ailleurs c'était le premier commissaire qui s'occupait de Trade and Commerce qui avait cette responsabilité de mettre en place cette compagnie. Donc, ce n'est pas le gouvernement du MR qui a mis en place cette compagnie. Et à aucun moment, à aucun moment j'ai dit que la compagnie ne marche pas. J'ai dit qu'on travaille pour que ce soit encore plus florissante, ça ne veut pas dire que ça ne marche pas. On diversifie aujourd'hui, il y a plusieurs produits qu'aujourd'hui que grâce à la RTMC on peut trouver un marché à Maurice et aussi sur le marché local. Comme je dis si bien on diversifie. Aujourd'hui, on a à travers la compagnie les produits agroalimentaires qui sont sur les rayons des supermarchés à Maurice. On a donc, les oignons qui partent pour Maurice. Il y a un nouvel emballage pour les haricots qui donne plus de valeur ajoutée. Il y a encore d'autres produits. Donc, il y a aujourd'hui avec la fièvre aphteuse, la compagnie a aidé aussi dans ce processus pour donc prendre les animaux sur le marché local et pour l'abattage. Donc, je pense que, je suis sûr, que cette

compagnie est appelée à devenir un maillon fort de l'économie de Rodrigues et on travaille dans ce sens. La question que le Minority Leader a posée, je pense que c'est bien de savoir que le marché ne fonctionne pas comme ça aujourd'hui vous avez un produit vous envoyer et demain vous avez un autre vous envoyer. D'ailleurs, aussi il faut le savoir, si on a eu beaucoup de mangues la qualité de cette mangue. La qualité n'est pas nécessairement ce que le marché recherche. En même temps aussi, à Maurice il y avait autant de produits. Aujourd'hui la stratégie, d'ailleurs aussi la stratégie du gouvernement n'est pas qui donne la valeur de vendre les produits *fresh*. Au contraire c'est la transformation qui donne la valeur ajoutée. Et c'est dans ce cadre-là, là je me permets, de dire comment le gouvernement nous venons d'avoir recours à une dame qui a une très grande expérience dans l'agroalimentaire. Donc, elle arrive cette semaine. Elle a démarré une formation avec la coopérative de Gravières, celle qui justement presse les jus de limons pour envoyer à Maurice. Cette compagnie va pouvoir diversifier leur gamme à travers des formations. On veut réduire l'importation des confitures, par exemple. Rodrigues peut le faire. On peut faire aussi des marmelades, on peut faire toute sorte de produits à base de ces fruits que nous avons. Et ce sont les choses que nous faisons. Il y a aussi la question de certification pour l'exportation. On travaille à tout cela. Donc, il y a beaucoup de choses à faire. Nous avons le courage de le faire, nous avons commencé et nous allons continuer au rang de la compagnie, comme je disais encore plus rentable et florissante.

Madam Chairperson: The table has been advised that PQ B/14, B/15, B/16, B/18, B/19, B/20, B/21 and B/26 have been withdrawn. Next question, please.

BUILDING - HOUSING INVEST RODRIGUES

(No. B/13) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the building housing Invest Rodrigues, she will state, for the benefit of the House, if:

- (a) same is being rented and, in the affirmative, to table details as regards rent and to indicate the owner thereof: and
- (b) there was any bidding exercise for the purpose thereof, and if yes, to table a copy of all documents in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam Chairperson, in line with the 'Mybiz' concept, launched in Mauritius on the 14 of December 2015, it was

important that the RRA implements an analogous structure – functioning as a one-stop-shop, to help our SMEs to also benefit from a series of support already available in Mauritius. And a vacant and spacious space with all necessary amenities to host the different units that would comprise the one-stop-shop, was neither available within the HRDC building, now Antoinette Prudence HRDC building nor the Integrated Family Centre. Hence, My Commission took the decision to rent a building falling within the radius of the HRDC and SMEDA. The location of this office was also important to consolidate the ‘*SME Village*’ concept. The building hosting ‘*Invest Rodrigues*’ is currently being rented with Loul & Co Ltd since the 22 of June 2016 for an initial period of one year.

As regard to part (b), Madam Chairperson, a communiqué was broadcasted on radio on Monday 16 May 2016, inviting owners willing to rent their building/s, to apply through a prescribed application form. The building should *inter alia* have the following facilities and specifications:

- A minimum surface area of 150m²;
- Having toilet facilities among others;
- Electricity and water facilities; and
- Should be within a radius of 50m from the HRDC building and SMEDA Building.

Deadline for submission of application forms to the Departmental Head, was fixed on Friday 27 May 2016 at 14.00 p.m. And as at the above mentioned date in time, the Commission received three application forms and including the proposed rate for the rental of their building.

So, Madam Chairperson, I am now tabling as per part (b) of the documents related to the communiqué and so on for the building.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, in the reply of the Commissioner, she mentioned that a radio communiqué was broadcasted for the sake of this project. Can I ask the Commissioner whether same has been put in newspaper?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: I do not have the information but I think that in Rodrigues everybody, every day listen to the radio and it was broadcasted so it was publicised and everyone who wanted to have access to the information, they got access since we have more than one applicant for the building.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: No, Madam, I do not think this.. For the sake of transparency, it is a normal practice when there is a tendering exercise for government for these tendering exercise to be published in newspaper, local newspaper at least. May I ask the Commissioner can she confirm whether this communiqué has been put/published in at least, our local newspaper?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, I need notice for that. I am sure there has been radio communiqué as I have been informed and as I have just said but I should verify for that. But I think that, I still firmly believe that radio communiqué is also a good mean to make people know what we are doing, not for the sake of transparency, for transparency itself.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, je ne contredis pas. Mais le DH, il est là. The Departmental Head of the Commission is here; he can produce information on that. For the sake of transparency, I think that there is something wrong in that. It is also related to.. I am waiting for my reply because otherwise this seems to be opaque. The definition, the radius, everything has been as if cut off, tailor made for a specific person, a specific group. May I ask the Commissioner whether she can see to it that this project, because it concerns our public money, this project being.. *essayer de voir pour que cette affaire-là ne se répète pas si jamais la publication n'a pas été faite dans le journal.*

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chairperson, it is a matter of opinion that the Respected Member is emulating, he is just expressing his own views about this. So, still I maintain that, transparency is there because there has been radio communiqué and what is the meaning of a one-stop shop? The one-stop shop means that all the facilities should fall under a certain umbrella. So, what is the purpose of a one-stop shop if I have a building, the SMEDA is there and then I go to Mont Lubin to have another building. That is why, there has been definition where we want this building to be. So, it is your opinion, it is your responsibility whether you take it that it was done for someone else, this is your responsibility.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, I think these whole affairs stink of malpractice. Because if you say, it is tailor-made to rent only one building about only 50 m radius. You think you are fooling somebody? This is tailor-made in order to rent a special building. Does the Commissioner find this moral? It is not even legal. I think we are going to ICAC to see this. Does she find this moral to do that?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: It is moral because it is ethical and it is transparent. I maintain it because everything has been done as per... We

know what we want, we know what we want to do. So, we define parameters and if you do not agree, you may go to the institution and.. You only want to know juicy business because they spent all their times doing juicy businesses and they think everybody are like that.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ALTERNATIVE WORK – OCTOPUS CLOSED FISHING SEASON 2017

(No. B/14) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to alternative work pertaining to the octopus closed fishing season 2017, he will inform the House on the: -

- (a) number of fishermen concerned per electoral region and to table the list thereof; and
- (b) eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom?

(Withdrawn)

INTERNET CONNECTION – CONNECTIVITY SPEED/CALL CENTRE

(No. B/15) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others whether, in regard to internet connection in Rodrigues, she will inform the House:-

- (a) about the connectivity speed thereof as at date; and
- (b) if the call centre inaugurated lastly at Camp du Roi is fully operational and, if not, to state the reasons therefor?

(Withdrawn)

GRANT TO BREEDERS – FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

(No. B/16) Mr. J.N. Volbert (Second Local Region Members for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture & Others whether, in regard to the grant to breeders who were affected by the Foot and Mouth disease, he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) the number of beneficiaries thereof per local region including the number of animals killed per beneficiary and amount of money obtained and to table a copy thereof;
- (b) the number of cases reported to his Commission still awaiting assistance from the Regional Government;
- (c) if the vaccination campaign is over; and
- (d) if the disease is under control and/or any case reported after vaccination?

**CITRONELLE TO TERRE ROUGE ROAD
– TRANSPORT FACILITIES**

(No. B/17) Mr. J. N. VOLBERT (Second Local Region Members for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Citronelle to Terre Rouge road, he will state if there has been any request from villagers/parents to provide transport facilities for students and pupils of Terre Rouge College and Terre Rouge Government School respectively, indicating the actions taken up to now in relation thereto, if any, and if not, why not?

The Deputy Chairperson (Mr. N. Lisette): Madam Chairperson, there have effectively been representations received from the public as regards to transport facilities along Citronelle to Terre Rouge Road.

Following this, a communiqué was issued in September 2016 informing the public that the National Transport Authority's office proposes to create a route from Port Mathurin to Soupirs via Creve Coeur, Terre Rouge and Citronelle to be named as Route 220A. The Route was to be operated by operators of Route 220, that is, those operating from Port Mathurin to Soupirs. However, an objection was filed by operators along routes 204 (Port Mathurin Traffic Centre to Grand Bay) of the fact that this will impede negatively on their incomes. Complaints have also been filed by the same operators with the ICAC and the Equal Opportunity Commission. The whole matter has also been referred to the Rodrigues Transport Committee.

Madam Chairperson, I had a meeting with the Rodrigues Multipurpose Co-operative Society in March 2017 and it was agreed that buses operating along Route 204, that is, Port Mathurin to Grand Baie, would proceed to the Community Centre of Terre Rouge for the benefit of the inhabitants pending that the case, as

I have mentioned above, is resolved. This is to become effective pending the construction of a turning bay.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT – STUDY/IN LINE WITH TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

(No. B/18) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to airport development in Rodrigues, he could state: -

- (a) if the Regional Government has initiated any study in order to determine the tourism carrying capacity of Rodrigues, while further considering the island's surface and the current amenities available locally; and
- (b) the government strategy in order to ensure that airport development is in line with the tourism development strategy, if any?

**PROMOTION OF ICT
– NUMBER OF INVESTORS/ TOTAL PROJECT COST**

(No. B/19) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunication and Others whether, in view of the promotion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to generate productive employment in Rodrigues, she could, for the benefit of the House, state the: -

- (a) number of investors who are currently seeking to invest in the ICT Sector in Rodrigues, indicating the total number of direct jobs that will be generated thereby; and
- (b) actual total project cost to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly of the newly established call centre project at Camp du Roi, the surface area that the centre occupies in the DBM Building, and the number of employees?

(Withdrawn)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/20) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissionner of Family Welfare & Others whether, in regard to domestic violence in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the number of cases reported to the family welfare and protection unit of her Commission, from 2015 to date, indicating the number of repeated complainants, if any, and, the case follow-up procedures set by her Commission in regard thereto?

(Withdrawn)

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL & AREA/COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES - SANITARY MEASURES

(No. B/21) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissionner of Health and Others whether, in regard to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the different Area/Community Health Centres around Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the sanitary measures taken in regard to public health and the mechanism set for compliance with established hygienic guidelines/procedures thereat, indicating the number of cleaners in post in each of these establishments as well as detailing the supervisory staff involved therewith?

(Withdrawn)

NEW BUS ROUTES - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/NO. OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/ HOW MANY

(No. B/22) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard new bus routes in Rodrigues, he will state if his Commission has made any call for applications for the operation thereof, indicating:-

- (i) the eligibility criteria to apply therefor;
- (ii) the number of applications received at his Commission in connection thereto, stating the number of approval(s) thereof as at date, if any?
- (iii) if successful applicants include existing public bus operating licensees and, if so, how many?

The Deputy Chairperson: Madam Chairperson, in September 2016, the Commission for Transport and others issued a press communiqué to notify the public of its intention to create a new bus Route 220A as I have just answered in

the answer B/17. The route was to proceed from Port Mathurin Traffic Centre to Soupir via Creve Coeur, Terre Rouge and Citronelle. As I have just mentioned the new Bus Route was to be operated by bus operators of Route 220, that is, starting from Port Mathurin to Soupairs. And, as I have just mentioned also there also objection as regards to this new bus route. This is why we are awaiting for the issue to be solved before we proceed further.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: As we can deduce, Madam Chairperson, there has been a bad policy from the previous Commissioner. It is obvious.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, it is out of order, you cannot say that, you have to withdraw before the House. No, not like that. You stand up and you withdraw the words.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Yes, of course, I withdraw but I have said what I had to say, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you have to withdraw.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Yes, I withdraw once again, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you withdraw properly what you have just said.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: I withdraw, Madam Chairperson, what I have just said. I withdraw. Madam Chairperson, how is it that there has been this problem? This should be clear. It is obvious that these bus owners having buses along route Grand Bay to Port Mathurin, it is obvious that they should go and take passengers from Terre Rouge and Citronelle. It is obvious. So, and the Commissioner said that there has been objection. Do you mean that this objection is stopping you from solving this problem? Why should you wait? Why is the Commissioner...

Madam Chairperson: Come with your question, please.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming. Why is the Commissioner waiting to take a decision? Is it the bus owners who will drive his policy or he has to react? I do not understand. Can he please explain?

The Deputy Chairperson: Madam Chairperson, as you can see there is a case and the case is subjudiced in the sense that there has been a case fight at the Equal Opportunity Commission. I did mention it in my answer. I did answer it in my first answer that there is a case that has been filed at the ICAC and the Equal

Opportunity Commission. And the matter is also being viewed and considered by the Rodrigues Transport Committee. It is clear in my answer that there is a case which is being filed. How is it that there is a case filed at the ICAC and the Equal Opportunity Commission and I am to take a case and take a decision in the matter. It is not going to be fair to all the parties. So, let us wait for the inquiries to be carried out and in the light of the inquiries that is going to come forwards, then we take a decision on the matter. It is going to be fair for all parties concerned.

Mr. F.A. Grandcourt: Yes, but from the time being, since it concerns Route Grand Bay-Port Mathurin and Route Grand Bay-Port Mathurin-Soupirs, can he envisage another bus route to step in just to solve this problem. Madam Chairperson, there is a problem. There may be something before the ICAC and the Equal Opportunity Commission, it concerns two routes but there are many routes, there are private buses in Rodrigues. You do have private buses, contract buses in Rodrigues. So, does he envisage this possibility of either involve another bus route to help these people or even the private 16 seater buses, contract buses which already exist in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chairperson: Madam Chairperson, I think that the Respected Member has not understood the ... of the question. No, you have not understood the question, I am sorry to say it. The communiqué invited this operators operating from Port Mathurin to Soupirs. Now, they are going via Solitude to Soupirs. These operators instead of going via Solitude to go via Citronelle and Terre Rouge to Soupirs. Yes, and there was objection on the matter. If we are going to come up with another bus operator, of course, there will be an injunction that will be to be set by the bus operators of route from Port Mathurin to Grand Bay. This is going to be *bonnet blanc, blanc bonnet, Madam Chairperson*. If we come with another bus operator, there will be an injunction. So, how can I come with proposing another communiqué for another bus operator to operate on this given that there is already an objection on that. How can we do that?

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Deputy Commissioner, is it ethical, what kind of objection do we have for this road? What kind of objection?

The Deputy Chairperson: As I have answered in the answer, these operators operating along route Port Mathurin to Grand Bay, they consider that there will be a great lost, a great decrease in their income. Because part of the bus route that is going to be covered by the new bus route from Port Mathurin, Crève Coeur up to Terre Rouge which were used to serve, now this is going to be equally shared by another bus operator. And, of course the number of passengers, they are going to have a decrease in the number of passengers, which is going to

impede on their income. This has to be considered to provide fairness to all and everyone.

Madam Chairperson: Time is over for question.

**CENTRE GONZAGUE PIERRELOUIS
- CENTRE GONZAGUE PIERRELOUIS**

(No. B/26) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner of Sports & Others whether, in regard to the participation of Centre Gonzague PIERRELOUIS in the Inter-Island 7-aside games in Mauritius, from 28 to 29 April 2017, she will state the: -

- (a) number of athletes who were selected to represent Rodrigues in same, indicating if all thereof did make it to Mauritius and, in the negative, to give the actual number thereof who participated, providing reasons as to why any selected athlete did not travel thereto; and,
- (b) the contribution, financial or otherwise, made by her Commission to enable the participation of the Rodriguan delegation?

(Withdrawn)

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

HOLIDAY STIMULUS PACKAGE

The Chief Commissioner (Mr. L.S. Clair, GCSK): Madam Chairperson, I have been informed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development that the amount disbursed by government for subsidy is on a rising trend and is becoming a fiscally and sustainable. Thus, there is a need to review the principle of same.

Allow me, Madam Chairperson, to recall this Assembly that initially the introduction of the Holiday Stimulus Package in 2009 which comprises a subsidy on airfare from Mauritius to Rodrigues was a boost up tourists' arrival in Rodrigues. This measure was meant to be a temporary one to allow the recovery of the tourism sector which was at that time on the verge of collapse. Since then, the subsidy has been applied without any monitoring or adjustment being made. Instead, in addition to the subsidy on the Mauritius/Rodrigues routes, another one was introduced in 2015 for Rodriguans' travelling to Mauritius. As at date, the

application of these two subsidies has led to a total disbursement of more than Rs 543 m and this figure is expected to increase onwards. Furthermore, I was informed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development that if no review is being done this should lead a total expenditure of more than Rs 1.2 billion over the next five years by both Central Government and Air Mauritius. This is considered as being unsustainable from a fiscal point of view by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as well as Air Mauritius.

I had the opportunity during a meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance two weeks ago to make a plea to the latter to review their stand and informed him that abolishing the subsidy on air fare will tantamount to the killing of the tourism sector in Rodrigues as well as the cascading effect on the overall economy in Rodrigues. The Prime Minister was also informed that due consideration shall be given so that these decisions do not have a sudden negative impact on the economy and on the population of both islands. After discussion the Prime Minister has finally agreed that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development would continue with the subsidy on airfares and will instead review the airfare tariff according to the following two parameters:

- (i) A first reduction on the subsidy; and
- (ii) An introduction of peak and off peak airfares.

In addition, the Prime Minister has agreed for an increase in financial and technical support to better promote the island of Rodrigues as a tourism destination. Moreover, the passenger service charge of Rs 150 with which each passenger travelling to and from Mauritius is supposed to pay is presently being borne by government.

In a first instance, a review of the airfare would imply that this will no more be borne by government and each passenger will have to pay this sum. Moreover, it was also agreed that the new condition will take effect as from the 01 September this year instead of 01 July 2017. Thus, as from 01 July 2017, the normal price to the ticket would increase by Rs 150 from Rs 8,040 to Rs 8,190 representing the cost of passenger service charge. Secondly, on peak and off peak are being introduced as it is the normal practice in the aviation travel industry worldwide. The peak period will be 01 of April to 30 April, 01 of July to 31 August, 01 of November to 31 of January. Consequently, the remaining months are being considered as being off-peak periods.

As regards, these two periods differentiated reduced subsidies of airfares have been proposed. The new tariff of the airfares we now be as follows: -

- for off-peak period, there will be an increase of Rs 250, thus, leading to an increase of the price from Rs 5472 to Rs 5722;
- for peak period, there will be an increase of Rs 750 per ticket, that is, from Rs 5472 to Rs 6222.

The Prime Minister has further agreed that the Project Monitoring Committee between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly shall closely monitor the impact on the tourism sector and report to him regularly. My Executive Council has also requested for monthly reports on the matter to ensure that the present increasing trends in tourism arrival is not impacted. I thank you, Madam Chairperson, for your attention.

[Applause]

PARTICIPATION – CENTRE GONZAGUE PIERRE LOUIS INTER-ISLAND 7-ASIDE GAMES IN MAURITIUS

The Commission for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. L. Edouard): I have a statement on an issue on which there was a question and which has been withdrawn but which I think the House needs to be enlighten on.

Madam Chairperson, as at date, the Commission for Youth and Sports is not aware and has not received any correspondence with regard to the participation of the Centre of Gonzague Pierre Louis in an Inter-Island 7-aside games in Mauritius from 28 to 29 April 2017. But knowing to which event they are referring to, I will talk about the issue of Orally Disabled Inter-Island 7-Aside Competition in Mauritius. Indeed, a request was made by the Adviser Coach for the disabled and after consultation with the Orally Disabled Regional Committee for the participation of the nine orally disabled athletes and two coaches in the Football 7-aside and petangue triplet tournament for the orally disabled from the 27 and 01 May in Mauritius. Attached to the request was a letter from the Federation from Mauritius asking them to bear their own tickets. Madam Chairperson, allow me to... that owing to budget constraints during these two months and after examination of the request, it was agreed for this delegation and other delegation that I will highlight to reduce the delegation to seven athletes and one coach, that is, a general policy since months. The Rodrigues Orally Handicapped Regional Committee accepted the proposal through a letter submitted to the Commission on 27 April 2017 confirming the names they have chosen at their end to accompany the delegation and to be part of delegation. It is to note that as at date, my commission is entertaining request for Licence Coaches

only. And, there was only one licence coach in that delegation. The delegation left Rodrigues indeed, on 28 April and return on the 02 of May.

Madam Chairperson, allow me also to apprise the House that during the last two months, as I said previously, several requests for participation of athletes and coaches in competition in Mauritius and abroad have been reviewed. Taking into consideration the shortage of funds at the level of the commission and also taking the difference factors that I am going to highlight. The level of the competition and the relevance to the objective of the athlete during the year. The financial contribution allocated to the regional committee. Whether the competition is a bench mark for qualification to other higher level competitions or not.

In this respect, Madam Chairperson, the commission has reviewed the following missions just to enlighten the House that this is the policy. The National Youth Game delegation was supposed to be composed of 167 athletes but they reduce their delegation to 150, that, is a decrease of 17 athletes in their delegation. The nonparticipation of wrestling delegation in Africa and one...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members.

The Chief Commissioner: Have we not the right to listen to the Commissioner, to what she is saying?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I would kindly ask you to keep your remarks when you have the floor to do so.

Ms. M.R.L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, and the delegation from MFA also had to review their delegation whereby they had to reduce the number of persons. Madam Chairperson, this has not prevented us from reaping several medals from the National Youth Game, that is, we reap 74 medals. It means that we focus on quality.

Madam Chairperson, in the same vein, allow me to congratulate Mr Patrick Alexandre Gentil, who went to Mauritius recently for his outstanding performance in the recent Junior Championship in Mauritius. In fact, he has broken the national record in triple jump as old as 28 years, that is, from 15m25 to 15m52. That is a giant increase of 27 centimetres. This shows the effort that my commission to support participation of the different athletes in different competitions. Allow me also, Madam, to highlight that there should be proper channels of communication for request for any mission with regard to sport. My commission has always given due consideration to correspondences from

Regional Committees of Rodrigues and all sports organisation from Rodrigues. However, having read some interventions, we see that communication has not been made properly in certain cases. I wish to highlight to the House also that with regard to anti sport a meeting is already fixed with the respective group so that we give the due attention to that discipline which is.. *qui prend de l'ampleur en ce moment à Rodrigues et qu'on veut donner tout son importance pour grandir. Donc, déjà on a rencontré trois fédérations de Maurice, la Fédération for the physically disabled, la fédération pour les mentally disabled et là en ce moment il y aura une délégation pour les orally disabled dont je rencontre la semaine prochaine. Sur ce pour vous dire tout ce qui touche anti sport va être pris en considération ou qui va être traité avec tout le sérieux qu'il faut. C'est juste pour aussi dire qu'il y a eu beaucoup de bruit autour de quelque chose qui n'a vraiment pas eu lieu d'être. Donc, merci, Madame la présidente.*

MOTIONS

The Chief Commissioner: I beg to move the following motions in my name as follows:-

(iv) Public Accounts Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 63 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following four Members to sit on the Public Accounts Committee: -

- (4) Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally;**
- (5) Miss Marie Roxana Collet;**
- (6) Mr. Jean Noel Nemours; and**
- (4) Mr. Jean Nicolas Volbert”**

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

On question put the motion was agreed to.

(i) Standing Orders Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 64 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following three Members to sit on the Standing Orders Committee: -

- (4) *Mr. Nicolson Lisette;*
- (5) *Miss Marie Roxana Collet; and*
- (6) *Mr. Louis Joseph Von-Mally, GOSK”*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

On question put the motion was agreed to.

(ii) House Committee

“This Assembly is of opinion that, in accordance with Standing Order 65 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following four Members to sit on the House Committee: -

- (5) *Miss Marie Rose de Lima Edouard;*
- (6) *Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety;*
- (7) *Mr. Joseph Reddy Augustin; and*
- (8) *Mr. Zepth Felicite”*

The Deputy Chairperson rose and seconded.

On question put the motion was agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, now that the committees of the House have been duly constituted, I have to make an announcement as regards to the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee. In line with Standing Order 63, I have appointed Mr. Louis Rosaire Perrine to chair the Public Accounts Committee of the Fourth Regional Assembly. I seize this opportunity to congratulate all members who have been elected to serve the Regional Assembly through its committees and further wish you all the best in your respective task. Thank you.

Yes, Chief Commissioner.

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 9(3)

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that all the businesses on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph 3 of Standing Order 9.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move the motion standing in my name which reads as follows: -

“This Assembly is of opinion that the name of Sir Gaetan Duval Airport of the airport at Plaine Corail, Rodrigues, must be changed so that, as from such date as may be decided by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, it shall bear the name of Plaine Corail Airport.”

The Minority Leader: On a point of order, Madam Chairperson. I wonder that this is not an abuse of the Rules of the Regional Assembly. Firstly, because according to the Fourth Schedule, the airport does not fall under the responsibilities of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Secondly, there has been so many change in names in Rodrigues. You have change in names of roads and our views have not been asked for. There has been change in names in many buildings, for example, Mont Lubin Health Care Centre named after Zita Jean Louis, Human Resource Centre called Antoinette Prudence, Roche Bon Dieu called Marc Etienne, Basile Allas Government School at Port Mathurin was named without asking us our views and recently there has been John Steeve Roussety, the name of John Steeve Roussety was given to the ICU. We have no quarrel about that but since you have never asked us our views to change the names. Why now for the airport, we bring a motion asking us our views? Go ahead, you have got good relationship with the Central Government, you have just to take your decision, go to the Central Government, change the name and so be it. I think there is no need to ask us our views.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, I would like to draw your attention that all items allow on the Order Paper are subject to my vet and after necessary analysis in line with the Standing Orders, I have found this motion from the Chief Commissioner, there is a motion from the Chief Commissioner, this motion is completely in order in as much as this motion only seeks the opinion and not a resolution of the Regional Assembly. However, for any issue of irregularity with the Order, I am drawing the attention of the Member that this is not subject to discussion on the floor of the House but should be taken with me privately. Furthermore, I would like to draw the attention of the Minority Leader that the airport has been vested back into the state of the Republic of Mauritius. I will kindly draw your attention to 55 A of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

54 A, sorry, of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, which states that the Airport of Plaine Corail has been vested back into the state of Mauritius. So, this motion is absolutely in order. The point of order of the Minority Leader is not valid.

[Interruption]

At this stage, the Members in the Opposition left the Chamber.

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, lors des dernier élection régionale nous avons présenté au peuple de Rodrigues un programme qui a été élaboré en prenant compte les souhaits de la population. Madame la présidente, ce n'est pas un secret pour personne qu'en 2007 le nom de l'aéroport de Plaine Corail a été changé en celui de Sir Gaëtan Duval par le gouvernement d'alors. Cependant, ce changement d'appellation n'a pas fait l'unanimité au sein de la population. Face aux cris incessants du peuple de retourner à l'ancien nom de l'aéroport, il est du devoir de mon gouvernement d'agir. En 2014, il y a eu une pétition des forces vives du pays. Notamment, les syndicats, les O.N.G. et autres pour changer le nom de l'aéroport. A cette époque de l'OPR était au pouvoir et avait la forte volonté d'agir mais cette mesure ne figurant pas dans le manifeste électoral d'alors, l'OPR n'avait rien pu faire pour ce changement. Je le réitère encore une fois, nous sommes là pour servir le peuple et répondre aux aspirations de la population. C'est dans ce sens que nous avons inclus le changement de nom de l'aéroport dans notre manifeste électoral afin de démontrer notre engagement envers le peuple de Rodrigues et donner une légitimité à cette demande. Ayant remporté les élections en début d'année, efforts de cette légitimité est conférée à mon gouvernement, il est maintenant notre devoir de traduire nos promesses en action.

Madame la présidente, je le répète sans cesse, faire de la politique c'est d'abord dire la vérité au peuple. L'OPR a toujours mené une politique de vérité et non partisane. Je ne peux que condamner ce qui voit dans cette motion une vengeance de ma part contre un parti politique ou une personne quelconque. Madame la présidente, la lutte de l'OPR pendant ces dernières 40 ans pour l'autonomie de Rodrigues ne peut être sacrifié pour des considérations d'ordre personnel ou partisane. Et nous ne comptons pas reculer dans notre quête de consolider l'autonomie de Rodrigues face aux menaces quelles qu'elle soit. Plaine Corail est un endroit avec un fort cachet historique culturel et surtout un patrimoine géologique unique au monde. Cet endroit suscite un intérêt grandissant du monde scientifique à travers le monde. Des chercheurs de toutes les nationalités, américains, français et allemands se bousculent devant notre

porte pour demander la permission de faire des études pour mieux comprendre cette merveille géologique. Merveille pas merveille ?

Madame la présidente, quel sera selon vous la réaction de ce touriste qui en atterrissant à l'aéroport de Plaine Corail, sans nul doute, il va vouloir comprendre le pourquoi, la signification de ce nom et son aspect historique, culturel et scientifique. Cela va susciter sa curiosité et son intérêt d'aller à la découverte de la région. Par ailleurs, Rodrigues est connu pour la particularité d'avoir des villages avec des noms qui peuvent susciter la curiosité mais aussi qui en disent long sur les localités, par exemple, Port-Sud-Est, Anse aux Anglais, Le Chou, Roche Bon Dieu, des noms très évocateurs mais qui en même temps cache une fautive histoire. Donc, cette volonté de redonner son nom d'origine à l'aéroport marque une nouvelle étape pour redonner de la valeur aux endroits de Rodrigues. *Capave pas capave ?* Le but de cette volonté du gouvernement de mettre en valeur chaque région de Rodrigues et pour promouvoir le tourisme. Mais particulièrement c'est pour tout un chacun connaisse les origines et l'histoire derrière chaque nom de village. Pour se faire nous allons commencer par placer une notice explicative à l'aéroport afin de mieux informer la population locale ainsi que les touristes à propos de la région Plaine Corail et vanter les mérites des cavernes entre autres. Nous sommes convaincus qu'une telle mesure servira de moyens promotionnels, touristiques et culturels pour cette région.

Madame la présidente, la volonté de changer le nom de l'aéroport est aussi une volonté de rompre avec le passé et de franchir une nouvelle étape. Par ailleurs, je suis sûr que tous les élus de cette assemblée, sauf ceux qui ne sont plus présents. Par ailleurs je suis sûre que les élus de cette assemblée sont animés d'un sens de patriotisme et seront d'accord avec cette motion pour qu'on réinstalle le nom de l'aéroport de Plaine Corail. Par la suite, la présente motion sera transmise au gouvernement pour que les mesures appropriées soient prises pour répondre à la volonté du peuple de Rodrigues Madame la présidente, je vous remercie de votre attention.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): The motion brought into this House by the Chief Commissioner takes me back to the first year of our autonomy. While we were preparing for the celebration of the first anniversary of the autonomy in 2003, the Executive Council realised that most streets and the buildings in Rodrigues and especially, those of Port Mathurin, there the names are of colonial types. We had names of streets, such as, Duncan, Jenner and Ricard to whom Rodriguans bear no identification, as they do not even appear in the textbooks of our children. The question that we ask ourselves was, how and

why is it that Port Mathurin that we consider as our city has no local names of our admirable people, names of people whom we have known, who have been part of our lives *et ki fine mars dans labou comment nou*. Yet we realised that some names are *évocateurs* and are directly link to the history of Rodrigues, such as, Alfred North Coombes and François Leguat. These names are better known to us and are reasonably sure that their accomplishments have been truly significant and trustworthy to us. We took the decision at that time to reconsider the naming and the renaming of some of our streets and buildings. Jenner street passing in front of La Residence was renamed La Route de la Solidarité, one of the motto which appears *sur l'armoirie de Rodrigues*. The one with name Duncan was renamed François Leguat Street in connection to the settlement of François Leguat at Fond la Digue. The street passing in front of church of Port Mathurin, whose name was Ricard was renamed Rue Mamzelle Julia in connection to the position of the church and the fact, that Mademoiselle Julia used to provide voluntary service to the church. In fact, I am told that her domicile was where Redco Office is situated now. Douglas Street was renamed Max Luchessi in memory of Max Luchessi known as Titune, who was among one of the first politician in Rodrigues. And the one passing near the Mechanical Workshop was renamed Gervais Mercure in line to the protests and resistance made by the latter to the then magistrate and Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School was named in memory of one of our first dedicated headmaster. Outside Port Mathurin, the road leading to St. Gabriel church from Lataniers was named Filles de Marie in view of the fact that, *les soeurs de la congregation de l'Eglise Catholique* used to walk from Lataniers to St. Gabriel along this route.

Madam Chairperson, recently proposal worldwide for naming of buildings have been named before distinguished sportsmen. And, here I am referring in Rodrigues to the gymnasium of Le Chou named after Late Daflarence Edouard. Names have been given to distinguished persons who had died or at least reached a very old age. It was decided to give distinction to all centenarians the name of alleys and lanes leading to their houses. Today we are proud to have names such as Allée de Neulline Labour at Allée Tamarin, Pierre Plaiche at Grande Montagne, Feuillande at Maréchal, Lorestine at Anse aux Anglais and Marie Ardor at Petit Gabriel. We have anoted most buildings and streets with the names of Rodriguans fighters, institutions for historical recognition. It was meant to honour somebody, not just because he held office but because he achieved things which was generally seen as highly significant. You would have realised, Madam Chairperson, that all the naming and the renaming that I have cited so far is linked with either history, the profession, the position or simply recognising the contribution of our elders in the development of Rodrigues *et c'est toute une histoire*. There has never been any controversy from the Rodriguan population with those names because they were not politically linked. Controversy started

when the name of Sir Gaëtan Duval was given to our airport replacing the ancient name, Plaine Corail Airport which was so cultural, evocative of our native soil. Rodriguans asked the question as to why? And, this is a debate that is going on worldwide also, Madam Chairperson. Whenever we do a naming, however wide our choices, however clear our rules we always know that it may provoke controversy. Anytime we decide to do a renaming we should be prepared for controversy and have our explanation ready. Just to give a few examples of controversies regarding naming worldwide. At Princeton University some students want to change the name of the Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States from 1913 to 1921 to be removed from the campus building on the ground that he was a racist. Activists are pushing to rename those buildings in light of the former university president treatment of minorities. At both the prestigious Harvard College and the Harvard Law school, student, faculty and administrators have begun reconsidering titles and symbols because of their association with the legacy of slavery. A new student movement at Harvard Law School is organising to change the seal at the school which the students argue, represents and endorses a slavery legacy. They believed that imagery from a slave holding era has no place at today's Harvard Law School. The seal of the school of the seal is the coat of arms of a family, of a slave holder, who was among the first professor of law at that university.

Madam Chairperson, Rodrigues is caught in a better controversy over the name of Plaine Corail Airport with Sir Gaëtan Duval under the benediction of the MR government in 2007. The renaming of Plaine Corail Airport was a major event in the history of the institution and of Rodrigues and required due consideration and consultation. The problem is that the new name served to honour the individual and hold him as someone to be intimidated. Sir Gaëtan Duval was without doubt a notable lawyer and politician. But the course of the controversy is that as far as the Rodriguan, history goes, the individual has been engaged in some supposedly, morally, reprehensible behaviour towards our citizen at that times. This is one of the cause of controversy.

Madam Chairperson, secondly, we like to name buildings in situation after dead people for several reasons as it is the case before us. We have to be reasonably sure that their accomplishments are truly significant and praiseworthy to the institution that are being named before them. And, this is the question that we are asking ourselves: What is the relationship of SDG with our airport? Madam Chairperson, I do not want to appear cherish towards a deceased individual, although being deceased is not a guarantee of universal approbation. I am of the view that the naming as it has been done is only seeking to provide a politician with lasting legacy in concrete and steel and trying to get his name tinselled in a wall. The goal should have been to consider his transgression against

his contribution to our society and to measure that skill without malice. The change in name of Plaine Corail Airport should have been done following reputation and celebrity status not just because of some lobbying of a recognition. That seem to be the case and applied under the present case.

Madam Chairperson, thirdly, I endorse the view that our airport deserves the name that he manages from the root, the cultural and historical identities of Rodrigues. For a country deciding what the name of a building is, is worth can be an important strategic decision. Simply put a great name can place, can help put a country on a map. I believe that Plaine Corail Airport is a great name as it geographically fit the site and it gives due recognition to our cultural and historical specificities. Plaine Corail Airport so great and so authentic a name. I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

[Applause]

The Commissioner for Youth, Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. L. Edouard): Madame la présidente, merci de me donner l'opportunité de débattre sur cette motion qui a une portée très culturelle et historique. Soucieuse de notre richesse culturelle et identitaire, l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues à travers ma commission accorde une importance et une attention grandissante à notre héritage et à la mémoire locale.

Permettez-moi, Madame la présidente, de faire un bref survol de l'histoire de l'aviation à Rodrigues et de quelques aspects autour de ce lieu emblématique, symbolique, expressive et unique Plaine Corail. Le premier avion surnommé Piper Navajo, six places s'est posé pour la première à Plaine Corail à Rodrigues en 1972 suivis du Twin Ottor 16 places en 1975 et de l'ATR-42 en décembre 1988. La piste d'atterrissage de l'époque a été aménagée en 1969 renforçant ainsi les liens entre Maurice et Rodrigues. La piste d'atterrissage a été complétée dans les années 70 et depuis ce jour l'aéroport a gardé le nom de Plaine Corail jusqu'en 2007, soient plus de 37 ans que l'aéroport a porté le nom de Plaine Corail Airport. Les visiteurs des autres îles, les touristes venus d'Europe ou d'ailleurs ont eu le plaisir d'atterrir sur un site qui portait alors un nom très révélateur des beautés Rodriguaise. Il est difficilement acceptable pour Rodrigues autonome de changer le nom original de cet aéroport car il porte en lui-même la tradition, la mémoire, la culture et l'identité géologique Rodriguaise. En effet, Madame la présidente, c'est ici que l'on a découvert, puis mis en valeur Caverne Patate, Grande Caverne et les célèbres stalactites et stalagmites. Dans cette région plus d'une vingtaine de cavernes ont été répertoriée. Tout dernièrement, c'est à la région de Plaine Corail qu'ont été découvert les œufs de tortue de Rodrigues qui font l'objet d'analyse scientifique en ce moment. La géologie, la science, l'histoire et aujourd'hui le

tourisme sont les points fort de Plaine Corail. En 2002, Rodrigues est devenu une île autonome dans la république de Maurice et par conséquent lui donnant ainsi la liberté de choisir dans le patrimoine historique, les éléments et les noms qui la représente le mieux sur le plan local, régional et international. L'aéroport de Plaine Corail doit retrouver son identité historique. Plaine Corail est un nom cher à Rodrigues, comme le sont tous les noms des lieux dit de Rodrigues.

Madame la présidente, traditionnellement et culturellement les régions de Rodrigues portent les noms de leurs particularités géologiques et géographiques. Plaine Corail et Plaine Mao sont les deux plaines de Rodrigues. Ailleurs on trouve les sites suivants tous supports de l'identité Rodriguaise, par exemple, Orange, Montagne Limon, Rivière Banane, Lataniers, Pavé La Bonté, Mangles, Montagne Cabris et Anse aux Anglais en relation de l'arrivée des anglais à Rodrigues en 1809, entre autres.

Madame la présidente, choisir un nom pour un village est un très grand important exercice dans tous les pays du monde. Ceux qui ont donné ces noms à ces villages se sont inspirés de la faune et de la flore de l'endroit, des détails topographiques, de leur nature environnementale tandis que d'autres relève de la pure poésie tel que Jardin Mamzelle et Trois-Soleils.

Notre aéroport est le premier contact des touristes et des visiteurs avec Rodrigues et leur dernier avant de quitter l'île. Le nom que porte notre aéroport doit refléter l'identité de notre île et de sa région Plaine Corail. Le nom Plaine Corail reflète la topographie spécifique de cette région. L'aéroport est situé sur un site calcaire qui a marqué l'histoire de Rodrigues avec ces vieux métiers, ces matériaux de construction, carrière de block corail qui est devenu un site protégé et son artisanat à travers les sculptures et des abris pour l'élevage parce qu'auparavant les petites cavernes étaient utilisées pour garder les animaux. Cette région calcaire dans laquelle on trouve un grand nombre de caves a pour vocation de devenir un site protégé faisant parti du patrimoine national.

Madame la présidente, les Rodriguais s'identifie au nom Plaine Corail, s'identifie à Plaine Corail qui forme parti intégrante de notre patrimoine linguistique, patrimoine naturel et patrimoine culturel. Les gens de Rodrigues disent souvent « *mo pé ale dan corail* ». Un nom affectueux pour se référer à Plaine Corail, démontrant ainsi leur amour, attachement et affection pour ce lieu. Sur l'internet on peut lire beaucoup de changement aussi, Madras pour Chennai, Calcutta pour Colcatta, Bombay pour Bombai.

Madame la présidente, je pense que notre aéroport doit retrouver son nom original l'aéroport de Plaine Corail. Je vous remercie.

[Applause]

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J: R: Payendee):

Madame la présidente, merci de me donner l'occasion d'intervenir sur cette motion. Je me souviens. C'est comme si c'était aujourd'hui, d'ailleurs j'ai l'émotion. Je me suis même émotionné par cette action qu'on va faire. Je me souviens, je n'étais pas à l'assemblée à cette époque, j'étais politicien mais j'avais perdu les élections, quand la décision pour changer le nom de l'aéroport de Plaine Corail en l'aéroport Sir Gaëtan Duval, je me disais, qu'est-ce qui se passe ? Pourquoi on est en train de changer ce nom ? Quel lien cette personne a avec l'aéroport et est-ce qu'on est en train de changer ce nom uniquement pour faire plaisir à quelqu'un, à une personne, à une partie politique ou bien il y a ce qu'on appelle des *hidden agenda* derrière. Au faite, tout le monde connaît la réponse, je ne vais pas perdre du temps à parler là-dessus mais Plaine Corail je connaît très bien cet endroit, c'était comme ma deuxième maison. J'ai travaillé comme responsable de la Wildlife pendant des années à Plaine Corail. J'ai travaillé dans la réserve d'Anse Quitor, j'ai fait pas mal de recherches dans les grottes, des cavernes comme on dit de la région. J'ai récupéré pas mal d'ossement d'espèces disparues à Rodrigues et il y en a encore. J'ai découvert quelques grottes mêmes là-bas. Je connais la richesse de cet endroit. Je connais son histoire, je connais son origine et sa spécificité. On se pose aussi des questions quelle été le motif même derrière, changer ce nom. Aujourd'hui ce n'est pas combat politique qu'on est en train de mener. Loin de tout ce qui est dit sur Facebook, on voit, vengeance, toute sorte de truc politique. Ce n'est même pas ça. C'est notre âme même qui est en train de parler. Mon ami, Nicolson Lisette a dit, c'est des trucs controversés. Est-ce-que ce n'était pas à l'époque *donne ene dizef pou gagne ene bef* ? Est-ce que ce nom c'était vraiment important de changer le nom de Plaine Corail à Sir Gaëtan Duval. Et aujourd'hui, je sens que c'est important de changer le nom de Sir Gaëtan en Plaine Corail. Quand on donne un nom, comme la si bien dit, Nicolson Lisette, à un endroit, à un bâtiment ou à une route, ça doit avoir un sens, il faut que ça soit dans l'âme. Il faut que tout le monde dit, moi j'aime bien ce mot, wow c'est une très bonne décision. Si on va dans la population aujourd'hui à Rodrigues et si nous, comme les dirigeants de cette île, on prend cette décision, est-ce qu'on n'est pas en train de dire que le peuple veut. On est en train de parler au nom du peuple et toutes les réponses, toutes les questions qui se posent par rapport ça quand on va sur Facebook on voit que c'est incontestable que les Rodriguais on veut tous, à part quelque Rodriguais bien sûre, je me pose la question est-ce que se sont vraiment des Rodriguais où ils sont des Rodriguais temporaires ? Ce n'est pas une question de changer le nom de l'aéroport, c'est une question de redonner le nom, le vrai, le nom de cet endroit qui a une valeur, mes amis ont parlé de la valeur même de cet endroit et ce n'est pas la première fois

que des noms sont changés. Tout le monde fait des erreurs, il y a eu des erreurs par apport à ça. On veut remettre le nom tout simplement pour corriger cette erreur. On veut remettre le nom original parce que c'est important. S'aurait pu être le nom de n'importe qui, quelle autre personne. Ce n'est pas cette personne, on a rien contre cette personne. On a quelque chose avec cet endroit, ce site, cet aéroport qui est le nôtre.

Donc, pourquoi redonner ce nom à Plaine Corail ? J'aimerais bien élaborer un petit peu là-dessus. Le nom Plaine Corail décrit le site et nous on l'appelle Plaine Corail mais dans le monde scientifique, les Anglais surtout, moi j'ai eu la chance de visiter le Naturel History Museum en Angleterre où il y a, où on a collecté les spécimens vivantes/éteintes de Rodrigues où notre histoire repose maintenant, il parle de *coral cast*, c'est un peu la même chose et c'est unique dans la région. Ce qui s'est passé à l'époque où le site, l'endroit a été formé. C'est unique. Ils appellent ça le *coral cast*. Comment cela a été formé ? Cela été soulevé. C'est pourquoi même tout dernièrement quand on donnait des baux résidentiels, à un moment les arpenteurs privés avaient pour une raison ou une autre plutôt prendre des mesures sur ce plateau, sur cette plaine et au niveau du Conseil Exécutif on est venu, on a dit non, arrêter pas de bail là. Parce que c'est un endroit unique, c'est extraordinaire cet endroit, c'est unique au monde, la spécificité de Rodrigues. L'histoire naturelle de Rodrigues se retrouve sous Plaine Corail. J'ai eu la chance. J'aimerais bien vous inviter un jour à venir visiter. J'ai des photos d'ailleurs pour ceux qui ont peur du noir, qui ne voudront pas entrer dans des petits espaces, j'ai des photos, je peux vous montrer. On a des solitaires calcifier. C'est une des raisons pourquoi on s'est battu pour ne pas étendre la piste sur le corail de Plaine Corail parce que la richesse de Rodrigues. Malheureusement, maintenant notre histoire se repose sur dans des musées au niveau international. Maintenant on a Plaine Corail, c'est un musée. C'est le musée de Rodrigues. C'est le seul endroit où on retrouve l'histoire de Rodrigues. Comme l'a si bien dit le Chef commissaire, les scientifiques du monde entier viennent travailler là. Donc, il y a aussi un écosystème unique là-bas. L'écosystème en entier est unique. On a des plantes qui poussent que là-bas. Je peux donner quelques exemples, est Aujourd'hui on parle du café marron, c'est considéré comme la plante unique du monde. Maintenant, la plante unique au monde, s'appelle je vais dire aujourd'hui, peut-être les gens ne connaissent pas. Ce qu'on appelle les, le bois passe nerf. C'est une plante qui passe les nerfs, bien sûrs, ceux qui sont nerveux, je peux leur donner quelques feuilles. Donc, c'est une plante qui pousse que dans cet endroit. On a beau cherché. Pendant plus de 20 ans j'ai cherché, je n'ai pas trouvé - que dans cet endroit. Donc, c'est unique comme écosystème. On a le Bois Charon, on a le, c'est une plante qui, ils appellent ça aussi le bois Saint Julien qui est relié vraiment à la prière. Tous les temps qu'on allait là-bas, il y avait des sous, de l'argent en dessous.

Donc, pour montrer que les Rodriguais avant s'en servait de cette plante pour une raison ou une autre. Mais ce n'est que là-bas qu'on trouve cette plante. La dernière se trouve là-bas. Donc, la plante la plus rare de Rodrigues se trouve dans cette endroit. Donc, il y a des cavernes, il y en a plus qu'une bonne quinzaine de grotte avec des richesses énormes. Il y a des phénomènes étranges mais uniques. A la fin d'une grotte il y a un bassin où il y a des montagnes de cristaux. J'ai des photos, je peux montrer, je peux amener des gens visiter aussi ceux qui veulent découvrir cette île. Et pour montrer que cet endroit est unique, c'est un endroit magnifique et le nom de Plaine Corail porte bien son nom pour toute cette région et donner le nom de l'aéroport Plaine Corail à l'aéroport n'est que la cerise sur le gâteau. Mais malheureusement un jour je me suis retrouvé en 2007 voir la cerise partir. Je me posé la question, c'est peut-être des raisons pourquoi j'ai fait de la politique et j'ai voulu aujourd'hui intervenir sur cette motion. Ça me fait plaisir. J'espère qu'à Maurice ça va passer parce que c'est très important, ce n'est pas seulement le changement d'un nom, c'est toutes l'aspirations des Rodriguais. C'est ce qu'on veut. C'est nous, on veut que ça soit, qu'on redonne le nom à Plaine Corail. Loin de là, ce n'est pas un combat politique, je redis ce n'est pas un combat politique. Parce que quand on regarde sur Facebook voilà ce qu'on voit, ah il y a une vengeance, on essaie de changer. On ne fait pas cadeau à un politicien ou à quelqu'un le patrimoine de cette île. On ne fait pas cadeau, on donne pas, je ne veux pas le donner. D'ailleurs Ismaël Valimamode était fort là-dessus. Vous savez ce qu'il a dit, les derniers mots qu'il a dits, je ne veux pas qu'on donne mon nom à n'importe quel truc. Quoi qu'il, *he deserves to put his name on things but he did not want it*. Donc, aujourd'hui si on veut redonner ce nom à Plaine Corail, je trouve que c'est justifié. C'est important que tout le monde à Rodrigues, je pense l'action de de la minorité, je vais qualifier ça comme un peu lâche parce qu'ils auraient pu au moins écouter ce qu'on avait à dire sinon participer. Est-ce qu'ils sont d'accord ou pas ? Je me pose la question, c'est quoi leur position ? C'est quoi leur position en partant ? Pour moi tourner le dos ce n'est pas vraiment politique. Un politicien se met debout devant quelque chose et affronte la réalité. Et c'est ce qu'on est en train de faire aujourd'hui. Moi, je m'associe à mes amis, à toute la population de Rodrigues pour dire je suis d'accord qu'on va de l'avant avec cette Motion et qu'on change le nom de l'aéroport, ou plutôt pas changer, on redonne le nom de Plaine Corail à cet aéroport. Merci

[Applause]

SUMMING UP

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, cette motion de changement de nom pour retrouver, comme mon collègue a dit, ce nom de Plaine Corail. Je remercie, mon collègue Richard Payendee, Madame Rose de Lima

Édouard, Nicolson Lisette d'avoir parlé sur cette motion. Ceux qui sont partis, ils étaient là. On se pose la question, sont-ils des personnes vraiment ancrées dans la culture Rodriguaise ? Sont-ils vraiment des personnes qui regardent la richesse de ce pays ? Ils associent tout à un nom. Tout comme on vient de dire, il y a des gens qui disent que c'est de la vengeance. Nous ne sommes pas à ce niveau, Madame la présidente. Je ne vais pas me rabaisser à un niveau de vengeance. Non. Ou contre quelqu'un. Non. Cette façon de parler, de ceux qui disent ça, ils ont encore dans leur mentalité qui croit que les Rodriguais ne développent pas certaines valeurs. Moi, j'ai vécu longtemps à l'île Maurice et quand je suis arrivé ici depuis 1976, ce n'était pas si facile. Ce n'était pas si facile qu'on a créé ce parti Rodriguais. On a toujours fait croire que ceux qui sont dans l'extérieure sont supérieur que nous sur le plan politique. Mais voilà avec cette motion nous avons montré que nous avons des valeurs extraordinaires et que nous aimons ce pays dans toute sa profondeur. Oui, je suis née à Plaine Corail Madame, je suis née à Plaine Corail. Oui, et aujourd'hui j'ai 77 ans mais Plaine Corail est enracinée dans ma vie. Souvent je dis aux gens, à cette époque il n'y avait pas de travailleur dans le gouvernement, mon papa été charpentier et nous on cultivait nos haricots, nous avions nos petits animaux et ainsi de suite. Et que pour avoir du poisson on changer, on apporte une petite poule avec le pêcheur et il va nous donner du poisson en retour. Mais aujourd'hui, cette motion suscite une émotion extraordinaire dans notre vie. De temps en temps, je suis en train de... et justement c'est ça. C'est une partie de l'histoire qui justement, nous habitants de ce pays Rodriguais, que nous devons porter témoignage à la République de Maurice, les îles de l'océan Indien dans le monde, ce que nous ressentons par rapport à notre pays, notre île Rodrigues. Regardons, Roche Bon Dieu, c'est quoi Roche Bon Dieu ? Vous avez été à Roche Bon Dieu ? Une pierre, une roche. Quelle beauté ! Qui a donné ce nom-là à cette pierre-là ? Qui ? C'est un étranger ? Je suis sûr que c'est quelqu'un de l'endroit ou des Rodriguais. Rivière Banane ? Lataniers ? Tout ça, Lataniers c'est par rapport à des plantes. Rivière Banane c'est peut-être qu'on plantait beaucoup de bananes, autour de la rivière. Tout ça, ça vient des profondeurs de la terre ces noms-là. Et oui. Le Chou. Pourquoi Le Chou ? Soupis ? Extraordinaire. On ne voit pas des noms comme ça à Maurice. Mais je suis sûr que ces noms-là proviennent des profondeurs de la terre, de la vie des gens.

Alors, Madame la présidente, et même on nous dit de Maurice de ne pas venir avec cette motion ou bien on nous accuse de vengeance. Vengeance vers qui ? Nous n'allons pas nous rabaisser à ce niveau de vengeance. Nous n'avons pas fait la politique pour la vengeance. Si un autre partie politique ou d'autres politiciens nous nous traite pour qu'on n'a pas de cœur pour un tel, on fait de la vengeance ainsi de suite. C'est leur affaire. C'est leur manière de faire de la politique. Ce n'est pas dans notre manière. Vous comprenez ? Et c'est ça

justement, cette motion va nous permettre vraiment de voir c'est ce qu'on pense à Maurice. C'est ce que les gens pensent. Je suis sûr qu'il y a de gens qui sont contents. Quand j'ai su dans le l'avion, quand j'entends la petite dame dire : et nous arrivons à l'aéroport de ... Il y a des gens qui posent la question : qui c'est cette personne ? Qui c'est cette personne ? Par contre, nous arrivons à l'aéroport de Plaine Corail, ça suscite naturellement chez la personne, chez les touristes, chez les mauriciens pour c'est quoi Plaine Corail. Et là, mon collègue a bien parlé, lui c'est un plongeur. Il plonge aussi sous le corail partout, il va plonger dans les bassins de Plaine Corail. Je ne sais pas quel poisson il a trouvé là-bas. Ce qui veut dire, nous avons des personnes qui connaissent. Je suis sûr si on interview des personnes dans les environs de Plaine Corail, ils vont vous dire beaucoup de choses. Pourquoi vous venez prendre toujours, j'allais dire un mot, je n'ose pas le dire. On nous prend toujours pour des ... Pourquoi ? Pourquoi on veut prendre le Rodriguais, ce Rodriguais qui habite Rivière Banane, qui habite Roche Bon Dieu ou à Lataniers ou dans d'autres endroits, La Ferme et c'est ça qui est terrible. Nous découvrons aujourd'hui qu'il y a encore dans une mentalité cette manière de traiter les Rodriguais. Moi, j'ai souffert de ça. J'ai souffert de ça et aujourd'hui je le dis. J'avais huit ans quand j'ai perdu mon papa, il est mort à Bengazi en Lybie comme pionnier. On était cinq frères et moi j'ai été habité avec ma tante qui était une enseignante. Elle a été transférée à Maurice et elle m'a emmené avec elle. Et arrivée là-bas, je ne vais pas vous dire comment on m'a traité. Arriver au collège Bhujwaree et aussi au collège Saint Esprit et j'ai dit ça quelque part : *If people make a fool of you remember that there is great wisdom in humility and silence*. Ne jamais répondre à des gens qui vous insultent. Montrer ce que vous pouvez faire et c'est comme ça, je les battais en sports et en étude. A l'université aussi c'était pareil. Les Rodriguais qui vraiment occupe la première place à l'université. Vous comprenez là ? A ce moment-là on voit que nous aussi on est aussi capable. Aujourd'hui on a des médecins et là ils vont faire leur spécialisation. On va donner la formation à des jeunes pour aller étudier l'épidémiologie. Nous avons les moyens, nous avons les qualités. Non, non, il faut faire bien attention et ceux qui sont de l'autre côté, qui sont-ils ? Qui sont-ils ? Sont-ils des vrais amoureux de leur pays ? Est-ce qu'ils aiment ce pays-là ? Est-ce qu'ils aiment la culture de ce pays-là ? Pourquoi partir ? Pourquoi ? Et c'est là que justement on va découvrir qu'il y a chez eux une certaine complicité. Je ne vais pas dire avec qui mais c'est dommage, c'est dommage qu'il participe pas pour montrer leur richesse, leur patriotisme, leur richesse pour ce pays-là, leur amour pour ce pays-là. Et ce que nous avons fait, c'est tout simplement enlevé un nom pour mettre ce nom de Plaine Corail qui a duré pendant des années.

Je suis né en 1940 et à cette époque-là encore sur ma date de naissance c'est marqué Plaine Corail, 1940 Plaine Corail. Alors, incroyable. Après 70 ans je suis encore là et j'aime toujours ce Plaine Corail, sa richesse, sa culture, comme

j'ai dit dans mon intervention tout à l'heure. Et là vous qui êtes là, je vais vous demander, aimée cette Plaine Corail. Vous l'aimez ? Alors faites un grand bisou à Plaine Corail. Alors, il faut partager ça justement et quelqu'un a parlé de ça justement et on revoit ça pour que les livres dans les écoles ont qu'on puisse aussi mettre aéroport Plaine Corail. Pour que ça suscite chez nos enfants, c'est quoi Plaine Corail. Vous comprenez-là ? Et c'est ça qu'il faut. Alors on va mettre un nom qui c'est ce Monsieur-là ? Qu'est-ce qu'il fait ça ? D'où il sort ? Alors c'est pourquoi nous aussi on est en train de découvrir notre île. Alors là, on a eu pas mal de villages, il y a Rivière cocos, c'est joli Rivière Coco ? Citronnelle, *ene l'atisane*. Citronnelle, mais c'est extraordinaire vous autre, c'est extraordinaire qu'à Rodrigues, il y a des noms comme ça. On voit des noms comme ça à Maurice ? Pamplemousse, oui. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a encore ? Plaine des papayes. Chez nous aussi il y a Papayes.

Merci, Madame la présidente, je dois dire, je vais terminer par-là, je dirais que cet c'est un moment historique. Aujourd'hui cette séance de l'assemblée, c'est un moment historique pour que nous puissions revenir à un aspect de notre culture, de notre vie. Et c'est ça qu'on veut. Ce n'était pas la vengeance contre quelqu'un, ce n'était pas avoir je ne sais pas contre je ne sais pas quoi. Ce n'est pas à ce niveau-là. Nous ne sommes pas dans ce niveau-là. Non, je n'ai pas fait de la politique pour avoir des sentiments dans ce niveau-là. Non, au contraire d'une ouverture extraordinaire. Alors, merci à mes collègues qui ont pris la parole et tout le monde ici. Malheureusement, c'est dommage il aurait pu être là eux-aussi prendre la parole. Malheureusement, alors on se pose la question, sont-ils des Rodriguais ? Vous comprenez là ? Et ils sont dans cette assemblée, l'économie de Rodrigues. Quand on a mené l'autonomie de Rodrigues le monsieur qui est là-bas, premier là, *li dire guette l'autonomie pé tombé dans la mer*. Et aujourd'hui, il est là, *l'autonomie pé tombé dans la mer*. Nous savons quand on a mené le combat pour l'autonomie qu'elle est notre vision pour ce pays-là. Ce que nous voulons faire pour ce pays-là. Ce que nous voulons développer pour ce pays-là. Ce que nous devons respecter dans ce pays-là. Vous comprenez ? Alors, en tout cas, j'espère moi aujourd'hui là, c'est un moment très émotionnel, Madame la présidente. Cette motion nous a permis de vivre vraiment, profondément notre terre Rodriguaise, ce que cette terre Rodriguaise dégage comme richesse, comme richesse. Voilà, merci beaucoup. Pas besoin de voter ? non ? Voilà, merci beaucoup

On question put the motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 04 July 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 3.53 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 04 July 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES – STUDENTS

(No. B/23) Mr. J. R.Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to students of Maréchal College living in the area of Citron Donis, Eau Vannée and Petit Gabriel, he will state if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties encountered by students commuting thereto by public transport and, in the affirmative, to indicate the measures his Commission has taken or will take to remedy the situation?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that no complaint has been received at the NTA's Office that students of Marechal College living in the regions of Citron Donis, Eau Vannée and Petit Gabriel are encountering transport problem to attend school. The officers of the NTA have carried out regular checks along the Route since the start of the second term and have revealed that all students are able to catch a bus to reach the college on time.

However, it has been observed that there are some very few and same students who wait at the bus stop near the old Police Station of Petit Gabriel who turn up late at the bus stop and are unable to catch the bus to reach school on time.

Besides, the college used to liaise with my Commission whenever any abnormal number of likenesses is noted along the Route. So far, no complaint has been received from the institution.

However, it may happen that those students may encounter some difficulties to reach the school on time whenever a bus is reported on breakdown

along route 206 or 207. My commission normally takes prompt decision in such cases. I would like to point out however, that this has never occurred since the start of the second term.

LYCÉE AGRI-BUSINESS AT ST. GABRIEL

(No. B/24) Mr. J. R.Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner of Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the construction of a Lycée Agri-Business at St. Gabriel, he could inform the House on the scope and objective/s thereof, stating the: -

- (a) total cost thereof; and
- (b) status of the work-in-progress together with the expected completion date thereof, as well as the name of the contractor executing the project?

(still awaiting reply)

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - NEW DEVELOPMENT

(No. B/25) Mr. J. R.Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner of Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to measures to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease in Rodrigues, he could enlighten the House on any new development in connection thereto, in the wake of the publication of the report of the Commission of Enquiry set to enquire into the 2016 outbreak thereof?

(still awaiting reply)

CONSTRUCTION/UPGRADING/RENOVATION – BUILDING/ROADS

(No. A/1) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to construction/upgrading /renovation of buildings/roads in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) give the number of projects/contracts allocated to contractors for the period starting from August 2016 – February 2017 together with each project scope of work, the executing contractor(s) and the respective sum earmarked therefor;

- (b) indicate if there has been any delay on any projects and the reasons thereof; and,
- (c) provide the organigram of the relevant department of his Commission involved therewith, as at date?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the information sought in Question A/1 requiring is being compiled and would be tabled as soon as it is completed.