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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 9 of 2018

Sitting of Tuesday 18 December 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. 9 of 2018

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader?

DETECTION OF FRUIT FLY *BACTROCERA DORSALIS* – RODRIGUES

(No. B/117) **Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the recent detection of the fruit fly *Bactrocera Dorsalis* in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state when the presence thereof was first detected, indicating the measures that his Commission is taking or contemplates to take in order to eradicate same as well as the other species of fruit flies from the island?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, the presence of the fruit fly *Bactrocera dorsalis* was detected in Rodrigues on the 27 November 2018.

On the same day at 13 hours, an urgent meeting was convened with the staff concerned with the subject matter under my chairmanship for the preparation of an action plan for control and eradication of the pest.

Madam Chairperson, let me now elaborate on the measures of control being implemented by my Commission

- (i) Control of the pests in the region of Port Mathurin by placing pesticides baits BAT and MAT blocks over a radius of 5 kilometres;
- (ii) Strengthen phytosanitary control at the Airport and the Seaport to prevent entry of additional fruit flies;
- (iii) Ban the importation of certain fruits and vegetables from Mauritius to Rodrigues;
- (iv) Restrict the movement of fruits produced in Port Mathurin, Camp du Roi and Fond La Digue to other regions of Rodrigues;
- (v) Collect and destroy ripe fruits found in peoples' garden;
- (vi) Intensify monitoring through placement of additional fruit fly trap all over the island to determine the movement of the fruit flies;

(vii) sensitisation campaign through mass media and leaflets.

My Commission is working hard, Madam Chairperson, to eradicate the oriental fruit flies completely with the help and guidance of the Ministry of Agro-industry, since they are more aggressive, they have a wide range of host and may cause severe economic damage to crop production.

Madam Chairperson, we will not leave any stone unturned in this fight against this pest and staff of my Commission are aggressively implementing the action plan.

Madam Chairperson, the entry of this pest in Rodrigues is in no doubt showing that the Chief Commissioner was right when he announced in the budget speech for this financial year that we will come up with new regulations for the control of the importation of fruits and vegetables in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to announce that the regulations have already been drafted and submitted to the legal adviser for vetting.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner is talking of regulation and so on and so forth. Well, *le mal est fait*. We all know that the fruit flies, *Bactrocera Dorsalis* is very, very aggressive and can attack all sorts of vegetables and fruits and it is a real threat for our *sécurité alimentaire*. Can I know whether this aggressive campaign that he is talking about, is really an aggressive one, whether it is done island wise and whether all the people of Rodrigues are being kept informed and are being made to participate in that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I have already answered all these in my reply. I said that we have a lot of sensitization campaigns. Baits are being placed/put on an island wise basis. So, I think I have already answered the question.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chairperson, the respected Commissioner has said that everything is being done. I have seen no posters, no banners helping the people. Even on TV, I have seen nothing. This is what we call an aggressive campaign! Well, I think every person in Rodrigues should participate and we are eager to participate because this problem of fruit fly, this will affect everybody in Rodrigues. Well, I think we must have a campaign to eradicate completely the fruit fly in Rodrigues because if you allow me, Madam Chair, prior to the severe drought that we had in 74/78, there were no fruit flies in Rodrigues. Therefore, are we soon be having banners being put at the airport, the port, everywhere in

Rodrigues and we have spots on TV, in radio to help the people, to know how to fight this cause?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I think that the Minority Leader has not gone to Mauritius recently because there is a big banner at the entrance of the airport... At the airport *meme*, there is a big banner already fixed and also, I do not understand why he is trying to show that it is really aggressive. Of course, it is aggressive. Staff of my Commission, my Commission is working on Sundays. I think they went to his place and gave some plastic bags to put all these, you know, ripe fruits. I think we are doing the job and we are monitoring the problem and I had a meeting. I went to Mauritius myself last week. I was in Mauritius. I had a meeting with the Ministry of Agroindustry. There is a lot of pesticides coming on the next, next, next boat. So, it is not just a question of Rodrigues. It is a question of... It is a national thing. So, yes, I agree that it is a very important pest. That is why I said we have made an action plan to really eradicate this pest. So, concerning radio or TV, I made a press conference myself, Madam Chairperson, and we talked about this thing and on TV...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Several times, it has been on TV. I do know if they watch TV, Mauritius TV or Canal Satellite. But even on Canal, you see Mauritius. So, there is a lot of announcement on radio. So, there is a lot of things being done. So, I think I am happy. Madam Chairperson, I can say I am happy the way things are being done and I am sure we will eradicate these pests from Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader : ... That the respected Commissioner is happy for anything. Is it not true that the campaign has been done only in the northern region and this has been done lightly? He is being personal; he has been to my place. Yes, but I have seen how this is done. *La haut, la haut*. It must be aggressive. If we want to protect this island, we must involve everybody, every family. This is not being done. Are you going to do it? Not by press conference only. We should have regular spots.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I think the Minority Leader wants an invitation. Do I have to send an invitation to you to tell you that you need to be part of this campaign? It is a regional thing. You do not have to invite people. If you know the problem, you have to help in this. So, write it in your newspaper. Tell people that it is important to...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I think they need to define aggressivity. What is this all about, aggressivity? What aggressivity are you talking about? He is saying I am happy. Yes, I am happy. I am not happy because of the pest; I am happy the way the thing is being done. And, concerning Port Mathurin, why do we have to start with Port Mathurin? It is a strategic approach, you know. The pest was found in Port Mathurin. So, what we want to do is to prevent it as far as possible from going elsewhere in Rodrigues. And, we are monitoring the other places. So, this is all technical. You know, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, je pense que le Commissaire se cache derrière la venue prochaine des règlements dans ce Parlement. Il vient nous dire on va venir avec des règlements. Mais il y a déjà des lois ! Pourquoi est-ce qu'ils n'ont pas appliqué, ils n'ont pas pris des mesures comme il faut à l'aéroport et au port parce qu'on a le droit de saisir des produits d'origine végétal à l'aéroport et au port. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on ne l'a pas fait ? Pourquoi est-ce que maintenant, il vient nous dire qu'il va venir avec un règlement, soi-disant c'est une solution miracle ? Il a failli devant sa tâche de Commissaire, Madame la présidente.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ça me fait rire. Ça me fait rire d'entendre ce que vient de dire le membre. Ça me fait rire parce qu'il ne sait pas qu'est-ce que la loi dit. Dans la loi concernant les pesticides et tout, Rodrigues, l'aéroport de Rodrigues et le port de Rodrigues ne sont pas des endroits où on peut contrôler. Il n'y a pas ça dans la loi. Venez me montrer et je peux le dire haut et fort. Venez me montrer cette loi qui dit qu'on peut arrêter des choses à l'aéroport de Rodrigues. C'est pour ça, nous, on vient avec nos règlements pour faire que le port de Port Mathurin et l'aéroport deviennent des *ports of control*. Pour le moment, il n'y a pas cette loi. Ça, je peux le dire haut et fort. Mais....

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

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Commissioner, please !

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, quelques années de cela, Maurice avait fait face à la fièvre porcine. Je pense que le Commissaire Payendee est au courant de cela. Maurice a fait face et presque toute la population porcine à Maurice a été décimée. On a pris des sources de Rodrigues pour envoyer à

Maurice. A cette époque, on était toujours dans la même situation. Il y avait des lois, oui, mais il n'y a aucun règlement, aucune loi pour dire que Rodrigues n'a pas le droit d'interdire ou etc. Nous, nous avons pris des décisions internes. Nous sommes autonomes. En matière d'agriculture, nous sommes autonomes. Donc, le Commissaire a le droit de prendre des décisions à travers le Conseil exécutif, venir avec des règlements. Maintenant, il nous dit il faut attendre, on n'a pas le droit ? Mais non, Madame la présidente, on avait des nappes. On avait des nappes à l'aéroport. Les gens, quand ils venaient de l'avion, ils trempaient leurs pieds dedans. Est-ce qu'il nous faut amender des lois pour venir faire ça à Rodrigues ? Madame la présidente, le Commissaire est en train de plaisanter !

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you put your question !

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Il est en train de nous mener en bateau ! Je voudrais demander au Commissaire respectif s'il a l'intention d'inviter toute la population et d'aller à la télévision, à la radio faire des campagnes d'affichage peu importe comme il se doit pour pouvoir éradiquer une fois pour toute, pour qu'on ne se laisse pas pris au piège comme la fièvre aphteuse que je vais venir plus tard tout à l'heure.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ça me fait rire encore, *Madam Chairperson*, de voir des choses qu'il paraît les gens ne comprennent pas ce que c'est que le control, ce que c'est que la biosécurité. Là, on parle de biosécurité.

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

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Cet insecte est arrivé dans des fruits. Mais comment est-ce qu'on va mettre des nappes pour empêcher que... Si ça vient avec des gens, Ça ne vient pas avec des gens. Ça vient avec des... Pour la fièvre aphteuse...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order ! Respected Members from a sitting position, please ! I should be allowed to hear the answer from the Commissioner without any interruption, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Quand on parle de pestes, de biosécurité, il y a plusieurs façons de contrôler. Si ça vient avec des humains, avec des animaux, il

y a une façon de contrôler. Mais là, ça vient dans des fruits. Mais est-ce qu'on va passer chaque fruit dans un nappes d'un bateau à l'aéroport et le port ? Non, non, non ! Et j'ai dit, j'ai dit dans ma réponse. Ils disent qu'on ne peut pas prendre des décisions. Si, j'ai emmené un papier au conseil et on a pris la décision. Et j'ai dit, j'ai dit, j'ai dit !

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, you please address the Chair !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Okay, Madam. I said in my reply, one of the measures, I said it: ban the importation of certain fruits and vegetables from Mauritius to Rodrigues and even in the press conference, we said. I even in the paper that I took to the council, mentioned what fruits we are talking about. So, I do not know if they listen to....

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Table the paper!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I can give you my thing. What paper you want? Come with a question...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner and respected Member, this private conversation cannot go on!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Which one? You want this one?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yeah, I will table it if you want.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Le Commissaire vient de dire, je cite: « *Il y a plusieurs façons de contrôler l'entrée des fruits et légumes à Rodrigues.* » Fin de citation. Ça veut dire qu'il est d'accord que Rodrigues peut contrôler. Il vient de dire ça là ein. Rodrigues peut contrôler l'entrée de ces, si on peut dire ça vecteurs, s'ils sont infectés sans les règlements ! Pourquoi est-ce qu'il doit venir avec des règlements quand lui-même, il a avoué là qu'on peut contrôler l'entrée des mouches ? Et pourquoi on dit dans l'avion : lorsque vous arrivez, vous n'avez pas le droit d'emmener des produits végétal ou animal à Rodrigues ? Pourquoi est-ce qu'ils disent ça dans l'avion ? Pourquoi ?

Madam Chairperson: Thank you for your question. Yes.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chairperson*, ça me fait rire encore une fois. Ça me fait rire. On parle de.... La loi, le règlement, c'est quelque chose qu'on peut appliquer tout le temps mais là, c'est parce qu'il y a une force majeure. Il y a un problème. On doit agir. Donc, on a pris la décision au niveau du Conseil pour dire : allez, *we ban the importation of fruits from Mauritius and Rodrigues and I have tabled the paper, what I said*. Mais par rapport au... Quand on a un règlement, on va faire de sorte que tout le temps, c'est contrôlé. Mais s'il n'y a pas de règlement, on ne peut pas contrôler tout le temps. On peut contrôler que quand il y a une force majeure. Là, c'est la force majeure. Il y a un problème comme la fièvre aphteuse, comme on a une peste qui est en train de détruire, qui vient d'entrer à Rodrigues. On a pris la décision au niveau du conseil mais ce n'est pas légal. Moi, je peux vous dire ce n'est pas légal mais on a pris la décision. Les gens ont compris. C'était plus une façon, une manière pour expliquer aux gens qu'il faut absolument protéger cette île. Mais il y a aussi d'autres mesures, Madame la présidente. Il y a au niveau de MPPO, on a fait. J'ai envoyé quatre officiers se former à Maurice. Ils sont maintenant des formés et là, ils vont...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ils ont commencé leur travail déjà. Quatre officiers. Mais il fallait avoir l'autorisation ! Parce que c'est tout une question d'administration. Encore une fois, ça me fait rire des gens...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Il y a des personnes qui ont été Commissaires mais qui ne comprennent pas l'administration. Ces gens de MPPO, ces officiers que j'ai envoyés, Madame la présidente, ces officiers que j'ai envoyés se former à Maurice, ils sont cadrés sous une loi, la loi du MPPO. Mais ils ne sont pas... Ils sont sous le Rodrigues Establishment et pour pouvoir faire leur travail, il fallait attendre qu'ils obtiennent cette autorisation légale du MPPO pour qu'ils arrivent à faire leur travail. Et ça, on vient de l'avoir il y a deux semaines. Donc, là, ils commencent à travailler. Ce qu'ils n'ont pas.... Aussi, on a des officiers. On a des officiers qui sont basés à Maurice, qui ont des difficultés. Il y a une qui a des difficultés même de changer, de travailler sur l'*establishment* de Maurice. La semaine dernière, quand j'étais à Maurice, j'ai fait de sorte que cet officier puisse continuer à rester à Maurice et travailler pour Rodrigues.

Il n'y a jamais eu jamais de personnes qui s'occupent des conteneurs de fruits et de légumes qui sortent de Maurice sur le bateau. Il n'y a jamais eu. C'est la première fois que ça arrive et ça, c'est la décision que moi, j'ai pris en tant que Commissaire. Cette personne-là va être basée à Maurice là à partir de... le prochain bateau qui arrive. Il n'y a pas un bateau qui va venir à Rodrigues sans qu'une personne de MPPPO soit là-bas. Et cette personne-là, c'est une Rodriguaise. C'est même... Non, je ne dis pas. Je préfère ne pas dire parce que ça, c'est important. C'est une Rodriguaise mariée à un Mauricien qui devait rester à Maurice mais qui maintenant... qui devait retourner à Rodrigues parce que Maurice ne veut pas la mettre sur l'*establishment*. Moi, j'ai fait de sorte que cette personne, à partir de maintenant, elle peut rester toute sa vie à Maurice parce qu'elle aura du travail à faire. Elle va travailler. Elle est payée par l'Assemblée régionale et elle va travailler pour l'Assemblée régionale à Maurice que ce soit sur l'aéroport et sur le port, *Madam Chairperson*.

The Minority Leader : Madame la présidente, on dirait, à entendre le Commissaire, que tout est bien dans le meilleur des mondes à Rodrigues. On dirait qu'il préfère réagir après que le mal est fait au lieu d'agir avant que le mal arrive. Il y a d'autres maladies. Par exemple, la maladie de la banane qui peut arriver à Rodrigues. C'est pourquoi on dit qu'il faut que ce control phytosanitaire soit fait de façon effective. Pourrais-je savoir... Un des systèmes à contrôler, ce fléau, mouche de fruit, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire s'il envisage d'utiliser le système de mâle stérile, des mâles irradiés, des *Bactrocera Dorsalis* pour combattre cette maladie et deuxièmement, est-ce qu'on peut savoir s'il y un entomologiste qui est affecté à Rodrigues ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, oui, ce que vient de dire le *Minority Leader*. Oui, effectivement, il est en train de casser, défoncer une porte ouverte. C'est déjà fait ce truc-là. On a déjà au niveau de contrôle de mouche de fruit, on emmène des mâles stériles qui... Mais pour le moment, cet espèce-là vient d'arriver. Il faut l'éliminer ! C'est ce qu'on fait. Tous les jours, les dimanches, les samedis, mes officiers sont sur la route partout dans toutes... Mais quand la fièvre porcine est arrivée, est-ce qu'à cette époque, est-ce qu'il y a des choses qu'on a fait pour empêcher ? Ce n'était pas nous ; c'était vous. Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait pour l'empêcher de rentrer ? On ne peut pas empêcher des choses d'entrer. On fait tout pour empêcher d'entrer mais à la fin de la journée, c'est nous... A la fin de la journée, ce qui est important, c'est...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of personal explanation. *Non*, explanation.

Madam Chairperson: Do you want to give way, Commissioner?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: No.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, on est en train de se battre, *Madam Chairperson*, on est en train de se battre. Ça ne fait pas plaisir mais il y a personnes où ça fait plaisir parce que ça leur donne un moyen pour se battre, un moyen pour faire de la politique. On ne fait pas de la politique avec ces choses-là. Il ne faut pas faire de la politique avec ça.

The Minority Leader : On a point of order, is the respected Commissioning imputing motives on us ?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members from a sitting position, please. It is good that respected Members are alert to the Standing Orders but there is no contravention of Standing Orders here in this case. Yes, Commissioner, you can proceed.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Donc, nous, on est en train de se battre. Moi, je félicite tout. C'est ce qu'il fallait faire : féliciter tous ces officiers de ma Commission qui sont en train de se battre tous les matins, les dimanches matins, tous les jours, marcher dans la cour des gens pour aller récupérer des fruits pourris. On communique 24 heures sur 24 sur cette maladie, sur cette peste. Et je pense que, je vois que de l'autre côté, ils veulent donner un coup de main. *They are most welcome to help. This is a regional thing. So, if you want to help, you help! You do not come and talk as if we are doing nothing and you are the one who is going to sort the problem. This is*

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

COFFEE BEANS PRODUCTION IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/118) **Mr. L. J. Von-Mally (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to coffee beans production in Rodrigues, he will inform the House of: -

- (a) the total funds earmarked for the setting up of a coffee processing unit, indicating its location as well as the successful bidder, if any;

- (b) any coffee plantation set up as at date, indicating its location, the area concerned and the number of plants which is about to bear fruits; and
- (c) the amount of coffee beans that is expected to be harvested in Rodrigues by the end of 2019?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee):
Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question,

- (a) The total funds earmarked for the setting up of a Coffee Processing Unit is Rs 17, 880, 400 Exclusive of VAT which is actually under construction at Mon Plaisir.

Following a tendering exercise, the successful bidder is ECOBAT .

I am informed that:-

- (b) A coffee plantation covering an area of 54,756 m² was set up in 2015 at St. Gabriel and 6,950 plants have reached bearing stage.

With regard to part (c) of the question, Madam Chairperson,

- (c) The expected production for the year 2019 will be around 27.8 tons if favorable conditions prevail.

The Minority Leader : Can I know this unit that is being constructed, that is under construction, can I know what will be its processing capacity per day?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I do not have this information, Madam Chairperson. The Minority Leader can come with a substantive question.

The Minority Leader : Well, Madam, I think it goes in line with this, the project because who fail to plan is planning to fail. You have to know how much coffee will be processed. We do not spend Rs 17 m. like this without any planification. We should know. Otherwise, will this coffee processing plant work only for one day per year because of a small amount of coffee plant?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is true. This information is available but I do not have it here with me. That is why I prefer not to say, to give

just a word which is not right. So, if you want, I can send you the exact figure for that.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, normally, when we set up a processing plant, we have to make sure that there is enough coffee in the island. Can I know from the Commissioner, respected Commissioner whether, there is a campaign to help people to grow coffee plant all over the island? I think this could be done. Whether, the nurseries, the Government nurseries are producing enough coffee seedlings to have them planted all over Rodrigues? This is planification.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, everybody knows what is being done with regards to the coffee plantation in Saint Gabriel. The Government, my Commission is... Just ask the people who are interested in planting, not just coffee but for agroforestry. They can come, my Commission, we will give them the land for them to plant. No problem about this and the technical support as well. Concerning seedlings, my experience of being someone who has been working with plants for years, coffee can be classified as an invasive species, which means that everyday, these people planting coffee at Saint Gabriel, they have to uproot small coffee growing. We do not need a nursery to produce. Yes, you just remove it from the ground and you plant it! So, people...

Madam Chairperson: Please, address the Chair!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: People who are interested to plant coffee, my Commission will give them the maximum support for that and we are also going towards preparing more land. There is a project Planting Coffee at L'Union. So, everyone, anyone wants to plant coffee. So, concerning the coffee plant that we are constructing, it seems that like I used to say here itself. It is not a song but it is an expression which I like: "*Tou seki to fer lor sa later na pas bon*". Excuse me, Madam Chairperson. It is in Creole. I had to say it in Creole because it is nice. It is nice in Creole. This coffee plant, you know, actually, we are importing coffee! So, they need to say wow, it is great! We are going to get a coffee plant on Rodrigues where tourists... Where do a tourist go actually now today? Apart in front of the administration there, where do a tourist go to drink the real coffee of Rodrigues. And, this is what we are doing! Someone coming from elsewhere... We are trying to be professional, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, you will have the floor to put your question!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We are being...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please. Respected Members from a sitting position, please! You have to put questions in an orderly manner in this House. You will have the floor to put your question when the time comes. So, now, for the time being, we listen to the answer of the Commissioner, please, without any interruption.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this plant, Madam Chairperson, we will have the coffee of Rodrigues. It will be the... People will be able to drink it nicely, sit down in... We chose the right place for that. They can sit down and watch Port Sud-Est, the nice sea and drink the coffee from Rodrigues. And, the plan is... And, this is what autonomy is all about: the plan is one day, we will, I think, I may not be here but one day, we will stop importing coffee from elsewhere. Everywhere in Rodrigues, people will drink the Rodriguan coffee and that is the point, all the point about having this plant. And, I think they will... Actually, they see a lot of things being you know, built. They do not even know what is going on but when this will be ready, Madam Chairperson, it will be like a *joyau*, you know. I will invite all of them to come and drink a coffee there, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, knowing the number of projects that have failed in Rodrigues, this is why we do not want this one to fail. Can we know whether there has been a feasibility study done prior to the setting up of this project? And secondly, being given that the respected Commissioner himself has said that a lot of coffee will grow under the trees, are these coffee meant to be sent to the processing plant or to allow them to grow under the trees?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Chairperson, I used to be the student of the Minority Leader as far as agriculture is concerned but I am happy that I did not continue in that field, you know. They are talking about feasibility study. Of course, Madam Chairperson! Of course, there was! We did a feasibility study and we even you know, get a consultant, one of the best in the world: Monsieur Frederic Lecroix. Go on the Internet, tap the name of this guy. He is the one of the best persons in the world who knows about coffee. You know, China, China has already said: we want to buy all your coffee. The coffee will be like our lemon, you know, in the future. China has already said: we will take all your coffee. That is why. We have the plant, Madam. *Merci!*

Madam Chairperson: Please address the Chair, Commissioner!

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Mr. J. R. Payendee: That is why we have the plant because we do not want... I do not want this coffee to go to China. I want it to be sold here on this island and not just take a small cup, go on the board of the road and drink the coffee. No! You sit down nicely. You eat a nice piece of *tourte*, a good... *Je ne sais pas moi! Manioc, gato manioc.*

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

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

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Merci. *Thank you, Madam the Chair.* Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire s'il y a une association coopérative qui avait fait une demande pour la culture de café à L'Union et que la demande a été rejetée ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Non, Madam Chairperson. Oui, on a la demande pour L'Union. C'est ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure. On a la demande pour L'Union. Il y a la coopérative qui a fait la demande mais le problème de L'Union, il y a un petit souci par rapport au terrain. Il y a un mélange de terrain privé, terrain de l'état qu'on est en train de régler. Une fois le truc réglé, le problème sera résolu, les personnes pourront planter leur café comme....

Madam Chairperson: Next question !

The Minority Leader : Last one. Can I know how long this will take?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Time will tell, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

NURSING OFFICERS - RECRUITMENT

(No. B/119) The Minority Leader (Mr. L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to Nursing officers working in Rodrigues, he will state the number that has been recruited, on contract or otherwise from mainland Mauritius since January 2018 to date, indicating the:

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- (a) Funds earmarked for same, as well as the facilities, economic and otherwise, provided to them; and
- (b) Reason for the lack of Rodriguan Nursing Officers, indicating the number of Rodriguan Students that are being trained to fill the necessary posts in Rodrigues?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson,

- (a) There are actually 12 Nursing Officers from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (07 Male and 05 Female) who are posted on a tour of service of one year in Rodrigues since 16 November 2018. The salaries of these officers together with their disturbance allowance are being met under Programme 5102-21110004 – Allowances of my Commission. They are also being paid a monthly rent allowance under this item as approved by the Executive Council.
- (b) There are 72 Rodriguan Trainee Nurses who are on training in Mauritius. Out of this:
 - a batch of 20 will complete their training on the 21 December 2018 and will be back to Rodrigues shortly.
 - 30 additional Trainee Nurses will complete their training in 2019; and
 - a last batch of 20 Trainee Nurses proceeded in Mauritius on 04 August 2018 to start their training course will be of three years' duration.

In the next budgetary 2019/2020, necessary action will be initiated for the recruitment of additional Trainee Nurses.

There is a lack of Nursing Officers in Rodrigues for specific reasons:-

- (i) a second Male Ward will be operational shortly and the services of 12 additional experienced Nursing Officers are required to implement a proper shift system in the Ward;

- (ii) the NCD Secretariat has already prepared a work plan where the services of additional Nursing Officers will be required for the activities to be organised in the island to reduce the rate of non-communicable disease in Rodrigues;
- (iii) additional unit will be set up where services of additional Nursing Officers will be needed.

In addition to the above, the posting of the 12 Nursing Officers from Mauritius will also enable the Rodriguan Nursing Officer to proceed to Mauritius to undergo short courses and on the job training in specialised fields.

The Minority Leader : On est en train de réagir au lieu d'agir. Est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire s'il y a eu un manque de prévoyance étant donné qu'il y a un manque de *Nursing Officers* Rodriguais ? Est-ce qu'il y a eu un manque de prévoyance de la part de sa Commission ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame la présidente, le manque de prévoyance est venu depuis 2007 à 2011 lorsque son Gouvernement était au pouvoir.

The Minority Leader : Can I ask the respected Commissioner the Nursing Officers coming from Mauritius, they are given rent allowance, being given that there are many quarters, Government quarters in Rodrigues, can we know why these Nursing Officers are not put in these quarters?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, all these quarters are being occupied. So, we have to pay a rent allowance.

The Minority Leader : Have I heard the Commissioner clearly that all the quarters are occupied or are they in a condition that nobody will want to live in them?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have already answered the question that all the quarters are occupied.

The Minority Leader : Madam, can we have a list from the Commissioner of all the quarters and they are occupied by whom? Can we have the list of it?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Put a question to the Commissioner to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure and you have the answer later on.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, à Rodrigues, nous avons beaucoup de *quarters* qui sont inhabités. On a investi l'argent des contribuables pour la réparation. Je parle d'un *quarters* qui est juste au tournant de la rue Max Lucchesi, au tournant là. Il y a un *quarters* qu'on a investi des tas d'argent dedans mais jusqu'à maintenant, inoccupés. Là, j'ai appris qu'il y a un certain Jean Roland qui aura ce *quarters* là. A Pointe Venus...

Madam Chairperson: This is not allowed, respected...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I am coming with my question.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is not allowed, the name!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, okay, I remove the name of Jean Roland. At Pointe Venus, Madam, at Pointe Venus, we have another quarters which has been given by the Commission for TIC to an L. S.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you can rephrase your question?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I will put my question.

Madam Chairperson: Because I have problems relating this to the main question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, quarters. The problem of quarters. According to the answer of the Commissioner, I am just putting question. I am introducing my question in relation to that.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, according to Standing Orders, this is supplementary question. There is no need to introduce supplementary questions.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can the Commissioner enlighten the House whether the quarters of Pointe Venus, which can... *qui aurait pu être utilisés pour* house the... *Comment on appelle ça là?* Nursing Officers. Is this can be done?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please! The question here is not about quarters. The main question. And, the question of quarters does not fall under the purview of the Commissioner here answering.

Mr. Z. Félicité: In the reply of the Commissioner, he mentioned that there is a shortage of Nursing Officers because of specific reasons. Can he enlighten the House on these specific reasons?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I have already answered this question. Why? The main reason is that from August 2006 to February 2012, no recruitment from the Government of *Mouvement Rodriguais* initiated process to recruit Nursing.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

EDUCATION PROJECTS IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/120) Ms. M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regards to all education projects in Rodrigues, he will favour the House with a verbal report of the various projects undertaken during the period June 2017 to date and state:-

- (a) the sums disbursed therefor and the intended completion dates thereof; and
- (b) If any delay has been encountered and, in the affirmative, to indicate any actions taken or being envisaged?

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Chief Commissioner: I wish to inform the House that my Commission has undertaken four capital projects for the Primary level and three capital projects for secondary level as from June 2017 to date as follows:-

- (i) Construction of a Community Primary School at Baie Malgache;
- (ii) Upgrading of toilet block and embellishment works at Mangues Government school;

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- (iii) Construction of Boundary Wall and Canteen at Terre Rouge Government School;
- (iv) Extension of Grand Montagne College
- (v) Extension of Terre Rouge College, Rodrigues (Phase III); and
- (vi) Construction of Secondary School at Songes;
- (vii) Construction of New Toilet Block and Extension of Preau at Grand La Fouche Corail Government School;

Primary

Out of the four capital projects for Primary level, three projects have been awarded in the months of September and October 2018 namely Mangues Primary School, Terre Rouge Primary School and Grand La Fouche Corail Primary School and no funds have been disbursed up to date. Their respective intended completion dates are 05 June 2019, 27 May 2019 and 31 May 2019.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that for the three projects that the consultant has reported that the projects are on good track.

Concerning the Construction of the Community School at Baie Malgache, I wish to inform the House that the project is behind schedule. I am informed that notices have been issued to the Contractor to accelerate progress of work on site. The Project was awarded on 12 June 2017 and works have started on the 14 August 2017 and was expected to be completed on the 16 August 2018. The implementation of the project has encountered delays. The Consultant has reported that to date, the progress of works is only 38.5% and the intended completion date based on the performance of the Contractor will be in July 2019. A sum of Rs. 23,851,937.63 has been disbursed for this project as at to date.

Secondary

Madam Chairperson, regarding the capital projects for secondary level, the extension of Grand Montagne College which was awarded on the 25 August 2017 was completed on the 15 August 2018 and no delay was reported for this project. Handing over of the site was done on the 23 August 2018 and Rs 9,150,090 have been disbursed up to now.

Regarding the Construction of Songes College, the project has started on the 16 August 2017 and was expected to be completed by the 29 November 2018. Nevertheless, the consultant has reported delays on this project and informed that

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instructions to increase deployment of labour on site have been given to the Contractor to increase progress of works.

I am informed that the project has been completed at 69.5 % and that based on the progress of works, the intended completion date is now March 2019.

Up to now, Rs70,973,249 have been disbursed for this project. For the extension of Terre Rouge Secondary School, the Consultant has reported delay in the project and I am informed that for this project, notices have been issued to the Contractor to accelerate the progress. The contract for the construction of the Multipurpose Hall and Sports Complex at Terre Rouge College was expected to be completed by 04 June 2018. However, to date, only 32% of progress of works have been reported on site and Rs. 12,932,610 has been disbursed for this project.

Madam, Chairperson as regards to part (b) of the question, two projects that have encountered delays; namely Construction of community school at Baie Malgache and Extension of Terre Rouge Secondary School (Phase III), I wish to inform the House that since the start of the projects, regular site visits by Officers of my Office, the consultant and the Contractor have been held on a fortnight basis and the issue of accumulated delays have been expressed in site meetings but still any improvement in terms of measures by the Contractor have been taken to remedy the situation. For both projects, the Contractor has failed to enable to abide to his contractual obligation by not mobilising the adequate resource and key personnel to execute the works as provided for in his contract despite notices have been issued by Consultant.

Subsequently, the Consultant has advised that two options can be considered by my Commission in terms of the contract, that is to either proceed with the works and to apply liquidated damages or to terminate the agreement on the basis of Contract Defaults.

In view of the considerable delay in the two projects, I am informed that legal advice is being sought with regard to the provision regarding termination of the contract.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/122, B/123 and B/126 have been withdrawn. Next question.

**UPGRADING/CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS
– UPCOMING RAINY SEASON**

(No. B/121) Ms. M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the upgrading/construction of drains along roads and pathways in villages and *morcellements* across Rodrigues in view of the upcoming rainy season, he will state the measures envisaged by his Commission in respect thereto, indicating any collaboration with the:

- (a) National Development Unit for the improvement of the land drainage system island-wide; and
- (b) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, roadside drains are normally included in all roads. Upgrading and construction works undertaken by my Commission over and above these drains, my Commission has awarded a contract for the construction of about 135 m of drains at Camp du Roi along with other improvements and dredging works. Tender for similar works for 107 m of drains and 100 m of retaining walls were also launched for Fond la Digue but unfortunately, upon evaluation, none of the bids were successful. Fresh tenders will have to be launched. Madam Chairperson, as stated in my reply to question B/43 of last year and B/27 of this year, the NDU is implementing drains projects around the island in phases. The first batch of completed projects included drain project at Petit Gabriel, construction of bridge at Fond Baie aux Huitres, drain at Lataniers, drain at Allée Tamarin, drain project in Port Mathurin. The second batch of projects that NDU will implement comprise drain works (phase 2) of Port Mathurin and Rivière Cocos, raising of “*radiers*” at Port Sud-Est and Anse Ali as well as construction of bridge at Camp du Roi and Grand la Fouche Mangles.

Madam Chairperson, as regard to part (b) of the question, since the occurrence of torrential rains at the beginning of this year, my Commission is collaborating actively with the disaster and Management and Disaster and Risk Management Committee and the Commission for Environment. Any drain issues that are noted by the Committee are forwarded to my Commission for necessary actions. Since August this year, my Commission has constituted three teams of General Workers for the exclusive maintenance of road drains around Rodrigues. Works have been performed in no less than 14 villages. Additionally, the Commission for Environment with the help of General Workers have cleaned and rehabilitated drains along 15 roads around the island. I should also point out that RodClean has also undergone cleaning along no less than 12 roads. I am tabling a copy of roads, side drains cleaned by my Commission, the Commission for Environment and RodClean respectively.

The Minority Leader : The Deputy Chief Commissioner has been talking of certain places where drains are being constructed. But overall in Rodrigues, can I know from the respected Commissioner why in certain ... most of the places, the retaining wall are lower than the level of land so that whenever it rains, we have plenty of soil overflowing the drain and getting into the drain and blocking them? Will this be remedied? Whether all these retaining walls will be made higher and in order to protect Rodrigues because there is plenty of erosion. You have this at Rivière Cocos on the road near Tamarin. Almost everywhere. Near *L'Alliance Française* also, you have this problem.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, as the term itself denotes, a retaining wall is supposed to be used to retain the soil. But I consider that infrastructurally speaking in terms of technical terms, the roads should be higher than the soil that has to be retained. But I consider that maybe during the construction, the wall was higher but a particular point in time, there is sliding, progressive sliding of the soil that make it, that after sometime, it becomes higher than the retaining wall. Nevertheless, as mentioned by the Minority Leader, as regard to Tamarin and... Tamarin, Rivière Cocos, no, there is no retaining wall as such which has remained so far. It is only now that we have given the works order with Transinvest so that it carries survey in order to know what exactly is to be done through that portion of the road.

Madam Chairperson: Next question

IMPLEMENTATION OF SHIFT SYSTEM / WORK ROTATIONAL SYSTEM

(No. B/122) The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Ms. M. R. Collet) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the implementation of the shift system or any other work rotational system for health officers working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Area Health Centres of Rodrigues, he will enlighten the House on any: -

- (a) meeting held or being envisaged with the ministry of health therefor;
- (b) policy or suggestion from his Commission or other stakeholders in Rodrigues which has been or will be considered for the process;
- (c) intended date of implementation therefor, indicating if same is to be on a pilot basis or otherwise; and

- (d) survey carried or to be carried out amongst concerned parties to determine the need for change/replacement of current working system prevailing thereat?

[Withdrawn]

PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL – YOUNG WOMEN; HANDBALL FOR BOTH SEXES; CYCLING; AND SWIMMING

(No. B/123) Ms. M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to sports in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and explain the policies and activities of her Commission with regard to the promotion of football among young women; handball for both sexes; cycling; and swimming, for the different villages, giving details on any collaboration with the sports federations based in mainland Mauritius?

[Withdrawn]

**ROD CLEAN LTD – DETAILED EXPENSES
– RECRUITMENT OF SCAVENGERS**

(No. B/124) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to Rod Clean Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information therefrom and state the detailed expenses incurred in connection with the recruitment of scavengers thereby in 2018 specifying the detailed expenses incurred by the interview panel constituted therefor per each day it sat in connection thereto?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, following the approval of the Executive Council in its meeting held on 28 April 2017, the Rodclean Company has proceeded with the recruitment of 11 scavengers on the 01 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 called for interview which was held on 13, 14 and 15 December 2017 at the Malabar Gymnasium. An interview panel composed of five board members and the Manager of Rod Clean was set up to interview the selected candidates.

The total expenses incurred for the whole recruitment exercise amounts to Rs 35,000.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Chairperson, five board members. 35000 have been incurred. We know at an interview when you have the potential candidates who come for the interview, they just come, have the interview and just leave the room and in this case, it was the gymnasium. So, Rs35,000 has been used to interview 97 scavengers out of which only 11 will get the job. So, can we know from the Commissioner and I think in my question it was specified, specifying the detailed expenses? So, why is it that the Commissioner does not come here and tell us about the detailed expenses?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Rs 35000 is the payment to people who have done the interview. That is not their job; they have done it for a period of... for three days' whole day interview 97 people. So, that is the case. But concerning the point of detailed expenditure, I do not think it is important to disclose this information, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: But lunch, lunch for the board members.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It includes the whole expenses for the exercise, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs Chairperson, Madam, last time we put the question and the Commissioner told us that there are established rates for the payment of board members. I think it also includes those board members who go for interviews. So, can we know from the Commissioner how much money has been paid daily to each board member depending on their grades or I do not know?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I will not disclose this information, Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : Madam, this is public money! How come that you cannot give this information? We are here, we are the representatives of the people. We have to know how money of this country is being used. So, I would like to ask again the respected Commissioner how much do you pay each board member. It is for the sake of transparency!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I will not answer this question. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether it is true that every day that there has been the interview, the board members went for lunch at Rs 10,000 per day?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this is definitely not true.

Madam Chairperson: Next question. Okay, one last.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can I know from the Commissioner what are the qualifications and experience which composed of the board panel?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The board panel was... it is not a question of qualifications, it a question of, it is the board that is governing Rod Clean that did the selection, Madam Chairperson. It is not a question of... it is not a question of ... may be...

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ROADS IN RODRIGUES – GAZETTED/SPEEDING TICKETS/MEASURES TAKEN/ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

(B/125) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to roads in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the relevant authority, including the Commissioner of Police, to: -

- (a) give details on the number thereof gazetted as at date and, for each case in the negative, to give reasons as to why and when same will be gazetted;
- (b) state the number of speeding tickets issued from 2012 to date, specifying if fines were settled or convictions given and confirming the legality of the action of issuing same;
- (c) indicate measures undertaken by his Commission to regularise same; and
- (d) confirm if the status thereof has been notified to any enforcement authority regulating activities thereon and if so, to give details?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, as per the Road Traffic Act, Roads may be classified as either motor ways, main roads, urban roads and rural roads. The Act specified that for motor ways and main roads, it is

the responsibility of the Minister of Land Transport to make regulation for such classification. Urban roads are roads that are within the boundaries of a town, which are not motor ways or main roads. All roads which are outside the boundaries a town and which are not motor ways or main roads are rural roads. As such, all roads in Rodrigues are public roads classified as urban roads in accordance with Section 3 (3) of the Road Act. I am informed that all rural roads are not gazetted even in Mauritius.

I am tabling details of the number of speeding tickets issued and paid from 2012 to date as provided by the Police. As regards, to convictions the information has been sought from the Court and will be tabled. I will not comment on the legality of the action on the issuance of speeding limits as per Parliamentary Practice.

The Road Safety Committee, part (c), Madam. The Road Safety Committee was informed that a case of exceeding speeds limit was dismissed by the Court inter-alia because of the road is not gazetted properly. Following this my commission solicited the help of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport. Following this request, a representative from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, the Director of Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) and an Officer-in-Charge of the RDA (Road Development Authority) carried out a physical assessment of all the road in Rodrigues. The matter has now been referred to the Legal Advisor for the drawing up of appropriate regulations so as to designate some main roads in Rodrigues.

As regards, to part (d), it is to be noted that the case mentioned above was a case of the Police v/s J. A. L., no notification is thus deemed necessary.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Yes, Madam. Peut-on savoir du Deputy Chief Commissioner, qui sont ceux qui est responsable pour régler et placer les panneaux de limitation de vitesse sur les routes nouvellement construites à Rodrigues ?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Upon discussion within the Road Safety Committee, upon which there are Public Officers, NTA, an Officer of my commission, we do agree for the placement of some sign posts along the road in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam. Est-ce-que le Deputy Chief Commissioner est au courant que la nouvelle route, la route nouvellement construite à Camp Pintade, la limitation de vitesse est réduite à 50 km/h et à*

quelques 100 mètres plus loin la limitation est 40 km/h. Pouvez-vous nous expliquer la différence de 50 et 40 ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, whenever we are to place any traffic sign as regards to speed limit, we do look at the structure of the road. Of course, we do have the advice of the Technician of my commission and as I have told you the other day, we did have the visit of the Officers of the TMRSU, which came in Rodrigues in September 2018. And, of course, we sought for the advice as regards to the position of a sign post together with the... whether there is any bent visibility and other/any factor that is deemed necessary for consideration.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mme. la présidente, I would like to ask the Commissioner a question. I do not know he has already answered the question I am going to put. But I would like to ask him why should he gazette roads in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I have said in my answer, Madam Chairperson, that – is it necessary really to gazette the roads in Rodrigues? They are already classified as urban roads. They are already classified as urban roads but as I have said in my reply, we may classify some roads as main roads and this is clearly defined in the Road Traffic Act that it is the responsibility of the ...

Madam Chairperson: Deputy is it rural or urban?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, rural. Sorry. They are rural roads because even Port Mathurin is not a town. No, it is rural. It is rural. All roads in Rodrigues are rural. All roads in Rodrigues, they are rural but we may classify some roads in Rodrigues as main roads. But for us to be able to do so, we will have to have the concurrence of the Minister for Land, Transport in Mauritius. This is why, we have had, we have sought for the advice of the RDA of the Ministry itself and the TMRSU so that we see if there are some roads that may be classified as main road. And, of course, you are going to see with the Minister.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam. *Recemment, il y a*, a Court Judgment following a contravention of exceeding speed limit where the case has been dismissed in Court respecting road classified as rural roads where in the Court Judgment, I table the Court Judgment, it is said that, Rodrigues is not gazetted, so the case is being dismissed accordingly. I table the copy of the Court Judgment.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Do you mean it is a new case or the case which I referred in my answer.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: The case in 2017.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, 2017. Is this the case that I referred to my answer? It is the case of Police v/s J.A.L. Yes. In fact, I should say, if we read the judgment, if it is the same case, there are three grounds on which the judgment has been based. If the case was against my commission, I would have made an appeal against that judgment.

The Minority Leader: Yes, can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he will maintain the lowest speed limit at 35 km/hr, being given that some people can run faster than 35 km/hr?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, in every aspect whenever we are to place speed limit, we have in mind the question of road safety. The question I think was raised from times back. It is not done on the whims and caprices of my commission. Of course, this is a technical matter. This is why I had said formerly whenever there is speed limit to be placed we do seek through the advice of the TRMSU, which has got enough expertise in the matter. So, as Commissioner I cannot go against any advice or against any technical advice that has been given by an institution, by a national institution which has been set purposively for that aspect. So, I will respect what has been proposed by the TRMSU.

The Minority Leader: You will respect the technical advice, so far so good. Can I know whether these technical advice is not going against the law? Being given that according to law is it not true that the speed limit should end by a zero digit and not by 5? Because on the speedometer you do not have... there is no speedometer with a digit 5 at the end. Is it not against the law?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Is it mentioned somewhere in the law specifically that it cannot be ended a 5-digit figure? Where is it mentioned? Where is it mentioned?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Anyway, anyway, anyway, I am going to seek advice on the matter with the TMRSU whether what he mentioned, what the Minority Leader has mentioned is really a matter for concerned.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam. Can we know from the Deputy Commissioner of Police whether the speed limit of 35 km/hr is authorised in rural roads according to law?

[Interruption]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mme. la présidente, il y a quelque chose que je ne comprends pas. *Wey to kone tou twa. Wey mo ti koze ek twa.* Mais, Mme. la présidente, je ne comprends pas une chose, le Commissaire vient nous dire que à travers le Traffic Management Road Unit de Maurice, bon, on a mis à 30 ou bien 35 ou 40, ils doivent respecter. Mais je ne comprends pas pourquoi l'Honorable PPS Francisco François est allé au parlement pour demander au Speaker de l'Assemblée de revoir en hausse le *speed limit* à... Non, je reviens sur la question. Je reviens là. Okay? Alors, j'aimerais savoir son avis là-dessus, parce qu'on ne comprend pas concernant tout ce qui est relié à cette question.

Madam Chairperson: This is not valid. Your question cannot be allowed.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: I have one question, Madam Chairperson, if you allow me.

[Interruption]

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Non, non, PPS so kestion stand good.* Madam, the Speaker, Madam the Speaker, I have got in my hand a paper tabled by the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regard to speed limit, speeding tickets issued – 1482. Nearly, in 2018 – 228 tickets issued out of 208 tickets paid and 20 tickets not paid up to now. Madam Chairperson, Madam, being given that the approach of the Police, *l'approche de la Police a été change, modifié pour venir une police de service. Je vais faire une demande au Commissaire respectif, qui va par la suite transmettre la demande. Est-ce que ce ne serait pas bien de sensibiliser, comme à l'époque, sensibiliser les personnes, comme à l'époque il y avait le Traffic Branch. Ils allaient dans les collèges, ils allaient dans les clubs de vieillard/vieillesse. Il allait chez les enfants, à l'école primaire pour éduquer, pour sensibiliser ces personnes-là concernant les Road Safety. Pourquoi ne pas mettre en place, pourquoi ne pas encourager cette approche-là...*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I understand your concern on the matter, this is very important but this is question time. Put your question now.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: I am putting my question.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you have made a statement before that. Put your question now.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Ou trouve ça statement ou ?* Okay, I put my question now. Yes, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, if he can envisage to see with the respected authorities instead of putting tickets etc. contravention to sensitise people prior to this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, what the Respected Member mentioned is all being done in Rodrigues. In fact, from the primary level itself, there is the incorporation in the nine-year schooling of a health and safety education. Its start from there itself. There is Community Policing that is done by the Police. Unfortunately, I do not have the number of villages that the Police have touched so far. Additionally, Madam Chairperson, with the concurrence of my commission, we did organise a road safety week every year with the view of sensibilising the drivers as regards to road safety. I consider that in matters relating to road safety, it is true that there should be sensitisation but nevertheless, there should also be contravention in order, yes, in order to demotivate and discourage road users from making from... to ensure rather, that road users make use of good practice as regards to road safety.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Yes, Madam. One last question.* Je suis tout à fait d'accord qu'il faut aussi des contraventions. Mais quand les contraventions deviennent excessives dans une ou deux régions spécifique, là il y a un abus. Donc, moi je fais un appel, encore une fois un appel au Commissaire pour revoir avec les autorités concernées. On a eu quatre morts dans la région de Grande Montagne. Est-ce-qu'on peut à travers ces résultat-là, là prouver qu'il y a eu des *speed limit* à Grande Montagne ? Non, il n'a jamais eu. Mais par contre, dans la Région 1 et 2, au bas, tous les jours les Officiers de Police sont là-bas pour harceler les gens et prendre des contraventions à Rs 10,000/Rs 15,000 alors que le Rodriguais à peine à manger à sa faim tous les jours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the Police is not under my control, first of all. It is not under my control. The second thing is that I do not have the statistics as regards to where control, as regards to speed limit have been carried out. If ever, the question related to that matter, I would have had, I would have come into this House with details as regards to locations where speed limits control had been made. But unfortunately, I cannot answer the question because no such information is given to me.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

(No. B/126) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to environment enforcement unit of his Commission, he will inform the House of the number of: -

- (a) Police Officers posted thereat, detailing their respective duties and specifying the number of contraventions issued by each Police Officer posted thereat since 2012 to date; and
- (b) vehicles allotted thereto, specifying:
 - (i) the Officer in control thereof;
 - (ii) the amount of petrol used per month per vehicle;
 - (iii) where same are based and/or kept at night?

[Withdrawn]

FISHING IN RODRIGUES – 2012 TO DATE – STRATEGIC PLAN/FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS)/POLICY

(No. B/127) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, as regards fishing in Rodrigues, from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state: -

- (a) if any strategic plan has been made by his Commission in regard thereto and, if so, to table a copy thereof;
- (b) how many Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) have been installed for the period, indicating the cost incurred therefor and specifying the total number thereof operational as at date; and
- (c) the policy of his Commission as regards the installation of new FADs?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, let me inform the House that a strategic plan for the Fisheries Sector exists but it is not for

circulation. But today, Madam Chairperson, we are no longer talking of Fisheries Sector, we are talking of the Ocean Economy, the Blue Economy. And, this is why, my commission has stated in the Budget Speech 2018/2019 is recruiting a Technical Expert in Ocean Economy to elaborate a strategic plan to develop the Blue Economy in view to develop sustainable economic activities other than fisheries. The terms of reference for the exercise of recruitment of the expert have already been drafted and tender will be launched soon.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, from 2012 to now seven new FADs have been deployed and 21 replacements have been made for estimated cost of Rs 2,680,000. The last visit which was made on FADs was on the 01 August 2018 and 12 FADs were operational.

With a view to improve the installation monitoring of FADs, my commission in collaboration with the Mauritius Research Council is conducting a study to improve the scientific understanding and management of FADs in Rodrigues to the tune of Rs 1.83 m. It is a two-year project which will start in January 2018.

Madam Chairperson, it is a fact that no data is currently available to measure the potential of the FADs. The project will provide opportunities to produce baseline data to better understand the FADs Fishery in Rodrigues.

This project has main objective to:

- (i) improve the scientific understanding of FAD Fishery in Rodrigues;
- (ii) monitor the FAD Fishery production;
- (iii) improve the management of fishing around FADs and so on.

Madam Chairperson, the proposed FADs project aims at improving the scientific understanding of FADs fishery in Rodrigues by evaluating the marine primary productivity around the FAD. The project will also allow better understand the relationship between water quality/fertility parameters on marine, fish and FADs productivity. The study will focus on analysing various biological and physicochemical parameters of ocean waters, to quantify the chlorophyll-a concentration using field and data logger equipment and to evaluate the changes in primary production partners around the FADs of Rodrigues.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Mme. la présidente*, in view of *franchir une nouvelle étape*, the Commissioner mentioned that a strategic plan is available but cannot be tabled. He has been Commissioner since 2012 and responsible for Fisheries, is it

not? Yes. But how come, a strategic plan is available and he cannot table this. I do not know where is the case of transparency in that things? We need to know what is going on. The ...

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

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam, why did you stop me like this?

Madam Chairperson: One question at a time.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this plan is available as I said but it is more a political one. So, that is why it is not something to circulate. But being/going to the fact that today we are no longer talking about fisheries. So, why do I have to circulate something which is not, you know, cannot be used for the time being because we have already *franchir une nouvelle étape* by going towards Ocean Economy and Blue Economy.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Franchir une nouvelle étape, pêcheurs pé mor la fin.* Les bateaux sont attachés. Il y a au moins une dizaine. Il y a un autre qui coule à Port Sud-Est. Mais je ne comprends pas cette affaire de Strategic Plan qui est soi-disant *available*, secret. Let come to the point of FADs. The Commissioner mentioned that since 2012, 21 FADs have been installed, 7 installed, 21 *renouveler*. Can the Commissioner inform the House right now, as at date how many FADs are there in good condition and their whereabouts, their positions?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I can give all this information but it kind of take a bit of time. But if you want the information, I can give you.

Madam Chairperson: You can circulate the information.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I will circulate the information because it is too long, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: ... Madam Chairperson, Madam, there are only one FAD, one FAD at Grand Bassin operational actually. Right? Can the Commissioner enlighten the House in that matter?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is not true, Madam Chairperson. I said in my answer. The last, I repeat myself. The last visit which was made on FAD was on the 1st of August 2018 and 12 FADs were operational. So, how can you say one is operation? I said 12 and you say one. So, if you know the answer then you better take yours.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, cette question-là est venue à l'assemblée parce que les pêcheurs eux-mêmes disent qu'il y a, qu'il n'y a plus de FADs, il y a qu'un seul qui se trouve à Grand Bassin. Can I ask the Commissioner what was his last visit on these FADs that he mentioned were in good condition?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is not my job to visit FADs. I am a Commissioner. But I do visit FADs as a diver. I have been diving on FADS. You know, the problem is... Let me answer. Let me answer. You know FADs, lots of people do not understand how this is placed. You can go to a FAD today and tomorrow you do not see the FAD. The reason being, it is a question of tide, it is a question of waves. Because FADs, it is put on a depth of about 400 metres/500 metres. And, you do not know the sea bottom. So, you may put a FAD on the border of the cascade under water. There is cascade under water. I can tell you being a professional diver myself. So, tomorrow it can fall. If it falls you will not see it. And, it can go down to one metre and if you have low tide, at low tide you see it, at high tide you do not see it. Because it is just a question of buoys that floats. But the question is all that is under the FAD, you know? So, it is not a question of seeing or not seeing the FAD, the position of the FADs. All fishermen who are interested they go to the Fisheries Research Training Unit, they get, we give them the position of the FADs. So, this is available, this information. But you know, you may not see the FAD but you can fish around the FAD. Because it is under water, because it has fallen in, may have fallen. But it is still there. What is important about a FAD, it is not the buoys which floats, it is what is under the thing. It is a net under water that create an eco-system, a new eco-system and allowed fish to stay, big fish to stay there. May be you do not know. But if you do not see the FAD. People who do not see the FAD ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: People who do not see the FAD but if they have the position, they fish around it, they will definitely catch. What the aim of fishing around a FAD? The eyes are no longer important now in the sea. We have GPS. My commission has given 500 GPS to the fishermen. We have given this free of

charge. Rs 10,000 one GPS. They do not need to see the FAD to fish around it. They just go round it using the GPS and the position that we have given to them.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chairperson, I am really astonished by the answer of the Respected Commissioner. He said that some FADs can be put near a precipice and it can fall in the precipice. Well, I have been the Minister of Fisheries, I know when we put FAD, I have been there, I put the FADs in Mauritius. Normally, we put it with an anchor, that is not easy to be moved by the waves. So, as if you have not put the FADs, secure it correctly under the sea. Therefore, I would like to know whether all these FADs have been set/put at sea by professionals? I would like to know.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, they have been put at sea by professionals. But I have done some with my... When I was to school, I studied Physics as well. Does the Minority Leader know what is Archimedes Principle? When you put something which is heavy, Archimedes Principle says that when a body is directly or indirectly immersed in a fluid, it loses its weight.

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Let me tell you ...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I am answering the question.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, you should allow the Commissioner to answer his question, please.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, order.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members. The Commissioner is the only one responsible for his answer. So, let him proceed.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Archimedes Principle says that when an object is completely or partially immersed in a fluid, it loses weight due to the upthrust of the liquid.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: On a point of order, Madam. The Commissioner is wasting the time of the House, downgrading the Assembly in giving... What is his answer? This is not correct.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, your point of order is not valid. There is no contravention of the Standing Order.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member. You are in a sitting position. Are you challenging the Chair?

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: No, I am challenging the Commissioner which is not giving me a good answer...

Madam Chairperson: You come with a substantive way of challenging the Commissioner. This is not the way of challenging a Commissioner in an Assembly.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: You allow the Commissioner to answer. The question was put. I will hear the answer of the Commissioner.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The reason I talk about Archimedes Principle is directly related to the question which was asked to me.

Madam Chairperson: Second Island Region Member, this is the last time.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Because when you have the weight that you put with a FAD, this weight does not weigh the same thing, does not have the same weight

that it has under water or on the ground. Which means that in a FAD there is a lot of floating objects which we call buoys. And, these buoys with waves keep moving and the FAD moves. It is a dynamic thing; it is not static. So, that is why. And, also there is another problem with FADs, that is why we are studying, that is why we are going to study more about it. There is another problem which FADs. You know, you see big boats going round Rodrigues now. Every day you see boats. So, this FAD, there is nothing there. You have been Minister, so what do we put on that for the people to see for the boat which is like a free storey building to see some small buoys? And at night, how to you see? So, you may go today, and tomorrow you do not see the... You see today and you do not see it tomorrow simply because the boats have gone into it. You know? So, that is the problem. You should have changed the technique putting FADs when you were Minister for ...

Madam Chairperson: Next question. Next question.

**INCIDENT - LA FERME AREA HEALTH CENTRE
– ON/ABOUT 08 NOVEMBER 2018**

(No. B/128) Mr. J.N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to an incident at La Ferme Area Health Centre on or about 8th November 2018 whereby two women were injured, he will inform the House of the circumstances thereof, indicating if any enquiry has been carried thereinto to situate responsibilities, specifying the outcome thereof and, if not, to give reasons therefor?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, with regard to the incident which occurred at La Ferme Area Health Centre on 08 November 2018, I was informed that one female patients sustained minor injuries at the back of her head and the other sustained injuries on the right upper lid, both eyes globes were found to be quiet. The injuries were caused by the accidental fall of a ceiling fan in the waiting room. The ceiling fan was installed by contractor Laxmanbhai Co. Ltd. (Mauritius).

The site was immediately secured. The two patients were examined by doctors on the spot. Arrangement was also made for them to undergo CT-Scan at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Fortunately, according to the medical reports, the injury was minor and superficial. First Aid treatment was given to both patients. The Nursing Supervisor who was on duty was called as well as the Police as recommended by the Medical and Health Officer/Senior Medical and Health

Officer who was on duty. Both patients were issued PF 58A and B. Police is still investigating into the case.

I must also inform the House, that the contractor has been requested to take the necessary measures to ensure that such incident does not recur and to arrange for the *indemnisation* of the two injured patients. I am informed that the procedures still under way.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam. Can we know from the Respected Commissioner, whether taking has already been done at La Ferme Health Centre by the commission from the contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have not heard your question. Can you please, repeat it.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can you confirm whether taking over of the site of the building has already been done...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please resumes your seat.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: ... has already been done by your commission from contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The work has partly been recovered from the contractor. There are also works who have not been terminated.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can we know from the...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please if you can speak in your mic. We have difficulties in hearing.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Okay. Can we know, Madam, from the Commissioner whether the building was inspected by Health and Safety Officer prior to the taking over?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Madam Chairperson. The building was not inspected by Health and Safety Officer.

The Minority Leader: This is, Madam Chair, it is a bit a pity to see people going to hospital instead of getting cured. They come out injured more

severely. Can I know how the maintenance is done in all the hospitals in order avoid recurrence of such problem in the future?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This incident was only at La Ferme Area Health Centre and there is no incident at other Area Health Centres and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, again I would like to insist, they do not have to wait...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, you cannot insist on an answer to a question. You should rephrase your question now.

The Minority Leader: I know, I know, yes I can rephrase. Being given that we do not have such problem in other Area Health Centre and then at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I would like to ask the Commissioner, is he going to wait for such an incident to happen in other hospitals in order to look after the maintenance work, how maintenance is done in all these hospitals?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, cela s'est passé seulement à l'hôpital de La Ferme et il n'y aura pas encore d'incident comme ça dans les autres hôpitaux.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, bien que la question se réfère à l'hôpital de Mont Lubin, je voudrais demander au Commissaire qu'est-ce qu'il pense de ce fait ? Parce que je l'ai vécu, lui aussi il a vu. Parce que nous savons que dans les autres hôpitaux, il y a des ventilateurs rouiller qui sont vraiment en mauvaises états, rempli de poussière. Nous n'allons attendre qu'un autre accident se produise pour venir avec des remèdes. Donc, ce que je demande au Commissaire, est-ce qu'il compte vérifier que tous les ventilateurs dans les hôpitaux sont en bonne état ?

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, je ne vois pas, je ne sais pas où Respecter Membre a vu que les ventilateurs sont de mauvaises états. C'est une question d'opinion de la Membre.

Madam Chairperson: The table has been advised that PQ B/129 has been withdrawn. Next question.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/129) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to sports infrastructures in Rodrigues, she will for the benefit of the House, state and table:

- (a) a detailed list thereof, for all sport disciplines and region-wise, indicating:
 - (i) their respective location and operational state, detailing the schedule of availability thereof;
 - (ii) the number of clubs making use thereof, in each case; and
 - (iii) the number officers attached thereto, per discipline;
- (b) where matters stand regarding infrastructures being required in relation to the 2019 Indian Ocean Island Games events to be held in the island?

[Withdrawn]

**CONSTRUCTION OF SME PARK
- ANSE BALEINE & BAIE AUX HUITRES**

(No. B/130) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the construction of SME Park at Anse Baleine and Baie Aux Huîtres, she will state where matters stand as at to date?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK): Madam Chairperson, with respect to question B/130, I am informed that it has been decided after consultations with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development that we will be focusing actually on the SME Park of Oyster Bay during this financial year. In that respect, Madam Chairperson, Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd. which has been entrusted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to prepare a Project Proposal Report has already submitted same in May 2018.

Subsequently, Madam Chairperson, in line with the Project Proposal Report submitted by Landscape Mauritius Ltd., the Terms of Reference for enlistment of consultancy services for a feasibility study encompassing the following key aspects have already been worked out and are being finalised:

- The Business Model;
- The Economic Benefits;
- Legal and Management Framework; and
- The Package of Incentives.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, can we know from the Respected Commissioner, concerning the SME Park at Anse Baleine, can we have some information about this?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: In fact, Madam Chair, we launched the bid two times. On the 4th May 2017, we launched the bid for the first time and the closing date was fixed to 2nd June 2017. And, all the bids were non-responsive. The bid was relaunched on the 14th of November 2017 and the closing date was fixed to 13th December 2017. And, after the evaluation by the Bid Evaluation Committee, the amount for the lowest bidder was Rs 17,334,330. And, since in the actual budget provision is made for Rs 3 m. only, we are actually waiting for the approval of MOFED for additional funds for the project.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: In the Budget Speech, *Le Catalyseur Discours du Budget 2018/2019 à la page 7, paragraphe 32, le Chef Commissaire avait annoncé le contrat, je cite ce qui a été écrit : « Le contrat pour la construction d'un SME Park à Anse Baleine a déjà été alloué et les travaux démarrent le mois prochain. »* Can we have more information about “le mois prochain”?

[Applause]

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Mme. la présidente, je viens de répondre. Donc, le contrat a été – donc le tender a été lancé, le montant dépasse de loin le montant du budget qu'on a prévu. C'est pour cela qu'on a fait une demande au Ministère des Finances. Comme j'ai dit, le budget prévu était de Rs 3 million et le budget pour le projet, donc c'est Rs 17 million après avoir lancé le tender. C'est pour cela qu'on attend l'approbation pour avoir le montant requis pour démarrer le projet.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**CONSOLIDATION/EMPLOYMENT OFFICE IN RODRIGUES
– JOB-SEEKERS/PERSONALISED SERVICES/PROFESSIONAL
INTEGRATION**

(No. B/131) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Employment and Others whether, in regard to consolidation of the Employment Office in Rodrigues as announced in the Budget Speech 2018/2019, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand as to date and further give details on the online inscription for job-seekers and the provision of personalised services for better professional integration?

The Commissioner for Employment and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, it is a fact that in the Budget Speech 2018/2019, paragraph 18 to 20, it was announced that the Employment Office in Rodrigues would be consolidated. This process of consolidation is ongoing and is in line with the re-engineering of the Employment Information Centres in the Republic of Mauritius under the National Employment Department subsequent to the National Employment Department Bill which was voted in the National Assembly in October 2017.

I am informed that the Information Systems is in operation namely, the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) and Mauritiusjobs, with two separate databases holding information of registered jobseekers are hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training and the Employment Information Centre in Rodrigues is linked to both systems.

Following the visits of the IT Experts from Pôle Emploi, Réunion in connection with the development of the IT System, it was recommended that the two existing platforms namely; Mauritiusjobs and LMIS be linked to operate as the front end and back end respectively. In this respect, the following actions are envisaged:

- www.mauritiusjobs.mu will act as the front-end where all necessary information regarding a jobseeker such as qualifications and CVs would be uploaded, validated via interviews and stored in the Mauritiusjobs database;
- All registration details except documents shall be pushed to the LMIS System which will be used at back-office by the Employment Information Centre officers;
- Linkage between both systems will be done through the Information Highway which is a free service provided by the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation;

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- The Ministry is currently working with the supplier of Mauritiusjobs for the porting of the system to the Government Online Centre (GOC);
- Upgrade of both systems to cater for additional functionalities is being considered after the Information Highway linkage has been made operational; and
- The interface of LMIS with Mauritiusjobs would be done in phases.

Madam Chairperson, it is to be noted that such an ambitious project cannot be accomplished overnight. It is being developed in phases with the expert assistance of Pôle Emploi. And, Phase 1 of the project comprises of the following:

- Online registration of Jobseekers
- Edit of Jobseeker profile
- Online registration of Employers
- Edit of Employer's profile
- Posting of vacancies
- Edit of vacancies

Such a re-engineering project which aims at offering a better service requires a more user-friendly set up. On this aspect, my Commission has made a great leap forward. The Employment Office has been redesigned with the help of Mr. Russo, from Pôle Emploi, Réunion and relocated in a more user friendly environment with open space dedicated to jobseekers which can be seen now at the second floor of the MHC Building of my commission at Camp du Roi. The aim is to enable them to feel more welcome and also to give a better image of the Unit. The office is already operational and two additional Employment Officers have been recruited this month to offer a more personalised service with a redefinition of the role and responsibilities of all officers.

The officers of the EIC of Rodrigues are following training courses offered by the Ministry of Labour in various modules on issues pertaining to the organisation and restructuring of the unit based on the model of Pôle Emploi of France.

The modules covered so far are:

- Accueillir et animer l'espace en libre accès ;
- Etre conseiller;
- Mener un entretien; et
- Comment animer un atelier.

Although training of officers is still on-going, a new approach towards jobseekers and employers has now been adopted by the Employment Officers. They have started to offer Job Counselling techniques to jobseekers in their choice of jobs; inform them about the training possibilities and to empower them so that they can become employable. A pool of jobseekers needing counselling is now being worked out and individual attention will be given to those who need it the most, as well as, follow-ups on a regular basis.

Workshops are also being organized in the first instance, with the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) and Service to Mauritius (STM) interns posted at the EIC on How to write CVs and Letters of Motivation. A batch of 1281 jobseekers holding at least the School Certificate has been compiled for the same exercise. Moreover, an IT Corner has been set-up to enable e-literate jobseekers to register themselves on mauritiusjobs.mu and personal help is provided to non e-literate jobseekers.

The training courses are still on going. Given the specificity of Rodrigues, the French Consultant will be on mission to Rodrigues at the beginning of the next year to offer on-the-job training to Rodriguan officers. He will also have working sessions with all officers concerned on various aspects such as delivery of service, IT System, Communication, labour market and staff training. In addition, will help to develop an action plan for Rodrigues and the Regional Office.

The Minority Leader: Well, Madam Chair, well it seems that these are mere *declaration d'intention* but the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Being given, that we have seen what has happened with the recruitment of the 265 General Workers, what guarantee we have that this problem will not crop up again?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I do not want to comment on this as there is Police enquiry about it. But, I just can assure the House that the Employment Office has nothing to do with all what has happened. This is clear.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, being given that the Respected Commissioner, is saying that the Employment Office has got nothing to do. How

can he say that being given that the enquiry is still on? I think, he should withdraw what he has said because we do not know, we do not know what has happened.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: The supplementary questions are not related to the main question since it is under Consolidation of the Employment Office in Rodrigues. So, I do not see any contravention of Standing Orders here whether... The Commissioner has just answered by saying that the case has been referred to Police, so.

The Minority Leader: I beg to differ because the list of unemployed persons they emanate from the Employment Office...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, it is too far from the main question. You should come with a substantive question next sitting.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Dans le cadre de la consolidation du Bureau de l'Emplois à Rodrigues et pour donner un peu plus d'assurance, de transparence à ces personnes qui viennent au Bureau de l'Emplois pour faire l'enregistrement. C'est dans cette ligne-là que cette question a été posé. Est-ce que la Chambre... est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please. The Commissioner has given a lengthy explanation about how his office is going to consolidate the employment in Rodrigues. If you have listened to his answer you will find the elements in it. You can... In the Hansards, you will have time to study and to read well about each element the Commissioner has given to you. But for now, the question that you have asked is not related to the main question. Next question.

RECRUITMENT - AGENTS DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE

(No. B/132) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the recruitment of Agents de Santé Communautaire, he will inform the House of when decision therefor was first made and approved by the relevant authority and under which item vote of the 2018/2019 Budget are allowances/stipends/salaries in connection therewith being charged?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to announce that upon the request of my commission, the Executive Council has on the 22nd June 2018 approved the increase of stipend paid to the *Agents de Santé Communautaire* from Rs 700 to Rs 3,000 monthly with effect from the 1st July 2018. Payment of the stipend is being effected under the Programme 5102-21110004 - Allowances.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether all the *Agents de Santé Communautaire* is actually being paid properly?

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

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, this is not what I have understood. Therefore, if this have been done, can he explain why certain *Agents de Santé Communautaire* are still complaining of not having had their payment made up to now?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, we have not received any official complaint from the *Agent de Santé*.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam. In the approved estimate budget 2018-2019, Item – 211110004 – Allowances, une somme de Rs 58,550,000 voted under this item, et on a vu une révision de, pour l’année 2017-2018, une révision à Rs 70 million, c’est-à-dire, il y a une augmentation de plus, de presque Rs 12 million. Est-ce-que le Commissaire peut informer la Chambre si pour l’année 2018-2019, Rs 65 million earmarked, si cette somme-là sera suffisante pour payer tous les allowances, y-compris les Agents de Santé et les officiers venant de Maurice ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, *l’année pa encor fini*, s’il y aura à ajouter, s’il y aura qui restera encore dans ce *Allowances*, on verra. Mais tout le monde sera payé.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, je voudrais savoir du Commissaire, quand les derniers *Agents de Santé* - quand a été effectué le dernier paiement ? S’il peut nous donner l’assurance aussi que ces *Agents de Santé* seront bien payés avant l’année ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bien sûr, Mme. la présidente, tous les *Agents de Santé* seront payé avant la fin de décembre.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ILLEGAL FISHERIES

**– ALLEGED/REPORTED CASES SINCE JANUARY 2013 TO DATE
– NO. OF OFFENDERS CONVICTED/FACING PROSECUTION**

(No. B/133) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to illegal fishing in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of alleged/reported cases since January 2013 to date, indicating the number of offenders convicted and/or facing prosecution, respectively, if any, for the corresponding period?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, with regard to illegal fishing in Rodrigues since January 2013 to date, the requested information are as follows:-

- (a) There has been 330 reported cases;
- (b) 216 Offenders have been convicted;
- (c) 12 Offenders are facing prosecution.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**HIV/AIDS – NO. OF NEW CASES 2012 TO DATE/PREVENTION,
AWARENESS & SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS CARRIED OUT**

(No. B/134) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to HIV/AIDS, he will state the number of new cases thereof detected from 2012 to date, indicating the prevention, awareness and sensitization campaigns carried out by his Commission in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the number of new cases of HIV/AIDS detected from 2012 as at date is 42 as follows:-

SN	Year	No. of New Cases
1	2012	4
2	2013	3
3	2014	Nil
4	2015	11

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5	2016	9
6	2017	7
7	2018	8

The Aids Secretariat in Rodrigues has carried out HIV test on 14,642 people in Rodrigues from 2014 to 2017 as follows:-

SN	Year	No. of people tested
1	2014	2110
2	2015	3627
3	2016	3920
4	2017	4985

A yearly calendar of work is prepared by the AIDS Secretariat where several prevention and sensitization programmes are carried out in secondary schools, villages and Area Health Centres.

From January 2018 as at date, awareness, sensitisation and screening campaigns have been carried out as follows: -

- (i) in secondary schools where some 2000 students have been reached;
- (ii) in villages of Terre Rouge, Pistaches, Batatran, Pavé la Bonté, Mt. Fanal, Grand la Fouche Mangles, Roseaux, Baie aux Huitres, Mt. Goyaves, approximately 600 people were reached;
- (iii) Sensitization of workers at their workplace at the Commission for Public Infrastructure, Tekoma Hotel, Commission for Agriculture, Forest nursery at Solitude, Mourouk and Baie aux Huitres, about 250 people were reached;
- (iv) Sensitization and screening of detainees at the Rodrigues Prison;
- (v) At the Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre at Mont. Lubin targeting the people in connection with the World Health Day in April 2018. About 200 people were sensitized and screened;
- (vi) Participation of the AIDS Secretariat in the Youth on the Move Program. 75 youths were reached for screening and 200 were sensitised;

- (vii) Training of medical and paramedical staffs on HIV/STI 53 staffs reached;
- (viii) Elaboration of a manual for sexual and reproductive health in schools in collaboration with the Commission for Youth and Commission for Women. The process is being led by the Commission for Women funded by the UNFPA. I am informed that a draft report has already been prepared and will be validated shortly with stakeholders.
- (ix) Organisation of the AIDS Candle Light Memorial at Mont Lubin football ground in the context of the World's AIDS day 2018.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I would like to ask the Respected Commissioner, we have been made to understand that the AIDS Unit have been changed into *Avek ou* Unit. Is it true that almost all the members of the formerly AIDS Unit have been changed, especially you had in the AIDS Unit experienced officers, these have been changed and you have new members in the AVQ Unit? Can we know the reason for that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the AIDS Unit is still the AIDS Unit. The *Avek ou* is a non-government organisation also working to prevent HIV.

The Minority Leader: Then, I would like to ask the Commissioner, has the officers of the AIDS Unit been changed, why have they been replaced by other officers, especially those who are fully experienced in this fields, the Nursing Officers?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mrs, Chairperson Madam, the officers of the AIDS Unit have never been changed, they are still there.

[Interruption]

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

At 12.31 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 1.32 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

STRAY DOGS IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/135) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to stray dogs in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the measures his Commission has taken or intends to take to address the problem?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, we are aware that stray dogs constitute a major problem in Rodrigues and this explains why the control of the latter is high on the agenda of my Commission.

Madam Chairperson, as per Section 13, subsection 2 of the Animal Welfare Act 2013, only the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare (MSAW), has the legal authority for the catching and disposal of stray dogs and cats. As such, Madam Chairperson, recognising the need to address the problem of stray dogs in Rodrigues, my Commission has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MSAW on 30th August, 2017. The MOU provides for the establishment of a sub-office of MSAW in Rodrigues to deal with the issue of stray dogs and cats.

Various delegations of MSAW have been to Rodrigues, Madam Chairperson, on several occasions for sensitisation on radio, in villages, for registration and sterilisation of dogs in various regions of Rodrigues together with the veterinary service of my commission. Sensitisation leaflets have been prepared and provided to the public on the occasion of the International Dogs Day celebrated for the first time in Rodrigues this year on 26th August at Citron Donis football pitch. Such sterilisation and sensitisation campaigns will continue next year on a regular basis.

Madam Chairperson, let me inform the House that the vehicle to be used by MSAW for dog catching in Rodrigues has already arrived in August this year. MSAW has initiated recruitment procedures for the post of Administrative Manager, Driver and Animal Handler. And, upon the recruitment of these three officers, the sub office will be operational and dog catching activities will start. The dog pen at Mt Plate will also be rehabilitated to secure the dogs caught according to animal welfare regulations.

The Minority Leader : Well, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner being given he has been talking of stray dogs and stray cats and so on, can I know whether, he will take action concerning stray animals on the islets

of Rodrigues? Because this cause great problem to birds and so on. Two weeks ago, if I may, I was on Ile aux Fous. There is a big cat on it. Well, there would be no birds on the island. Are you going to do something about that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the question is not related but I will answer.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Non, la pe koze dogs!*

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. J. R. Payendee: He is talking of stray dogs ! Yes, of course, straying animals constitute a big problem on Rodrigues. Maybe on all the islets, we have... Unfortunately, we have these people who do not know what to do with their animals. They go and dispose it on an island. I did know the one on Ile aux Fous but I will take the necessary measure to try to catch it and also, yes, this is also something on the agenda of my Commission.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Comment est-ce que le MSAW, comment est-ce qu'ils vont différencier un *stray dog* et quelqu'un qui n'est pas considéré comme *stray dog* ? Parce que c'est notre coutume à Rodrigues de laisser trainer les chiens partout. Donc, comment est-ce qu'on va concilier coutume et justement mettre de l'ordre dans ce qu'il appelle, *stray dogs* ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Tiens, malheureusement, ça ne doit pas continuer parce que comme on connaît le problème qu'il y a, tout dernièrement, il y a un touriste qui s'est fait mordre même dans l'eau à Gravières. Le chien est parti mordre... Oui, dans la... Même dans la joue, on a tellement de plainte. Donc, c'est très important pour nous de contrôler. Comment est-ce qu'on va différencier ? La première étape, c'est il y aura ce qu'on appelle, l'enregistrement des chiens. C'est-à-dire, tout le monde, il y a la loi pour ça. Les chiens... et ils vont mettre une puce. Les chiens qui sont... Maintenant, on n'a pas besoin d'attraper le chien pour savoir si ce chien... à qui appartient ce chien. Donc, il y a un appareil. A distance, on pourra dire c'est tel numéro et ça appartient à telle personne. Et quand on aura attrapé le chien, bien sûr, on saura tout de suite. Si le chien est enregistré, donc, on trouvera le propriétaire et la loi va suivre. Si le chien n'est pas enregistré, malheureusement, ce sera considéré comme un *stray dog*.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION
– TECHNOPARK – BALADIROU**

(No. B/136) Mr. J. N. Nemours (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a technopark at Baladirou, as announced by the honourable Prime Minister on Saturday 17 November 2018, during his visit in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

The Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam Chairperson, as announced in the Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner for Financial year 2018/2019, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will set up a Techno Park at Baladirou in view of optimising the provision of high speed bandwidth through the installation of the Mauritius and Rodrigues Submarine Cable System (MARS) and promoting an IT-led business culture for Rodrigues.

It is expected through the setting up of the Techno Park to create a platform for developing technology based businesses and host outsourcing relate businesses which will create remunerative employment and help to sustain a higher standard of living for the younger generation.

Madam Chairperson, the assistance of Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd was enlisted to prepare a concept plan and to implement the project in Rodrigues. A scoping mission was carried out on 14 and 15 March 2018 and thereafter, a master plan was submitted by Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd. for the setting up of the Techno Park at Baladirou in May 2018.

In line with the Master Plan, I am informed that invitation for proposals through the Open Advertised Bidding for consultancy services for feasibility study for the setting up of a techno Park at Baladirou was launched on 10 August 2018. However, no bid was received at the closing date fixed for 18 September 2018.

Madam Chairperson, being given that there has been no response regarding the Request for Proposals for consultancy services, it has been decided that the modalities and financial aspects of the project be reworked out. In addition,

consultations with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development are ongoing to discuss the way forward for the implementation of the project.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I have been made to understand that initially, the technopark was to be installed at Pointe Venus. It was to be a technopole, now, it has become a technopark. Can we know what will happen to Pointe Venus? Whether it has been sold out or whether part of the technopole that will be done there?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, we have had the opportunity to discuss about that lengthily in the past. So, it has been a policy decision to move the technopole which will form part of the technopark at Baladirou.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I know from the Commissioner, if she can table a copy of the masterplan which has just been worked out in May 2018 for the House to get aware of it?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, unfortunately, I do not have it with me, Madam Chairperson, but I will make it a must to have it in the library.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, can I know from the Commissioner the amount of money to be disbursed for the construction of the technopark at Baladirou?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chairperson, as it was announced on the 17 November by the Prime Minister and as per the plan already developed, the amount will be up to a... It is approximately estimated to Rs 258 m.

The Minority Leader : Madam, just for the sake of clarification, being given that Point Venus was to be converted into a technopole, can we know what has become of Pointe Venus? Whether, it will be left idle? Because it was bought for that project!

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : As I have said, there has been a policy decision. So, there will be another project there and when time comes, it will be informed. We will inform the House but as at now, the decision has been taken to move the project that would have been done at Pointe Venus. It will now be done at Baladirou.

The Deputy Chairperson: Can I ask the Commissioner if a plot of land has already been identified for the project? And, if yes, to give details on it.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Yes, in fact, Madam Chairperson, we have identified a space of 15 acres at Baladirou for the project.

The Minority Leader : Madam, since public money has been spent on the Pointe Venus Project, can we know what we are going to do with Pointe Venus? This is, like you know...

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : Madam Chair, I will ask the respected Minority Leader to come with a substantive question with regard to Pointe Venus.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I have one more question, please? Madam Chairperson, Madam, I have been made to understand that the tender launched on the... in March 2018 has not been responsive. Was it an international bid or a national bid? Can we know?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, it was the open advertised bidding and it was done at the national level.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the Commissioner for Youth and Others being absent and being given that the Commissioner Roussety is overseeing the areas of responsibilities falling under the purview of the substantive Commissioner during her absence, questions addressed to the Commissioner for Sports and Others will be answered by Commissioner Roussety. Thank you. Next question.

2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SAVATE (FRENCH KICKBOXING)

(No. B/137) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the 2018 World Championship Savate (French kickboxing) held in Bulgaria, she will state and table the name(s) of any participant from Rodrigues thereat, informing the House of all support, financial and/or otherwise, her Commission provided in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that for the participation of

athletes/coaches or officials of any discipline at national and international level, the concerned Regional Committee should submit their request to the Commission for Youth and Sports for consideration.

Madam Chairperson, for this purpose, a standard application form is available at my Commission and information to be submitted by the Regional Committee applying for the assistance is among others:

- (i) A brief description of the competition in the event.
- (ii) Number and list of athletes, coaches and officials
- (iii) Type of assistance required from the Commission for Sports and estimated budget of the mission.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to the 2018 World Championship Savate (French kickboxing) (World Assaut Championship) held in Bulgaria from 17 – 21 October 2018 in Bulgaria, I wish to inform the House that at no point did we receive any application from the Rodrigues Regional Boxe Française Committee or any authority with regard to this competition.

Madam Chairperson, if no request is made by the concerned Regional Committee, it is understood that the Committee did not require any assistance from the Commission.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that it is only after a query from the Commission for Youth and Sports that the concerned Regional Committee wrote to the Commission to inform of the performance of the tireur who participated in the commission... in the competition, sorry, and requesting to do any other procedures/formalities regarding his performance.

I am also informed that the concerned Regional Committee has further explained that the participation in this competition was not in their calendar of activities and it was the tireur who has proposed to participate in the competition at his own cost and further to that, the Federation was informed and accepted to include the tireur in their delegation.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, first of all, I would like to congratulate the tireur because he has *win* the third place. But anyway, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner... *J'attendais que la Commissaire responsable serait là. C'est dommage.* The Regional Committee, can we know from the Commissioner who is responsible of the Regional Committee of Box Savate Kickboxing in Rodrigues?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I have only a correspondence. The Secretary has written to the Commission about the participation of Mr. Jean Louis Polimon. Mr. Jean Denis Flore, the Secretary.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, being given that the respected tireur has been to Bulgaria on his own cost and it has been informed by the Commissioner that the Regional Committee was not aware whether Mr. Jean Louis Polimon would attend the competition or not. There was no request. Can we know from the Commissioner whether they are contemplating to refund nearly Rs 70,000 who the...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner? Proceed with the answer.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can we know from the Commissioner whether the Mr. Jean Louis Polimon will be refunded his money spent for the trip and *comme on dit, il a levé le quadricolour très haut en troisième position.*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Il n'y a pas eu de demande de la part du Comité régional de Kickboxing Savate, Madame la présidente. Mais si une demande vient de... Le Comité régional, on va étudier mais je dois faire ressortir que les procédures n'ont pas été suivies et que tous les comités '*régionales*' de Rodrigues savent quelles procédures doivent être acceptées...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Est-ce que c'est une question de procédure ou bien c'est par rapport au responsable de comité, l'entraîneur qui n'a pas été invité pour participer? C'est pour ça que le tireur n'a pas eu la possibilité de faire une demande. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous éclairer là-dessus?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Encore une fois, je redis. C'est que les procédures n'ont pas été suivies. On ne peut pas blâmer la Commission dans ce cas.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, je ne suis pas en train de blâmer. Je suis en train de proposer qu'il y a une aide financière qui soit remboursée à M. Jean Louis Polimon parce qu'il a déboursé plus de Rs70,000 dans sa propre poche et il a fait honneur à la République de Maurice ainsi qu'à Rodrigues. Donc, est-ce que sur une base humanitaire, le Commissaire peut nous garantir que Jean Louis Polimon sera remboursé de son argent qu'il a dépensé à ses propres frets mais qui a fait honneur à notre pays?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Once more, I wish to inform the House that no claim has been submitted by the Regional Committee. The Committee should request and a claim sent to the Commission and we will study about it.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

NATIONAL ARTS FUND

(No. B/138) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Arts and Culture and Others whether, in regard to the National Arts Fund, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the concerned ministry, or other relevant authority, and state the number of artists from Rodrigues who benefitted therefrom in the year 2018, providing details on the artist(s) concerned together with the total sum of money granted per project as at date?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the National Arts Fund has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the aim of the fund is to contribute in the funding of creative arts projects/ programmes with a view to empowering artists, arts practitioners and arts organisations in the different fields of arts and culture.

There are four Arts Grant Schemes under the National Arts Fund, namely: Emerging Talents Grant, Production Grant, Capacity Building Grant and Research Grant.

During the application process, the Chairperson and one member of the National Arts Fund proceeded on official mission in Rodrigues from 23rd to 25th August 2018 to organise information sessions with artists and other stakeholders on the project and a radio programme was also organised to disseminate information on this new scheme.

Madam Chairperson, the first call for project was launched on 25 July 2018 with closing date on 31 August 2018. For Rodrigues, the closing date for the first call of proposal projects was extended to 13 September 2018.

Madam Chairperson, a total of three projects was received from Rodrigues for the first call for projects, as follows:

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- i. Two projects under Emerging Talent Grant, namely 'Les Fruits et Légumes' from La Ferme College and 'Transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) to 60 Youth' from Mr. Joseph Sydney Sainte-Marie.
- ii. One project under Production Grant, namely 'Concert 15 ans carrière MC Justice' from Mr. Jean Roland Casimir.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that following an assessment exercise and presentation made by the respective application, by phone on 09 and 10 October 2018, respectively, the following two projects were recommended and approved by the funding... by the National Arts Fund:

- (a) Mr. Joseph Sydney STE. MARIE under the Emerging Talent Grant amounting to Rs. 243,950 was approved for the project. The project is expected to start in January 2019. Mr. Sainte-Marie's project relates to the implementation of artistic and cultural courses such as sega tambour, traditional dance and traditional music courses with children in the south region of the island.
- (b) Mr. Jean Roland Casimir under Production Grant for the amount of Rs. 587,693 for a musical show (concert) for his 15th musical career.

Madam Chairperson, as reported by the Ministry of Arts and Culture, no fund has been disbursed to any of the above two beneficiaries in view of the fact that the disbursement of fund is effected only following signature of contract and after production of quotations and submission of final implementation schedule in line with the National Arts Fund Guidelines.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Madame la présidente, est-ce que je peux savoir du Commissaire, pour savoir combien de proposal we have per year for the artists for Rodrigues and whether, there is a quota or it is unlimited in terms of project ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we have no... We do not know what will be the quota and every year, the National Arts Fund will launch the project thought for proposal.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: We have made to understand that there are two sets of proposals: one at the beginning of the year and the second one a little bit later. Can we know, can the Commissioner give details about that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is an unlimited quota first time launched project.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, there is... remained unanswered. Can I know whether, we have only one call for proposal per year or two calls for proposal?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Three calls for proposal.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner give details about that, please?

[Interruptions]

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I do not have the information. Can the respected Member come with another substantive question for next sitting?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: This question forms part of the main question. You tell me to come with a substantive question? Tell me you do not want to answer or you do not know.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: This is not correct, Madam Chairperson, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, I would like to make an appeal to your understanding. The Commissioner here is only overseeing the areas of responsibility of the substantive Commissioner. So, you can... I know, I can understand your urge to get an answer today but please, when the Commissioner comes, you can have the elements that have not been given by the Commissioner today.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I ask the Commissioner to see with the Commissioner, respective Commissioner to table these information in the library?

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

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please !

**KREOL FESTIVAL IN SEYCHELLES
– OCTOBER 2018**

(No. B/139) **Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Arts and Culture and Others whether, in regard to the participation of a delegation from Rodrigues at the Kreol Festival in Seychelles in October 2018, she will inform the House of the outcome thereof and state and table the:

- (a) detailed composition of the delegation, indicating the respective capacity of every delegate attending same; and
- (b) total sum disbursed therefor, specifying all monies paid for each participant, including per diem?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the participation of Rodrigues in the '*Festival Enternasyonal Kreol Sesel*' and the '*Laserenade Enternasyonal de Victoria*' in the Republic of Seychelles has become an annual feature. The participation of Rodrigues Island in these events is an occasion to promote the visibility of the island and to share common aspect of our culture with other Creole-speaking countries. The '*Festival Enternasyonal Kreol Sesel*' also provides an international platform to our local artists to display their talents, creativity and to promote the musical specificities and cultural identity of Rodrigues. Our local participants have the opportunity to enhance cultural exchanges with worldwide artists and cultural groups from Mauritius, South Africa, Malagasy Republic, Mozambique, Dominican Republican, Les Antilles, Reunion Island, Guadeloupe, Guyana and other countries promoting the creole spirit.

Madam Chairperson, the 33rd Edition of '*Festival Enternasyonal Kreol Sesel*' and the 2nd Edition of '*Laserenade Enternasyonal de Victoria*' in the Republic of Seychelles was held from the 26th to 30th October 2018 with a series of activities on the theme: '*Fyer Nou Lidantite*'.

With regard to part (a) of the question, a total of 14 delegates from Rodrigues participate in the 33rd Edition of '*Festival Internasyonal Kreol Sesel*' and the 2nd Edition of '*Laserenade Internasyonal de Victoria*'.

Madam Chairperson, the detailed composition of the delegation, including the respective capacity of every delegate attending same was:

Head of Delegation:

The Chief Commissioner

Madam Chairperson, please note that an invitation was extended to the Chief Commissioner from the authorities of Republic of Seychelles.

Accompanying Officer under the Chief Commissioner's Office:

The Senior Analyst

Accompanying officer for the cultural delegation:

1 Culture Officer

Traditional Group: Alpha Omega comprising:

1 Percussionist/singer

1 Tambour player/ singer

1 Accordionist

3 Male traditional dancers

3 Female traditional dancers

Two modern individual singers performing sega and reggae music, respectively.

I am tabling the composition of the delegation.

Outcome of the mission

Madam Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner was accompanied by the Senior Analyst, has attended various meetings, site visits and paid courtesy calls to dignitaries and the main outcomes were:

- (i) Regarding visit at Venn's Town Site, discussions with expert on the possibility of accompanying Rodrigues in the context of upgrading the historical site and also the possibility of developing some informative materials on same.
- (ii) To discuss on cooperation between Rodrigues and Reunion, in the meeting with Maître Lynda Lee Mow Kin, *Conseillère Régionale à la Coopération Régionale et Internationale*.
- (iii) Courtesy call at Minister of Culture of Seychelles and discussions were made on the assistance of Seychelles in the organisation of

Festival Kreol; follow-up on areas of exchange such as service of Stylist to assist in design of *'Labiymman Rodrige'*, provision of assistance by Institute Kreol regarding *'Diksioner Kreol Rodrige'*, exchange programme of Creole Teachers, support for the *'Lavi lontan project'*, assistance for setting-up of Archives Sonore from *Institut de l'Audiovisuel (FNA)* from France and participation of Seychelles in the 2nd Edition des Jeux de Femmes de Iles de L'Océan Indien.

- (iv) Official Ceremony of the Signature of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between *Group Artizan Sesel and Association Femme Entrepreneurs de Rodrigues de l'Est* and discussions were mainly on how to better promote and enhance entrepreneurship. A total of 15 women entrepreneurs of Rodrigues proceeded to Seychelles for the signature of the MOU and also to participate in a series of activities to promote Rodriguan products.
- (v) Meeting was held with member of the *'Comité de Jumelage de District de La Digue'* regarding how to enhance areas of collaboration between the two islands.
- (vi) The Chief Commissioner also met the President of the Republic of Seychelles and the President has affirmed that due consideration is being given to the cooperation between Rodrigues and Seychelles.

Madam Chairperson, at the same time, the traditional group had the opportunity to show their talents and promote exchanges with international artists in the *'Laserenade Internasyonal'* in Victoria on the 27 October 2018 and *'Dimans Obor Lanmer'* on the 28 October 2018.

The two modern singers who participated in the *'Konser Rezyonal'* on the 27 October 2018 have shown to the audience and other participating groups that the music of Rodrigues is not limited to traditional music but is also composed of Sega and Reggae music. Exposure of our local artists to other artists has enabled the creation of a link and sharing of culture and artistic creativities.

Madam Chairperson, the accompanying officer has participated for the first time in an International Cultural Exchange Programme and skills has been acquired regarding organization of international festival. The Chief Commissioner, Senior Analyst and the Culture Officer had also the opportunity to participate in the *'16^{ème} Kolok Enternasyonal Lalang Kreol'* where Professor

Arnaud Carpooran, has presented its research paper work on the project Revisiting the linguistic specificities of Rodrigues and the writing-up of a *Diksioner Kreol Rodrige*.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question in accordance to the cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Seychelles and the Commission for Arts and Culture, Rodrigues, the receiving country has catered for hotel accommodation, meal and inland transport for all participating islands and the sending countries have met the cost of air tickets and per diem for all delegates. The route chosen was the most economical one and entailed a minimum stay abroad.

Costs of air tickets and per diem for the cultural delegation (12 persons) amounted to Rs. 490, 479 and for the Chief Commissioner and the Senior Analyst, cost implications were tuned at Rs. 154, 308.

I am tabling the sum of money disbursed as well as per diem paid to members of delegation.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair...

Madam Chairperson: Yes? Respected Member?

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, but in the meantime, he can put his question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, the composition of the delegation, Madam Chair, can we know the implication? Can we know from the Commissioner the implication of the Senior Analyst in the delegation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It was the decision of the Chief Commissioner. She did not participate in the *Festival Enternasyonal Kreole* but she is at the EMPU and is responsible for all corporation with external agencies or other partners. The role of the Senior Analyst in the delegation was to follow up on corporation with Seychelles, with the Memorandum of Understanding sign between Government of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles in connection with corporation between La Digue and Rodrigues.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Being given that the respected Commissioner is not present, may I ask the Commissioner for Arts and Culture for interim whether he

is satisfied with the participation of Rodrigues, the delegation of artists of Rodrigues in their performance?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Of course, Madam Chairperson, as usual, we are very satisfied, we are very proud of the delegation of Rodrigues *et* Seychelles.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**DISTRIBUTION OF WATER – IRRIGATION
– PROPOSED CONNECTION OF FARM LANDS**

(No. B/140) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the distribution of water for irrigation and the proposed connection of farm lands to *retenues collinaires* across Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) the number of farmers concerned therewith indicating the;
 - (i) number of *retenues collinaires* identified therefor specifying the different region thereof;
 - (ii) total surface area of agricultural land that will be concerned in different areas.
- (b) the cost of establishment of the distribution network, indicating if any contract has been awarded therefor and, if so, to specify the name of the contractor(s) to which work has been allocated; and
- (c) if work has started therefor and the expected completion date(s)?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to inform the House that in view of providing water for irrigation so as to increase agricultural production in Rodrigues, my Commission has embarked itself on a project involving the construction of rainwater harvesting structures.

With regard to part (a) of the question, Madam Chairperson, the rainwater harvesting structures, number of planters concerned and surface area of agricultural land concerned are as follows:-

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	Retenues Collinaires	No. of Planters	Area (m²)
i)	Baie Malgache	69	242,840
		83	
ii)	Graviers		221,500
		80 + 32 Chilli	248,172 + 1 Ha
iii)	Montagne Goyaves	112 Planters	

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b), let me inform the House that in order to have a good distribution network for the optimum use of the water, the services of the Irrigation Authority from Mauritius has been sought to design the irrigation network for the Retenue collinaire at Batatran, Mt Goyave and Baie Malgache. An irrigation expert from the Irrigation Authority was on mission to Rodrigues in August 2018. A survey was carried out and meetings with farmers to be connected to these networks were organised to collect information and views regarding their expectations. Additional information requested by the Irrigation Expert has already been submitted and he is currently working on the design of the network for the three sites.

In the meantime, materials such as P.E. pipes, water tanks and pumps have already been purchased for the project.

Madam Chairperson, the estimated cost of the establishment of the distribution networks will be worked out by the Irrigation Expert and will be obtained upon submission of the report by the Officer.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (c), the works have not yet started. My commission is waiting for the report of the Irrigation Expert with details on the scope of works to proceed with tendering exercise for the establishment of the distribution networks.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, it is amazing. It is as if we are putting *la charrue devant les bœufs*. I take one example. I would like to ask the respected Commissioner by the time when we were constructing the *retenue collinaire* of Batatrand, why has the distribution network not been set up? Since one year, it has been completed and up to now, can we know whether there has been any distribution network that has been set up?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the distribution network was set up but by people who do not know much about this and finally, we have found that there was some problem with it. That is why in order to be able to do something good, sometimes, you know, people criticise. We are not doing it well, so, we try to get someone who is qualified in this system to do the work better. That is why we ask someone to come.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, can I know from the Commissioner of Agriculture whether it takes more than one year to connect the pipe to have the distribution network and can I know what has become of the water? During this one year, the water has been left like this, idle. What has become of this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The water is being used, Madam Chairperson, the water is being pumped by the tankers to distribute to the planters that are in need.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, there is another respected Member who wish to put his question. Please! Yes?

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, we have heard the Commissioner speaking about Montagne Goyave, Batatrand, Baie Malgache. We have heard anything about Roche Bon Dieu. What has happened? And the other *retenue collinaire* which is also available in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is true that there are other *retenue collinaire* which are available. I was thinking that the Member wanted to know more about these three new ones but I can answer, you know. We know that some of these, unfortunately, the other *retenues collinaires*, some of them are not in order. Some of them, the shield inside has been stolen. Most of them are not working. Yes, yes, I can give you the one for Papayes for example. It has been stolen. So, my Commission is working on the other ones. That is why the Chief Commissioner announced it in his budget speech that we are working on all

of the other ones to be able to... But I can assure that we know that we have some problems with the *retenue*, the one at Mt Goyaves for example, after the heavy rain, big rocks went into it. It is probably leaking. So, we got some problems with these *retenues collinaires* but we are sorting it out.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can I ask whether at the Commission for Agriculture, there is a unit which deals with irrigation purposes in Rodrigues?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Can you repeat please?

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, I was asking the Commissioner whether at his Commission, there is a unit, there is a I do not know how to do you call it. Irrigation Unit or I do not know, which deals with irrigation purposes in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, if you have a unit, why do you have....? I think we have officers in Rodrigues. If you trust the officers, they should know! What is there difficult in just opening a tap and let water go in the garden of the people? So, why should there... you hide behind once again experts coming, experts coming? So, why is it that the unit is not doing the job?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, it is not that easy. When we talk about... We are talking about Government money. We are not just... We do not want to waste this money.

[Interruptions]

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

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is not...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is not just opening a tap and let water go! We are talking about connecting people to a network! It is a long-term project! We have to make sure that everybody... You know, sometimes, what happens on some networks that have been done a long time ago by.... you know. What has happened? What has happened? Today...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please, it seems that the respected Members are not interested to hear the answer. So, we move to the next question!

STATE LANDS – AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

(No. B/141) Mr. J. N. Nemours (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to State lands for agricultural purposes, from 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, table a list of permits delivered, indicating their respective location and exact extent granted therefor?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, since the question is about tabling some information, I am tabling the information.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RUNWAY – PLAINE CORAIL AIRPORT

(No. B/142) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a new runway at the Plaine Corail Airport, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at to date?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to inform the House that with regard to the construction of a new runway at Plaine Corail Airport, my Regional Government has made tremendous progress therefore and that major milestones have been achieved to date.

As the House is aware, the Consultants have already submitted the preliminary design report for the most economically and financially viable land based option in October 2018. The report has been endorsed by the Executive Council in November 2018 after recommendation by a Technical Committee.

Furthermore, Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that discussions with regard to funding of the project have reached an advanced stage with the *Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD)* and the European Union (EU). I am informed that the Honorable Prime Minister during his last mission to Paris, discussed same with his counterpart and an agreement in principle has been reached.

Subsequently, my office welcomed a high level delegation from the AFD and the European Union Commission during the end of November 2018, whereby the progress achieved so far has been assessed. The AFD/EU mission also aimed at further discussing the modalities of funding with the different stakeholders namely; MOFED, RRA, and ARL inter alia.

Madam Chairperson, it is worth noting that the new runway length will be now of 2.1 kilometers excluding the 450 metres required for the reserved strip for.... RESA and is being designed to serve A321 neo types aircraft as compared to the B737/A319 types aircrafts as initially planned. The project also provides for a full masterplan of all the required airport facilities to meet the exigencies of all international norms. The actual revised cost is now estimated at about Rs 3.9 b.

The preliminary design report of the new runway at Plaine Corail Airport has now been handed over to the Airport of Rodrigues Ltd to proceed further with its implementation. Consequently, Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the Request for Proposal for the Environment Impact Assessment was being launched on 03 December 2018 with closing date 15 January 2019. I am further informed that the tender for detailed design and supervision for the construction of the project is expected to be launched by mid-January 2019.

I wish to further apprise the House that a monthly monitoring committee has been set up comprising all the above mentioned stakeholders to ensure the deadlines and different milestones are met as smoothly as possible.

Hence, Madam Chairperson, my Government and all the relevant stakeholders are working diligently to ensure that the works at Plaine Corail Airport be kick-started before the end of 2019.

Mr. J. N. Nemours: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner with regard to the relocation of the inhabitants of Sainte Marie? What are the measures being envisaged by his Commission?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am currently presiding a Steering Committee to oversee the relocation of the inhabitants of Sainte Marie in connection with the extension of the runway. A Technical Committee chaired by the Island Chief Executive has been also set up in collaboration with Commission for State Lands, Commission for Public Infrastructure, Commission for Housing, Commission for Agriculture and Commission for Fisheries to spearhead the '*technicalities*' of the relocation process. I wish to inform the House that several site visits and surveys have been already conducted, detailing inhabitants having their houses, livestock farm, fisherman post and crop plantation within the new airport zone as well as identification of the relocation areas.

As at date, five meetings have been held with the inhabitants namely on the 13 July, 09 August, 12 September, 27 September and 22 November 2018. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly will ensure the inhabitants be relocated to a site of their choice instead of a compulsory acquisition whilst providing them all facilities including access road, water and electricity supply. Furthermore, my office will also ensure that the inhabitants enjoy the same amenities and even better than what they have actually at Sainte Marie. The whole relocation process will be carried out in collaboration with the inhabitants and as basic principle, the safeguard of their interest.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

INFANT MORTALITY IN RODRIGUES – YEAR 2018

(No. B/143) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for . Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to infant mortality in Rodrigues for the year 2018, he will inform the House of:

- (a) the number thereof together with the respective cause of death for each case and stating if the infant was under any medical supervision and/or treatment;
- (b) any protocol set at the level of his Commission to fully investigate into the cause thereof whenever same occurs; and
- (c) any established mechanism for the follow-up of the bereaved family at the level of his Commission?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson,

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- (a) The number of infant's mortality registered in Rodrigues from January 2018 as at date is nine. The causes of death are as follows:-

SN	Year	Total No. of Deaths	Cause of Death
1.	Jan	1	Severe acute fetal distress due to birth asphyxia difficult labour
2.	Feb	1	Severe birth asphyxia meconium aspiration syndrome
3.	March	1	Necrotising vasculitis cat cry syndrome
4.	April	0	
5.	May	1	Premature acute respiratory distress syndrome
6.	June	2	1. Birth asphyxia septic neonatal 2. Sepsis neonatal prematurity
7.	July	0	
8.	August	1	Failure to thrive anaemia hepatomegaly/splenomegally
9.	September	1	Purpura fulminans
10.	October	1	Shock cardiogenic dehydration severe
11.	November	0	
Total		9	

All infants were under the constant supervision and treatment of Pediatrician.

Madam Chairperson, as regard to part (b), I am of the opinion that it may not be appropriate to investigate in every case of mortality where the cause of death has been established to be of a natural nature, unless there is representation from the families or the death is suspicious. In such cases, the relatives are advised to come forward with a formal complaint to enable my Commission to solicit the collaboration of the Ministry of Health and/or the Medical Council for investigation and enquiry purpose as appropriate.

(c) As regard to part (c), the bereaved families are accompanied by the Social Worker posted at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital since September 2018. In case further psychological support is required, the Social Worker will facilitate the families to have the service of the Psychologist posted at the Commission for Women and Child Development.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

PENSION SCHEME FOR FISHERMEN

(No. B/144) Mr. J.R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether there is a pension scheme set up for fishermen at the level of his Commission and, in the affirmative, to:

- (a) state and table the terms and conditions thereof;
- (b) elaborate on the eligibility criteria therefor together with the procedure set to subscribe thereto and/or to obtain information thereon; and
- (c) state if contribution thereto can be terminated at any time and, if yes, to specify the attached conditions therefor and, in the negative, to give reasons why?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that there is no Pension Scheme set up at the level of my Commission specifically designed for fishermen. However, though my reply is not affirmative, on the basis of providing valuable information to the House, it is my duty to enlighten the Respected Members of the House on the provision of the law namely, the National Pension Act of 1976 as subsequently amended. I am informed that the National Pensions Scheme set up at the level of the Ministry of Social Security makes provision for Persons Voluntarily Insured.

As from 1980, provision has been made for self-employed persons to contribute to the Fund. And, just like some small Entrepreneur and other self-employed persons, a certain number of fishermen in Rodrigues have joined the NPF under this Scheme.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, as provided at Section 15 of Part III of the Act, to be eligible as Persons Voluntarily Insured, a person must:

- (i) have attained the age of 18; and
- (ii) be under the retirement age.

Any person who wishes to be voluntarily insured has to make an application in the prescribed manner to the Minister and that person shall become an insured person as from such day as the Minister may, on approval of the application, specify.

In Rodrigues, the Commission for Fisheries and the Finance Section of the Administration are responsible to check off the amount to be contributed, submit the monthly returns and make payments to the Mauritius Revenue Authority, the MRA, which is the collecting agency of the National Pensions Fund.

In Rodrigues the Commission for Fisheries and the Finance Section of the Central Administration are responsible to check-off the amount to be contributed, submit the monthly returns and make payments to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), which is the collecting agency of the National Pensions Fund.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (c) of the Question, I am informed that as fishermen fall under category 3 of the First Schedule of the Act, a Voluntarily Insured Person can terminate his contribution at any time. However, he will be entitled to his Contributory Pension only when he becomes eligible for Basic Retirement Pension or if he is qualified for Basic Invalidity Pension. In case of death before the age of 60, his spouse is entitled to Widows Contributory Pension.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

GRANT/SCHEME FOR THE CASTING/RE-CASTING OF SLAB

(No. B/145) Mr. J.R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether in regard to any grant/scheme for the casting/re-casting of slab at the level of his Commission, from January 2018 to date, he will inform the House of: -

- (a) the number of beneficiaries thereof, indicating the total amount disbursed per category as at date; and
- (b) any outstanding applications where potential beneficiaries are to awarded same before the 31st December 2018 and, in the affirmative,

to give the date therefor together with the total amount to be disbursed per category?

The Commissioner for Employment and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste):
Madam Chairperson, the Grant for Casting/Re-casting of Roof Slab Scheme is a national policy that provides financial assistance to people who are not eligible under other housing schemes in place but are making an effort to construct a house by their own means.

“Ene fami enn bon lakaz” had been the driving principle of this government and we have aligned ourselves with the policy prevailing in Mauritius with regard to eligibility criteria and maximum amount of grant. The potential beneficiaries were until 30 June 2018 eligible for a grant of up to a maximum of Rs 75,000 for a 100 m² roof. For applications made as from 01 July 2018 the ceiling of the grant has been increased to Rs 100,000.

Madam Chairperson, my Commission, being aware that many of our elderly people were deprived from this grant because either they did not have a building plan, a building permit or a land lease, introduced a special “Elderly Slab Scheme” to cater for this category of beneficiaries. We have even gone further by amending the eligibility criteria with regard to household income ceiling from Rs 18,000 formerly and this has now been increased to Rs 20,000.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the number of beneficiaries under the Grant for Casting of Slab Scheme and the amount disbursed are as follows:

S/N	Month	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed
1	March 2018	92	3,391,280
2	October 2018	57	2,341,517
TOTAL			5,732,797

And moreover, under the Elderly Slab Scheme, the information I have obtained is that an amount of Rs 444,520 has been disbursed in favour of seven beneficiaries. |

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (b) of the question, the pending applications which could have been disbursed before the end of this December are as follows:

S/N	Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Normal Scheme	39
2	Elderly Slab Scheme	54 approved beneficiaries

For practical reasons, we have decided to hand over the cheques to the 19 beneficiaries on the 08 of January 2019. Taking into account both Slabs Schemes, the gross total disbursement from January 2018 to January 2019, including the batch which have already been approved. So, the total amount would be Rs 11,437,691 in favour of 249 *bénéficiaires*. *Donc, Rs 11,437,691 pour 249 bénéficiaires.*

Madam Chairperson: Time is over. Question time is over.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

PRIMARY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE (PSAC) ASSESSMENT 2018 RESULTS

The Chief Commissioner: Allow me, Madam, Chairperson, to make a short statement to the House with regard to the results of the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Assessment 2018 which was conducted in October last.

Madam Chairperson, 873 school candidates took part in the Primary School Achievement Certificate Assessment and following the marking exercise by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in Mauritius, the results have been released on Wednesday 12 December 2018.

The House is being informed that out of the 873 school candidates who sat for the Primary School Achievement Certificate in October last, 646 got through with an overall pass rate of 74% as compared to 69.26% in 2017. 65 candidates missed one subject and these candidates have been given the opportunity for a re-assessment exercise which will be held on Friday 21st of December.

Madam, Chairperson, prior to the re-assessment, the candidates have been given an opportunity to follow remedial classes to enable them to succeed in that particular subject. The remedial classes are being run from 13 December to 20 December 2018 in four lead schools namely: -

- (i) Ste Thérèse de L'Enfant Jesus RCEA;

- (ii) Mangues Government School;
- (iii) Notre Dame de Lourdes RCEA; and
- (iv) Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School.

Madam, Chairperson, the House is being informed that in 2019, 226 pupils will be admitted to the Extended Programme in the Secondary Schools.

Madam Chairperson, allow me to seize this opportunity to congratulate all the students and their parents, the school staffs and Inspectors on their contribution and commitment to achieve this outstanding results.

In addition, Madam, Chairperson, allow me to assure the House and the school communities that this Government will always give due consideration to the promotion of quality education in our educational institutions. In this quest, no efforts will be spared to provide schools with appropriate and adequate facilities in this understanding.

ENLEVEMENT D'EMBARGO SUR L'EXPORTATION DES BÉTAILS DE RODRIGUES VERS MAURICE

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

Mme. la présidente, je vous remercie de me donner l'occasion de faire une déclaration dans cette Assemblée sur l'enlèvement de l'embargo qui avait été imposé sur l'exportation des bétails de Rodrigues vers Maurice suite à l'épisode de la fièvre aphteuse qui a affecté ce secteur depuis août 2016.

Mme. la présidente, ceci constitue un développement majeur qui était longtemps attendu par la communauté des éleveurs de Rodrigues. Nous savons tous que l'élevage est un moyen de survie ou d'avancement socioéconomique pour beaucoup de familles à Rodrigues.

Mme. la présidente, qui ne se souvient pas de cette page noire qui a affecté Rodrigues qui est la fièvre aphteuse. Le secteur de l'élevage de Rodrigues fut sérieusement affecté par la fièvre aphteuse en août 2016 avec pour conséquence, l'imposition d'un embargo sur l'exportation des bétails vers Maurice avec comme argument pour assurer la protection du secteur de l'élevage de Maurice.

Faisons la comparaison entre l'exportation avant, pendant et après la fièvre aphteuse et l'imposition de l'embargo sur l'exportation des bétails vers Maurice. En 2014, *Madam Chairperson*, on exportait 1497 bœufs sur Maurice, 2015 – 1412, 2016 (l'évènement/l'année où on a eu la fièvre aphteuse) – 862 ; 2017 –

444. Ce qui fait que ça montre que ça descendait vers une descente vraiment catastrophique. Pour les cabris, avant la fièvre aphteuse, on exportait en 2014 – 3994 ; 2015 – 3911. Pendant la fièvre aphteuse – 2432 ; et 2017 – 1800. Mouton, pareil, la tendance est pareil, Mme. la présidente. 2014 – 1908 ; 2015 – 2039 ; 2016 – 1689 ; en 2017 seulement 1404.

Mme. la présidente, basant sur les statistiques, il est clair que l'imposition de l'embargo suite à l'épisode de la fièvre aphteuse a eu pour conséquence une réduction drastique au niveau de l'exportation de bétails sur Maurice, au détriment des éleveurs de Rodrigues. La levée de l'embargo à partir de Janvier 2019 apportera donc une bouffée d'oxygène pour soulager ce secteur.

Mme. la présidente, le Gouvernement Régional sous le leadership du Chef Commissaire, Serge Clair, n'est pas resté les bras croisés quand Rodrigues fut affecté par la fièvre aphteuse en 2016. Avec le soutien de nos partenaires, après les prélèvements et analyse se sang, trois campagnes de vaccination ont été menées de façon très professionnel sur l'île entière. Les statistiques sont comme suite :

Première Vaccination

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Boeuf	9055
2	Cabris et Moutons	28049
3	Cochon	15079
TOTAL		52180

Deuxième Vaccination

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Boeuf	6836
2	Cabris et Moutons	20717
3	Cochon	12395
TOTAL		39964

Troisième Vaccination

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Boeuf	5611
2	Cabris et Moutons	9769

3	Cochon	7999
	TOTAL	23378

Mme. la présidente, grâce à cette campagne de vaccination et la sensibilisation des éleveurs par le service vétérinaire, Rodrigues a pu contenir la fièvre aphteuse. Je tiens ici à remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué à la réussite de cet exercice, plus particulièrement les éleveurs, les officiers de ma Commission, le Conseil Exécutif et le Ministère de l'Agro-Industrie et de la Sécurité Alimentaire pour leur dévouement.

Mme. la présidente, l'Assemblée Régionale a aussi négocié avec les autorités de Maurice pour l'exportation des animaux de Rodrigues afin de soulager les éleveurs et du fait que l'île Maurice aussi fut affecté par la fièvre aphteuse et du coup toute la République était affecté. C'est ainsi qu'après négociation, l'embargo sur l'exportation de poule fut enlevé en novembre 2016. Par la suite, Mme. la présidente, après négociation, Maurice décida d'accepter que seulement la Mauritius Meat Authority (MMA) sera autorisé d'acheter des cabris et moutons de Rodrigues qui ont été vaccinés contre la fièvre aphteuse. Cela prenait effet à partir de Décembre 2016. Jusqu'à maintenant, la MMA a importé 3397 moutons et 3978 cabris de Rodrigues. Le prix étant de Rs 175 le kilo, qui inclut un subside de Rs 15 payé par ma commission et Rs 160 par la MMA.

En ce qui concerne l'exportation des bœufs, suite à la négociation entamée par le Gouvernement Régional, la MMA a commencé à acheter de Rodrigues à partir de Septembre 2017. Un total de 505 taureaux fut exporté vers Maurice de septembre 2017 à juin 2018. Le prix étant de Rs 105 par kilo. Ma commission paie le fret et le '*management fees*' à la RTMC pour l'exportation des bétails achetés par la MMA. Ce qui est intéressant à noter, Mme. la présidente, c'est que tous les animaux exportés sont pesés alors qu'auparavant l'exercice de vente était fait, basé sur une estimation et négociation, très souvent au détriment de l'éleveur.

Mme. la présidente, après discussions avec le Ministère de l'Agro-Industrie et de la Sécurité Alimentaire, les bouchers individuels de Maurice détenant un permit d'importation fut autorisé à venir acheter des bœufs à Rodrigues pour l'abattage à l'abattoir de MMA, sous certaines conditions pour assurer la biosécurité. De juin 2018 jusqu'à maintenant, la MMA a acheté 269 bœufs de Rodrigues alors que les bouchers individuels ont acheté 19.

En ce qui concerne la 'sero-surveillance' par les Services Vétérinaires, Mme. la présidente, les prélèvements sanguins ont été effectués sur les animaux comme suit, pour des fins analyses:

Premier Round

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Bœuf	40
2	Cabri et Mouton	102
3	Cochon	133
TOTAL		275

Deuxième Round

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Bœuf	75
2	Cabri et mouton	345
3	Cochon	130
TOTAL		550

Troisième Round

SN	ESPECES	NOMBRE
1	Bœuf	98
2	Cabri et mouton	416
3	Cochon	53
TOTAL		567

Il est à noter que les Services Vétérinaires sont dotés d'un appareil Elisa qui est utilisé à faire des analyses de sang par rapport à la présence des traces de la fièvre aphteuse et d'autres maladies. L'équipement est un don du CIRAD en Juin 2017.

Les résultats d'analyse de sang des bétails de Rodrigues, Madam Chairperson, au laboratoire Animal Health Lab de Réduit sont comme suit :

- Premier analyse: 11% ;
- Deuxième analyse: 5.4% NSP Positive ; et
- Troisième analyse: 4.07% NSP Positive

Un résultat de moins de 5% NSP positive démontre que la maladie a été contrôlée et c'est un argument très fort pour l'enlèvement de l'embargo sur l'exportation des animaux.

Justement, Mme. la présidente, j'étais en mission à Maurice la semaine dernière en compagnie de mon Chef de Cabinet et du Manager de L'Agricultural Research and Extension Services pour une session de travail avec l'Honorable Ministre de L'Agro-Industrie et de la Sécurité Alimentaire, M. Mahen Serrutun et ses officiers. Avant ça, la situation dont fait face les éleveurs de Rodrigues a été exposé au Premier Ministre durant sa dernière visite chez nous le mois dernier.

Nous avons fait une requête au Ministre de procéder à l'enlèvement de l'embargo sur l'exportation du bétail vers Maurice afin de soulager les difficultés auxquels font face la communauté des éleveurs de Rodrigues. Le fait que les résultats des analyses de sang ont été bons, il n'y a pas de justification pour continuer à maintenir l'embargo qui fait souffrir nos éleveurs, qui font partie intégrante de la République de Maurice, et qui n'arrivent pas à vendre leurs animaux.

Notre demande a été agréée et donc j'ai l'immense plaisir d'annoncer que l'enlèvement de l'embargo sera en vigueur à partir de Janvier 2019, une très bonne nouvelle pour la communauté des éleveurs de Rodrigues ainsi que les acheteurs individuels de Maurice pourront venir acheter des bétails de Rodrigues comme auparavant.

[Applause]

Nous recommandons aux éleveurs de continuer à suivre les mesures de biosécurité et de vendre leurs animaux après pesage au lieu de le faire sur estimation et négociation.

Pour terminer, Mme. la présidente, permettez-moi de remercier le Chef Commissaire et mes Collègues du Conseil Exécutif, le Island Chief Executive, mon Chef de Cabinet et les staffs de ma commission, le Premier Ministre, le Ministre de l'Agro-Industrie et de la Sécurité Alimentaire et ses officiers, le General Manager de la MMA, M. Daumoo, le Chef Vétérinaire, la communauté des éleveurs de Rodrigues et tous ceux qui d'une façon ou d'une autre ont contribué pour combattre la fièvre aphteuse et permettre l'enlèvement de l'embargo sur l'exportation du bétails vers Maurice. Ceci marque un nouveau chapitre dans le secteur de l'élevage à Rodrigues et sans doute, l'année 2019 et les années à venir seront nettement meilleurs pour les éleveurs de Rodrigues. Je vous remercie, Madam Chairperson.

[Applause]

GREETINGS

The Chief Commissioner: Mme. la présidente, il est de tradition qu'à chaque fin d'année de porter un regard sur ce qui a été fait afin de tirer des leçons pour l'année 2019. Nous allons compléter une année de plus de notre mandat 2017-2022. Je peux rassurer la Chambre et à la population que mon gouvernement travaille toujours avec conviction et détermination pour arriver à construire l'île Rodrigues de nos rêves. Mon gouvernement va continuer à poursuivre ces efforts pour le renforcement des capacités des Rodriguais afin qu'ils puissent continuer à être des catalyseurs de leurs propres développements et construire leurs avenir. Nous allons continuer à travailler dans le respect et la dignité comme des hommes et des femmes responsables envers le peuple Rodriguais.

Mme. la présidente, nous nous sommes jamais écartés et nous nous écarterons jamais de notre vision de consolider le développement de ce pays et d'accompagner les Rodriguais dans la construction de leurs avenir. C'est à la fois une évidence et un principe de base de l'action de mon gouvernement. Et, nous nous consacrerons pleinement à cette mission dans l'intérêt du peuple de Rodrigues.

Mme. la présidente, pour y parvenir, je tiens à saluer la contribution de toute un chacun. En cette fin d'année, je voudrais surtout féliciter et remercier mes collègues Commissaires et Membres de la majorité pour leurs efforts assidues et participation active tout au long de cette année 2018. Nous avons travaillé sans relâche à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des Rodriguais et entamer les projets de développement de mon gouvernement. Nous continuerons à tenir notre engagement et redoubler l'effort pour l'année 2019. Permettez-moi, Mme. la présidente, de remercier aussi la population pour leur compréhension et leur soutien active dans le développement de notre île bien aimée.

L'Arrivée du câble optique, les développements majeurs à venir dans le secteur aéroportuaire et dans le secteur de l'eau seront les actions phares de l'année 2019.

Mme. la présidente, permettez-moi de vous présenter à vous et à M. Spéville et famille, nos vœux de Joyeux Noël et Bonne et Heureuse Année 2019. Permettez-moi aussi, Mme. la présidente, de présenter nos vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Nouvel An à tous mes collègues Commissaires et à leurs familles, au Minority Leader et à sa famille, ainsi qu'aux Auguste Membres de cette Assemblée et à leurs familles.

Mme. la présidente, puis-je vous demander, en mon nom personnel et au nom de tous les Membres de cette Assemblée Régionale de transmettre au Président de la République par intérim, son Excellence Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory et Madame, au Premier Ministre, l'Honorable Pravind Jugnauth et Madame Jugnauth, ainsi qu'aux membres de son cabinet, au Speaker de l'Assemblée Nationale, Madame Maya Hanoomanjee, au Leader de l'Opposition, l'Honorable Xavier Duval et Madame, et aux membres de l'Assemblée Nationale et à leurs familles, nos vœux de Bonne et Heureuse Année 2019. Nos meilleurs vœux de Bonne et Heureuse Année vont aussi au Clerk de l'Assemblée Régionale, à tous le personnel de l'Assemblée et à leurs familles, les policiers et à leurs familles. Nos souhaits vont également au Island Chief Executive et le personnel de mon bureau, les Departmental Heads ainsi que tous le personnel des différentes commissions et à leurs familles.

Mme. la présidente, je voudrais présenter à toute la population de Rodrigues, tous les enfants, les jeunes et les adultes, mes vœux de Joyeux Noël et de Bonne et Heureuse Année 2019. Au-delà de ce que l'année 2018, qui s'achève, aura représenté pour chacun d'eux en terme d'épreuve, de joie, de défi, je les remercie de croire en mon gouvernement et de leur intérêt et dévouement pour contribuer au développement de Rodrigues. Mes remerciements vont aussi à tous ceux et toutes celles qui durant cette année ont travaillé avec volonté et courage pour la réussite de cette île Rodrigues autonome. Aux enfants et aux jeunes qui vont entamer le chemin de l'école, nous leurs souhaitons une bonne rentrée des classes pour 2019. Qu'ils puissent avec leurs enseignants participer pleinement dans le développement de leur personne. Nos meilleurs de Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année vont aussi à toutes ces familles Rodriguaises qui vivent et travaillent à l'île Maurice, à ceux et à celles habitant à l'île Maurice et qui travaillent à Rodrigues à *nou ban grands dimunes* et qui durant les fêtes de fin d'année vont vivre des moments et des souvenirs mémorables et inoubliables de leurs vies. Merci, Mme. la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Minority, I would like to convey my heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the inhabitants of the Republic of Mauritius, all protocol observed. I would like to send my wishes to the whole population of Rodrigues, I do not forget them, to you Madam Chair, your husband, the Chief Commissioner,

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his wife, all the Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, all the officers, the policemen, the Serjeant-at-arms, all those working in this assembly that have helped us greatly during this year and I do not forget also all our brothers and sisters from mainland Mauritius, our brothers and sisters from Agalega, St. Brandon, from the Chagos Archipelago and all the people of our diaspora. I will tell it in this terms so as not to forget anyone. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. Thank you.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Minority Leader. Respected Members, I wish to associate myself with the season's greetings as expressed by the House to the Acting President of the Republic, His Excellency, Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory and Mrs., to the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Mrs., to the Minister Mentor and Minister for Rodrigues, the Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth and Lady Sarojini Jugnauth, to Madam Speaker of the National Assembly, Mrs. Maya Hanoomanjee and Mr., to the Honourable Ministers and Honourable Members of the National Assembly and their respective families, in my own name and on behalf of the staff of the Regional Assembly, I thank the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader for their kind words and good wishes. I am pleased to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas 2018 and a Happy New Year 2019 on behalf of the Secretariat of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and on my own behalf to the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Louis Serge Clair and Mrs., to the Deputy Chief Commissioner, to all Commissioners, to the Minority Leader, to the Deputy Chairperson, to all Respected Members and their families. Allow me to thank the Respected Members of this August Assembly for their kind collaboration and understanding all throughout the year. I also avail myself of this opportunity to extend my gratitude and thanks to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Serjeant-at-Arms and his team and all the members of the staff of the Assembly for their collaboration the whole year round and convey to them and their families my best wishes. I direct the Clerk to transmit the season's greetings of our Regional Assembly including those of the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader to all concerned. Once again, my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this assembly does now adjourn to 19th of February 2019 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

L'EMBARGO

The Minority Leader: Merci, Mme. la présidente, je voudrais m'adresser à la Chambre sur une question qui concerne le Commissaire de l'Agriculture. L'histoire retiendra, Mme. la présidente, que nous approchons les fêtes de fin d'année et il y a beaucoup de Rodriguais qui ne vont pas pouvoir fêter ces fêtes de fin d'année. Il y a beaucoup qui dépendent de leurs animaux, ils voulaient vendre leurs animaux en cette d'année mais les animaux sont restés là. Et, on vient d'entendre que ce n'est que l'année prochaine au mois de janvier que l'embargo va être enlever. J'aurais tendance à dire *this is too little, too late*. L'embargo aurait dû être enlever bien avant. Et, qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? La MMA a acheté que des animaux mâles. On dirait on fait une discrimination sexuelle entre les animaux. On ne prend que les animaux mâles et les animaux femelles ils restent là. Mais là quelle garantie nous avons que les animaux femelles qui restent on va les prendre à un bon prix ? Donc, la tristesse se lit sur le visage de nos éleveurs Rodriguais. Et, ce qui est grave, là en cette période de fin d'année on aurait dû avoir plus de bateau pour acheter ces animaux pour qu'on puisse vendre ces animaux. Combien de bateau il y a ? Combien de bateau ? Combien de voyage on va avoir ? Et, on est à même de se demander, est-ce qu'il y a eu une espèce de connivence entre la MMA et la Commission de l'Agriculture pour qu'on n'arrive pas à vendre les animaux, enlever l'embargo bien avant ? Et, à quel prix, quelle garantie vous donnez à ces éleveurs ? Quelles procédures ont été mis en place pour qu'on puisse/pour que ces éleveurs puissent vendre ces animaux ? Mme. la présidente, il y a une inquiétude profonde qui taraude nos éleveurs. Et, il est du devoir de la Commission de l'Agriculture d'essayer d'enlever cette inquiétude, de les aider. Non pas faire si peu, si tard. Et, ils doivent attendre l'année prochaine. Et, en plus, je vais terminer sur ce point. L'abattoir qu'il y a à Baie Diamant, l'abattoir qui aurait dû être ouvert, un abattoir qui a été... on la terminer il y a plus de six ans, sept ans, l'abattoir avec son laboratoire. On aurait pu tuer les animaux, envoyer les carcasses à Maurice. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on n'ouvre pas cela ? Pourquoi on ne le rend pas opérationnel ? C'était fait d'après les normes Européenne. Est-ce que c'est parce que le MR qui avait fait ça ? On ne peut pas continuer à travailler comme ça. On dit il faut travailler ensemble mais là on est en train de saboter notre île. Si un parti vient avec des bonnes idées, on le prend qu'on aille de l'avant. Sinon, qu'est-ce qui va se passer, quel exemple on est en

train de donner ? Donc, il y a l'abattoir de Baie Diamant, j'espère qu'on va l'ouvrir bientôt et je pense qu'on doit donner des garanties à ces éleveurs. Parce que ces éleveurs ils dépendent de ça en cette d'année pour améliorer leurs maisons, acheter les trucs pour leurs enfants qui vont à l'école, à envoyer leurs enfants à l'université, ils ont besoin de ça. Mais malheureusement, il y a beaucoup de Rodriguais qui ne vont pas fêter ces fêtes de fin d'année comme il le faut. Je vous remercie, Mme. la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, the Commissioner would like to respond.

**REPLY TO THE INTERVENTION OF THE MINORITY LEADER –
L'EMBARGO**

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee):
Madam Chairperson, I would like to respond onto what the Minority Leader said. It is not too late. On n'a pas attendu longtemps pour le faire tout simplement parce que c'était une question de test sanguin. Et, c'était imposer et c'est normal, c'est naturel si ça se passe comme ça. On ne peut pas, j'ai bien dit, dans mon statement qu'il faut... les règles c'est que, quand on aurait arrivé jusqu'à un pourcentage de moins de 5% à ce moment-là. Mais même là, Mme. la présidente, je dois dire que ce n'était pas aussi simple que ça pour enlever l'embargo. Et, là enlever l'embargo ça ne dépend pas de l'Assemblée Régionale. C'est une décision qui vient, c'est Maurice qui ne veut pas que les animaux partent. Et, ils ont raison. Ils ont leurs arguments. Donc, là c'était le moment, c'était l'occasion, le moment. Donc, je ne suis pas d'accord de ce que le Minority Leader dit qu'on a attendu. Deuxième affaire c'est que, est-ce que les Rodriguais vont pouvoir vendre leurs animaux ? Oui, Mme. la présidente, parce que je vais peut-être l'annoncer là. Ça aller venir, ça vient. Mais on va mettre la viande bon marcher, ce qu'on appelle la viande Rs 10, là à partir de cette semaine. Non, on appelle ça comme ça. C'est le terme Rodriguais. La viande bon marcher sera l'actualité cette semaine et la semaine prochaine. Donc, avant... tous les jours pendant la semaine jusqu'à... Donc, les Rodriguais peut vraiment arrêter de souffrir vraiment et en même temps manger ces animaux qui sont en bonne santé, ce sera une réalité à partir de cette semaine jusqu'à le lever de l'embargo qui est prévu. Et, quand on dit attendre l'année prochaine, il parait que c'est une année mais ce n'est même pas vrai. C'est attendre quelques jours. On est quelle date ? On est le 18. Dans 12 jours on est l'année prochaine, 12 ou 13 jours, l'année prochaine, Mme. la présidente. Donc, essayer de noyer le poisson, ce n'est pas gentil. Mais j'espère que l'histoire

retiendra que... je redis ce que j'ai toujours dit dans cette assemblée, *tou cé ki to fer lor ça la ter na pas bon*, pour conclure, Mme. la présidente.

[Applause]

L'INVASION DE COCHENILLE

The First Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt):

Moi aussi je vais m'adresser au Commissaire de l'Agriculture parce que ce problème concerne tout le monde. Donc, je vais attirer l'attention de la Chambre sur l'invasion de cochenille qui prévoit à Rodrigues en ce moment. Bon, il y a eu dans le passé des tentatives de maîtriser ce problème. Mais on pense, on a constaté que ça cause beaucoup de problème en ce moment. Comme-ci, on a, je ne sais pas, la population de cochenille a multiplié exponentiellement et on n'arrive plus à contrôler. La question qu'on se pose c'est que, que fait la Commission de l'Agriculture ? Les méthodes utiliser pour contrôler les cochenilles, est-ce que ces méthodes-là sont efficaces et est-ce que c'est bon pour protéger les plantes à Rodrigues. Donc, est-ce que, il ne faut chercher d'autre méthode plus naturelle à contrôler ces cochenilles, parce que ça cause beaucoup de dégâts. On parle de stopper l'importation de certain fruit mais de l'autre cote, les fruits locaux se font attaquer par les cochenilles. Donc, je fais un appel à la Commission, au Commissaire de revoir ce problème dans l'urgence. Merci, Mme. la présidente.

[Applause]

REPLY TO THE FIRST LOCAL REGION MEMBER FOR LA FERME (MR. F. A. GRANDCOURT) - COCHENILLE

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Pour dire, donc encore une fois sur ce qui vient d'être dit. Le Membre parle de changer de façon de technique, allant plus vers le naturel. Ça a été fait, Mme. la présidente. On utilise, ce qu'on appelle, le contrôle biologique utilisant la coccinelle. Maintenant, si on utilise trop de pesticide, on tue ces animaux qui sont supposé contrôler les cochenilles. Donc, tout dernièrement, la Commission de l'Agriculture a envoyé des jeunes, des Rodriguais à se former en Inde, le *Zero Budget Farming*, et on a constaté qu'il y a un genre d'insecticides et biologique qui est utilisé, préparé et utilisé à base de plante à Rodrigues qui peut, pas tuer, mais contrôler ces espèces-là sans pour autant tuer trop les coccinelles qu'on a introduit pour contrôler ces cochenilles. Je suis d'accord avec le Membre que cochenille, ça devient un problème. Mais encore une fois, la question de que fait la Commission de l'Agriculture ne devait même pas se poser parce qu'on n'est pas en train de s'asseoir sur nos chaises et ne rien faire.

Beaucoup d'activités sont fait. On est en train de prendre ça au sérieux. D'ailleurs, Mme. Franchette Gaspard Pierre-Louis, Commissaire, on travaille ensemble parce qu'il y a les limons qui sont plus affectés et qu'on sait. Donc, j'avais dit, c'est du n'importe quoi et c'est vrai. Et, souvent on dit beaucoup de choses qui ne sont pas vraiment le cas. Donc, nous au niveau de la commission, on se bat, c'est un combat qu'on mène contre tous ces pestes et je suis sûre, Mme. la présidente, qu'on va gagner le combat.

LE SERVICE DE LA SANTE – TESTS DE LABORATOIRE

The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J.L.R. Perrine): *Tou céki to fer na pas bon.* Mme. la présidente, permettez-moi de rebondir, pas de rebondir mais de commenter un sujet d'actualité qui n'est pas tout à fait récent qui concerne le service de la santé mais particulièrement les tests, les *blood tests* et les différents tests qui sont fait au niveau de laboratoire de l'hôpital de Crève-Cœur. On a rencontré souvent des personnes qui nous disent ; en arrivant à l'hôpital de Crève-Cœur que leurs tests ont disparus, renvoyé à Maurice, ça a disparu, on ne voit pas ces tests-là. Et, ça cause beaucoup de préjudices a beaucoup de personnes. Surtout ceux qui souffrent, qui sont en attente pour une opération, par exemple, pour une opération ou pour envoyer à Maurice pour des traitements un peu plus pousser, surtout concernant le cancer, etc. Mais c'est triste d'entendre et ce n'est pas la première fois que ce problème est soulevé. C'est à plusieurs reprises. Mais je pense je vais faire un appel pressant au Commissaire de la santé pour qu'il donne priorité à un laboratoire, qui est digne de ce nom et enlever ce genre de prélat qui couvre notre laboratoire ou il faut faire quelque chose de presser pour que nos patients ne se retrouve pas encore à chaque en difficulté et chaque fois retourner et leurs traitements repousser, repousser, repousser et à la fin du compte, il se retrouve hospitaliser et incapable de remarcher après. Donc, je vais faire un appel au Commissaire concerner de donner priorité à cette aspect-là et à voire qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire pour améliorer le service dans laboratoire de Crève-Cœur et rendre un peu plus professionnel, je veux dire, ces tests pour que nos patients ne souffrent plus à l'avenir. Merci, Mme. la présidente.

REPLY TO THE SECOND ISLAND REGION MEMBER (MR. J.L.R. PERRINE) - *LE SERVICE DE LA SANTE - TESTS DE LABORATOIRE*

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mme. la présidente, le Membre ne peut pas enfler les choses, il y a des tests qui se perd, ça c'est vrai. Mais on est au courant de la chose mais ce n'est pas généralisé. Mais

avec l'introduction de *e-health* bientôt tous ces problèmes vont être résolu et il n'y aura pas de papier qui se perdra.

LE SPORT – FOOTBALL – REFORME/GRANT

The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin): Merci, Mme. la présidente, je voudrais parler concernant le sport, plus particulièrement, le football. Mais, Mme. la Commissaire n'est pas là. Tout dernièrement, elle a parlé, la Commissaire a parlé d'une réforme au niveau du football à Rodrigues. Et, qui a un *grant* de Rs 25,000 qu'on donne au équipe de Première Division. Et là, la ligue à terminer et j'ai appris que le Champion de la Ligue, M. Nemours, le Champion la Ligue, Rising, il reçoit comme *cash prize* Rs 35,000. Mais seulement, lorsque je regarde ce que la MFA y fait pour les équipes à Maurice normalement les équipes de Rodrigues aussi devraient être comprise mais c'est dommage que pour les différentes prestations, Rodrigues ne figure pas sur cette liste-là. Je prends, par exemple, la MFA. Pour le Super Ligue à Maurice, ici on a parlé d'une réforme, une reforme avec Rs 25,000 par équipe. Pour la Super Ligue à Maurice, chaque club il reçoit Rs 1.2 million. National First Division – Rs 500,000 par club. National Second Division – Rs 400,000 par club. Regional Football Association, et là aussi pas de Rodrigues – Rs 100,000 par région. Et, la ligue a terminé depuis avril et les arbitres n'ont pas encore payé jusqu'à présent. L'équipe championne de la Première Division à Rodrigues, Rising participera à la MFA Cup bientôt, l'année prochaine à Maurice et Rising va se confronter avec tous ces équipes qui reçoivent Rs 1.2 million, Rs 500,000, Rs 400,000, Rs 100,000 et à Rodrigues s'est dommage. Dommage que l'équipe de Rising qui comprend au moins 25 joueurs va partir avec seulement 19 joueurs. Une équipe championne de Rodrigues, depuis au départ même on limite le nombre de joueur pour participer à la MFA Cup. Quel encouragement ! Et là, ces équipes-là, ils sont en train de tout faire, organiser ici et là, pour pouvoir payer pour les autres joueurs qui vont participer, les autres billets, pour aller participer à la MFA Cup, pour représenter Rodrigues, une équipe championne.

Mme. la présidente, en ce moment à Maurice, se tient une compétition au niveau de la UFFOI, l'Union Fédération Football de l'Océan Indien. J'ai vu que le Conseil Exécutif a agréé que ces deux équipes participent, deux équipes de moins de 17 ans et plus senior participent à cette compétition à Maurice du 17 au 21 décembre 2018. Et, c'est dommage qu'au niveau des seniors, il y avait une sélection d'une vingtaine de joueuses, de footballeuse, mais c'est dommage que à la dernière minute une personne est restée sur la touche. Quel encouragement encore pour notre football ! Qu'est-ce qu'on fait, Mme. la présidente, pour donner de l'encouragement à nos athlètes ? Et, ce n'est pas terminé, Mme. la présidente,

j'aurais aimé parler encore d'autres disciplines mais dans mon intervention cette après-midi, j'avais dit que j'allais parler de football. Et, dans d'autres disciplines, Mme. la présidente, c'est pire. Mais, c'est dommage pour notre sport à Rodrigues. Je vous remercie, Mme. la présidente.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourn. You are kindly invited to join us for a toast for the New Year in the lobby. Thank you.

At 15.22 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 19 February 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BAD QUALITY OF “RIZ RATION”

(No. B/146) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Others whether, in regard to the bad quality of “riz ration” on the market for the past three months, she will inform the House as to where matters stand as at date, indicating the control extent her commission exercises over same and stating the measures taken or being envisaged to ensure that the people get value for money in relation thereto?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I will reply to this question though it is addressed to my Colleague Commissioner for Trade, Commerce, Licencing and Others because it is more related to Consumer Affairs than trade.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that neither the Consumer Affairs Unit of my commission nor the Public Health Inspectorate Unit has received any complaint from consumers during the past three months about the bad quality of “riz ration”.

While at the level of the Consumer Affairs Unit, the officers cannot “technically” check the quality of the rice, have nevertheless enquired from the State Trading Corporation (STC) on this issue.

I am informed that the STC has indeed received a few complaints from consumers lately, about the long grain rice (*riz ration*) from India, which is the actual variety on sale on the island. They have complained that the rice did not

cook well, smelled bad during cooking and cooked rice went bad after only a few hours.

Madam Chairperson, my commission has no control over the “*riz ration*” put on sale in Rodrigues, being given that before importation of rice to Mauritius, a “pre-market” certificate has to be submitted for the consignment, in conformity with existing legal requirements. However, the Public Health Inspectorate Unit does intervene following requests from the STC to with regard to:

- (i) issuing a “condemning” certificates in respect of “caked” rice; and
- (ii) inspection of rice spilled during the handling of bags at the warehouse and collected thereafter, to ensure whether or not it is still fit for human consumption. If found unfit, the collected spilled rice is disposed of as animal feeds.

In so doing, the Public Health Inspectorate Unit and by the extension, the RRA, is ensuring that consumers are getting value for money as far as “*riz ration*” consumption is concerned.

However, it must be noted that humidity may also affect rice quality. We have been informed that the STC takes all precautionary measures to reduce risk of humidity during handling and storage of rice bags. In spite of this control measure, the rice may still be exposed to humidity during inland transportation by lorries or storage in village shops.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRES - ACCACIA, TERRE ROUGE & PETIT GABRIEL

(No. B/147) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Community Development and Others whether, in regard to the construction of the community centres of Accacia, Terre Rouge and Petit Gabriel, he will state and table the total sum disbursed for each?

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to announce that the 03 Community Centres namely Accacia, Petit Gabriel and Terre Rouge have been completed and the total sum disbursed for each Community Centre are as follows:-

- (i) Accacia Community Centre, which was inaugurated on 02 December 2018 amounts to Rs 7,296,586.70 including VAT. A sum of Rs 5,824,544.64 has been disbursed as at date;

- (ii) Petit Gabriel Community Centre, which was inaugurated on 14 December 2018 amounts to Rs 16,686,100.95 including VAT. A sum of Rs 15,198,245.36 has been disbursed to date; and
- (iii) Terre Rouge Community Centre, which will be inaugurated on 21 December 2018 amounts to Rs 8,455,442.85 including VAT. A sum of Rs 4,340,380.29 has been disbursed as at date.

SETTING UP OF COMMITTEE – PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORT OF VEHICLES OVER SEVEN YEARS OLD IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/148) Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the setting up of a committee to examine and recommend on the prohibition of the import of vehicles over 7 years old in Rodrigues, as announced in the Budget Speech 2018/2019, he will inform the House of where matters stand as at date?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Shipment of Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2017 came into effect as from January 2018. As at date, 410 transshipment permit for four-wheelers vehicles have been issued under these Regulations. A comparative analysis shows that the number of vehicles shipped was 592 for the same period in 2017.

Madam chairperson, the House will remember that the Regulations were introduced with the view of exerting some control on our automobile park with a view of protecting our environment, public health and improving road safety.

I would like to point out that one Mr. J. C. Spéville has sworn affidavits before the Master and Registrar on 09 February and 09 March 2018 for a request for a judicial review of these Regulations. The case has been fixed for 11 February 2019 for 'Arguments'. In view of the latter and given the fact that the matter is sub-judice, I find it wiser to wait for the outcome of the case before setting up the Committee.

However, my commission is compiling the weaknesses noted since the Regulations are in operation so that same may be incorporated in any subsequent amendments.

GRANT OF FENCING TO PLANTERS/BREEDERS IN RODRIGUES

- JANUARY 2017 TO DATE

(No. A/4) **Mr. F.A. Grandcourt** (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the grant of fencing to planters/breeders in Rodrigues, from January 2017 to date, he will inform the House of the: -

- a) eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom and table the list of beneficiaries thereof, indicating the purpose and activities carried out by each beneficiary; and
- b) amount of money disbursed by his Commission therefor during this period?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a), the Eligibility Criteria to benefit from the Fencing Scheme were as follows:

- Planters who are holders an agricultural permit or lease.
- Planters who are holders of a farmer's card and who are cultivating the whole area of their land.
- Duly registered cooperatives who are cultivating the whole of their plot of land of not more than 25002 sq m.
- Priority was given to planters deriving their income mainly from agricultural activities.

For ethical reasons, it is not proper to disclose the list of beneficiaries of the fencing scheme but I would like to inform the house that 88 farmers have already benefited from the scheme.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b), the amount of funds disbursed since January 2017 to date:

Sn	Items	Quantity	Amount (Rs)
1	Galvanised pipes	4,000 units	2, 879, 600
2	Fencing	60,000 m	3, 312, 000
	Total		6, 191, 600