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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 8 of 2018

Sitting of Tuesday 23 October 2018

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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Debate No. 8 of 2018

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER 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
Mrs. Marie Rose de Lima Edouard -Ravina	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

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ANNOUNCEMENT

6TH EDITION – YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to make an announcement. As you all know, the Regional Assembly is always keying to embrace projects aim at enhancing democracy especially for the younger generation. In that spirit, I am pleased to inform, Respected Members, that I have approved a request from the Commission for Youth and Others to allow the seat of this Assembly as venue for the 6th Edition of the Youth Parliament to be held on Thursday 22nd November 2018. Thank you for your attention.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REHABILITATION YOUTH CENTRE IN RODRIGUES NO. OF YOUTHS/PRISONS OFFICERS

Madam Chairperson: Yes, First Local Region Member of Maréchal.

(No. B/91) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for 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?

The Commissioner for Prisons and Reforms Institutions and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK): Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (a) of the question, there are currently two inmates at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre at Baie aux Huitres.

With regards, to part (b), Madam Chair, currently there are actually five Prisons Officers/Senior Prison Officers who are posted at the Centre as follows: -

- (i) Two Prison Officers/ are posted on day during 07.00 to 17.00 hours;

- (ii) Two Prison Officers are posted on night duty from 17.00 to 07.00 hours to perform general duties; and
- (iii) One is posted during the week days from 07.00 to 15.00 hours and 07.00 hours to noon on Saturdays performing general and administrative works.

As regards, to part (c) of the question, Madam Chair, the five Prison Officers are on the Civil Establishment of Mauritius. The policy of my commission is to recruit additional Prisons Officer as well as Officers, Rehabilitation Youth Centre to operate in full capacity at Rehabilitation Youth Centre. The budgetary provision has been made during this financial year to recruit six additional Prison Officers at the level of the Rodrigues Prison. In addition to that, two vacancies are available upon the recent departure of officers on retirement. Additionally, my commission is also finalising the Scheme of Service for the recruitment of Officer Rehabilitation Youth Centre and Welfare Officer and, these grades will be posted there.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, can I know from the Respected Commissioner whether out of the five Rodriguan Prisons Officers on Mauritius Establishment, whether any of them have been posted back to Mauritius?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: In fact, Madam Chair, at the start there were around 10 officers who were posted here in Rodrigues and then some of them, they requested to go back to Mauritius because they saw that they are not fit for this type of project though they themselves applied upon a circular that was emitted in the Mauritian Prison Establishment, so they wanted to go back. And recently, we have one of them who have been transferred to Rodrigues Prison at Pointe la Gueule and also one who is actually back in Mauritius because he had to attend Court procedures since he has been working in Mauritius, in the Prisons in Mauritius, he has to attended Court. And fortunately, the final decision of the Court has been given and the case has been dismissed and I met recently, two weeks ago, the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Appadoo and I requested him to help this Prison Officer to be back to Rodrigues though he is on the Mauritius Establishment on the basis of his family, on humanitarian ground.

The Minority Leader: Can we know what has been the outcome, whether this officer will be posted back to Rodrigues in a near future?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Madam Chair, may be, I would like to point out that we need more than one Prison Officers to top up with. Because as I just said, we only have five posted there, we want to have these five posted on the Rodrigues Establishment and we want also to have additional six

women to come because we want have to operate the RYC for Girls, too. So, the discussion I had with the Commissioner for Prison, it was about all the staff requirements for this project and, one among all these discussions was for this officer. And, I said earlier, fortunately, the Commissioner for Prison has been agreeable to our request though he was not forced to and he has been quite human and this officer will be back very soon and he is aware and he even knows on which date he will be back.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chair, can we know from the Commissioner, who is in charge of the RYC and whether he/she holds a permanent post over there?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Actually, Madam Chair, the RYC is under the supervision of the Officer-in-Charge, Prison but posted at the RYC we have a Woman Police Sergeant and no one up to now have any substantive post at the RYC. And, because I just mentioned in my answer that the budget provision is being made in this budget and we will proceed with recruitment very soon.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ROD CLEAN LTD

(No. B/92) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to Rod Clean 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?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (a) of the question, the Rod Clean Company is operating under the aegis of the Commission for Environment and its responsibilities with regard to cleaning works throughout the island are defined in

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an established scope and programme of works. As far as maintenance of beaches, roads and drains along roads are concerned it should be pointed out that:

- (i) Permanent workers are posted on all public beaches for daily cleaning and cleaning of public toilets.
- (ii) Designated roads in commercial areas are swept and cleaned on a daily basis whereas in villages the main roads are cleaned twice weekly according to an established program of works.
- (iii) Designated cleaning of drains along roadsides are being carried out by a dedicated team of workers at regular frequency.

The deployment of Rod Clean workers in the three regions is as follows: -

Sites	No. of workers
Port Mathurin	50
Mont Lubin	42
La Ferme	27

For the cleaning of beaches including the toilets the posting of workers is as follows: -

Sites	No. of workers
Anse Aux Anglais	}
Caverne Provert	
Grand Baie	
Baladirou	
Pointe Coton	2
Anse Ally	}
St. Francois	
Graviers	1
Mourouk	}
Port Sud Est	
Ile Michele	}
Petite Butte	

A Rapid Intervention Team has also been set up and in March 2018 and it comprises 11 scavengers and one Supervisor. The role of this team is to attend to urgent requests and complaints.

Madam Chairperson, to ensure that the employees of Rod Clean carry out the general maintenance of sites, the company provides the appropriate tools,

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equipment and protective uniforms to the workers. Currently the number of employees in Rod Clean is 138 (99 males and 39 females).

Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as regards to part (b)(ii) of the question, the following recruitment were made recently by the Company: -

- 11 scavengers were recruited on the 1st of March 2018 for the setting up of a Rapid Intervention Team. A shortlist of 97 potential candidates was obtained from the Labour Office and they were all called for interview which was held from the 13th to 15th December 2017. The interview panel was set up by the Board.
- One scavenger with experience was selected to be promoted as Supervisor on the 2nd of July 2018 to be responsible of the Rapid Intervention Team. For the recruitment internal advertisement was made on the 6th of April 2018 inviting applications from qualified and experienced scavengers in the Company. There were 17 interested candidates and they were all called for interview which was carried out from 7th to 9th June 2018. The Board had set up an interview panel for that purpose.
- Health and safety matters in the company were being handled by a Health and Safety Officer from Mauritius. The Company decided to recruit a new Health and Safety Officer locally, to replace the latter. Notice for recruitment was made through the local press and radio on the 8th of January 2018. Eight potential candidates responded and they were called for interview on the 20th, 21st, 22nd of February 2018.
- The interview panel comprised five Board members. The new Health and Safety Officer assumed duty on the 9th March 2018.

Madam Chairperson, Rod Clean Ltd has also recruited a Consultant for the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the company for the next five years. In line with our vision to make Rodrigues an ecological island, it is imperative to re-structure the company, review and widen its scope to enable a more integrated approach to solid waste management in Rodrigues. The advertisement for Procurement of Consultancy Services was made through open national bidding on the 6th of April 2018. Four companies submitted their proposals and after evaluation Kalis Professional Training Centre was selected. The contract for the consultancy services was awarded on the 19th of September 2018.

Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as regards to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly policy on current and future recruitment of workers I wish to inform the House,

the Rod Clean Company is a private company operating under the Companies Act. It therefore operates its activity and policy through a board of directors. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly does not interfere in its internal functioning nor does the Rodrigues Regional Assembly sets recruitment policies for Rod Clean Ltd. However, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly sets the general policies of what it wants Rod Clean Company to achieve through its vision of a Rodrigues ecological island. The responsibility to set its recruitment policy rests with the company.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, concerning the recruitment process. I have been made to understand that there has also been recruitment of a Director. Can I know how the recruitment of the Director/s help to improve the service of Rod Clean in Rodrigues?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: All the Directors were recruited at the same time. What Director are you talking about? All Directors were chosen and it went to the Council for approval. How the Directors improve the... I do not know this person. I do not know who he is talking about but I will not answer this question anyways.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, oui, en parlant des membres du Board, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire s'ils ont le pouvoir d'aller donner des directives sur le chantier ? Les membres du Board ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Normalement, non. Mais ça dépend du Board. Si le Board voit qu'il y a des problèmes qu'il faut vérifier des choses, il faut faire, c'est au Board de décider dans la direction qu'il faut aller.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir combien ils sont payés sur le Board mensuellement ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Pour tous les Board maintenant, on a pris la décision que se sera Rs 15,000 pour le Chairman of the Board et Rs 5,000 pour chaque membre du Board.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, il y a eu des recrutements pour 17 Scavengers, 11 ou 17 du 07 au 09 janvier ou juin cette année-ci. La question est : Pourquoi est-ce qu'on fait l'interview pour 17 ou 11 personnes pendant trois jours ? Pourquoi il faut trois jours pour interviewer 11 ou 17 personnes ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, c'est une question un peu bête. Comment on peut – ça dépend. Une interview, ça doit se faire bien. Il doit

prendre leur temps pour faire du bon travail. Ce n'est pas une question de nombre de jour. C'est une question de la quantité de personne à interviewer...

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: et la qualité du travail à faire. Ce n'est pas une question de jour ou nombre de jour.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can we know from the Commissioner whether the employees are on permanent basis or on contract basis?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The employees are on permanent basis, Madam.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: May I ask the Commissioner, whether in 2018 there has been suspension of Scavengers workers in the company and give the reason why, if ever?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam, for any company, apart from the Board, the company has set up a Disciplinary Board. There is quite some people working in this Board. And, of course, those people just like anywhere in the world, people not doing their work properly has to go for the Board. And, if they have seen that the person is not doing, is really bad in doing the work that he is supposed to do, of course, the Board takes the decision to remove, to suspend that person.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam the Chairperson, can we know the composition of the Board and what was the outcome of the last Board meeting with regards to suspension of workers in the company?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Member has to come with substantiate question.

Madam Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Merci, Madame. Peut-on savoir, Monsieur le Commissaire, le nombre d'uniforme *issued to these workers per year* ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je ne peux pas dire exactement combien mais ce que je peux dire c'est qu'on a le Health and Safety Officers, que je vienne de dire dans ma réponse, et que c'est cette personne qui dit combien il faut donner. Donc, s'il faut donner deux, on peut donner deux, s'il faut donner trois, on donne trois. Ça dépend ce que dit le Health and Safety Officer.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Thanks, Madam the Chairperson. So, can I know from the Commissioner, how many lorries the company has to collect wastes throughout the island?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We have three lorries, Madam Chairperson.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Monsieur le Commissaire a dit que les drains sont nettoyés deux fois par semaine. Est-ce que, quand on nettoie les drains, surtout de la région de chez moi là-bas, depuis la station de Trèfles jusqu'à l'école de Roche Bon Dieu, il y a beaucoup de feuilles mortes. On nettoie les drains, on retire les feuilles on met à côté. Le lendemain les feuilles retombent et puis les roches, on ne retire pas les grosses roches. Ça reste dans les drains et avec la grosse pluie ça va causer du dégât. Qu'est-ce le Commissaire compte faire de ça ? On nettoie mais comment est-ce qu'on fait pour rassurer le ramassage du déchet ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, normalement le drain est nettoyé et on enlève tous ce qu'il faut enlever. Mais des fois il y a des... comme on dit, il y a peut-être des pierres qui sont un peu grosses et qu'on n'arrive pas à enlever. Mais je prends note de ce qu'elle a dit et je vais voir ce qui se passe à Roche Bon Dieu.

Madam Chairperson: One last.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can the Commissioner inform the House about *piquant loulou*, which has been put near to Les Cocotiers? When we have heavy rains all these *piquant loulou* will go to the sea and will affect people on the beach. Can the Commissioner tell us when these *piquant loulou* will be removed from...?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the *piquant loulou* will be definitely removed. Of course, we will not leave *piquant loulou* in the drain. But the thing about removing is, it is technical as well. When you remove the *piquant loulou*, we wait for the leaves to rot, to fall because if we remove it with the mass of leaves, it will take a lot of lorries to take it to the compost area. So, what we are doing we are just waiting...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order. Order. Commissioner please resume your seat. Order please. Respected Members from sitting position, please.

Madam Chairperson: You allow the Commissioner to reply.

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[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: This is out of order to argue with the Chair, Respected Member. Respected Member! Order.

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. J. L.R. Perrine: Yes, on a point of order, Madam. I would like to ask the Commissioner to remove and apologise for the word '*imbécile*' that he just mentioned to me.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I am very sorry about that. Your point of order is not valid. I have been saying, no words can be said in a sitting position. I do not accept anything from a sitting position. I cannot hear anything. It gives a distorted view of what has been said.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: On a point of order, Madam. May I ask for the suspension of the Assembly to hear in the record what has been said?

Madam Chairperson: This is not valid.

Mr. J. L.R. Perrine: *Narnier pa valid dan sa zafer-là ! Narnier !*

Madam Chairperson: Your point of order is not valid. Commissioner you can proceed.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: You know some people do not know the cost of transport to take *piquant loulou* with all the leaves to the compost area. The more leaves you have, there is a lot of mass. So, we take less leaves to the... That is why we leave the thing, the branches for some time, for the leaves to rot and then we take only the woods and the spines to the compost area. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

‘AGENTS DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE’

(No. B/93) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member of 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?

The Commissioner for Community Development and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the answers are as follows:

With regard to part (a), the number of *Agents de Santé Communautaire* has increased from 34 some years back to 99 presently. Such increase is attributed to the initiative of the Rodrigues Council of Social Services to extend the service of *Agents de Santé Communautaire* in all its Village Communities throughout Rodrigues. The objective is to ensure basic health services and facilities throughout the island as a support to our policy in terms of health promotion, disease prevention and decentralization of services. I am pleased for such initiative and I congratulate the RCSS for this.

I am not aware about any statistical survey undertaken to determine the effect of deployment of *Agent de Santé Communautaire* in the community. However, it is of common knowledge and fact that the *Agents de Santé Communautaire* have an excellent past record and their works have been instrumental in the fight against several diseases.

With regard, to part (c) of the question, Madam Chairperson, my commission and myself personally hold regular meeting with these Health Agents. In fact, the officer posted at the Community Development Unit works in close collaboration with them and facilitates their involvement in our Community Health programmes to combat HIV/AIDS, Cancer and NCD diseases. I personally met them on Saturday 30th June 2018 in the Family Integrated Centre at Malabar. All President of the Village Communities were also invited. I was glad that majority of them attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was:

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- (i) To sensitise the Village Committees about their important role and responsibilities to promote and implement health programme and activities in their respective villages;
- (ii) To discuss about the role and responsibilities of *Agents de Santé Communautaire* in their respective villages; and
- (iii) To review and strengthen the working collaboration and links between the *Agents de Santé Communautaire*, Village Communities, the RCSS and my commission to create the required synergies for more effectiveness.

We also had subsequent meeting on 28th July 2018 to finalise matters pertaining to procedures and working arrangements relating to their services. Meeting will be organised on a monthly basis for monitoring purposes.

With regard, to part (d) of the question, Madam Chairperson, to my knowledge, there has been no complaints received by my commission so far concerning the monthly stipend which we are providing to the Health Agents. Until recently, the monthly stipend allocated to them was Rs 700. 24 Health Agents have signified their intention to retire and been replaced. I am pleased to announce that upon request of my commission, the Executive Council has approved to increase this stipend from Rs 700 to Rs 3,000 monthly as from the 1st July 2018. Those who want to cease their service on the ground of old age will also be compensated by a lump sum of Rs 50,000.

In spite of the fact, that the services of the Health Agents are purely on a voluntary basis, the increase in the monthly stipend will certainly lead them to better motivation in the delivery of their services and increase the effectiveness of our health programmes within the community.

With regard, to part (e) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I must inform the House that the identification of Health Agents rests with the Rodrigues Council of Social Services and their respective Village Committees. My commission can only provide training and capacity building programme to enable them to deliver their services in the community. In fact, several training have already been implemented and the programme is an ongoing process.

In regard to part (f), I am pleased to inform the House that all the Community Health Agents have successfully completed First Aid Training Course Level 1 and will shortly be awarded an MQA approved Certificate.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire si les appareils qu'on a donnés aux Agents de Santé sont conforme au norme ? Tout simplement parce que, ces agents-là ils visitent les personnes mais comment expliquer vous que : un agent de santé vient prendre la tension c'est 7, le lendemain quand le médecin qui vient à domicile arrive, c'est à 11. Mais maintenant quand on dit c'est 7, *bizin arrête pren médicament bé kapave mort*. Est-ce qu'on a testé ces appareils-là ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Oui, Madame la présidente, on a testé ces appareils et peut-être qu'il y a des appareils qui sont d'effectuées mais ça je ne peux pas répondre. Mais... je ne me sers pas de ces appareils, ce sont les agents de santé qui s'en sert de ça.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair.

[Interruption]

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bon, Madame la présidente, qui me dit que l'appareil du médecin est bonne ?

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Madam the Chairperson...

Madam Chairperson: Order, this personal conversation cannot go on. Commissioner, Respected Members, please.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, so the Commissioner just mentioned training and empowerment for *les Agents de Santé*. Can he give more details on these training and empowerment?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame la présidente, le *training* se fait par les Nursing Officers, le Diabetic Pro. Mais c'est *technical*, je ne peux pas entrer dans tous ces détails. Can the Respected Member come with a substantive question, I will have all the information?

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN RODRIGUES - GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

(No. B/94) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of roads in Rodrigues, from 2013 to date, he can state if geological surveys are carried out prior to their construction and, if yes, to table the surveys duly signed by the respective geologist?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, there has never been any geological survey carried out as regards to construction of roads in Rodrigues. However, I would like to add that during roads construction the following tests are carried out:

- Deflection Test and Plate Bearing Test. The first one, is to determine whether the sub grade will be able to sustain the road structure and anticipated traffic load. There is also the Plate Bearing Test, which gives an indication of the degree of compaction, quality of backfilling materials and capacity of soil to resist deformation upon water intrusion;
- There is also the Atterberg Limit Test, which is used to determine amount of expansion related to ability of soil to take up water;
- We also carried out Sieve Analysis, which is used to determine if soil falls in the transcribed grading curve. Thus, its suitability for use; and
- Finally, when required trial pits are also done with excavation for visual checks.

The above tests are undertaken by/under the supervision of the Engineers of my commission, who are fully trained for such purposes.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, being given that the Deputy Chief Commissioner have said that there has never been any geological test for construction of roads. Now, we have seen what problem we have got with the road of Montagne Charlot. Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is contemplating the possibility of having a Geologist appointed or on contract in Rodrigues to help whenever required to help us construct a better road in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I think that the Respected Minority Leader may be confusing between topography and geology. I do not think that the issue that has arisen, with respect to the construction of Montagne Charlot, is with respect to the geology of the earth which is found there. What is important is, we have to provide retaining structures that is suitable for

preventing any land slide as regards to the steepness and as regards to the site which is under construction. *Donc*, the question of Geologist as it is being stated by the Minority Leader, I do not think that it stands.

The Minority Leader: Chair, I have been talking about topography, Geologist also has studied all these. So, you have several roads that have been constructed in Rodrigues and some of them are being damaged easily by rain and so on. I believe, that it should be good, now and again, to have the enlightenment of a Geologist. Therefore, I am asking the question again: Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner contemplating the possibility of having the help of a Geologist on contract whenever required? This is all I am asking.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson. He has been mentioning about roads being damaged by water. Yes, who are these roads? Whenever there are heavy rainfalls there is the danger, due to the blockage of the draining system, that there is damage that is caused to the road structure. But let me tell the Respected Member that, if we compare the roads that are being constructed in Rodrigues as regards to the lifespan which is in Mauritius which last for five to six years. Here, if we take the simple case of the road of l'Autonomie, we will see that the lifespan is up to 15 years as compared to that of Mauritius. So, this is why I will maintain, Madam Chairperson, that the question is not about the geology but about structures that have to be built to enhance the road structure itself.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, la question des tests, c'est normal il faut faire des tests mais ça n'a rien à voir, ça n'a absolument rien à voir avec le travail d'un Géologue. Dans le passé, malheureusement on n'a pas eu, on a essayé, surtout les routes en pentes.

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question now, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I am coming. Le Commissaire a parlé de structure. C'est là le rôle de cette personne. Structure pour empêcher la route de s'effondrer. C'est ça le rôle du Géologue. C'est ça...

Madam Chairperson: It seems that the Commissioner has already answered this question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: J'aimerais lui poser la question, lui dire si ce n'est pas, ce n'est rien d'ajouter dans le... si ce n'est pas correcte d'ajouter dans le *consultancy* un Géologue pour justement voir tout ce qui est les routes à Rodrigues ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, what the Member has just said is completely out of order. Yes, it is completely out of order, when he is saying, Madam Chairperson, when he is saying that it is the Geologist that is going to recommend what about structure that is about to be built. The Geologist is concerned with the analysis of the different strata of the soil. Yes, this is the... But if, Madam Chairperson,...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order! You allow the Commissioner to answer, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Engineers of my commission...

Madam Chairperson: Please resume your seat. Respected Members, from a sitting position, you are constantly in contravention of Standing Orders. There are procedures in this House. We have to go by the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders are there; I cannot bend the Standing Orders for you. I am sorry. We have to abide by the Standing Orders. Yes, Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: What I was saying, Madam Chairperson, I do trust my Engineers. I do trust their training and as far as at now, they have considered that they have the required knowledge for the building of the required structure as regards to roads construction in Rodrigues. So this is why, so far we do not need as regards to road construction any Geologist with respect to roads construction.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

RECRUITMENT OF A CONSULTANT - FIELD OF BUTCHERY AND MEAT PROCESSING

(No. B/95) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the recruitment of a consultant for the supply of services in the field of butchery and meat processing, she will state where matters stand as to date indicating: -

- (a) the objectives thereof;
- (b) the dates of the bidding exercise therefor, the successful bidder and his experiences in the said field;

- (c) when contract therefor was awarded specifying the amount of money involved and the period of consultancy; and
- (d) if any report has been submitted to her Commission in regard thereto and, if so, to table a copy thereof?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK): The specific objective of the recruitment of the Consultant under the Capacity Building Programme was the supply of services and support in the field of animal slaughtering and meat processing, pig and local poultry.

With regard, to part (b) of the question, the date of the bidding exercise, advertisement to recruit the Consultant was launched on the 2nd September 2016 and closing date the 3rd October 2016 where one bid was received and the successful bidder was Mr. G.A.L. from Reunion Island. He holds a Brevet Professionnelle de Responsable en Elevage et l'Agriculture and has more than 10 years' experience in butchery and meat processing. He has wide experience in animal production both the traditional and scientific methods.

As regards, to part (c) of the question, the contract was signed on the 3rd of July 2017 for an initial period of one year and his contract was extended for one additional year as from the 3rd July 2018 to 2nd July 2019. As stipulated by his contract agreement, the RRA paid an all-inclusive Consultant Fee of Rs 90,000 per month and amounting to Rs 1,080,000 *par an*. Hence, from July 2017 to September 2018, the net total sum disbursed is Rs 1,307,419.77 after Tax Deduction at Source including a rental of house amounting Rs 12,000 monthly. However, in a correspondence dated the 26th of September 2018, the Consultant has requested a termination of the contract for personal reasons. He then, ends his service contract on the 23rd of October 2018.

As regards, to part (9) of the question, the Consultant has submitted a report and the commission has however, requested him to submit a final report including an action plan to kick-start the operation of the Baie Diamant Slaughter House prior to releasing all his outstanding payments.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, for the equipment for the Abattoir at Baie Diamant, can we know the types of equipment that have been earmarked to buy for this?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: En effet, Madame la présidente, depuis bien des fois, j'ai eu l'occasion de partager ici, les

recommandations d'un rapport, par rapport à une étude sur les équipements qu'on a besoin de mettre en place à l'Abattoir de Baie Diamant. Donc, il y a des équipements aux normes Européenne et avec...Donc, bien sûre qui coûte aussi vraiment très cher et d'où l'investissement nécessaire et pour le porc et pour le volaille se chiffre autour de Rs 25 million chacun.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECT/LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- JOINTLY FINANCED BY EUROPEAN UNION & RRA**

(No. B/96) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the rainwater harvesting project for low income households, jointly financed by the European Union and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House state and table the: -

- (a) respective contributions of all parties involved;
- (b) implementation period thereof together with the number of water tanks to be constructed;
- (c) number of water tanks completed as at date, their respective regions, indicating if any delay occurred in the casting thereof and, if so, to give reasons therefor; and
- (d) total amount disbursed therefor as at date?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, the Rainwater Harvesting Project for low income households is a project jointly financed by the European Union and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly at the rate of 80% to 20%.

The project aims at easing the lives of low income families by providing them with one or two round reinforced concrete water tanks, as the case may be to ensure that they secure at 4 m³ rainwater storage facilities.

The 1st Call phase started in April 2015 and was completed in April 2017. The project target was to cast 1000 water tanks. I am informed that at the end of the project 1034 tanks had been built for 737 families residing Regions 1 to 6. The project has already been audited by EU-appointed Consultant Firm Moore Stephen.

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Madam Chairperson, the 2nd Call of Rainwater Harvesting for Low Income Households Project, which is ongoing, is also jointly financed by the EU and the RRA as follows: -

- European Union - 217,287.38 Euros; and
- RRA - 8,572.62 Euros

Regarding part (b) of the question, I have to inform the House that the project implementation period is of 35 months ending on 21 September 2018 for a total of 500 water tanks. The completion date has not yet been reached but there might be a short delay as there was an issue with supply of cement and damaged moulds.

As regards to part (c) of the question, I am informed that 283 water tanks have been completed for 320 applicants from Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 and for these four regions the total of 500 water tanks will be reached.

Madam Chairperson, regarding Regions 5 and 6 I am informed that 97 applicants have been found to satisfy eligibility criteria for a total of 146 tanks that need to be constructed. Funds will be made available from the RRA Budget to construct same once the EU funds are exhausted.

With regard to part (d) of the question, I am informed that a total amount of Rs 2,881,930.03 has been disbursed so far. As requested by the Respected Member, I am tabling the relevant details.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, if I have heard the Respected Commissioner well, he is saying that the completion date has not yet been reached. But is it not true that the projects which started in April/May 2015 should have been completed by May this year? How come that he is saying that the completion date has not been reached?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Madam Chairperson, I clearly mentioned that the implementation period was for 35 months ending 21st December 2018. May be he has been confused. Yes, you are confused.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, the Audit Report is clear on that. It is said that the completion time should be about 36 months. It started in April/May 2015, it should have been completed by May 2018. Your Mathematics is not good.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, I confirm that you have been confused because I clearly mentioned in the answer that the project, the 1st Call, which started in April 2015 was completed in April 2017 and 1034 water tanks have been built and this project is a second one relating to the 2nd Call. It is not the one which you are mentioning from the Audit Report, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: So, am I to understand that the 1st phase has already been completed?

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

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, can I know from the Commissioner the list of materials for the construction of these water tanks and who or if there are organisation who are taking these projects?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Madam Chairperson, I do not have the list of materials but these have been clearly defined by the Engineers and Technicians and it is on a self-help basis. So, they are provided with all the materials and the moulds but the beneficiary has to provide for the labour cost.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, is the Respected Commissioner, prepared to table, for the sake of transparency, a list of all the beneficiaries and the amount of materials given to each beneficiary per region?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, I do not have any problem to table the list of beneficiaries as it was done in all transparency. There was a radio communiqué to call for potential applicants for the project and all these have been screened by a committee. So, there was full transparency and there is no problem for me to table the list.

The Minority Leader: When the Respected Commissioner will table the list? I am not questioning the method; I just want to check.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, for the list of completed, for the first project I can table all the list whenever you want.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: It will be tabled in the Library.

[Interruption]

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: If you have asked for same, you would have obtained it. Okay? I will table in the Library. Yes, in one-week time.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Commissaire parce que, c'est vrai qu'il y a des personnes qui livrent les matériaux mais à la place du ciment, du sable on donne du *rock sand*. Bien souvent quand on fait le crépissage avec le *rock sand*, le bassin ne contient pas l'eau, il y a des fuites. Qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire de ça ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So, we have not received complaints as such as at date but all the materials are according to norms because it is well defined as I said and these are Technicians and Engineers.

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

Madam Chairperson: Order ! Yes, Respected Member.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, being given that, I have seen some cases around the island that beneficiaries do have part of the materials, sand, blocks, *pa coné*, *rock sand*, etc. but très souvent, Madame la présidente, nous avons rencontré aussi des personnes qui ont reçu une petite partie de ces matériaux-là et que à l'heure du jour, dont on parle actuellement, il y a même dans le premier *call for proposals*, il y a des bassins qui n'ont pas été encore terminé. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire s'il a une équipe pour *monitor* et qu'est-ce qu'il propose, si jamais... Donc, c'est déjà le cas, qu'est-ce qu'il propose pour assurer que tous les bassins qui sont donnés, surtout aux plus démunis, ces bassins-là sont construits jusqu'à la fin et que au moins *they got value for money* ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: These are monitored by officers of my commission, *des Inspecteurs, des Foremen* and as I have said for the 1st Call, you are talking about the 1st Call, I do not know from where you got the answer but the project is over. We have constructed more than what was initially projected, which means that there is value for money. But I do not know from where you obtained the information. If you can give me the names and then I will ask officers to confirm same. Because as at date we have not received any complaint.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

DESALINATION PROJECT - ANSE GOELAND/POINTE DIABLE

(No. B/97) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the desalination project at Anse Goeland/Pointe Diable, he will state: -

- (a) the Project Manager/Supervisor thereof;
- (b) all environmental clearances obtained therefor, indicating if any risk assessment for the marine ecology was undertaken; and
- (c) when contract for all works implicated therefor were respectively awarded, the successful bidders and the amount allocated thereto, tabling the whole set of building layout and construction plans with details regarding:
 - (i) intake of seawater and return of brine/waste to the sea;
 - (ii) position of the pipes of the water intake and along the coastline?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the desalination project at Anse Goeland is being supervised by the Global Consultant, Lux Consult Mauritius Ltd.

Part (b), the project was declared and exempt undertaking in accordance with Section 28(1) of the Environment Protection Act on 11 July 2013. And, the EIA Report was approved on 13 January 2017. A marine biota survey was also conducted to ensure minimal collateral negative impact to marine lives of ecological and commercial importance.

Part (c), the desalination projects are being implemented through free contracts, the details of which are being tabled along with the building layouts and plans as requested.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, being given that we have been talking since a long time of *Rodrigues île écologique*, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner how does he reconcile the fact that when we are talking of aquaculture, they talk of problem of waste etc., of pollution. Now, with the brine that is being released in the lagoon, how does he reconcile the fact that: will this not cause pollution, is this not a threat to marine lives in our lagoon?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, desalination plants require an EIA Report and there are conditions that are attached for the installation and the operation of a desalination plant. And, if I refer well, if I

remember well, one of the condition is that the brine that has to be rejected into the sea should not be above 43,200 part per million. Meaning that, the brine that is produced by the plant will have to be diluted first and this is why, in the setting of the plant, consideration has been taken to ensure that the water that is to be rejected into the sea is according to norm and accordingly there will be little or almost no impact as regards to the marine eco-system.

The Minority Leader: Can I know, Madam Chair, since the Deputy Chief Commissioner is saying that there has been no impact. Can I know whether there has been any study to know the impact of the brine on the marine eco-system? And, if this has been done, can we know when this has been done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the plant is not already in operation. It is not already in operation as regards to Anse Goeland. But what is of importance, Madam Chairperson, I have stated in my answer, there is a marine biota survey that has been carried out where the water is going to be taken/intake, where the water is going to be taken and where the water is going to be rejected. So, there is as in the case of Caverne Bouteille and as in the case of Anse aux Anglais, there is a survey on the marine eco-system that is done every month and this survey is sent to the Ministry for Environment if anybody want to...I think once I tabled the survey when it was asked in this Assembly.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson Madam, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there has been any variation in the setting up of the desalination plant of Anse Goeland, if yes, why? And, give us details about that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the initial construction of the desalination plant, I think in 2015, was to intake water by infiltration gullies. Now, this has been shifted to the construction of a jetty and associated pipelines and of course, with the pumps.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The total cost to be disbursed for the whole project of Anse Goeland especially.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The required information has been tabled in the... It has just been tabled, Madam Chairperson. All contract that has been given to the contractors have been tabled.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: We do not have any paper here. Can you give us an idea of what has been the change?

Madam Chairperson: It is being circulated right now.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House when the project of Anse Goeland will be completed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This is also mentioned in the information tabled, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner, he is talking about a survey for marine, a marine survey, can he consider to table the survey so that we can have an idea of what has been written?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I can inform him of what is mentioned in the survey as regard to the sites where water is to be rejected or where water is to be taken inland. It is said that in fact, the overall set of marine biodatas surveys has as central aim, to identify the most suitable location for laying and outfall pipe and construction for intake of water and somewhere, it is stated the place where the water is to be rejected. It consists mainly of 90% of barren sand and silt substrate with a very small percentage of microalgae restricted to first 5 to 10 metres as from the beach. So, it is clear that where we are rejecting the water and where we are taking the water inland, there is almost no marine life.

The Minority Leader : No marine life? I am flabbergasted by this answer, Madam Chair because Baie du Nord is supposed to be a reserved area. Can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner being given that there are several desalination plants that have been set up in Rodrigues, can I know what is the honourable cost of running one such plant per year?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I do not have the required information in hand, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : Sorry, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner to table same in the soonest possible so that we can have an idea and the public at large can be informed of that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : As soon as possible, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : I would like to know, Madam.... cannot get away with that a bit like this! We are here, we represent the people here. For the sake of transparency, I would like to know how soon is soon.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, avec tout le désordre qu'il y a eu à cette endroit, désordre, défiguration de l'endroit, donc, qu'est-ce que le

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Commissaire prévoit pour *réinstater* le contour de la plage et l'écosystème dans la région ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Never there has been any defiguration of the place, Madam Chairperson. Never!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The digging of a hole, Madam Chairperson...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Where is the disfiguration? Where is it?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please resume your seat.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Second Island Region Member! Order! Minority Leader, order! You allow the Commissioner to reply! Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner, you may proceed.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It did happen.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please, resume your seat.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please resume your seat! Respected Members, we cannot proceed in this manner. I have been saying there are rules of this House. The Standing Orders and Rules of the Regional Assembly are clear. We should abide to those rules. We cannot go otherwise. I will not tolerate any more contravention of these orders. You have been warned.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Of course, if there is any construction that is being done, even if someone is building a house at his place, there will be of course, some disorder but...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : At the end of the day, it has to be made good. But to say that there is a total *défiguration* of the site, I do not agree with that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, I have hundreds of pictures taken on that site by me personally and it is here. This is what is happening on the site at Anse Goéland. This is what is happening actually. The Deputy Chief Commissioner cannot come here and tell us that there is no defiguration. This is not correct! No, this is not correct. And, can I ask the....

Madam Chairperson: You have already made your point, Second Island Region Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: No, I would like to put my question, now. Can I?

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you can.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Will the Commissioner make sure that after the completion of the work.... *Atane to pou repone la, ki to pe pressé?*

Madam Chairperson: No cross-talking, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I address you. Will the Commissioner ensure the House that after completion of the desalination plant, installation of Anse Goéland and others, he will make sure that everything will be reinstated at nearly original manner or a bit better?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : It goes without saying, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**PROLIFERATION OF
ACACIA NILOTICA “PIQUANT LOULOU”**

(No. B/98) Mr. J. N. Volbert (The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Forestry and Others whether in regard to proliferation of *Acacia Nilotica* “*piquant loulou*”, he will for the benefit of the House state the action(s) taken by his Commission in regard thereto?

The Commissioner for Forestry and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I will answer Question B98 and B115 together as it deals with the same subject matter. 115.

Madam Chairperson: Permission granted.

The Commissioner for Forestry and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madame Chairperson, as commissioner for Forestry and also someone who has worked in the field of conservation of the flora of Rodrigues for years, I must admit that the introduction of *piquant loulou* in Rodrigues is amongst and if not the biggest error that one has done to the natural ecosystem of Rodrigues in 1997. And I am sure, Madame Chairperson, that all the people present in this august Assembly today here agree with me.

This unthought-of action should be used as an example for us policy makers of today and the ones coming tomorrow, not to repeat the same mistake again in the future. Let me just add that the question of aquaculture can be the same thing, could have become the same problem with *Accacia Nilotica*.

Madame Chairperson, introducing a new species of plant or animal in a new ecosystem can be detrimental if not fatal in the medium and long term. This is why, Madam Chairperson, I will say that this question of eradicating *piquant loulou* in Rodrigues is not easy but to stay optimistic, I will say it is not impossible.

I will not leave any stone unturned Madame chairperson in this fight to eradicate this pest in our small paradise.

Madame Chairperson, a lot of trials have been done, a lot of experiments has been tried but the 100 % solution with regards to the control and/or eradication of *piquant loulou* in Rodrigues is not found yet owing to the fact that this is a worldwide issue. Madam Chairperson... *Worldwide, oui. Ale lor Internet to pou trouvé.* Worldwide issue.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair. Respected Members, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a worldwide, Madam Chairperson, because I am talking of invasive species. Not just *piquant loulou* but the problem of invasive species and *piquant loulou* is one of them.

Madame Chairperson, about 100 hectares of land in Rodrigues has been invaded by *piquant loulou* which results in loss of good agricultural land and loss in biodiversity. The project Land Suitability Mapping funded by FAO and implemented by my commission will give a more reliable data on the areas invaded by *piquant loulou* up to date.

Madame chairperson, this Regional Government has put this issue of invasion of *piquant loulou* as a priority in our agenda to fight this exotic and invasive plant until the last one is destroyed.

We started by studying the plant to find the best technique to eliminate it and our findings can be summarised as follows.

Piquant loulou is difficult to control and it is very labour intensive to eliminate especially when its young. When it is cut small, it coppices and grows better. So, the best technique is to wait for it to have reached a size where it can be ringbarked.

This technique has proved to be very successful but still is very labour intensive. We can even write a scientific paper on all the work that we have done on this, Madame chairperson.

But if Government has to eradicate *piquant loulou* alone, we will never achieve our objective because by the time we destroy five trees, one hundred seeds will have germinated.

So this is why Madame Chairperson we have decided to go in the following directions;

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- Biological control can be a more drastic solution where the introduction of a pest that feeds on the flowers and the seeds of *piquant loulou* will definitely affect the proliferation of the species and then it will be easier to tackle the existing population and we are working on this biocontrol. Biocontrol is not the same thing.

[Interruptions]

The Commissioner for Forestry and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): *Vine avek ene kestion mo done toi ene ler.*

Madam Chairperson: Order!

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

- We are giving land to farmers for agroforestry projects. This is another solution which we have started because a private individual for the purpose of making maximum profit from a piece of land by growing economically viable plants will definitely crack the nut even if it is hard, Madam, Chairperson. 34 projects have already been approved by my Commission and will start soon.
- Using the wood as biomass to produce energy as for our 2030 vision that is 100 % clean energy is another solution simply because people will be eager to cut the tree down for money,
- The technique that has worked is being shared to the local community to help them to more efficiently eliminate *piquant loulou*.
- Another important step that we have taken even if *piquant loulou* is considered as a forest produce and is protected by law, I have given the instruction to ease the procedure. It is protected by law. That is why I say it is a forest produce and the law is the Forest Reserve Act no. 41. *Ale guetté to mem.* What it says is all trees are considered as forest produce and no one is allowed to cut a forest produce without the written authority of the authorised officer.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Eta mone travay sept ans forestier moi!*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members !

The Commissioner for Forestry and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Even if it is considered as a forest produce and is protected by law, I have given the instruction to ease the procedure for those who want to eradicate *piquant loulou* and to replace it by something better, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, le Commissaire Payendee est venu dans cette chambre flatter son expérience pour combattre le *piquant loulou*. Il a dit lui-même dans cette chambre que dans un proche avenir, il va éliminer complètement le *piquant loulou* avec cette affaire de *ring, ringbarking*. Il a dit ça. Aujourd'hui, le Commissaire vient nous dire que le *piquant loulou* est difficile à combattre. Moi, je suis perdu. Il faut nous dire est-ce que le Commissaire peut assurer la destruction même pas 100% des *piquant loulou* à Rodrigues ou non. Première question. Deuxième question...

Madam Chairperson: You have already put one question. One question at a time, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je crois que le membre n'a rien compris de ce que j'ai dit. J'ai dit que oui, on va se battre. J'ai été humble, je pense, à dire que c'est un combat difficile et je l'admets que c'est difficile. A moins que vous venez et vous donnez une solution plus rapide, non. Mais le système de *ringbarking* marche et j'ai dit que le *ringbarking*, ça veut dire couper l'écorce d'un arbre, on peut le faire qu'avec un arbre. On ne peut pas le faire avec un *seedling*. Ça veut dire, une petite plante comme ça, on ne peut pas le faire et il faut que la plante d'après les expériences qu'on a fait, il faut que la plante obtienne au moins...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please! I should be able to hear the answer of the Commissioner without any interruption, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Il faut que la plante/l'arbre obtienne au moins dix centimetres de *diameter* pour que le système de *ringbarking* marche. Entretemps, il faut admettre aussi que les graines de *piquant loulou* sont dispersées par les oiseaux. Donc, c'est pour ça, on vient avec cette tactique de *biological control* pour mettre une peste et quand je dis introduire une espèce, une peste, ce n'est pas introduire, c'est une espèce qu'on introduit dans toutes les techniques de control biologique, on introduit une espèce qui ne va pas reproduire. Cette espèce-là n'a pas le droit de reproduire. Donc, le travail a été fait en amont. On introduit l'espèce, il mange toutes les fleurs et les graines et après, il meure. Voilà. C'est la technique.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: No cross-talking, please! Commissioner, respected Members, please!

The Minority Leader : Yes, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner whether if we want good control, regular control of the Accacia Nilotica, the *piquant loulou*, is he prepared to involve the whole population of Rodrigues? This can be done, RCSS and so on. Secondly, he is talking of small plants. This can be cut easily. *Secateur kapave servi sa*. Thirdly, can I know how many contracts have been awarded in order to control this *piquant loulou*? Has the contract been awarded for the cutting down of *piquant loulou*? Whether this is ongoing.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Minority Leader does not know much about *piquant loulou* much unfortunately. Cutting a *piquant loulou* with a *secateur*, will make the *piquant loulou* give five more branches. The only way to eliminate seedlings of *piquant loulou* is to uproot. If you do not... You said *secateur*. You do not know what you are talking about. So, what are you....

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : On a point of order, at my place, there werenothing but *piquant loulou*. I have done what I have said. I have done this. Therefore, I would like the respected Commissioner to remove what he has said. *Pas dir moi mo pa koné ki mo pe dir*.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner assumes the responsibility of his answer because here, everyone has been giving his own opinion about the matter. I do not see contravention of the Standing Order here.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Because the Minority Leader...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner, you may proceed.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The Minority Leader also said that why do we not involve the population of Rodrigues in this? I have said that we have opened it. People cutting Acacia Nilotica now, they have no problem with law. No problem.

And, let me say something. If the Minority Leader, himself, is saying that we need to involve the population in this, around his own house, there is a lot of *piquant loulou*. Why does he not go and cut these down? This is the start.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, on a point of order, I would like to... He is saying around my house, there are plenty of *piquant loulou*. Go there! I have been cutting all through and I am still cutting.

Madam Chairperson: This was not a point of order. This was a point of explanation.

The Minority Leader : I have not. I have not. Yes, he is imputing motives on me. So... *Li mem li ene imbecile. Li pa koné ki li pe dir.*

Madam Chairperson: No, you have to withdraw that one ! Both of you! Both of you! No, no! Both of you have to withdraw.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner has to...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: He was in a sitting position! This is out of order. Second Island Region Member, you cannot argue with the Chair! This is out of order. This is completely out of order! This is completely out of order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, both of you have to withdraw....

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, n'est-il pas vrai qu'il y a un projet avec la COI et ce projet est en retard parce que la Commission justement pour éradiquer les *piquant loulou* et que la Commission n'a pas fait suite à leur demande, n'a pas suivi le projet ? Est-il vrai ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Non, Madame la présidente. Oui, on a un projet avec la COI. On est en train d'éradiquer le *piquant loulou* mais on n'est pas en retard et le projet est bien en ligne.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous donner une bref description du projet ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Oui, *Madam Chairperson*. C'est un projet qui a été financé par la COI et qui prend trois pays. Donc, il y a Madagascar, il y a Comores et puis, à Rodrigues. Et dans ce projet, on est supposé éradiquer le *piquant loulou* pour replanter les plantes endémiques. On a déjà fait trois quart de ce qui devait être fait et personnellement, je suis allé présenter avec mes techniciens le projet, le résultat du projet devant la COI et ils sont très contents, *Madam Chairperson*.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that the respected Commissioner has been paradoxically saying that aquaculture is very dangerous for our ecosystem and now, he has.... He has said this. He has talked about that. This is why I am talking of this. Is it now he is assuming that? And now he is saying that he will replace the *piquant loulou* by economically viable plants. But aquaculture is an economically viable fish. Now, can we know what type.... Can I know...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please! I am having difficulty to relate the question to...

The Minority Leader : I would like to know... I will enlighten you.

Madam Chairperson: Yes.

The Minority Leader : He has been talking of aquaculture. So, this clearly... This concerns this one...

Madam Chairperson: Your question, now.

The Minority Leader : It is linked. Now, my question, if you give me some time, you will understand.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, I give you the time. You put the question now.

The Minority Leader : Now, he has been saying that he will replace the *piquant loulou* by economically viable plants. Can we know what economically viable plant means? What type of plant he is going to grow and secondly, being given that he is saying that he will introduce some parasites to kill the *piquant loulou*, can we know whether these parasites will not kill other plants also?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and thank you, Minority Leader, to give me the chance to elaborate on this. What I said is, I said we made a big mistake by introducing *piquant loulou* on this island. The people

in the past in 1977. That was a big mistake. And, I said I do not want policymakers of today and of future to do the same mistake, means introducing invasive species. In 1977. *Mone dir li bien parski angar croire nou ki ti fer ha.*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I said... This is what I said. I am just bearing the attention of the people that this is wrong. We need to be very careful. I did not say this word but this is what I wanted to say. You need to be very careful whenever we introduce any species on the island. The thing about aquaculture, I said it, yes, and I recognise I said it, the problem with this thing is I said, do not make the same mistake. The same mistake means be very careful. This is what we have done. As Commissioner for fisheries, I was the one to oppose and I will still oppose on these projects. Now, I am getting... So, it is concerning the trees, economically viable plants that the Minority Leader is talking about. We are talking about Mourounga, we are talking about mangos fruit trees, we are talking about melliferous trees, all these trees that can being money to the farmer.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam the Chair. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire s'il va assurer la chambre que les plants de *piquant loulou* qui se trouvent aux abords des routes à Baladirou et Reposoir *will be trimmed on a regular basis to avoid obstruction and accidents* ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Oui, *Madam Chairperson*, je voudrais peut-être inviter le membre à aller voir ce qui se passe à Pointe L'Herbe. C'est la même chose qui va se faire autour de Rodrigues mais ça va prendre le temps qu'il faut parce que ce n'est pas un travail facile.

The Minority Leader : The respected Commissioner has not answered my question. I have asked how many contracts have been given to cut down *piquant loulou*. Because if he said that it is difficult to cut down *piquant loulou*, can we explain why for the Mahogany, there has been a cutting spree, this has been done rapidly but the *piquant loulou*, it is done sluggishly.

Madam Chairperson: You have made your point, Minority Leader.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: No problem to answer that sort of question and of course, it is a pleasure for me to answer. Removing *piquant loulou* is considered as an invasive species and there is a plant called the plant invaders. Go on the Internet, look for that. The plant invaders mean that this plant is recognised worldwide. That is why I said worldwide in my answer. Worldwide as being an invasive plant. Mahogany is not an invasive plant but it was meant, it was removed for a specific project. It was and I said, as a forest produce, no one can

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remove a plant without the written authority of the authorised officer. And, this one was cut with the written authority of the authorised officer. Thank you.

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, he has not answered.

Madam Chairperson: One last question, yes.

The Minority Leader : He has not answered how many contracts have you awarded to cut down the *piquant loulou*? And, how many contracts will you award, you are contemplating to award in the future?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, awarding a contract is not the issue. We have awarded some contracts but it is all about the technique which is, I said... I think maybe I will table the answer for people to go and read what I said. I said that this plant is difficult to remove and if you do the wrong technique, you are not helping the plant to die. You are just making it live better. That is why we need to be careful. You do not give contracts....

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner. Thank you, you have already given the answer. No. Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/101 has been withdrawn. Next question.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question. We have moved to the next question, now.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam the Chair. B/99.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS – SUPPLIERS OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT

(No. B/99) Mr. J. N. Volbert (The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the settlement of claims by suppliers of sports equipment, including accoutrements, to her Commission, she will state if payment is being effected within the prescribed time frame and, in the negative, to state any remedial actions taken or being envisaged at the level of her Commission in regard thereto?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that my Commission endeavours to settle all

claims submitted by suppliers in reasonable delay. However, delay in payment may occur based on different factors: load of work at the level of the Finance Section, discrepancies in the amount being claimed by suppliers which require the supplier to correct the discrepancies and resubmit claim for the settlement to the Commission for payment. As at date, Madam Chair, I am informed that there is only one payment pending concerning one store form at my Commission with regards to the procurement of equipment, t-shirts and jerseys. In fact, there was an arithmetical error in circulation of the price of one item. The supplier was requested to amend same and has already submitted the corrected claim by fax. Payment will be effected as soon as the original claim is received at the Commission.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**COASTAL ROAD – SONGES TO PETITE BUTTE
INSTALLATION OF BUS SHELTERS**

(No. B/100) Mr. J. N. Nemours (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to coastal road from Songes to Petite Butte in Local Regions 2 and 3, he will state if consideration will be given for the installation of bus shelters thereat and if so, when, and if not, why?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, in an attempt to improve the conditions of living of our citizens and taking into consideration the financial provisions, my Commission is finalising bidding documents for the construction of 14 bus shelters around the island. One of these bus shelters will be constructed along road Grand Var towards Petite Butte. The design and survey for 10 additional bus shelters are being carried out and consideration will be given for the construction of bus shelters at Songes, Tamarin and Anse Baleine.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that we are talking about the road from Songes to Petite Butte, can I know whether the Deputy Chief Commissioner is contemplating the resurfacing, the realignment, the constructing of retaining walls on that road. Because it is very, very bumpy and many tourists go by this road. Can I know when this will be done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, in the budget speech of the Chief Commissioner for 2018/2019, it was clearly stated that we are going to proceed with the rehabilitation of such road. In fact, this very week, we are proceeding with the handing over of the site of the road for Montagne Malgache to Port Sud-Est. The starting of construction of Montagne Malgache to Port Sud-Est, the next road which is on our roadmap is in fact the rehabilitation of

Songes to Rivière Cocos including all the feature that have been mentioned by the Minority Leader.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

(No. B101) Mr. J. N. Nemours (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Route de l'Autonomie, he will consider the advisability of installing speed cameras thereon, specifically along main road from Quatre Vents to Grand La Fouche Corail, and if so, when?

[Withdrawn]

**RENOVATION WORKS
– MARÉCHAL SWIMMING POOL**

(No. B/102) Mr. J. N. Nemours (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the renovation works which were carried out at the Maréchal Swimming Pool, she will, for the benefit of the House, provide information as to if they have now been completed and, if so, state: -

- (a) the total amount of money disbursed in terms of consultancy fees and repair costs;
- (b) the amount of liquidated damages applied to the contractor, if any; and
- (c) when the swimming pool is proposed to be operational?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Madam Chairperson, with regards to part (a) of my question, I have been informed that the total amount of money disbursed in terms of consultancy fees in connection with the renovation works which are being carried out at Marechal Swimming Pool is Rs 462,980.60 exclusive VAT. The cost incurred and evaluated as that date as per the Interim Report Certificate is Rs 14,515,281.51 inclusive of Vat for the upgrading works.

Madam Chairperson, with regards to part (b) of the question, I have been informed that no liquidated damage has been applied as so far as the contract does not allow application of liquidated damage at this stage.

With regards to part (c), Madam Chair, I wish to inform the House that the pool and the deck repair works have been substantially completed in September 2017 and that the testing and commissioning of filters and pumps had already been completed in April 2018 after swimming pool was filled for the first time after the repairs work. 245 days of extension of time was granted due to the lack of water for the filling up of the pool, thus bringing the new application date to 18 April 2018. The contractor was also instructed to proceed with the following additional works: the new pipeline from rainwater harvesting tank to ballast tank entry, the new pipeline from technical room to kids pool and thirdly, emptying and cleaning the ballast tank which was not in the initial scope of work. So far, Madam Chairperson, the current progress is 95% and the tentative date for swimming pool to be operational except for some part of the timing equipment will be for the first week of November.

Testing of competition timing equipment was carried out and certain parts of the timing equipment was found faulty. Repairs of the timing equipment was also proposed to be included in various works and will be undertaken after completion works allocated under the contract. Repair works to timing equipment to ease to approximately two months as from the date of instruction to proceed. Madam Chair, I am informed that more than five notices were issued to the contractor to complete all works. Training of employers and personal is included in the contract and will be carried out prior to handing over of site by first week of November 2018. Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that one will recall that this swimming pool has cost more than 92 m rupees. and it must become operational because we cannot use so much money and not using it, can I know whether the Mauritius Sports Council... with the help of the Mauritius Sports Council will be asked for the operationalisation of this swimming pool?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, I wish to enlighten the House that indeed, the swimming pool has cost a lot, especially because it was closed for such a long time and we had to reopen and the cost of repairs has cost very high, is very high at the Commission. Madam Chair, with regards to the MSC, indeed, we have sought the collaboration of the Mauritius Sports Council for the smooth running of the swimming pool and of course, a draft MoU is under study right now. We have worked out. A first meeting has already been held and we are going to finalise same after the approval of the Executive Council of the terms and conditions of this memorandum of understanding. But indeed, there are training issues that we consider and of course, lately, we have had two persons from Rodrigues, two swimming animators from Rodrigues who participated in the austswim course for swimming coaches from the 01 to the 10 of August in Mauritius and this was organised again by the MSC and we had the chance to be

present and recently, only last week, we have had programme “*Anou Nazé*” where the help of the MSC also is extended to Rodrigues whereby some 25 trainers were trained and whereby also, there will be activities planned for the youth from eight to 17 in November and December and the target for this year as opposed to last year was 400 and now, we are targeting 1000 young people to be trained under this programme and with the help of the MSC.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner what about the electricity bill? So, has there been a change? Has there been an increase or a decrease in the electricity bill regarding the maintenance and so on of the swimming pool and who incurs this expense?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I think there may be increase or decrease but things will depend of course on the operationalisation of the swimming pool. And, we will have to see the trend because as I have said, the pool was closed for quite a while and we are reopening it and we are going to see the trend and finalise whether, how the increase or decrease is being possible.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, we have been made to understand, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, that there has been an increase from Rs 50,000 to Rs 99,000 monthly. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she is aware of that and what has happened?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: As I have told you, Madam Chair, the swimming pool has closed down. Now, this Government has reopened it. We are following the trend of the electricity and we will come with the general trend and we will enlighten the Member.

The Minority Leader : Being given that the cost of electricity has gone up, can I ask the respected Commissioner whether she is contemplating the possibility of putting solar panels near the swimming pool on the *le bâtiment*, the building so that we can reduce the cost of electricity?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, indeed, all the ecological measures are under study with regards to electricity and also with regards to water harvesting as well. So, these issues are under study at my Commission.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner if her Commission has worked on a long-term solution for the regular water supply for the...

Ms. M. R. Edouard: I have just replied to this question with regards to Water Harvesting System.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Commissioner has been talking of liquidated damage. So, she said that it is not applied. So, can she enlighten the House about why liquidated damage has not been applied in this case?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: So, liquidated damage is applied when there is a breach of contract. There is no breach of contract, Madam Chair.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can I know from the Commissioner how much it costs actually to run the swimming pool per month?

Ms. M. R. Edouard: Madam Chair, I have already said. We are waiting the operationalisation of the pool so that we see the trend in terms of personal, in terms of electricity, water supply and all the basics around the swimming pool. So, we cannot give you the exact amount. So, you have to give us some time, some three months to see.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

RIVIERE COCOS – “VILLAGE ÉCOLOGIQUE”

(No. B/103) Mr. J. N. Nemours (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the project of converting the village of Rivière Coco into a “Village Écologique”, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, in line with this Regional Government to make Rodrigues an ecological island, the development of the concept Ecovillage is part of the action to achieve this vision. One of the budgetary measures of the Government for the year 2018/19 is to set up, I quote :

‘...le premier projet d’éco-village dans la République de Maurice sera complété durant cette nouvelle année financière à Rivière Coco avec le concours de la COI’.

Madam Chairperson, the model Ecovillage Project at Rivière Cocos is co-financed by the European Union under the IOC Energy Programme. The cash contribution of the RRA is around Rs 2.4 m. and EU contribution is about Rs 7.2 m. The total project value is approximately Rs 14.7 m. whereas the kind contribution of RRA is Rs 5.1 m. The objective of the project is to demonstrate the use of renewable energy sources for the production of electricity and cooking. The project has been launched by my Commission in January this year and will be

implemented by August 2019. The target is the household of Rivière Cocos and ultimately, the whole population of Rodrigues. The activities to be implemented in the project are: installation of PV equipment at household for electricity production, procurement of solar charging stations and electric vehicle for demonstration, the installation of bio digesters, biogas production for biogas production from animal wastes for cooking purposes, procurement of street solar lightings, setting up of green roofing on buildings.

Madam Chairperson, since the launching of the project by my Commission, many meetings and activities have been undertaken with the villagers and stakeholders regarding the different components of the project. An office has been set up at Rivière Cocos with an officer fully attached to the project. My Commission is coordinating the project's implementation with the IOC Energy Programme and the European Union. A brief on the different components of the projects is as follows: biogas production for cooking. Biogas will be produced from animal waste for cooking purposes. The beneficiaries who are farmers will work in groups to have sufficient animal waste to operate the community bio digesters. These groups have been identified and will produce biogas from three types of animal wastes namely pigs, sheep and cattle.

The following activities have been implemented: identification of potential beneficiaries, meetings by the University of Mauritius which has an agreement with the Commission for Environment for design and setting of a bio digester, information sessions, visits by Agricultural Services and University of Mauritius, visit to Frère Remy by the beneficiaries to see the operation of bio digesters, granting of land to Rivière Cocos Biogas Association which was newly set up to implement the project. The beneficiaries are actually constructing the animal pen and pastures. The design for the bio digesters are being finalised by the University of Mauritius. The construction of the bio digesters and the production of biogas is expected by end of this year. Madam Chairperson, the photovoltaic installation at household. Photovoltaic systems will be installed at household level for production of energy. Actually, 66 households have expressed their interest thereto.

The following activities have been implemented: meeting by the CEB regarding the scheme available thereto, identification of beneficiaries through open expression of interest. We are finalising the technical modality with the CEB for the installation of the PB systems at household level. Installation of street lightings, procurement of solar charging stations and electric vehicle. Street lightings will be procured to be placed along the street and community roads across the village. An electric car together with solar charging system stations will be purchased to be used for demonstration purposes. The following activities have already been done: identifying of sites for the station of street lighting with

the village committee, finalization of specifications for the solar charging stations equipment and launching of tender.

Contracts have been awarded for instillation of solar street lightings across the village which is expected by December this year. Tenders for procurement of an electric vehicle and solar charging station have been launched for the latter bidders have been obtained and are being considered... is being evaluated. As per information gathered, contract will be awarded same very shortly. For the green roofing, one of the various ways of saving energy is to use green roofing which is a technology applied to cool down building by planting on the roof. At the same time, the green roof will help in rainwater harvesting. The technology is not quite simple as it requires specific techniques and materials. The Indian Ocean Commission will be providing an expert in view of implementation of this activity. The green roofing technology will be implemented at the Rivière Cocos Primary School for demonstration purpose. Madam Chairperson, in line with making Rodrigues an ecological island, considerations need to be given to the individual villagers. Rivière Coco has been identified as the first village to be ecological and to achieve this, there is need to look on the other sectors and not just energy.

A survey has already been undertaken to obtain data in the different sectors for a more efficient policy formulation and implementation. Priority will be given to the village of Rivière Cocos for the different schemes that my Commission has put in place. That includes the provision of solar water heater, agroforestry project and solar Photovoltaic Rebates Scheme for SMEs. Same consideration will also be provided from budgetary provisions of the other Commissions. Madam Chairperson, a committee has been set up under my chairmanship to steer this important project whereby the relevant stakeholders are represented. I have henceforth included the Central Electricity Board, the Commission for Environment, the Fisheries Protection Service, the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry Service, Environment Department, *Police de l'Environnement*, Commission for Sport, the South East Marine Protected Area, Public Infrastructure Division, the Water Resources Development, the Tourism Office, the Commission for Education, Commission for Health and a Commander of Police. Madam Chairperson, with the involvement of the abovementioned partners, the Ecovillage Project is being scaled up and the following are being tackled through:

- enhancing the use of energy-saving lamps in all families in Rivière Cocos through provisions of eco lamps,
- extension of the solar water heater scheme to all eligible families of the project site to promote renewable energy use,

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- procurement of a solar powered motor board for sea patrol purpose along the Rivière Cocos coast,
- promotion of smart eco-friendly bio agricultural practices, replacement of invasive and uprooting unproductive plants, this is by more economical endemic ones,
- embellishment of the village with planting of adapted endemic trees,
- promotion of a waste segregation at source in all families in the project site with provision of at least three bins for waste sorting,
- promotion of public waste segregation through provision of a common waste segregating bin,
- pulling down of building on Rivière Cocos coast side next to the Rivière Cocos road and main road intersection,
- refurbishment of all existing sports amenities in the project site to better sports activities among the villagers for a better health,
- improving existing condition of a coconut plantation through setting up of a coconut nursery next to Rivière Cocos coastline,
- production of the use of more environmentally-friendly four stroke engine for the fishers in the Rivière Cocos,
- ensuring safe mooring of all pirogues in the project site by installation of more marine eco-friendly mooring buoys
- Improving the eyesight of the project area by replanting...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please. Have you got for long?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee):
It is finished, almost. Amenities.

- Improvement of the land drainage system for better surface water circulation and minimising natural hazard risk and thus, adaptation to climate change,

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- cleaning and upgrading of water storage facilities in the project area in view of minimising water shortage pressure especially during water scarce season,
- installation of viewpoint at Citron Donis looking at Rivière Cocos and access and improving existing nature trails for improvement of tourist activities
- making the Sainte Thérèse Enfant Jesus (RCA) becoming an eco school and that is being in line with the environmental and ecological practices.
- converting one or more existing shops and restaurant into eco shops and eco restaurant whereby focus will be made on ecological practices,
- upgrading of Government buildings including the Rivière Cocos Area Healthcare Centre, the existing cemetery, the Police Station among others.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, all this will be done with only Rs 14 m. Well, being given that I was the one who proposed Rivière Cocos to become an ecological village about seven years back and at that time, I was given... The Regional Government was given Rs 30 m. The Rs 30 m. were earmarked by the Central Government. Now, he is talking of Rs 14 m.... Can I know what has happened to this Rs 30 m. given by the Central Government? Whether it has disappeared in thin air?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this makes me laugh or smile. I should have laughed but I am smiling. There has never been any budget in this for an eco village. Earmarked, it is the same like the *cable optique*: Rs 600 m. but never! I have never! We have done a lot of, you know, budget stuff in this room and I have never heard of any rupees being put. Going to the fact that the Minority is saying that he proposed it, I have never heard about this. Never heard about this. Never heard. This project...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This project and also...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: No cross-talking, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: And also, I said Rs 14 m. for part of the project. This is what I have said in my speech, in my answer. I said we are getting Rs 40 m. for the energy part of this project but the project will cost about Rs 100 m.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Mo pa bisin dir. Si mo dir to pa pou enan kestion.*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Si mo dir tou, kot to pou gagne kestion?*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam, excuse me. So, this project, we have two components in this project. One component is being taken, the fund is coming from the Indian Ocean Commission and this is all about the energy part of the project. But all the other things like eco shop, eco restaurant, this will be taken from my Commission. The eco school, I will go to the Commission for Education. All the things about sports will be taken. That is what I said. I mentioned all the people of the Commission being involved in this project. So, we will sit down together and see how we can make Rivière Cocos a real eco village and the idea behind this if we want Rodrigues to become an ecological island, we need to have a model. What ecological island are we talking about? Rivière Cocos will be the model which will be replicated in other villages in the future so that when we manage to do all the villages of Rodrigues, we have already won the battle, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**RODRIGUES WOMEN BEACH HANDBALL TEAM
2018 SUMMER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES/BUENOS AIRES IN
ARGENTINA - FROM 6TH - 18TH OCTOBER 2018**

(No. B/104) Mr. J.R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the participation the Rodrigues Women Beach Handball Team under 17 years in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in Argentina from 6th to 18th October 2018, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the composition of the delegation and if there has been any support given by her Commission therefor?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that no request was received by my commission for the participation of the Rodrigues Women Beach Handball Team under 17 in the 2019 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in Argentina from the 6th to the 18th of October 2018. Following the enquiries carried out by officers of my commission with the concerned Regional Committees and Federations, information was obtained that there were no athletes selected at the level of Rodrigues to participate in the games in Buenos Aires in Argentina. I also have to inform the House that the participation of athletes in national and international competition are considered by my commission following request and recommendations from the Regional Sports Committees and/or Federations. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: J'ai attiré l'attention de la Chambre, Madame la présidente, le 19 décembre 2017 concernant l'équipe Rodriguaise jeunes qui a été qualifiée l'année dernière au mois de juillet à Maurice pour participer aux Jeux Olympiques Jeunes cette année en Argentine. Et, dans la réponse, la Commissaire a dit, que je cite : « *There is an equilibrium between Sport d'Elite and Sport de Masse because Rs 19 m. is devoted to Sport d'Elite and Rs 1 m. to Sport de Masse.* » And, finally he said, I quote: « *I myself have dealt personally with the Minister and all these things and we are following.* » Je voudrais savoir, qu'est-ce qui s'est passé entretemps, Madame la présidente, du mois de décembre 2017 jusqu'à le départ qui était prévu pour ces Rodriguaises pour participer à ces Jeux Olympiques en Argentine ?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Thank you, Madam Chair, I maintain that there is the wish and the determination to create equilibrium between Sport de Masse and Sport d'Elite at the level of my commission. But I put it clearly also that my commission acts upon the recommendation of the Federation and/or the Comité Régional. I have not received any request from any Federation or any Comité Régional for the participation of athletes. However, last year when these athletes were to participate in the competition, my commission received the correspondences and from the Federation and we entertained to give support to the athletes by paying tickets and so on. But I cannot recommend athletes because I cannot determine performances of athletes. But if there are things that are not clear we are going to look into it.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madame la présidente, la Commissaire vient de dire qu'elle a aidé ces jeunes a participé à cette compétition l'année dernière, même avec retard, mais ils ont été qualifiés pour participer, pour représenter la République de Maurice en Argentine. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas de suivi de ces jeunes-là ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas de suivi de ces dossiers pour

que ces jeunes puissent participer en Argentine. Et, finalement on a vu une équipe Mauricienne qui est partie. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Shame on you! Shame on you!

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, I say it again. We do not follow the performance. It is upon recommendation that we send athletes. But there is one thing that I wish to enlighten the House that one the issues raised by the Chief Commissioner lately with the Minister Mentor was the treatment of athletes in National Delegation.

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: This was an issue that was raised. But we cannot act unless we have recommendation of the Federation. But we know that there are issues that have to be tackled and the Chief Commissioner has made it clear on his agenda to take this point and to follow up with the Minister Mentor with regard to all these things. But we do not have list of recommendation but we have a correspondence from the Federation stating that it was difficult. This is the reason. I am going to read it. I am going to quote it: "that it was difficult to bring minor Rodriguan athletes to Mauritius for three or four months for training purposes." This was one of the reasons put forward by the Federation. And, I cannot...

Mr. J. R. Augustin: The President of the Federation came here. The DTN came here several times. What has happened? Was this thing not taken into consideration?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Be zot bane incapable!*

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, the DTN and the President of Federation has indeed come for various visits in Rodrigues but the Member is keeping on persisting but the Chief Commissioner is following the issue with the Minister Mentor and we are going to see the outcome of the different issues. Because if the issue was raised in the presence of the Executive Council, so, we are going to follow and see what happens.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I think this issue should have been raised at higher level. Can I know, being given that the Respected Commissioner said that, she will deal with that personally, can I know whether she has talked to the Minister of Sports concerning this matter? *Fodre pa nou decouraz bane athletes coumsa.*

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, but the Chief Commissioner is higher level than I. He raised the issue with the Government of Mauritius so we are going to follow. We know that the issue has been taken up with the concerned Minister by the Minister Mentor. So, we are going to follow. It has been taken at high level and we are following the issue and we are compiling data on issues where there are discrepancies. This is being done right now.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ... pas *high level* ce n'est pas notre problème, Madame la présidente. Notre problème c'est que le Commissaire a son budget. Il y a un souci à Maurice avec les différentes Fédérations. On a l'impression comme-ci les Fédérations qui dirigent la commission. Non. Est-ce que le Commissaire n'a pas trouvé juste de prendre sur elle de faire le nécessaire pour envoyer justement ces enfants, je ne sais où en Argentine. On est autonome en sport elle vient nous raconter n'importe quoi.

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

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: I will invite the Member simply to read the Sports Act 2016. I cannot say more.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, Madame la présidente, Madame la présidente, Madame la présidente, j'ai deux coupures de journal qui montre clairement...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Ki this is what?* I am putting my question.

Madam Chairperson: But this is not allowed.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am putting my question. Based on this. I am putting my question based on what has happened. You do not want me to put my question? So?

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order! Respected Members!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Si zot pas kapave zot bizin alé. Démissionné papa oh !*

/UNREVISED/

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members. Second Island Region Member!

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mone fatigué...*

Madam Chairperson: If you are tired please go home and relax. Respected Member!

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Zot tou pareil...*

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: I am sure as wise gentlemen; you are able to choose appropriate words to uphold the decorum of this House...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: We cannot...

Madam Chairperson: ... of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, that Assembly that constitutes the will of the population.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: This Assembly that constitutes the will of the population.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: We are doing our jobs.

Madam Chairperson: I maintain as a Parliamentarian you have duties; you have responsibilities.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: But the Commissioner is...

Madam Chairperson: But you have parameters.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Line laisse allé. Line laisse nou bane zenfants perdi ene gros chance pou ale Argentine a cause li, li pane fer so travail couma bizin.*

Madam Chairperson: Second Island Region Member! Second Island Region Member, if you continue with this attitude, I will have no other choice than asking you to leave the House.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Je suis là pour défendre l'intérêt de mon peuple et ces jeunes-là qui n'ont pas été en Argentine grâce à l'incompétence de Madame. C'est aussi sa faute.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, by the powers of the Standing Orders, I am asking you to withdraw from the House right now, Second Island Region Member, for the rest of today's sitting.

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

At 12.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 1.38 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ADMISSION OF THE ELDERLY PERSONS - RESPITE CARE CENTRE

(No. B/105) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the admission of the elderly persons in the respite care centre, he will state and table the: -

- (a) criteria applicable therefor; and
- (b) total number of persons that the centre can accommodate?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, the Respite Care Centre at Piton, which is the first of its kind in the Republic of Mauritius, has been built with the following main objectives:

- (i) To offer a temporarily, secure, safe and comfortable place to ageing persons with disability requiring constant care, and whose family members or caregivers need a short-break, either for reasons of burn out or they are proceeding on holidays to Mauritius or abroad or are

organising a family event that would upset the peaceful life of the person;

- (ii) To provide theoretical and practical training in care giving to informal carers; and
- (iii) To ensure continuity in the fight against ill treatment and achieving safe ageing for the elderly population.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, the eligibility criteria are as follows: -

- (i) the applicants must be a Mauritian Citizen residing in the Island of Rodrigues;
- (ii) aged 60 years and above;
- (iii) has moderate to high disability requiring caring assistance by informal carers, family members, relatives or friends;
- (iv) disabled person under 60 years, whose family need a break, will also be considered on a case to case basis at a later stage depending on availability of rooms.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Respite Care Centre has been built to accommodate up to a maximum of 10 residents in six single rooms and two double rooms. All the rooms are fully furnished accordingly.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire quand la maison va s'offrir et quand se fera l'inauguration ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As soon as we get the approval, the authorisation of the Board in relation to the Residential Care Home Act. We have already made a request since August and we are awaiting for the Board Members to come and evaluate and give the authority.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, how much this building has cost?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The cost was at about Rs 32 m.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, est-ce que le Commissaire trouve pas exagérer Rs 32 million pour dix personnes, pour maximum de dix personnes – Rs 32 million ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Oui, dix personnes pour les personnes âgées c'est très important pour promouvoir les bien-être des personnes âgées mais surtout *we are talking about ten residents at a point in time and it will be only for a short-term basis. It is not permanent.* Mais ce qui est plus important, Madame la présidente, c'est que ce centre va permettre à beaucoup de personne qui s'occupent de leurs proches et qui ne sont pas nécessairement former et là je pense, il y a environ 960 personnes âgées qui bénéficient d'un Carer's Allowance, *they also will be trained there so that they can give better care to their elderly persons who are dependant.*

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: J'aurais aimé savoir du Commissaire le temps que ces personnes âgées seront accueillis dans le centre, *will it be free of charge ?*

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: There will be a fee of Rs 100 per day. Donc, peut-être un petit peu équivalent à Carer's Allowance that they are getting. Because they will be taken care by professionals. There will be visits by doctors, by Nursing Officers and other professionals, such as, from time to time OT and physio, *tout ça.*

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, mais comment est-ce qu'on a mis Rs 32 million dans un bâtiment et puis on demande aux gens de payer ? On a le Service de Santé gratuit. Tout est gratuit à Rodrigues, il y a la commission derrière. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on doit faire payer ? Est-ce que le Commissaire ne peut pas revoir cette décision, de faire payer les gens justement à être admis dans ce centre ? *Et ou là, ou pou fer payé encore !*

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Madame la présidente, *I am a bit surprised, shocked by the reaction of the Respected Member. This is not a hospital. It is to provide respite – répit et repos pour les personnes qui take care 365 jours sur 365.* Et, Rs 100 par jour c'est Rs 3,500 ils perçoivent comme Carer's Allowance. Je pense qu'ici on va prodiguer des soins vraiment d'une façon beaucoup plus professionnelle et je suis sûre, il y a beaucoup déjà de personne qui sont intéressées et surtout cette politique a été mise en place suite à la demande des personnes âgées avec qui nous travaillons et *this is for the benefit of the elderly persons.*

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, being given that we have spent Rs 32 m. for this Respite Centre and also, being given that we are having an ageing population, so there will be more and more aged people – *personnes du troisièmes âges à Rodrigues. N'est-ce pas risible d'avoir un centre pour*

seulement dix personnes ? Pourquoi ne pas augmenter ? Est-ce qu'il y a provision pour augmenter, d'agrandir ce centre-là ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I hope we get the authorisation very soon so that you can visit and understand the concept of this project, which is the first one in the Republic of Mauritius. It is not a home, Madam Chairperson. It is not a home where people will reside there permanently. People can go for one or two days, for a week. So, by the end of one year, it could be some 100, 200, 300 persons who will go through this centre. *Mais c'est qui est plus important encore comme je vous dis ça va permettre à ces 960 personnes qui s'occupent de leurs proches d'une façon un petit peu bénévolement parfois, sans les techniques nécessaires, ils vont aussi apprendre sur le tas comment vraiment mieux prendre soin de leurs proches. Donc,* this concept is new and it is in line with the vision of this government to promote ageing population *d'une façon dit.*

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, le Commissaire a dit que le Carer's Allowance aussi, ils auront du *training*. Comment est-ce que ça va se faire ? J'aurais aimé savoir comment va se faire et est-ce que les Carers vont accompagner les personnes ? Où se fera le training parce que d'après moi c'est très important comment ça se faire ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Donc, il y a un *multi-purpose hall*, *we can call them* en terme de session, en terme de groupe et vu qu'il y a en même temps des personnes qui résident dans le centre, ils peuvent, dans la pratique voir avec des spécialistes, avec des personnes qui sont formées pour voir exactement comment *handle* ces personnes malade, ces personnes dépendantes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Le Commissaire semble ne pas être très confiant de lui-même mais ce n'est pas grave. Alors, Madame la présidente, il a parlé de très important d'aider les vieilles personnes, très bien. Mais dans son Discours Budget l'année dernière, il a dit que janvier ça va être ouvert et là on attend, on apprend qu'il a demandé l'autorisation en aout et là, ce n'est pas encore ouvert. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire pourquoi il a pris tout ce temps pour justement déclencher les procédures pour ouvrir ce centre ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Donc, pour avoir l'autorisation, il faut que le bâtiment soit terminé avec *all the amenities and also there was the matter of* pour la gestion du centre, qu'on a confié à travers *the expression of interest* au Congrégation des Filles de Marie. Mais pour avoir l'autorisation, il y a beaucoup de procédure à suivre. Donc, par exemple, pour les recrutements, ces gens-là doivent avoir le *Morality Certificate*, et tout ça. Donc, malheureusement ça a pris un peu de temps mais ce qui est important c'est mieux vaut qu'on attend – *it is better to wait for*

three, four, five months and when we open it, the thing will be run/operational fully and with all the conveniences that...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mais lorsqu'on fait un bâtiment, le Commissaire lui, il définit les politiques, tout ce qui est politique. Maintenant, il vient nous dire vaut mieux attendre quatre, cinq mois. Mais je ne comprends pas. Il n'est pas clair dans ce qu'il dit. Donc, j'aimerais lui poser la question, depuis quand est-ce que le contracteur a rendu le bâtiment ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Bon, je ne m'en souviens pas par rapport au contracteur mais pour nous ce qui est plus important, j'ai promis qu'on aura ce centre et ça va venir. Vous vous avez promis des tas de choses on n'a jamais vu. Même si c'est en retard, ça va venir, Madame la présidente.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order, order !

[Interruption]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We are the one who puts question, Madam Chairperson. Alors,...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ... le Commissaire a dit que ce n'est pas un hôpital. Mais vous savez, Madame la présidente, à la Rodriguaise, les vieilles personnes, ils aiment bien se promener dans leurs jardins, ils aiment bien voir autre choses, avoir de l'air. Et, qu'est-ce qu'on a là-bas ? On a que le bâtiment. Est-ce que le Commissaire prévoit d'autres aménités concernant tous ce que les vieilles personnes aiment à Rodrigues ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: C'est un petit peu contradictoire, Madame la présidente, justement si c'était seulement pour le bâtiment, on aurait pu ouvrir le centre dès janvier. Mais c'est parce que nous avons besoin... c'est qui est plus important c'est le service qui ...

[Interruption]

Et ce sont des personnes...

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: ...not a recreational centre. It is a centre for people with disabilities. Respite means that they can have a short break, a short rest, justement pour souffler et couper avec la vie parfois quotidienne dans une seule chambre. Donc, c'est de pouvoir rencontrer aussi d'autre personne mais surtout être accompagné par des professionnelles dans le service de... tout ce qui concerne les personnes âgées par rapport au service.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT & RAPES UPON CHILDREN
NO. OF CASES RECORDED - 2015 TO DATE/FOLLOW UP**

(No. B/106) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for the Child Development and Others whether, in regard to sexual abuse/assault and rapes upon children, she will state and table the number of cases recorded from 2015 to date and what has been the follow up?

The Commissioner for Child Development and Others (Mrs. M.R F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis): Madam Chairperson, I am informed by the Divisional Commander and by the CDU that in 2015, 31 cases against children have been registered, 16 in 2016, 21 in 2017 and 23 in 2018 so far; comprising cases of "Rape", "Causing a child to be sexually abused" or "Sexual intercourse with minor", "Sodomy" and "Attempt upon chastity". The age group of these cases vary from two years to 17 years old.

The 23 cases reported since January 2018 to date, among these 23 cases, we have one case of rape, 14 cases of "Causing a child to be sexually abused", two cases of "Sodomy" and six cases of "Attempt upon chastity" were reported to either the Police or the CDU through its hotline 117, a services provided by my Commission on a 24-hour basis. Details of all these cases registered by my office are being tabled for the information of the House.

As regards, to follow up action being taken by my commission, this House will recall that since 2013, an integrated system has been put in place by my commission to provide a comprehensive and rapid service to victims of abuse, rape, assault and domestic violence.

Madam Chairperson, psychological assistance is provided to the child victim of sexual assault/abuse once the case has been reported to the Child Development Unit or the Police as well as counselling session to both child and parents on regular basis depending on the severity of case. Psychological assistance is also provided before trial to prepare the child to attend Court. The

Juvenile Family Unit has also been set up at the level of the Rodrigues Court so that minors no longer have to meet physically their perpetrators.

Madam Chairperson, I also wish to inform the House that a protocol of assistance to victims of sexual assault has been set up with the collaboration of the Commission for Health and the Divisional Commander in a view to ensure a prompt and timely assistance to victims of sexual assault and particular attention is given to cases where children are involved. The protocol defines the role and responsibilities of all the stakeholders concerned and ensures a coordinated approach of all authorities concerned with such cases in a timely manner and with the most possible degree of confidentiality and professionalism.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander à la Commissaire, le dernier cas de viol qu'on a eu dans la Région 6, comment se fera le suivi, vu que c'est frère et sœur ? Et puis, qu'elle accompagnement pour la famille même ? Parce que bien souvent ces cas arrivent dans des familles où déjà il y a déjà des gros problèmes dont les parents doivent être prise en considération.

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, je dois dont informer la Chambre que dans le cas de ces cas, donc déjà dans ce cas vraiment très triste et particulier, le garçon, le grand frère, le présumé agresseur est au RYC depuis que le cas est arrivé et la fille avait été hospitalisé selon le protocole établie. Il y a un suivi psychologique très rapprocher. Il y a mon bureau, le service des psychologies, donc la Psychologue qui a été engagé donc depuis quand même quelques temps de cela, cette Psychologue visite régulièrement la famille. Et, puisque aussi, un professionnel ne peut pas accompagner et la victime et l'agresseur, on a fait en sorte que le Family Counsellor, qui est attaché avec mon bureau aussi accompagne l'enfant, le jeune qui est aussi au RYC. Et, je dois dire aussi que nous travaillons beaucoup à la prévention. Nous avons toute une approche où on a remarqué que malgré que ces cas peuvent arriver dans n'importe quelle famille, la situation sociale n'est pas une raison spécifique à cela. On a vu aussi qu'il y a des endroits où il y a des familles qui sont plus à risque. C'est pour cela que nous avons commencé un travail de prévention dans des poches, si on peut le dire ainsi, de pauvreté pour un accompagnement plus rapprocher en terme de formation à la parentalité. Mais surtout aussi, dans bien des cas on a vu qu'il y a très souvent des mamans qui consomment beaucoup d'alcool. Donc, il y a un travail qui se fait en partenariat avec les ONGs pour assurer qu'il y a une approche quand même assez globale par rapport à ces cas.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**CELEBRATION - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS 2018
- SUM DISBURSED**

(No. B/107) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the celebration of International Day of Older Persons 2018 by his Commission, he will state and table the total sum disbursed therefor, giving all relative details?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, as we all know, the International Day of the Older Persons is celebrated every year on the 1st of October as declared by the United Nations on 14th December 1990. To mark this special day, my commission has always organised various events, agreed upon in consultation with our main partner the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of Rodrigues. I wish also to inform the House that, for this year, on 1st of October itself, I launched six Elderly Watch Committees, which were restructured to cover all the six regions of Rodrigues.

The members of the four former Elderly Watch Committees were duly rewarded with a certificate of recognition and a shield each. Furthermore, a full-fledged Welfare and Elderly Persons' Protection Unit has been set up at the Social Security Division as from that date.

Thirdly, a picnic was organised for our senior citizens on Mourouk Public Beach on the following Sunday that is on 7th October under the theme "*Selebrer bann pli azé defanser drwa de lom*".

Madam Chairperson, as requested by the Respected Member, I am now tabling a breakdown of all the costs involved for the organisation of these events which amounts to Rs 355,251.68.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Madame la présidente, en attendant que j'ai ce papier-là, je voudrais savoir du Commissaire, comment a été voté la somme, si c'est per capita ou bien c'est une somme globale ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Normalement, c'est une somme globale mais ensuite, on donne une allocation seulement pour le remboursement des transports et Rs 1,200 par personne, donc après bien sûre à travers les Fédérations, les différentes associations des personnes âgées à travers l'île.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Monsieur le Commissaire, souvent nous avons entendu ça ici. Madame la présidente, excusez-moi. Nous avons souvent entendu ça ici – *how this government cares for the elderlies*. Mais une question pertinente c'est que, il y a des personnes même on organise des fêtes, ils ne vont pas. Mais par contre, il y a des personnes âgées qui avaient l'habitude d'y aller mais vu leurs cas actuellement, s'ils sont en chaises roulantes, ils ne peuvent pas

ou bien ceux qui ne peuvent pas se déplacer quand ils entendent à la radio, la journée des personnes âgées, *zot nek resté là lakaz lor zot lili*. Qu'est-ce que le Commissaire contemple de faire pour ces personnes-là ?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Bon, de toute façon, normalement il y a d'abord les associations des Senior Citizen que nous donnons des subventions, au niveau des villages. Parce que pour nous ça, la journée c'est seulement une fois par an qu'on observe ça. Mais toute au long de l'année, il y a des activités organisées par les Senior Citizen Clubs dans les villages, Donc, on va demander à ces gens d'aller rejoindre ces groupes, ces clubs pour qu'ils puissent en bénéficier. Là, par exemple, je vois dans votre village-même à Roche Bon Dieu, il y a un groupe qui part pour *for exchange with other Senior Citizen associations in Mauritius*. Ils partent après-demain. Donc, tout ça, il faut encourager les gens. Peut-être, je vous invite également à donner un petit coup de main.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Je ne vais pas me joindre au groupe mais je dois faire savoir au Commissaire que moi aussi j'ai participé de mon côté et puis je pourrais lui dire. Là ce que je lui demande-là, ce ne sont pas ces personnes qui peuvent bouger. Il y a des personnes, ils ont des Carers qui s'occupent bien d'eux mais parfois il y a des personnes qui sont vraiment seul. Je ne parle pas de mon cas. Il y a des personnes qui sont vraiment seule, le fait qu'on ait ce Unit, qu'on vient de mettre en place pour visiter les personnes âgées, est-ce que ce ne serait pas possible pour lui de voir que de temps en temps on aller rendre des visites à ces personnes qui ne voit que le Carer, parfois le Carer lui-même il ne sait pas trop quoi faire ? c'est ça ma question, pas les personnes qui peuvent bouger. Ce qui peuvent bouger s'ils ne veulent pas y aller, ça c'est leurs affaires.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Pour moi, déjà on a mis en place un système avec les *Formal Carers*, qui ont été formés pour visiter les personnes âgées qui sont alitées au moins une fois par mois, au-delà des médecins. C'est justement pour permettre à ces gens-là d'avoir d'autre personne pour parler, pour discuter mais aussi c'est justement l'objectif de ce Respite, qu'on va ouvrir incessamment, c'est pour permettre aussi à ces gens-là de bouger, d'aller vers ce centre et rencontrer d'autres personnes. Ben, bien sûre aussi, nous travaillons sur le projet de *Recreational* mais ça va concerner essentiellement les gens qui peuvent toujours bouger.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

REPAIRS IN-HOUSE/TRACTOR 15 RRA 11 – PAYMENT EFFECTED

(No. B/108) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to repairs

carried in-house on Tractor 15 RRA 11, attached to his Commission, as reported in the Report of the Director of Audit on the accounts of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for financial year 2016/2017 and for which a payment was effected to a company, he will state where matters stand as at date?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): *Madam Chairperson*, au fait, bon concernant ce sujet, il y a eu effectivement un petit problème à la commission. Au fait, il y avait sept tracteurs, sept tracteurs de la commission qui utilisaient normalement dans le travail de labourer les terres des agriculteurs qui étaient en panne. Donc, ça nous causait pas mal de problème. Et, les pannes étaient difficiles à résoudre vu que c'était un peu technique, donc il fallait absolument avoir des spécialistes pour travailler sur ces tracteurs. Ma commission a lancé un *tender* et c'est la compagnie MECOM qui l'a eu et ils sont venus. Ils ont eu le contrat le 24 mai 2016. Et, ils ont envoyé des mécaniciens à la commission qui ont travaillé sur les tracteurs. Le contrat était pour sept mais finalement ils ont travaillé que sur cinq tracteurs. Donc, deux tracteurs étaient réparés plutôt par la commission même, donc *in-house*. Et, malheureusement quand ils ont envoyé leur *claim*, ils ont envoyé leur *claim as per contract*. Donc, le contrat c'était pour sept, ils ont envoyé le *claim* pour sept. Et, ils ont eu le paiement pour les sept d'après le contrat. Donc, le Directeur de l'Audit a attiré notre attention là-dessus et effectivement le rapport de la commission, du Mechanical Workshop de la commission prouve que vraiment ils n'ont pas travaillé sur les sept tracteurs. Donc, suite à ça, on a envoyé une correspondance à la compagnie pour leur dire, il faut retourner l'argent qui a été payé malheureusement en plus, qu'il ne fallait pas payer. Et bon, il y a eu des négociations, des échanges de correspondance et finalement la semaine prochaine ils arrivent. Ils disent qu'ils ne vont pas résoudre le problème à travers les correspondances comme ça. Ils vont venir personnellement. Donc, la semaine on attend la compagnie pour discuter. On a déjà commencé à parlé au Legal Adviser sur le sujet et en même temps le *case* est déjà à l'ICAC. Donc, pas de souci de ce côté-là. L'ICAC enquête déjà là-dessus. Et finalement, si la semaine prochaine on n'arrive pas à trouvé un consensus sur le remboursement, définitivement on ira vers un truc légal pour essayer de récupérer les sous payaient en plus sur les tracteurs qui n'ont pas été *serviced*.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Monsieur le Commissaire, est-ce qu'il peut me répondre pour dire comment dans une commission où on est supposé travailler, lui-même comme il a dit une dernière fois, avec les plus bons techniciens. *No register was kept*. Et puis comment est-ce que le travail se fait qu'on répare cinq tracteurs, on envoie le bill pour je ne sais pas combien. Ce n'est pas logique. *Li pé badine ar dimoune*.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame la présidente, la malhonnêteté vient pas de la commission, malheureusement. C'est la compagnie qui a exploité un petit peu le système, dans un sens, comme ça se fait souvent. Ils ont essayé d'exploité. On a trouvé la faille et maintenant ils vont devoir rembourser.

The Minority Leader: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well having listen carefully to the Respected Commissioner, well what he has said this is tantamount to a fraud, a fraudulent behaviour. Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, being given that the sum asked for is very detailed, Rs 565,945, *bien détaillé*. And, they have been paid, MECOM has been paid by the commission and the answer given to the Audit, the Director of Audit, it said that: this has been paid through other site. There is something fishy there. I would like to know whether there has been an enquiry being done at the level of the commission to enlighten the House? Because we cannot do this with public money?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, j'ai déjà dit que je ne peux pas élaborer d'avantage là-dessus vu que le truc est à l'ICAC. Donc, c'est l'ICAC qui dira s'il y a fraude, s'il n'y a pas fraude et quelle action qu'il faut prendre. Donc, moi en tant que Commissaire, nous on est responsable de la commission mais là il y a un truc. Puisque le truc vous savez tous, aussi longtemps qu'il y a quelque chose qui est dans la main de la Police ou à l'ICAC, nous on ne peut pas dire quoi que ce soit. Moi, j'ai été assez humble pour vous dire exactement ce qui s'est passé, voilà l'histoire.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, le Commissaire au début il dit : On va négocier, ils arrivent et on va négocier. Et puis là, il nous dit c'est à l'ICAC. On ne comprend pas qu'est-ce qu'il veut dire exactement, Madame la présidente ? Je lui pose la question qui c'est qui a établi les critères, les spécifications plutôt avant l'achat de ces tracteurs ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Oui, Madam Chairperson, c'est la commission. La commission a travaillé là-dessus et a lancé l'appel d'offre et bien sûr si comme j'ai dit que c'est à l'ICAC mais avant en parallèle, il y a aussi une lettre de ma commission qui a été envoyé à la compagnie pour leur dire exactement...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please resume your seat. I am sorry but we cannot proceed with this question because the company is not here to defend itself so the matter has been referred to the appropriate authority. So, we cannot go on with this question.

The Minority Leader: Okay, we cannot question the company. We cannot answer for the company but concerning the commission, okay we can put question

to the commission? Whether these tractors that have been repaired are they operational now?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madame la présidente, j'ai une question. Qui a fait le *survey* de ces différents tracteurs pour la réparation ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: J'ai déjà répondu à cette question, Madame.

WATER SUPPLY – FORTHCOMING DRY SEASON

(No. B/109) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to water supply during the forthcoming dry season, he will enlighten the House about the measures that are being contemplated or implemented by his Commission to ensure an adequate distribution for domestic use and for farming purposes?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the present production of water is presently 6800 m³ as compared to 4800 m³ for the same period last year. The following measures have been implemented and are contemplated by my Commission with regard to water supply during the forthcoming dry season:

- (i) The completion of Songes Desalination Project which is expected to be completed by first week of November. The plant has been designed to produce 500000 m³ of water per day which will be distributed to the South section.
- (ii) There has been also a solar hybrid desalination plant at Caverne Bouteille which has started operation in July 2017 and is producing 240 m³ of water per day. The water is distributed to the region of Anse Quittor, Petite Butte and Cascade Jean Louis.
- (iii) We have also initiated procedures for the drilling of a new borehole at Fond Baie aux Huitres and it is expected that the additional water will be beneficial to the northern region and villages such as Allée Tamarin, Baie aux Huitres and Baie Malgache.
- (iv) Following the recruitment of General Workers, my Commission has embarked on the cleaning of several springs to improve water storage and quality. Such actions have been undertaken at Petit Gabriel,

Orange, Mourouk, Dans Citron, Rivière Cocos, Dans Letchis, Le Chou, Petit Gabriel, Port Sud-Est, Fond La Digue and Others. My Commission will proceed with the cleaning of additional sources as requested by villagers.

I should point out also that there has been the desilting of dams at Fond Camp Du Roi and Pavé La Bonté. The other measures that have been taken, that is going to be implemented of course, it is the construction of desalination plant at Baie Malgache and Pointe Coton which are in progress and are expected to be completed at the end of February 2019. We expect to have a production of 1000 m³ of water per day. As announced in budget 2018/2019, the key actions include the grant of subsidy on Rainwater Harvesting System for household and small and medium enterprises. My Commission is carrying out the procedures for the selection of entries which have been received from the different village committees. This will help to increase water storage capacity at household level. And, finally, the project for construction platform for installation of fibre glasses, water tanks at 15 locations around the island is almost completed and same will become operational as from next week. And, we have also... We attend also to localise complaints by our water tanks at the level of my Commission and in addition, we also sought for the service of private tankers when the need arises.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Qu'en est-il des... Le Commissaire n'a pas parlé des unités de dessalement, surtout l'unité de dessalement de Pointe Coton. Comment est-ce qu'il va contribuer à résoudre le problème d'eau dans la région ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I stated, Madam Chairperson, that the desalination plant for Pointe Coton and Anse Goéland will be operational, is expected to be operational by February 2019 and we expect to have some 1000 m³ of water per day. This means there will be an additional of 2000 m³ just from these two desalination plants. So, if I want to elaborate as regard to how we are going to contribute, of course, the water coming from the desalination plant of Anse Goéland will be distributed to the southern part of the region starting from Anse Goéland itself up to Quatre Vent and the water can also be diverted up to Camp Pintade through Papayes. With respect to Point Coton, the water will be pumped up to Roche Bon Dieu and as such, the water will be distributed in the villages of Roche Bon Dieu, Pointe Coton and can go up to Rivière Banane. There will be effectively a cascade effect with the coming into operation of these two desalination plants because water which was, which are now being transferred from Petit Brulé to these villages, they will no longer be transferred to Pointe Coton, Roche Bon Dieu and others and as such, people such as Palissade and Graviers also Montagne Cabris, they will get the water coming from Mourouk for distribution. There will be a cascade effect. The same thing for Anse Goéland. Those persons who are living in Montagne du Sable, now, they are being served

with water coming from Quatre Vent whose water comes from Lataniers. With the coming into operation of the desalination plant from Anse Goéland, the water will no longer be required from Lataniers and it is going to be diverted to regions where they are mostly required.

The Minority Leader : The Deputy Chief Commissioner has said that there will be no shortage of water, there will be no problem with the distribution of water. Can I ask him how does he reconcile the fact that despite what he has said, certain regions like Camp Pintade, like Piment, like Corail Petite Butte, people are having great problem to have water? Many people phoned me now and again. How does he reconcile this? What is he going to do to solve this problem?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, these persons, if I take the case of Camp Pintade, whose name you have mentioned, their frequency at a time was every 35 days. Yes, now they are getting water almost every 22 days. There has been an improvement in the frequency of distribution. That is for sure. Yes, there has been an improvement. And of course, with the coming into operation of Anse Goéland where we will be able to divert water to Camp Pintade, this will be decreased maybe up to 10 days by next Friday. As regard to the case of Petite Butte, true to say that there has been a problem with the operation of the desalination plant of Caverne Bouteille because there has been a problem with the energy recovering pump. Yet, the good news is that we have received already through tender exercise the pump and I hope that this should become operational in the few days... There has been a new pump which has just been obtained and I hope that the Caverne Bouteille will become operational in the coming days.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam the Chair. With regard to the new boreholes, a borehole which is operational shortly near Mr. Calamel's residence, can you inform the House whether there is any complaint made by villagers in the surrounding to the poor quality of water, salted water?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson, there is a standard of water that is defined clearly in the Environment Protection Act of 1996 with regards, with respect to quality of water that should be served to our citizens. If I take the case of Anse Quittor, as compared to the standard that is required which is we should not go more than 1000 part per million for the borehole of Anse Quittor, its salinity is about 350 part per million which is quite below that of what is expected from the law of Mauritius and even from the World Health Organisation. But I do understand the citizen, the villagers there. Because the fact that they were having, I should say, more or less pure water, say a salinity of 50 to 100 parts per million, whenever there has been a slight increase, of course, this has been detected by taste. This has been detected. So, what we have decided to do? We have decided to... Because these persons now, they are

having water once every week. Dans Cocos, they are having water once every week. Anse Quitor, they are having water once every week but in an attempt to mitigate the factor, what we are going to do? We are going to provide them with water that will come from Caverne Bouteille upon the coming into operation of the plant there.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Regarding to the desalination plant of Pointe Coton, is it true that the equipment is being replaced? And, if so, by whom?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The Pointe Coton desalination plant is not still operational. We have already awarded a contract. If you see the paper that was tabled this morning as regard to Anse Goéland, we have awarded a contract for the purchase of equipment, I think, for Pointe Coton and Anse Goéland, the total amount awarded amounts to 122 m.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been talking of the quality standard of water. He has been talking of the standard of the WHO. Now, there is the highest standard and the lowest standard. Can I know the policy of his Commission? Whether the policy of his Commission is to give the Rodriguan people the highest standard of water or the lowest?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The policy of my Commission is to provide Rodriguans with water which is fit for consumption. This is the policy. Yes, water which is fit for... This is why, Madam Chairperson, upon this, in this regard, we do carry what is known as the physicochemical test. And, we have with the EU which is under the aegis of the Commission for Health, we are going to upgrade the laboratory by December because we have already awarded all the equipment that are required for additional test which will include bacteriological and even test for nitrates and pesticides.

The Minority Leader : Last question, Madam Chair. I will request the Deputy Chief Commissioner to raise the standard of water; not the standard of a test. So, I would like to ask him is he aware that in certain places, the so-called desalinated water, when this is used on certain plants, use to irrigate certain plants, the plants die. Are you aware of that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This has never been reported to my Commission, Madam Chairperson, but the fact remains that it is within the norms that is recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WATER SUPPLY – FORTHCOMING DRY SEASON

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CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TRACK ROAD - BASSIN GALLARD TO PAVILLON

(No. B/110) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a new track road alongside the existing track road from Bassin Gallard to Pavillon, he will inform the House if his Commission is the promoter of this project and, if not, to state if his Commission has granted all the necessary

clearances for same and, in the affirmative, to give the scope of works together with the name of the promoter thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the track road is not being constructed by my Commission and I am informed that the Commission for State Land will inquire into the matter as they are not in the presence of any request for the construction of the track road on State Land at Bassin Gallard.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

RODRIGUES CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROJECT

(No. B/111) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Rodrigues cervical cancer screening project, he can enlighten the House about:

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- (a) the findings and/or the recommendations of the first phase of the project and to table a copy of any report emanating therefrom; and
- (b) the scope of works, the time frame and the stakeholders of the second phase of the project?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the Rodrigues Cervical Cancer Screening Project is being conducted in Rodrigues by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in collaboration with my Commission.

The main objective of the project is to make early detection of cervical cancer among married or sexually active Rodriguan women aged 30 to 60 years in order to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and minimize prevalence of death and human suffering.

The specific objectives are:

- (i) to give appropriate counselling on precautionary measures;
- (ii) to refer positive cases to Specialised Units for further management and treatment;
- (iii) to follow up positive cases

The project is being carried out in four phases over a period of twelve months. The first phase was completed in March/April 2018 where screening exercise was carried out at Mont Lubin, Grand Montagne, Anse aux Anglais and

La Ferme in April/May 2018. 1,172 women were screened out of 1,240 invited, with a response rate of 94.4%.

The major findings of the 1st phase of the Project are as follows:

- 22 cases (1.88%) showed borderline changes. It might be due to inflammation, as a result of repair or even due to atrophic changes in relation to age.
- 12 cases (1.02%) were detected with mild dyskaryosis which mean that the tissue of the cervix is reproducing much faster than normal. This is not cancer but does have some pre-malignant potential.
- 16 cases (1.37%) were found to have severe dyskaryosis which is not a cancer. The immature cells have started growing faster but is not causing any invasion. Necessary treatment and biopsy need to be provided to diagnose and treat the condition to reduce further progression to malignancy. When a patient is diagnosed with cervical lesions like mild moderate and severe dyskaryosis, it will not be ideal to call this reporting as cancer but if necessary action is not taken, it can ultimately lead to cancer.
- 130 women (11.09%) were detected with inflammation. Inflammation of the cervix is a common condition and may be caused by vaginal infection, that is, certain sexually transmitted diseases, infection with human papilloma virus or trauma. These cases have been referred to hospital/Area Health Centres for treatment.

The number of cases with inflammation and infection might sometimes be hiding quite critical information in diagnosis of cervical lesion.

- The results of 982 women (83.79%) were normal.
Dr (Mrs) V. Bomah, Specialist Gynaecologist from Mauritius was in Rodrigues in September 2018 to see these women found with abnormal results.

I am tabling the report of the first phase for the House.

As regard to the scope, time frame and stakeholders of the second phase of the project, I wish to inform the House that the second phase that this has already been completed last month i.e. September 2018. The screening was carried out at Grande Montagne Youth Centre, La Ferme Youth Centre, Oyster Bay Youth

Centre, Remir Community Centre, English Bay Community Centre and Port Sud Est Community Centre. Some 1,047 women have been screened out of 1,100 invited with a response rate of about 95%. The report of this second phase is being awaited.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**OPERATIONALIZATION OF LYCÉE AGRICOLE
– ST. GABRIEL**

(No. B/112) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Training and Others whether, in regard to the operationalization of the Lycée Agricole de St. Gabriel, she will inform the House as to where matters stand?

The Commissioner for Training and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis) : Madam Chairperson, the construction of the building that will house the Lycée Agricole of Saint Gabriel has been completed except some minor civil works which are currently ongoing such as the fencing of the building, the access road and the embellishment of the yard. Recruitment of the teaching staff has already been completed and the four trainers will be on training for one week as from the 05 November 2018 at Lycée Saint Joseph de La Réunion and the recruitment for the clerical and support staff will be completed very soon. The opening of the Lycée agricole is planned for the month of November 2018 with the next intake of the Brevet Professionnelle Agricole (BPA). The Lycée Agricole will be run by REDCO on the basis of a financial grant from the RRA and they will work in collaboration with Lycée Agricole de Saint Joseph as per the *Convention Cadre de Partenariat 2015/2020 signé entre l'Assemblée régionale et l'établissement public local d'enseignement et de formation professionnelle agricole de Saint Joseph*.

Madam Chairperson: PQ B/113, the Member is not here. So, we move to the next question.

ROADS IN RODRIGUES - HUMPS

(No. B/114) Mr. Z. Félicité: (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to roads in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of humps presently on the roads together with their respective location, indicating the number thereof his Commission has installed or intends to install, if any, during this financial year 2018–2019 and where?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, there are a total of 37 humps on the roads around the island of which 19 are being installed for this financial year at the cost of Rs 2,779,429. I am tabling a list of the locations of the different pumps. I would like to add that these humps have been installed following requests from village committees and from residents followed by observations and recommendations made by members of the Road Safety Committee. I would like to further point out that some complaints have been obtained from road users and that contractor has been instructed to make good at his own cost namely the humps at Oyster Bay. It has been observed also that gullies will have to be installed at some of the sites to prevent accumulation of water.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam the Chair. Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether these roads where humps are being placed, whether these roads are gazetted?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Actually, Madam Chairperson, we are on the verge of coming into this House for passing regulation as regard to the gazetting of road in Rodrigues. We had in the month of September, a delegation from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure from the RDA and also from the EMRSU to come and give us a help in the classification of roads in Rodrigues and I already say priorly say that our classification will not be the same as the one in Mauritius.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, if I have heard the Deputy Chief Commissioner well, the Rs 2 m. is it for 19 humps or 37? Which is quite a lot of money per hump, quite a lot of money. Can I know whether all these humps, all the humps have been done according to norms and can we know what are the norms for this humps?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the Rs 2 m. and so rupees as regard to the installation of these humps, it has been done as per rate contract with our existing contractor which is under the contract for road maintenance and construction.... Construction. Yes, this is under road contract and it has been done following procedures as per tenders through the CPB. This is the first thing. And then, I have pointed out in my answer that there are some humps of which I, myself, I am not satisfied with the installation. This is why we have directed the contractor to make good at his own cost. The one at Oyster Bay, I am not satisfied. The two ones at Oyster Bay, I am not satisfied with them. There is also the problem of accumulation of water at Terre Rouge and I hope that we are going to have a problem of accumulation of water also at Cooperatives. So, I have told, instructed my officers to make sure that the contractor make good these humps as per requirement of the contract.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can we know the general policy of the Commissioner about all these humps and whether he will come forward with more humps or whether it is temporary or permanent. So, can we know more... Can he elaborate on the setting up of these humps on the roads?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : I think that one of the national issues that is considered if priority in the Republic of Mauritius is road safety including Rodrigues. Yes, the Republic of Mauritius including Rodrigues and there has also been, there has even been the setting up of a Road Safety Commission which is steered by the Minister Mentor and in the guidelines, in the policy which has been set, there are targets which has been set in order to reduce the number of road accidents as well as the number of fatal accidents that happened within the Republic of Mauritius. So, the policy of installation of these humps, it is clearly to reduce speed, overspeeding rather and at the same time, reducing the number of potential accident that may happen with overspeeding. I should say that as I have mentioned in my answer before, these installations have had *avant tout*, the request from the villages and there are still some requests from villagers and I can say, villagers from... Even villagers from Mont Lubin to Deux Goyaves, Baie Malgache, Cascade Jean Louis, even the newly constructed road of Camp Pintade, there are villagers who are already requesting for the installation of these humps but it is not going to be done without prior observations and recommendation of the Road Safety Committee on which there is the presence of police officers, NTA and engineers of my Commission.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, while we do agree that there in certain places, we need to have humps to prevent road accidents. But in others, the humps may cause accident. Now, in Rodrigues, we can only... Well, the speed limit 35 to 50. So, with the humps, now, it will become to 20. So, now, I think we should come from one extreme to the other. 35km per hour, this.... to running. Well, I think *on doit trouver le juste milieu*. Will the Deputy Chief Commissioner try to, just to readjust. 35km per hour? *Après la montée de l'école de Port Mathurin. Mais la machine va plus à 40 et 40, ce n'est pas vraiment dangereux.* I think we have to readjust.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chair, the speed limit. Now, the speed limit on roads is set up based on specific criteria and whenever there is a new road that is built in Rodrigues, it is not even my Commission who determine what is the speed limit that is to be placed there. We call upon the expertise of the traffic, TMR, Traffic Management Road Safety Unit from Mauritius, TMRSU and based on the type of road, the number of bent and other factors, then, they proposed us a specific speed for that specific road. But, to be truth, how many times really have we seen road users driving or riding at 50 km in

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Rodrigues? Yes, how many times? How many times do we see that? The speed limit may be placed, the maximum speed limit may be at 50 but nevertheless, there are very few times that we, if self, happen to ride at 50 km per hour.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: No crosstalking, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, Madam Chairperson, the policy of installation of humps, it is not in a logic to, how to say, the road users, to punish the road users but it is done with in mind, that we have to reduce the number of potential accident that may happen on our roads. This is the mere decision, the mere logic behind the decision of the installation of these humps.

Madam Chairperson: Question time is over. I am sorry, question time is over.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly does now adjourned to Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 14.40 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES
– REHOUSING INHABITANTS OF CITÉ PATATE**

(No. B/113) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether, in regard to the construction of houses for rehousing the inhabitants of Cité Patate, he will state: -

- (a) the project description, indicating the scope of work, time frame for job completion, cost of each house, the respective contractor and any other cost involved for the 16 houses;

- (b) who supervised the project, indicating if commissioning thereof has been completed and, in the affirmative, to state and table a copy of the commissioning report and related certificates; and
- (c) if any geological survey, or otherwise, of the construction site was carried prior thereto being given the known specificity of area?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with regard to Part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that this project consisted of the resettlement of the 16 families whose houses were seriously damaged; based on a survey carried out by the consultancy firm Servansingh Jadev & Partners Consulting Engineers Ltd.

The consultant reported that the houses were unsafe and should be condemned.

As a caring government, considering that the families were all of low income groups, we decided to build a new house for each family free of charge, but on condition that they would each devote one day per week to carry out community work for the enhancement, embellishment and up-keeping of their village.

It was also agreed that the derelict houses would be pulled down after resettlement to avoid occupation by squatters. The Award Ceremony was held on 07 March 2018. Works started around end of March 2018 and completion date was September 2018.

The scope of works, time frame for construction are similar to those of the New Social Housing Project. Construction of each house of about 50m² therefore has been contracted out to approved and CIDB registered contractors, selected by the beneficiaries themselves for the sum of Rs 600,000 (Rupees Six hundred thousand) to be completed within a period of six months.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to Part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that supervision of the project was entrusted to the Inspectorate division of the Housing Unit.

Just like for the New Social Housing Project, they had to visit the site and give their approval on reinforcement structure and materials prior to casting works, i.e flooring level, beam, casting of slab, finishing stage respectively.

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Madam Chairperson, the project as conceived has not yet been completed and therefore no commissioning has been made as of date and there are no commissioning certificates.

Other costs involved are related to the extension of low voltage CEB lines and water network as well as a provision of two (2) concrete water tanks of 2m³ each to all the beneficiaries. All these expenses will be fully borne by the RRA.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to Part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the 16 plots of land had been allocated to the 16 families by the Cadastral Office in the residential morcellement at Pointe Vingt Tours.

The morcellement was approved by the State Land Committee which comprises the Departmental Head, Commission for State Lands, the Principal Surveyor, the Town and Country Planning Officer, the Technical Officer (Commission for Agriculture), the Head, Forestry Services and the Head of the Environment Unit prior to giving the green light to survey for residential leases; before allocating the land leases.

Thus, all the environmental and geological factors have been taken into consideration.

**CONSTRUCTION OF MARKET
– GRAND LA FOUCHE CORAIL**

(No. B/116) Mr. Z. Félicité (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a market at Grand La Fouche Corail as proposed in the Budget Speech 2017–2018, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I would like to point out that tenders for the construction of a market at Grand La Fouche Corail has been launched three times.

Previous Bidding Exercises

First Time

Launching date:	17 July 2017
Closing Date:	21 August 2017
No. of Bids received:	Eight

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Procurement exercise cancelled in line with Section 39 (1) (a) of the Public Procurement Act 2006, all the bids are non-responsive.

Second Time

Launching date: 30 March 2018
Closing Date: 08 May 2018
No. of Bids received: Five

All bids were rejected in line with section 39 (1) (b) of the Public Procurement Act 2006, the lowest evaluated bid is substantially above the applicable cost estimate of the project.

Third time

Tenders for the construction of market at Grand La Fouche Corail were once again launched on and opened on 17 September 2018. Four bids were received and are presently being evaluated.

The scope of works comprises of:-

- Construction of a stalls block including of meat shop in reinforced concrete columns with a metal roof structure and covering of a total built up area of approximately 130 m². There shall be 16 stalls, 15 for vegetables, and one for handicraft product. There are two separate block for meat, one for pork and one for beef;
- Construction of a toilet block in reinforced concrete structure with blockwalling, aluminium openings, finishes and sanitary appliances and covering of a total built up area of approx. 29 m²;
- Services Installation comprising inter-alia electrical and mechanical installation; and

External drainage and site works.

**SURVEY – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
– RODRIGUAN FAMILIES**

(No. A/1) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the survey actually being carried out by

the Central Government concerning Rodriguan families living in mainland Mauritius, he will seek information from the relevant authority to inform the House of the: -

- (a) reasons thereof,
- (b) use to which the data so obtained will be made, and
- (c) methodology used for same indicating how far the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is involved in this exercise?

Reply: I am informed that Central Government has decided, on 15 November 2017, to set up a Ministerial Committee to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to look into how best the high rate of movement of Rodriguans to Mauritius could be addressed and their conditions of living in Mauritius could be improved.

The composition of the Ministerial Committee is as follows: -

- Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities as Chairperson;
- Minister of Youth and Sports;
- Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment;
- Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development;
- Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare; and
- Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

I am further informed that the following recommendations were made amongst others: -

- (i) A well-structured centre should be set up under the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to provide advice and guidance to Rodriguans coming to Mauritius;

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- (ii) A survey would be carried out on the conditions of living and employment of Rodriguans in Mauritius by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation; and
- (iii) Following the survey, appropriate measures would be identified to improve the conditions of living of the Rodriguans.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development, was entrusted the task of carrying out the survey. A questionnaire has been used to carry out the survey and a house-to-house survey has been done.

I am informed that survey has been carried out and completed and the results of the survey are now being consolidated and analysed. I am informed that some 6800 individuals were concerned

**SALE BY LEVY – PROPERTIES IN RODRIGUES
SINCE 2016 TO DATE**

(No. A/2) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the sale by levy of properties in Rodrigues since 2016 to date, he will state:

- (a) the number concerned;
- (b) if proper notification was made to the owners prior to proceeding with the sale; and
- (c) if he will arrange with the Central Government to have the selling procedures effected in Rodrigues instead of in Mainland Mauritius?

Reply: I am informed by the Supreme Court that eight sales by levy have been effected since 2016 to date and that proper notifications have been made to the owners prior to proceeding with such sale.

As regards part (c) thereof, I wish to inform that the matter has already been raised with the Central Government. The legal impediments are being looked into so that in the future, the sale by levy could be effected in Rodrigues.

**INQUIRIES – RECRUITMENT OF
265 GENERAL WORKERS**

(No. A/3) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the inquiries that have been carried out to shed light on the recent recruitment of 265 General Workers by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will state the outcome thereof and the remedial measures taken or which will be taken in regard thereto, if any?

Reply: I am informed that following the report of the Departmental Inquiry whereby it was confirmed that some irregularities have occurred, the matter was referred to the Commissioner for Police for further inquiry. I am informed that Police has already initiated an inquiry thereof.

Meanwhile the matter has also been referred to the Public Service Commission for information and consideration.