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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 7 of 2018

Sitting of Tuesday 28 August 2018

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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Debate No. 7 of 2018

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2018

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The Executive Council

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

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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

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

PAPERS LAID

- (iii) The Annual Report of RodClean Ltd for the year ended 31st December 2016; and**
- (iv) The Annual Report of RodClean Ltd for the year ended 31st December 2017.**

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**BUST UNVEILED –
18TH AUGUST 2018 – MONT LUBIN**

(No. B/64) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Arts and Culture and Others whether in regard to the bust that was unveiled on Saturday 18th August 2018 at Mont Lubin, she will state:

- (a)** on the mode of procurement used therefor, specifying if there has been compliance with relevant existing legal provisions and indicating the successful bidder;
- (b)** if any project monitoring committee was set up in regard thereto and, if so, to specify under whose chairmanship; and
- (c)** the total cost of the whole project?

The Commissioner for Arts and Culture and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, the bust of Nelson Mandela was unveiled on Saturday 18 August 2018 at Mont Lubin in the context of Nelson Mandela Centenary 2018. The event was organised on the theme: “Be the Legacy”. Madam Chair, Mandela Day is an Annual International Day in the honour of Rolihlahla Mandela celebrated each year on the 18 July. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009 with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010. Nelson Mandela is a model for the world and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 for his efforts to dismantle South Africa’s apartheid system. Mandela is a role model for Rodrigues and the rest of the world. Madam Chair, in a view to pay tribute to this great personality and considering our closeness to South Africa as our country of origin, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has decided to mark the UN Mandela Day and to commemorate the

centenary year of his birth. It is in this context that a bust of Nelson Mandela was unveiled at Mont Lubin marketplace on Saturday 18 August 2018 one month after the date of the UN Mandela Day is celebrated. Two information signs: one on the biography and the other on the sayings of Nelson Mandela were unveiled on the occasion to sensitise the population on the importance of freedom and leadership.

Madam Chair, the mode of procurement used thereof is the respected bidding for works of clay merely grants casting and installation of bust of the late Nelson Mandela. The bids were sent to three potential bidders and only two bidders responded to same. The contract was awarded to the lowest substantially responsive bidder, one Mr. D. Bungshee, Managing Director of Ananta Art Gallery Ltd. for the sum of Rs 480,000 excluding VAT. The contract was awarded on 09 August 2017. I am informed that for the award of the contract, the procurement exercise was carried out in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006. As stated by the successful bidder in his bid, the latter is fully experienced in the design of bust and has also realised major sculptural works like the statue of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam at Caudan Waterfront, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, Sir Gaetan Duval, Dr Maurice Curé, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Satcam Boolell and other renowned personalities.

Madam Chair, with regards to part (b), the project was monitored by officers of Commission for Arts and Culture, the construction of the basement and pedestal as well as the retaining walls and upgrading works were supervised by the officers from the Commission for Public Infrastructure. With regards to part (c), Madam Chair, the total cost of the project amounts to Rs 838,160 and comprises of procurement and installation of bust, erection of pedestal and basement, upgrading works and construction of masonry ward, embellishment works and supply of informative signs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, the project, we have been made to understand cost nearly Rs 1 m. We understand the need to pay tribute to such a great man as Nelson Mandela but I would like to know whether... Since the respected Commissioner have said that the person that built this bust is fully experienced. I would like to know prior to the installation of these bust, has the Commission deemed it fit to see to it that the bust really resemble the late Nelson Mandela?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chairperson, with regards to the resemblance of Nelson Mandela, please note that the bust, the model that was used was a photo of Nelson Mandela in his early 60s. This is the first thing. Secondly, Madam Chair, I would like also to highlight...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I would like also to enlighten the House that with regards to resemblance, it is really a subjective question as...

[Interruptions]

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Let me finish and then, you will revert back. Because as Shakespeare would say: '*beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder*'. And, also, I would like to say in a more modern way...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Like the song would say, *enan ene santé ki dir 'to fam super'*. *Be si bane la pas trouve to madame super, be pas forcement ki li pa super.*

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : Madam...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please, yes. Respected Members, please! Yes, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner goes out of her way to say that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. So be it, we are not talking of beauty here; we are talking of resemblance. We have seen, all of us ensure we have seen the photograph of Nelson Mandela when he was young and this bust really resembles anybody except Nelson Mandela.

[Applause]

The Minority Leader : In fact, many people when looking at the bust, they see the late France Félicité. So, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner is she contemplating the possibility of putting a new one that really resemble Nelson Mandela really to pay tribute to this tribun.

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, I would like also to highlight to this House that first of all, it is not a photocopy of... When you do a bust, it is not a photocopy. It is not just like when you take a photo. This is the first thing. The second thing is that we have seen on the social media that there are people who are playing tricks. I would say it like this, playing tricks, taking photos in all

angles just to show that it is not Mandela. The Minority Leader himself says that the latter does not resemble, it resembles everybody except the person that it needs to resemble. So, since I think that the Minority group is of great expertise in that field, maybe they could bring a bust in that sense but I would like to highlight that we have seen the photos from different angles and we have seen that there are tricks being played just to make people see that it does not resemble. Because I am aware also that someone sent another photo but someone removed it just to show that there is a strategy to cause trouble, to see things in a pessimistic manner and to create demagoguery.

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, there is no trick being played. *Elle est en train de defender l'indéfendable.* People have been there. They have seen the bust right in front and photographs have been taken right in front of the bust. I would like to ask the respected Commissioner, we have spent a lot, nearly Rs 1 m. for this bust, we should have value for money! If the guy that has created the bust, he has mistaken in the photograph, he should be made to rectify. Let us have another bust that really resemble the late Rolihlahla Mandela to really pay tribute to this great man!

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I would like also to highlight to the House that payment is done partly to the person who has done it and of course, payment has not been completed and we shall complete same after meeting but I would like to highlight also that there are people playing tricks on that just to make mountains out of moon hills.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente...

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Il ne faut pas...

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Il ne faut pas defender l'indéfendable. Même les Sud-africains que j'ai rencontrés à Rodrigues disent qu'il n'y a pas de ressemblance avec Mandela. Donc, j'aimerais poser la question suivante :* concerning the restricted bidding, so, we see that it amounts to Rs 480,000. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether restricted bidding, you can go up to Rs 480,000 and if not, what is the optimum amount to be respected?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, this is a purely procurement question. I think that officers doing same have done their work just in the parameters that is proposed at the Procurement Act.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I cannot ask officers questions. I put the question to the Commissioner but she has to answer. She has to tell me that....

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I understand your query but no question can be insisted upon, I am sorry.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, permettez-moi d'avoir l'espace pour poser une question au Commissaire Rose de Lima Edouard. Madame la présidente, devant le bâtiment de Alfred North Coombes, il y a un buste Alfred North Coombes faite à l'époque où j'étais conseillé aux Arts et à la Culture. Je supervisais ce travail-là avec toute l'équipe des Arts et de la Culture qui a beaucoup d'expérience en la matière pour arriver à une conclusion final à un buste qui ressemble à Alfred North Coombes. Est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire présent les officiers qui ont de l'expérience, ont-ils été consulté ou bien ont-ils été mis à côté sur les bancs des pauvres concernant ce spécifiques travaux qui ont été faites à Mont Lubin ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, please note that I have already mentioned that the officers of the Commission for Arts and Culture monitored the whole work for the realisation of this bust and allow me also to highlight that with regards to Mandela, everyone has his own image, his own perceptions of Nelson Mandela. And, he is comparing to Alfred North Coombes, had anybody known him like they had known Mandela, I think that there would have been the same comments or whatever because I think... I maintain what I have said because all these are subject to appreciation, interpretation and perception. And I have said also that we have used photos of his early sixties and here are the photos that were used and I think maybe they are used to see him in his last days.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madame la présidente, par rapport à mon expérience personnel en tant que photographe, j'aurais aimé que la Commissaire nous donne la possibilité de voir au moins cette photo qui a été utilisée comme modèle parce que je me souviens David Félicité...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you have already put your question, now.

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

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Ms. M. R. Edouard: I am tabling the photos that were used as well as some of the bust that have been realised around the world. I am tabling these three.

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Comme ils ont célébré la journée de Nelson Mandela, donc, je me rappelle qu'il y a un centre à Maréchal. A l'époque, c'est le Gouvernement OPR qui a donné le nom à ce centre-là. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire si la Commission est en train d'aménager ou bien de continuer à rénover ce centre ?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I am not aware of this and anyway, this has no link with the question.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

WASTE WATER – MONT LUBIN TO MALABAR

(No. B/65) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the structures to canalise waste water from Mont Lubin to Malabar, his Commission has been made aware that same is blocked in the slope nearing Malabar, causing much inconvenience to the villagers, and, in the affirmative, to state the measures his Commission is contemplating to remedy same together with the expected timeframe therefor?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, I am informed that there is no public structure meant to carry waste water from Mt. Lubin to Malabar. Waste water should not be disposed in the covered roadside drain meant for evacuation of storm water.

A joint site visit was carried out in May 2018 by Officers of the Commission for Environment, *la Police de L'Environnement*, RodClean Ltd and my Commission and it has been decided to clean the covered drain as it is obstructed. A works order will be issued to Transinvest under the Rate Road

Contract for the removal of any obstructing materials which are inside the drain and the Road Contract will also include the resurfacing of the road from Mont Lubin to Malabar as it has been noticed that part of the road has been damaged there. I am also informed, Madam Chairperson, that the *Police de l'Environnement* and the Commission for Environment are attending to any possible illegal disposal of waste water in the drain.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, we are talking of Mont Lubin/Malabar. This region has become urbanised with many houses and so on. Being given that this region is the catchment area of the Cascade Pigeon River, the Cascade Pigeon Reservoir and you have waste water and you have rainwater seeping down, going downhill to this place. Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner what are the measures that his Commission is taking to prevent contamination of the underground water of the catchment area of Cascade Pigeon?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the question of contamination of underground water does not relate only to Mont Lubin. I think it is an issue that relates to the whole part of the island because up to now in Rodrigues, we do not have a proper sewage system as such in order to collect and treat the sewage water. Nevertheless, in the Commission for Environment, there is the project of the setting up of a Waste Water Treatment Plant pending the coming of the operation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, then, we will have to see how best we are going to operate a Sewage System throughout the island so that these sewages can be collected and be treated at Grenade if I believe this is where the Sewage Treatment Plant will be constructed.

The Minority Leader : Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner what is the timeframe for the setting up of this Sewage Treatment Plant?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Provision has been made in the financial budget, for financial budget 2018/2019 and I believe that there has been instruction given to the Consultant for the starting of the design of the project.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner :Already been given to the Commission. So, this means the project is on the way.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/72, B/82/, B/84, B/87 and B/90 have been withdrawn by the respected Members. Next question.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

(No. B/66) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, he will, in the wake of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) which adversely affected Rodrigues, enlighten the House on where matters stand with regard to bans imposed by authorities on local agricultural produces?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, the House will recall that Rodrigues was hit by the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) during May 2016. As a consequence, the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security imposed a complete ban on the export of livestock, meat derived products from Rodrigues in August 2016. Following negotiations with the said Ministry, the ban was partially lifted in December 2016 to allow export of poultry, goat and sheep to Mauritius. Export of goat and sheep was permitted under a list of strict conditions set by the Ministry for biosecurity reasons. Only the Mauritius Meat Authority can import live goats and sheeps from Rodrigues. All animals are already sent directly to the slaughterhouse of the Mauritius Meat Authority and slaughtered within 24 hours, 24 to 48 hours. A pre-export quarantine of four to seven days is to be observed for animals to be exported. In August 2017, the ban on export of cattle to Mauritius was partially lifted provided the same conditions as for goats and sheep are observed following results of blood test with respect to FMD on Rodrigues which indicated that only 25% of the animal tested were contaminated by the virus.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Yes, proceed, please Commissioner.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, I wish to place on record that an ELISA equipment received from *région* Reunion last year is being used for blood analysis of animals by the Veterinary Services of my Commission. This helps to better prepare for outbreak of such diseases. In May 2018, Madam Chairperson, another partial lift on the ban of export of cattle was carried out by the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security whereby private butchers were henceforth allowed to purchase animals from Rodrigues as well provided they observed the same conditions as the Mauritius Meat... (MMA). In a nutshell, the ban is imposed on Rodrigues in August 2016 with respect to export of alive stock and meat to Mauritius has at date been lifted partially to allow export of cattle, sheep and goat to Mauritius for slaughter only.

Export of livestock for rearing in Mauritius is still prohibited as well as export of meat and meat products. With regards to the export of poultry, there is

no restriction at all. Madam Chairperson, I chaired a meeting on 19 June 2018 where the Director of Agriculture, the Assistant Director, the Head of the Veterinary Services and the General Manager of the MMA, inter alia were present. We have been informed that a third round of surveillance will be conducted by the end of this year and in light of the results of blood analysis, an application will be made to the World Organisation for Animal Health to declare the whole Republic of Mauritius free from FMD. It is very probable that a decision will be taken early next year for the complete lifting of the ban on Rodrigues, thus allowing the free trading of livestock, meat and meat products as it was the case before FMD episode in 2016.

Last but not least, Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that this year, my Commission has contracted the services of Professor Gavin Thompson, an FMD expert of South Africa to prepare an emergency preparedness contingency plan to better prepare against the prevalence of animal disease by putting in place a protocol to be followed. This will help to improve our resilience against the outbreak of major animal diseases in view of protecting our livestock sector.

The Minority Leader : Madam the Chair, being given that we are talking of the Foot and Mouth Disease, can I ask the respected Commissioner whether all the farmers that lost their animals due to the Foot and Mouth Diseases have been compensated up to now?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, to the best of my knowledge, all the farmers that have been registered as having lost their animals for FMD have been paid.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Being given that the Commissioner mentioned in his reply there were strict condition to export goat/sheep to Mauritius. Can he explain, give details on these conditions?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson. The conditions are that the animals should be sent, one of the conditions, directly. It has to be sold to the MMA. That was the start and sent directly to the *l'abattoir* in Mauritius for it has to be culled directly. Also, when we change... Also, it has to be tagged. The animal has to be tagged. We need to know the history of the animal. We need to have... All animals normally after FMD, they have a sort of dossier where blood is being taken, analysis done so that we make sure that we know the animal before sending to Mauritius. And, also, the last thing was when we opened the ban for other butchers to come, these people had to get a clearance from my Commission and also when they go to the farm, they had to ensure that biosecurity measures

are taken so that they do not transmit the disease again because these people, normally, they move from one farm to another.

The Deputy Chairperson: Being given that the disease came from abroad, can the Commissioner enlighten the House on what are the measures taken to prevent the occurrence of same?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson. This morning itself before coming here, I went to open a workshop with the help of the FAO. We have two experts who are working, giving training to our people, not just... This is a great workshop because we do not talk about only agricultural people. There is people from the port, there are people from the airport, customs, from Health Section. So, we have a workshop today itself which is going on now where we are training the people on how to protect Rodrigues against this type of problem. Biosecurity reason it is well-spelt in the speech that the Chief Commissioner made recently. This is very important and four officers from my Commission have been trained in Mauritius. We call it MBPO and these trained officers will soon... We will have at least two. For the time being, we have someone coming from Mauritius to enforce this law, the law of protecting the coming in of animals or animal products in Rodrigues even plants but soon, we will have four people who have already been trained. We will have two at the airport and two at the port to make sure that there are no problems with regards to biosecurity.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire des animaux femelles parce que jusqu'à l'heure, nous avons vu que les animaux mâles qui étaient exportés. Est-ce que quand l'embargo était complètement enlevé, ces animaux femelles-là ne seront pas *outdated* to be sold ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this makes me smile. Bon, c'est vrai que c'est un fait que MMA prend que les animaux mâles. La raison principale étant que ces animaux partent directement à l'abattoir et il y a eu des cas où des animaux femelles ont été envoyées vu qu'on ne peut pas les envoyer dans des fermes pour qu'elles continuent à survivre parce que ça part directement à l'abattoir. Il y a eu des cas où ces animaux sont déjà comme on dit en créole, « *pleine* ». Et on est en train de tuer non seulement un animal mais avec ses bébés à l'intérieur. C'est pour ça, c'est la raison principale pour laquelle les femelles ne sont pas envoyées. Mais on a eu la chance qu'on a pu enlever pour les mâles déjà et ce qui est bien aussi, c'est un bien pour un mal, ce qui fait qu'aujourd'hui, on a beaucoup plus d'animaux vu qu'on a beaucoup plus de femelles. Vu qu'on a jusqu'à...

For the time being, you have to bear with me. On n'a pas le choix. On a jusqu'à décembre pour le dernier test et je pense qu'à partir de janvier... Les femelles normalement ne sont pas envoyées à l'abattoir. Les femelles sont envoyées dans des fermes pour être élevées pour reproduire mais malheureusement, là, les animaux qu'on envoie, c'est que pour l'abattoir. Donc, on ne peut pas envoyer les femelles. C'est vrai que là, malheureusement, il va falloir faire avec pour le moment jusqu'à... Quand on n'a pas la fille qu'on aime, il faut aimer la fille qu'on a, Madame.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Je voudrais demander au Commissaire, les éleveurs, parce qu'ils comptent sur cet argent-là pour survivre parce que comme le gouvernement a dit, on encourage les gens à faire l'élevage. Est-ce que c'est un encouragement ? Disons les personnes qui sont peut-être... Parce qu'il y a des personnes qui sont dans la difficulté parce que les animaux femelles ne sont pas vendus, qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire pour ces personnes-là pour les rassurer ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, toutes ces personnes sont déjà... On a fait pas mal de campagnes de sensibilisation, expliquer ce qui se passe et je pense que les personnes savent. Mais malheureusement, indépendamment de notre volonté contre un peu ce que nous, on veut faire mais malheureusement, on n'a pas jusqu'à maintenant, ce n'est pas fini, fini, fini. FMD, c'est 99% fini mais il y a quand même... les derniers tests ont montré qu'il y avait quand même une ou deux traces. Donc, pour rassurer les gens, les fermiers, on leur a parlé bien sûr. Deuxièmement, on essaie de voir est-ce qu'on peut tuer ces animaux localement, faire des choses. On est venu même avec pourquoi pas faire des *corn beef* à Rodrigues un jour ? Donc, ça va venir.

The Minority Leader : *Madam Chair*, étant donné que le Commissaire a parlé de : on ne peut rien faire pour le moment, est-ce que sa Commission est en train de voir dans quelle mesure elle pourrait accompagner ces éleveurs qui ne dépendent que de ça pour vivre, que de l'élevage pour vivre ? Est-ce qu'il y a des mesures d'accompagnement pour ces gens-là qui ne peuvent pas vendre leurs animaux femelles ? Et ils rencontrent de graves difficultés. Est-ce qu'il a un plan d'accompagnement pour ces éleveurs-là.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chairperson*, il me semble qu'à Rodrigues maintenant, on vient pour ce genre de plan, d'accompagnement, de... En parlant d'accompagnement, on parle de compensations, est-ce qu'il faut payer. Il faut savoir qu'on ne devait pas. On a fait, on a mené un combat pour pouvoir au moins envoyer les animaux mâles. Donc, sinon, il faut faire comme la Chine : avoir que... pas avoir des femelles dans les... Je ne sais pas comment faire pour les animaux. Mais on s'est battu pour avoir ça ! Normalement, les premiers animaux qui devaient quitter Rodrigues, mâles ou femelles, devaient attendre trois

ans. Trois ans. Et nous, on s'est battu. Donc, on a déjà gagné une partie de la bataille mais malheureusement, force majeure veut que c'est impossible. Je suis d'accord que si c'est important, on va devoir venir de l'avant avec ça. Mais pour le moment, je n'ai jamais...

Je reçois tous les mercredis. Je n'ai jamais eu un éleveur qui est venu me dire qu'il a des problèmes à vendre ses... Puisqu'il a des problèmes à vendre ses animaux, il n'arrive pas à survivre ou il a des problèmes financiers, à ce moment-là, pourquoi pas, cas par cas, on va étudier les trucs, si ça s'avère important, on étudiera le truc voire si c'est possible. Mais pour le moment, ce n'est qu'une question du *Minority Leader* un peu politique peut-être mais qui n'a pas vraiment sa raison d'être vu que depuis que je suis là, je pense que le Chef commissaire faisait la même chose, je n'ai jamais entendu un éleveur me dire que ce problème de femelle. Donc, s'il y a des cas, *when we arrive close to the river, we will cross it, Madam.*

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, question de politique, de démagogie, il y a beaucoup de pays qui le font ! Il faut être sensible aux problèmes des éleveurs. On sait à Rodrigues, l'élevage occupe une place très importante. Il y a des gens qui ont besoin de ça pour envoyer leurs enfants à l'école, à l'université, pour construire leur maison. Ce n'est pas une question démagogique. Donc, est-ce que je dois comprendre du Commissaire qu'il n'y a pas de plan qui a été préparé pour aider ces éleveurs. Il dit que les éleveurs ne sont pas venus le voir etc. Mais il y en a qui viennent *but to no avail and what is the use ?*

You know, in Rodrigues, people prefer to remain silent when they come to face such problem. Is it not true, Madam Chair, is it not true, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether... Because these farmers, *ce ne sont pas eux qui sont responsables si cette maladie est arrivée à Rodrigues.* Is it not true that this disease has come because there was a group of farmers that have been to India, when they came to Mauritius, when they came to Rodrigues, they just came right away without... *Sans quarantaine, sans rien, ils sont venus directement ici. Même pas ça la vraie raison.*

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, je vois que...

Madam Chairperson: Too much cross-talking now !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je vois que le *Minority Leader* a posé la question et a même répondu. Parce que si on regarde bien, il parle de la question. C'est une

question des éleveurs. Mais si c'est une question des éleveurs, je suis d'accord. Mais des éleveurs ; pas des politiciens ! Moi, je n'ai jamais rencontré un éleveur. Moi, je suis Commissaire. C'est moi qui suis responsable de l'agriculture. Mais les éleveurs non jamais. Je n'ai pas entendu un éleveur parler de ça. Ce que j'entends aujourd'hui, c'est pour ça je dis ça peut être politique parce que j'entends un politicien en parler ; pas un éleveur. Concernant... Il est venu avec un truc que je ne voulais peut-être pas répondre mais on m'a poussé un peu trop. Donc, je crois que je vais répondre à ça : l'origine de cette maladie. Mais il y a eu des gens de l'autre côté de la chambre, des politiciens qui sont partis dans des endroits qui sont *very prone to FMD* et qui sont venus à Rodrigues. Est-ce que...

The Minority Leader : On a point of order, Madam Chair.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Ein to gagne dimal!*

The Minority Leader : Can the respected Commissioner substantiate that?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members! Respected Members, please, from both sides of the House, you have been throwing allegations on each other. I am not going to rule on that. I am issuing a note of warning! I am issuing a note of warning for both sides not to throw allegations on the floor of this House. Thank you. Next question!

[Interruptions]

DELIVERY OF TOURISM LICENCES/PERMITS

(No. B/67) **Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the delivery of tourism licences/permits by his Commission, he will enlighten the House on the measures envisaged for the implementation of the revised process in regard thereto?

The Chief Commissioner: *Excusez-moi, Madame. Je vais m'adresser ici.* Madam Chairperson, as I already enunciated in the *Discours programme 2017/2022*, Division of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the tourism sector is to promote the sustainable development of the tourism industry, to foster and encourage conduct of new activities, to improve the standard of the existing tourism businesses, to create new tourists' zones, to enhance existing

infrastructure, to meet the demand of the sector and to promote ecotourism in a responsible manner. Madam Chairperson, to attain the above objective and in collaboration with the tourism authority, a Senior Tourism Enforcement Officer from the Tourism Authority was posted to my Commission from January to July this year to provide expert assistance and technical support in the reorganisation of Rodrigues Tourism Enterprise License Unit.

Madam Chairperson, in the first instance, the whole process of licensing has been reviewed and reassessed so as to develop a business-friendly and efficient approach while promoting transparency and good governance. Secondly, in line with this digital era and in view to address key constraints related to business facilitation, my Commission will implement shortly the E-licensing process in collaboration with Tourism Authority. We are expecting that the E-licensing process will be operational shortly. Madam Chairperson, in line with our philosophy *de démocratie participative*, the proposals for the restructuring of the Tourist Enterprise Licensing Unit has been presented to all Promoters and Stakeholders involved in the Tourism Industry. The outcome of the meetings has been very fruitful and valid counterproposals obtained from the operators have been incorporated in the process.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to inform the House, this House that the new measures with regards to the restructuring of the Rodrigues Tourism Licensing process have been validated in a workshop organised on the 26 July 2018 in Rodrigues where all local stakeholders were invited. Madam Chairperson, the Revised Restructuring Process will entail:

- (a) Restructuring the Tourism Enterprise Licensing Unit
- (b) Reviewing the actual legal framework;
- (c) Setting up of the Rodrigues Tourism Licensing Committee;
- (d) Devising a new organigram for the Tourism Enforcement Unit;
- (e) Upgrading of accommodations;
- (f) Recruitment of additional staff and training and capacity-building of officers;
- (g) Training workshops awareness and sensitisation for stakeholders; and
- (h) The setting up of an E-licensing platform.

/UNREVISED/

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/68 to B/70 have been withdrawn. Next question. 76, 77, 73. Yes. 74.

REHABILITATION YOUTH CENTRE

(No. B/68) Miss M.R. Collet (The First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Prisons and Reforms Institutions and Others whether, in regard to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of: -

- (a) youths currently thereat;
- (b) Prisons Officers on duty thereat on any given day; and
- (c) Prisons Officers on the Civil Establishment of Mauritius and of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, respectively, currently posted thereat and specifying her Commission's policy as regards current or future recruitment of Prisons Officers therefor, if any?

[Withdrawn]

RODCLEAN LTD – MAINTENANCE OF BEACHES

(No. B/69) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to RodClean Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) state the measures undertaken by his Commission to make sure that employees thereof ensure the general maintenance of the beaches, roads and the drains along roads throughout the island; and
- (b) obtain information therefrom and state the:
 - (i) current number of employees thereof;
 - (ii) status of any recruitment process for low and high cadres therefor, if any, and indicating its policy as regards current or future recruitment of cleaners?

[Withdrawn]

‘AGENTS DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE’

(No. B/70) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Community Development and Others whether, in regard to '*Agents de santé communautaire*', he will inform the House on:

- (a) where matters stand concerning the increase in the number thereof and their posting, if any;
- (b) any past or future statistical survey aimed at determining the effect of the deployment thereof in the community;
- (c) any meeting held or to be held by his Commission therewith, indicating the purpose thereof;
- (d) any complaint(s) received concerning the allowances and benefits allocated thereto; and
- (e) measures envisaged to give equal opportunities to Rodriguans with little or no experience to work thereas?

[withdrawn]

INTERNATIONAL FORA

(No. B/72) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, he will arrange with the Honourable Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius to have more Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, on both sides of the House, to participate fully or as observers in international fora, with a view to open up Rodrigues further to the world and allow for fruitful interaction?

[Withdrawn]

MAINTENANCE – PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(No. B/74) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the maintenance of public buildings in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the:

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- (a) mode of operation adopted by his Commission therefor, indicating the number of staff involved therewith; and
- (b) amount of money earmarked therefor under this financial year?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, depending on the extent and complexity of maintenance works to be carried out in public buildings, the works are either executed in house by the maintenance team of my Commission or contracted out through appropriate procedures.

The maintenance team of the Commission comprise of the following:-

Sn	Staff	No. of employees
1	Inspectorate	4
2	Supervisor	3
3	Skilled Labour	14
4	Unskilled labour	5

The amount of money earmarked for maintenance of building that falls directly under the responsibility of my Commission is Rs 1.7 M.

And it is to be noted that funding for maintenance of buildings of other Commissions are provided in their respective estimates.

Madam Chairperson: Next question. 76. Fifth Island Region Member.

**INCIDENT – PETITE BUTTE
– JUNE 2018**

(No. B/76) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he will obtain information from any relevant authority and state on an incident which occurred at Petite Butte in the month of June 2018 whereby a public kiosk collapsed on a Rodriguan citizen and detail, for the benefit of the House, measures undertaken by his Commission to ensure the appropriate maintenance of public kiosks and bus shelters around the island?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the Divisional Commander, Rodrigues informed my Office that on 03 June 2018, one N. E, a fisherman residing at Grand Var was injured when the upper part of a public kiosk at Petite Butte collapsed.

I am informed that following the incident, Mr. N. E. has become bedridden. As such, following requests received from the family, the respective Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will provide the family with the following facilities: a new dwelling next to his parents, a track road leading to the dwelling and other schemes such as carrier allowance and Family in Distress Scheme.

Following this regretted incident, my office has pulled down the roof of the second kiosk situated on Petite Butte public beach as it was also in a state of disrepair. Besides, the Inspectorate staffs of my Commission has been requested to carry out regular island wide inspections to identify public infrastructure which may present a hazard due to their state.

Madam Chairperson, the maintenance of bus shelters is an ongoing exercise being ensured by the Maintenance Team of my Commission. These amenities are regularly inspected and as from last year, some 25 bus shelters around the island have been maintained and upgraded.

With respect to kiosks, I am informed that there is an ongoing programme of maintenance of green spaces and beaches including their respective kiosks at the level of the Commission for Environment. The green spaces, public beaches and kiosks situated at Ile Michel, Baie Malgache, Marechal, Piment Reposoir, Cascade Jean Louis and Roche Bon Dieu have already been repaired and upgraded; and surveys are being carried out for the upgrading of other green spaces and public beaches.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I think this is a case of “*après la mort, la tisane*”. Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there are many such kiosks that represent a danger for the public that is being maintained right now?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I have mentioned in my answer, Madam Chairperson, that there is a survey that has been done, that is being carried out by the Commission of Environment. So, I believe that we are going to have the report. I think maybe it has already been submitted to the Commission of Environment.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, so, how long it will take to provide the assistance to the beneficiary, to the one who has had the accident last time?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There has been request made to the different Commissions as I have told in my reply. So, the different Commissions, I think, will consider this as matter of urgency being given that the person sees of

immediate requirement of it. So, I cannot reply for Commission for dwelling. As far as my Commission is concerned for the construction of the track road, it is going to be done as soon as possible.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH UNIT
NOTICES/REPORTS ISSUED**

(No. B/77) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Labour and Industrial Relations and Others whether, in regard to the Occupational Safety and Health Unit at his Commission, he can give details about the number of notices/reports issued thereby, from January 2016 to date, to any Commission regarding any government building/premises, including the administrative building at La Ferme and, in the positive, to table same?

The Commissioner for Labour and Industrial Relations and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, as Commissioner responsible for the subject of employment and labour, I have been very keen and it is also my duty to see to it that workers in general, have a safe and healthy environment to work in. In this respect, an Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Unit has been set up at my Commission to look into issues pertaining to the health, safety and welfare of employees of the private sector in accordance with the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005. This Unit is now manned by two full-fledged OSH officers and a third one will be recruited to strengthen the team during this financial year.

With regard to government buildings/premises, the officers of the OSH Unit of my Commission as well as those at the level of the Ministry for Labour and Others in Mauritius, they are not legally mandated to issue any prohibition notice to a government department. Consequently, no notices reports have been issued by my Commission to any other Commission of the RRA.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, does this mean that for government building, the Operational Safety and Health Act, it does not apply in this case? Does this mean that it does not apply to the public buildings?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It applies, Madam Chair, but it is not under the responsibility of the Commission or Ministry for Labour. There is a Government Officer concerned attached to the Chief Commissioner's Office for this purpose.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Does this mean that... I am talking about the *batiment administratif* at La Ferme. We have got many complaints. We know that Health Inspectors, they have given their report. Some people have gone to the Police. So, is he aware of this? And, what is the role of his officers as regard to this issue, to this problem regarding the bad state of the building at La Ferme?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As I have already mentioned, with regard to safety and health issues of government employees, a Safety and Health Unit has been set up in Mauritius under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms. A similar unit has been set up at the RRA Central Administration under the Chief Commissioner's Office. I know that the officers have been there. There have been recommendations I heard, but I do not have information as it is not related to my Commission.

The Minority Leader : Concerning health and safety, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner whether he has been to the airport, to the passenger terminal building. *Ça, c'est la vitrine de Rodrigues. Dès qu'un étranger arrive, on a une idée de ce qui l'attend.* Can I ask the respected Commissioner whether he will do something, he will take measures in order to clean this mess? *L'état crasseux, plein de poussière, les passagers qui arrivent. Je me demande... A Plaisance, quand on fait des travaux, pourquoi on n'a pas de problème.*

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you put your question.

The Minority Leader : *Non, mais c'est juste pour comparer.* Mais pourquoi à Rodrigues ? Is there double standard in this country ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, the question was related to Government buildings and premises but obviously, officers of my Commission, they go at regular intervals for inspections at the different premises for private businesses, private buildings and I am sure that they have been there and I will see to it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, je crois que j'ai pu trouver un document émanant du bureau de l'administration concernant l'état et les recommandations qu'un officier a pu faire concernant le bâtiment de La Ferme. Là, j'apprends que le Commissaire, il n'a pas vu le rapport mais c'est un rapport qui a été sorti officiellement. Parce qu'il y a eu beaucoup de personnes qui se sont reporté à l'hôpital concernant des cas de maladies liés à la poussière, liés au rats, les déchets de rats etc. même dans la bibliothèque.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you are referring... Your question is based on a particular report. It would be... If you...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: No, my question is based...

Madam Chairperson: If you have to put your question on that report, you have to table the same report.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am not... My question will not be on that report.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, but put your question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *My question is that* il y a des personnes, il y a des officiers qui travaillent là-bas dans ce bâtiment de l'administration de La Ferme qui ont rapporté à l'hôpital à plusieurs reprises pour des problèmes de santé reliés/liés à ce bâtiment. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous garantir une enquête approfondie et en même temps, voir la possibilité de résoudre ce problème une fois pour toute parce que c'est une question de santé. Des femmes et des hommes qui travaillent là-bas.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner !

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, I think that the appropriate Commissioners will look into the matter because it is not under the purview of my Commission.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Not under the purview of his Commission mais Madame la présidente, il y a bureau de Sécurité Social là-bas, il y a bureau la poste entres autres, bibliothèques etc. *forestry*, état civil. En étant un Commissaire, donc, il a son bureau, il y a un bureau de sécurité social là-bas. Il doit être au courant de ce qui se passe. Donc, pourquoi est-ce qu'il n'a rien fait, lui ? Il ne peut pas dire on va voir l'autre Commissaire. Lui, qu'est-ce qu'il fait ? Alors qu'il a une branche...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, thank you. You have already put your question.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: You should then know how to set question, Madam Chairperson. Being given... It is true that there are...

[Interruptions]

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Being given that there are...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Commissioner, please, wait a minute. Respected Members, I should be able to hear the answer of the Commissioner without any disturbance, please! Yes, Commissioner, please proceed.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Madam Chair, being given that it is true, there are officers of Social Security at La Ferme, I have been to this particular place and we have noticed that there are some problems. And that is why we had written a letter to the Public Health Department not relating to the issue that you are talking about but for forging and inspection inside the building on the 09, 16 and 23 December 2017 as well as 24 and 31 March and 07 April 2018.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**ONGOING ROAD CONSTRUCTION
– MONTAGNE CHARLOT TO CAMP DU ROI**

(No. B/78) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the ongoing road construction linking Montagne Charlot to Camp du Roi, he will state:

- (a) the initial and estimated final cost of the project together with the expected completion date;
- (b) if the plan has been finalized, detailing on:
 - (i) any acquisition of private land made/required therefor and, in the affirmative, to state if any concerned owner has been informed accordingly;
 - (ii) road drains and/or other land drainage done/required in relation thereto; and
 - (iii) if any deviation from the initial road is being contemplated?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): Madam Chairperson, the project is to upgrade the Road from Soupir to Camp du Roi over a length about 2.27 km and estimated overall cost of about Rs 168 m. The road has been split into three zones as follows: -

Zone 1 - Soupir to Mt. Charlot of length 970 m and estimated at Rs 62 m.;

Zone 2 - Mt Charlot to Mt Fanal, length 850 m and estimated cost

of Rs 77 m.

Zone 3 - Mt. Fanal to Port Mathurin of length 450 m estimated cost of Rs 29 m.

Zone 2 is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by mid-September of this year.

As regards to part (b), preliminary proposals are ready for Zone 1 and Zone 3. Searches are being conducted at the level of Cadastral Office to identify the owners of private land and land leases where there will be encroachment by the new road alignment. Contacts have already been established with some of the owners of land leases.

Part (ii), road drains are incorporated within the road infrastructures. In the light of recent rainfall events and the associated issues that arose, study of the land drainage of the area is being conducted and undertaken under the contract for Global Consultancy Services.

For part (iii), deviation from the initial road alignment has been resorted to along Zone 2 in order to improve geometry and slope of the road for more safety and security of road users. Other deviations are being contemplated along Zone 1 and Zone 3 for the same reason.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, to question we put last year, we were made to understand that the road from Mt. Charlot to Port Mathurin to Camp du Roi was to be completed by July last year and, up to now they are still struggling to complete the road. Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there has been a planification problem?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I will not consider it as a planification problem as such, Madam. Because in this very House, and I remember it was the first question that was set during the present mandate where were the issues that was raised and one of our concerns is to ensure that whenever we will leave that part of the road there is complete security as regards to the road users and as regards to the inhabitants of the part. You will see by yourself that there are many additional and associated works that are being done on Zone 2. This means, from Montagne Charlot, from Montagne Fanal as through Montagne Charlot to Montagne Fanal. There are so many retaining structures that have been added. There are also footpaths, track roads that have been added. So, this is why based on what is being observed as the work is going on, we are adding associated and additional works which lead in fact to extension of time to the contractor. But the fact remains, the philosophy of my Commission is that, we should ensure

whatever be the length to be taken for this part of the road we are going to take it and what is of utmost important to us it that, when we leave that part of the road it should be secured for all and all. This is my main objective, Madam.

The Minority Leader: So, am I to understand from the Deputy Chief Commissioner that the road has been ill-designed. There has been a problem of planification and that it has been constructed by trial and error. Can I know whether there has not been an error? When I asked the question to the Deputy Chief Commissioner last time, he said that there will be no drainage problem. The people of Camp du Roi will have no problem with drain. Now, with the heavy rain that we have got, people are suffering a lot. So, will his commission take their responsibilities and go to see the inhabitants and compensate them as it should be or you want them to go to Court in order to seek repair?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I do not remember myself saying that there will be no drainage system. The issue..., no drainage problem, yes. I said that any drainage problem will be considered. Yes, any drainage problem will be considered. So, it is a fact, Madam Chairperson, it is a fact, whenever we start the construction of a road there are issues that have not been identified that we least expect out. And, I can tell you this road from Montagne Charlot, from Soupirs to Montagne Charlot, it is one of the most complicated road within the Republic of Mauritius as you would say. And, the same, yes... *Peut-être plis ki Verdin.*

[Interruption]

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

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, we have already, Madam Chairperson, with the discussion that I had with the Engineers of my commission, we know that there will be complications. We are also anticipating problems with the part of the road from Rivière Banane which are going to lead to Bel Air. It is the same type of problem that you are going to face. So, we are going to act accordingly. This is why, I said it once in this Assembly, whenever when the Engineers of my commission decided to go ahead by themselves for the construction of the road, I think they require the congratulation of this House and the whole population at large, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, we all know that who fail to plan is planning to fail. So, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has given the answer. There has been a planning problem. Now, coming to the encroachment on land, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been talking of owners of land lease. He has not

talked about owners of freehold, of private land. Can we know whether his officers have been meeting all these people in order to make sure that we take the least possible private land and not to deviate the road too much to have problem with people having private land in this region?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This is the issue for Zone 1 and Zone 3. It relates to that question of acquisition of private land. At the level of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, of course, we are going to make it a must that we encroach the minimum possible so that we can compensate the least possible. This is why I said in my answer, we are going ahead with the identification of all the owners of the private land. And, in line with what is discovered, what is going to be discovered, then we are going to act accordingly. Because what we are trying to prevent right now, Madam Chairperson? We are trying to prevent that there is any injection from any of these private land to prevent this road from going ahead. So, as far as possible, we are going to mediate with the private owners to ensure that we can go ahead the fastest possible.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, but one thing we do not understand, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. It is good to say we are, we are, we are. Two years, more than two years – okay, we have started the construction of this road. And, in his answer, I noted, searches are being done by the Cadastral. So, why so much time? How many square metres of private land are there in Zones 1 and 3? So, how come you are taking so much time to sort out this problem and whether there are other problems that you are not spelling out in this Assembly?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: So far, as far as I know, there is no other problem apart from the question of private land. So, with reference to the question of private land, this is the issue of the Cadastral Office and at the level of my commission and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly at large, we have the endeavour to ensure that we do identify the fastest possible, the owners of these private land so that we can go ahead with the construction of the said road. Nevertheless, Madam Chairperson, I think it is worth noted that at a particular time in time, some members of this House did predict that there will be a *catastrophe écologique*. Yes, it never happened. No, it never happened. With the stabilisation embedment that was done on the part of the road leading on Zone 2, they were expecting, may be, praying also, not only expecting may be they were praying for the possibility of land slide. There has been no land slide as it was expected to cause what is known as the *catastrophe écologique*.

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

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, c'est subjectif. Il y a eu catastrophe écologique. Il y a eu. C'est la première fois lorsqu'on construit une route, il y a ce genre de problème concernant drainage, machin. Donc, j'aimerais poser la question suivant au commissaire. *Li content* de prendre les terrains, d'acquisitionné les terrains, réquisitionné plutôt des terrains privés. Donc, quelles sont les solutions ? Est-ce qu'ils vont payer ces gens-là ? Est-ce qu'ils vont rendre un morceau de terrain, pied dans l'eau ? qu'est-ce qu'il va faire ? Quelles sont les possibilités qu'il y a ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The laws provides for the procedures to be adopted. There are, the laws provides. As I have said formerly, there can be mediation and negotiation in term of compensation to be paid. This of course, will have to be evaluated by the Government Evaluator. If there is no agreement on that basis, then the Regional Assembly can go ahead with what is known as the compulsory acquisition process. We can do that. But I will prefer that they have a mediation and negotiation with the ... There is also another possibility. I think it is part of their compulsory acquisition where we can go ahead with what is known as the improvement line. So, this means we are going to take part of the road especially those zones from Soupairs to Montagne Charlot. We can take the portion of land that is just required for the width of the road, which is known as the improvement – *trois metres, trois metres*. So, I will better ask that we consider what is most profitable for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, j'ai été à Camp du Roi lors des grosses pluies. Il y a eu vraiment des dommages collatéraux par rapport à des drains qui n'ont pas été faite convenablement. Je me souviens aussi qu'il y a eu plusieurs personnes qui ont reportés leurs situations au bureau de la Commission de l'Infrastructure Public pour dire que les drains ont été mal situés, *instead of in this part*, ils ont mis le drain ici alors...

Madam Chairperson: Please put your question now.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I have to explain this question.

Madam Chairperson: No. Supplementary question, you do not need to explain.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: J'ai été aussi à Camp du Roi où il y a eu un déversement total de la boue, de la terre, des roches, concernant la route de Montagne Charlot. C'est la première fois. Donc, je vais faire un appel au Deputy Chief Commissioner, *on a humanitarian ground*, sur une base humanitaire. De faire une étude après catastrophe de voir si on peut arriver à trouver un compromis

et faire en sorte que ces problèmes-là ne soient plus un problème dans les proches avenir et que les habitants de Camp du Roi ne souffrent plus parce qu'il n'y avait pas ce problème-là auparavant. Merci, Madame la présidente.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson, I think that I disgressed lengthily on that issue of drainage, on the drainage issue last time on a specific question. There was a substantiate question that was asked by the Minority Leader and I told this House that in light of what has been observed during flooding from the months of January to April, we have given instructions to the Global Consultant to make a whole survey of the drainage issue that arises from the building, the construction of the road and its effect on the villagers of Camp du Roi. Like you did visit the villagers, even myself I did go for visit when it rains. And, I have observed clearly together with officers of my commission where the issue clogs. The fact is that, the road, as it is right now, it has not been completed and as such, the drainage issue, the problem of flood coming from uphill, it is yet to be managed. Because the canals and the drains have not been completed up to, I should say, up to Camp du Roi. So, whenever we are going to complete the road from Montagne Fanal to Port Mathurin, that issue of drainage, of drains, will be taken on board. I believe that part of the water will be canalised towards Hoareau and of course, part of the water will have to be canalised towards the Castel but with a well set and constructed drains so that it can go behind the Madanamootoo. I think so, yes.

The Minority Leader: On the same issue, Madam Chair, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that along this road, the Montagne Charlot/Camp du Roi, there were several small bridges crossing the road underneath the road and all these bridges have been blocked. They have constructed the road, there is no bridge at all. Is he aware of that because I live there, I have been living there for so many years, I have seen that, will he take this into consideration? And follow, there has been drains long ago by Englishmen, they have constructed that. Just to have an idea how this was in order to prevent further problems in the future.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I think that the Consultant has taken this into consideration because the issue that we are discussing here, it does not relate only to the issue of road construction. The water problems come from higher uphill, up to the *Phare*, where we call *Le Phare, la Fouche Castor*. This is the issue. So, it is not only because there is the construction of the road that it is causing that much problem that are arising these days. So, this is why investigation together with official of my commission has been carried to see how best to secure the problem *en amont* from the very top hill at *Le Phare*, preventing the water to come on the main road of Montagne Charlot and as such, the

hydraulic power of water that is going to come down as flood will be reduced from the very top itself.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, j'ai une question. Il parle de ce genre de casse-tête, mais est-ce qu'il y a eu des études géologique, géotechnique par un Géologue, pas par les consultants ou ingénieurs, est-ce qu'il y a eu une étude ? Si oui, est-ce qu'il y a eu un rapport et si c'est oui, est-ce que la prochaine fois il peut venir au parlement déposer ce rapport concernant cette route de Montagne Charlot ? Il y a eu beaucoup de problèmes, moi je pense que, parce que s'il n'y a pas eu d'étude géologique, c'est la raison pour laquelle on a tous ce problème aujourd'hui.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I need notice of that question, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

RESERVOIRS

(No. B/79) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to reservoirs around Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the number thereof available, specifying their respective location and indication:-

- (a) the number thereof constructed since 2012 to date and respective site;
- (b) when monitoring was last carried out on the water quality and by whom, stating, in the affirmative, on the findings thereof and tabling any report resulting therefrom; and
- (c) the operational status of any chlorination plant/site being used in relation thereto, providing reasons thereon?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): Madam Chairperson, there are actually 88 reservoirs that are being used in Rodrigues. I am tabling the list of reservoirs together with their location and capacities.

Madam Chairperson, the construction of circular reservoirs of 1000 m³ were completed at Camp Pintade and l'Union in 2012. An intermediate reservoir of 300 m³ was also constructed at Montagne du Sable in 2014 as part of the desalination project of Anse Goeland/Baie Malgache. I would like to add that the bidding documents for the construction of two reservoirs of 1000 m³ at Hauteur Accacia and Montagne Cabris Ouest are being finalised.

Part (b), water quality at reservoir level is monitored on a fortnightly basis by the laboratory technician with assistance of the STM intern. I would however, like to add that provisions have been made for the recruitment of a Scientific Officer in financial budgets 2018/19 and I am tabling also the results for the first fortnight of August.

As regards, to part (c), I am tabling a list of reservoirs where water is contaminated, chlorinated not contaminated. Moreover, there are some reservoirs where water is not chlorinated so far. My commission has already procured for the purchase of dosing pumps at the sites of these reservoirs. Tender for the purchase of the dozer pumps was launched on 30 July 2018 with closing dates on 20 August 2018. The bids are under evaluation at my commission and if the bids are conclusive, then all the reservoirs around the island will be provided with dosing pumps and chlorination, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the different reservoirs he has been talking about are properly fitted with a pipe, distribution pipe to all distribution of water and I would like also to know whether all these *retenue collinaires* that have been built whether they also have been fitted with pipes especially the one at Roche Bon Dieu, which supposedly was damaged by a special dog with outsized claws, enormous claws. Have that been repaired?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we have to differentiate between a reservoir and a *retenue collinaire*. *Les retenues collinaires* is under the purview of the Commission for Agriculture and as such the question that is asked by the Minority Leader does not arise as regards to my commission because the water is not for agriculture. Yes, it was meant for, yes.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you are right, Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Now, as regards to reservoirs which are under the purview of my commission, of course, all reservoirs that are under use by my commission are fitted with distribution network. Otherwise, what is the use of having such a reservoir?

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner, the frequency of the monitoring carried out by the Laboratory Technicians on these reservoirs?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Fortnightly basis, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

OPERATION – MECHANICAL WORKSHOP - ORGANIGRAM

(No. B/80) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the operation of the Mechanical Workshop by his Commission, he will state on the organigram thereof and further inform the House on:-

- (a) if all equipment required for the day to day running are available, tabling an up-to-date detailed inventory list and highlighting the current condition thereof, in each case;
- (b) if any procurement exercise for acquisition or renewal of equipment has been made/considered and, if so, to give details;
- (c) the methodology for the disposal of used oil, specifying measures taken for leakage prevention, and
- (d) if any report has been submitted to this Commission concerning the health and safety of officers posted threat and, if so, to table same?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. N. Lisette): Madam Chairperson, a list of equipment required for the day-to-day running of the Mechanical Workshop is being tabled.

Part (b), procurement exercise has been initiated on 14 August 2018 for the purchase of a Heavy Duty Truck Tyre Changer and a Two Post Lift Above 3 tons to replace the one which is not operational. Because right now we have only one lift which is operational there at the Mechanical Workshop.

Used oil is stored in plastic tank to be sent to Mauritius for recycling. To prevent leakage, used oil is being transferred from steel containers to plastic storage tanks. All the tanks are well secured with safety caps pending collection by the Commission for Environment for shipment to Mauritius.

As regards to part (d), the last report submitted in 2015 by the Health and Safety Officer with respect to the Mechanical Workshop is also being tabled.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, concerning the Mechanical Workshop, the building itself, the Chief Commissioner in Budget Speech 2013 stated that: *“Le bâtiment abritant le Mechanical Workshop est en mauvaise état.” Est-ce que le bâtiment a été rénové depuis ? Et si oui, le nom du contracteur, le montant de l’investissement ?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson. The policy of the commission is to reset the Mechanical Workshop on the reclaimed land of Oyster Bay. We have also the Examination Centre, who is there. And, in fact, we have decided to launch an expression of interest so that we can have proposals as regard to the setting of the examination centre as it is done in Mauritius so that a better service is provided to the population. My commission is working actually on the resettlement of the Mechanical Workshop on the reclaimed land of Oyster Bay because we believe that where it is right now there is some hazards which is attached to the site and it would be better that we move it to a place where there are a better environment and also we can improve in the quality of service that is being provided to the government vehicles as a whole.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Concernant les huiles usées, quant-est-il des contenants usagés d'huiles et les filtres d'huiles usagées, où sont-ils disposés, Madame la Commissaire ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There are clear indications of how this is disposed of. With respect, to the oil as I explained in my answer, it is stored in plastic tanks. I am told that there is actually some 4 x 1000 m³ which is awaiting collection from the Commission for Environment to be shipped to Mauritius. As regards, to the other equipment that the Respected Member have mentioned, I believe that the officers working there should be disposing it in an environmentally agreeable way.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the Table has been advised that PQ B/81 originally addressed to the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others has been transferred to the Commissioner for Housing and Others. Next question.

CONSTRUCTION/HOUSES - VOLUNTARY (PERSONAL) BASIS FOR VULNERABLE/HOUSING TO FAMILY IN DISTRESS SCHEME,

(No. B/81) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others whether, in regard to the construction of houses on a voluntary (personal) basis for the vulnerable under the Housing to Family in Distress Scheme, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the:-

- (a) number of beneficiaries and houses constructed, respectively, since 2016 to date indicating the corresponding location thereof;

- (b) total sum of money earmarked therefor indicating if there has been any delay in the construction thereof and the reason therefor; and
- (c) support provided to beneficiaries thereof and the conditions attached thereto?

The Commissioner for Housing and Others (Mr. J. D. Baptiste):
Madam Chairperson, we have been saying repeatedly over so many years in this House that this Regional Government under the leadership of our Chief Commissioner cares for the people of Rodrigues. The slogan “*ène fami ène bon lakaz*” has been our driving force to create a just, fair and inclusive society. Various schemes and projects have been introduced over the years to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable groups. The National Empowerment Foundation which took over from the defunct Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups was the main government agency providing housing assistance to needy families in Rodrigues. However, since 2014, the NEF put an end to its housing assistance project. There were already 492 eligible applicants on the list of 2013-2014 and the RRA had to gradually take over the full responsibility of the subject of housing as per new government policy. As such as from financial year 2017/2018 the RRA took over completely all issues pertaining to housing whereby a budget of Rs 100 m. was allocated.

Madam Chairperson, the Family in Distress Scheme launched by my colleague, Commissioner for Child Development, Family Welfare and Others, aimed at a specific target group, that is, those who were not yet on any approved list of Housing Unit on the next list for one reason or another to benefit from a decent housing unit but who required some special attention mainly to combat promiscuity. These cases were reported by the Family Welfare and Protection Officers in the course of their visits to families in distress and also following court judgement in cases of domestic violence, abandonment or family dispute.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, from January 2016 to date, I am informed that 94 families have been earmarked for housing facilities under this Scheme out of which:

- 14 families have already completed their housing units.
- 47 other beneficiaries have already signed their contract and construction is either under way or construction materials are being delivered.

- 33 cases are still pending as their land lease have not yet been finalised or the respective families have opted to apply for a housing unit under other housing schemes.

Madam Chairperson, regarding part (b) of the question, I have to point out that the budget allocated to Housing for financial year 2018/2019, to the tune of Rs 80 m. is a lump sum and there is no breakdown of funds for the various assistance to housing projects or schemes. As mentioned earlier, delay could have been caused in some cases because of the fact that, pre-selected beneficiaries do not possess a land lease.

As regards to part (c) of the question, in addition to construction materials some old needy and lonely beneficiaries or those who cannot afford to mobilize labour force on their own to help them on a voluntary basis, the commission gives them an additional financial assistance of up to a maximum of Rs 20,000 to cover labour cost. Otherwise, in-house labour could be provided to them.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: *Yes, Madam Chair. Est-ce qu'il y a des organisations ou une organisation en particulier qui est impliqué dans ce projet de « construction lakaz lor ene base voler »*, Monsieur le Commissaire ?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: The answer is no, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madame la présidente, le Commissaire vient de dire qu'il y a personne qui est impliqué dans ce projet. Là, j'ai un contrat du projet « *construction lakaz lor ene base voler* ». Dans le contrat, il est mentionné que concernant la responsabilité, avant c'était le bureau de l'Adjoint du Chef Commissaire « *offert ene aide financière Rs 25,000 pou payement ban manœuvre coment travail maçonnerie ek chanpentier ki pou pren sous-contrat et ki pou payé par RCSS pou chak lakaz ek toilet.* » And now, the Commissioner said no organisation is involved in this. Which is which?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: I maintain that there is no organisation involved as at date but it was before. So, since 2017 with the new policy to have the Housing Unit under one commission, they are no longer involved in the construction of houses or toilet.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, why?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Because we have seen that it was quite difficult lengthy in the procedure and we are going faster now when government is directly involved. Whereby, the potential beneficiaries could on their own select their own

maisons or other workers but then we provide them with the financial assistance directly to the chosen person.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, how many beneficiaries have had the Rs 25,000 from the RCSS and when did this stop?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: I do not have the answer in relation to RCSS because since Housing Unit has been transferred, all Housing Schemes have been transferred to my commission, I have not dealt with the RCSS.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Je voudrais demander au Commissaire, qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire parce que lui-même il a dit qu'il y a les procédures des baux qui sont retardés s'il y a vraiment des familles vraiment en difficulté qu'est-ce que sa commission fait pour aider à ces personnes d'acquérir un bail ?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, there is a fast-track system whereby we send a request to the Cadastral Office and generally we do not have to wait for the finalisation of the list completely but once we receive the authorisation from the Cadastral Office then we can proceed with providing them with the required materials.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, concernant la supervision de ces maisons, est-ce qu'on peut savoir s'il y a une équipe d'officiers qui supervisent et de quelle commission ?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: The supervisions are carried out by officers of my commission in the grade of Foremen, Inspectors and Senior Inspector.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

GENERAL WORKERS

(No. B/82) (Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he will, in regard to the recruitment of General Workers by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, from 2012 to date, state and table on the number thereof, providing details:

- (a) Where criminal records or charges have been disclosed, indicating if police clearance was sought as a result thereof and giving the outcome for each case; and

- (b) On the exact constitution of each board of selection appointed therefor together with the relevant background information of those selected in respect thereof?

[Withdrawn]

HEALTH DIRECTOR – CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

(No. B/83) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Health Director, presently in post, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the date and conditions of appointment of the incumbent, detailing on:

- (a) the selection process and criteria applied for the recruitment thereof, indicating the date of assumption of duty thereas and if in a substantive capacity; and
- (b) if the incumbent solely does administrative duties and, in the affirmative, to indicate what measures have been implemented to ensure that the duties of her substantive post are performed?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, I must inform the House that appointment of the Health Director following the expiry of contract of the previous incumbent on 29 June last has been initiated and that necessary approval from the Public Service Commission is still being awaited.

In the meantime, the Island Chief Executive has made a temporary arrangement in assigning duties at the level of Health Director to one of our existing Specialist on ground of administrative convenience for the smooth running of the service pending the finalization of procedures for the appointment of a full fledged Health Director on contract. As such, question at part (a) does not arise for the time being.

Regarding to part (b) of the question, the assigned officer performs her clinical and administrative duties, normally in the morning and afternoon respectively except in cases of emergencies which the officer has to attend. To ensure that same level of care is being delivered, the Unit under the clinical care of this Specialist has been reinforced with one additional Medical Officer making a total of two who work in collaboration with the physician to ensure that same standard of care is being provided to patients.

It is to be noted that in no situation patients are being affected by this arrangement. Whenever the expertise of the Specialist is required, she always find the time to provide her service. She attends to all patients daily as well as emergency cases. She manages her time properly and we are satisfied with her service. I must inform the House that this is not the first time that such arrangement is made as in the past, we did have Specialist in General Medicine assigned duties at the level of Health Director for several months pending the recruitment of same.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION, PLAINE CORAIL
– PUBLIC OFFICERS**

(No. B/84) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the operation of the Department of Civil Aviation at Plaine Corail, he will state on all public officers posted thereat together with duties being performed thereby?

[Withdrawn]

SALE AND PRICE OF FISH

(No. B/85) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and Others whether, in regard to the sale and price of fish, she will state and table on the last time fish was categorised and prices fixed, indicating if any review is being envisaged by her Commission and, if so, to state when, if not, why?

The Commissioner for Consumer Protection and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, as we are all aware fish has been and remain for years to come, one of the most important staple food for our people.

The sale, price fixing and categorisation of fish have been a subject of debate for a long time because while ensuring a regular supply of fish at a reasonable price to the customers, it is also important to take into account the fisherman who risk their lives to earn a living when they go either in lagoon or off lagoon fishing. It is important to strike a right balance when it comes to protecting consumers so that at the same time producers and suppliers, are not unduly penalised. I wish to inform the House that fresh fish is still a controlled good for the island of Rodrigues under the Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act 1998.

Madam Chairperson, the last time the price of fish was fixed goes as far back as 2003. The Minister to whom the responsibility for the subject of consumer protection is assigned, may by regulations, fix the maximum price of fish controlled goods in accordance with Section 3(i) of the Consumer Protection (Price & Supplies Control) Act 1998. So, the last time as I said, the Minister fixed the price of fish for Rodrigues was in 2003 (GN 88 of 2003). But in February 2008, the RRA passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Consumer Protection – Fixing of Price of Fish) Regulations 2008 to fix the price of fish with as consequential amendment, the revocation of the Rodrigues (Fresh and Chilled Fish) (Maximum Price) Regulations 2003.

These Regulations were published in Government Gazette 19 of 2008 and reprinted as Reprint (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) (No. 1 of 2008), by direction of the Chief Commissioner for the purpose specified in Section 3(b) of the Reprint of Laws Act.

Madam Chairperson, following requests from fishmongers and fishers I have consultations with all concerned stakeholders with a view to have the price of fish revised. In 2014, on 13 March 2014, I met a group of fishmongers and fishers at the level of my commission to discuss and reach a consensus on price to be recommended for fixing. On May 2014, there was another consultative meeting with Commission for Fisheries and Consumer Affairs as well as the “*Association des Consommateur*” with the aim of reaching a consensus on the new price of fish to be fixed.

During a workshop on Drafting of Legislation conducted by Sir Victor Glover, in the same year, he pointed out that the Regulations passed in 2008 were not in order as under the provisions of Reprint of Laws Act, it is the Prime Minister who has the prerogative to give written directions to the Government Printer to reprint an enactment. Consequently, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Consumer Protection Fixing of Price of Fish) Regulations 2008 were not in order and could not be enforced. Any contravention taken under these regulations could have been contested in the court of law and found to be null and void. So, we sought also legal advice about this issue and the advice submitted indicated that as “Fish” had not yet been removed under Part II of the First Schedule of the Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act 1998. So, the RRA could not fix the price of fish by regulations. On 28 June 2016, another meeting was held with different associations and other stakeholders so that the price of fish could be revised and have it fixed by new regulations to reflect the current market price.

Consequently, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Consumer Protection) (Maximum Price) Regulations 2016 made under section 31 of the RRA Act was

voted and Gazetted in GN 45 of 21 May 2016. These Regulations were passed with a view to enable the Commissioner responsible for the subject of Consumer Protection, to fix the price of controlled goods for Rodrigues and provision was made also to revoke the RRA Fish Regulation of 2008. These Regulations have not yet come into force despite several correspondences which have been addressed to the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Consumer Protection. Once released, the fixing of price of fish and other controlled goods would be made here in Rodrigues by the consumer responsible for the subject of Consumer Protection.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, tout récemment le Commissaire sur la radio avait dit qu'il allait venir avec les nouvelles lois. Les gens attendent toujours. Je voudrais qu'il informe la |Chambre quand ça va être dépêché.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As I have said once so release by the Ministry for Labour so that it can come into force. But is also important to note that we have already had a last consultative meeting with stakeholders in the month of June this year and we have worked out the proposed list of prices of fish as per the new market conditions.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire, comment est-ce que la vente du poisson est contrôlé parce que on a dit, j'ai bien écouté son intervention. Il faut protéger les pêcheurs et les consommateurs mais en même temps nous devons admettre que le poisson que nous achetons est en bonne état. Est-ce qu'il y a un contrôle sur la vente des poissons ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, the control is under the custody of *sanitaire*, the Public Health Service.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**PLEDGE – “ENGAGEMENT 6”/BUDGET SPEECH 2017-2018
FAMILY DOCTORS/COMMUNITY NURSES**

(No. B/86) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the pledge at “Engagement 6” of the budget speech 2017-2018 to provide more accessible health services to the population, he will state and table the amount of:

- (a) family doctors who are actually in post; and
- (b) Community Nurses together with their scheme of duty?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, procedures for the recruitment of Family Doctors have already been initiated but not yet finalised. Since this is a new post, we are awaiting the necessary approval concerning the Scheme of Service which my Commission has already worked out to enable further procedures.

Regarding to part (b) of the question, the post of Community Health Nursing Officer has been restyled as Public Health Nursing Officers. We have three Public Health Nursing Officers in post to provide a better health services in the different communities. They are performing the following duties:-

- They participate in the primary health care and in activities likely to improve the quality of life;
- They work in villages with the *Agent de Santé Communautaire*, where they supervised the different services provided by the *Agent de Santé*;
- They provide support to all primary health programme through health education, visits, talks and they also carried out vaccination in primary schools; and
- They organize and run immunisation services and other clinics for elderly and other vulnerable groups in the community.

To improve the quality of services delivered by the Public Health Nursing Officers, necessary action will be initiated for recruitment of additional Public Health Nursing Officers in the next budgetary exercise.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, mais qu'est-ce qui arrive quand il y a des personnes, des Community Health Nurses qui sont en congé ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Alors s'ils sont en congé, il y a trois Nursing Officers, il y a un qui remplace l'autre.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: ... pertinence de la réponse du Commissaire. Mais ce que je comprends aussi que ces Community Health Nurses, ils font les pansements à domicile. Parce qu'ils ont beaucoup, quand il a énuméré *the Scheme of duty* de ces Community Health Nurses, ils ont beaucoup à faire. Qu'est-ce qu'il contemple de faire actuellement parce que nous savons que s'il y a des pansements à faire à la maison surtout s'il y a le *male/female*, tout ça. Mais comme j'avais dit la dernière fois, il y a des personnes qui ne reçoivent pas les soins qu'il faut.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bon, Madame la présidente, si la personne ne reçoit pas les soins qu'il faut, il y a un service ambulancier qui peut aller jusqu'à la maison de cette personne ou le prendre et l'amener au dispensaire le plus proche de sa maison et aussi au Centre de Santé de La Ferme, Mont Lubin et l'hôpital de Crève-Cœur.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Oui, Madame la présidente, j'ai bien compris la réponse mais bien souvent ces personnes qu'il faut transporter à l'hôpital ou à des Health Centre, ce sont des personnes alitées et le service ambulancier n'est pas assez régulier, qu'est-ce qu'on fait à ce moment-là ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Comme j'avais dit, Madame la présidente, s'il y a un problème avec le service ambulancier, il y a un *Help Desk*, il y a un comité, il y a des plaintes qu'on peut faire et téléphoner à l'hôpital de Crève-Cœur ou au Centre de Santé de La Ferme pour avoir ce service. Mais ce que je crois, ce que les gens pensent, ils restent chez eux ils attendent, ils attendent, ils attendent jusqu'à ce que si l'ambulance ne vient pas, alors la personne va être dans des plus gros problèmes. Mais il faut que ces gens aussi, ces parents bougent pour venir vers le Service de Santé pour avoir le soin nécessaire.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, peut-être que le Commissaire n'a pas trop bien compris ma question. Ce que ces gens-là ils bougent mais quand on va à l'hôpital on dit qu'on va envoyer quelqu'un à la maison mais on quoi ? On attend, qu'est-ce qu'on va faire. Parce que maintenant pour se diriger vers l'hôpital ou bien les Health Centre, il y a une personne qui s'occupe de la personne qui est alitée. Avec qui on va quitter cette personne-là ? S'il meurt entretemps ? *Police case!*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bon, Madame la présidente, la membre a peut-être raison ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mais avec l'effectif que nous avons c'est que les parents aussi de la personne alitée doivent mettre la main à la pâte pour aider le patient pour venir à l'hôpital mais on va voir ça de très près.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM: Une dernière question, Madame. Donc, le Commissaire admet que j'ai dit la vérité. Mais est-ce qu'il contemple d'augmenter la quantité de ces Community Nurses là ? S'il vous plaît.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: J'ai déjà répondu à cette question, Madame la présidente.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – BAD WEATHER

(No. B/87) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the occurrence of bad weather in the island, he will state and table the:

- (a) number of additional school holidays recorded as a result thereof for this academic year; and
- (b) measures his Commission has taken to compensate the forced holidays, if any, providing, in the negative, reasons therefor?

[Withdrawn]

GO-EXPORT PROGRAM – LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS /BUDGET SPEECH 2017-2018

(No. B/88) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the Go-Export program for local entrepreneurs proposed in the budget speech 2017-2018, she will enlighten the House as to where matters stand?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis): Madam Chairperson, the Go-Export Program is in fact a national programme developed by the Ministry of Business in partnership with Enterprise Mauritius to build the export readiness of the SMEs and to enable them to maximise the opportunities of the growing regional and global markets. After having had the National Expert in Rodrigues on the Go-Export Program, my office took the decision to set up a local Go-Export Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the RTMC. The main objective of the committee is to ensure that the entrepreneurs are given opportunity to find a market for their produce. It is from this committee that decision to hold a local market fair for products not actually easily available on the local market, such as, local poultry and fruits on a monthly basis. All facilities are given to entrepreneurs are waiting to sell their produces in Mauritius as recommended by the Go-Export Committee, it is also important for me to inform the House that on the initiative of the local Go-Export Committee, a contract will be signed in October 2018 with one of the largest wholesale company engaged in distribution of foodstuffs in

Mauritius. In line with this project, five enterprises have been identified on the basis of the quality of their production and the volume of their production. Some ten products will be exported as soon as the contract is finalised. With regard to handicraft products upon our participation in the National Exports Strategy Committee, our request to have consultancy services to help us to work on the finish of the handicraft products have been acceded to. Very soon we will have a Consultant from the International Trade Centre, who will be in Rodrigues for same.

Madam Chair, you will note that from decision taken in the local Go-Export Committee, RTMC is actually inviting entrepreneurs per field who would like to export their products to register themselves. A database will be compiled and appropriate training and coaching will be given by the Commission for Industrial Development to ensure that our registered selected entrepreneurs are export ready. Up to now 50 entrepreneurs are being coached and trained under the Go-Export Program.

The Minority Leader: Madam, the Respected Commissioner has been talking of this Strategy Committee. Can we know what is the role of this Strategy Committee and what are the members that form part of this Strategy Committee?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chair, I talked about two committees, a National Export Strategy Committee in Mauritius and a local Go-Export Committee here in Rodrigues. For the local Go-Export Committee, we have the RTMC, the Commission for Industrial Development, the Commission for Cooperatives and a member for the Commission for Agriculture, who are members of this committee.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Madame la présidente, concernant la vente en ligne, j'aimerais savoir *where the matter stands for that* ?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: En effet, Madame la présidente, on avait déjà annoncé la vente en ligne des produits et deux initiatives ont déjà été entreprises par rapport à ce projet.

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Ce n'est pas pour la vente des poissons. Non, c'est pour la vente des produits artisanaux et où la poste offre des facilitées aux entrepreneurs. Et, récemment il y a eu aussi des supports et des facilitées offert par le Ministère des Entreprises. Donc, on n'a pas eu besoin nous à notre niveau de faire les projets. Puisque ça existe, on a fait les démarches pour que nos entrepreneurs peuvent être pris aussi en compte.

Mr. Z. Félicité: *Une question.* So, you mentioned support. So can we know what kind of support you give to these entrepreneurs?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Les supports sont variés dépendant du besoin de l'entrepreneur. On a vu, par exemple, que certains ont besoin d'être accompagné dans le calcul de leurs prix - leurs prix de vente. D'autres par rapport à la qualité. Et, pour envoyer les produits, par exemple, par rapport au foire, les supports que nous donnons c'est par rapport au *freight*. *We have full freight subsidy*. Et, on peut aussi avoir des supports, par rapport, par exemple, on avait eu récemment, on a été invité par une organisation à Maurice qui organisait une grosse foire dans le cadre des 50 ans de l'indépendance. On a fait partir deux entrepreneurs, une dame pour vendre tous les produits agro-alimentaires des autres personnes et une personne pour les produits artisanats. Donc, dans ce cas-là, quand on envoie des gens pour représenter les produits des autres, nous donnons aussi le billet et le logement pour les entrepreneurs à Maurice.

Mr. Z. Félicité: So, can we know which type of products which are being sold online?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: I repeat again, handicrafts products.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

IMPORT OF CHICKEN & YOGHURT

(No. B/89) **Mr. Z. Félicité (The Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether in regard to the ten percent (10%) reduction in the import of chicken and yoghurt announced in the budget speech 2017–2018, she will enlighten the House as to where matters stand?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam Chairperson, as enunciated in budget speech 2017/2018 by the Chief Commissioner in his budget speech, my Commission has engaged in a series of action to reduce imports of chicken. One of them is the recruitment of an expert in the field so we can develop an action plan to meet the set target for the five years to come. Another action is the holding of the local fair by the RTMC, I just mentioned, where a larger variety of processed value-added poultry products are made available to the public. The objective is to encourage the consumption of local poultry production in Rodrigues. Also, under the Family Farm Project Scheme, we are giving supports for entrepreneurs who want to have small production of poultry at their place.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Since you mentioned an expert, so, can we know how much the expert is being paid by RRA?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, after an expression of interest, the expert will be appointed as from the 01 September 2018 and the cost for the consultancy services will amount to some Rs583440.

The Minority Leader : the respected Commissioner how many people have obtained facilities for the production of chicken and yoghurt and who are they?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, in fact, with regard to the Family Farm Project, some 30 persons have been helped to set up their Family Farm Project. And, I am sorry, I failed to answer on the yoghurt part. So, Madam Chair, with regard to the yoghurt production, I wish to inform the House that we have sought and we have obtained in principle the technical assistance of Maurilait to implement this project in Rodrigues. We presented this project in July this year and they have shown a real interest to help Rodrigues achieve this desired target. With this, we have thus agreed on the following: Maurilait will send a Marketing Officer to train the potential entrepreneurs in Rodrigues in October 2018.

The company will provide technical training for selected entrepreneurs at Maurilait in November. Maurilait will assist the RRA to identify the appropriate technology to set up modern production unit in Rodrigues. And, I would like to inform the House that after an expression of interest in May 2018, eleven persons shown their interest for the project. So, I would like to inform the House also that people more often, they think that yoghurt are made out of fresh milk. So, in all enterprises in Mauritius where yoghurts are being done, around the world also, they are made out of powdered milk.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I am astonished to hear from the Commissioner that all over the world, yoghurt is made from powdered milk. In countries like France and Swiss, this is made from fresh milk. So, I would like to know being given that at St Gabriel, we already had in recent past, pasturisation equipment, can we know what has become of these equipment? Whether in this scheme, she has said that we will be the having technical assistance of Maurilait but we must have proper dairy cows. Has something been done in this....yes

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la présidente, je viens de le mentionner. Je n'ai pas dit dans tous les pays du monde ! J'ai dit dans beaucoup de pays du monde aujourd'hui de plus en plus. D'ailleurs, Maurice

aussi, si M. le *Minority Leader* va faire des recherches, il va voir. D'ailleurs, de plus en plus, malheureusement, c'est connu que le lait frais devient un denrée rare. Donc, dans de plus en plus de pays, c'est à partir du lait en poudre que ce produit est fait.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, moi, j'ai une question pour Madame. Concernant le *chicken*, le poulet, elle a dit qu'il y aura *extended facilities to those who wish to go into that kind of project*. Est-ce que Madame peut nous dire quelles sont les facilités qui vont être mises, quelles sont les critères qui vont être listées pour que entrepreneurs puissent savoir dans quelle direction, ou prendre avantage de ces facilités-là ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madame la présidente, par rapport au projet d'élevage, on a voulu catégoriser ces projets en deux. Ceux qui veulent faire des élevages extensifs, très souvent, ce sont des jeunes qui ont étudié au niveau de leur brevet professionnel agricole. Là, c'est la Commission de l'agriculture qui déjà est venu de l'avant avec leur plan de financement, les *schemes* et au niveau de mon bureau, on s'occupe principalement des *Family Farm Projects*. Donc, les petits projets qui ne coutent pas plus que Rs50000. Donc, tous ceux qui sont intéressés, qui sont éligibles, bien sûr aussi, dans la mesure où le financement est possible, donc, ces projets sont implémentés/accompagnés. Très prochainement, dans le village de Sainte Famille, il y aura le support, ce sera un deuxième volet du projet de... que Trimetys à Grand La Fouche Mangue. Ils vont faire un projet de ce genre à Sainte Famille et à la suite, c'est le dernier projet qu'on a approuvé avant l'arrivée du rapport de ce consultant. Quand le consultant aura rendu son rapport, à ce moment-là, on va prendre des décisions comment et combien de famille et de projets dans ce secteur il faudrait encadrer.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, à ce jour, combien de familles, je parle de *Family Farm*, combien de familles ont bénéficié de ces facilités et jusqu'à maintenant, combien d'argent a été déboursé pour ce projet et combien d'argent il nous reste jusqu'à la fin de l'année financière pour mettre en place ce projet ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Pour cette présente année financière, Madame la présidente, il y a un montant de Rs500000 qui a été *earmarked* et là, 16 familles, je vous parlais de cinq familles, 16 familles de la localité de Sainte Famille sont bénéficiaires de ce projet.

Madam Chairperson: That will do for questions. I suspend the Assembly for one hour for lunch.

At 12.36 hours, the Assembly was suspended for one hour for lunch.

On resuming at 13.38 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Please be seated.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

EXPORT OF LIVESTOCK TO MAURITIUS

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

Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a statement which will be essentially on the export of livestock to Mauritius, particularly showing the advantages to the breeder community when animals are weighed rather than being sold through estimates. The time of selling animals by just looking at the animal and negotiate a price is over, Madam Chairperson. The Foot and Mouth Disease that hit Rodrigues in 2016 causing a severe blow to our livestock sector on which many families depend to earn a living. Prior to the FMD, buyers from Mauritius were coming to Rodrigues to purchase livestock without any restrictions imposed. The transactions between buyer and seller were made purely through estimates. No weighing of animals took place. The then practice was such that buyers from Mauritius would visit the animal in the presence of the owner, propose a price and then, negotiate until they both agree on a particular price.

Very often, to the disadvantage of the breeder, who will finally accept the price dictated by the buyer because the latter is paying cash and the breeder needs money to satisfy his family's need. This practice cannot continue, Madam Chairperson. Following FMD outbreak of 2016, the usual procedure changed at the advantage of the local community breeder. This is a good thing about FMD. The Mauritius Meat Authority was the only entity authorised to purchase small ruminants that is, goat and sheep for slaughtering purposes. After conclusive negotiations with the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security and following the good results of samples of blood analysed at the Animal Health Laboratory at Réduit and by veterinary services of my Commission using the Elisa equipment donated by region Réunion, the MMA started to purchase cattle from Rodrigues since last year. Since then, all animals are weight before exportation. My commission arranged with the MMA to convert a weighing balance from manual to electronic and to be shipped to Rodrigues for the weighing of animals before export. The prices per kilogram of live weight were pegged as follows:

Animal	Male (Rs/kg)	Female (Rs/kg)
Bovine	105	95

Sheep/cattle/goat	175	165
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Madam Chairperson, there was a lot of criticism from people about the prices being proposed by the MMA. Some were complaining that we were buying beef at the rate of Rs 52/pound, which was certainly not the case because we were talking of live animals not meat. As I said before prior to the embargo, breeders and exporters used to estimate weight of animals by just looking and usually there was negotiation of prices. This was to the disadvantage of the breeder and as there was abuse by the buyers. The new protocol has proved that the local breeders are now conscious of the fact that they should stop selling animals on the basis of estimates. *Un mal pour un bien*, Madam Chairperson. Let me now give three concrete examples witnessed by officers of my commission in order to illustrate the above-mentioned points.

Mr. J. J. of Bigarade from local location, firm location is at Baie Malgache has negotiated with an exporter for selling of his bull and has agreed on a price of Rs 40,000 for the animal. Upon weighing the animal, the breeder realised that he made a loss of Rs 13,000 as the bull would have been sold if weigh, at a price of Rs 53,000. Mrs. J. C. A. of Corail Petite Butte also suffered a similar faith as she made a loss of Rs 9,665. The price she was offered for the bull was Rs 40,000 but upon weighing, its actual value was found to be Rs 49,665. Mr. E. L. of Manges was offered Rs 50,000 for his animal. Upon weighing the actual value was Rs 52,920. These are some of the many cases which have opened the eyes of the breeders of Rodrigues. Nowadays, breeders prefer to have their animals weighed prior to embarkation as the price they get for their animals is quite fair.

Madam Chairperson, based on the actual principle where animals are weighed before sending to Mauritius, it means that neither the breeder nor the buyer loses as the price paid reflects the exact weight of the animal.

Madam Chairperson, following the renewal of the partial embargo recently to allow private butchers to come to Rodrigues to buy cattle under strict conditions for buyer security reasons, breeders have two options, either they sell their animals to the Mauritius Meat Authority or to sell to individual butchers. It is a fact, Madam Chairperson, that breeders prefer to sell to the MMA because of the advantage they are getting on the price as I mentioned before. According to our records since partial embargo has been lifted as from May 2018, local breeders solicited the help of individual butchers only twice.

To sum up, Madam Chairperson, when the new system was introduced, there was public outcry with breeders comparing the price of Rs 105 per kilo being offered for a bull to the price of one kilo of fish. At face value, it seemed that a kilo of fish was more expensive than a kilo of beef. However, the mentality

has changed, breeders have noticed that they are actually making more profit now than before and there were informal bidding and negotiations. My commission which has for mission, the welfare of the farmer community will continue to encourage breeders to sell their animals based on exact weight rather than through estimates. There are lots of sacrifice in rearing animals and it is important that our breeders get value for money and not be exploited by buyers who will make profit at their expense. I am extremely happy that we have been able to *renverse la situation* and by so doing stop exploitation of our beloved breeders by buyers from Mauritius.

I would like also to put on record, Madam Chairperson, that we have won this battle and in line with our nation to improve the breed, my commission recently put on loan a bull of high potential to the Saint Sauveur Cooperative of Pistaches to:

- (i) solve the problems of inbreeding occurring in the different farms in Rodrigues; and
- (ii) increase the quality of the animals produced.

With these words, Madam Chairperson, I thank you.

[Applause]

REPLY TO QUESTION B/34 – DISPOSAL OF MEDICATION WASTE

The Commissioner for Health and Others (S. P. Roussety): Thank you, Madam Chairperson, to give me the opportunity to address this statement to the House.

Further to my reply to Question B/34 during this Assembly sitting held on the 10 July 2018. I would like to make a statement to apprise the House of the development concerning the disposal of medical waste in Rodrigues.

The House will record that the Respected Minority Leader, put a question concerning the subject matter. In my reply, Madam Chairperson, I have explained about the defective state of the existing incinerator of Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The pollution problem which it was causing, the complaint made from staff, members of the public and nearby residents. I have also explained that we have to find a rapid option to address this issue, such that, in consultation with my colleague, Commissioner of Environment we have identified a remote site at Délo Vert for the incineration of inorganic medical waste. As explained, this is a temporary measure to reduce smoke from the defective incinerator at Queen Elizabeth Hospital pending finalisation of tendering procedures for its

replacement. Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, I have been informed that this matter has been reported to the Police. I understand, that enquiry has been initiated. My commission will collaborate fully for the purpose of this enquiry if call upon by the Police. In spite, of this, Madam Chairperson, allow me to persist and sign that the decision we took, arrange for a temporary incineration site at Délo Vert was the right decision which had to be taken to avoid any public risk of public health hazard at the QEH. Time has proved us to be right as this measure has been effective in attenuating the pollution problem at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Appropriate measures are being taken to reduce risk of contamination and no major environmental pollution has been observed during the incineration of waste at Délo Vert.

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to also inform the House that my commission is expecting to acquire a new modern medical incinerator at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and La Ferme Area Health Centre by the end of the forthcoming September 2018. Tender in this respect was launched on 23 August 2018. The scope of the tender was as follows:

- To remove and discard existing incinerator plants and any other unused item from existing incinerator room at both Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the La Ferme Area Health Centre.
- Cleaning, painting and making good of the incinerator rooms.
- Supply and installation of new medical waste incinerators in existing incinerator rooms.
- Installation of luminaires sockets and isolator in the incinerator rooms.
- Construction of gas shed at La Ferme Area Health Centre.
- Laying of a gas network installation as required for the new incinerators.
- Testing and commissioning of the new incinerators and training of personnel on the operation and maintenance of the incinerators.

The closing date for the submission of bids was fixed for 22 March 2018 at 13.30 hours. Upon the opening, five bids were received. The bids were evaluated by a technical committee set up in according to provision of the Public Procurement Act 2006. The successful bidder was Steam House Ltd. and the contract has been awarded accordingly on the 09 July 2018 for the sum of Rs 4,871,000 including of VAT. Contract agreement was signed on 18 July 2018. Preliminary works have also been started on the 25 July 2018. The contract period is 180 days as from the date of the start of work ending to 20 January/June 2018. The contractor has indicated that he will be able to complete the work by the end of September 2018. And, I am confident, by this date we will have a proper

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incinerator at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and La Ferme Area Health Centre to cater for the proper disposal of medical wastes generated in different Health Centres.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

[Applause]

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the Assembly be now adjourned to Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

The Commissioner for Health and Others, Mr. S. P. Roussety, rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 13.54 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 10.30 hours.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

**CHEMICALS USED BY PLANTERS
- CONTROL MECHANISM/HEALTH HAZARD**

(No. B/71) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to chemicals used by planters in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) the control mechanism currently being exercised by his Commission concerning the import and use thereof; and
- (b) if the list of dangerous chemicals is being updated as far as health hazard is concerned, indicating the precautionary measures being taken or contemplated by his Commission in regard thereto and to table same?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a), I am informed that the control on the importation and use of chemicals fall within the mandate of the Dangerous Chemical Control Board established under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act 2004.

The main objectives of the act are:

- (i) the prevention of damage to health and environment by dangerous chemicals;
- (ii) better protection of workers, the public and the environment against dangerous chemicals, including pesticides.

The Terms of Reference of the Dangerous Chemical Control Board as provided for in the Act are inter-alia:

- (a) classify dangerous chemicals;
- (b) ensure coordination amongst law enforcement agencies and government departments; and
- (c) issue or renew licences to manufacturer, importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers of pesticides in the Republic of Mauritius.

The Board therefore exercises control over the importation and use of chemicals in the whole Republic of Mauritius, which includes Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, Rodrigues being an autonomous island and in line with our vision to make Rodrigues an ecological island, my Commission needs to have control on the importation of agro chemical products such as fertilizers and herbicides used by the Planter Community of Rodrigues.

What is being used in Mauritius is not necessarily suitable for Rodrigues, Madam Chairperson.

C'est justement dans cette optique Madame la présidente, que lors du discours budgétaire 2018-2019, à la page 12, Section l'Agriculture Bio, le Chef Commissaire a mentionné :

“L'introduction des règlements pour le contrôle de l'importation des produits agro chimiques tels que les pesticides, les fertilisants et les herbicides, afin de favoriser l'agriculture bio”.

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The introduction of these Regulations will help to exercise better control on the import of chemicals used by planters in line with our vision to make the island of Rodrigues not only ecologically sound but also organic.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b), as the House is probably aware, the Use of Pesticides Bill 2018 has recently been voted in the National Assembly to regulate, control and monitor the importation and use of pesticides in or on certain fresh fruits, plants, seeds or vegetables with a view to inter alia minimising the risks to human health and the environment.

Madam Chairperson, once enacted as a law, the bill will apply to the whole Republic of Mauritius including Rodrigues. The bill is intended to develop strategies for the sound use and management of pesticides and to limit the risks associated with the use and disposal of empty pesticide containers. In this respect, the list of acceptable pesticides and associated Maximum Residue Level of pesticides for fifty-seven (57) agricultural produces, are listed in the first schedule (Sections 2, 4 and 13) of the bill.

In addition, the bill makes provision for the training of agricultural producers who intend to cultivate any agricultural produce for sale if he or she wishes to use pesticides. The bill will come into operation however, on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

Madam Chairperson, the mission of the Extension Services of my commission is to train and advise planters on good agricultural practices. The Officers of Agricultural Services have trained 616 farmers in 2017 and provided advice on the judicious use of pesticides and other agro chemicals as laid on labels and the recommendations of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). During these trainings, information is provided on the precautionary measures to be taken when handling agro chemicals so as to prevent health hazards.

Madam Chairperson, my commission is actively encouraging the planter community to use bio pesticides in Agriculture. In this prospective, fifteen (15) farmers were sent to India in 2016 for training in zero-budget natural farming. Furthermore, we are collaborating with the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security in the formulation of a regulation to govern Organic Production in the Republic of Mauritius. This Regulation and the long term vision of making Rodrigues an organic Island will further reduce the use of dangerous chemicals in Rodrigues.

**SEVERE DRAINAGE PROBLEM
– OFTED ROUSSSETY/MAX LUCCHESI STREETS**

(No. B/73) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the severe drainage problem mainly faced by the inhabitants of Ofted Roussety (formerly Victoria) and the Max Lucchesi Street, in front of the Bank of Mauritius in Port Mathurin, he will state the measures that his commission intends to take in order to alleviate their burden, indicating the time frame for same?

Reply: A first phase of Land Drainage works has already been undertaken by the National Development Unit at Port Mathurin.

The National Development Unit has now embarked on a second phase for drainage works at Port Mathurin which will include Ofted Roussety (formerly Victoria) and Max Lucchesi Street in front of the Bank of Mauritius.

Bids for Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of Drain works (Phase 2) at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues was launched on 10 July 2018 and the closing date was 14 August 2018. The bids received are presently being evaluated.

SPORTS COMPETITIONS/INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES 2019

(No. B/75) Mr. J. L. r. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the organisation of sports competitions in Rodrigues for the Indian Ocean Island Games 2019, she will inform the House about the:

- (a) sports disciplines concerned, if any, detailing on any agreement signed by her commission therefor and to table a copy thereof;
- (b) monitoring mechanism set up therefor, providing the detailed composition of any committee tasked in relation thereto; and
- (c) budget earmarked by her commission therefor, specifying the item vote to be charged in relation thereto and indicating any other financial assistance from relevant authorities?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, as informed by the Chief Commissioner in his budget speech 2018/2019, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has agreed to organise the semi-marathon for both men and Women on the 26 of July 2019 and Judo (Team Event) on 25 July 2019 as the two disciplines of the Indian Ocean Island Games 2019 in Rodrigues. Same was officially confirmed during the official visit of a delegation of COJI to Rodrigues from 19 to 20 April 2018, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. J. P. Sauzier. The decision was also confirmed by Honourable Stephan Toussaint, Minister for Youth and Sports in a

meeting with myself and staff of my Commission on Saturday 09 June 2018 at the Leisure and Cultural Centre of Mont Plaisir.

There is no signed agreement as such with my commission with regard to the organization of the two sports competitions in Rodrigues, however things are being formalised through exchange of correspondences between my Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as with COJI Mauritius.

I wish also to inform the House that I have been co-opted on the executive Committee of the '*Comité d'organisation des 10^{èmes} Jeux des Iles de L'océan Indien*' (COJI) in Mauritius following the Cabinet decision dated 16 March 2018.

Madam Chairperson, with regards to part (b) of the question, at the level of my commission, an organising committee has already been set up since November 2017. The organising committee as well as the Officers of my Commission are already working with the ('*Comité d'organisation des Jeux des Iles*') COJI from Mauritius on the modalities of organisation of the different events in Rodrigues.

A first working session was organised on 19 and 20 April 2017 between representatives of COJI and the organising committee in Rodrigues. The working session was chaired by Mr. Jean Pierre Sauzier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The representatives of the following Commissions of COJI were also present namely; '*Commissaire Generale*', Commission for "*Flammes des Jeux*", Commission for Accommodation, Commission for Protocol and Welcome and the Commission for Technical organization. The working sessions were interceded by sites visits on different competition sites as well as in hotels to assess their accommodation capacity and standards.

Madam Chairperson, the aim of the working session was to harmonise all proceedings related to the organization of the games in Mauritius and Rodrigues and to establish a line of communication between the different sub-committees and corresponding commissions in Mauritius.

The main outcomes of the two-days working sessions include inter alia:

- (i) The confirmation of the course tract for the semi-marathon and its proposed organization on 26 July 2019;
- (ii) Confirmation of the organization of Judo (team event) in Rodrigues on the 25 July 2019;
- (iii) Identification of the sites of accommodation of athletes and officials during the competition;

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- (iv) The approval of the itinerary for the '*flammes des jeux*' and its organization around 9-10 July 2019
- (v) The finalisation of budget requirements for the different activities falling under the responsibility of the different sub-committees.

Madam Chairperson, the structure of the organizing Committee for organization of the games in Rodrigues is constituted of:

(i) Eleven sub- Committees namely:

- (a) Maintenance and infrastructure
- (b) Technical and preparation of athletes
- (c) Accommodation and catering
- (d) Medical support and anti-doping
- (e) Accreditation
- (f) Transport
- (g) Protocol and welcome
- (h) Organization of '*la flamme des jeux*'
- (i) Security
- (j) Finance
- (k) Communication and marketing

(ii) A coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee is constituted of all Presidents of the sub-committees mentioned above and is Chaired by, Mr. Rodney Castel, assisted by, Mr. Daniel André and the Head of Sports, Mr. A. Volbert, acting as the General Secretary.

The sub-committees meet as and when required to look into matters related to their areas of responsibilities and to implement decisions of the coordinating committee. The sub-committees also work in close collaboration with their respective Commissions in Mauritius to ensure that the organization is synchronized and are up to the same standards.

The Coordinating Committee meets at least once monthly and also as per the request of the Commission.

Madam Chairperson, I am tabling the composition of the Coordinating Committee and the different sub-committees set up for the organization of the different events in Rodrigues.

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Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (c) of the question, as announced in the budget speech 2018/2019 by the Chief Commissioner, a budget of Rs 2 m. has been provided under Budget Item- 8103 – 22900958 ‘Indian Ocean Island Games’ for the preparation of athletes and organisation of related activities of which:

- (i) Provision of stipend to pre-selected athletes; and
- (ii) MOU with local Fitness Centres for the preparation of athletes

I am pleased to inform the house that the executive council at its sitting of Friday 17 August has already approved the allocation of a monthly stipend of rupees one thousand five hundred (Rs 1,500) in favour of all pre-selected athletes effective as from August 2018 to July 2019. This financial assistance will contribute to the athletes’ expenses for acquisition of sport equipment, food and food supplements. Coaches who are not remunerated by their respective federation but are contributing to the preparation of Rodriguan athletes, will also perceive a monthly allocation of rupees two thousand (Rs. 2,000) for the same period.

Consultations are ongoing with private fitness centres in view of the signature of an MOU which will provide for the use of their weight lifting equipment and other facilities for the physical preparation of pre- selected athletes until the games.

I wish also to inform the house that following a request from my Commission, the Ministry for Youth and Sports has on the 02 July 2018 launched the tender for the renovation of the Malabar Gymnasium and the Administrative block at Camp du Roi Stadium including the weight lifting room and uplifting of cloak rooms. The closing date for submission of bids has been set at 30 July 2018. It is expected that works on the two sites will start around September 2018.

Madam Chairperson, after consultation with all Regional Sport Committees concerned with the games, my Commission has also submitted a formal request on 25 April 2018 to the Ministry for Youth and Sports so that all pre-selected athletes from Rodrigues benefit from the same facilities as their counterparts in Mauritius.

Following the meeting with the Minister of Youth and Sports on 19 July 2018 in the presence of my Departmental Head, the Head of Sports and President of COJI Rodrigues and myself, the Ministry for Youth and Sports agreed to extend same facilities offered to pre-selected athletes in Mauritius to the pre-selected in Rodrigues. Further to that, through a correspondence dated 06 August 2018, the Ministry of Youth and Sports confirmed that an amount of rupees one

million (Rs 1 m) will be put at the disposal of the Commission for Youth and Sports for the preparation of athletes. the services to be provided include:

- a) Provision of meal after training for pre-selected athletes (MHPSF, Basketball, Volleyball, Boxing, Judo and Kite Surf) to a tune of Rs 750,000; and
- b) Provision of service of Physiotherapist and Massage Therapist to a tune of Rs 250,000.

This measure will concern athletes from Boxing, Judo, Mentally Handicapped, Basketball, Kite Surf, Volleyball except athletics which is already benefiting from such facilities through its Federation. The procedures for transfer of funds from the Ministry for Youth and Sports is in process. We hope to implement these measure as from early September 2018 with the collaboration of the concerned Regional Committees.

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to announce that following the request of my Commission, the COJI (*Comité d'organisation des Jeux des Iles*) has in a mail dated 21 August 2018 approved the payment of a monthly allocation to members of the coordinating Committee for the organization of Indian Ocean Island Games 2019 in Rodrigues. My Commission will submit a proposal to the executive council, this Friday for payment of a fee per meeting to other members of the different sub-committees.

Madam Chairperson, as at date around seventy athletes from Rodrigues are pre-selected for the games across seven sport disciplines namely athletics, volleyball, Judo, Boxing, Basketball, kite Surf and mentally handicapped.

My Commission is giving priority to the preparation of athletes and will spare no effort to put all facilities at their disposal so that the maximum number of athletes are selected for the games.

Madam Chairperson, my Commission is already giving support to the different regional committees for the organization of training camps for the preparation of athletes. A first training camp was organized for athletics at the end of February 2018 in collaboration with the Mauritius Athletics Association.

We are also committed to the necessity for DTN from all disciplines to visit regularly Rodrigues for the preparation of athletes. I would like to highlight the recent visit of the DTN for basketball at the end of June whereby new talents have been identified.

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We are also contributing to the effort of the Ministry for Youth and sports, the Club Maurice and COJI for team bonding within the national pre-selection. This is why a group of preselected athletes participated in the national gathering in the presence of the Prime Minister, Honourable Pravind Jugnauth on 21 October 2017 at Ebene, Mauritius.

Another gathering was organized by the Ministry for Youth and Sports in the context of the one year count down to the games held at the Municipality of Quatres Bornes on the 18 of July 2018, with the participation of around 30 athletes and coaches from Rodrigues. In the same vain a gathering in favour of pre-selected athletes was organized on Saturday 11 August 2018 at English Bay Youth and Family Centre with the view to help athletes to socialize with their peers and inform all stakeholders of the support that my Commission is providing to athletes and coaches. For the occasion, a wall picture was unveiled illustrating the two Sports disciplines which will be organized in Rodrigues in the context of the IOIG 2019.

Madam Chairperson, I have to inform the house that a Semi- Marathon Trial competition will be organized on the 29 September 2018 as from 15.00 hours in view of the preparation of our local and national athletes for this event, in collaboration with the Mauritius Athletic Association. This competition is an opportunity for the different sub-committees of COJI Rodrigues to test their organization procedures in view of the organization of the games next year. In the same vain, a Course measurer from Mauritius will proceed with the official measurement of the course chosen for the semi-marathon in Rodrigues

Madam Chairperson, I wish to draw the attention of the house that facilities provided by my Commission are over and above what the Ministry for Youth and sports should be providing to pre-selected athletes.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.