

/UNREVISED/

Debate No. 3 of 27.03.2018

RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 3 of 2018

Sitting of Tuesday 27 March 2018

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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

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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

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

Debate 27.03.18

**MOTION – CHIEF COMMISSIONER
– RESUMPTION AND CONCLUSION OF DEBATE**

**RODRIGUES – DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND DRAFT
ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019**

Madam Chairperson: First Local Region Member of No. 1.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la Présidente, je suis très content encore une fois de pouvoir parler lors de cet exercice budgétaire. Permettez-moi tout d’abord, Madame la Présidente, de répondre à quelques points de notre ami le Commissaire de l’Environnement. Hier, il avait parlé... Il a parlé de beaucoup de choses comme d’habitude qu’il répète d’ailleurs année après année mais j’aimerais quand même revenir sur quelques points. Premier point : *Housing*. Le Commissaire fait comprendre que le Gouvernement MR à l’époque n’a pas construit aucune maison. Mais laissez-moi lui rafraîchir la mémoire que le *Low-Cost Housing Scheme on self-help basis*, c’était nous et les maisons qu’on construit maintenant et les maisons qu’allait construire la NEF, ces maisons-là allaient être basées sur la même architecture et c’est ce qu’on voit maintenant construire un peu partout dans l’île.

[Applause]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Contrairement aux maisons qu’on construit maintenant, il y a des bars de fer qui apparaissent dans la dalle. Il y a les bases où il n’y a pas de barres de fer. Donc, ça laisse à désirer. Et puis, autre chose, il a parlé de budget, que nous n’avons rien compris, que voilà, lorsqu’on a voté une somme pour un item, il faut rester sur cet item. Mais dans l’exercice budgétaire, il y a le terme réallocation ! On peut *reallocate*. Je comprends que lui aussi, il n’a jamais été Commissaire des finances ; il ne sait pas. Il parle d’abattre des bêtes sauvagement. On a dit que les bêtes ont été abattues sauvagement lors de l’épisode fièvre aphteuse. Mais c’est vrai ! J’ai été témoin d’une vache qu’on a égorgée devant les enfants, devant tout le monde. Est-ce que ça, ce n’est pas sauvagement, Madame la Présidente ?

On ne peut pas défendre. Il ne faut pas venir défendre l’indéfendable. Mais aussi de dire que s’il n’était pas venu, on aurait vendu toutes les plages ! Mais qu’en est-il de la plage de Anse Ali ? Là, je le répète. La plage de Anse

Ali allait être donnée à un groupe hôtelier, les Naïade Resorts à Maurice. Nous, lorsqu'on est arrivé, on s'est dit non, cette plage-là, il faut classifier cette plage-là, plage publique. Parce que c'est important que les Rodriguais puissent aussi bénéficier des richesses de ce pays. Ce qu'on a fait, on leur a dit qu'on ne pourra pas aller de l'avant avec le projet. On leur a dit de trouver un autre endroit. Ils ont été mécontents, ils sont partis. Mais on a pu, on a su préserver, on a classifié. Si vous allez sur la plage d'Anse Ali, maintenant, n'importe qui peut aller à Anse Ali. C'est une plage publique classifiée par le MR.

[Applause]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Il a parlé des chiens sur l'île. Ça, c'est une honte. Il y avait deux chiens sur l'île Hermitage. Il dit s'il est responsable. Mais qui c'est qui est responsable ? Moi ? *Ki sanla ki responsable ?* Mais c'est l'autorité. Qui c'est qui représente l'autorité dans ce Parlement ? Qui c'est qui est responsable de contrôler ? Qui est responsable de l'agriculture, du dossier de l'agriculture à Rodrigues ? Mais c'est le Commissaire de l'agriculture. Et j'ai téléphoné. J'ai dit il y a un souci. J'ai téléphoné à l'Office du tourisme, j'ai dit il y a un souci, il y a les clients qui disent qu'il y a des chiens, ils sont écœurés par la situation, essayez de voir ce qu'il faut faire.

Il y a des gens qui sont descendus sur l'île, ils ont vu ces chiens, ils sont remontés tout de suite sur le bateau, ils sont partis écœurés. C'est ça l'image qu'on projette d'un tourisme écologique à Rodrigues, Madame la Présidente ? Il a parlé aussi de l'achat des bœufs sur Rodrigues. Pourquoi acheter que des taureaux ? Je vais revenir là-dessus tout à l'heure. Location d'animaux de race. Il a parlé de location d'animaux de race. Les animaux de race qu'on loue à des gens, la plupart de ces animaux ne retournent pas. Ils prennent les bien de l'état : petits copains, ici là-bas, ici là-bas. Légumes importés. Règlement. *Okay*, on va voir. Et ce qui est plus aberrant, Madame la Présidente, c'est que le Commissaire lui-même est allé à Maurice et puis, il dit, sur le journal, j'ai vu ça : « touristes ne viennent pas à Rodrigues pour se doucher ». Mais écoutez, c'est la moindre des choses de se doucher.

Un Commissaire ne peut pas aller à Maurice pour aller dire une chose pareille. On ne peut pas. On ne vient pas à Rodrigues pour se doucher mais on va partout et on se douche ! Je ne sais pas lui, comment il fait. *Airport* sur pilotis, il était pour ce projet, il était 100% pour ce projet et lui, je sais qu'il a quelque part essayé d'influencer les gens à donner des rapports vers ce projet pilots. Heureusement, ce sont des gens responsables. Ils n'ont pas voulu. Il a même quitté la réunion. Il a dit que c'est beau, ça allait être beau, extraordinaire que l'avion se pose sur pilotis en détruisant deux montagnes : Montagne Baie Topaze et Montagne Croupier. Si vous allez à Baie Topaze, allez rencontrer ces

gens. Il y a une dame qui m'a dit : mais pourquoi il fait ça ? J'ai été à Montagne Croupier. Il y a des gens, vous savez, Madame la Présidente, il y a des gens qui vont sur Montagne Croupier pour prier et j'ai rencontré ces gens-là. Ils m'ont dit qu'on va continuer à prier pour détourner le Commissaire Payendee. C'est ce qu'ils m'ont dit.

[Applause]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Et ils l'ont fait, ils ont été prier. C'est le mot qu'ils ont utilisé. Pas fini, je rencontre un rasta qui habite juste à côté. Il me dit : « Man, il faut qu'on arrête ça, Man. » Là, il me dit : « Tu sais, Montagne Croupier, c'est ma mère. Montagne Croupier est ma sœur. Montagne Croupier ressemble à notre arche de Noé ». Et c'est vrai. Une fois, je suis passé par là-bas, c'est vrai, j'ai vu l'arche de Noé. L'après-midi, je suis allé. Je voyais des bœufs sur la montagne, les cabris, les moutons, dindes, poules, pintades sur la montagne. J'ai dit : « Ouais, il avait raison ». Là, je me suis dit, « ouais », j'ai utilisé un terme pour ce Monsieur mais je ne vais pas dire. Je vais le dire dehors tout à l'heure parce que ça ne va pas être permis.

C'est à cause de cet homme, on peut perdre deux montagnes, on peut défigurer l'île Rodrigues pour que des avions puissent poser. Or, il y avait d'autres alternatives, c'est-à-dire, l'option 4. Qu'est-ce qu'ils vont dire là ? Nous avons notre option à nous. Où est-ce que vous allez placer la piste pour que ce soit votre option à vous ? Nouvelle piste. Où est-ce qu'on va mettre 2000 m ? Où est-ce qu'on va mettre ça ? C'est impératif que ce soit l'option 4 mais pourvu que Rodrigues sorte gagnant dans tout ça, Madame la Présidente. L'agriculture. Et là aussi, il n'a rien compris ! Comme il le dit si bien : « il n'a rien compris ». Il a parlé de bac. Mais nous, on avait déjà commencé à faire des bacs. On avait fait ça à Baie Topaze. Et qu'est-ce qu'il fait ? Qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait, le Commissaire de l'agriculture d'alors et maintenant ? Ils abandonnent. Ils abandonnent ce bac là et je ne sais pas maintenant ce qui s'est passé, qu'est-ce qu'on fait avec. Ils n'ont rien compris, rien essayé pour enlever l'embargo.

On fait des tests, on fait des tests, on fait des tests. Comment peut-on continuer à faire des tests et en même temps, on envoie des taureaux à Maurice ? *Taureaux pas ti gagne fièvre aphteuse li ?* Ça, c'est un problème. Ils protègent la *Meat Authority*. Je ne sais pas ce qu'il y a. Projet café. Il a dit qu'on est contre le projet café. Je ne sais pas qui c'est qui est contre le projet café. Mais par contre, je sais qu'il était contre le projet ananas à Papaye. Le Commissaire de l'Environnement, des Forêts, il a été sur le site. Il a grondé le bougre, il a dit : « ouais, to prend pays pou toi ». Il a dit ça ! On n'est pas contre. Nous ne sommes pas contre le projet café mais il y a une chose. Il y a

une chose que peut-être il faudra voir. Je ne sais pas si vous allez le faire. Il faut peut-être garder la saveur du café. Je ne sais pas si vous allez moudre le café ou bien garder grain mais il faut aussi mettre à la disposition des gens qui vont vendre ça, des machines. C'est très important d'avoir des machines à moudre le café. Parce que si on moule les graines de café, on infuse et on obtient un '*plus bon*' café, c'est juste une suggestion.

Règlements pour les crabes, langouste, pour la pêche des crabes, langoustes, crevettes etc. Peut-être que c'est technique, c'est scientifique je ne sais pas mais je sais qu'il y a un certain moment, on n'a pas par exemple des crevettes, on ne peut pas pêcher les crevettes parce qu'il n'y a pas de crevettes dans le lagon. Il n'y en a très peu. En hiver, on a beaucoup de crevettes mais en été, il y en a très peu. Crabes, on va fermer la pêche à crabe.... *plis facile*. Pourquoi fermer la pêche aux crabes ? Parce qu'il y a que deux personnes qui pêchent les crabes à Rodrigues ou bien alors on leur donne des allocations pour fermer. Il a parlé aussi... Non, il a oublié de parler, pardon, mais je profite de l'occasion comme si dans ces domaines. Les drones. Il n'a pas parlé de drones ! Pourquoi ce qu'il n'a pas parlé de drones ? Pourquoi il a acheté Rs800 000 de drones ?

[Applause]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Où sont les drones ? Les spécifications des drones s'il vous plaît. Model : *preferably quadcopter or any model which enables stable stationery flight*, Ça, c'est normal. *Flying time: 25 minutes*. Seulement *5 km range* qui n'est pas approprié. *Live : 700*, je ne sais pas, *view, night vision, no infrared* et *obstacle senses* et dernière option, enfin, *ene parmi les options – return home*. On a appris qu'il y a des drones ont retourné *home*. Mais il y a des drones qui sont... Ils ont lancé les drones et les drones ne sont jamais retournés ! *Return home, back home. Return home lor la*.

Madam Chairperson: This private conversation cannot go on, this personal conversation between Members.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, thank you, Mrs. Chairperson*. Pourquoi les drones à infrarouge ? Il y a eu la dernière fois... parce que c'est important. On n'est pas là juste pour critiquer mais c'est important d'avoir des... Si on a acheté des drones avec l'argent du Gouvernement, c'est important d'avoir des drones avec l'infrarouge. S'il y a des pêcheurs qui ont disparu en mer, c'est important d'avoir ça. La dernière fois, il y a eu des situations en mer. Il y a eu des garde-côtes qui ont été mais ils n'ont pas pu trouver les pêcheurs. Mais c'était les particuliers qui ont pris des bateaux, qui sont allés chercher ces pêcheurs. Moi aussi, j'ai participé ce jour-là, Madame la Présidente. Mais si on

avait des drones à infrarouge, on aurait pu quand même trouver plus facilement ces pêcheurs, Madame la Présidente. Et autre chose, pour s'en servir, pour se servir des drones, est-ce qu'on a les *clearances* nécessaires ? Est-ce que vous avez eu des *clearances* du *civil aviation* par exemple ? Si vous aviez eu, faites bon usage, Monsieur le Commissaire.

Protection de l'environnement. Charte pour l'environnement. Il y a les chartes pour l'environnement, c'est bien, mais il faudra aussi voir comment ils gèrent. Là, on a la station de traitement d'eaux usées qui est cassée. La dernière fois, on avait été là-bas visité, on a entendu des cris des petits cochons. Et puis, on a vu une douzaine de cochons qui justement prenaient leur bain dans ces eaux usées. Pendant tout ce temps parce que moi, je me rappelle à l'époque, on avait rénové, augmenté la capacité mais après sept ans, le Commissaire est là et voilà aujourd'hui, le résultat ! M. le Commissaire, si vous voulez, vous pouvez prendre des photos. Autre chose. Bouteille de verre, bouteille en plastique. On vient avec les règlements. Il faut voir l'environnement dans un comme on dit en anglais, *holistic approach*. On vient dire on va mettre les subsides sur *takeaways*, machins mais qu'en est-il des bouteilles en verre ?

Regardez, dissimulés dans les « *piquants loulou* ». Bouteille en plastique, combien de bouteilles en plastique il a retourné à Maurice ? Zéro. Combien de bouteilles en verre il a retourné à Maurice ? Zéro. Il allait convertir en sable. Depuis longtemps, j'ai entendu ça, depuis qu'il est venu. Il allait passer une *magnet* dans le ça pour ramasser tous les... Depuis commencement, il a dit ça, depuis que je le connais, il dit ça. Zéro. Le tri. Il va faire tri des déchets. On n'a pas la photo. On aurait dû prendre la photo, Rosaire. Le tri de déchets est fait par les animaux là-bas. Il y a des cabris, il y a des moutons, il y a des cochons qui font le tri des déchets sur le dépotoir. Qu'est-ce qu'il a à dire ? Eco-village, *Waste to Energy*, il parle tout le temps de ça mais il ne fait rien absolument. Eco-village, c'est quelque chose qu'on a entendu pendant longtemps depuis qu'on était là et ce n'est pas du nouveau.

Mais là, il y a quelque chose qui est du nouveau, c'est l'amiante. Où est passé l'amiante sur Montagne Plate ? Nous avons attiré l'attention, on a même été là-bas pour dire que c'est de l'amiante. Il y a quelqu'un qui est venu, un spécialiste, il est passé et il dit il a vu ça, il vient, il va voir. Il a été voir et ce Monsieur nous a dit c'était bel et bien de l'amiante que le Commissaire a jugé lorsqu'on lui a posé la question la dernière fois, il a jugé que ce n'était pas de l'amiante. Et après, on a été sur le site. Il n'y a plus de plaque en amiante. Alors, il fallait... C'est ça, le manque de sérieux. Ils ont retiré de l'amiante à l'hôpital, dans le bâtiment de l'hôpital. Il y a toute une procédure à suivre. Il faut mettre le *Dangerous Chemical Control Board* au courant. C'est eux qui doivent venir pour *handle* ces amiantes. Qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait ? Ils ont pris

des employés qui travaillaient à l'hôpital, *casser mette dans sac ale vide lor Montagne Plate*. Aujourd'hui, on parle d'île écologique et on traite des gens comme ça et lorsqu'on parle au Commissaire, *pou pas perdi point*, il dit que ce n'est pas de l'amiante. Il faut être soi-même. Il parle de semaine sainte. Il faut être prêt. Il faut profiter de ce moment pour voir ce qu'on fait. Comme dit le pape au début du carême, il s'est servi de trois verbe : « *Arrête, regarde et revient* ». A réfléchir.

Madame la Présidente, maintenant, je reviens sur le discours budget. Le discours budget, moi, je trouve qu'on a joué avec les mots. Et aussi, après ces sept ans, on a constaté encore une fois qu'il y a beaucoup de mau... Il y a eu beaucoup de mauvaise foi et quelqu'un qui a mauvaise foi, c'est quelqu'un qui ment à lui-même premièrement et c'est quelqu'un aussi qui connaît la vérité pour mieux cacher cette vérité aux autres. Pourquoi je dis ça ? Simplement parce que si on regarde ce qui se passe avec l'eau, les compagnies qu'on va mettre en place, on va lancer un tender pour qu'une compagnie vienne gérer le dessalement, les unités de dessalement d'eau de mer. Nous avons mis en place le *Water Company*. Oui, il faut que j'explique.

Le *Water Company* avait pour rôle de gérer tout ça. La compagnie appartenait à l'Assemblée Régionale. On pouvait contrôler cette compagnie. Mais par contre, si vous prenez une compagnie privée, vous les faites gérer les stations de dessalement, ils peuvent fermer la porte et vous dire de partir, vous n'avez qu'à récupérer l'eau qui est là-bas. Quel contrôle il y aura ? En termes de coût, combien ça va être ? Je fais un appel au bon sens du Commissaire. On a été à l'école ensemble, j'espère qu'il va réfléchir et de remettre. Il n'y a rien de mal de remettre le *Water Company* et il y a des gens qui sont formés. Hier, quelqu'un a dit qu'il n'y a personne qui est formé. Mais il y a Emile ! Qui c'est qui gèrait à l'époque ? Il y avait Emile et son équipe qui géraient la station de dessalement à Songes.

[Applause]

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Et pendant on ne sait pas qu'est-ce que vous avez fait. Est-ce que vous avez formé les Rodriguais ? Est-ce qu'il y a des Rodriguais qui ont été formés pour gérer tout ça ? *Facile compagnie privée vini et puis, compagnie privé vine déklar mari ici*. C'est ça l'autonomie, c'est ça franchir une nouvelle étape pour vous mais pour nous, ce n'est pas le cas. Et en plus de ça, il y a eu des manifestations. Mais qui c'est qui a nourri ces

manifestations ? Mais c'est la Commission ! C'est la Commission ! Lorsque les gens manifestent, ils prennent des choses, ils mettent à travers la route, *délo coulé*. Mais *lote fer pareil ! Baie du Nord – barre la route, délo coulé*. Dans Cocos – *barre la route, délo coulé*. Mais d'où sortait cette eau ? Et qui c'est qui a nourri cet esprit d'aller manifester ? Et ces gens-là, ils en avaient besoin ! D'où sortait cette eau ? Pourquoi à l'ouest, il n'y a pas d'eau mais dans les autres endroits, il y a de l'eau ? Pourquoi est-ce qu'on a dit on allait installer des fontaines publiques et à La Ferme et dans les autres endroits, il n'y a pas de fontaines publiques ? Pourquoi ?

C'est aussi simple. Il y a des problèmes d'eau dans l'ouest. Où est-ce qu'on doit mettre des fontaines ? Où est-ce qu'on devait mettre des fontaines publiques ? Mais là-bas ! Il y a même des membres de l'Assemblée nationale qui habitent dans le coin mais je ne sais pas qu'est-ce qu'ils ont dit. L'aéroport, pareil. J'ai expliqué. Le port, on dit que dans le rapport, il n'y avait pas de quai. Vous prenez sept ans pour mettre un quai dans le rapport ? Vous prenez sept ans ? Après sept ans que vous réalisez ? C'est ça, je dis il y a une bonne dose de mauvaise foi et ça n'avance pas un peuple qui est géré par des gens qui ont de la mauvaise foi. Pareil, abattoir de baie diamant, là, on vient de dire on délaisse abattoir, on fait comprendre qu'on va délaisser l'abattoir, on va faire un SME Park sur 10 arpents à Baie aux Huitres. C'est bien, pas mauvais mais il y a eu des concertations. Est-ce que la structure...

Quel genre de structure on va construire sur ce *reclaimed area* ? Comment est-ce qu'on va faire ? Des gens qui ont déjà des baux là-bas, comment est-ce qu'on va rebouger ces gens-là ? La loi sept ans, encore une fois, qu'est-ce qu'on entend ? On vient maintenant de l'avant avec un comité pour voir tout ce qui est la loi sept ans. J'ai regardé ce matin avant l'introduction de ce règlement au Parlement, il y avait eu 195 demandes de *import permit*, 195. Et aujourd'hui, on se retrouve avec des tas de motocyclettes. Les gens ne peuvent plus acheter des voitures. Qu'est-ce qu'ils font ? Ils achètent des motocyclettes premièrement et puis, ils achètent d'autres voitures moins chères. Mais si on dit qu'on a mis la loi sept ans pour protéger les gens, pour qu'il n'y ait pas d'accident, je me demande avec le nombre de motocyclette que les gens sont forcés à acheter, maintenant avec cette loi-là, est-ce qu'il n'y aura pas plus d'accident.

Et autre chose. Quelqu'un a dit il faut protéger les consommateurs qui vont à Maurice chercher des carcasses et qui viennent. Mais ces voitures, des petites voitures qu'on voit rouler partout, savez-vous, Madame la Présidente, que ces voitures-là sont très dangereux ? Pourquoi ? Ces voitures ne se vendent plus ou bien pas en France. Parce que ces voitures-là, ils n'ont pas passé le *crash test* en France et on envoie ces voitures-là à Maurice. On envoie ces

voitures-là vendre ici à Rodrigues. Des petites voitures et des gens qui reprennent ça à Maurice, ils m'ont dit c'est compliqué de réparer des voitures pareilles. Est-ce que c'est ça protéger l'intérêt des consommateurs, est-ce que c'est ça protéger ? Mais c'est bien, si vous venez un jour avec cette loi, vous voulez revoir cette loi, nous, on serra prêt à travailler ensemble. Idem pour le problème de drain à Camp du Roi. Ça, c'est inacceptable ! Inacceptable qu'on construit des routes, on met de la terre cette hauteur, cette quantité de terre sur presque, je dirais, presque sur les habitations. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé après ?

Ça, il savait. Il savait que ça allait arriver. Mais puisqu'on avait posé la question, puisqu'on avait dit que ça, c'est un problème, qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait ? Ils disent : ils ne vont pas le faire exprès. Voilà le résultat, on a maintenant que les habitants de Camp du Roi ont baptisé Simon River. Alors, autre chose qu'on a vu dans ce budget. Est-ce que ce budget, ce Gouvernement défend l'intérêt des Rodriguais ? Est-ce que par exemple, les choses qui affectent les gens dans leur vie de tous les jours, est-ce que quelqu'un, est-ce que vous avez parlé de *freight* par exemple ? Quelqu'un a parlé de *freight*. C'est ce qui rend la vie plus chère à Rodrigues. Une petite boîte de carton, vous prenez, vous achetez quelques trucs à Maurice, vous arrivez à Rodrigues, vous allez au Shipping, vous allez payer Rs600.

Que fait le Gouvernement ? Qu'est-ce que vous faites ? Que faites-vous ? Les passagers qui doivent partir à Maurice, qui sont obligés à prendre l'avion, est-ce que vous êtes en train de négocier ? Le Chef commissaire dit, la dernière fois, il a dit : il a de bonnes relations avec les gens là-bas. Très bien ! Les gens du Shipping, très bien ! Mais bonne relation ne peut pas nourrir un peuple si on essaye pas de tirer profit si le besoin se fait sentir. C'est important de revoir le *freight* sur Rodrigues et le *freight* a augmenté sur Rodrigues sans que le Gouvernement bouge le petit doigt. Ce n'était pas comme ça avant ! On a emmené une boîte en carton, c'était forcé Rs200-Rs300. Maintenant, c'est à Rs600 ! Mais qu'est-ce qu'ils font ? Que font les membres de l'Assemblée nationale ? *Ale Maurice, alé vini*. Que font-ils ?

Le Commissaire de la santé est venu nous dire que le Premier ministre est venu pour faire avec les... Je ne rappelle pas trop. Les indiens vont venir faire une étude sur la santé à Rodrigues sur le *Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)*. C'est bien mais on se pose la question : mais que fait-il ? Le Premier ministre doit sortir de Maurice pour venir dire qu'il va faire une étude et emmener les indiens pour faire une étude à Rodrigues pour revoir tout ce qui est l'hôpital de Crève-Cœur. Mais lui, qu'est-ce qu'il fait ? Lorsqu'il va à Maurice, qu'est-ce qu'il fait ? Sept ans vous êtes là, qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Là, j'ai appris que les hommes commencent à dormir dans les '*gyne*'. Je ne sais pas si c'est vrai. Pourquoi on ne fait pas une étude sur la situation sociale à Rodrigues ? Ça,

c'est très important. Il faut savoir de temps en temps faire des études, voire comment les gens réagissent et ne pas venir dire, mais si vous êtes Commissaire, vous allez demander à quelqu'un en dehors, là où il dit : « *Ba hein, budget la ki position ?* » Vous croyez que la personne va dire *budget pas bon* ? Le Rodriguais est poli. Le Rodriguais est gentil ; il va dire « *budget la bon* » même si le budget dans sa vie de tous les jours, ce budget n'est pas bon, le fait souffrir.

Alors, il y a une chose que je ne comprends pas encore : les petites pensions. Le Commissaire Baptiste nous dit hier qu'on est pessimiste. On n'est pas pessimiste. Nous, on est pragmatique, on est objectif dans l'approche, de ce qu'on voit, de la façon dont ils dirigent ce pays. « *P'tit pensions* », on voit qu'ils commencent à couper des « *p'tit pensions* ». Il y a une chose aussi que je ne comprends pas. S'il y a une fille-mère qui a un enfant et cette dame-là se trouve mariée à quelqu'un d'autre, tombe enceinte : coupe pension ! Je ne sais pas, peut-être que je me trompe. Mais il y a une dame que je connais. On lui a dit qu'on va faire des enquêtes et puis, on verra s'il faut mettre de l'ordre. Mettez de l'ordre chez vous, M. le Commissaire ! Mais il faut mettre de l'ordre chez vous ! Vous dites qu'il se cache derrière Maurice. Tout est la loi ! Oui, la loi, oui ! Mais que fait le Conseil exécutif ? Quel est le rôle du Conseil exécutif ? Si quelqu'un a Rs30000, il n'est pas éligible à avoir des couches.

Je comprends. C'est la loi qui dit. Mais si ce quelqu'un-là nourrit... Il a Rs30000, pour des problèmes sociaux, ces gens-là doivent nourrir quatre familles avec Rs30000. Que fait le Commissaire ? Parce qu'il y a la loi, il reste tranquille ? Quel est le rôle du Conseil exécutif ? S'il va au Conseil exécutif avec... il dit voilà, il y a cette famille, il y a ça, ils ont Rs30000, ils ne sont pas éligibles mais ils ont tel profile social, est-ce qu'on peut lui attribuer les couches dans le *Chief Commissioner's Fund or I do not know which fund* ? Si Conseil exécutif dit oui, on peut le faire ! Et ils n'ont pas fait. Il ne le fait pas et puis, il vient nous dire *Maurice ça*, la loi Maurice, la loi ici, la loi là-bas. Conseil exécutif a le droit de prendre des décisions mais si c'est justifié. Il y a un commissaire... Mais il faut pouvoir expliquer. Les gens, je me rappelle d'une dame qui n'était pas éligible... *Oui, ti donne 13^{ème} mois pesser, nou fier. Mais nou ine deza doné. Comié tone doné toi ?*

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Payendee comié ine doné li?*

Madam Chairperson: After this exchange of compliments, will the respected Member proceed?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I am continuing. Yes, I am proceeding. Que fait le rôle du Conseil exécutif ? On l'a fait dans le passé. Il y a une dame qui n'était pas éligible pour avoir l'argent dalle. Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait ? J'ai été au Conseil, j'ai dit : « voilà, elle n'est pas éligible mais il faudra voir, lui donner un peu de matériaux *on a humanitarian basis* ». *On a humanitarian basis*, on le fait. *Livre l'école, pareil*. Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait ? On avait donné à tout le monde sans exception. Commissaire, pas Commissaire, tout le monde ! Mais c'est des Rodriguais ! On est fier d'avoir donné aux Rodriguais. Mais pourquoi arracher une petite pension ?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioners, please allow the respected Member to proceed with his speech.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.* Et qu'est-ce qu'on fait ? On arrache ces petites pensions, on dit que c'est la loi mais on prend... On dit que c'est l'assistanat, exactement, et là, ce qu'on fait, on prend Rs100 millions, on arrange un bâtiment... *Bisin pa dir batimen sécurité sociale*. Il faut dire bâtiment assistanat à Mont Lubin. Petite pension coupée, bâtiment... Gros bâtiment ! Lorsqu'on passe, on va dire : ouais là, c'est le bâtiment de la sécurité sociale. Et ce bâtiment, le lieu, on se pose des questions. *Mais pa fer narnien*. Ça ne fait rien, arrangez-vous. On va convertir après. Parce que ce lieu devait être là où on a construit le bâtiment, ça devait être le bâtiment pour abriter un hôpital moderne, très moderne à Mont Lubin. Je ne sais pas pourquoi vous avez fait un bâtiment de la Sécurité sociale à Rodrigues pour Rs100 millions, Madame la Présidente. Alors, concernant l'eau pareil, faillite pareil. Le Gouvernement ne peut pas gérer l'eau, n'arrive pas. Qu'est-ce qu'ils font ? Ils viennent donner des bassins ! Alors là, Rodrigues va être rempli de bassin. Et les bassins, je vous dis, ça peut être des *eyesores*.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Pane koz zafer dimoune. Pa pou moi sa.* Je n'ai pas de *borehole*, Madame la Présidente. Pour préciser, je n'ai pas de *borehole*. Alors, bassins partout. Lorsqu'on va faire des bassins, par exemple à Rs200000 comme ils ont dit, est-ce qu'on a préconisé par exemple, d'étendre la superficie des baux résidentiels ? Par exemple, si quelqu'un demande un bail, exactement... Le souci, c'est que si les gens arrivent à construire le bassin au sol, c'est bon. Mais si jamais il n'y a pas de place, mais le souci avec ces bassins-là, si jamais comme on dit *en bas la terre*, il y a le souci qu'il y a des fuites, c'est un problème. Avec un certain temps, on commence à avoir des fuites. Mais si la personne veut... Vous ne pouvez pas aussi aller contrôler les gens chez eux. S'il veut faire son bassin sur la terre quelque part... Mais il

faudra songer... Mon point, c'est de songer à donner plus de superficie à ces gens au nouveau bail résidentiel.

Autre chose. Pourquoi je dis aussi qu'on ne défend pas les intérêts des Rodriguais ? Le problème d'eau, c'était aussi artificiel ! Pourquoi ? C'est parce qu'ils ont démarré des projets d'infrastructures en période de sécheresse. *Bokou lekol, centre communautaire, batimen sécurité sociale monté en pleine sécheresse.* Et lorsqu'on a posé la question, on s'est dit pourquoi est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de camion à Mourouk ? Pourquoi à Mourouk, il y avait tant de camions des compagnies ? Peut-être que c'est vrai. On nous a fait comprendre que pour construire ces bâtiments à ces stages, il faut de l'eau propre. Au détriment de qui ? C'est la raison pour laquelle les gens ont manifesté. C'est la raison pour laquelle il y a eu des problèmes. Il y a même eu malheureusement des arrestations. Idem pour les *track roads*. On fait des *track roads* individuels pour les gens et qui sèment la zizanie parmi les voisins par moment.

Carte planteur. Combien de carte planteur doit un planteur avoir à Rodrigues ? Je me rappelle que l'année dernière, avant les élections, il y a eu des exercices. On a payé Rs200. Les planteurs ont payé Rs200. *Enan ine paye 400.* Là, on vient nous dire encore une fois dans ce budget qu'il faut revoir les cartes de planteurs. Cette histoire de *Meat Authority* et la vente des bétails, ça, c'est un genre de pillage. La *Meat Authority* vient ici pour acheter des bœufs et j'ai appris que l'Assemblée régionale aussi les payent. L'Assemblée régionale aussi a pris deux officiers avec quatre bœufs qui sont allés à Maurice pour prendre le poids des bœufs à Rodrigues et voir si le poids a diminué à Maurice. Et vous savez ce qui s'est passé ? Ils ont emmené quatre bœufs, deux officiers. Les officiers sont retournés et ils ont mangé les bœufs. La question est : est-ce que les bœufs du Gouvernement ont été payés ? Non. Jusqu'à maintenant, on a eu des informations que ça n'a pas été payé. Ils ont déjà... Ils sont partis.

Autre chose. Ça, c'est révoltant. J'ai entendu à la radio, il y a quelqu'un... un communiqué du Commission de l'agriculture vous dire que voilà, si on donne un lopin de terre, vous faites des agrumes ou bien je ne sais quoi, il faut rendre la carte chômage. Mais est-ce vrai ? Qu'est-ce que vous avez contre ces gens-là ? Non, qu'est-ce que vous avez contre les petites personnes comme on dit ? Contre les « *ti dimounes* » ? Non, il faut être honnête. Laissez-moi parler. *Coumsa zot fer sa zot !* Nous, il faut commencer par nous. Qu'est-ce qu'on veut ? Qu'est-ce que vous voulez à faire de votre mandat ? Votre pension, oui ou non ? Et dans le House Committee, allez dites-moi le contraire, dans le House...

Madam Chairperson: This is not allowed.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *I know. It is okay.* Qu'est-ce qu'on cherche ? On cherche à avoir nos pensions. Tout le monde.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is not allowed!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, I rephrase.* Pourquoi ? Les gens ont compris, ceux qui ont compris. Ils ont compris le point, *sa ki important*. Pourquoi leur dire de rendre leur carte ? Mais quel est votre problème ? Mais s'il le fait, tant mieux, parce que tout le monde le fait. Celui qui enseigne à l'école, il plante des fruits chez lui. L'enseignant, qu'est-ce qu'il fait, lui ? L'enseignant, il va pêcher des foies. Mais alors ? *Commissaire plongé.* Mais alors, quel est le problème ? Où est le problème ? Pourquoi s'attaquer à ces, comment dire, « *ti dimounes* » ? Pour le plaisir ? Très bien, *oké.* C'est noté. Maintenant, on parle des travailleurs. On ne comprend pas pourquoi un jour, on nous a appelé à Plaine Corail nous dire que voilà, les Rodriguais sont dehors, les Bangladais sont à l'intérieur qui travaillent.

On ne comprend pas et on nous a dit qu'on essayait de faire des manifestations. Non ! On a joué notre rôle. On leur a dit, on dit à ces gens-là : où est votre contrat ? Et le contrat stipulait que voilà, on peut vous mettre à la porte à la fin du mois. J'ai dit : écoutez, on vous a mis à la porte. Mais le problème c'est que les Bangladais sont arrivés. Comment ? Avec la complicité de qui ? Qui c'est qui a donné les permis pour l'hébergement ? On ne peut pas me dire que c'est à Maurice. Il y a la loi, oui, pour les faire venir mais pour donner permis pour héberger ces gens-là, qui c'est qui a donné ces permis-là ? C'est la Commission de l'emploi ! Des je ne sais pas comment on appelle ça encore. Qu'à fait Monsieur Baptiste ce jour-là ? Il est descendu sur le chantier.

Madam Chairperson: You please address Members of this House in an orderly manner, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Ah oui, Commissioner. Sorry.* Yes, *Commissioner Baptiste*, qu'est-ce qu'il a fait ce jour-là ? Il est descendu sur le chantier. Il fallait le voir. *Dan botte, dan casque* déguiser pour aller voir ce qui se passe. *Bottes gosse dan droite*, Commissaire Baptiste sur le chantier. Mais il ne savait pas que ça allait arriver ? Non, il ne savait pas qu'on allait avoir ce problème ? Le fait qu'il y a un manque d'emploi à Rodrigues, on comprend pour ceux qui sont *very skilled*. On comprend. On comprend que pour les *very skilled*, peut-être qu'il n'y a pas à Rodrigues. On peut faire venir de l'extérieur. Mais on ne peut pas mettre nos Rodriguais dehors pour faire les travaux, remplacé par les gens de l'extérieur. On a parlé, je reviens là-dessus, des deux hôtels qu'on allait construire. Mais vous savez qu'est-ce qu'il y a derrière ça, Madame la Présidente ?

Je prends mes responsabilités. Il y a de la spéculation. Je ne peux pas le prouver mais je suis témoin qu'il y a eu spéculation sur les terrains qu'a donné ce Gouvernement à un promoteur et que faites-vous ? Lorsqu'on a posé la question au Parlement, pourquoi ne pas donner ce terrain-là à plusieurs Rodriguais comme l'a expliqué le Commissaire Payendee hier ? Pourquoi ? Moi, je peux vous renseigner. Je peux vous dire le chiffre qu'on a demandé. Je ne répéterai pas ici. C'est un chiffre énorme ! Vous n'allez même pas croire ce chiffre ! Mais je ne vais pas le dire. En privé, je peux vous le dire. Le SIDPR, où est le SIDPR ? On a parlé de réactualiser le SIDPR. Où est... On n'a même pas mentionné le SIDPR. Rapport de l'audit. Bon, allez lire aussi le Rapport de l'audit. Et là, Madame la Présidente, on a aussi des appréhensions concernant des menaces possibles pour l'autonomie de Rodrigues. Qu'est-ce je veux dire par là ?

Est-ce que l'autonomie de Rodrigues est en régression ? Qu'est-ce qui se passe ? Comment est-ce qu'on peut qualifier la reprise de ARL par AML ? Comment est-ce qu'on peut comprendre ? Vous allez me dire... Qu'est-ce que vous allez me dire ? Il y a question de budget, de machin ? *Bé pa kapave pren larzan la avoy sa ?* Nous sommes dans le même République. On voit maintenant le Premier ministre venir donner des chèques. Est-ce que ne vous venez pas donner des chèques, vous ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas tentative ? Je dis, ce sont des appréhensions que nous avons et nous tenons à les exprimer. Est-ce que ce ne sont pas des tentatives de contrôle ou bien réduire l'autonomie de Rodrigues que nous sommes contre ? Et même, je me rappelle du Ministre mentor qui est venu dire « *si pou vine baigne zot Rodrigues* ». Ça ne se dit pas. Il ne faudrait pas faire...

Que font les membres de l'Assemblée, encore une fois, que font les membres de l'Assemblée nationale ? Ça fait longtemps ou bien je n'ai jamais entendu quelqu'un dire que l'honorable X, l'honorable Y pose une question à l'Assemblée nationale, dans l'intérêt de Rodrigues. Je n'ai jamais entendu. Je me pose la question : qu'est-ce qu'ils font ? Madame la Présidente, la fonction publique à Rodrigues. Où se situe la fonction publique actuellement dans cette marche vers la consolidation de l'autonomie de Rodrigues ? Où se trouvent ces gens-là ? On entend beaucoup de choses. On voit les fonctionnaires sur Facebook qui expriment. On voit même des Commissaires qui disent les fonctionnaires sont paresseux. *I can substantiate*. Il y a sur un portable là. Je peux vous montrer. Commissaire dire... Oui, *I can substantiate*. *I am tabling the mobile phone*. *I am tabling this mobile phone*.

Madam Chairperson: No, this is not allowed. I am afraid you have to come with a substantive Motion in that case.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Non mais li lor la. Nou done li...*

Madam Chairperson: For the conduct of the Commissioner....

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Okay. I try to table but you do not want, yes.* Mais si on dit des choses pareilles, quelle est la portée de ces choses ? Et le Chef commissaire a dit, peut-être il a raison, il a dit que nous avons, je lis à la page trois, je cite : *‘Madame la présidente, nous atouts principaux sont les hommes et les femmes de ce pays.’* Fin de citation. Les hommes et des femmes de ce pays qui sont traitées par des gens de paresseux. Traités de paresseux, est-ce que c’est motivant ? Est-ce que c’est... Je peux dire que c’est frustrant les gens qui disent des choses pareilles sur les fonctionnaires. Il y en a même qui ont été à l’ICAC, pour mettre des fonctionnaires à l’ICAC. Il y en a même qui ont fait des choses, qui ont été dans un jardin à dire... Mon ami Richard, il a dit à quelqu’un : voilà, telle affaire, telle affaire.

Madam Chairperson: You are still reminded about...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, I am completing my speech, please.* Qu’en est-il du « *Marquees Saga* » ? *Marquees* pas payés. Est-ce que ça a été payé par l’administration ? *Marquees*. Je ne sais pas à quelle occasion. Malabar, c’était à Malabar. Le « *Saga Marquees* », ils ont loué, ils voulaient acheter mais la personne qui a loué voulait vendre et l’administration n’a pas voulu payer et je pense que là, il y a cette personne-là qui achète les *Marquees*.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I am having difficulties to relate your speech with that of the Chief Commissioner. So, please, redirect your speech towards the Chief Commissioner’s speech.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: L’importance, Madame la Présidente, c’est qu’on a... Je sais peut-être que vous avez raison mais l’importance, c’est qu’il y a aussi des choses à venir dire dans ce Parlement. Je comprends.

Madam Chairperson: If any Member from this House has any complaint, you come up with a point of order.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Je vais m'arrêter ici. Mais j'aimerais avant venir avec une réflexion. Qu'en est-il de l'autonomie et la liberté à Rodrigues ? De quelle liberté jouissons-nous à Rodrigues ? Je vois aussi que le mot 'liberté', qui est très important pour l'avancement d'un peuple, le mot 'liberté' ne se trouve pas dans le budget speech du Chef commissaire. Peut-être je me trompe mais j'ai cherché, je n'ai pas vu ce mot 'liberté'. Parce que mauvaise foi ne rime pas forcément avec 'liberté'. Il faut être libre, Madame la Présidente, pour pouvoir avancer, pour pouvoir se surpasser, pour dire que les gens de ce pays, ces hommes et ces femmes, sont des atouts. Il faut qu'on puisse être libre. Et là, le Chef commissaire, tout à l'heure, il va venir. Bon, il va faire le *summing up*. Il va dire des choses dans dix ans, 15 ans, 20 ans, *déboute lor nou lipieds*. Je comprends. Je le comprends mais il faut quand même revoir. Il faut quand même une bonne dose de bonne foi pour résoudre les problèmes de ce pays. Merci, Madame la Présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, respected Member. The Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the very first thing that any regular stranger or Member when coming in the Assembly will notice is the changes. The frame you and your colleagues, collaborators, the new apparatus, the new recruitment of the Deputy Clerk of course, which shows the emancipation of the women in Rodrigues and in the Republic as a whole. The new equipment for our best comfort, this is what a stranger will observe. But what has not changed? It is the rhetorical approach of the Minority Leader and his team. This is what has not changed so far, Madam Chairperson. They have not make a step ahead.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : *Ils n'ont pas franchi une nouvelle étape, Madame la Présidente.* No step ahead and this step, this *franchir cette nouvelle étape* which is the theme of last budget, Chief Commissioner's Budget Speech, which matches with the one that he has brought in this House last Friday: *Le Rodriguais Catalyseur de son Développement*. *Franchir une nouvelle étape*, Madame la Présidente, as I have said which constituted the theme of the last budget speech of the Chief Commissioner, is a natural logic of what he chooses this year: *Le Rodriguais Catalyseur de son Développement*. There is a threadlike link between last year's budget and this year's budget.

After proposing the population to make one step ahead, it is logical that it invites them to accelerate the development, to be an accelerator of development in Rodrigues. When I have listened to the Members of the Minority group, so many things have been said but I will ask them to ponder on one point. Thinking is easy, acting is difficult and to put one's thought into action is one of the most difficult thing that happens in this world. You have been in power. Before coming in this House, I have gone to read the *discours programme* of your party. I have gone through the different budget speeches that the different Chief Commissioners have made. You did have so many proposals; you did have so many projects. Where are these projects? Why is it that during your course in power, why is it that these projects have not been turned into reality?

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Why? Because thinking is easy. As you are doing here as Minority group, thinking is easy but acting is difficult.

[Interruptions]

Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, okay. Sorry, Madam Chairperson. The theme, Madam Chairperson, of this budget speech is: *Le Rodriguais, Catalyseur de son Développement*. As a chemist, I am swayed by this theme because my years at university and at college have reminded me/remind me of what are the characteristics of a catalyst? There are, in fact, three characteristics, Madam Chairperson, it speeds the reaction. A catalyst remains unaltered at the end of the reaction and the third thing is that a catalyst will not provoke a reaction that could not have occurred in the absence of a reaction. Yes, this is Chemistry and this is where now I am going to make you fly over a physical approach of what the Chief Commissioner wanted to tell this population...

Madam Chairperson: Deputy Chief Commissioner, please address the Chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: ...what the Chief Commissioner wants to show through his budget speech, yes. The first characteristic, Madam, catalysing a reaction means speeding a reaction. By so saying, the Chief Commissioner is inviting the population to accelerate and to be more professional in their work. The catalyst in this budget refers to the people. There are two approach with respect to this. We are telling the people to be catalysts of development but at the same time, we as Government, we are acting as a catalyst to help them in promoting what they endeavor in life. I give some examples, Madam Chairperson.

Maybe the Members of the Minority group has not understood what actually we wanted through this theme. When we increase the number of veterinary officers from two to five, what are we saying to this population? We are telling this population we are providing you means; we are providing you a catalyst so that you can improve your livestock. This is it! When we increase the number of technical staff by 11 in the Cadastral Office, what are we telling this population? We are telling this population that we are acting as a catalyst so that you can have lease at a faster rate so that you can build your residence at a faster rate, so that you can have land to build your small enterprises at a faster rate.

When we are recruiting 11 social workers, what are we telling this population? We are telling this population that we care for the poor, we care for the vulnerable and we are here to accompany you in what you are doing. When we are taking analyst for the Invest Rodrigues, what message are we sending to the population? We, Government, we are acting as catalyst for entrepreneurial activities. Family counselling officers, what are we telling this population? We are recruiting, we have made provisions for recruitment of hydrological officers and scientific officers in the water sector, what are we telling these people? What are we telling the population? These are clear messages, Madam, of how we as Government, I should say as responsible Government, we are giving encouragement and we are acting as catalysts for the whole part of the society.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The second characteristic that I would like to fresh upon: a catalyst remains unchanged at the end of the reaction. If I start with five grams of catalysts, I will end up with five grams of catalysts at the end of the reaction. What does this mean? *Zamé personne ine mort avec travail*. Nobody. Who can there confess in this House that someone dies because of overwork or hard work? Never. Have we ever heard of a public officer who died because he overworked? *Certainement pas, Madame la Présidente*. What we mean by this theme as regard to these characteristics, we are as Regional Government, providing additional means both financially and in the Human Resource, for the delivery of a better service to the population.

It is legitimate, Madam Chairperson, that if we are providing so many funds for increasing the number of public officers, that the population expects a good service from the Government. I remain perplexed here when I hear some trade unions who are reluctant in the application of the PMS in the public sector. There is a reluctance in Rodrigues and I believe that also in Mauritius as regard to the application of the Performance Management System in the public sector.

A work, a duty should be quantitatively and qualitatively measurable. I myself, as an Educator, my work has always been quantitatively and qualitatively measurable.

I always tell this to my officers when I am doing meetings at the Commission of Public Infrastructure. I tell them whenever I go to class, in January, I have a syllabus to complete up to December or October. This is the qualitative value that I have to perform during the year. And after the results, it can be measured also qualitatively. Why is it that we cannot measure the work of public officers? In terms of their performances, why not? It will be for the good of the society. It will be for the good of the population and it will be for the good of Rodrigues as a whole. And while performing better, as I have said, no one is going to be changed after one year, two years or three years, everything will remain unaltered.

The third characteristic, Madam Chairperson, a catalyst will not/cannot start a reaction but would not have occurred in its absence. If A does not react with B, adding a catalyst will not force A to react with B. Where is the philosophical thread in that? The thread is clear: *Aide-toi et le ciel t'aidera*.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This is the message behind this! We may provide whatever means, Madam Chairperson, but *si l'homme Rodriguais* is not willing to seize the opportunity, then, it is hopeless. *L'homme Rodriguais* should first has his eagerness to succeed, the initiative to do things. This is the start of the reaction and then, with the facilities provided by the Regional Government, the job is accelerated. We are merely propellers to boost, to thrust, to propel ideas and to help them move forward more serenely in life. This is about the theme of the Chief Commissioner, how, we from this side of the House, how we see matters. And as it is said, as regard to the last characteristic, God gives every bird its food but he does not throw it in its nest. God gives every bird its food every day but God does not take the food and throw it in the nest of the bird. He wakes up every day, go in search of its food and the afternoon or at night, he comes back to sleep after a hard day's work.

Participation, self-motivation: this is what we are requesting by the theme of this budget, Madam Chairperson. I come to the water sector because there are so many things which have been uttered during the debate. And the very first thing that I would like to react is about the obsession of the Minority Leader for Pistache Dam *et les petits barrages*. He invited me yesterday to go and read the report of Lux Development which of course I did, years back and

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while told me to do so, I think that he himself has not read it properly. I am going to substantiate.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am going to substantiate. Madam Chairperson, Pistache Dam. True to say to the Minority Leader in the Lux Development Report, there was the proposal and I read for the construction of the Pistache Dam. It is said...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of order, Madam. This is discussion of projects; not reading report 10 years back.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson...

Madam Chairperson: To which Standing Order are you referring to? If you cannot state which Standing Order you are referring to, so, the Point of Order is not valid. Deputy Chief Commissioner, you may proceed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There have been so many attacks made on that. Madam Chairperson, there are so many attacks made as regard to the construction of the Pistache Dam and as Commissioner for Water...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: You may proceed, Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes. What is proposed? Let me tell you what is proposed. I am coming to that. It is...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Second Island Region Member!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: It is stated, Madam Chairperson, it is stated there in the report: "It is therefore important to initiate further investigation in order to study the feasibility of large impounding reservoirs in

Rodrigues at sites such as Baie aux Huitres, Pavé La Bonté, Cascade Pigeon, Rivière Banane, Mourouk, Pistache among others.” This is Lux Report Consult of 2002. When we came in power in 2000... This is Lux Report of 2000, sorry. When we came in power in 2002, with all willingness to solve the problem of water in Rodrigues, we did request a feasibility study with respect to Pistache Dam. We did it even if the Minority Leader spoke about it, we initiated the feasibility report in 2002 while we were in power.

The recommendations which were done by Nisham Shant, there was a report submitted, of course, and from the report, we concluded that we cannot go ahead with the construction of the dam. It was put aside. Yes, there were three sites. Yes, you want me to read? Okay. Because you are... Sorry, Madam, there is misunderstood. They came in power in 2006, they thought that our report was biased, they asked for another report on the 07 April 2010 by Pierre Jérémie. They were in power and what did the report say? The report is clear. I am not going to go through the different points which have been raised. The conclusion is: *compte tenu des observations, la retenue de Pistache ne pourrait guère contribuer à la sécurisation de l'alimentation en eau de la population de Rodrigues.*

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: If you want a copy of the report, I can give you a copy of the report. If you want a copy because you told me to go and read the copy – I did and read it. If you want a copy of it, I can give you a copy of the report or I can table it.

Madam Chairperson: No personal conversation is allowed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I can table a copy of the report. *Mission Pierre Jérémie 17 au 12 avril 2010 à Rodrigues.* This is it. This is the first thing. The second thing, Madam Chairperson, is what is aberrant when I hear the Minority Leader coming and say desalination is not a solution for Rodrigues. Yes, it is not the solution, okay. It is not the solution but it is part of the solution. And, I am going to tell you...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, again, no personal conversation is allowed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: ...why and why as we stand now, desalination is the solution! This is what I am going to explain to you why as we stand now, desalination is the solution. I will refer back, Madam Chairperson, to the Lux Report that he himself told me to read. In this report,

you know what is said?: “On the other hand, desalination of seawater for domestic, agricultural and industrial use is an option that needs to be considered to satisfy the future requirement for Rodrigues as the construction of impounding reservoir is a lengthy process, taking into consideration the periods required for surveying the different sides: geotechnical investigation, designs and funding.” First thing.

Second thing, in the very Lux Report that he told me to read, it is said: ‘in order to satisfy the future demand of Rodrigues as well as cater for any future development that availability of adequate water supply is likely to spur, it is considered that three identical desalination plant each of 2000 m³ per day capacity be provided in Rodrigues. You told me to go and read it. I did by job work. In this very report, it is requested...

Madam Chairperson: Please address the Chair!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: It is requested to build, Madam Chairperson, as far back as 2000 to proceed with the construction of three by 2000 m³ per day of desalination plant. Yes, ok. We could have said that this report is biased. Once again, we could have said. We could have said that this report of 2000 is somehow biased but when I refer, Madam Chairperson...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: When I refer, Madam Chairperson, to the very report of 2010 when they were in power, they made a comparative study between the construction of a Pistache Dam and the construction of desalination plants. They asked for a comparative study. If we are going to build Pistache Dam, what will be the value? If we are going to build a 7000 m³ of desalinated plants, what will be the value? The conclusion is clear. It is said:

‘Le souhait exprimé par les autorités mauriciennes de solliciter l’appui de l’Union Européenne sous forme d’une subvention dans le cadre du troisième volet de facilité pour 2010, ainsi que le souhait exprimé par la Banque Européenne d’Investissement de participer au financement du projet, nous a emmené à proposer un programme d’investissement plus ambitieux, permettant de couvrir l’ensemble des besoins en eau potable de Rodrigues en proposant de prendre en compte la construction d’une unité de dessalement de 7000 m³.’

That was the report of your party in 2010. *Commandité par votre parti en 2010.* Now, you are telling me, Madam Chairperson, to go and look for

finance from European Union, from COI, from AFD, from the Government of Mauritius for the construction of Pistache Dam? But the very first question that they are going to ask me: what does the report say? What does the report say? I have to come with proof and what does the report say? I have read it to you. Madam Chairperson...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I do agree that we have been confronted with major challenges during the year 2017 as regard to the Water Sector but nobody has dared to say when proposing or even criticising, that we did face one of the worst drought season in 2017. Nobody said that. *C'est de l'hypocrisie, Madame.* I remember when I took office in February 2017, we were already in a crisis situation. It rained I think by 50 mm³ in... At the end of April, I remember that very well 29, 30 *avril juste avant le 01 mai*, there was quite a high intensity rainfall and then we got another rain in mid October, *le 15 octobre* and then, we have got very sparse rain 5 mm – 10 mm which is of no use as regard to the increase in the production of water nor for the increase in production of surface of borehole water.

Of course, I cannot give what I do not have. But what we have lived in 2017 has given me the drive to say that we have to do our utmost best to resolve that problem of water as far and as quick as possible. This is why the objective that we have set for this year and it is achievable, we have set for a constant production of water of 8000 m³ whether in the dry or whether in the wet season. Of course, during the wet season, we are going to have bonuses from the rain but during the dry season, our production should stabilise to 8000 m³ of water per day. This is the objective.

So, the very first thing to reach this objective is what? The very first objective is we should go for what is sure and what is sure is the implementation of desalination plant. If you go and make a research worldwide, Madam Chairperson, go to South Africa. In Cape Town, these days, they have declared what is termed as a zero-day. The zero-day means coming on the 12 July, Cape Town will not be able to give one litre of water to one person. And what is South Africa doing? South Africa is rushing for the construction of desalination plant. Go and see to Maldives what is happening there! Go to Maldives, see what is happening there! In the Seychelles which is closer to us, see what is happening there, why! And, this is what you have to understand, there is the effect of the climate change which renders rainfall uncertain.

The change in the climate is rendering rainfall uncertain. So, when we have uncertainty, we as men, we should make sure that we come to something which is certain. And, this is what returns control: desalination of water. And, there is one thing that we are sure. *La mer zamé pou sec, sa seki nou sir*. This is certain. So, this is why we have opted in the first instance to increase the production to 4000 m³ up to December 2018 and we are going to couple this with our surface water, when we are going to couple this with our borehole, our water from boreholes, this will add up to 8000 m³ per day. I am pleased to announce in this House, Madam Chairperson, that the budgetary measures for the installation of all the plants in Rodrigues will amount to no less than Rs 206 m. for Rodrigues for this financial year.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: 206 millions. And, I elaborate. 500 m³ desalination à Songes already awarded – Rs72 millions. We have got financial assistance for construction of 240 m³ at Caverne Bouteille. I think it is in the Rs 83 m. The works for Pointe Coton and Baie Malgache will amount to some Rs 130 m. When we add all these, we are going to invest massively in that. Because what we are proposing here, it relates also to with what we started and that we should not forget the budget theme: *Le Rodriguais Catalyseur de ce Développement*. If we are able to come with water, there are so many sectors: economic, entrepreneurship that will have a span positive effects in the life of so many people. And, our objective as spelt by the Commissioner for Agriculture yesterday is that at a particular point in time, water, we should have a Distribution Network System for Agriculture.

When we have put all these desalination plants in place, those water that have to be treated these days, small reservoirs, these water will go for agriculture and the planters will definitely be able to boost up their agricultural production and we are going to use desalination water mainly for domestic purposes in the house of people. This is our vision! The second thing that has been stated so many times is about the partnership that we want to make with the private sector. Yes, I only hope that I do not get missed up. Yes, as regard to this, the Lux Development report states nowadays in 2000, Madam, nowadays, it is possible to obtain a desalination plant on a BOO/BOT basis. The client, at that time, it was Ministry for Rodrigues, we need to pay only for the services. This option is in our view, the best for Rodrigues.

In view of solving the water supply problems, being encountered in a reasonable period of time. That was in 2000. They were speaking of build, operate and own, build, operate and transfer. This is the type of relationship that we are seeking with the private sector which is different as regard to the

water company. There is a big difference in the concept and in the application. There is a big difference! What we are proposing, Madam Chairperson, we have got the chart. Distribution of water will remain with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. There is no privatisation as some people are trying to divulgate in the public. Distribution remains our concern. Boreholes and surface water remains under our custody.

What we are merely providing is the maintenance and the operation of the desalination plant to have a more efficient outcome. Because we know very well, whenever there is breakdown on the desalination plant, how long it takes to recoup for the equipment and working in a partnership with a private sector will definitely accelerate, catalyse procedures for the maintenance and operation of the desalination plants. This is the idea. We are not privatising the water sector. I want to make it clear. We are not privatising the water sector; we are providing the operation and the maintenance cost at a fixed cost to a private sector for a determined number of time. And, what is important also, Madam Chairperson, we are not so foolish.

We are in the idea of incorporating while this private sector, the Contractor is operating, we will include a clause to state that the BOT will comprise of a capacity-building component. And, the capacity-building component will be the training of our staff, of the Commission for Water Resources. They are going to be trained, they are going to monitor together with the private sector how to operate the desalination plant so that when the contract of a private sector, of the Contractor is over, our staff is fully equipped technically and they can take over the whole thing back to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Is not that great? This is the idea.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam, it is right. Madam Chairperson, there are two things that determine a weak mind: to be silent when you need to speak and to speak when you have to remain silent. This determines a weak mind: to speak when you have to be silent and to be silent when you have to speak. So, I have spoken about the total investment, I have spoken about the challenge that are being faced by so many countries around the world. This is why I can conclude on that by saying that desalination remains a reliable, long-term water supply. Yes, it does allow for Rodrigues which is a water-stressed area, to provide constantly water to its population. And, I forgot to add also in the BOT that we want to have with the private sector, we will ensure that they incorporate the renewable energy component with the desalination.

We all know about the lengthy procedures of procurements that Government has to undergo. The desalination plants, themselves, are examples of problems that we have faced since I think, 2013 as there were lengthy procedures. The incorporation of the renewable...

This is the first attack for a durability in the system. We, of course, have the water development plan which is coming for Rodrigues and here, we are setting our objective up to 2040. Up to 2040, we are making a plan *jusqu'à 2040*. And we have had in the month of February these coping mission of WAPCOS Ltd., a company from India, they have fielded a mission here. They have already provided, I should say, a preliminary report, technical report of where they want to go. The Minority Leader is right in saying that so many have been said in different reports. Of course, we are going to take previous reports into consideration and consider and compare it with what WAPCOS is going to provide us but our experts, engineers in the field in Rodrigues will be *partie prenante du système*. *Ça, c'est clair*. They will never be out. This is the second attack. The third attack as it has been spelt out in the budget speech, it is our policy of continuing with the rain water harvesting system. Formerly, up to now we have been providing *les bassins* up to a capacity of 4 m³. We are making revolution here. We are now telling the Rodriguans, we are now telling the people that 4 m³ is no longer that much. It is high time that now you move to 10 m³ of water. We move to 10 m³ and we have made projections/provisions in the budget that we are going to finance 400 families and 50 Small and Medium Enterprises and the Small Medium Enterprises can have a capacity of up to 50 m³ of water.

You know what I tell people, they used to say that we in Rodrigues, we have water once every month or once every 35 days and some people who come abroad especially those from Mauritius, they are shocked – how do you cope with it? We cope with it because our system is different. Those persons who are having a 24/7 water distribution, they do not have any stock of water at their places but our system is different. What do we do? I provide you with the water instead of stocking it, instead of government stocking it and giving it to your everyday, I provide you with water and by using the water that has been provided, you manage to use it on a 24/7-day basis. This is our specificity. And, I am sure that everybody here, we are not getting water every day but when I go to my kitchen in the morning, maybe only one Member, but when I go in my kitchen after work, there is water. I go at one in the morning, there is water. When I wake up, there is water. On Monday, there is water. On Sundays, there is water. So, we are somehow managing our water as per our specificity on a 24/7 days. This is why with our objective of coming up of providing water on a once every week, our objective is to make sure that each and every family will have 4 m³ of water per week based on the United Nations

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recommendation of 150 litres of water per family per person per day. Per person per day – 4 m³ and, I am here and I am pleased to announce today in this House, Madam Chairperson. I know that in the south, *dan region numero 1*, they are the most suffered persons/people. I am telling this House, that as from the month of May, villages of Mt. Croupier, villages of Anse Quitor, villages of Dans Coco will be served with water once every week.

[Applause]

And I will opt also for Camp Pintade which will move from an average of 30, 25 to 30 days, we are going to bring water to the inhabitants of Camp Pintade once every fortnight pending the construction of all the desalination plants which are coming. We will jot it back to, down to once every week. Because, Madam Chairperson, there is a pragmatic and scientific work which is being done. In the south, we have 3740 families requiring 15,000 m³ *delo toulé semaines*. Our production right now does not allow this but when Songes will provide us with 500 m³ coupled with Caverne Bouteille, coupled with Baie Malgache and from Anse Raffin, we will be able to have that volume that will provide the families of the south with water once every week. Achievable. Many has also been said about the construction of the *fontaine public*. I will not discuss on the matter but to inform the House that the contract has already been awarded since two months back. The fibre glass water tanks are already in Rodrigues. If you go to *Ti Brulé* near the reservoir, we have the fibre glass water tanks which are already in Rodrigues.

[Applause]

It is already there. You can check it out. Yes. We are still in the... we are still, yes. *Maintenant*, it is worth noting also, Madam Chairperson, that we have spared no effort as regards to the finding of additional water sources. This is why we have put into operations so many boreholes, I think at least, seven. We have drilled a new borehole at Mt. Croupier and this new borehole will provide water to Mt. Croupier once every week. We have found boreholes which has never been in operation at Citronelle, Maréchal, Gravières. We have put back into operation Anse Quitor, St. Gabriel. With all these measures, Madam Chairperson, we feel confident and we are confident. We are on our way.

[Applause]

Now, we will take some time, Madam Chair, to give some information that has been requested. Yesterday, Respected Member Perrine, informed or requested that we have to prove the number of recruitment that has been made

in the public sector. Our projection up to June 2018 is that we are going to recruit 575 persons in the public sector. Up to from March 2017 to March 2018, we have recruited 284.

[Applause]

Interviewed in January 2018 and recently appointed – 49. Interviewed in January 2018 and awaited reply from PSC – 23. I know that there are interviews that are going on for the General Workers and, I am informed that there will be some 112 that will be recruited up to June 2018. This will add up to 575, which is part of our engagement and part of our promise that we made that we are going to create 950 jobs during financial year 2017/2018. It is done!

[Applause]

It is done, Madam Chair. There were also allegations made as regard to land. As far as my information goes and as far as I am informed, the land that was referred by Respected Member Perrine, includes an arrangement that was made with land owners, with two land owners who have got private land at Montagne Fanal. Both lands were traded off for new road and track road purposes. So, instead of compensating the owners, they were relocated at St. François. I will not going to name the person because I am not sure if the information given to me is the same what the Member was requesting. And, then also, they spoke about I believe, 31,000 m² of land which were provided at St. François. I have here the name of a company which was provided with 42,983 m² of water in 2009. Yes... *Non, 42,983 m² la ter ti donné en 2009 à Fumier, Anse Ally.* Yes, and additionally 2,552 m² was given to the same person in 2010. Yes, there has been during the course of time, some tug of war between the promoter and the RRA. But the latest information is that a cancellation letter *de plein droit* was issued in March 2018 for failure to start construction within the given period. We are recouping the land.

I now come, Madam Chairperson, to the transport system. Everybody will agree that we are modernising *les transports en commun à Rodrigues*. It is visible through the Bus Modernisation Scheme. Why is it? Because Road Safety remains a top priority for this Regional Government. *La sécurité routière*. It remains a top priority for this government. When did you last see a new bus on the road before the coming of the last five ones? It was so long. And, I remember I came to this Assembly last year and, I stated in this House that I am going to fight so that bus owners in Rodrigues will obtain the Bus Modernisation Scheme. We did it, Madam Chairperson. We did it. Five new buses has been brought to Rodrigues and these persons have been allocated Rs 1 m grant. Rs 1 m. Not only Rs 1 m, they are also benefitting of up to Rs 75,000

for freight, for shipping the buses from Mauritius to Rodrigues. Is that not catalysing the Rodriguans? Is that not catalysing the Rodriguans?

There was an issue that was raised yesterday by Member Respected Rosaire Perrine. He stated that and it is a fact, that in Mauritius on the purchase of a new bus, the bus owners is exempted from the payment of VAT. They are exempted. That is right. But I know from information of my Commission that the Regulations for the coming into force of that facility is yet to be published. So, forcibly when the Regulation is to be published by the Minister for Transport in Mauritius, we are going to make it a must and to ensure that this facility is also given to the bus owners in Rodrigues. So, they are in the possibility of getting up to Rs 400,050 additionally if they will be exempted if ever from the tax exemption. So, we are there to *modernise*, Madame la présidente, et *professionnalise en même temps l'industrie du transport*. And, in this same vein, you will have noticed that as per Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner, we have been able to get the transfer of the scheme under this budget and there is a provision of Rs 7 m in this budget for 2018/2019. What does this mean? This means that for 2018/2019, we can have seven new buses on our roads. *Purement neuf*. New. And the objective of my Commission is that by year 2022, our automobile park of the bus industry should have been renewed by 60 to 70%. This is our objective. Because next year, we are going to put some Rs 7 to Rs 8 m. Every year, we are going to renew the bus industry, the buses by seven/eight so that within time, we have a fleet of buses which is new, secured for the consumers and for the passengers.

As regards to roads, Madam Chairperson, it is true that we have not added any new road for construction next financial year. One should not be greedy, there are projects in other Commissions. At the level of my Commission, there are Rs 2006 m. for the water sector. I believe that other Commissions also need funds for their projects and one should not bite more than one can chew. So, this is why in our wisdom, we have said that for this year 2017, 2018 and 2019, we are going to concentrate on the construction of the roads that was announced last year, namely, completion of Camp Pintade, which is going to be completed within this financial year. We have already allocated works order for Rivière Banane to Brulé. Next, we are moving to Montagne Malgache/Port Sud-Est and then, Rivière Coco/Songes. This is our road map. Clear. This is our road map. And, I can also inform this Assembly, that the Executive Council, two weeks back, have given its approval for the upgrading of the following roads which will add up to about Rs 20/Rs 25 m, Grand La Fouche Corail/Reposoir, Terre Borne/Manique, Malartic/St. Gabriel, Camp du Roi/Frère Remy and Pointe Monier/Maison des Pêcheurs. We have got the approval of the Executive Council for these.

[Applause]

Donc, comme mentionné dans le budget, Madame la présidente, nous avons une enveloppe de Rs125 million pour la construction des infrastructures publiques, pour la construction des routes et démarrer les routes que j'ai mentionnées pour l'année financière pour 2018-2019.

Madam Chairperson: Have you got for long Deputy Chief Commissioner?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: If you can allow me five additional minutes?

Madam Chairperson: Okay, you have it.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes. The question about the 9050, *l'emploi*, we have explained. They do not believe in the revamping of the *Bureau l'Emploi*. They think that what we are proposing is simply a registration by line. The revamping of the *Bureau l'Emploi*, as have been stipulated in the budget and as have been worked by the Commission for Labour, will change the whole system of accompanying those who are in search of work. *Même en France, on voit en ce moment, Madame la présidente. Le pôle emploi en France subit une transformation complète et c'est un peu dans même sens que la Commission de l'emploi bouge de l'avant.*

The Respected Member, Perrine spoke yesterday about 24 projects not completed and then he went up to 35. One thing I would like to add is that the financial year of 2017-2018 is not yet over. This is one matter. This is one thing. And, the second thing that I would like to add also is that, what he has just stated mean that it has been done. I remember that during his opening speech, the Minority Leader spoke about the Capital Budget which has remained at Rs 825 m. *Et, il dit on a eu une claque du Gouvernement centrale*, because we are not spending here. This is a turn of language, Madam Chairperson. Because last year, when the budgetary measure for capital expenditure increases, he never even tell this House that because we are doing good work this is why the government is providing us with additional fund. And, we are going to see for next year. If ever, there is additional funds, if there is additional sum which is given above the Rs 825 m, then you should have the courage to come and say next year, yes you have done a good job. This is why the government has given you additional sum. And, your concept of inflation, I did go and verify that also. The inflation for 2017 is 4.23% and that of 2018 is 4.928%. I know that there are Economists in this country, in this House. What is the real effect? What is the real effect? 825, it is the absolute value that has

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been provided to this House but one thing that you have to bear in mind is that, we are getting additional funds from government for MARS. It is not in the budget. It is not in the budget, for MARS. For drains at Camp du Roi, NDU, SME Park, the coming of the airport. This will lead to our Capital Expenditure for Rodrigues going almost to Rs 1 billion.

[Applause]

May be even Rs 2 billion. I am saying Rs 1 billion. Yes, Rs 1 billion, I am sure. *Enan telment zafer ti capave repone zot, mo pa capave pa lir pou moi avan.* Anyway, Madam Chairperson, we know where we are heading. As I have told you, our road map is clear. The theme is well set. It is now up to the people for Rodrigues to seize the opportunity to catalyse what the Chief Commissioner has said – “*être le moteur, être le catalyseur de son développement*”. *Merci beaucoup.*

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Deputy Chief Commissioner. I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.38 p.m. the Assembly was suspended for one hour for lunch.

On its resumption at 13.51 p.m. with Madam Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner.

SUSPENSION OF S.O 9(3)

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

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

SUMMING UP

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, je remercie tous ceux et toutes celles qui dans cette Assemblée, ont pris la parole pour débattre sur le budget 2018/2019. Je remercie plus spécialement mes collègues commissaires et les membres du côté de la majorité pour leurs interventions, où chacun et

chacune ont interprété le budget d'une manière très visionnaire et très concrète. Madame la Présidente, ce budget, je l'ai lu une deuxième fois mais je voudrais dire ici quand nous avons créé le parti Organisation du Peuple de Rodrigues (OPR) en 1976, le 03 avril 1977, nous avons organisé un congrès et au cours de ce congrès, les résolutions suivantes ont été prises :

« OPR est une organisation visant le développement de Rodrigues par les Rodriguais eux-mêmes, reconnaît aux Rodriguais la capacité de penser son développement et d'être responsable de son avenir. OPR veut installer à Rodrigues une mentalité créatrice et productrice, bannissant ainsi la mentalité d'assister qui est néfaste pour l'avenir du pays. OPR croit que c'est dans un engagement concret qu'elle peut mieux toucher le peuple de Rodrigues, le saisir, le comprendre, savoir ses besoins, l'aimer et travailler avec lui, travailler dur dans la liberté, la justice et l'amour au profit de Rodrigues. »

Madame la Présidente, cette vision depuis tant d'années, nous l'avons toujours eue dans tout ce que nous faisons : une vision d'avenir et surtout, une vision où nous disions que le développement de Rodrigues doit être fait par les Rodriguais eux-mêmes. C'est pourquoi le titre de notre budget 2018/2019 : *'Le Rodriguais catalyseur de son développement'*. C'est-à-dire, le Rodriguais est capable et surtout, pour sortir d'une mentalité assistée, pour avoir une mentalité de producteur et une mentalité créatrice. C'est notre vision d'avenir que ce soit dans les années passées, que ce soit dans les années à venir. Nous avons dit : il faut franchir une nouvelle étape. Il faut encore franchir d'autres étapes mais dans l'action de franchir ces nouvelles étapes, il y a ce qu'on appelle, la capacité des Rodriguais, des femmes et des hommes. Et aujourd'hui, c'est pourquoi à travers ce budget, beaucoup de décisions ont été prises même surtout pour les jeunes afin que ces jeunes soient des responsables de leur avenir.

Il y a une chose, Madame la présidente, c'est ce qui a été mis en exergue dans ce budget. C'est plutôt l'éducation. Il y a une différence entre l'éducation et l'instruction et autre chose, la formation. Très important : l'éducation et la formation. Cette éducation qui commence à partir du pré-primaire même dans les écoles, nous avons introduit depuis 1982 quand j'étais ministre de Rodrigues, les îles, nous avons introduit des jardins scolaires dans les écoles mêmes dans les pré-primaires où les enfants apprennent justement à travailler la terre. Mais malheureusement, il y a des gens, des politiciens qui ont dit : *« Au lieu ki Serge Clair done ou ene travay, li dir ou ale travay la terre »*. Alors, c'est pourquoi nous disons, Madame la Présidente, que travailler la terre, ce n'est pas une honte. Même tous ceux qui vont à l'université et lorsqu'ils retournent, malheureusement, l'université est trop académique. Il faudrait que ces Rodriguais justement, puissent arriver à se lancer dans une entreprise. Et c'est

pourquoi au niveau de la formation, nous essayons de faire le *placement* de ces Rodriguais qui sortent de l'université, qui vont dans les entreprises pour apprendre, pour avoir l'expérience de l'entrepreneuriat.

Voyez-vous, Madame, il n'y a pas de doutes que le Rodriguais doit être vraiment le catalyseur de son développement et il ne faudrait pas qu'il croit d'avoir été à l'université, on doit toujours aller travailler dans un bureau. On voit partout dans le monde comment. J'ai été aux États-Unis, partout, en France, en Allemagne, partout et qui on voit sur son tracteur ? C'est quelqu'un qui a été à l'université. C'est lui qui cultive sa terre et c'est pourquoi au niveau de l'agriculture, il y a beaucoup de *schemes* qui ont été mis entre les mains des Rodriguais, même des jeunes qui ont été à l'université, ils peuvent acheter un motoculteur. Si ce motoculteur coûte Rs100 000, on leur donne Rs75 000, pas tout en cadeau. Alors, c'est justement cette politique, cette vision d'avenir pour l'île Rodrigues et c'est pourquoi nous disons que Rodrigues doit être un pays, un pays où les Rodriguais ont montré leurs efforts et ces efforts sont reconnus au niveau national et international.

Nous avons reçu tout dernièrement un prix, une récompense pour l'Assemblée régionale. J'ai été recevoir cette récompense donnée par le Défi Média pour la décision que nous avons prise, l'Assemblée régionale, pour la décision qu'on a prise pour bannir les sacs plastics. Ce n'est pas juste là. Nous allons continuer à faire de notre île Rodrigues, une île écologique, une île propre et c'est pourquoi l'éducation doit toujours se faire à l'école à partir des enfants, aux collèges, partout. On doit faire les Rodriguais prendre conscience que ce pays est entre leurs mains et que c'est à eux justement de se mettre debout sur leurs deux pieds et ne pas avoir honte pour faire n'importe quel travail. Madame la Présidente, quand nous avons mené le combat pour l'autonomie de Rodrigues, il y a un parti politique qui a mené un combat contre l'autonomie de Rodrigues. Justement, il y a quelqu'un qui a dit : il vaut mieux un ministre que l'autonomie. Alors justement, ils n'ont pas compris cette vision d'autonomie, c'est quoi l'autonomie. Et c'est justement, c'est ça.

Quand Maurice a eu son indépendance, qui a développé Maurice ? Ce sont les Mauriciens. Donc, il y a une possibilité. C'est là justement. Regarde Maurice aujourd'hui, ce que Maurice est devenu aujourd'hui en célébrant les 50 ans de l'indépendance. Madame la Président, je me pose toujours la question. Nous avons eu l'autonomie en 2002, nous avons commencé notre travail mais malheureusement, nous avons commencé un travail et on parle de dessalement. Mon collègue a parlé de dessalement tout à l'heure-là et justement, en 2005, nous avons lancé une étude pour le dessalement d'eau de mer à Mourouk mais malheureusement, Madame la Présidente, nous n'avons pas eu cinq ans. Nous avons eu que trois ans. Il y a un parti qui a pris le pouvoir avec des transfuges

et ils ont eu le pouvoir en 2011 et 2006 et ensuite, pendant cinq ans, qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait ? Madame la Présidente, j'aurais voulu, *on a point of order*, qu'on ne m'interroge pas, qu'on reste tranquille. Moi, je ne les ai écoutés tranquillement.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, on a point of order from the Chief Commissioner, I will request from you all, silence during the Chief Commissioner's summing up.

The Chief Commissioner: Je me pose la question, Madame la Présidente. Ils ont pris le pouvoir en 2011... 2006, pardon, 2006 jusqu'à 2011 nous avons eu le pouvoir en 2012. Je me suis posé la question : qu'ont-ils fait pendant cinq ans ? Qu'ont-ils fait, Madame la présidente ? J'ai deux ou trois exemples. S'ils avaient continué ce projet de dessalement de mer à Mourouk, si nous étions là pour cinq ans, ce projet aurait été concrétisé et aujourd'hui, quand je dis partout à Rodrigues, si nous étions là, ce projet concrétisé, on aurait eu aujourd'hui 12 000 m³ d'eau « *dessalinée* ». Que ce soit l'eau pour les besoins domestiques, pour l'agriculture, pour les animaux, on aurait eu 12 000 m³ d'eau « *dessalinée* ». Mais malheureusement, ils n'ont pas continué ce projet de dessalement.

Aussi, Madame la Présidente, dans notre vision, c'est décentraliser Port Mathurin, décentraliser, que des services soient donnés à travers Rodrigues. Ainsi, nous avons donné un bail à AEL DDS en 2005 ou 2006 pour l'installation d'une station d'essence. Et puis, ils ont eu le pouvoir. Qu'ont-ils dit/fait ? Rien. Quand nous sommes arrivés en 2012, c'est à ce moment-là qu'on a demandé à AEL DDS qu'ils ont eu la terre, d'installer ces stations d'essence. *Vrai pa vrai* ? Ensuite, décentraliser. Nous avons été à Grand La Fouche Corail. Là aussi, AEL DDS a mis une station d'essence pour permettre à des gens dans le sud d'avoir de l'essence au lieu de voyager pour venir à Port Mathurin ou à Mont Lubin et tout ça justement. Dernièrement, ensuite, nous avons mis une station d'essence à Baie Lascars. Qu'ont-ils fait ?

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Qu'ont-ils fait ? Ils ont pris ce bail, ils ont donné à un proche d'un politicien pour construire un bâtiment à deux étages qui est aujourd'hui, un fantôme.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la Présidente, qu'est-ce qui va se passer bientôt ? La station d'essence de Port Mathurin va bouger pour aller à

Pointe L'Herbe et les gens d'Anse aux Anglais, dans le nord, au lieu... S'il y avait ces stations d'essence à Baie Lascars, ça aurait été facile pour eux. Si demain, cette station d'essence de Port Mathurin se déplace à Pointe L'Herbe, ils seront obligés de traverser toute la ville pour aller à Pointe L'Herbe prendre de l'essence. Voyez-vous, Madame la Présidente, beaucoup de choses qui aurait dû être faites mais qui n'ont pas été faites pendant les cinq ans. Mais seulement, nous allons continuer à être fidèles à notre vision, cette île Rodrigues, 104 km². Aujourd'hui, avec des bourses qu'on a données à des Rodriguais, nous avons nos médecins Rodriguais.

Ensuite, nous aurons nos spécialistes Rodriguais et on va continuer à donner des bourses justement pour la médecine encore. La France va donner des bourses, tout ça. Là, nous travaillons avec l'Australie, pour que l'Australie donne aussi des bourses, le Sud-Afrique. Tout ça, on est en train de travailler parce qu'il nous faudra que cette population de 40000 habitants puisse avoir justement tous les services nécessaires et surtout, que nos jeunes soient formés. La formation est un secteur très important. Que nos jeunes soient formés pour être des compétences dans tous les domaines et surtout au niveau de produire, transformer et exporter. On a vu ces derniers temps et comment justement, l'*agribusiness* marche bien et qu'on exporte à Maurice nos produits agroalimentaires très appréciés à Maurice et quand les Mauriciens viennent ici, ils apprécient aussi ces produits agroalimentaires.

Et c'est pourquoi, Madame la Présidente, ce budget va dans le sens de cette vision que nous avons pour cette île Rodrigues et sa population. Et c'est pourquoi nous voudrions ce que nous avons dit en 1977, nous ne voudrions pas que Rodrigues soit installée dans une mentalité assistée. Ce n'est pas le propre de l'homme et de la femme, d'être des assistés. N'importe qui dans ce pays peut faire quelque chose, peut même planter, peut même recueillir nos légumes. Et là, je suis d'accord, qu'on va passer des règlements par rapport aux légumes qui viennent de Maurice. Et justement, c'est ce que les Rodriguais disent. Quand vous achetez un giraumon de Maurice, vous mettez un giraumon de Rodrigues là, quand vous mettez votre doigt dans le giraumon de Maurice, votre doigt rentre dans le giraumon et quand vous mettez votre doigt dans le giraumon de Rodrigues, c'est votre doigt qui se casse.

Ça se comprend que justement, l'utilisation... Moi, autre fois, j'habitais à Vacoas et à côté de La Bastille, j'ai vu des Mauriciens utiliser du fertilisant, ils utilisent beaucoup les fertilisants comme ça, ici là-bas. Et quand vous achetez une laitue, vous mettez dans votre frigidaire, le lendemain, la laitue est devenue noir. Et c'est ça qu'il faut faire attention à Rodrigues. Que ce soit les insecticides, les fertilisants, c'est pourquoi nous disons il faut développer l'élevage et apprendre aux Rodriguais à ne pas lâcher leurs animaux. Quand

l'animal sort, part... Je peux dire en créole, Madame ? Alors, *li ale kaka partout*. L'éleveur perd le caca du bœuf. Vous comprenez là ? Tandis que si notre projet d'aider les éleveurs à construire des parcs et ensuite, aller couper de l'herbe pour donner aux animaux, donc, on peut recueillir leurs excréments et c'est comme ça que nos agriculteurs ont été en Inde justement pour apprendre l'agriculture bio. *Zéro budget*, merci.

Alors, voilà, Madame la Présidente, tout ça, c'est pourquoi aussi je pense mon collègue, Richard Payendee, a parlé beaucoup de recherche. La recherche. Il faut toujours rechercher, faire de la recherche que ce soit au niveau de l'entrepreneuriat, Madame Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis. Pour faire de la recherche que ce soit au niveau du sport, il faut faire de la recherche. Il faut toujours visionner que ce soit au niveau de la santé aussi, il faut faire de la recherche. Ça, je leur dis toujours et je dis ça toujours aux étudiants lorsqu'ils quittent leurs collèges, de continuer à lire, de continuer à faire de la recherche et ça, c'est très important et il ne faut pas cesser. On peut aller beaucoup plus loin. Alors, voilà, Madame la Présidente, ce budget est la continuité de la vision que nous avons pour Rodrigues dans les années à venir.

Que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans, dans 10 ans, dans 20 ans, dans 50 ans ? Il faudrait que justement demain, nos jeunes qui vont ailleurs, partout et qui sont aujourd'hui, des médecins qui vont devenir des spécialistes, que ce soit au niveau de la recherche dans la santé, que ce soit la recherche au niveau de l'ingénierie tout ça. Il faudra, Madame la Présidente, que le budget puisse aider les jeunes d'aujourd'hui à s'ouvrir davantage au monde et à justement être au service de Rodrigues dans les années à venir. Alors, là, je vais terminer en relisant ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure-là. Une des résolutions du parti est une organisation. C'est une organisation visant le développement de Rodrigues par les Rodriguais eux-mêmes. Ça, c'est bien important. Nous reconnaissons aux Rodriguais la capacité de penser son développement et d'être responsable de son avenir. Il faut penser ce développement.

On ne peut pas toujours rester en place mais il faut toujours être à l'écoute. Au niveau, voilà par exemple, le changement climatique. Le changement climatique, c'est un élément à l'avenir qui va justement... On va le voir. Déjà on parle qu'il y aura... l'eau de mer va monter et que les glaciers dans le nord vont fondre et on a vu ça déjà aux Maldives, comment il y a des îles de Maldives justement qui sont envahies par l'eau de mer tout cela. Et il y a aussi au niveau de l'eau, la pluie. Qu'est-ce qui va se passer ? Nous ne savons pas. Et quand il y a une sécheresse, on a vécu cette sécheresse l'année dernière. Quand il y a cette sécheresse justement et c'est là où il nous faudra travailler un peu plus au niveau de l'eau, comment mettre de l'eau à la disposition de la population que ce soit par le dessalement, que ce soit par des forages et tout cela

et il faut apprendre aussi à la population de ramasser l'eau de pluie. Et c'est pourquoi nous avons mis toute sorte de facilité à la disposition des habitants du pays.

Madame la Présidente, ce budget montre clairement que nous voulons que le Rodriguais/la Rodriguaise vive une île Rodrigues de demain et que vraiment, ce Rodriguais/cette Rodriguaise soit un homme/une femme qui est devenu(e) capable de se mettre debout sur ses deux pieds et réaliser eux-mêmes le développement de ce pays. Catalyseur de son développement. Nous sommes tous catalyseur de notre développement et en même temps, il faut que notre pays soit un pays que nous même, nous protégeons, que nous Rodriguais, nous protégeons et que nous voulons montrer à la République de Maurice, aux îles de l'Océan Indien et dans le monde que nous aussi, nous pouvons faire des choses qui ne se font pas ailleurs. Je dois vous dire, Madame la Présidente, je vais terminer par là, quand nous avons pris la décision de bannir les sacs plastiques, j'ai eu des messages, des mails venant de tous les pays du monde, de La France, du Canada, des Etats-Unis nous féliciter pour cette décision à tel point que Maurice nous a copié.

Maurice aussi a banni le sac plastique et j'apprends aussi que La France aussi va bannir le sac plastique et aussi dans pas mal de pays d'Afrique, ils ont commencé. Alors, ce budget est un budget qui est le fruit d'une équipe. Nous avons travaillé ensemble et nous avons vu et moi-même personnellement, je ne suis pas trop intervenu. J'ai essayé de voir un peu comment mes collègues réfléchissent et là, j'ai vu des choses extraordinaires, que le Rodriguais a une intelligence extraordinaire et qu'il est capable d'aller beaucoup plus loin et de montrer ce dont il est capable. Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente.

[Applause]

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

COMMITTEE STAGE

Drafts Estimates Committee

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to make an announcement for the guidance of Members for the proceedings of the Draft Estimates Committee. In line with Standing Order 55A, we will consider each

vote item of expenditure in turn and as usual, when reaching same, we will move page by page until the question is put thereon. Respected Members, I have to further inform the House that I have under Standing Order 55A, paragraph 4, decided to allot a maximum of 30 minutes for the consideration of the vote items for the financial year ending 30th June 2019. Of course, I will be flexible where the need arises.

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk was called

The Minority Leader : Yes, Madam Chair. Page 2. Item 21110.001: Editor, Regional Assembly, Reporter, Regional Assembly and Assistant Reporter, Regional Assembly. I would like to know whether we are proposing to increase the numbers in order to have a better service to diminish the workload on the Clerk and the Staff.

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of salary July 2018 to June 2019 including increment January to June 2019 for six months. Editors will be recruited on a sessional basis to finalise debates.

The Minority Leader : The answer of the Chief Commissioner that this service will be better now, we will have more Reporters, more Editors, more Assistant Reporters?

The Chief Commissioner: Editors will be recruited on a sessional basis.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21111.100. Can I know more about the Overtime Rs 200,000?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of Overtime to Office Caretakers on Saturdays and to other staffs when there is session after office hours.

Madam Chairperson: Page 3.

The Minority Leader : Item 22900.927: Training. Again, I would like to know whether there will be training for more staff and can I know what type of training the Members are going to have? And, secondly, Item 31.001: Construction of New Regional Assembly House. Can we know...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member! Minority Leader, one question at a time, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the payment of expenses in connection with training of staffs.

The Minority Leader : I would like to know what type of training is being given.

The Chief Commissioner: Working in the Regional Assembly, everybody. The New Regional Assembly House, provision is meant for payment of consultancy fee for the construction of the Regional Assembly House.

The Minority Leader : On the same Item, can I know whether this site has already been chosen and whether we....

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, it was a site formerly chosen. It is next to the Administrative Office where there is a sort of parking there. Yes, it will be there.

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk (Rs 20,577,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 9, 10.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, can the Chief Commissioner explain the Human Resource Manager? So, can he explain what will be the role of the Human Resource Manager which has been funded 2018/2019?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided represents payment of three increments for three months to the officer to be promoted.

Madam Chairperson: Page 10.

The Minority Leader : Yes, Madam Chair. Concerning the Legal Services: Attorney General, Attorney for Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Legal Officer, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, well, there is no provision made. Are we to understand that the Regional Assembly no longer needs the service of the Attorney or Legal Officer?

The Chief Commissioner: This inclusion is made to finalise Scheme of Service. Once a Scheme of Service completed, funds will be provided.

The Minority Leader : I understand that we do not have the service of a Legal Advisor. Contract but I see no money earmarked. Where are we going to have money to pay?

The Minority Leader : We can put another question not to lose time.

Madam Chairperson: Just got the answer. So, we wait for a moment.

The Chief Commissioner: This is established post contract officers are paid under extra assistance; not against established. Extra assistance.

The Minority Leader : Concerning the Lead Analyst and Analyst, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, from zero to five, can we know what will be the work of these Analysts and why we have five suddenly?

The Chief Commissioner: Lead Analyst, no provision is made as Scheme of Service has not been finalised. Analyst, Rodrigues Regional Assembly? Yes. It is to equip the EPMU and Commissions to better monitor and prepare projects of the RRA.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: General Worker increased from eight to 112. Can we know more about such a huge increase?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of salary July 18 to June 2019 and including increment from January 2019 and salary for additional General Workers to be recruited.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, let us do this in an orderly manner. You have to be given the floor before you can intervene. This is like that. 11.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Overtime. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain Item 21110.100: Overtime? So, can he explain this huge amount, this huge sum of money for Overtime?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is due to increase in salary as from January 2019. Provision is meant for payment of Overtime to the staff of Central Administration. That is, Registry, working in connection with computation of sick leave, visit of Public Service Commission, stores, finance section working in connection with preparation of estimates, final accounts and closing of accounts including Office Caretakers for the cleaning of office every Saturdays.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam. With regards to Internal Control, I see that in 2018, there is nothing, no Internal Control in post but for the budget 18/19, there will be four Internal Control in post. What has happened with the officers who already worked at the Internal Control prior to this sudden increase to four? Is the office closed now?

The Chief Commissioner: Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer, provision represents payment of three increments to the officers to be promoted Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, my question remains: why in 2018, there is no Internal Control in post? Does the office close actually? What has happened to the officers working there prior to this closure of this office if ever there has been?

The Chief Commissioner: No, officer was from Mauritius. Now, we are recruiting Rodriguans on our establishment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, last year in 2017, there were officers from Mauritius and there were also officers from Rodrigues with regards to Internal Control. Sorry? Yes, but in 2018 since we know that there is a lack of staff and there is a lack of things to do in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, we do have reports from the Audit Report which is damning for us. Why there is no Internal Control in post actually?

The Chief Commissioner: There was a Management Support Officer working under the control of Internal Control Officer. A new one is being posted as from next week from Mauritius.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, Item 22110: Overseas Travel. Expenses and Allowances of Delegates on Mission. Can we have a breakdown on this how many missions there have been and how many officers are concerned?

The Chief Commissioner: Expenses and allowances of delegates on mission. Provision is meant for payment of subsistence allowance per diem to delegation of all Commissions proceeding on mission to Mauritius and abroad which will now be centrally managed by the Chief Commissioner's Office.

The Minority Leader : Can we have a list of all these missions?

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : Okay, can I know why this must be managed by the Chief Commissioner's Office?

The Chief Commissioner: This is a general guidance from the finance in Mauritius. Even in Mauritius, all funds are under finance and centrally managed by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Chief Commissioner with regards to the fibre cable between Commissions, the Intranet Wireless Connectivity. Can we know exactly where does matter stand and which Commissions in all of these seven Commissions are interconnected by this Intranet connectivity?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please, can you each and every time state the Item Number to which you are referring to?

The Chief Commissioner: Payment of maintenance agreement with the SEAL In connection with the TAS HRMS Licensing and Cadastral Systems. Renewal of license for exchange of server RRA mail. Licence of antivirus software. The amount provided will be sufficient as part of the maintenance agreement has been paid in this financial year.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question on this: was which Commission is interconnected with this Intranet Wireless Connectivity? Which Commission? Are the seven Commissions connected together? What is the status actually in 2018, Chief Commissioner, please?

The Chief Commissioner: All Head Officers of Commissions are now linked with Central Administration.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22120.002. Can I know about the increase? The estimate was Rs 500,000, the revise is Rs 800,000. Can I know more about these? Fees to Chairman and Members of Board and Committees. Item 22120 and which board this includes please?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided will be sufficient. Increase in revised estimates is due to the evaluation of major projects such as consultancy for extension of runway and geotechnical investigation, evaluation of expression of interest for port development during this financial year. Therefore, there will be less evaluation of project in the financial year two 18 two 19.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can I rephrase my question, Madam Chairperson? The same thing? Okay.

Madam Chairperson: 12.

Mr. Z. Félicité: 11 please. So Item No. 21210.002: Defined Pension Contribution. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House on this Defined Pension Contribution?

The Chief Commissioner: Revised of Rs 12,157,000 disbursed represents 12% RRA Contribution in respect of Pension Contribution for new entrants as from January 2013 to October 2017 and as from November 2017 onwards, the Accountant General Office is contributing the Pension Contribution payable to SICOM from the Accountant General Vote.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 31113.438: Water Sector Development across Rodrigues. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner? Can the Chief Commissioner submit details of the project implemented under this Item?

The Chief Commissioner: As per European Union conditions, there is a percentage of contribution which RRA needs to provide for each project before EU will transfer its contribution. The amount provided represents Rodrigues Regional Assembly contribution for Desalination Project at Songes.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can I know from the Chief Commissioner, Madam? As there is actually Commission for Water, EU, okay, can I know from the Chief Commissioner how is it that Rs 13,500,000 was estimated and only Rs 7.5 m. used? What has come to this new amount?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order now! Respected Member Perrine, do you want to go home early today?

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

The Chief Commissioner: Decrease was due to the fact that delay was encountered in bid procedures.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, Item 26313.121: Grant to Airport of Rodrigues. Well, being given that we have been made to understand that the Airport of Mauritius Limited will engulf the Airport of Rodrigues, so, I would like to know whether this grant will stand good or whether there will be some sort of cooperation between Airport of Mauritius Limited and Airport of Rodrigues Limited?

The Chief Commissioner: No, AML will not engulf ARL. ARL will remain. Amount represents the use of premises of ARL for RRA Staff for example, quarantine etc.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 31121.001: Transport and Equipment, Vehicles, Machinery Equipment and Launch. Amounts estimates Rs 10,000,000 and amount used Rs 1,859,000. Yes, an amount... Rs 10 m. and amount used Rs 1.8 m.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is made for the purchase of four 4x4 vans, one SAMU ambulance.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Item 31112.807: Renovation of Government Buildings. So, Rs 4 m. to Rs 3.6 m. So, can we know from the Chief Commissioner? I understand that it does not include the renovation of the *Office du Tourism* and how much has it cost his Commission?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the upgrading of toilet, electrical work at the Central Administration Building and upgrading of stores and electoral office.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, so, can we know under which Item has he... Tourism?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, I was on my feet. Yes, may I ask the Chief Commissioner with regards to the equity granted to Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Company Limited? Can we know the amount for Rs 1.1 m. ? Since we know that there was a sum of Rs 2 m. outstanding.

The Chief Commissioner: The revised for 2017/2018 is meant for the purchase of share from the State Trading Corporation (STC), which is no longer active in the company.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 13, 14, 15.

Vote 2-1: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 270,574,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 17, 18.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: May we know from the Chief Commissioner for the post of Principal Surveyor? Can we know whether there will be no post for Principal Surveyor? Item 21110.001.

The Chief Commissioner: There is an acting Surveyor, an acting Principal Surveyor. The most senior Surveyor is not qualified to be appointed.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, we know in the Public Sector, if ever sometimes an officer is not qualified, we are based on his experience to let him has the post whether he is... Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, there has been lots of cases. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner if consideration will be made to promote the most senior Surveyor to Principal Surveyor?

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of the question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 21110.001: Development Control Officer. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain to us funded for this year too and estimates – almost nil. So, can he explain to us why?

The Chief Commissioner: Recruitment will be made after advertisement and interview. These procedures may last. Therefore, fund is provided for one month only.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Chief Commissioner since he is talking about reorganisation of the Cadastral Office, how come that during the year 2018, the Development Control Officer, we do not have anyone in post but in 18/19, there will be two?

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, with regards to Overtime, can the Chief Commissioner explain to us Rs 200,000 budgeted but the overtime has been increased to Rs 250,000? Can we know why there has been such an increase?

Madam Chairperson: Have you stated....

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110.100: Overtime.

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided will be sufficient as it is expected that with the setting up of the Land Management System, will help to curtail overtime.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: No, my question was not that. My question was: why the estimates of 2017/2018, there was Rs 200,000 budgeted and in 17/18, there has been an increase from 200 to 250. Why?

The Chief Commissioner: Overtime increased due to additional workload at the office to finalise outstanding files.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 18.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Item 31132.102: Cadastral Survey/Equipment for GIS/Land. Amount budgeted Rs 5 m. and amount used Rs 508,000.

Madam Chairperson: Can you put the question?

Mr. J. N. Volbert: I am waiting, Madam, sorry. Can the Chief Commissioner explain how is it that a huge amount is not used up to now?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided will be sufficient as part of the equipment is being procured this current financial year. The remaining equipment will be paid in the next financial year.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Item 31410.005: Non-Produced Assets – Land, Acquisition of Property. Can the Chief Commissioner tell us acquisition of what properties?

The Chief Commissioner: No provision is being made as the Commission acquiring the property will provide funds.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item 21110.001: Flight Data Officer. There has been an increase from three to 14. Can the Chief Commissioner explain to us the importance of increasing this Flight Data Officer? Since we know that there are officers who are sleeping at Plaine Corail?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is meant for payment of salary July 2018 to June 2019 including increment as from January 2019 and three months' salary for 11 additional Flight Data Officers. Increase in staff is meant to cater for 24 hours' operation of the airport and for future development of the airport.

[Applause]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Thank you.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21110.001: Assistant Ground Surveyor (Rodrigues). It is given that there are two Ground Surveyors actually at Corail Airport and since the Plaine Corail Airport has been taken over by the ARL, can the Chief Commissioner explain the number from two to three.... Ground Surveyor. *Ine privatisé. Ki sanla ki vine dir moi, li pé assizé labas gagne larzan. To pa koné toi ?*

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can the Chief Commissioner tell us for Item No. 21111.100: Overtime, the increase in overtime?

The Chief Commissioner: Ground Supervisor works under the Civil Aviation as Regulator while ARL is the Operator. Overtime. Provision will be sufficient as the Firefighters have been transferred to the Commission for Health and with a recruitment of additional staff, there will be less overtime.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Chief Commissioner these Assistant Ground Supervisor for Rodrigues, to whom are they accountable? Because lots of times, we see as if *la pluie et le beau-temps*, spending tax money, tax-payers' money.

The Chief Commissioner: I gave the answer, Madam. Ground Supervisor works under the Civil Aviation as Regulator while ARL is the Operator. They work under the Civil Aviation.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 31113.434: Airport Development. So, can we know? I have seen that there has been an increase in the revised for 2017/2018. So, for this year, it is only Rs 8,000. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain this figure to this House?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of consultancy fees for engineering design, preparation of tender documents and supervision.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, allocation is made for preparation of tender documents. The same Item that the Chief Commissioner mentioned. Airport Development. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner the feasibility study including the draft design of the airport, of the construction of the new runway done in 2011, sent to the Ministry of Finance in 2011, is this feasibility study not good or he is doing another one?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I think it is a new project. It will not be on the sea. It is a new project. That is why provision is meant for payment of consultancy fees for engineering, design, preparation of tender documents. It is a feasibility study. The next step is the detailed design and preparation of the tender documents....

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I would like to ask, under the same Item, whether this also includes the relocation of the Saint Marie villagers?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order, now!

The Chief Commissioner: Relocation of Sainte Marie will be taken care in the construction phase of the project; not at stage of consultancy.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.001: Uniforms. There is a decrease in the estimate Rs 50,000 and revised Rs 40,000, a decrease since. Can the Chief Commissioner explain?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the payment of uniform allowance and purchase of protective clothing.

Madam Chairperson: Next page. Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: *Tourism Development. Item 21110.001: Head of Tourism.* Le Chef est en train de mettre l'accent sur le développement touristique. Comment se fait-il qu'il n'y a pas de *Head of Tourism*? Est-ce qu'il peut expliquer ?

The Chief Commissioner: Scheme of service not yet finalised. Once ready, funds will be provided.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Under the same Item: Tourism Planner. We know that there will be many infrastructures in the tourism sector. Why no Tourism Planner is in post in the tourism sector?

The Chief Commissioner: Scheme of service not yet finalised. Once ready, funds will be provided.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: The same Item: Tourism Planner. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner from which Item this fund will be provided?

The Chief Commissioner: It is from contingencies amount if needed.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: We are talking about tourism as a pillar of economic development for Rodrigues and we all know that tourism sector... I am putting my question, I am explaining.

Madam Chairperson: No. You put your question now. Debates are over.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Madame, ou fer moi honté. Kisisa do ?* My question is : how come, how the Chief Commissioner or how the office of the Chief Commissioner is performing the duty actually since the leisure officer is a key organiser in this sector? Can the Chief Commissioner explain to this House how is he going to manage?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, the work is being done by the team of Discovery Rodrigues and my Commission. The result is 3.3% last year.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Madam Chairperson, so, Item 21111.100: Overtime. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain to us the increase in overtime from Rs 40,000 to Rs 80,000?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the payment of overtime to staff for performing extra hours.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21111.200: Staff Welfare. Madam Chairperson, Madam, can we know from the Chief Commissioner is it Rs 1 or Rs 1000? Is it sufficient for Staff Welfare, Tourism office? I am asking the question to the Chief Commissioner. Can the Chief Commissioner answer?

Does it see it sufficient or what happens there? There is no welfare for these officers?

The Chief Commissioner: Everywhere, it is like that – Rs 1000 contribution to Staff Welfare.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22010.002: Telephone, where there has been an increase from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the payment of telephone bills and internet connection for Commission for Tourism and *Police du Tourisme*.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, Item 22060.018: Embellishment of Tourism Sites. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner which sites has been embellished?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is meant for embellishment of tourism sites as follows: development of new view point sites, upgrading of existing hiking trails, increase of revised estimates is due to renovation of *Office du Tourisme*. Sites like Citron Donis and so on, Montagne Tonerre and so on.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 2222900.922: Promotion of Tourism. Peut-on savoir où la promotion est faite ? Quel pays ? Il y a un budget de Rs11 millions.

The Chief Commissioner: List of countries are exhaustive for example, France, Reunion, Mauritius, South Africa and so on. Budget comprised of running of *Office du Tourisme* as well as cost of promotional campaigns.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Chief Commissioner who are these persons concerned with regards to promotion of tourism for Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: *Office du Tourisme* and Discovery Rodrigues, Discovery Ltd.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Je voudrais savoir du Chef commissaire est-ce qu'il y a un suivi sur toutes ces promotions que le secteur touristique ils ont ?

The Chief Commissioner: Il y a un suivi, il y a des rencontres régulièrement. Disons il y a eu une promotion, on vient d'avoir une promotion en Allemagne, lorsqu'il y a eu des représentants de Rodrigues, ils sont retournés, il y a eu des réunions pour voir, expliquer et ensuite, s'il faut dans d'autres salons du tourisme, s'il faut améliorer, quoi faire exactement.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Chef commissaire s'il y a un rapport de ces différentes missions ?

The Chief Commissioner: Evidemment, il y a un rapport.

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

Madam Chairperson: I put the question now.

Vote 2-2: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 60,797,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-3: Chief Commissioner's Office was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 23.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110.100: Overtime. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner why overtime has increased from Rs 400,000 to Rs 600,000? And, we note with great consideration, that overtime continues to increase gradually in each and every Commission up to now. Can the Commissioner explain to this House why?

The Chief Commissioner: Several factors: increase in workload, lack of staff. That is why we are recruiting.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Page 24. Are we on page 24? Yes? No, I do not think so? No? 24, yes. Item 31112: Non-Residential Building, Education House (Feasibility Study). Can we know from the Chief Commissioner where this Education House will be set up?

The Chief Commissioner: We have not yet identified the site where this Education House will be built.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, in a normal practice, normal accounting practice, even I have not been well in Accounts, but

how come no site has been identified? Sum already made available for this Item. So, what is the purpose then of the Education House?

The Chief Commissioner: The feasibility study will determine the best economic sites.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question remains: can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House what is the importance of this Education House? Why? Are we going to... The purpose of this Education House.

The Chief Commissioner: Now, we are renting building at Port Mathurin. That is why we are thinking of having an Education House in... of Rodrigues. There are a lot of things so that in the meantime, the education sector will be situated at Mont Lubin, where a building is being built under the Social Security Commission.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, everybody knows in this House that the *quartier général* of education was found at the Human Resource Centre at Malabar. We asked question on that matter why this Department/Section/Commission has been transferred to Mutual Aid Building, Port Mathurin and then, when we asked question again, we see that you are moving for another building. You are constructing the Social Security House at Mont Lubin. Why not accommodate the Commission for Education in that building instead of doing another building again?

The Chief Commissioner: We are doing for the first time and we will see afterwards where to build this Education House in collaboration with the Consultants.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Okay, next question, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House with regards to Item 22030: Rent, .001: Rental of Building, Rs 1,200,000, both items are nearly the same amount and which building are we renting and if ever there has been tendering procedures properly done for this rental of buildings?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of rental of offices including parking fees and air conditioner facilities at the Mutual Aid Building. Monthly payment is Rs 100,000.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, my question, there is one question remained. Has there been tendering procedure properly done prior to the rental of this building, Mr. Chief Commissioner?

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner:we are examining the budget. Why putting parliamentary questions?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you have to come with a substantive question in due time. Next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, grant. Page 25? Are we on page 25? Yes? Item 2226313.124: Grant to Free Pre-Primary School. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House whether this grant is being given to private and government pre-primary school? Enlighten us and how much for each?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of salaries, compensation, end-of-year bonus and travelling to 77 pre-primary teachers and allowance to 60 helpers including payment of National Pension Schemes. It is only for private, pre-primary private *Association des Ecoles Maternelles*.

Madam Chairperson: Next.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, Item 21110.001: Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster. Well, I think we have 12 primary schools in Rodrigues but here, I see there are 13 Headmasters. Can we know why we have 13 and if this is so, why do we have only 24 Deputy Headmaster? We should have 26. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us on that?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in salary due to increment January 2019. Increase in salary due to the increment January 2019 and provision made for appointment of one additional Headmaster for Baie Malgache Community School.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, concernant le *Trainee Educator (Kreole Morisien)*, qu'est-ce qu'on va enseigner dans nos écoles ? Le créole mauricien ou le créole rodriguais ? Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire dans combien d'école est enseigné le créole mauricien actuellement ?

The Chief Commissioner: *Autant que nous sachions, c'est le créole mauricien qui est enseigné de la RCEA Schools, not in Government schools. Because we are preparing what we call... We are preparing our... We are working on our creole rodriguais.*

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Oui, Madame la Présidente, mais ces éducateurs de créole mauricien qui sont dans des écoles de la RCEA, ils sont payés de la *grant* qu'on donne à la RCEA ?

The Chief Commissioner: RCEA recevra une *grant*.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Chef commissaire nous a archi dit qu'il allait faire en sorte que le créole rodriguais soit enseigné dans nos écoles. Ça fait déjà cinq ans, sept ans. On travaille, on travaille, on travaille, on ne voit rien venir. En attendant, les enfants perdent et que le créole mauricien est enseigné dans certaines écoles de Rodrigues. Est-ce que c'est normal ? *Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House when, tell us exactly when the creole rodriguais will be enseigné dans les écoles gouvernementales?*

Madam Chairperson: You have to come with a substantive question, respected Member. Next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, this question relates to Trainee Educator (Kreole Morisien).

Madam Chairperson: Next question! Next page, 27.

The Minority Leader : Yes, Madam Chair. Item 26323: Extra Budgetary Units, Grant to Private Secondary Schools (REDCO and RODCO). Can we have a breakdown of how much is given to REDCO and how much is given to RODCO and the use to which this...?

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please, can you state the Item Vote Number?

The Minority Leader : Item 323.118. Page 27.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of salaries and other emoluments to REDCO and RODCO staffs including management grant. Increase is due to recruitment of new staffs and provision for compensation in financial years 2017/2018 and 2018 to 2019. It depends on the facilities available at the time of inspection and in line with the approved quantum of grant.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital and Expenditure, Item 31112.004: Construction/Extension of Secondary Schools, Equipment and Furniture. Can we know which school is under construction or extension and the equipment and furniture? What sort of equipment and furniture?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment in connection with construction of secondary school at Pistache, Terre Rouge and Songes. Construction of multipurpose hall at Le Chou College, construction of gymnasium at La Ferme College and construction of multipurpose playground at Maréchal.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Chief Commissioner, Madam Chair, whether there was tender documents for the equipment and furniture for these extensions?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, usually, that depends on the college. Usually, it is REDCO who is responsible for furnitures in REDCO colleges.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 28.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Item 31113.007: Port Development – Rs 23 m. for 2017/2018 and a revised estimate to zero. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House where does the money goes?

The Chief Commissioner: Project at Pointe Monier cancelled due to increase in value. Funds reallocated to other capital item.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Due to increase in value, can we know exactly the value of this port development?

The Chief Commissioner: It was mentioned in the budget, I think, Rs 200 m. It is at Pointe Monier; it is not Pointe L'Herbe, Pointe Monier.

Madam Chairperson: I now put the question.

Vote 2-3: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 689,551,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 33.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Are you ready, can we go on? Okay, then. Yes, Madam, can I know, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner explain to the House with regards to...

Madam Chairperson: Item number, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am coming with my item number.

Madam Chairperson: First. You state your item number first.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110.001: Handy Worker (Special Class). Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner explain to the House with regards to this Special Class of Handy Worker?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioners, Respected Members, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Handy Workers are more manual workers doing multiple jobs. Special Class are more skilled workers doing multiple jobs. One is manual and other is skilled.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Do they have a special allowance for that or how is it? Is it paid as a normal Handy Worker or did they have the special allowance to do that specific job, special job?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This is incurred in the PRB Report, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next page.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Next page, okay. Yes, setting up of the Civil Test... *Non.* Item 22900.981. Yes, thank you. Setting up of a Civil Test Laboratory in Rodrigues (MSB). So, can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us what would be the purpose of this laboratory, please?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It is a report that has been submitted by the MSB to the Commission where we wanted to do the test for bitumen, road test because as at now, this has to be sent to Mauritius. So, we wanted to have one in Rodrigues itself so that claims and payment can go quite quickly.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 35, 36.

Mr. J. N. Nemours : Item 22060 : Maintenance. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us why there is a decrease in the amount allocated for 2018/2019, falling from Rs 1,600,000 to Rs 1,350,000? Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, the provision was made for the general minor repairs and maintenance of buildings and being given that there have been not so much repairs of course, we have had to revise it to the sum that it needs.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, so, the Item 21110.001, on page 35, we have Tradesman's Assistant and Electrician. So, there is an increase. We see there is an increase in the number. So, can the Commissioner explain to us why such increase please?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Recruitment from outside and there will be recruitment also from the persons who are in post and these persons, they are going to leave, how to say, spaces for incoming General Workers also.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 36.

The Minority Leader : Yes, Madam Chair. Item 31112: Non-Residential Buildings, Refurbishment of Government Quarters, Renovation of Government Buildings and Construction of Market in villages. Can we know which quarters we are talking about, whether bachelors.... form part of this? Renovation of Government buildings, can we know whether, the administrative building of La Ferme forms part of that and construction of markets in villages, can we know where the markets will be situated?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : With respect to the construction of market, we did launch tenders for the Grand La Fouche Corail. Unfortunately, the bid was non-responsive. So, we have had to relaunch it. So, this is why there has been an earmarked sum of Rs 4 m. for financial year 2018/2019. With respect to Government quarters, all quarters fall under the purview of my Commission.

The Minority Leader : The administrative block of La Ferme, will it be renovated?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, of course, it falls under the purview of my Commission because all public buildings do fall under the purview of my Commission. We are proceeding, we are going ahead for the renovation of the building also. I think that this have already been started. This

has already started with the maintenance of the windows and of course, there are some problems that are there. So, we will see to it that it is made good.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, Item 21110.001: Mechanical Engineer/Senior Mechanical Engineer. So, can the Commissioner explain to us why there is one funded for 2018? I would like to ask also another question concerning the survey for fitness. So, which grade is entitled to do such survey on vehicles?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : For the Senior Mechanical Engineering, the vacancy has already been launched. Right now, it is in the newspaper. And then, for the examination, it is done by the examiner. Normally, we do have someone coming from the NTA from Mauritius.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, I do not see Examiner here. Who pays for the Examiner? Is it...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It is funded from the NTA from Mauritius itself. Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Panel Beater. So, we have seen that there has been an increase. So, what is the purpose of increasing it when the sum earmarked remains the same?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I think the sum has moved from 804 to 808. The actual Panel Beaters, they are having top salaries and we are recruiting new ones. So, of course, their salary will be quite low as compared to those who are leaving and as such, the amount of sum earmarked will definitely be more or less same.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but will you agree with me that 4000... 804 to 808. So, this means an increase of 40,000? Yes, it is 40,000. So, will 40000 be enough to cater for six additional Panel Beaters? That is my question because it moves from 3 to 9... Sorry, 3 to 9, there have been 6 and 6 for 40000, I do not think it is...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The post of Panel Beater, they are going to be promoted from another trade and of course, they are going to come with their salary. The increase accounts for increment that they are going to obtain.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Madam Chairperson, can the... Item number 21110.001: Fitter, Turner and Machinist, Toolskeeper. Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner why these posts no longer exist?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : ... the report. These trades have been phased out from the PRB Report. This is why they are no longer funded.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 37.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Maintenance of Vehicles. So, this Rs 7.5 m., so, can the Commissioner explain? This is one question and whether, he will keep repairing vehicles at the Mechanical Workshop.

Madam Chairperson: Item number?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, sorry. Item 22060.004.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : All maintenances of vehicles are taken care of by my Commission. As we stand now, this is going to be the same for the continuous year.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 38.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. So, Construction of Roads. Item 31113.001: Roads. So, can the Commissioner explain to us this increase and whether, this increase will cater for all the roads? The Chief Commissioner announced in his budget speech.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : What was announced in the budget speech? We have already allocated works order for Camp Pintade which is ongoing and we consider that this is going to be completed before the end of this financial year, the actual financial year. We have also issued works order for Rivière Banane and there will be ongoing works also for Montagne Charlot for sure. *Donc*, the Rs 125 m. will refer to these works order which have been issued, yes.

The Minority Leader : Item 31113.022: Construction and Upgrading of Bridges. Are we to understand that this concerns only the two *radiers*, the two bridges of Camp Du Roi and Fond La Digue or there will be more bridges that will be built in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The two named bridges that you have mentioned will be taken care of by the NDU. As regard to the sum that

has been provided under my Commission, they are going to be used for converting the small *radier* into *Le Petit Pont* that has been mentioned in the budget speeches. *Donc*, there is Anse Raffin. Anse Ali will be done by the NDU. Camp Du Roi will be done by the NDU. There will be Anse Raffin, Tamarin and then, Quatre Vent and Papayes. Yes.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 440: Road Safety, Maintenance and Rehabilitation. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us on this issue?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Provisions for construction of humps for road safety, I think we have some 20 humps to be installed around the island. Some, of course, we are going to start it within this financial year and this will overlap for financial year 2018/2019.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 39.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 21110.001: Senior Inspector of Works. So, can the Commissioner... Deputy Chief Commissioner, sorry, explain why there is none? Being given that this is a very important Item: Maintenance of roads, so, why is it that there is no Inspector of Works for this section?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There is Inspector of Works but not under that Item. But there are within the Commission, I think, under Item Vote... other Item Votes like Infrastructure, Housing, then, the posts are there.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 40, 41.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, 41. Item 31113.010: Improvement, Renewals, Minor Projects and Infrastructural Works in Villages. Can the Commissioner explain this figure? What will that money be used for?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This refers to small projects in villages: track roads, street lightings and then, box culvert also.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 42, 43.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, 43. Item 31113.004: Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs. So, the figure, estimates were Rs 13 m. Revised to 250... There is a drop. So, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner explain this drop in figure and this figure, the estimate for this year: Rs 9 m.? So, can he explain?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The money was meant for the consultancy fee for Pavé La Bonté Dam. Yes, consultancy for Pavé La Bonté Dam, which is yet to start and then, it was meant also for the construction of the two by 1000 m³ reservoir at Montagne Cabris and Hauteur Accacia. *Donc*, we are about to launch tenders shortly for the two reservoirs of Montagne Cabris and Hauteur Accacia. Since we are coming close to the end of the financial year, so, this money has been relocated elsewhere.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, this means that your Commission has been late regarding the implementation of these projects, isn't it?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : We have not been late as such but we have been concentrating on the construction of the desalination plant. So, we are moving ahead in phase. All procedures for desalination plants are completed. Now, we are moving for the construction of the 2 *par* 1000 m³ and then, we go for feasibility study. So, we have to go phase by phase with respect to the capacity of our Human Resource of the Commission.

Madam Chairperson: You should put the question, respected Member. *Non*, this is not allowed. Next page, 44. I put the question now.

Vote 3-1: Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 462,433,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that Vote 4-1: Commission for Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Child Development, Industrial Development, Information and Communication Technology, Vocational Training, Cooperatives, Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Prisons and Reforms Institutions is amended as per amendment circulated.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Page 51.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can the Commissioner explain to the House... Sorry. Item 21111.100: Overtime. There is increase in overtime from Rs 350,000 to Rs 1 m.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, the increase is due to the fact that we have got Drivers having or holding licenses for 2.5 T van service and also, we have had many activities where we had to cater for payment of overtime for staff of Public Infrastructure (PI), for mounting and dismantling of marquees.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, Item 2121110, the post of Head, Gender, Family Welfare and Child Development, are being removed, Matron, Shelter Care Attendant, all these have been removed. Can we know why? Can we have an explanation from the respected Commissioner?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, Madam Chair, with regard to Matron, the fact is that since three or four years now, the *Foyer Baladirou* has been taken up by the Vicariat Apostolique and instead of recruiting Matrons, we are giving grant to Vicariat to cater for the recruitment and regarding the gender, so, the scheme is not finalised yet and once the scheme is finalised, we will negotiate to fund and to have the post filled.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, with regard to Item 22010.002: Telephone, can the respected Commissioner explain to the House why there has been such an increase from Rs 300,000 to Rs 828,000 for Telephone? Tremendous increase.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, Madam Chair, this amount is due to the additional lines we have had at the Commission. We have additional staffs and units and the amount, we have seen that the average amount now is approximately Rs 62,600 per month.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 52, 53.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 52, I got a question. Item 26313.067: Contribution to Rodrigues Regional Women Committee and Women's Association. Can Madam give us a little bit explanation about this contribution to the House, please?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : This is an Item Vote that has been existed many years back. This sum is given to the Rodrigues Regional Women's Committee to cater for the recruitment and the payment of salaries to two staffs to work at the Regional Women Centre at Malabar.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 22900.938: Training Scheme for Women. Can we know more about this scheme?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In the Commission, we have different training programmes that are run in different women's centres and these women who act as trainers, they are paid on sessional basis and this sum is cared for that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, under the same Item, but 939: Parental Empowerment Programme/Single Mother. Can the Commissioner enlighten us with regards to this programme, please?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, this programme is destined to empower parents with regard to the responsibilities as parent and also, so, we have had some programmes with the pre-primary schools' parents and we are planning to extend these programmes to other PTAs, of the Parent-Teacher Associations and also, we have a special programme that we have started recently to accompany single mothers to help them in their motherhood.

The Minority Leader : Yes, Madam Chair, Item 31112: Non-Residential Buildings and Family Training Centre. Can we have some enlightenment on that, where they are found, where these buildings are found and the use to which they are made?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, this sum will be used for the project of Montagne Croupier.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 53. Item 28212.030: Implement Family Farming Project. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner how many Family Farm Project has been implemented?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, up to now, with the collaboration we have established with Centre Frère Remy, we have been able to accompany 40 families and we have also helped some another 30 to enhance their small Family Farm Project.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 31112.819. Can we know from the Commissioner, Madam Chairperson, concerning the construction of *La Maison de l'Entreprise et des Coopératives*? Can we have some information about that?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, in fact, Madam Chair, this project is the new block in the SMEDA yard where we had the construction last year of a new building which is actually housing *Les Coopératives* and the provision made is to cater for the retention money.

Mr. Z. Félicité: So, same, on the Item 28212.021: Support to Handicraft Sector. So, can the Commissioner inform the House about the support her Commission gives to the handicraft sector?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, in fact, under this provision, we are paying tutors and the different youths which we have placed in the different handicraft shops or entrepreneurs to help the youth to acquire knowledge and experience in handicraft.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, Item 22030.001: Rent, Rental of Building. Can we know from the Commissioner which building is it about?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, this building is the one housing the Invest Rodrigues actually.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 54, 55.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 54, I have got two questions. Item 21111.100: Overtime. Can I put two questions in one?

Madam Chairperson: Put your question now.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, there has been an increase in the Overtime. May I know why?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, we have had the different activities, for example, the Web Cup Regional which was held in October in Rodrigues. So, this amount has been used to pay for the overtime of officers concerned.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22030: Rental of Building. Can the Commissioner inform us about this building?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, under this Item, we pay for the rental of the building at DBM building, Centre for Excellence and also, for the Building Housing CSL under a specific scheme that we launched for ICT.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, CSL, is it the building found at DBM at Camp Du Roi? Yes? But actually, the Operator already started its business, is it not? So, are we going to continue for the payment of rental for this company? Can you explain to us why?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, so, we are catering for the rental for two years. It forms of the package we offered to incite companies in the ICT Sector to invest in Rodrigues. So, there is a sort of agreement in package we offered to incite them to come.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, what is the sum, please for the rental of building monthly? Did you have?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, I do not have the exact amount but I know that the sum compiled here will be sufficient for both buildings at DBM.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am talking specially about the building at Camp Du Roi. Since the Operator is doing, I think, is making profit because yes, even if it is an agreement, can we know from officers here what is the sum, what is the amount paid to this DBM?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, we are actually paying a sum of Rs 16,932 monthly.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 55.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item number 22900.974: IT Competitions. So, can the Commissioner explain to us why there has been an increase, a huge increase from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1.3 m.?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, the House would note that we are in the process of preparing the maximum of youth and sensitising the maximum of the population in view of the coming of the fibre optic cable. That is why we have had lots of competitions for different age groups in the ICT Sectors.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, the question in the same line. Madam Chairperson, Madam, we are talking about Item 22900.960: Training ICT Sector. Can we know how many? Is it people who will be affected with this training? Is it youth? Can the Commissioner enlighten us about this programme specially?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, in fact, this Training and ICT Sector, it is training for the public in general. We are in fact, inciting people to embark on the IC3 Training Programme and we will other training programmes, skill development under another Item.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes for year 2017/2018, Madam, can we know exactly how many trainees, how many people has been trained under this Item? And, the sum has been decreased from Rs 650,000 to Rs 500,000. Can we know why?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, I do not have the exact amount for this year but I can assure the House that since the opening of the ICT for Excellence, more than 500 hundred persons have been trained at ICT Centre for Excellence under this programme. So, we have had women entrepreneurs, we have had elderly, we have had youth. So, up to now, more than 500 people have been trained. So, with regard to the budget, the decrease in the budget, the House would note also that we have actually interns attached at the Centre for Excellence. So, they will help and they will assist to provide training. So, that is why the sum available here will be enough for us to continue the programme.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.988: Learning Corner in Villages. Can we know, Madam Chairperson, from the Commissioner who will run these learning corners or how many villages have been spotted for these learning corners and whether, they are already operational?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Yes, indeed, Madam Chair, you would note that formerly, the learning corners were under the NEF I suppose, and since last year, we have taken over the project because NEF has been withdrawn from the project. So, we have actually 21 learning corners and we have empowered people in the community to help to maintain this programme.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 28212.029: Youth Empowerment Programme (ICT Call Centre BPO). Yes, we observe that in 2017/2018, there has been Rs 10 m. available and for the revised estimates, there has been spending capacity of only Rs 2 b. Can the Commissioner inform the House why there has been this?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, Madam Chair, this project is directly related with the availability of bandwidth. So, since we have had some delays in the bandwidth, increase in bandwidth capacity by satellite, so that is why we have not been able to recruit the number of youth we wanted to. So, since now, this problem is solved, we are actually at 425 mbps. So, we will continue to promote the programme and we have had the assurance of the Ministry of Finance that once recruitment is done, we will have the sum required to pay for the youth.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regards to the new installed call centres, VLS call centres, there has been training of youth, at least 60 youths. Does the training of these youth form part of one of your programme here?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Indeed, Madam Chair, so, one of the call centres benefitting is the LS, with which we signed an MoU. But the procedure is that the Promoter of the call centre should submit the claim to the Commission and in turn, we will proceed with the payment. So, until the claim is given, unless the claim is submitted, we cannot cater for the payment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I make a plea to the Commissioner? A plea to the Commissioner, thank you. Since we do have the information that these youths have not been receiving their stipends until now, can I make a plea to the Commissioner to see to it that these youths be allocated with their stipends with regards to LS?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Note that up to now, no official complaints have been received at the level of my office with regard to that the respected Member is saying. So, the plea should be made to the company; not to us. Once the submission of the bill is done, so, we will cater for the payment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, since you got good relations with the LS Directors and so on, can I refer this case to Madam Commissioner to see to it that these youths, Rodriguan youths, receive their stipend since three months back, they have not been paid?

Madam Chairperson: Wait a minute. To which Vote Item are you referring to, Item number please respected Member? To which Item number are you referring to?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Training ICT Sector.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you put your question to this Item. Because this, you can have this answer when you put a substantive question.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: No, this is going too much now. This is not allowed. Next page.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Same page. I have question concerning development of Human Resource. There are two posts: Head, Human Resource

Development Centre and Careers Counsellor. Can we know from the Commissioner whether, these posts have been abolished?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : No, Madam Chair, the posts have not been abolished. In fact, actually, the person holding the post of Head, Human Resource Development Centre is actually posted in another Commission at another level. So, the post is still there. For the time being, no one has been recruited. And, regarding the Careers Counsellor, the same thing happens for the other question for those posts where no funds are available. It is only because the scheme of duties is not ready and we are planning to prepare same because it is one of our priorities this year to work for Career Counselling and once the scheme of duty is completed, the post will be filled.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, the same Item, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Nous constatons avec regret encore une fois, après le cadastre, on a le *Human Resource Centre* which is a huge, which is a big body attached to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Can the Commissioner see to it that this post is being filled in the soonest time?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Already answered.

Madam Chairperson: Next question. Next page, 56.

The Minority Leader : 56. Item 31111: Dwellings, at the bottom of the page. Construction of Rodrigues Student House (Vacoas), can we know where matters stand concerning that?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : The construction is over. On the 12 August 2017, we have had the official launching of the project and the sum here that has been earmarked, is for the payment of retention money.

Madam Chairperson: 57, 58, 59.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regard to Management and Maintenance of Prison. In the budget 2017/2018, with regards to Item 21110.001: Cadet Officer and Prisons Welfare Officer. Since there has been a new building, the construction of a new building for the prisons, can the Commissioner inform the House why there has not been the filling of the post of Cadet Officer and the Prisons Welfare Officer? Since this post lasts for long.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Yes, Madam Chair, again, it is a question of scheme of service. So, these will be elaborated very soon and as soon as the schemes are available, so, the recruitment will be made.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can we know exactly when this scheme of service will be ready for the recruitment of these two posts since the prison is already ready?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, I do not have the answer, Madam Chairperson. I do not know when it will be ready.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 60, 61.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Probation and Social Rehabilitation, Item 21110.001: Welfare Officer (New grade), Officer, Rehabilitation Youth Centre (New grade) and Cook (on roster), General Worker. Can we know from the Commissioner whether, these posts will be fulfilled?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, of course, and these posts are related to the operationalisation of the RYC since February this year.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 62.

Vote 4-1: Commission for Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Child Development, Industrial Development, Information and Communication Technology, Vocational Training, Cooperatives, Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Prisons and Reforms Institutions (Rs 155,462,000) was, on question put, agreed to, as amended.

Madam Chairperson: I suspend the Committee for 30 minutes for tea.

At 16.33 p.m. , the Draft Estimates Committee was suspended for 30 minutes.

On its resumption at 17.14 p.m. with Madam Chairperson in the Chair.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 66, 67.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 21111.100: Overtime. So, can the Commissioner explain the increase from estimates to revised and for this year, so what will be the money used for? For payment of overtime, for which grades?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, provision is made for payment of extra hours put in by employees in pursuance of their duty. Increase in revised estimates is based on actual trend for the expenditure, where the rise is due to the increase of basic salary and extra enumeration and also, due to shortage of staff.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item number 21110.001: Higher Executive Officer (Rodrigues). So, can the Commissioner explain to the House why provision has not been made to recruit a Higher Executive Officer?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The officer has been transferred to the Chief Commissioner's Office.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, in the same line, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I see the post of... the same Item, I see the post Storekeeper (Rodrigues). Yes, can the Commissioner enlighten us on why the post has not been filled first and, why Rodrigues is in bracket? Can we have more information about this?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Storekeeper at the Commission has been transferred to the Central Administration.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Does it mean that there is no Storekeeper at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), your Commission?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *ene ladministration ene labas mem*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 22030: Rent. Can the Commissioner explain to us this Rs 500,000? Explain this figure.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Provision is made for the rental of lorries, for conveyance of waste from different Health Centres to QEH for incineration.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On the same Item, so, can I ask the Commissioner why is it that he has not made provision to buy one lorry instead of renting lorries?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is more costly to outsource this service rather than to buy a vehicle and to appoint a driver.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, has there any....

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Has there any launching of tender documents for the renting of these vehicles?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 68. Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets. Item number 31113.004: Equipment and Furniture for Hospital and Others. Can we know, Madam Chairperson, from the Commissioner of Health what type of equipment has been purchased and furnitures for hospital and others?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Queen Elizabeth Hospital will buy a lot of equipment and furniture every year, Medical Equipment.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item number 22900.002: Accommodation Cost. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House of this Item?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, it is the accommodation cost of visiting specialists on a monthly basis for the payment of their hotel.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On the same line, can I put one question, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam? So, is it not possible... Are there other means of accommodating these specialists? Do we have quarters or other Government premises where we can accommodate these specialists?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, we have no other Government quarters, well-furnished quarters for these specialists.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Item 31113.014: Health Infrastructure Development Project. Can I ask the Commissioner during this financial year, 2018/2019, what infrastructure will be concerned with this development for this sum?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is for the extension of La Ferme Health Centre. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, renovation of the administrative block and for the erection of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner inform the House the exact cost of the renovation of the administration block of Queen Elizabeth?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I need notice of this question.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 69.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la Présidente, 21110.001: *Physiotherapist/Senior Physiotherapist (New grade)*. Mais actuellement, il y a ce service-là à l'hôpital. Qui le fait ? Parce qu'on fait de la physiothérapie à l'hôpital. *New grade, there is no one here. Who perform their duty ? Can the Commissioner tell us?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the post approved for the creation in estimate 2018/2019 for prescription of the Scheme of Service and the post will be funded in the next budgetary exercise 2019/2020.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, is there a Physiotherapist actually? Excuse me.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, Item 21110.001: Ward Manager (Male) and Ward Manager (Female). I understand that there is no Ward Manager actually because this is not mentioned.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: There are three Ward Managers (Male), three Ward Managers (Female) who have been assigned duties.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 21110.001: Psychologist (Clinical). Can the Commissioner inform the House why provision has not been made to recruit the Psychologist?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: There is one Psychologist at the Commission for Women and one will be recruited soon at the same Commission and when we need the service, we will recruit them from this Commission.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam the Chair, Item 21110: Principal Midwife/Senior Midwife, can we know, there are 13 Senior Midwives, one Principal Midwife and 12 Midwives. Can we know from the Commissioner, the strength? How many midwives there are actually?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We have one Principal, 13 Senior and 12 Midwives and 10 Trainee Midwives are on training in Mauritius for two years.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can I know whether the post of Senior Midwife is actually vacant?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, there is no post of Senior vacant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I have looked at the Commission for Women. It is written there: Psychologist. Here, it is specified Clinical Psychologist. This is different. So, can the Commissioner tell us whether he will see to it to have a Clinical Psychologist here?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: At the Commission for Women, it is clinical.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regards to, Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item 21110.001: Senior Inspector (Health and Food Safety) has been transferred to Trade, Commerce and Licensing. Can we have information on that why there has been this transfer? The Senior Inspector (Health and Food Safety) to Commerce.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Senior Health Inspector has not been transferred but has been posted there for the time being.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the asterisk at the bottom of the page indicates transfer to Sub-Head 4-106 Trade, Commerce and Licensing. Is it a permanent transfer or a temporary transfer? Can we know?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is a temporary transfer, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 70, 71.

Mr. Z. Félicité: So, can the Commissioner inform the House the duties of...

Madam Chairperson: Item number, please.

Mr. Z. Félicité: So, it is not... Item number 21110.001. Can the Commissioner inform the House the duties of Senior Health Records Clerk?

Madam Chairperson: This is not in order, respected Member. Next question! Next page, 71.

Mr. Z. Félicité: 71. Item number 21111.100: Overtime. Can the Commissioner inform the House about the increase in Overtime from Rs 6 m. to Rs 13 m.?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This is due to the shortage of staff, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. So, the staff has to perform overtime.

Mr. Z. Félicité: He talks about staff. Can we know the staff? Which staff?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: In the nursing cadre and in driver of ambulances.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22060 : Maintenance. Can we know what type of maintenance? Whether it is for medical equipment or what type of maintenance we are talking when the estimates have been increased?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: There is maintenance of building and maintenance of equipment. All the two have been increased.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, may I ask the Commissioner with regard to Item 005: Extra Assistance (Family Doctor)? Can the Commissioner enlighten us with regards to the estimates 2017/2018? There was Rs 3 m. and revised estimates have remained Rs3 m.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, it is for the Family Doctor. The budgetary year has not been completed yet. We are working on the project of Family Doctor and before the end of this financial year, we will be in the project. We have to renovate some Community Health Centres to give the Doctor a more pleasant place to work and to have their consultation done.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regard to Item 22010.001: Electricity. There has been an increase from 4800 to... There has been a decrease. Can the Commissioner enlighten us why there has been such a decrease in the electricity?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We want to save energy, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Next page, 72.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have one more question, Madam, please. Cleaning of Wards, 22070. We have got so much complaint with regard to cleaning of wards of QEH and so on. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether there has been new steps taken for the cleaning of the wards of QEH?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. We have launched tenders for cleaning of wards and this will be put into practice. The contract will be allocated very soon.

Madam Chairperson: 72.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, Item 22900: Laundry Costs, Other Goods and Services. Are we to understand that this laundry cost to include proper equipment for the Laundry Attendant to use? Because there are problems there that include for example, an Industrial Dryer. They can handle other proper equipment.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, we have already launched and will be acquire a new washing machine and also a Dryer for these persons working there. And, also, we have changed their chemicals they are using. They have had problem and now, everything is working on.

The Minority Leader : The same Item. Promotion for Healthy Living. Can we....can you extrapolate on that, explain or enlighten us what that means: Promotion for Healthy Living?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This Item is for organisation of talks, seminars and other activities to promote healthy living.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets. Item 31122.004: Medical Equipment. Madam Chair, can we know from the Commissioner what type of equipment has been... Can we have a list of these equipment that have been purchased?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: At the Commission for Health, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there are more than hundreds of equipment that we purchase every year. So, I need notice of the question to have the list of equipment.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regards to Item 5103: Office Expenses, I have been to the AIDS Unit some times back but I noticed the problem of flyers and booklets to inform the population about what is going on in that sector. Is this a special budget somewhere for the purchase of these flyers to be distributed to public in this sector?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We will use new technology to inform the population about HIV/AIDS, *SIDA*, for the forthcoming budget.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I know that the Commissioner is well in advance but can he inform us about the new technology, elaborate on the type of technology that he intends to use for the promotion of HIV/AIDS or non-communicable disease like...?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame la Présidente, nous en servir des réseaux sociaux et sur l'internet, sur le Facebook pour mieux éduquer les jeunes de ce problème.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chair, Item 28212.025. Subsistence Allowance to Patient on Treatment in Mauritius. Can we know from the Commissioner of Health the number of people who go on treatment in Mauritius for the year 2017/2018?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, yesterday during the debate of the budget, I mentioned the figure but I have forgotten it but it is yesterday I have mentioned the figure.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 73.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item number 22900.950: Conferences and Seminars. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether these conferences and seminars are being held in Rodrigues or in Mauritius and for what purpose?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: These Seminars are done in Rodrigues and in Mauritius and even in the other island of the Indian Ocean like Comoros, where we attended HIV/AIDS coloc.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21110.001: Head, Community Development and Community Development Officer. *Peut-on savoir pourquoi le poste n'a pas été rempli?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Scheme of Service for this post of Head, Community Development has not been finalised yet.

Madam Chairperson: 74, 75.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 74. Item 31113.015: Minor Works and Improvement to Community Centres. So, can the Commissioner elaborate on these figures, please?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, this payment is for Community Social Centre that is being... Construction is ongoing. It is at Accacia, Palissade Ternel, Petit Gabriel and Terre Rouge.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but what about the minor works in villages, I suppose?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is also for the upgrading of community centres.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to Item 21110.001: Officer-in-Charge, Fire and Rescue Services. Can we know why there is no Officer-in-Charge actually in post at Fire Services?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Officer-in-Charge has retired from the post and now, it is the Divisional Officer which has been assigned for the Head of Fire Services.

Madam Chairperson: 75, 76.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam, on page 76. Item 21110.001: Driver. There is one driver who is on roster. How can one driver be on roster? Can the Commissioner explain this to us? One driver on roster.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, it is the official post, the official nomination of this driver. We have Driver (on roster) and then, we have Ambulance Drivers.

Madam Chairperson: 77.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Meteorological Equipment/Minor Works. So, can the Commissioner explain this increase in figure? Item 31122.007.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, it is for the renovation work at the *meteo* services at Corail and Pointe Canon.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: What about the equipment, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam? Does that cater for buying of equipment?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, there is one equipment which has been purchased, an automatic station, an automatic weather station at Port Sud-Est, for Port Sud-Est.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regard to Judicial Services, Madam Chairperson, Madam, actually, we notice, I notice there is no officer in charged of finance at Judicial Services. Can the Commissioner inform the House who is performing the duty of finance in Judicial? Sorry? Item number 21110.001. Actually, we know court is dealing with money. Who is responsible for the finance in the Judicial Services?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Well, financial duties are performed at my Commission and there is a cashier there.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Do we have a Finance Officer at Judicial Services?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Travelling and Transport. So, can the Commissioner explain this figure?

Madam Chairperson: This is the last question. Time is over for this Vote Item.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is for the payment of fares for the DPP Officer for travelling for Rodrigues and the Chief Court going to Mauritius to bring official documents.

Vote 5-1: Commission for Health, Community Development, Fire Services, Meteorological Services, Judicial Services and Civil Status (Rs 515,916,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 83.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item number 22010.002: Telephone. Can the Commissioner inform the House why the cost of Telephone has increased from Rs 300,000 to Rs 600,000?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Increase is due to installation of new lines. Phone bills for Housing Unit paid under this Item Vote. Now, this unit has its own Item for Telephone.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, can the Commissioner...

Madam Chairperson: Item number, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 21111.100: Overtime. The figures, estimates Rs 200,000 and revised estimates to Rs 400,000. Again, we observed a 100% of increase for the Item Overtime. Can the Commissioner give us details on that?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Due to extra hours put in connection with activities organised by the Commission, specially Housing which was not here.

Madam Chairperson: 84.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 31112... Can I put the whole subsection? Let us start with the first one: .808. So, can he explain, please?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, provision made for minor works to be carried out in existing Social Security Officers. It is sufficient to meet the expenditure in the coming financial year as we have made most of the repairs during this current financial year.

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

Madam Chairperson: No, respected Member Volbert.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam the Chair, Item 31112.823. Can the Commissioner explain the increase from Rs 2,000,000 to Rs 7,244,000?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It was mainly due to purchase of additional equipment and some additional works which had to be carried out.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner with regard to Item 31112.808: Infrastructure? Does the Administrative Block of La Ferme fall under this Item, under your Commission?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: This has already been replied by Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. It is under Public Infrastructure.

Madam Chairperson: 85.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: 84. Item number 31112.821: Construction of Administrative Block at Mont Lubin. There has been an increase in the estimates. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on that?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Because the work in progress has been more than what was expected. So, we have paid more than what was budgeted.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item 31112.827: Training Complex for the Disabled (Consultancy). Can we know where this Training Complex will be built and the purpose of?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, the purpose is for training of disabled persons and we are still considering different options, different locations. We have not yet finalised and when the Consultant will be recruited, we will find out which one is the best location.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 85.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Item 22030: Rent, Rental of Building. So, can we know which building is being rent by his Commission, please?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It relates to the building which is being rented actually by the Social Security, the Mauritius Housing Company building and additional provision for another building which will be hired for the purpose of Purchasing Unit, purchasing and supply office. So, monthly – Rs 190,833.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Will he move his officers to Mont Lubin afterwards? So, what will happen?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Madam Chairperson. This will be the Headquarter for Social Security.

Madam Chairperson: 86.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Operation of Respite Care Centre. So, there is Rs 1 m. which has been earmarked.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 22900.985: Operation of Respite Care Centre. Can he explain how this centre is going to be operated and at what cost?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It will be operated by the *Couvant, Fille de Marie*, will launch an expression of interest to any organisation having experience in the field of caregiving and obviously, there was only one applicant *Couvant, Fille de Marie*. We will give a grant to them for the operation just like the *Foyer de Baladirou*.

Madam Chairperson: 86.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam, I have one more question on the issue.

Madam Chairperson: Last one for 86.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Same Item. Since the Respite Care Centre is not yet operational and the sum remained the same, can he explain this? Is it yet operational to have been paid this money?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It will start its operation in June. So, before the end of this financial year, the amount earmarked here will be used as well as for the additional for the coming financial year.

Madam Chairperson: 86.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 28212.013: Gifts to Centenarians. *Peut-on savoir...* Can I know the cost of each celebration?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It depends on the centenarian. They propose, they suggest the gift that they want and accordingly, we adjust in our budget. It is according to their wish. It is on average Rs 50,000 per centenarian.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 27210.002: Social Aid. So, we have seen last year, Rs 75m. which has increased to a revised estimate of Rs 85 m. So, can the Commissioner explain this increase in the Rs 10 m. please?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, the increase has been revised due to revised rate, increase of rate in January of each year. That is why it has increased.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the same Item. Will you think that the Rs 75 m. estimated this year will be enough?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, according to the trend, it will be enough because we expect that with the increase in job opportunities, some more single women will be able to get a job where they will have more revenue and they will no longer require to have to rely on Social Aid.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 27210.003: Unemployment Hardship Relief. Can we know about the decrease?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Job creation simply.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Under which Item are the ERP? Under which Item are they paid?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Employment.

Madam Chairperson: 87.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 28212.012: Casting of Slab. Can I know the people concerned with the Casting of Roof Slab Grant? Whether *bane ancient combattants*, can you enlighten us please?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, all the beneficiaries who are eligible under the Casting of Slab Scheme except the elderly whereby, we consider a fast-track system concerning those who do not have a residential lease. But here, it covers mainly those who already have a residential lease, building permit and their income are below Rs 15,000. Any person, income should be less than Rs 15,000 and obviously, the square metre less than 100 m², area less than 100 m².

Madam Chairperson: 88.

The Minority Leader : Madam, Item 22120: Fees. Fees to Chairman and Members of the Board Committees. Can he enlighten us on that? Because it is quite a huge amount to be paid for as fee.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, it relates to fees paid to members on Secretary of the Board, Committees as per PRB recommendations, the RCCM. So, it means that they are working. Secretary – Rs 1,225 per sitting, Members – Rs 890 per sitting. So, this is the purpose of this.

The Minority Leader : On a matter of clarification, which board are you talking about?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation (RCCM).

Madam Chairperson: 89.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 27210.108: Employment Relief Programme. So, can I ask the Commissioner this sum of money? We see there has been an increase and this year, it is only Rs 25 m. So, how many beneficiaries will be concerned by this figure?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, there will be a slight restructuring of this programme. We will have 250 beneficiaries for the normal scheme but we will recruit among the potential beneficiaries 25 Supervisors, mainly those who have SC or HSC. So, it will relate to UHR recipients or Social.... Recipients who possess a School Certificate or Higher School Certificate. They will be

recruited and trained to become Supervisors. So, they will supervise a team of about 10 to 12 persons.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, same Item. Will they be paid the minimum wage?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: No, it is not a job; it is a training programme, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Item 22900.966: Plan de Prestation Transitoire. Peut-on savoir un peu plus sur ce...?*

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It is related to the exit plan for ERP trainees. At the end of the placement, so, they can if they want to create a small business, an economic activity, so, they can then benefit from a certain amount of money but not exceeding Rs 100,000 to buy equipment or other facilities, materials.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Peut-on savoir, *Madam the Chair*, combien de personnes jusqu'à maintenant qui ont bénéficié de ce plan-là ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, 192.

Madam Chairperson: 90.

Vote 6-1: Commission for Social Security, Housing, Labour and Industrial Relations, Employment and Consumer Protection (Rs 851,936,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 7-1: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries, Marine Parks and Forestry was called.

Madam Chairperson: 97.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 21111.100: Overtime. So, can the Commissioner explain this exponential increase in the figure?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this is due to all the things related to FMD.

Madam Chairperson: 98.

The Minority Leader : Item 31113: Other Structures, .021: Agricultural Research and Development. Can you enlighten us on that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this we will do quite a lot of research on cassava, sweet potatoes, improvement of local onions, garlic, local pigs and everything that as the Chief Commissioner said, we will do a lot of research this year.

The Minority Leader : If I can add, Madam Chair, can we know where all these researches will be done, whether, there is a laboratory or something?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, researches do not necessarily need a laboratory. There are a lot of things that is done on the ground.

The Minority Leader : Where? A specific place.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I talked of a lot of schemes. We are talking about cassava. We will do cassava. We can do at Citronnelle. We can do anywhere. Sweet potato, we can do it. Black pig, we will do with all the schemes that we have done and also, there is consultancy for the new Administrative Block that we will construct.

Madam Chairperson: 99.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have one question.

Madam Chairperson: No, 99.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Overtime, still. Can the Commissioner explain 21111.100?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is due to the surveys of calamities, World Food Day, water distribution to farmers because of the drought.

Madam Chairperson: 100.

The Minority Leader : 100. Item .954: Fruit Flies Control. Can I know whether, the Commission will do more concerning the Fruit Flies Control?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, definitely, we will do more but the change in costing in a budget is more because we change our strategy. We used to do a lot of chemical control and now, we are going towards biological control which will cost less.

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, the respected Member was already...

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Item .979: Incentive for Red Beans Production.* Peut-on savoir combien de planteurs qui sont concernés?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: What was the question ? How many planters? 188 planters.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Peut-on, *Madam the Chair*, de quelle région ces planteurs-là sont ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly in the west but it is all over the island.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes. Item .959 with regards to Incentive for Agricultural Crop Production. Can the Commissioner enlighten us on what type of crops and in what region it will be concerned?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is mainly concerned with land mechanisation, scheme that we offer most planters for onion, garlic, all, maize, everything that we are doing.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item 21110.001: Veterinary Officer. In post – two and funded – two also for this year though they have announced that they will recruit some more two or I do not know the exact figure, two or three Veterinary Officers. But we see here there has been no provision for these new Veterinary Officers. So, how come?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, yes, I said that we are going to recruit three more Veterinary Officers. We do not have it in the budget because we will do it on contract. We did not put the post because if we have put the post, there is no Rodriguan ready for that. So, this will be on contract. It will be in the remuneration, extra remuneration.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chairperson, 21110.001 – Agricultural Laboratory Technologist (New grade). Here there is neither the post nor the funding. So, what will happen, there will be no...

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, the post, this is a very important post for us but the scheme is not ready.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item No. 31113 – Water Distribution for Irrigation - .017. Can we know from the commissioner which areas are concerned with this project?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Water Distribution is for mostly all, as I said in my speech, we are going towards a new grade of planters. We are going to have professional planters. It will be all over the island but mostly for professional planters.

Madam Chairperson: 101.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 22900.953 – Incentive for Livestock Production. So, I have seen an increase in the figure and also this year they have earmarked Rs 4.5 m. So, we want to know from the commissioner, we want him to explain this figure and what type of livestock he is taking about?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We are talking about... you know we just came from this FMD, so that is why I have said *la relance de l'élevage*. So, it will be for pigs, mainly black pigs and cattle and all the animals that we normally raise on a commercial basis.

Mr. Z. Felicite: Item No. 21111.100 – Overtime. So, can the commissioner explain to us the huge increase in this amount.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is directly related, Madam Chairperson, to FMD and also for the export of animals. Because as you know we have this problem exporting to Mauritius, so my commission is investing a lot to help giving transport to the quay and we pay the cost of freight to take the animals to Mauritius. That is it.

Madam Chairperson: 102.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 31113 – Other Structures, .020 – Improvement of Livestock and Local Poultry. Can the commissioner inform us where does matter stand? What is happening actually of the local poultry?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is not just for poultry but for poultry we are helping the farmers to have better, you know sort of building for ... and also to increase the ...we have 24 farmers who are under this scheme, so we are giving them all the facilities to upgrade. We want them to go, *franchir une nouvelle étape, par rapport à ça*.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you put your question properly. Okay, 103 then.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110 – Agricultural Engineer. To be recruited under contract (Extra Assistance). Page 102. There is a post of Agricultural Engineer actually, no funding but it is said that this post will be recruited under contract. Can you explain to us why under contract?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, we need an Engineer because with regard to all this works about irrigation for water for farmers, for planters, we need to definitely have someone who knows about, you know we just do not want to continue doing it like we used to do, so we need an Engineer to do this job. So, this Engineer will be recruited under capacity building.

Madam Chairperson: 103.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, Item 22900.983 – Seed Production Scheme. Can the commissioner enlighten us on that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly about the subsidy that we give to RTMC for the scheme.

The Minority Leader: Are we producing seeds now?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: No, no. You know, all this thing about the scheme about seeds production goes through RTMC and we have also set up two farms that are working on that.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.970 – Bird Net. Peut-on savoir combien de personne qui ont bénéficié de ça ?

The Minority Leader: Can I ask the commissioner where these two farms will be situated?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: For the Bird Net, because it is a scheme that normally because to fight against bats but for the time being people are not coming for that. Which means that bats are not causing any problem to the fruits here. So, we keep putting the money just in case people will come for that.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, Item 22900.963 – Control of Stray Dogs. We have been talking about dogs on Ile Hermitage etc. Can we know how the Commission for Agriculture is controlling these stray dogs?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: How we control? I said in my speech, for the time being, before we could not do it, because there are another organization supposed do to it like we call... Now we already have signed the MOU, so the techniques will be there. They will be the one to help us to do it because we are not supposed to do it ourselves. We would have done it if we could, before.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: .982, can the commissioner inform us about the Establish Standards for 5 Key Rodriguan Products. Can we know what products basically?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Haricot rouge, ti piments, limon, mais et safran.*

Mr. Z. Felicite: Item 22900.984, concerning the Supply of Irrigation Equipment to Beneficiaries of Chilli Farms Scheme. So, can the commissioner inform the House how many Chilli Farms are being supplied with irrigation equipment and which regions?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: 45. It is mainly at Baladirou.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, the commissioner is saying Chilli Farm, 45 but in the paper it is written 43. Look in the budget. Chilli Farm Scheme, 43. He said 45.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We just added two.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: This is not serious, Madam Chairperson. This is not serious. In the budget, it is written 43 and he told me such are...

Madam Chairperson: Thank you for your contribution, Respected Member. You can come up with a substantive question next time.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 22900.983 – Seed Production Scheme. Can we know where the seeds are being produced?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Montagne Cheri and Camp Baptiste.

Vote 7-1: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry (Rs 153,022,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 7-2: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry was called.

Madam Chairperson: 105.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, still 21111.1 – overtime. Can the commissioner explain to us this increase from estimated to revised for this year?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Provision made for the payment of overtime to officers attached to vote 7-201: GENERAL. Overtime is regularly performed by Office Auxiliary Attendants and Drivers and an off by officers of Registry, Finance and Store. The actual trend is about Rs 50,000 a month and the provision is made to... normally even this is insufficient.

Madam Chairperson: 106, 107.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, with regard to 22070 – Cleaning Services, 005 - Cleaning Services – Refuse Collection. May I ask the commissioner to enlighten us about the increase, slight increase in the amount from estimates to revised estimates?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is because the work load has increased, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Has there been any recruitment of new officers in that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: There is also some recruitment.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, Item 22900.940 – Promotion of Environment and 941, Embellishment of the Environment. Can the commissioner give us some more details about that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Promotion of the Environment is more about World Environment Day and the cleaning up and sensitization campaigns. But for Embellishment it is totally different. We concentrate on green spaces mainly.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can I ask the commissioner concerning the Embellishment of the Environment, the different places where this project has been finalized?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We started at Port Mathurin Bus Terminal, La Ferme, in front of the big building, inside I do not know, this is mainly outside. It is mainly these two and also we are spending quite a lot of money on producing the plants as well – seedlings.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, Item 25110.006 – Subsidies. Subsidy on Solar Water Heater, can I know how many households are concerned with that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The plan was in the last budget to give 100 but after we have done the necessary screening, we have seen that there are about 207 who are interested. So, we will try as far as possible to give to the 200 people.

Madam Chairperson: 108.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 31113.009 – Protection of the Environment. Can the commissioner explain what will he do with this Rs 10 m. earmarked for this year?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It will be about lifting of the beaches, mainly English Bay and Port Sud Est, construction of toilets at Graviers, extension of dumping site at Roche Bon Dieu, extension of the building at the commission and there is still quite a lot of things that I will do with that.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: What about the sewage equipment?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Also.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Also?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110.001 – Second-Hand Fishing. Can the commissioner enlighten us about the Second-Hand Fishing Limited?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a PRB Post but we are working on that. It is in the PRB Report.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I see that there are 17 Security Guards. Can we know where are they posted, Security Guards?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The Security Guards are posted you know all about mainly the nature reserves, Ile aux Cocos, Grande Montagne, Anse Quitor and all the fenced areas around Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Item 21110.001 – Motorman/Engine Driver and Outboard Mechanic. These two posts have been cancelled, can we know why?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The posts have been cancelled because there is a new post, sort of, Launch Drivers, it is.

Madam Chairperson: 109.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 27110 – Alternative Livelihood to Octopus Fishers during Closed Session.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: What is the question?

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, can the commissioner inform the House of the increase of the budget for that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We have noticed that because mainly for the Octopus Closed Season for the Supervisors, we used Supervisors from RCSS and from the past closures, we have seen that we need much more money than that.

Madam Chairperson: 110.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: 21110.005 – Extra Assistance. Peut-on savoir du commissaire *the increase from Rs 1.4 to Rs 1.8?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly for the salary and all the things that goes with the Field Rangers at SEMPA.

Madam Chairperson: 111, 112, 113.

Vote 7-2: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry (Rs 203,293,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: 118.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, overtime. 21111.001 – overtime. So, can the commissioner explain this increase from Rs 100,000 to Rs 250,000 please.

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, provision was made for the new activities that were implemented by my commission, namely the Port Mathurin Urban Trail and the 15th Anniversary of the Autonomy.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 22060.001 – Buildings. So, can the commissioner explain what this money earmarked for this year will be used for?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, this sum is based on the trend of expenditure of my commission and will be sufficient for the minor renovation works at my commission and to improve the working environment.

Madam Chairperson: 119.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item No. 21110.001 – Youth Officer. In post, March 2018 – 6 funded. And, there has been decreased in the estimates. Can the commissioner explain?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: This is to cater for Youth Officers indeed and we have seen that there are newly recruited officers and that will cater for the new recruit. This is why.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, Item 21110.003. Can we know more about Extra Remuneration and the increase from Rs 54,000 to Rs 112,000?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Can you repeat the item, please.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: 21110.003.

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Provision is made for salary compensation 2018.

Madam Chairperson: Next, 120.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Extra Budgetary Units – Contribution to Atelier de Savoir. The commissioner mentioned that this year we will celebrate the 50 years' existence of Atelier de Savoir. Madam Chairperson, since there has been the minimum salary, I see that the contribution to Atelier de Savoir has increased to only Rs 100,000. Will these sums be sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Atelier de Savoir in Rodrigues?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, actually my commission is going through a restructuration of the Atelier de Savoir as announced in my speech lately. So, we will look at the issue when we will do the restructuration and see the modalities. Because now we are starting with consultations.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Does it mean that the minimum salary for these animators will be taken into consideration under your restructuration plan?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: With the formula, Madam Chairperson, the minimum wage will be respected.

The Minority Leader: Item 3131113 – Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets. Other Structures you have Youth Centres of which about Rs 16 m. has been earmarked. Can we have more details about that?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Some will be used for the completion of Baladirou Residential and Training Centre whose contract has already started and work has already been implemented.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Promotion of Sports and Sports for All. Item 21110.001 – Coach, in post - 3, funded – 6 and the estimates and revised estimates, there is a decrease. Can the commissioner explain why?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Indeed, Madam Chairperson, there is a coach that has retired at my commission, then there has been the promotion of another one to Senior Coach and actually we have seen that we have planned for six. So, we are planning to recruit three new Coaches as well.

Madam Chairperson: 121.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22030 – Rent 003, vehicles. Can the commissioner inform the House about this item?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: So, this item is being used to review the transport system of my commission especially, the transport of athletes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21111 – Other staff cost, Overtime. Can the commissioner inform about the huge increase from Rs 1 m. to Rs 2 m.?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: So, the decrease is much because if we are providing for new transport system evidently, the overtime will decrease, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Page 121, the first line. Swimming Pool Attendant. We know that the swimming pool is not ready, it is not functioning and can we know what the two attendants, we have two, what work they are doing, what they are doing?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Could you please repeat the question. I did not quite make it.

The Minority Leader: The Swimming Pool Attendant. You have the Swimming Pool Attendant and we have been made to understand that the swimming pool at Maréchal is not ready for use and can we know whether the Swimming Pool Attendant, there are two, are they on duty, are they being utilised as they should be?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: So, as I have said previously, the swimming pool will be commissioned very soon since it is already full. So, the two Swimming Pool Attendants will be recruited, shortly. Will be recruited, they are not in post.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22060.017 – Upgrading of Sports Ground. Madam Chairperson, can we know from the commissioner where these upgrading of sports ground will be held? The sports ground, where?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, as I have said with the launched of contract for Mourouk twice and we had to relaunched. So, there will be one at Mourouk. There will be others at Dans Bégué and those are the sports ground. But also as mentioned there will be fencing also.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Does the infrastructure in Roseaux will be taken into consideration under this item? The finalization of the structure.

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: It will be considered under Item Sports Complexes. Item 31113.002.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, coming back to the Swimming Pool Attendant, the commissioner said that we will have two who will be recruited. But there are only Rs 39,000 that has been earmarked. Will it be enough for two attendants for one year?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, the procedures for recruitment, you know how long it takes. So, it will be sufficient if it is provided like that. Because we have gone through proper planning before including this sum.

Madam Chairperson: 122.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item .946 – Jeux de Rodrigues. I see that the estimates were Rs 2,800,000, revised estimates Rs 2,800,000 and for the year

2018-2019, the same amount. Does it mean that the Jeux de Rodrigues will take place this year?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: It means the same thing as every year. So, the activities that will be done in that item that will promote sports in Rodrigues and for Rodriguans.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chairperson, Item No. .944 – Major International Sports Events. Can the commissioner enlighten us on this item?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: This item, Madam Chairperson, is used for the Sports Award, that is, we give prizes to recognize *Comité Régional*, athletes and all partners and also for reward of athletes who have succeeded and who have brilliantly represented Rodrigues at international level. And, the increase is due to the fact that we are having more and more athletes that are doing very well and we have to cater for it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item .943 – Allowances to Sports Animators. There has been an increased from Rs 1,700,000 to Rs 2 m. for revised. And, then it decreased from Rs 1,700,000. Does this mean that there will be less Sports Animators? What will happen?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: We will remain with our 40 Sports Animators, Madam Chairperson. But what happened for the increase, we had exceptional cases where they had to put their services at the disposition of the athletes and they had to do extra works. This is why there has been an increased and we have to get it back to normal.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item .942 – Promotion for Sports Activities. We have seen that there is an increase in the revised estimates and for the estimates for 2018-19, there has been a decreased. Can the commissioner explain to us about this?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: So, the increase for 2018-2019 is due to the fact that from now on we are catering for 22 sports disciplines. We are giving due attention to table tennis, handball and badminton. These are the new activities that we are taking up in our purview.

Madam Chairperson: 122? Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I would like to put two questions in one. Can the commissioner explain...

Madam Chairperson: One at a time, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: It is the same thing. Head, Arts and Culture (New Grade) and Technical (Light and Sound). This post has not been filled for so long. Can the commissioner explain if there is no need for this two posts?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: With regard to the Head of Arts and Culture, this is a new grade indeed and we are working on the scheme of duty and we are glad indeed that it has been included in that budget. And, it is a first as you said. And for Light and Sound Technician, we have called for application, we have received no candidates and we are reworking on the scheme of duty.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, sport complexes – 31113.002. There has been an increased in these sports complexes, revised estimates for the year 2017-18. Can the commissioner enlighten us about this?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Yes, I mentioned earlier there is also and there are the two major sites that are under construction. There is Roche Bon Dieu Stadium and Camp du Roi Stadium that will be catered under this item.

Madam Chairperson: 123.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22900 – Safeguard and Promotion of Sega Tambour of Rodrigues. 2017-18 – zero. 2017-18 revised – zero and I see that 2018-19, there has been only a sum of Rs 500,000 budgeted for the promotion of Sega Tambour. Madam Chairperson, since we know that Sega Tambour has been uplifted to the World Cultural Heritage, may I ask the commissioner what will be doing in this Rs 500,000 for the promotion of Sega Tambour?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner on the 23 of March, clearly spelled out the different projects that will be catered under this item. But let me enlighten the member also that there are projects under Arts-Etude that will be co-financed by the Commission for Education at the level of Chief Commissioner Office.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.930 Festival Créole. Can the commissioner enlighten us on the increase of the budget for Festival Créole? What will be exceptional for this item?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: The Festival Créole is following the same trend because as you know, prices for sound system, lighting are increasing and also like you say there is... I would not say that word but there are all these costs and

then that of overtime that will have to be catered and it keeps on increasing because salary also is increasing.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 128212.028 – acquisition of Artefacts. I see that for estimates 2017-18 – Rs 50,000, revised the same think and I observed that in 2018-19, 19-20 there will be no money available for the acquisition of Artefacts. Can I know from the commissioner, since we have made acquisition of a building at Baie Lascars what will be exposed in this building and why?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, I would advise the Respected Member to read the asterisk. This has been transferred to another item – Museum.

The Minority Leader: Item 22900.967 – Production of Dictionnaire Créole-Rodriguais. Can we know where we have arrived at concerning this production with *dictionnaire*?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: With regard to the dictionary as I have said, we have no authority at the level of Regional Assembly to produce a dictionary. So, an MOU is being worked with the University of Mauritius for the validation of the dictionary.

Madam Chairperson: 124.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item No. 31112.013 – Cultural and Leisure Infrastructure. Can the commissioner give us more information about this?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: So, this sum is allocated for the upgrading of leisure centre. We have already started MNE works, electrical works and providing sound systems. So, the works will continue so that leisure centre be upgraded fully.

Madam Chairperson: 125, 126.

Vote 8-1: Commission for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Library Services, Museum, Archives and Historical Sites and Buildings (Rs 146,451,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Summary of Revenue (Rs 3,605,000,000) was called and agreed to.

/UNREVISED/

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

REPORT STAGE

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to report to the House that the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue, Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2019 has now passed the Draft Estimates Committee with amendments.

The Draft Estimates of Revenue and Draft Estimates of Expenditure for Financial Year ending 30 June 2019 were, as amended, agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam. Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 6.53 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 10.30 hours.