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RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 2 of 2019

Sitting of Tuesday 19 February 2019

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. 2 of 2019

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 19 TUESDAY 2019

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ADJOURNMENT

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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: First Local Region Member of Maréchal.

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

(No. B/1) The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Miss M.R. Collet) 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?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina): Madam Chairperson, my Commission is leaving no stone unturned to promote the participation and engagement in sports activities both at the level of '*Sport Pour Tous*' and elite sports and the results are palpable and remarkable, Madam Chair.

With regards to the sports among women, since the last three years, my Commission has set up training schools such as '*Ecole de Basket*' at Baie Lascar, '*Centre Formation de Handball*' at Manique, '*Centre de Formation de Football Féminin*' at La Ferme to enhance the elite sports in the near future among young girls across the island.

Madam Chairperson, concerning football among young girls as at date, we have two technical centres for the young girls, that is, one for those between 12 and 13 years and one for those aged between 14 and 17 years old.

In the context of the reforms being undertaken in the football sector, my Commission is also proposing to implement the following measures for development of feminine football as from January 2019. For example, there has been:

- (i) Talent identification and recruitment of feminine players at the level of football training centres and schools.
- (ii) To organise inter collegiate football tournaments as from 2019.

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- (iii) To promote the organisation of training school feminine football tournaments.
- (iv) Consolidation of existing Under 13, Under 15, Under 18 feminine football selections.
- (v) Organise exchange matches with friendly countries and in Mauritius on annual basis.

With regard to handball, two training structures Under 13 and Under 17, respectively have been set up for boys and girls. In addition to that, we have one training structure for basketball for both sexes at Baie Lascars. Both projects are being “*implementated*” with the... implemented, sorry, with the collaboration of their respective federations and financial support from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Madam Chair, I would like to highlight that for the first time, handball (boys and girls), football girls and basketball have been included in the delegations for ‘*Jeux des Jeunes Elites*’ and ‘*Jeux des Jeunes Talents*’. This is a very important achievement, Madam Chair.

With regard to cycling, my Commission is re-introducing the discipline and has organised a cycling race during the Youth on the Move Programme held for the first time in July last year where young bikers around the island has had the opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

In the meantime, my Commission has procured protective equipment for head, elbows and knees in view of promoting this activity. The Adviser for Sports is now working on the dossier to finalise the *modus operandi* for the reintroduction of this discipline.

Lastly, Madam Chair, with regard to the promotion of swimming around the island, my Commission has organised two major programmes, that is, ‘*A nou naze*’ programme last year whereby, around 1000 children and youth from 18 to 17 years have participated actively. This activity was organised with the collaboration of the Mauritius Sports Council.

Furthermore, amongst the 30 animators that have been trained as resource persons by the Mauritius Sports Council as swimming coach and lifesaver, two trainers from Rodrigues have had the opportunity to follow the training course by Autswim in Mauritius.

Madam Chair, I wish to inform the House that the Marechal swimming pool has already been handed over to the Commission for Youth and Sports and will be operational as from 16 March 2019 through a popular activity around water sports.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being worked out with the Mauritius Sports Council for the operation of the swimming pool which will promote training in swimming for all age groups. Furthermore, meetings have already been held with the stakeholders such as the Regional Committee, National Coast Guard and representatives of different schools with regard to the plan for the use of the swimming pool as from this year.

Madam Chair, I am also proud to inform the House that we are already harvesting the investment made in promoting these sports disciplines among the youths. For example, in the '*Jeux des Jeunes Elites*' and '*Jeux des Jeunes Talents 2018*', for the first time, Rodrigues sent a feminine football team and they won the gold medal; and the best player of the competition was a Rodriguan. The girls have also won the gold medal in handball for their first participation in the '*Jeux des Jeunes Talents*' with the best player being from the Rodrigues again. Owing to their good performance, four athletes were selected to integrate the national team to represent Mauritius in the CJSOI games.

Thirdly, our basketball team also reiterates the same performance by winning the gold medal in the competition this year and the boys won the silver medal and the best player was from Rodrigues as well. The Under 17 boys team of Rodrigues also brilliantly represented the island by winning the gold medal in the '*Jeux des Jeunes Elites 2018*'.

Madam Chair, I wish also to inform the House of the first time participation of U17 feminine football players and women senior team in the UFFOI (*Union des Federations de Football de L'Océan Indien*) which was held from 16 to 22 December 2018 in Mauritius which saw the participation of Mayottes, Comoro, Mauritius and Rodrigues. Thank you Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Thank you, Madam Chair. The respected Commissioner has said that she will leave no stone unturned in order to promote sports in Rodrigues. A few months back, Rodriguan, handball, beach handball team went to Mauritius and participated in a tournament and they won the tournament. And, the winner was to represent the Republic of Mauritius in Argentina and this was not done. It was a team from Mauritius that went to Argentina. We have put question here, the respected Commissioner said that she talked to Minister Mentor, to the Chief Commissioner. Can I know what has been the outcome of this?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Indeed, this has been a very regretful situation for Rodrigues and this same issue is being followed up regularly with the respective federations and of course, with the different ministries. So, we are following up and a meeting has already been held to inform the different, not only the federation for handball but the different federations of the certain bad practices that is not promoting sports and that is not promoting the spirit of sports. So, this is, they are being followed very closely and with much scrutiny, Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Well, she has, Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner has been vague on the answer. Can I know what type of follow-up is being done and secondly, why has she not set her foot down when the Rodriguan team were not being sent to Argentina? Why has she not done so?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, the answer being vague, it means it is the appreciation of the Minority Leader but the actions are being done concretely and we are going to give the outcome when need be. But when it comes to setting my foot, I am setting my foot and engaging myself closely with regards to collective sports. You have seen the results for volleyball. So, when there are wrongs, we are going to correct it but you should also acknowledge when there are bright things happening. Thank you.

The Minority Leader : Still, Madam, the Rodriguan team has not been to Argentina! Then, I would like to know in clear terms, what has been the outcome? Since she has talked to the Minister Mentor, can we know what is the outcome?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: I think the outcome will come very soon after the budget. Thank you.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to Olympic Montagne Goyaves Team which was recently participated in a volleyball tournament at Madagascar CCOI, can we know whether, the team, the players, they have a reasonable, a good ground to... *Comme si, s'ils ont le terrain approprié pour l'entraînement ou faire leur entraînement dans un autre endroit comme Palissade ou Oranges.*

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina : Madam Chair, I wish to draw the attention of the House that actually, we are working on these issues and this issue has already been raised at the level of the Executive Council and we are going to move forward with the decision to communicate with the public and the team in due course.

The Minority Leader : Okay, Madam Chair. I think one stone that has been left unturned concerns football, especially at Roche Bon Dieu. Can we know and I think that the people of Rodrigues want to know what has happened with this stadium of Roche Bon Dieu? Is this not a stone that has been left unturned?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: The stone is turned. But I am going to answer this question in the next question that is put afterwards.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Madam Chairperson*, il y a quelques mois de cela, il y a l'équipe de Rivière Cocos, Rising, qui a fait le déplacement pour Maurice concernant le MFA CUP. Ces athlètes ont été à Maurice dans des conditions très pauvres, on peut dire ça avec Rs95 en poche pour leur déjeuner par jour. Dans cette ligne d'encourager le sport à Rodrigues et le sport pour tous, est-ce que la Commissaire, Rose de Lima Edouard, peut nous dire s'il compte considérer une augmentation du *stipend* et ainsi, un *special package* pour ces équipes qui partent à Maurice pour représenter Rodrigues, l'île Rodrigues autonome au sein de la République ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina : Madam Chair, with regards to sending teams to Mauritius for MFA CUP, it has always been the policy of the Commission for Sports to support some athletes between 20 to 25 and I am proud to say that 25 athletes from the Rising Sports Club were sponsored by the Commission. We sponsored the board and lodging and of course, we gave stipend, a daily stipend to the team. So, what happens is that any further allocation will be based on the performance on the team as well because now, in the reform which was accepted by each and every football team on this island, we agreed that anything that has to be given has to be performance-based. So, we are happy that they moved forward and we are looking to it that since the performance has moved slightly up, we are going to look into the issue but at the Commission, now has the motto to move on a performance-based method.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam*, nous avons souvent entendu parler, presque tous les membres de l'autre côté, nous allons voir comment faire, nous allons faire ceci, nous allons cela mais concrètement, il n'y a pas d'action « concret » pour soutenir ces sportifs. Sinon, ils n'auraient pas....

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question, please, respected Member !

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Pardon?

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I have to introduce my question.

Madam Chairperson: No statement, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: No, I am introducing my question.

Madam Chairperson: There is no need for introduction. This is supplementary question. You are asking for clarification. Please, come up with your question, now!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, my question is that how much money will be considered as a special package to these athletes representing Rodrigues in Mauritius? First. And secondly, whether the...

Madam Chairperson: One question at a time, please!

[Interruptions]

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, I wish to enlighten the Member that each and every package allocated to each and every athlete or team is already prescribed in the guideline for sports and also in the reform documents for sports. So, everything is clearly spelt out. No need for us to give a second thought of what should be done because everything that needs to be done is clearly spelt out in the reform document agreed once again with all the teams of Rodrigues inclusive of the *comité régional*, Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Madame la présidente, je suis un peu étonnée par l'arrogance des réponses. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir, étant donné qu'il y a des équipes qui vont représenter Rodrigues à Maurice ou ailleurs, si on dit c'est *performance-based*, au fur et à mesure qu'ils gagnent là, on va les aider mais dès le départ, on dirait on met des boulets à leurs pieds. Mais quelle performance ils vont avoir ? Pourquoi ? Vous, vous êtes au pouvoir, vous pouvez prendre des décisions qui s'imposent. Pourquoi dès le départ, on ne donne pas *the right package to these teams* ? *Done zot impé plis larzan se tou.*

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina : Madam Chair, I am a bit shocked but the reform also gives support to teams before the matches. So, the grant is given into three parts: there is the grant that is given prior to the league, the grant that is given when the league ends and the cash prize that is given to the winner. So, it may happen that a particular team collects at about Rs100000 around this after

the league. So, the grant is clear. There is no arrogance in it. It is already defined and spelt out. No arrogance.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Madam Chair, in respect to handball activities where equipment is very expensive, for example, a sports shoes cost around Rs 4000, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire une boule, handball à peu près Rs2500, below and above grants given to committees, for regional committees, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire si elle compte aider les clubs apart le grant qu'on donne...*

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, at the beginning of this year, that is in January, I have forgotten the date, the exact date but I met the Regional Committee for Handball whereby, various issues were raised and we already discussed of the timeframe and the course of action for the discipline of handball. So, we are going... We are now in a status of procuring equipment at the level of my Commission and of course, no discipline will be neglected in that exercise.

Madam Chairperson: Last one.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire pour que ce qui est arrivé à l'équipe de beach handball, women's beach handball l'année dernière pour que cela ne se reflète pas avec d'autres discipline, qu'est-ce que la Commission envisage de faire ou qui a déjà fait pour empêcher que d'autres disciplines ne soient pas pénalisées ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina : Madam Chair, under the Chairmanship, Chairpersonship of the Chief Commissioner, the issues have been raised at a very high level with regards to the situation and of course, we have... I have personally in different meetings where federations have come to the Commission. We have already in official meetings discussed these issues with the federations and put them before their responsibilities according to what Sports Act 2016 stipulates. And, of course, the Regional Committee also which falls directly under the federation, we have invited them in view of working together to have a very... how would I say? A clear course of action for these not to be repeated. But, let me assure the other side and you, Madam Chairperson, that this issue is taking the attention, not only my attention but that of the Chief Commissioner and the whole of Executive Council.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce que le Commissaire ne trouve pas que c'est le moment de venir avec des amendements au niveau du *Sports Act* pour Rodrigues?

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Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina : Madam Chair, when the National Assembly proposes for amendment, we are going to see how we can... No, there is! There is!

[Interruptions]

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: There is!

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! You please...

[Interruptions]

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, with regard to amendments to Sports Act 2016, my Commission intends to propose any amendment whenever the National Assembly is proposing for amendments simply because within the Republic of Mauritius, all sports regional committees and federations are governed by the Sports Act 2017. That is as simple as this, Madam Chair. So, I am shocked of the lack of knowledge of the Minority Member.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order please!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order from both sides of the House, order, please!

DEPLORABLE STATE – RIVIÈRE COCO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE

(No. B/2) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, he is aware

of the deplorable state of the Rivière Coco Primary Health Care Centre and, if so, to indicate the measures his Commission proposes to take in regard thereto?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, I wish to point out that the situation at Rivière Cocos Community Health Centre is not so alarming, not so deplorable. Minor defects in the building are being repaired as and when need arises. But however, with the avenue of the Family Doctor Project, the Commission has decided to renovate and upgrade five Community Health Centres namely, Petit Gabriel, Port-Sud-Est, Roche-Bon-Dieu, Rivière-Coco and Cascade Jean Louis. The renovation of Petit Gabriel has already been completed. Tender documents are being finalised for the other four Community Health Centres. My Commission has made proposal for the necessary financial provision in the forthcoming budget 2019/2020. Tender will be floated as soon as same is approved.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner said that this situation is not so deplorable. I would like to ask him whether, he has been there recently, whether he has been to the toilets of the Health Care Centre and to see what is the situation there?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the respected Minority Leader cannot dictate me in my duties. I know where the...

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : On a point of order, I am not dictating the respected Commissioner. This is question time and the Member on the other side has put a question. He lives in this village. He knows the problem. I asked him a question; he said we are dictating you? Have you been there?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have been there. I have said that situation is not so deplorable as stated in the question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I would like to add something, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. He said that it is not so deplorable but it is. Can he tell us how far it is deplorable? Because it is not so deplorable but it is deplorable.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I suppose the other Members on the other side have not “understand” my answer. And, I say that there are minor defects that are being repaired as and when needs arise.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

STADE JEAN PAUL II – LA FERME

(No. B/3) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, she is aware that Stade Jean Paul II at La Ferme does not have basic amenities such as toilets, cloakrooms and appropriately covered shelter for the public and, if so, to indicate if any remedial measure has been taken or will be taken by her Commission in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina): Madam Chairperson, in line with the policy of this present Regional Government and as announced in the *'discours quinquenal'*, much effort will be geared towards the development of sports in Rodrigues via the provision of the necessary support to our athletes and the population at large be it in the form of training and competitions, equipment and infrastructure.

To ensure that our athletes train in the best conditions possible, Madam Chairperson, my Commission is aiming at improving all sports infrastructure available on the island. This include the construction of new and upgrading of existing sports infrastructure comprising of construction of toilets and cloakrooms, repairs and upgrading of lighting system, fencing works and installation of benches for substitutes on football grounds.

Madam Chairperson, a survey was carried out at the level of my Commission in the middle of last year to assess the state of all sports infrastructures under the Sports Division. I personally visited the entire sports infrastructure around the island accompanied by the officers of my Commission. Based on the main findings, Madam Chair, of the survey carried out by everyone of us, the following actions were decided on a priority basis:

- (i) to repair floodlights of all sports infrastructure.
- (ii) to construct, where appropriate, cloakrooms and public toilets at selected sports infrastructures.
- (iii) to proceed with leveling of football grounds; and
- (iv) to upgrade existing bleaches at major football grounds amongst others.

Madam Chair, it is important to highlight that the number of sports infrastructure around the island amounts to around 70 and the improvement and upgrading of all these infrastructure will have to be effected across several

financial years. My Commission has already worked out a list of infrastructures that require immediate consideration.

Some are in process of being completed in their upgrading works, namely, Mourouk football ground, the cloakroom of Nassola and the Commission has already procured some 130 floodlights to repair and upgrade the lighting system on sports playground. A list of infrastructure has also been proposed to be upgraded in the next financial year; mostly those where training and competitions are being organised regularly. Furthermore, in line with the reforms undertaken in the football sector, an upgrading plan for sports infrastructure has already been prepared regarding football grounds and agreed with the respective '*Comité Régional*'.

Madam Chair, Jean Paul II Stadium of La Ferme is on our priority list of sports infrastructure to be upgraded this year, as it hosts major football matches of the Rodrigues Regional Football Association and the training for our main Training Centres, including the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 football selections.

Madam Chair, in a first instance, the lighting system will be upgraded and a cloakroom for public toilet will be constructed. The resurfacing of the annexed sports complex is also being considered and it is planned that works will be carried out before the end of this year.

The covering of the existing bleaches and construction of public stands will be considered on a second phase.

I wish to reassure the House and our athletes and sports stakeholders that due consideration will be given to the improvement of all sports infrastructure and the construction of new ones where appropriate.

Thank you Madam Chair.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, being given that the respected Commissioner has said that the Stade Jean Paul II and the annex is in such a deplorable state, can we know why four years, this state of affairs has been left to continue like that? Even the basketball pitch, *même le panier a disparu. Peut-on savoir pourquoi pendant tout ce temps, rien n'a été fait?*

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, as I already said, there are around 70 sports infrastructure on this island and we are working on it. There are infrastructure that are underway and we need to finalise what is underway to continue. So, the lights and the fencing are being done regularly and we have

indeed agreed at the very beginning of the year to give due consideration and discussions with the Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner also have been made just to see how things can move swifter. But I cannot give answers for the mandate where the MR was in power for not considering the stadium. I cannot do that.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, apart from the lighting and the fencing, so, can the Commissioner tell us when was the last time renovation works were carried out at La Ferme, at Jean Paul II and the annex at La Ferme?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: I need to find out when but what I can reassure is that regularly, the *Comité Régional de Football* talks to the Commission about urgent works that need to be done on fields for competitions to be able to take place. So, this is why I am clear on it. There is the stadium and there is the annex. So, we are working on both infrastructure and I have said that before the end of this year, we will see some improvement and then, we will continue on and on improving. So, I will not be telling more because there are other forums to say things.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner is saying that work is done regularly. Well, I am amazed! If after seven years, nothing has been done, is this what she calls regularly? Regular maintenance? *Sept ans?*

[Applause]

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, I wish to draw the attention of the House that if the Minority Leader is pointing out that the stadium of La Ferme has not been repaired, he also has to be blamed because he was in power at that time and things could have been done at that very time. But when I came in 2017, I made it my duty to be on the different sports grounds and we did everything that we need to do. And, I am informed also that fencing works were done at the end of 2018 at the level of La Ferme Stadium and that the resurfacing of... This is an important information that you need to know because you need

to know in what situation we are leading this country. We already started a bidding exercise for the resurfacing of La Ferme. This is the information I have gathered and the bidding...of the annex around La Ferme and what happened is that the bidding exercise was unresponsive and, this happens very regularly. This is why I have personally had a meeting with the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please. Respected Members, you will have the floor to put your question in due time. So, please, you have to bear in mind that we must be guided by the principles of the Standing Orders and Rules of this Regional Assembly. Thank you. Yes, Commissioner, you may proceed.

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: I just remind the House that launching of... we have started the bidding exercise for the complex. I mean the annex, the sports complex, the multipurpose complex for its resurfacing but the bidding exercise was unsuccessful and it happens very often that at bidding exercise “are” unresponsive and the bidding and tender document has to be reworked. So, this is what was done and at the end of 2018, fencing was upgraded at La Ferme.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I live at La Ferme. I know fencing is renovated almost each year. So, what I am going to ask the respected Commissioner, she has been talking about the resurfacing of the annex. So, can we know the date, the exact date the tender was launched and since when the bid has not been responsive?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, I have already answered this question and also, that the bidding exercise is to start before the end of this year.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, I insist. I am talking about the date.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you cannot insist.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes but this has not stated the date.

Madam Chairperson: You cannot insist on a question, respected Member!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Li dir line repone question la apré li pa....*

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam Chair. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir, les athlètes, ceux qui s'entraînent dans le annexe là, ils vont où mais étant donné que the pitch, the volleyball and handball is a very bad state, peut-on savoir où est-ce que ces athlètes-là s'entraînent actuellement ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Actually, there is Mannick Complex.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, étant donné que l'outil essentiel pour la promotion des sports, c'est des infrastructures, ça fait sept ans que le Gouvernement est au pouvoir. A chaque fois, on entend les mêmes paroles : on va, on va, on va. Est-ce que la Commissaire en question peut nous donner une date, quand est-ce que le stade de La Ferme et l'annexe sera complété une fois pour toute pour que ces athlètes qui sont dans cette région-là puissent bénéficier de ces infrastructures ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: I have already answered this question. Before the end of this year, things will be done. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

LOSSES - CYCLONE GELENA

(No. B/4) The Minority Leader (Mr. L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the losses suffered by the Rodriguan population due to cyclone Gelena, he will state:

- (a) if a survey has been made thereon, indicating the results obtained and the measures that have been taken by the regional government in order to alleviate the difficulties identified, if any; and
- (b) the total amount of aid received/proposed in terms of funds or otherwise, from different quarters, indicating the use to which this will be made together with any set timeframe for implementation?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, allow me to answer questions B/4 and B/20 currently since they both pertain to the same subject matter.

Madam Chairperson: Permission granted, Chief Commissioner. You may proceed.

The Chief Commissioner: Cyclone Gelena hit the island during the night of Sunday 10 February 2019 and the maximum warning of Class IV was issued with highest gusts of 165...

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: May I continue?

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you may proceed, Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner: Following the passage of cyclone Gelena, considerable damage has been caused to the houses; trees; roads along the coast; animals; crop plantation and fishing boats. This has also resulted in disruption in electricity supply and telephone network over the island.

Madam Chairperson, my Government is laying great emphasis on actions to clean the island at the earliest and remedial measures to address damages caused to houses and the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Surveys are ongoing to determine the extent of damages caused thereat.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to further reassure the House and the population that this Government is a caring government, is focused on alleviating the afflicted population.

In this context, immediately after the passage of the cyclone on Sunday 10 February, I discussed with the Prime Minister who agreed to immediately release Rs 35 M, representing a preliminary estimate of the damages caused by cyclone Gelena, to the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund.

During the past weekend, we had the opportunity together with the Prime Minister to meet those aggrieved after the cyclone. I wish to show my appreciation for they not only have requested for monetary compensation but put forward proposals on how to get back on their feet at the earliest.

I wish also, Madam Chairperson, to compliment the population for their resilience following the passage of the cyclone. The eagerness with which the population has worked to get back on its feet has been highly commented by the Prime Minister.

With regards to part (b) of the question, the compensation policy is being finalised and the quantum and methodology will be announced following the Executive Council sitting of Friday 22 February 2019.

Madam Chairperson, moreover, a new request will be made to the Central Government should the need for additional fund arise following the compensation policy. The Prime Minister's Office has also invited the public to extend their support to the victims of Rodrigues Island recently affected by cyclone Gelena. The Rodrigues Duty Free and Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co Ltd. have already

announced a contribution of Rs 1 M each. All the contributions will be transferred to the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund thereafter.

The Minority Leader : Thank you, Madam Chair. Being given that the population of Rodrigues has suffered a lot during passage of cyclone Gelena nine days back, concerning the vulnerable groups, the vulnerable families, can I know from the Chief Commissioner what has been done urgently? I repeat, what has been done urgently to help these vulnerable families?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Madam Chairperson, the different Commissioners will present a paper next Friday on actions being taken...

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader : Well, Madam Chair, I think this is... I do not know whether the Chief Commissioner has been around the island to see the urgency of the matter. Being given that certain families have lost all their food, the vulnerable group and do not have so many, why nine days after the passage of cyclone Gelena, why have we not seen the Regional Government given a special package, survival packs to these families? I think this is urgent. This should have been done. Can we know why this has not been done up to now?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we are waiting for the... what has been the investigation by the different Commissions in Rodrigues. And, after the different findings, we will ahead with how to help those people.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Merci, Madame la présidente. Le Chef Commissaire a répondu que... dans sa réponse, il a dit que *surveys are ongoing*. Je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire, parce que lui aussi, il est du troisième âge, il y a des personnes qui n'ont pas pu se faire enregistrer faute de temps, faute de malentendu, faute de communication. Qu'est-ce qu'il pense faire de ça ? Et le Comité village qui est sollicité de tout part, la population a été un peu surprise surtout pour les vieux, les vulnérables, le Comité village connaissent leur village, ils auraient pu être dans les *surveyors*. Merci.

The Chief Commissioner: Il y a encore du temps pour que les personnes puissent faire une déclaration que ce soit la police, que ce soit aux différentes commissions sur leurs besoins. Ils sont déjà là. C'est ça justement. On veut attendre parce que nous, nous voulons au prochain Conseil exécutif, donner exactement que chaque Commission puisse arriver justement à dire comment il faut arriver à compenser les gens et aussi quelle assistance apporter et nous disons, nous, il faut aller vite. Il ne faut pas prendre du temps même s'il faut réparer une maison, il faudrait à ce moment-là même s'il faut employer un

contracteur local pour réparer la maison des personnes et tout cela, nous allons prendre la décision ce vendredi.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, j'aimerais demander au Chef commissaire s'il peut éclairer la Chambre sur comment on déclare les... ceux qui ont... les victimes. Normalement, quelles sont les procédures ? Qu'est-ce qu'ils doivent faire ? Aller à la police ? Aller à la Commission ? Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut éclairer la Chambre précisément ?

The Chief Commissioner: D'habitude, Madame la présidente, ils doivent aller à la police et nous avons souvent des informations de REOC justement qui nous donne des informations du nombre de maisons qui sont endommagées, les plantations, les bœufs, les animaux ainsi de suite. Ces personnes doivent aller faire une déclaration à la police.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir parce que c'est très important, Madame la présidente, de savoir d'aller à la police, après ? Parce qu'on a entendu dire que les gens sont allés à la police et puis, arrivés à la Commission, on dit qu'on a fermé les... on a arrêté de prendre les doléances. Donc, on veut savoir. On veut savoir du Chef commissaire qu'il puisse nous expliquer clairement parce que nous sommes un peu confus sur ce sujet.

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, déclaration faite à la police et à la police qui doit faire l'enquête et ensuite, soumettre les fruits de la recherche à la Commission concernée. Vous comprenez là ? Et même peut-être d'autres Commissaires vont dire exactement au niveau de certaines Commissions par exemple, l'agriculture, la pêche, les bateaux, l'élevage et c'est le personnel de la Commission qui doit aussi aller faire des enquêtes pour voir ce qui s'est passé.

The Minority Leader : Madame la présidente, étant donné ... je crois qu'après neuf jours, on doit avoir les chiffres concernant les bateaux qui ont été endommagés, les jardins qui ont été saccagés. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Chef commissaire si d'urgence, il va procéder à la compensation des pêcheurs, des planteurs parce que ces pêcheurs-là, neufs jours, ils ne travaillent pas. Connaissant que les pêcheurs, ils vivent au jour le jour, est-ce qu'on va d'urgence les compenser pour qu'ils puissent survivre ?

The Chief Commissioner: Concernant les pêcheurs, Madame la présidente, c'est la Commission de la pêche qui va faire toutes ces enquêtes et qui va voir quel type d'aide apporter aux pêcheurs. Si c'est leur donner un nouveau bateau, faire construire un nouveau bateau ou bien simplement une compensation,

c'est à la Commissionner de décider. Nous faisons confiance à chaque Commission de ce Gouvernement.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, j'aimerais savoir si en passant, le Commissaire peut nous dire combien de bateau a été endommagé ?

The Chief Commissioner: Justement, il y a une question dessus.

Madam Chairperson: Last one, respected Member Agathe. Yes?

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, en écoutant le Chef commissaire, je me suis « dit » à l'instant que si « tous » les choses dans toutes les Commissions se sont déroulées comme le Chef commissaire l'a annoncé, ça aurait été très bien mais dans certaines Commissions, parce que moi-même, j'ai été témoin, on insultait les gens, on refusait de prendre....

[Interruptions]

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: On refusait de prendre les doléances et les personnes ont mêmes déchiré les papiers et on dit que c'était déjà ferme et on ne va plus prendre.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, c'est une allégation. C'est une allégation, que Madame membre de l'Assemblée aille faire une déclaration à la police. Je pense que c'est la formule.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can I have one last ?

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

**SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS**

(No. B/5) The Minority Leader (Mr. L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recent School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results for Rodriguan students, he will state the:

- (a) overall pass rate as compared to the last two years; and
- (b) measures he intends to take in order to curb any downward trend?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the Cambridge School Examination pass rate for 2018 was 57.94% and has dropped by 12.18 points as compared to 17.12% in 2017. And for 2017, the pass rate has also decreased by 3.78 points as compared to 73.88% in 2016.

The trend for the Higher School Certificate has also experienced a fall since 2016. The pass rate for the Higher School Certificate for 2018 was 63.73% and has decreased by 5.85 points as compared to 69.58% for 2017. And for 2017, the pass rate has also decreased by 3.04 points as compared to 72.62 points in 2016.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that there is a combination of reasons behind the fall in the SC and HSC examinations pass rates and some of them are beyond the control of the Commission :-

- (i) Lack of motivation and interest of students.
- (ii) Parents involvement in education tends to decrease across middle and secondary school, due to adolescents increasing desire for autonomy.
- (iii) School educators alone cannot prepare students for academic success without the support of families;
- (iv) Low performance and commitment from students; and
- (v) Lack of self-discipline of some students in schools cause disruptive classrooms and thus reduces amount of time teachers spend in instruction.

Madam Chairperson, presently, lots of supports and assistance are being put at the disposal of students at both national and regional level to increase the academic performance of students such as:-

- Free transport facilities for students to go to school;
- Provision of free textbooks at secondary level;
- Improve educational infrastructure at schools

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- Social aid to vulnerable families; and
- Assistance of educational psychologist and social workers

Madam Chairperson, I am also informed that the following measures are being contemplated by my Commission to increase the academic performance: -

- (i) Recruitment of a General Manager by REDCO Ltd to restructure the REDCO College in terms of new pedagogical tools;
- (ii) Setting up of a committee to identify the strengths and weakness of all colleges in a view to provide a more specific education approach;
- (iii) Organisation of a special coaching programme to teach basis literacy skills to students as from Grade 7. The coaching programme is expected to start in the beginning of the second semester of this academic year;
- (iv) Organisation of parental training programme in collaboration with the Commission for Child Development in a view to increase parents' involvement in the education of their ward;
- (v) To provide continuous capacity building training to secondary Educators to improve on their leadership skills; and
- (vi) Setting up of a student support programme in Secondary Schools to boost students' academic performance such as monitoring counselling coaching, advice and guidance and tutoring. Support teachers will be recruited to provide a more individual remedial coaching to slow learners.

Madam Chairperson, I have decided that following the SC/HSC examination results 2018, my Commission will organise a one-day workshop which will be held on Tuesday 05 March 2019 with all Managers and Heads and concerned stakeholders to define a strategic plan in line with the specificities of each college so that students are being provided a more adapted academic education according to their level.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I think this is a case of *après la mort la tisane*. Can I know, being given that in Mauritius despite the problem we have, in Mauritius you have an upwards trend. More and more, there is the percentage of passes has increased in Mauritius over the years. In Rodrigues, indeed it is alarming. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner, I believe the

commission must have done an inquiry, can I know whether this has been done globally or on a school to school basis?

The Chief Commissioner: The REDCO has organised a meeting to study the difference between 2017/2018, and that is why we have decided to organise a workshop on the 05 March to study all the problems which even the children encounter and how the different colleges could increase in the future their results in SC and HSC.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire le faite que arrivant en Forme IV, les enfants doivent choisir leurs sujets pour aller en Upper. Est-ce que cette combinaison de sujets est bien calculé ? Parce qu'il y a des enfants ils ont déjà fait première année – Forme VI et puis il y a un sujet nul dedans il faut doubler pour prendre un autre sujet. Ça c'est ma contribution j'apporte parce que les enfants souffrent beaucoup de ça. Des sujets qu'ils aiment, ils ne peuvent pas faire ça en HSC étant donné qu'il y a une combinaison de sujet qui d'après eux n'est pas bien pensé.

The Chief Commissioner: Autant que je sache, Mme. la présidente, je connais pas mal d'étudiants qui vont d'un collège à autre parce que dans ces collèges on n'enseigne pas tel sujet mais ils vont dans d'autres collèges où on enseigne ces sujets. Ça existe ça, ça existe. Mais c'est pourquoi à mon avis cette atelier de travail que nous allons organiser le 5 mars, nous allons aborder toutes ces questions en profondeur. Et aussi, il nous faudra aborder aussi la question de la formation des enseignants. Ça c'est très important. Il y a parfois des enseignants quand je parle de formation des enseignants, il y a des enseignants qui ne sont pas contentes quand on parle de ça. Mais il faudrait quand même l'enseignant puisse avoir une formation. Formation n'est pas nécessairement académique mais aussi une formation pédagogique, une formation très humaine aussi. Il m'est arrivé parfois dans une rencontre avec les Supply Teachers du primaire, je leurs ai dit aller visiter l'enfant chez lui pour connaître sa situation sociale et sa situation économique. Parce que chez l'enseignement, il n'y a pas simplement l'intelligence mais il doit y aussi avoir le cœur, l'amour pour cette enfant. Alors, il y a toute un travail de révolution qu'il faudra faire par rapport à l'enseignement même dans l'éducation à Rodrigues. Et, j'espère que cette atelier de travail le 5 mars va nous aider davantage à aller beaucoup plus loin et prendre les décisions qu'il faut. Merci.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire dans le symposium qu'on va organiser s'il y aura une attention spéciale concernant la relation du Board de la REDCO et les Management de chaque collège ? Parce que ça aussi c'est important pour que le collège puisse

bien marcher. Et, que les membres du Board aussi, ils soient *people well versed in education*.

The Chief Commissioner: C'est tout à fait normal. Et, c'est pourquoi quand j'ai mentionné ici qu'on allait employer un Directeur. Parce que là nous avons un Directeur des Collèges mais nous allons aussi employer un Directeur qui justement pour regarder toutes la question d'enseignement et de la formation. Ça c'est très important. Pour l'instant on a un Directeur pour gérer les collèges. Mais il nous faudra un Directeur au niveau pédagogique justement pour pouvoir de nous apprendre aux collèges de REDCO de travailler autrement.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

EYE PATIENTS –AVASTIN TREATMENT

(No. B/6) **Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether in regard to eye patients in Rodrigues, he will state for the benefit of the House:

- (a) the number who have received treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital since January 2018 to date; and
- (b) if Avastin treatment was given to any of them, giving the date/s and the reason/s thereof, and indicating the recommendation of the Ministry of Health as regards the use of Avastin?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that according to records, the number of patients who have received eye treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from January 2018 to date is 2,155.

As regards to part (b) of the question, I am also informed that Avastin has been stopped at S. Bharati Eye Hospital in Moka since 2014 and consequently no patient in Rodrigues has received any Avastin treatment since then.

The Minority Leader: Can I know, Madam Chair, whether it is not true that one patient has lost recently his eye sight because of Avastin injection?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Once more, I repeat my answer, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, since 2014 and consequently no patient in Rodrigues has received an Avastin treatment since then.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I here have the paper where one at least, one lady lost eye-sight because of Avastin injection here in Rodrigues. And,

the Respected Commissioner is saying that there has been no Avastin injection. Can I know whether in 2018 no Avastin injection has been done?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have already answered this question, Madam Chairperson. So, if the Minority Leader can come with another question and he will have the answer. But I have mentioned again, no Avastin treatment has been received by any patient since 2014. I repeat it again.

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader please, can we know the nature of this paper. You have just mentioned it is a paper and yes.

The Minority Leader: Let me ask the so Respected Commissioner, are you prepared to have a proper enquiry conducted to see whether there has not been any Avastin injection? Because we are talking of the eye sights of people. People has become blind because of this.

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please.

The Minority Leader: Yes, I can table this.

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please. Unless, you are prepared to substantiate for your question, I cannot allow a question where there is allegation and for which you cannot substantiate. If you are ready to substantiate, then I can allow your question. Not from a sitting position, please. You do it in a proper way.

The Minority Leader: Okay. Madam Chair, I am here in a position to table the paper so that the Respected Commissioner can proceed with an enquiry to see whether the protocol for Avastin injection has been strictly adhered to in Rodrigues? Because they cannot allow people to lose their eye sights because of that. Yes, I would like to table this.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order. Next question. Will the Commissioner react to that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. the Chairperson, Madam, we have abided to the Policy regarding the treatment of Avastin. Since 2014, no Avastin treatment was

done at S. Bharati Eye Hospital in Moka and then again in Rodrigues. However, if the Specialist has administrated Avastin in the eye of someone here and the patient should go to the Police and make a declaration regarding his treatment. Because here, I have the proof that no Avastin treatment was administrated in this patient. No, this also is proof. This also is proof. We will look into the matter but I maintain, I maintain that no...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, from a sitting position, please. You allow the Commissioner to answer, please.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I maintain that no Avastin treatment has been received by any treatment for patient in hospital.

The Minority Leader: Madam, may I like if I can ask the Respected Commissioner. May be some information is not in his possession. This is why, I ask him politely to have an enquiry. Because we are talking of the health of people. This can happen to anyone here. We are reacting to this. Because one person has become blind because of that. This is why we would like him; I would like to know whether he will have an enquiry conducted? You can have a surgeon coming from Mauritius and doing something like he does not know!

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

[Interruption]

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Non, ti énan ene question.* Chairperson, *li pa ti encore repone ene question?* The Minority Leader put a question.

Madam Chairperson: It was just a suggestion. The Minority Leader did not put any question. Next question now, please. It is question time.

FIRE RESCUE SERVICES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/7) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fire Services and Others whether, in regard to the fire and rescue services in Rodrigues, he will state:-

- (a) if all equipment required for the day to day running are available, tabling an up-to-date detailed inventory list therefor and highlighting the current condition thereof, in each case;
- (b) if any procurement exercise for acquisition or renewal of equipment has been made/considered and, if so, to give details.

- (c) the age of each vehicle in service together with their maintenance frequency and if his Commission intends to renew the existing fleet of vehicles; and
- (d) if any report has been submitted to his Commission concerning the intervention thereof at the port, the airport and at Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site in December 2018 and, if so, to table same?

The Commissioner for Fire Services and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety):

Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that the Fire and Rescue Services in Rodrigues is adequately equipped with the necessary vehicles and equipment for the proper delivery of its firefighting and rescue activities. The list of the vehicles and equipment is now available at the Fire Services is being tabled.

As regards to part (b), the House may wish to recall that a provision of Rs 5 m. was made in our capital estimates for the purchase of firefighting and rescue equipment. Moreover, it was a measure in the current budget to purchase a new Foam Tender Vehicle as the existing one is not truly reliable. Specifications for the purchase of this vehicle have been finalized and my Commission is awaiting financial clearance from the Chief Commissioner's Office to float tender. In the meantime, my Commission has already awarded contract to the tune of Rs 1,175,542 for the acquisition of the following additional equipment:

1. Male adaptor (2 units)
2. Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (8 units)
3. Multi-purpose foam (500 litres)
4. Heavy Duty Isolating Pliers (3 units)
5. Professional First Aid Box (2 boxes)
6. Firefighter's Jackets and Trousers (50 units)
7. Suction Hose (2 units)
8. LED Flood Light (1 unit)
9. Fire Extinguisher (10 units)
10. Firefighting Head (50 units)

Delivery of these equipment by the supplier is expected to by end of February 2019. Additionally, quotation procedures have already been launched for the acquisition of the following equipment:

- 1 Thermal Image Camera
- 4 Distress Signal Unit
- 1 Decontamination shower
- 1 box of water proof pencil

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- 2 suction Adaptor
- 2 Male Coupling Adaptor; and
- 2 Female Coupling Adaptor

Regarding to part (c), Madam Chairperson, concerning the vehicles, the Fire and Rescue Services is presently equipped as follows:

- One MAN lorry with tank (aged 11 months)
- One Foam Tender (Mercedes Benz) (24 years)
- One Van 4 x 4 Toyota (18 years)
- One Van 4 x 4 Toyota (9 years)
- One van 4 x 4 NISSAN (22 years)
- One Van 4 x 4 (3 years)
- One water lorry Mitsubishi (10 years)
- One Water lorry Mitsubishi (19 years)

The routine maintenance, such as, cleaning of vehicles, checking of oil level, water level etc. is done daily by the Officer in charge of the vehicle, that is, the driver. More complex maintenance such as servicing, replacing of wheels are done by the Mechanical Workshop at every 5,000 kilometres and a tag fixed for the follow up of the next servicing.

As regard to part (d) of the question, I wish to inform the House as follows:

(i) Intervention at Corail Airport

On 07 December 2018 at about 15.25 hours, the Airport of Rodrigues phoned to inform that an aeroplane with a defective engine will land at Plaine Corail Airport and Brigade Assistance would be needed. Lorry MAN with 2 Fire Officers, 44 RRA 08 with two Fire Officers and Double Cab 7 RRA 09 with four Fire Officers turned out to the Airport on that day. At 15.40 hours, it was reported that the aeroplane landed safely.

(ii) Intervention at the Port

On 15 December 2018, at 17.00 hours the Responsible Officer of the fighting team normally posted to provide fire safety coverage for disembarkation of petroleum products, phoned and requested additional support for the case of leakage petroleum products.

At 17.02 hours, MAN lorry with two Fire Officers turned out to attend the request. The police and the National Coast Guard were

informed to ensure that security measures are observed. Personnel of the Filling Station were also informed.

The Fire Officers applied a coat of finished foam to prevent the risk of ignition. Personnel of the Filling Station sealed off the valve tanktainer and transferred its content into another tanktainer for the safe transportation of the product to the filling fuel depot.

(iii) Intervention at Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site

For the case of fire at Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site, kindly note that the first call was received on 21 December 2018 and last for several days as follows:

- 21 December 2018 from 05.50 hours to 21.00 hours
- 22 December 2018 from 06.45 hours to 16.40 hours
- 24 December 2018 from 08.29 hours to 19.11 hours
- 26 December 2018 from 08.10 hours to 16.51 hours
- 27 December 2018 from 13.12 hours to 16.50 hours

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Respected Commissioner, the amount of money disbursed for the different equipment and the number of times these equipment has been served?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have already answered that part of the question, that is, Rs 1,175,542 for equipment that will reach soon at the Commission for Fire Services. And, we have Rs 5 m. in our budget for this year.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner concerning the Breathing Apparatus Compressor which has been acquisitioned in 2015 and what is its condition now?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have no information, Madam Chairperson. I will look into the matter.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, whether the Firefighter here in Rodrigues, they are called Firefighter, in Mauritius Fire and Rescue, whether the Commissioner will see to it to give them the same status as in Mauritius, Fire and Rescue?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: We have, Madam Chairperson, we have a Consultant which is looking after all the posts of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the officers also of the Firefighters will include in his recommendations.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *With regard to the condition of living, condition of working at the Fire Service Station at Camp du Roi*, si on peut dire ça – concernant les facilités qu'on donne à ces pompiers pour qu'ils puissent au moins passer dignement la nuit à la station, est-ce que le nécessaire a été fait pour éliminer les punaises qu'il y avait ? Ça c'est une première question. Depuis belle lurette, ces pompiers se plaignent qu'il y a tellement de punaises qu'il ne peut même pas s'asseoir dans ce service ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, c'est chose du passé. J'invite le Membre à aller faire une visite à la station.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Merci, je vais aller faire une visite pour confirmer. Mme. la présidente, concernant les *overtime*, les heures supplémentaires que les pompiers ont fait depuis octobre l'année dernière, qui n'ont pas été payé jusqu'à maintenant. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut assurer la Chambre que le nécessaire va être fait dans les premières délais pour que ces pompiers puissent avoir leurs dus.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bien sûr, Mme. la présidente, ils vont être payé.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Est-ce qu'on peut avoir un délai précis ? Mme. la présidente, quand est-ce qu'ils vont être payé ? Parce que ça date depuis octobre.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Very soon.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, what is this type of answer – very soon – ils vont être payé. Well, we are...

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question please, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Well, we are dealing with human beings. These poor chaps they have been working seriously and they are not being paid since October last year. And, he said very soon. Can we know how soon is soon?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: They will be paid, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. But I cannot say any time frame.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Mme. la présidente, est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire, après combien de temps, on fait le renouvellement de la flotte de Fire Service and Rescue ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, je suis conscient qu'il y a deux ou trois véhicule qui date de 22/24 ans mais avec la flotte qu'on a maintenant, ils peuvent très bien se débrouiller mais on va faire le nécessaire comme le Foam Vehicle qu'on va relancer, qu'on va acheter dans cette année-même et aussi dans le prochain budget on va voir comment on va aider la station des pompes à incendie pour avoir d'autres nouveaux véhicules.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can we know from the Commissioner, when the Fire Station of Mon Plaisir will be in operation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, Madam, there is the lateness regarding the contract, the performance of the contractor there, I cannot specify the date when this Fire Services Station will be completed.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner give us at least an approximate date for the opening and whether all equipment have already been purchased?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The Station will be opened during this year and the equipment will be purchased.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - RODRIGUES HEALTH SERVICES

(No. B/8) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to medical equipment in the health services in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House state and table: -

- (a) if any procurement exercise for acquisition or renewal of medical equipment has been made, and, if so, to give details
- (b) the total amount disbursed for the purchase thereof for the current financial year as at date and indicate in each case the successful bidder/supplier; and

- (c) on any shortage thereof at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the area health centres, providing in the affirmative, a detailed list thereof; and
- (d) the maintenance frequency thereof specifying the name of the company or agency?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety):
Madam Chairperson, the answer to part (a) of the question, is yes. The details indicating equipment purchased during the year 2018 and suppliers' name and are being tabled.

As at date the total amount disbursed is Rs 8,381,759.50. Tender procedures are presently ongoing for the purchase of additional equipment estimated at Rs 18,473,300. In this respect, financial clearance has already been obtained as this will entail additional financial provision over and above the Rs 10 m. provided for this purpose during the current financial year.

These equipment include amongst others, a new Digital Radiography and Fluoroscopy System (X-Ray machine) to replace the existing one at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Neuro-Surgery equipment to enable minor surgical intervention which cannot be done presently due to the absence of these equipment and essential equipment to equip the Maternity/Surgery/GOS Ward/Male Ward/ Female Ward and Physiotherapy Department as table below:-

S.N.	Description	Quantity
1.	Tunnel Phototherapy	1 unit
2.	Cardiac Monitor	1 unit
3.	Defibrillator	3 units
4.	Newborn Resuscitator	2 units
5.	Continuous Passive Motion Machine	1 unit
6.	Enjocycle	2 units
7.	Equipment for Neuro Surgery Operation	32 units
8.	Digital Radiography and Fluoroscopy System	1 unit

As regards, to procurement procedure for the X-Ray Machine, tender was published on the Procurement Portal on 24 January 2019 and will be closed on 28 February 2019.

As regards to part (c), my Commission is not in the presence of any report concerning shortage of medical equipment at the various Health Centres. Whenever there is a shortage, the user normally makes a request for purchase. So far, as far as medical equipment is concerned, all requests from the different users

have been entertained and necessary procurement procedures have already been initiated.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (d), which relates to the maintenance frequency of existing medical equipment, normally this varies from three to six months and sometimes, once every year depending on the equipment.

I have already tabled the list of existing equipment with their maintenance frequency and the names of the company performing the maintenance operations.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We do not see on this paper, the incinerators. So, does the Commissioner consider the incinerator as a medical equipment? And if not, why?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The incinerator is not a medical equipment which is used to cure people.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the, just a precision, from the Respected Commissioner, is he saying that as at now there is no outdated equipment at the various Health Centres, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Rodrigues and various Health Centres and there is no lack of medicines whatsoever in our Health Centres?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I have already answered part of the question regarding the medical equipment in Health Centres as and when required with the necessary to purchase it and regarding the medicine, the pharmacy is doing its utmost to have all medicines at the required time and even, if we have to send medicines by DHL from Mauritius, we do it.

The Minority Leader: Then, Madam Chair, can I ask the Respected Commissioner, how does he reconcile the fact that many patients after being to hospital they are given a paper to go to the pharmacy to buy certain drugs that are not available at the Health Centres?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Oui, Mme. la présidente, il y a des médicaments qu'à l'hôpital, il n'y a pas en stock. Effectivement, il y a des cas où le médecin prescrit une ordonnance ce que ceux qui peuvent aller acheter au pharmacie, je ne dis pas que c'est faux, mais il y a aussi qu'on doit, on commande tout de suite, disant dans l'espace moins d'une semaine, le patient reçoit ces médicaments.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: The Commissioner just said that there will be an additional budget of Rs 18 m. to buy equipment. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether there will be new dialysis machines also?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, at present we have 10 dialysis machines. For the time being it is sufficient but with the coming up of the Master Plan, we have to put more dialysis machine and we will look into the matter afterwards.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, on a point of personal explanation, I beg to disagree with the Chief Commissioner with regard to incinerator which is not a medical apparatus. It is written here that medical waste incinerator, it is considered as medical equipment...

Madam Chairperson: Written where? Respected Member, it is written where?

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Google. This is not correct?

Madam Chairperson: No.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Google is not correct? It is a waste; it is medical waste. So, it is considered as medical equipment.

Madam Chairperson: So, it is a point of personal explanation? You have made your point. Thank you.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

WATER DISTRIBUTED FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES -TEST CARRIED OUT/SAMPLING

(No. B/9) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to water distributed for domestic purposes, specifically for consumption, he will inform the House on:

- (a) which tests are carried out therefor, specifying which thorough tests are carried and from where water samples are taken in the different regions of the island in relation thereto; and
- (b) when the last sampling for thorough testing was carried out providing, in the affirmative, the results thereof, and for any answer in the negative, to state reasons therefor?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, in accordance with The Environment Protection (Drinking Water Standards) Regulations of 1991, my Commission has established a monitoring system to control the quality of potable water distributed to the population. Physico-chemical tests to monitor the pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids, salinity and turbidity, are carried out on a fortnightly basis by the Water Laboratory at Malabar.

I am tabling the list of places where water samples are collected for these routine tests carried out by the Water Resources Laboratory. Last tests result on physico-chemical Analysis is being also tabled.

Madam Chairperson, analysis of water from desalination plant are carried out on monthly and weekly basis for Caverne Bouteille and Pointe Venus desalination plants respectively according to their EIA licences. The last of these results are also being tabled.

[Interruption]

Let me complete my answer first.

Madam Chairperson: Order.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Over and above tests carried out by my Commission, monitoring of water quality is carried out by the Commission for Health as per the provision of the Environment Protection Act. Samples of water are generally tested for their microbiological quality with focus on presence of E. Coli. If E.Coli is detected, distribution is stopped and water treated with chlorine...

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: On a point of order. The Commissioner mentioned that he is tabling a document.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, resume your seat please. There is a point of order.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can we have the documents tabled? Can we have the documents for us to see. Let us have the documents. Otherwise, we cannot ask...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, please Commissioner you should table the documents.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I will have to table it one by one, Madam Chairperson.

[Interruption]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I wanted to table the whole thing at one time. No problem. So, the first document is being tabled, Madam Chairperson. The second document is being tabled. Okay? Yes. So, I continue with my answer. If E. Coli is detected distribution is stopped and water treated with chlorine with a residual chlorine of 10 ppm to ensure safe potable water before distribution be reinstated. Water samples are generally taken from service reservoirs all over the island.

An average of 60 samples are taken yearly for testing of microbiological analysis by the Food Microbiology Unit of Central Health Laboratory of Victoria Hospital of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. I would like to further add that whenever a new source of water is put into use, samples are taken and if, it is only when results show that the water is safe for human consumption that the said water is used for distribution. Whenever there are some apprehensions as to the chemical quality of any water source, samples of 10 litres each are taken and handed over to the Government Analyst of the Government Analyst Division of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life for analysis and the results are interpreted by the Environment Health Unit of the same Ministry.

Madam Chairperson, it is worth noted that with the grant that we received from the EU, equipment has been procured and are being delivered to broaden the scope of the physico-chemical tests and to include bacteriological tests in our monitoring system of water quality in Rodrigues. As such, such tests will be performed more frequently as respected.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On peut savoir du Commissaire, je vois le cas de Petit Gabriel, pourquoi est-ce qu'on... Est-ce qu'il est au courant qu'on est en train de prendre de l'eau dans la rivière de Bassin Gallard pour distribuer aux gens de la région ? Et, l'eau est sale, Mme. la présidente, je peux témoigner, peut-être que vous aussi vous pouvez témoigner. Donc, l'eau est sale. Donc, que fait le Commissaire ? Je ne vois pas sur ce bout de papier *water sampling point*, il n'y a pas Bassin Gallard. Comment se fait-il qu'il n'y a pas la source de Bassin Gallard ? C'est de l'eau de rivière, Mme. la présidente, donc pourquoi il n'y a pas ça sur le ... Il y a le réservoir de Petit Gabriel, Citron Donis mais il n'y a pas le point où on collecte de l'eau.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, there are two possibilities of proceeding with analysis and if we refer to the question, the question refers to water which is being consumed. Yes, water which is being consumed. So, we have two possibilities. Either, we proceed with the testing of the water at the source point or we proceed with the testing of the water at the distribution point. And, I believe that it is better that we do the analysis at the distribution point rather than at the source point because there may be contamination along the line if ever the pipe is contaminated. So, in the case that has been mentioned by the Member as regards to Bassin Gallard, what do we do? We have two systems which is connected to that. We have filtration plant, a filtration plant at Petit Gabriel. Yes, we do have a filtration at Petit Gabriel near ... Of course, yes, there is a filtration plant, sand filtration plant at Petit Gabriel and additionally we have also installed a dozer pump at Petit Gabriel. If ever, it is not working, how do we proceed? We can also pump the water from Bassin Gallard up to Malartic where there is once again a decontamination followed by a filtration plant and once the water is treated from Malartic, then it is transferred to Bassin Gallard for distribution. This is what is being done.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mme. la présidente, c'est dans la pratique. Le Commissaire peut dire ce qu'il veut mais le constat est que l'eau est sale, ça pu, il y a des petites bêtes dedans, des petites bestioles, est-ce qu'il est au courant ? Il peut dire beaucoup de choses. Oui, mais la réalité est autre. C'est ça qu'il faut comprendre à Rodrigues. On peut être Commissaire, on défend, oui, mais il y a une autre réalité qu'il faut prendre en considération. Comment, est-ce qu'il est au courant de la situation parce que les gens ne veulent plus de cette eau et on a aussi entendu dire qu'un forage, la pompe a été cassée. A chaque casser. *Tou cou cassé mem, Mme. la présidente.* Est-ce qu'il est au courant de tout ça ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, it is true to say that the pump is not operational and it do happen that there can be a break up on any pump in any borehole. It may happen. In this case, whenever there is any break up, it is our duty at the Commission to see how to transfer water to make sure that the villagers that are not connected with the borehole, how they are provided with the water. Now, as I have stated, Madam Chairperson, I can assure the House that there is a filtration plant at Petit Gabriel. There is also a dozing pump at Petit Gabriel. I understand that there may a psychological effect while – because these people were being served formally with water from boreholes now that they know that they are being distributed with water from Bassin Gallard, surface water from Bassin Gallard, of course, there may be a psychological effect because they consider that borehole water and, it is a truth, that borehole water is better than ... But if the borehole is not functioning, is it that my duty to ensure that these persons have water of standard, how do we say, of required standard for distribution? Can I say because the borehole is broken down then these persons

will not be served with water? There should be a way to transfer water from one point to another to ensure that there is distribution at this point.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, instead of... area after cyclone, instead of giving people surface water, is there any other sources of water, like desalination water, desalinated water sorry, or water from other sources, why is it that it is only surface water that is being provided? I am talking, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, because the people they came to see me and somebody even sent me an SMS this morning. So, this is very serious. So, I will ask the Commissioner, how much time since the pump has been broken down at Bassin Gallard?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, in the second that we are having a breakdown of the pump at Bassin Gallard, at the level of my Commission we have even written to the CEB for an investigation. Because it is not normal that a pump that is bought within six months is broken down. I consider that there are even some villages around/on the same circuit in Malartic whose equipment, like TV and others have been, I will say, burnt down. So, I consider that there has been either an overloading on the CEB circuit, which has resulted in the pump at Bassin Gallard to be broken down. So, we have written to CEB to carry out an investigation in the matter.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, once again this is not our problem. He is the Commissioner; he must see to it that the pump works. He is...

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: He has written to the CEB. So, I would like to ask him, whether there are any spare pumps at his Commission?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am to see to it that the pump works. But what is most important is that I have to see to it that people are served with water. Yes, there may be a broken pump but if the persons are being served with water then where is the problem? The most important aspect is that if there is no water from one source... I am coming...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair. Order! Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am coming to the point. If any problem...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please. Respected Members from a sitting position. I can understand that you want your answer. I can understand the importance of the question but still we must be guided by the Standing Orders and Rules of this Assembly. I am sure that as intellect gentlemen, you are able to serve this Assembly correctly and to uphold the decorum of this House. Respected Members, please. I make an appeal to your collaboration. Thank you. Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner, you may proceed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: What I was telling to the House, Madam Chairperson, is that within the last one year my Commission has procured, I should say, some – may be some 20 or 25 pumps for boreholes. We do have spare pumps at the Commission but unfortunately as regards to the particularity of the borehole, yes of the borehole and the fact that it has to be pumped there, then the pump does not fit that particular borehole. But there is one thing that you have to know, Madam Chairperson. If we are to buy a pump for a borehole, and I want the House to know it well, that does not mean that we go to Kalachand or we go to Aquaria and we see that we want that pump and we put it in the borehole. That is not the way. There should be specific particulars attached and it is only when the tender has been launched that the supplier can proceed with the building up of the pump. This is the truth. There is no pump which can say that it is available on the shelf as regards to borehole pump, Madam Chairperson. It is only when we have the specification, when we launched the tenders that only that the supplier can make the pump.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I have been ... by the answer of the Deputy Chief Commissioner. We know that *gouverner s'est prévoir*. And water is a very important commodity for the Rodriguan population. So, we have about 25 pumps in operation around Rodrigues, I think, at his Commission he should be having four/five spare pumps according to the specification. Because I think, we used almost the same, the sinkable pump. It should have three or four because by the time being we should have known what are the pumps that regularly break down. So, I would like to ask the Respected Commissioner whether he will do the needful in order to have several pumps at his Commission, spare pumps. Because water distribution is such a big problem in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Minority Leader, you have already put your question.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: On the point of our Minority Leader, but I have stated in my answer formerly, Madam Chairperson, that the case of Bassin Gallard is a special one because it has broken down twice within the last six months. *Donc*, we do not expect normally such things to happen, we do have spare pumps for different boreholes at my Commission with respect to... but in

the case of Bassin Gallard, this is the case. Because it happens so closely... Of course, we have already launched tenders for the procurement of the pump at Bassin Gallard and I expect that we are going to receive it. But nevertheless, Madam Chairperson, the question remains that we are able to provide this per villages with water from whatever is the source. This should be the issue.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, but one thing I do not understand the Commissioner, Mrs. Chairperson, sorry. So, he said to us he cannot go on the shelf and take the pump and then now he is saying he has launched tenders to buy the pump. So, which is which? Yes, with justification, yes. Of course. What is a pump? A pump it only ...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you come up with your question now.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I know what I am saying.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member. Respected Member, please this is question time. You come up with your question or you leave the floor to another Member.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ... about the capacity the pump is of the same, I will say, of the same type, it is only about the capacity...

Madam Chairperson: I am still waiting for your question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I am coming. So, I will like to ask Commissioner whether when he will remedy this situation because this situation is not correct?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I beg to disagree, Madam Chairperson, with the Member. I beg to disagree with the Member because each and every borehole has got its own specificity as regards to width, as regards to depth of the boreholes and as regards to height that the water will have to be pumped. And, every borehole has its own specificity. It may happen, Madam Chairperson, that we have two different boreholes with the same specificity, it may happen. Yes, it may happen but it is not the same for all boreholes. So, if I am having a pump for a particular borehole that does not mean that it is going to fit for the other one. That is for sure. But as regards to the question that has been raised by the Member, I once again said, Madam Chairperson, we are already proceeded with the tender procurement for the pump. But in the meantime what we are doing, we are

transferring the required amount of water from one source to another in order to serve the people. And, I think that this should be the issue here.

Madam Chairperson: A last one.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, j'ai regardé parmi les deux documents déposaient par le Commissaire, par le Commissaire Adjoint. Mais à mon grand étonnement je ne vois pas la région de Fond la Digue mentionnait dans ces deux documents, *water sampling and water for psycho-chemical analysis*. Can I ask the Commissioner whether he is aware that there is a point of water at Fond la Digue and everyday people are collecting water at Fond la Digue for drinking and for other purposes, is he aware of this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: We do have two sources of water at Fond la Digue. One, which is pumped to Crève-Coeur, where the analysis is done up there. But there is also, I think, one collection point on what is known as the Bassin Blanc. Right? Of course, the water from the Bassin Blanc it is not taken for analysis but nevertheless, I believe that people should be careful about the use of the water. They should be careful. What I understand is that, many of the people who come to fetch the water, they are mainly using it not for consumption but other purposes.

Madam Chairperson: It was the last one, Respected Member. Next question.

[Interruption]

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Madam énan ene point de droit ladans mo bizin discuter. Ou pas laisse létemp ? Ça c'est pas correcte ça !*

Madam Chairperson: Was it a point of order? No? Next question.

BENEFICIARIES - FENCING & IRON POLES/CAMP PINTADE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

(No. B/10) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether in regard to beneficiaries of fencing and iron poles at Camp Pintade for agricultural purposes, he will state the criteria observed to benefit therefrom and table a list of all beneficiaries thereof as at date?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, one of the objectives of my Commission is to increase the

surface area of land under cultivation in a view to increase crop production in Rodrigues to promote the well-being of the farmers' community. Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, one of the major problems affecting planters is the acute presence of straying animals, causing a lot of damage to their plantations. In order to help farmers to protect their plantation my Commission has come up with a scheme to provide fencing and galvanised iron poles and galvanised wire to eligible farmers.

Madam Chairperson, the criteria to benefit from the fencing scheme were as follows: -

- Farmers holding an Agricultural Permit or lease as well as a valid farmer's card, had to call in person to the Commission and apply for the scheme when it was advertised. Priority was given to professional farmers that is those who derive their main income from agricultural activities.

Madam Chairperson, for ethical reasons, it will not be appropriate for me to table the list of beneficiaries.

The Minority Leader: This having been done, can I ask the Respected Commissioner, whether any of these supposed agriculturist, any of them, whether any of them have received this equipment several times? Is this not tantamount to fraudulent activities?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I do not have this information, unfortunately. But I will invite the Minority Leader, if ever he has got any name, to come forward with it.

The Minority Leader: Well, the Respected Commissioner is asking me to give him any name.

Madam Chairperson: Not here.

The Minority Leader: No, I am not giving any name. I would like to ask him whether he is prepared to have a proper enquiry conducted in order to know what is happening, if there is any fraudulent activities going on?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Minority Leader has got... Why do I have to spend time to do an enquiry when he has got the answer. So, come, you are being paid by this government to protect, you know, to help us in protecting the belongings of this government. So, why do you not, outside this, of course, after this session come with me gives me names. I will check. No

problem of that. I will do it. But it is a waste of time for me to go and spend a lot of time doing a survey when he has already got something. Just give me the hint.

The Minority Leader: An answer tit for tat. The Respected Commissioner, is saying that I can give the name. He has got the list. Give us the list, we will show you the name.

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

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, he is not... in order not to lose time. If we are serious in this House because they are genuine agriculturist who are not having these facilities. They are not being given these facilities. Can we have this list so that we can proceed?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I am surprised, I am surprised, again. How come the Minority Leader who normally has got all the information, how come he does not have this? I am sure, you do have the list. Last time you came here and you showed us a list, something that you were not supposed to have. So, you have the list. So, come with the...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner please, I cannot allow this debate any further. So, next question. I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.27 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 1.33 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Second Local Region Member of La Ferme.

“PROJET COCHON NOIR”

(No. B/11) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, he will enlighten the House on the “Projet Cochon Noir” and to state and table the list of all beneficiaries thereof together with the eligibility criteria applicable therefor?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others: Madam Chairperson, this Regional Government encourages the production of products where we have a complete edge due to their unique tastes and the fact that they are highly appreciated by local people as well as foreigners. Examples of such products

include lemon, *'ti piment'* Rodrigues, *le miel Rodriguais*, our *haricot rouge* et le *cochon noir* entre autres.

It is a fact that through all these years, the production of black pig has decreased and replaced by white ones. Fortunately, we have not completely lost the breed of black pig and in view of professionalising and increasing its production, my Commission has come up with the Black Pig Model Farm Scheme.

The objective of the project is:-

- To promote the professional production of black pig and,
- To produce quality pork meat for processing products such as ham, bacon, sausages etc.

The Eligibility criteria to benefit from the scheme were as follows:-

Two groups of application were launched. For the First group;

- *The applicant had to prove that he or she is a professional farmer deriving income solely from Agricultural Activities with a minimum of 5 years' experience in the sector.*
- *The project which all applicant had to submit, had to be innovative showing the interest and wish to move towards a semi intensive production of black pig.*

For the second group, the applicant needed to having followed the *Brevet Professionel Agricole (BPA)* course and awarded a BPA certificate.

Special Conditions attached to the scheme were:

- Beneficiary should sign an agreement with my Commission
- The pigs bought under this project should not be sold within a period of one year
- Dead pigs should be notified to the Veterinary Officer within 15 hours
- Applicant must comply with the laws and rules in relation to farming and environment.

Madam Chairperson, again, for ethical reasons, it is not proper for me to table the list of these beneficiaries.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can we know from the Commissioner, he is talking about the criteria people should have followed the BPA courses to be eligible to have a project of *cochon noir*. What happen to those *vieux eleveurs* qui ont de l'expérience depuis belles lurettes? Je pense d'ici là aussi de l'hôtel Mourouk Ebony, des éleveurs qui travaillent à l'hôtel Mourouk Ebony qui ont gardé l'authenticité de ce cochon noir ? Qu'est-ce qui va se passer ? Est-ce que ces personnes aussi seront susceptibles d'avoir une aide avec la Commission vu qu'ils n'ont pas eu l'occasion de suivre le BPA et qu'ils ont de l'expérience depuis belles lurettes ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, je crois que le membre respecté n'a pas bien écouté la réponse que j'ai donné. J'ai dit, il y a deux groupes de personnes. Un group, c'est le BPA parce qu'on veut donner la chance aux jeunes de commencer quelque chose de bien avec toute la technologie, façon de faire moderne et tout. Deuxième, il y a l'autre où n'importe qui pouvait même si la personne n'a pas son certificat de BPA peut *apply* pour avoir ce genre de *scheme*. Le Commissaire peut-il nous dire combien de projets ont été financés ? Parce que ce projet remonte depuis 2015. Combien de projets ont été financés à ce jour en 2019 ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, il y a 14 projets qui ont été financés mais malheureusement, pas tous les projets sont terminés et ça, on ne peut pas faire grand-chose parce qu'on a donné toutes les facilités du monde. Mais si les jeunes n'arrivent pas à le faire, donc, ce n'est pas trop notre cas mais on sait que la majorité des projets « ont » pu être terminée.

The Minority Leader : Thank you, Madam Chair. Can I ask the respected Commissioner, a few years back, there were many breeding stations that were providing services to the population, the breeders? Can I know how many of these breeding stations are still operational and what are the services that are provided to them?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: With regards because the question is related to pigs, we are talking about pigs, I can say that the only Baie Topaze Breeding Station is working with pigs. But this again, Madam Chairperson, with a view to promote and to evolve in the right direction, before, people were getting... Everybody was trying to get small pigs from breeding station. But we have seen that there is a big possibility of business. Private people producing, this is what we are encouraging. We should go away from this habit of Government providing at very low cost. So, that is why our aim is to initiate. That is why the BPA, there was this case of giving a chance to the BPA who has followed a very intensive course in pig production to go towards this type of project because it is not always

good. You know, the list to provide pigs to people, there is two years' queue. People wants the pigs but we do not get pigs like grass unfortunately. If we could get it like grass, we would have had a lot, a lot of pigs to produce but we do not want to continue in that direction but we will keep the breeding station for scientific purpose to work on breeds, new breeds and all these types of thing.

The Minority Leader : I would like to ask the respected Commissioner. Well, the purpose of the breeding station is to provide self-services and also to provide services like artificial insemination. Is he contemplating the possibility of providing these services? And, in order to be transparent, I do not know what is the problem to table the list of the beneficiaries. If we are to be transparent, how come that we cannot give a list of the beneficiaries?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: With regard to names, Madam Chairperson, from experience, I am sure the Minority Leader has got the list. He wants it official. He already has got it. We know transparent. You have everything. Why do you have to come and ask? He is also talking about...

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please.

The Minority Leader : On a point of order, it is the second time the respected Commissioner imputes motives on me saying that I have got the list. If I had the list, I would not have put the question! You withdraw this and you table the list. This will be, this will do.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: You have all the list! You have all the...

Madam Chairperson: Indeed, Commissioner. This is a contravention of the Standing Orders. So, you have to withdraw. With regards to insisting upon giving the list, you cannot insist on a question.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I withdraw, Madam Chairperson, but I am not tabling the list.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, the Commissioner just talked about young BPA. Can we know how many of these young BPA who has embarked in this project and what facilities have been given to them?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, for the BPA, there has three young people who embarked on this project. All the facilities with regards to the building, providing the breed, some small pigs and the planning, doing the right plan and of course,

these young were trained not only in Rodrigues but they have the possibility of going to Reunion to see how the people in Reunion are doing this job.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam Chair.* Peut-on savoir quel est le montant du projet par bénéficiaire?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chair,* il n'y a pas de montant par bénéficiaire parce que ça dépend du bénéficiaire, quel type de projet le bénéficiaire veut et par contre....

Some Hon. Member : What is the range ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Bon, on a donné jusqu'à Rs500000 pour le... A partir de cent. Ça dépend, si tu veux acheter deux cochons, tu as le prix pour deux cochon. Si tu veux acheter 10, tu as le prix pour 10 mais le projet, ce n'est pas une question du montant. C'est une question du projet qui a été soumis par la personne qui a fait ces applications. Donc, puis, on a fait, on a une équipe qui travaille sur calculer comment faire. Par contre, la contribution, la personne devait contribuer un pourcentage de 25%. Donc, nous, on a donné 75% et 25% contribution.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire de nous éclairer sur le projet de Gravières, cochon noir de Gravières ? Le montant qui a été alloué au bénéficiaire et qu'est-ce qu'il produit actuellement. Donnez-nous un peu plus de détails.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chair,* je n'ai pas le chiffre pour le projet de Gravières. Je n'ai pas le chiffre malheureusement mais c'est un projet très intéressant parce que c'est un des projets qui a vraiment montré que c'est possible d'élever des cochons noirs à Rodrigues.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madame la présidente, toujours sur cette affaire de cochon noir, il y a eu une étude qui était en route depuis 2014 ou 2015 si je ne me trompe pas. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous éclairer sur cette affaire d'étude concernant l'aliment des cochons noirs qu'on est en train de mettre en place à Rodrigues ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chair,* je ne connais pas cette étude par rapport à l'aliment quoique nous, c'est notre objectif de travailler sur un aliment typiquement Rodriguais. C'est pour ça, on a envoyé un jeune. Moi, j'ai eu la chance personnellement de visiter le Bénin où il y a le Centre Songhaï où ils sont très forts là-dedans et on a envoyé un petit jeune pour vraiment apprendre de comment eux, ils font. Et ils ont... Là-bas, ce qui est magnifique, c'est que...

Ce qui est très, très beau, c'est quand on leur a demandé est-ce que vous allez nous donner la recette pour préparer un aliment typiquement Rodriguais ou bien comme ça se fait au Bénin, la réponse était : « *there is no copyright ; there is copyleft* ». Donc, ce qui fait que le petit jeune va arriver bientôt et on va continuer à travailler sur le projet.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire...

Madam Chairperson: No cross-talking, please !

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce qu'il y a un suivi de ces personnes qui justement font le projet du cochon noir? Est-ce qu'il y a un suivi dans ce projet ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Effectivement, *Madam Chairperson*, on a le service d'extension qui fait le suivi.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, out of the 14 projects that the Commissioner mentioned, can we know how many piglets have been produced since the distribution, giving.... of money, of allowances or grants to these beneficiaries? Can we know on a yearly basis; how many piglets have been produced in the 14 projects?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, how can the Member expect that I give him number of piglets produced in these projects? Well, this is a typical question. He has to come up with another question for the next session.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, the Cochon Noir Project is a pilot project. The Commissioner, when he was Commissioner for Agriculture, he mentioned this in this Assembly. The project at Baie Topaze, Cochon Noir...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please, we have to do this in an orderly manner. I am having difficulty in hearing your question because Members in a sitting position, from a sitting position are making comments. Please, you will have the floor to put your question when the time comes. So, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether the project of Cochon Noir is a full-fledged project or still on a pilot basis project?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, it is still pilot because as we said, there is... one of the Members “were” talking about artificial insemination. I have got someone who is trained, a specialist for this. He is a Rodriguan but is in Mauritius now and this guy is coming soon to help us in.... And, also, we are working on the breeds because everybody knows that when you do, you know, rearing of animals, there is this problem of in-breeding. It is a fact that we do not have a big stock of breeds. So, I took a paper to the council to get the approval. Unfortunately, Mauritius has not given us the permission to import males from Reunion which could have been good but we are working towards this insemination process and I am glad to say that the best person for that is a Rodriguan based in Mauritius.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner just mentioned that the project is a pilot one. So, if I am... I will understand si le projet est *pilote*, il faut qu’il y ait des données, des datas, des *records*, des monitorings, des suivies professionnels pour pouvoir donner suite pour que le projet passe du stade pilote pour devenir un projet ouvert, professionnel à tout le monde. Comment est-ce que le Commissaire, *how can he account that this project, Cochon Noir, has no data ? He “do” not know the number of piglets produced per year.*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, it seems that the Member is giving me a course in Agriculture! That is not the case! You cannot... How can you say that I said there is no data? There is, there is a lot of data. If you come and ask me another question with regard to this... You expect me to have all these in my head? So, you have to come with another question! If you want this data, you come...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: You come with a question on next session. I will give you all the data. But I rest assured, I want to assure the Member that we, the Agricultural Sector/my Commission/this Department has got the best, you know, most qualified people on this in all departments, you know. We have got a lot of... We will have even doctors in our... in the Agricultural Sector. So, he is trying to say that we are not doing the thing. Is he trying to say that in a scientific way? So, no! We have got plenty of data.

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please, choose your words properly!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Plenty of data. If he wants the data, he just needs to shout and he comes and I will give him the data.

The Minority Leader : I do not understand the way the answer is being given. The question is clear: whether he will enlighten the House on the *Projet Cochon Noir*. When we... I asked him for enlightening the House. This, *cela comprend aussi combien de petits cochons il y a, combien il y a, tous ça non ?* This is enlightening the House ! So, why are you trying to beat about the bush ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, I am enlightening the House with regards to the data that I have but this data, next time, the best thing for them to do is to come with a question saying, gives more precise data on this. How can you expect that I know how many small pigs are being produced?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner if he cannot give the data actually, can he in a future time, table these data to the library for us to be aware of what is going on? If there is no problem with a *Projet Cochon Noir*, if you want us to be transparent, we want you also to be transparent and table the dossier.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, the Member has to come with a question and I give the answer.

Madam Chairperson: Last one.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, can I ask concerning the *Projet Cochon Noir*, can I ask the Commissioner whether there is a short-term and a long-term action plan for the production of *cochon noir* in Rodrigues and if yes, whether he can table the plans?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is another question again. Next time.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

**PROGRESS OF WORKS
– SONGES SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

(No. B/12) The Second Local Region Member (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, he will state on the progress of works for the Songes Secondary School project and indicate:

- (a) if the time frame set therefor is being respected;
- (b) if the funds allotted therefor are sufficient for the completion thereof; and
- (c) the major constraints and difficulties encountered so far, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the project for the construction of Secondary School at Songes was awarded to Ramasawmy & Ramasawmy Co. Ltd for the sum of Rs 110,945,529 (Excl. Vat).

The construction started on the 16 August 2017 and was intended to be completed on the 29 November 2018. However, delays were encountered due to certain constraints for which the Contractor has notified his intention to apply for an extension of time.

The Contractor has been instructed to accelerate progress on site which as per latest figures is around 75%.

Currently, mainly finishes and site works are in progress and I am informed that the works will be completed in four months.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (b), the funds allotted therefore are sufficient for the completion of the project.

As regards part (c), certain major constraints have been encountered during the execution of the project amongst which were problems faced to secure part of the land initially earmarked for the project which resulted in certain additional works. Secondly, certain aspects of the design “has” to be adapted as per prevailing site conditions namely ground conditions.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the Commission is monitoring the project closely and the school is scheduled to be operational for the January 2020 intake.

The Minority Leader : *Madam Chairperson, while we are talking of the Songes Secondary School Project, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner being given that we are talking of Rodrigues, île écologique and where the buildings must blend with the paysage, ça ne doit pas déformer le paysage. Je me*

demande si le Chef commissaire ou bien sa Commission, ils ont regardé l'architecture avant d'aller de l'avant avec ces bâtiments ? C'est vraiment un *eyesore*, un *eyesore* qui défigure le paysage Rodriguais à Songes. J'aurais aimé demander au Chef commissaire ce qu'il pense de ça, s'il va modifier un petit peu parce que vraiment, ce n'est pas joli du tout à voir.

Madam Chairperson: Would you answer ? It seems that the Commissioner does not want to react to this question. So, you have any other supplementary question? If not, next question.

**STATE LANDS LEASES GRANTED
AUGUST 2006 TO DATE – ELECTORAL REGION NO. 2**

(No. B/13) The Second Local Region Member (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the State Lands leases granted with respect to Electoral Region No. 2 since August 2006 to date, he will give the names of the beneficiaries indicating the respective extent and location thereof together with the respective purpose of the land leased?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with regard to this question, I am informed that the information is being compiled and will be tabled at the library as soon as it is ready.

Mr. J. N. Nemours: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Madam Chairperson, is the Chief Commissioner aware that one Mr. H. K. of French origin is illegally occupying a plot of state land adjacent to the cemetery of Rivière Cocos? And, this occurred about the years 2007 to 2008.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we take note of this specific case and rest assured, Madam, that we will enquire accordingly.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**SPORT DISCIPLINES – INFRASTRUCTURES
– 2019 INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES**

(No. B/14) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) 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:

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- (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 of 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?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina): Madam Chairperson, with regards to part (a) of the question, I am tabling the following information with regards to the sports infrastructure in Rodrigues based on the records available at the Commission for Youth and Sports to date:

- (i) their respective locations and operational state and schedule;
- (ii) the number of clubs making use of these sports infrastructure.

With regard to part (a) (iii) of the question, there is one Senior Coach who oversees volleyball discipline, three Coaches for football, athletes and boxing and three Advisors Coaches for Wrestling, Judo and Handisport.

Madam Chair, with regard to part (b) of the question, two sports infrastructure, namely Malabar Gymnasium for Judo competition and Camp du Roi Stadium for Semi-marathon are under renovation in view of the organisation of the Indian Ocean Island Games 2019 in Rodrigues. These are being funded under the Ministry for Youth and Sports through the Association for the Upgrading of the Indian Ocean Island Games (I.O.I.G.) Infrastructures, that is, the A.U.G.I.

Madam Chairperson, the main scopes of works for both infrastructure are as follows:-

(I am going to give the main only.)

(i) Camp du Roi Stadium

- Construction of a new 2-storey building in reinforced concrete which will house a new weight lifting room.
- Refurbishment of toilets, offices and cloakroom.

- Repair of leaking roof sheeting and installation of new doors and windows.
- Installation of a medial room amongst others

With regards to:

(ii) **Malabar Gymnasium**

- there is the removal of existing mat to be replaced by resilient practice mat complying with the competition standards;
- removal of naco frames to be replaced by aluminium, windows;
- upgrading of weight lifting room, painting works among others.

Madam Chairperson, as of 08 February 2019, the overall progress was 40.6% for both projects and the completion date is set for May 2019.

I wish to inform the House, Madam Chair, that the upgrading of Camp du Roi Stadium, that is, the construction of new stands, cloakrooms and offices, is ongoing. The overall progress as at date is 42%. The project is expected to be completed by May. This is the expected date. The project is being funded under the budget of my Commission.

Consequent to the upgrading works being carried out at Malabar Gymnasium, Madam Chair, training of athletes is being held in the meantime at Gymnasium of Le Chou for Judo and at Marechal College for Wrestling. Volleyball athletes are being trained at Oranges and Palissade Complexes.

For weight training, Madam Chair, the athletes have been given access to private gyms through a grant allocated to their respective regional committees to meet the related expenses for the training of these same pre-selected athletes for a more continuous training and a conducive environment for more performance.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

The Minority Leader : Thank you, Madam Chair. Can I ask the respected Commissioner? This morning, I put a question concerning the Roche Bon Dieu Stadium. Can we know what has happened, whether work is going on or whether, there is a swimming pool that is being built there because I see water everywhere... havoc there.

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: With regard to Roche Bon Dieu Stadium, Madam Chair, it does not form part of the Indian Island Ocean Games infrastructure but however, the contract for the works has been terminated because we have seen that the Contractor has not been up to the standard. We have taken our responsibility in that sense, in terminating the contract and of course, a tender document, a new tender document is being reworked and will be relaunched we hope by March this year itself. And, according to the swimming pool that you are mentioning, the fire services are already on site working on addressing the said issue and with regard to the valuation as well, everything has been settled as at now and we are moving forward to see how the houses will be procured to relocate the lessees. Thank you.

The Minority Leader : *Madam Chair, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner, before giving a contract, the Contractor, normally they have to see quels sont les bâtiments qu'il a déjà construit avant. Mais est-ce que ça a été fait ? Parce que maintenant, on est en train de terminer le contrat, on va donner à quelqu'un d'autre. On perd du temps. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on n'a pas fait due diligence comme on dit ?*

[Interruptions]

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, with regard to procurement exercises, politicians, policy-makers are not allowed to interfere. So, there is a board that qualifies and recommends for contractors to have or not to have X or Y contract. So, the policy-makers do not have to interfere in such things because it is purely technical and it is a purely contractual thing that the competent persons do in the gym.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, can we know from the Commissioner the number of football grounds existed here in Rodrigues and the number who is well-fenced for security of our people?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, this, I have already tabled. They have it at hand. So, they have to check. I have tabled same. Thank you.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, can we know from the Commissioner, the Commissioner last time, said that there is a technical committee for the implementation of the reform of football and the first draft is expected at end of June. Can we know, can we have breakdown of this?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, there is indeed a technical committee dealing with the football and volleyball reform in Rodrigues. And, let

me enlighten the Member, the respected Member that the reform is already being implemented and we have reached the third phase of the reform that is, to have the under 20 selections. So, the under 20 selection has already been made. We are going to present them to the public shortly but they are starting to train together to create *l'esprit d'équipe* in the meantime but the reform is ongoing.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam Chair. En ce qu'il s'agit d'un vestiaire qui est en construction à Nassola, peut-on savoir plus si la construction a été complétée ou pas ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, the cloakroom of Nassola is near completion. And, also, parallelly, we just received correspondence from the Federation of Weightlifting in Mauritius where they are willing and wishing to donate some equipment to the Regional Committee. So, I am informed via their letter that the equipment has been shipped for this month, on this month's ship. So, it is near completion and near finalisation in terms of equipment.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, until now, there are only three... we can say stadium, where football is practiced. Can we know what is happening with Grande Montagne football ground?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: What is happening with Grand Montagne football ground is simple, Madam Chair. The Chief Commissioner has announced that a master plan for Grande Montagne Complexes has to be made but we are waiting for the Consultant to give us the reports and the recommendations for this master plan for us to know in what direction to go for Grand Montagne Sports Complex. And, I am not talking only about the football ground but also about the annexed complex for volleyball and basketball.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: There are many sports complexes around the island. For example, at La Ferme – volleyball and basket, Terre Rouge – volleyball, Grand Var etc. Can we know from the Commissioner when these complexes will be upgraded or renovate?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, I have already announced this morning in the question that we are to upgrade the sports infrastructure in due time because across the different financial years, but what happens is that we are taking into account the use of the same sports infrastructure because we cannot just upgrade an infrastructure and we do not have people on it. So, let us say for example, at Terre Rouge, Terre Rouge was constructed, I knew you constructed it but it was not up to standard and there was no team there. So, what happens is that we have started schools in basketball there to give it a raison d'être which

was not given previously and then, we are going to upgrade... We are going to upgrade it but we are creating the demand for it. We have... People have to demand, be needing it, be using it. We cannot just do football pitches, volleyball pitches, basketball pitches, handball pitches and leave it here and people are not using. So, what we are doing is that we are ensuring that grounds, playgrounds, football grounds, sports grounds are being used efficiently.

Madam Chairperson: It seems that the respected Member Volbert has a question. Yes, you have the floor.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, thank you, Madam the Chair, what about Montagne Goyaves volleyball pitch?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Montagne Goyaves volleyball pitch is being overused and we are going to look at it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: About the next Roche Bon Dieu football pitch abandoned by you.

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Can you ask the question again? I am sorry.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: There is another pitch at Roche Bon Dieu. Right? *Penan ene lote terrain football a Roche Bon Dieu ine fer depi 2003?*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I am giving her explanation of what I am talking about.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please! You can do this in an orderly manner, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes.... Okay, let me put my question. Can the Commissioner, the respected Commissioner inform the House what is happening with the stadium? If I can say it like this. Again in Roche Bon Dieu, *ape ale dan Rivière Bananes la*. Can she inform the House what will happen to this infrastructure ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: You mentioned a stadium. There is no stadium there, I am sorry.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, there is an infrastructure built, a football ground built in the vicinity of Roche Bon Dieu

going to Rivière Bananes. Can the Commissioner inform the House what will or what is going on with this infrastructure?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: This infrastructure has already been visited and it is part of our programme to upgrade it because we already discussed with Roche Bon Dieu team. There is a team in Roche Bon Dieu. So, we have discussed it but what happened is that at times, people do not want to use certain things. So, we are working on it to create the demand around it because it is not being used. The demand around it is not.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. Dans le cadre des Jeux des Iles de l'Océan Indien dans le budget 2018/2019, un centre d'entraînement pour le judo et d'autres sports de combats sera installé à Port Mathurin. *Can we know from the Commissioner where is the centre d'entraînement and when this will be constructed ?*

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: So, the project has already been discussed with the consultant and we are waiting their replies in that scent.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to the sports infrastructure at L'Union, I remember there was lighting facilities at this infrastructure but actually, two of these light has been taken out. I do not know where you have put the infrastructure. Will the Commissioner see to it that these lights are being put again for the athletes at this point could make use of it, of the infrastructure? And, when will this be done?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: We just procured 130 lighting systems. So, we are going to see to it that all playgrounds and sportsgrounds are equipped with lights.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

BOOSTER GRANT SCHEME FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

(No. B/15) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the Booster Grant Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs, she will inform the House on where matters stand as at date indicating:

- (a) the eligible sectors;
- (b) when the scheme was launched, the number of applications received together with the number selected therefor;

- (c) any support or expert advice sought relating to the eligible sectors, and, in the affirmative, to table any report submitted in connection therewith; and
- (d) all facilities or help being provided to beneficiaries thereof to enable them consolidate their activities?

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis) : Madam Chairperson, with your permission, allow me to reply Question B/15 and B/22 at the same time as both questions deals with the Booster Grant Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs.

Madam Chairperson: Permission granted, you may proceed.

The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis) : Thank you, Madam Chair. In fact, the Booster Grant Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs was launched following the approval of the Executive Council at its meeting held on the 01 December 2017. The aim of the Booster Grant Scheme is to enhance the sustainability of women's startups by supporting them financially through the acquisition of raw materials, light equipment and other tools as well as providing them with appropriate training if required. It also aims at giving a boost to women SMEs that are facing difficulties to mobilise the required fundings through bank loans and other sources so as to allow their business to bloom. Madam Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of Question B/15, the eligible sectors under the Booster Grant Scheme are as follows: Agroprocessing, Craft and Textile, Floriculture and event-related activities.

As regard to part (b), a first call for applications through radio communiqué was broadcasted on the 09 February 2018 to enlist applications for women entrepreneurs in the abovementioned sectors. At the closing date fixed for the 01 February 2018, 111 applications were received. Following the recommendations of the Technical Committee which was set up to evaluate the applications, 10 women entrepreneurs' applicants were selected to benefit from Booster Grant Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs. A second call for applications restricted to the Floriculture Sector was launched on the 18 April 2018 with closing date set for 02 May 2018. At the closing date, 13 applications were received. Madam Chairperson, following an evaluation exercise, a committee set up at the level of my Commission recommended that only two entrepreneurs be awarded the grant. But given that all 13 applicants are actively involved in horticulture and that the Commission aimed at elevate... aimed to elevate the whole sector into a new sphere, the Executive Council has there at its meeting of Friday 18 January 2019,

decided that a grant amounting to Rs 10,000 be awarded to every applicant for the acquisition of tools as the first phase of the project.

Madam Chair, as regard to part (c) of the question, the eligible sectors were determined by a Technical Committee at the level of my Commission and as such, no expert advice was sought on the matter. With regard to part (b), the beneficiaries under the Boost of Grant Scheme are provided with raw materials, tools and light equipment to a maximum of Rs 50,000 so as to enable them to consolidate their business. In addition, regular monitoring and site visits are carried out so as to ensure the sustainability of their business. Furthermore, my Commission has enlisted technical assistance from young entrepreneurs from Mauritius in view to developing a new training programme for women in horticulture. The aim was to make a situational analysis of the sector and to conduct a training need analysis so as to develop a training programme for the entrepreneurs in horticulture. With regard to part (a) of the Question 22, the selection criteria for the grant of tools and minor equipment under the Boost of Grant Scheme for the 13 women applicants are as follows:

- To be a woman and to involved in the floral sector for more than three years;
- Should be aged between 25 and 15 years' old
- Should be registered as an SME with local institutions and,
- To be backed.... organisations such as EGOI and other recognised women associations.

An amount of Rs130,000 has been earmarked in that respect. Madam Chairperson, the Boost of Grant Scheme is meant for the time being for women entrepreneurs as it was found that women SMEs compared to male entrepreneurs were facing difficulties to mobilise the required funding through bank loans and other sources so as to allow their businesses to bloom.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner whether, prior to the project, for example, horticulture, if the beneficiary has already involved money or equipment? Is the Commission now will refund for these monies to these beneficiaries? They have already invested on...

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : In fact, Madam Chair, I informed the House in my reply that the Boost of Grant Scheme is applied for women having at least three years of experiences. So, if they have experiences, it is supposed that they have invested before. So, we cannot come and refund them for what they have done before. But as from now on, so, we will be... Because we have discussed together and we have decided on what will help. So, we will

help them as from the date they have submitted, as from the date they have submitted the project and the project has been approved; not before that.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II
– EARLY DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMME**

(No. B/16) The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Miss M. R. Collet) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, he will enlighten the House with regards to the implementation of the Phase II of the Early Digital Learning Programme in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that in the context of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education, the Ministry of Education is equipping all Primary Schools in the Republic with tablets with a view to developing digital knowledge in pupils. Madam Chairperson, the Phase 1 of the project makes provision for the distribution of 1560 tablets, 72 projectors, 79 rack chargers and other related devices to Grade 1 and 2 pupils in Rodrigues. With regard to the implementation of the Phase II of the Early Digital Learning Programme in Rodrigues. I am informed that the following devices have been distributed to the 17 Primary schools in Rodrigues in January 2019:-

- 719 tablets with related accessories;
- 39 projectors related to accessories; and
- 65 rack chargers.

My Commission is facilitating the implementation of this national project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Rodrigues. Madam Chairperson, the projectors and screens have been installed in Grade 3 Classrooms by the supplier of the devices on 04 February 2019 and 06 February 2019. Madam Chairperson, with regard to the electrification of Grade 3 Classrooms in Rodrigues, I am informed that the Ministry of Education is carrying out the evaluation of the bids and the contract is scheduled to be awarded by end of February 2019 and works will be undertaken by the contractor for a duration of two months. The tentative date of completion of electrification is expected by beginning of May 2019. My Commission is liaising with the Ministry of Education to accelerate the process. By the beginning of the second semester of the school calendar 2019, all Grade 3 Classrooms are expected to be provided with the proper electrical connection and as such, tablets and other devices will then be used by pupils and Educators.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, nous savons tous que l'année dernière, j'avais posé une question. Le Chef commissaire avait dit que les enfants de *Grade 1* de 2018 allait s'en servir de la tablette depuis l'année dernière. Est-ce que les tablettes sont toujours en bonne condition ? Et rien n'a été fait. Est-ce qu'il peut nous éclairer encore un petit peu là-dessus ?

The Chief Commissioner: Les tablettes restent à l'école. On ne donne pas les tablettes pour que les enfants les emportent à la maison. C'est pourquoi il y a des *rackers* et on met ces tablettes dans des *rackers* et c'est pourquoi il y a eu l'électrification de ces *rackers* ou ces *chargers* pour que vraiment, les tablettes puissent être en bonne condition. Et c'est pourquoi maintenant, le Grade III va recevoir aussi des tablettes comme j'ai annoncé dans ma réponse. Le Grade III et ensuite, il va y avoir de la formation aussi pour du côté des enfants, des étudiants et du côté des éducateurs.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/26 and B/27 have been withdrawn. Next question.

PROJECT - DREDGING & RECLAIMING WORKS/POINTE L'HERBE & ALLIED WORKS - PORT MATHURIN HARBOUR

(No. B/17) (Miss M. R. Collet) (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he will enlighten the House in regard to the project for dredging and reclaiming works at Pointe L'Herbe and allied works in Port Mathurin Harbour?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, a Port Masterplan study was undertaken in collaboration with Mauritius Ports Authority in 2016 and the main recommendations for the long term development of the Island are as follows: -

- (i) To construct a new quay to the west of the existing port, removing the port facilities from the centre of the town;
- (ii) To develop a dedicated fishing port at Pointe L'Herbe; and
- (iii) Construction of yacht facilities (marina) at Port Mathurin.

I am further informed that the recommendations of the Port Masterplan will be implemented in these two phases:

Firstly, works to be implemented under Phase I include:

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- (i) Construction of rock revetment to contain dredged material at Pointe L'Herbe;
- (ii) Dredging of a new navigational Channel for Boats to Oyster Bay;
- (iii) Land Reclamation and ground consolidation at Pointe L'Herbe;
- (iv) Construction of a dedicated fishing port together with all relevant infrastructure, pavements, access roads and other facilities;
- (v) Removal of the coral outcrop for a safe and deeper navigation channel; and
- (vi) Construction of mooring and associated facilities for yachts.

Secondly, works to be implemented under Phase II would comprise:

- (i) Capital dredging of the main navigational channel;
- (ii) Land reclamation between Pointe L'Herbe and Port Mathurin; and
- (iii) Construction of a new quay/ stacking yard and associated facilities.

Madam Chairperson, the Scope of Services of Consultancy Services for the Phase I of the project includes three stages namely:

Stage A: Preliminary Designs, Feasibility reports, Site Investigations and Environment Impact Assessment;

Stage B: Detailed Engineering Designs and Tender Services; and

Stage C: Overall Project Management and Supervision of Works.

The Phase II of the project would be only entertained following completion of Phase I.

The Minority Leader: Can I ask the Respected Chief Commissioner, he has been talking of the removal of the outcrop in the first Phase. Can I know what is the time frame for this? Whether this will be done shortly and what is this time frame?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I think I mentioned this in my reply. Yes, yes.

Madam Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner has already given this in his answer. Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/29, B/30 and B/31 have been withdrawn. Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF 500 RAINWATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES – LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

(No. B/18) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the construction of 500 rainwater harvesting structures for low income households, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, the construction of 500 rainwater harvesting structures for low income households is the second phase of the project co-finance by the European Union and Rodrigues Regional Assembly. This project is to provide a maximum of two round re-inforce concrete water tanks per eligible household to ensure that they secure a minimum storage capacity of 4 m³ of rainwater harvested from the slab or CIS roof.

As at date, the construction of 483 water tanks has already been completed and the casting of the remaining 17 involving nine families is in progress. It is likely to be over by the end of February.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Concerning the low income households, can we have some details on low income households? The range?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Households earning below Rs 10,000 for this particular project.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

PRODUCTION OF ENERGY FROM ORGANIC WASTE FOR COOKING PURPOSES

(No. B/19) Mr. Z. Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the production of energy from organic waste for cooking purposes, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the “production of energy from household and animal waste for cooking purpose” is an innovative project which is being implemented by my commission jointly funded by the Indian Ocean Commission and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Other important partners in the project are the R.C.S.S and the M.I.T.D. The main objective of the project is to provide bio digesters to produce biogas to 153 low income families selected according to established criterias. The biogas will be used as an alternative to LPG Gas and cooking wood. The project is being implemented since November 2017 and till at date the following has been completed:

- (i) Appointment of a project manager to coordinate the project;
- (ii) Identification of six villages for the implementation of the project. The six villages are Le chou, Remir, Ile Michel, L’Union, Graviers and Palisade ;
- (iii) Selection of 153 beneficiaries through door to door visits;
- (iv) Consultative visits made by Indian Ocean Commission with regard to construction of bio digesters required to transform wastes into energy;
- (v) Training sessions made by M.I.T.D students about Biogas Technology.
- (vi) Training sessions made with 16 resource persons on the construction of biogas plants;
- (vii) Building of one biogas digester plant as a model at one beneficiary’s residence at Le Chou.

The I.O.C has already made a 1st disbursement of some Rs 557,000 for the implementation of the project. In addition to the above, a grant of Rs 2.7 m. will be disbursed shortly by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to finance the procurement of materials and the construction of some 30 digesters to beneficiaries residing at Le Chou.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can I know the eligibility criteria in order to beneficiate from such project?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I have already answered this question, Madam Chairperson. I said, this has to be low income beneficiaries and my friend just explained what low income means.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

LOSSES – CYCLONE GELENA

(No. B/20) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recent passage of cyclone Gelena in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) give details about the damages encountered and surveyed sector-wise, in agriculture, housing, fishing, amongst others; and
- (b) list the post cyclone recovery measures he is contemplating to take, if any, stating if there is any money available under the Chief Commissioner's Office budget therefor and, in the affirmative, to give a breakdown sector-wise?

(Answered together with B/4)

EXTENSION SCHEME - TRUST FUND HOUSES

(No. B/21) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether in regard to the recent launching of the Extension Scheme for Trust Fund houses, he will inform the House:-

- (a) about the aims of the project;
- (b) of the number of targeted beneficiaries and the criteria set to benefit therefrom together with the modalities that will be adopted to implement same;
- (c) under which item vote provision is made for this project, specifying the amount of funds available therefor; and
- (d) the current status of the project and the due date for the completion thereof?

The Commissioner for Housing and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am to inform the House that the main name of the project is to consolidate the Regional Government's Housing Policy of '*Ene famille ene bon lakaz*', that is, a concrete house with a minimum specific requirement including an attached toilet, bathroom and kitchen. We are all aware that the Trust Fund for Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups address the housing problem in Rodrigues in 1990's, eligible households were given construction materials to build a concrete house of 24 m² with pitch CIS roof of two rooms and they had themselves to bear the

cost, the labour cost. The Housing Unit neither have basic sanitary facilities nor a kitchen.

Madam Chairperson, moreover, Members of this House know very well that many of these commonly called Trust Fund houses have over the years undergone degradation of the concrete structures, rusting of CIS roofs and rotten or termite infested wooden structures. Unfortunately, many of these housing unit were built without proper supervision.

Madam Chairperson, our aim for launching this scheme are not only to extent the Trust Fund house just for the sake of adding space but we are going far beyond that. In fact, we are also reinforcing the existing structure to make it cyclone-proof with concrete roof and with also possibility of extension upstairs. We are also improving the condition of living and hygiene by including a decent shower and toilet, protecting the environment and most importantly, our underground water tables from contamination by making provision for a sceptic tank and providing *un accompagnement special* for the most vulnerable of these families with the collaboration of Community Based Organisations to break the circle of poverty in which many of them are trapped.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (b) of the question, may I inform the House that our target is not to just pick and choose as it has been the case sometimes back. The Scheme will be launched for every Trust Fund house owner who do not avail of the sanitary facilities and kitchen and also, it will be a contributory scheme. As we are projected, there will be a massive influx of applicants. We all know that funds are not unlimited and it will be imperative to prioritise for each financial year because you also have to cater for other ongoing Social Housing Schemes. The plans for extension which will consist of two options have already been approved by colleagues of the Executive Council and obviously, we will advertise for same very soon.

As regards, to part (c), provision for all housing projects, except Grant for Casting of Slab falls under a single Capital Vote Item in the budget of my Commission, that is, Vote 610331113012 – Housing and Rehabilitation. The voted amount for financial year 2018-2019 is Rs 80 m.

As regards, to part (d) of the question, this project like other housing schemes is not like all normal construction projects, which has a pre-defined end period and date. Once it is launched, it will be an ongoing project over a couple of financial years until all the houses concerned have been upgraded, rehabilitated and made cyclone-proof.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can we know from the Commissioner, the number of beneficiaries targeted? You did not mention this.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As I have said, we have so far registered more than 1500 potential beneficiaries. But we will start with about 100 of them in the first batch. Yes.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, you know, I have been on site in the region of Le Chou, there are Trust Funds houses, which are in a deplorable state. They are leaking, lots of water get inside. Can the Commissioner assure the House that these kind of houses will be given due consideration, prioritise consideration in the first batch of this scheme?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: As I have said, the situation is not only at Le Chou but all around the island. We already have some data, based on latest records from mainly Bergita. So, we have around 600 of such cases which will be considered in the first instance as priority cases.

The Minority Leader: May I ask the Respected Commissioner, he has said that of the targeted beneficiaries, that 100, he will start with 100. Can we know how the 100 will be chosen?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I have said based on the state of their houses, which are in most needy as cases mentioned probably by the Member from the other side of the House.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

BOOSTER GRANT SCHEME FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

(No. B/22) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether she will enlighten the House in regard to the grant of tools and minor equipment under the Booster Grant Scheme to thirteen women applicants to develop their activities, stating:-

- (a) selection criteria applied with respect thereto together with the total amount disbursed therefor; and
- (b) if this exercise was also open to male applicants and, in the negative, to give reasons why?

(Answered together with B/15)

**MINOR PROJECTS IN VILLAGES – COMPLAINT – BAD STATE OF
TRACK ROAD/VILLAGE OF DANS BEGUE**

(No. B/23) Mr. J.R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to minor projects in villages, he will inform the House on any complaint received by his Commission concerning the bad state of the track road deserving the village of Dans Bégué and, in the affirmative, to state any action being envisaged in relation thereto and the time frame associated therewith?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, a Work Order was issued for the construction of track roads and footpaths in Region 3. Within the scope, there is the repairs to the existing track road from Les Hirondelles towards Dans Bégué Village. All the works within the Works Order have been completed except for the repairs works for the track road leading to Dans Bégué. The contractor has been instructed to complete the work and they are expected to mobilise shortly.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, in line with the track roads in Rodrigues, can I ask the Respected Commissioner, in the region of Dans Bébé and Others, there are some people who are suffering from damaged track roads and no track roads at all. Can the Commissioner assure the House due consideration will be given to these cases?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I have already answered to the question with respect to Dans Bégué. Now, not only in Dans Bégué are we facing with problem of track road. I think, it is a problem all around the island. My Commissioner have already initiated action for the tendering of 30 kms additional track road. This means that we are going to have almost 5 kms/region and I expect that as per requirements and the need of the people, we are going to provide them with the necessary track road.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

**VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS – ESTABLISHED POLICY &
PROTOCOL/SPECIAL MEASURE/SCHEME**

(No. B/24) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to victims of natural disasters, including planters and farmers, he will inform the House of the established policy and protocol set therefor indicating if any special measure

and/or scheme will be directed at the victims of cyclones Funani and Gelena specifying, in the affirmative, from where funds will be made available therefor?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee):
Madam Chairperson, following natural disaster the policy protocol is put in place in my Commission:

(1) Estimate of damages to the Agricultural Sector

- (a) A rapid survey is conducted by officers of the Agricultural Research & Extension Services to estimate damages caused to the Agricultural Sector. Generally, a first estimate is ready within six working hours following a disaster.
- (b) A more detailed survey is then carried to estimate the area of crops and estimated percentage damaged caused by the disaster by locality. The first draft of this detail report is completed within five working days following a natural calamity.
- (c) A minimum of six desks are opened at Citronelle and Extension Offices to register complaints from farmers/planters namely three at Citronelle office, two at La Ferme extension office and one at Trèfles extension office.

As regards to the Livestock sector, Madam Chairperson, farmers are requested to register their complaints regarding death of animals, which are recorded during the three working days after a natural disaster provided they have a Mauritius Police Force memo. Thereafter, the Veterinary Services certify the death of the livestock on fields within the next 24 hours. Upon registration, the farmers should submit Police memorandum. A final report is then submitted for policy decision within two weeks depending on extent of damage.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to Crop & Infrastructure, registration of complaints from planters is opened soon after the cyclone for a period of one week. After registration, field officers confirm the damages reported on fields under the supervision of Scientific Officer/Senior Scientific Officers. Under normal circumstances the final report is ready within two weeks following the calamities.

Madam Chairperson, I am not at this stage in a position to talk about compensation. The cyclone Gelena just hit Rodrigues, surveys are still being conducted and Upon finalisation of the report and upon approval of the executive

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council necessary actions will be taken to provide necessary assistance to farmers, victims of the Cyclone Gelena.

Madam Chairperson, funds will be provided from the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

(No. B/26) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to sports activities in Rodrigues, she will inform the House on:

- (a) if all sports complexes, including football grounds are equipped with necessary operational lighting facilities and to table a list of all infrastructure available thereat; and
- (b) when the football playground of Roche Bon Dieu will become operational?

[Withdrawn]

**ROAD DRAINS – MR. M. B. RETAIL SHOP
– COROMANDEL/GRANDE MONTAGNE**

(No. B/27) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to road drains by the one-way road located next to Mr. M. B. retail shop towards Coromandel, at Grande Montagne, he will inform the House of the state thereof and indicate any remedial action his Commission intends to take in regard thereto and, if so, when?

[Withdrawn]

DUMPING SITE/ROCHE BON DIEU

(No. B/29) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner of Environment and Others whether, in regard to the dumping site of Roche Bon Dieu, he will inform the House about the measures taken by his Commissioner to eliminate the different forms of pollution caused thereby?

[Withdrawn]

WATER DISTRIBUTION – MECHANISM SET UP

(No. B/30) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to water distribution in Rodrigues, he will inform the House of any mechanism set up at the level of his Commissioner to ensure optimum service delivery to the population?

[Withdrawn]

SMALL MARKET – CNR MONT LIMON & ORANGE ROAD

(No. B/31) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member asked the Commissioner for Community Development and Others whether, in regard to the small market situated at the corner of Mont Limon and Orange road in Mont Lubin, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) when the construction thereof started and was completed, indicating the successful bidder and the amount paid therefor; and
- (b) if any activities are currently being carried out thereat?

[Withdrawn]

Madam Chairperson: Question time is over.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT – 15 TO 17 FEBRUARY 2019

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission I would like to make a short statement with regards to the Prime Minister's visit during last weekend.

Le week-end dernier, nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir le Premier Ministre de la République de Maurice, l'Honorable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth à Rodrigues.

La mission du Premier Ministre portait sur trois volets principaux notamment :

- (1) Constater de visu les dégâts causés par le cyclone Gelena ;
- (2) Assister au lancement de la bande passante haut débit sur le Câble MARS ;

- (3) Tenir des discussions avec le Conseil Exécutif sur le prochain budget de l'Assemblée Régionale ainsi que sur les projets infrastructurels majeurs de l'île.

Avant son départ, le Premier Ministre m'a confié de sa profonde admiration du courage et de la solidarité exemplaire du peuple Rodriguais après le passage du cyclone. La résilience de notre peuple et cette envie de se reconstruire au plus vite possible l'ont énormément impressionné et marqué. Il ne cessait de me faire part à quel point cela lui a fait chaud au cœur d'entendre le même cri de toutes les personnes rencontrées lors de sa visite qui avaient été affectées par le cyclone.

Cette envie de se reconstruire - il reprenait souvent l'exemple de cette femme qui avait perdu la toiture de sa maison. Elle a préféré se débrouiller pour se mettre à l'abri chez quelqu'un au lieu d'aller au centre de refuge. Il était surtout impressionné par la requête de la femme. « *Misié Premier Ministre, mo pa oulé grand zafer ni largen, mo besoin zis deux trois feuilles toles pou ré-arranz mo lakaz* ». Madame la présidente, face à cette humilité, je ne pouvais rester insensible. Le Conseil Exécutif a déjà décidé de lui offrir un nouveau toit- une dalle en béton. Par ailleurs, nous allons étendre cette même facilité à tous ceux qui sont dans la même situation.

D'autre part, les paroles de ce pêcheur de Baie Du Nord qui lui a dit : « *Premier Ministre nous ce qui nous pé demande ou, nou pa besoin largent nou. Cé qui nou demandé, c'est fer nous régagne ene bateau pou nous capable ré- alle la pêche, pou faire nou fami vive* ». De l'autre côté de l'île, il a pu constater ce même cri du cœur auprès des agriculteurs de Rivière Banane.

Madame la présidente, ces témoignages démontrent clairement que notre politique de non-assistanat commence à porter ses fruits. J'ai toujours prôné une politique de débrouillardise et j'ai toujours cru en la capacité du Rodriguais à faire face aux défis, à se surpasser et surtout à se relever. Je suis fier et heureux aujourd'hui de constater après plus de 40 ans de lutte que notre vision a été bien comprise et nos efforts commencent à porter ses fruits.

Madame la présidente, nous travaillons actuellement sur des mesures d'accompagnement aux personnes affectées par Gelena que nous allons rendre public très bientôt.

Madame la présidente, un autre évènement marquant du weekend dernier fut le lancement de la bande passante haut débit à Rodrigues. Un moment que toute la population de Rodrigues a vécu avec vive émotion. A l'heure où je

m'adresse à vous, une partie de la population vit déjà cette nouvelle expérience et d'ici peu les abonnés du réseau Emtel pourront vivre cette même expérience. Malgré les campagnes démagogiques et mensongères de certains, nous avons toujours respecté notre promesse envers le peuple de Rodrigues.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order ! This is out of order, Respected Member. This is out of order. Respected Members from a sitting position, please. This is out of order. Yes, Chief Commissioner, you may proceed.

The Chief Commissioner: Malgré les campagnes démagogiques et mensongères de certains, nous avons toujours respecté notre promesse envers le peuple de Rodrigues. Nous avons promis trois grands projets révolutionnaires pour Rodrigues dont la connexion du câble optique sous-marin, le développement de l'aéroport et celui du port. Nous traduisons nos promesses en actions. Aujourd'hui, nous avons complété le projet de câble optique sous-marin. Le peuple assistera très bientôt à la concrétisation de notre deuxième promesse qui est celle de la construction d'une nouvelle piste d'atterrissage à Plaine Corail.

[Applause]

Madame la présidente, nous avons également eu l'occasion de discuter avec le Premier Ministre des projets liés à la présentation du prochain budget de l'assemblée régionale. Comme vous le savez nous sommes tenus à présenter le Budget 2019/2020 avant le 31 mars de cette année. Nous avons aussi pour faire un tour d'horizon des autres gros projets de développement de l'île dont le port et l'aéroport. Je donne donc rendez-vous à la population le 22 mars prochain pour la présentation du Budget de 2019/2020. Mme. la présidente, merci pour votre attention.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner for Women's Affairs.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET/SUBMARINE FIBRE OPTIC CABLE MARS

The Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK): Madam Chairperson, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through my Commission, which is responsible for ICT among others has set as strategic direction for 2018-2021, the leveraging of information technology as a key tool for development. *Pa tro coné ki vé dir bande passante ek câble optic.* Honte ! Shame ! In that respect, a contract was signed on the 18

November 2017 between the RRA and Mauritius Telecom for the procurement of internet connection/bandwidth services through the undersea fibre optic cable for the sum of US \$ 44,784,694. The contract of the works was for a duration of two years.

Madam Chairperson, as the House will recall, the landing of the cable was historically and grandly celebrated by the population on the 17 November 2018 at Grand Bay. I am pleased to inform the House, that the dream of every Rodriguan to be connected to high speed internet is no longer a mere dream but has now become a reality since as from last night people are experiencing the change, that is, last night Monday 18 February 2019, and following the official launching on Saturday 16 February by the Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Louis Serge Clair of Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, Rodrigues island is entering into a new era of digital development with the operation of the first undersea submarine cable MARS, which connects Rodrigues to Mauritius and to the rest of the world through the internet gateway.

It is expected that the high speed internet, the MARS fibre optic cable will foster the major breakthrough in an enhancing the ICT Investment climate in Rodrigues. ICT will be used as an instrument to support business processes and information flow within and across economic activities.

Madam Chair, it is worth mentioning that when we came into power in 2012, we had at that time a bandwidth capacity of 35, around 35 Mbps and today we have reached a bandwidth capacity of 100,000 Mbps, that is, 20 hundred the falls. And in addition, the increase in bandwidth capacity and reliability of connectivity, will enable the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to develop other sectors by leveraging ICT as a key tool for development. For instance, in the Education and Trading Sector, whereby better internet will facilitate the implementation of School Net Project, provision of tablet to primary and secondary students, rapid online research, video conferencing, virtual class as well as capacity building programme for the youth in the field of ICT and other related subjects. In addition, the e-health project will also become a reality shortly.

With the availability of the high speed internet connectivity, the RRA is leaving no stone unturned to promote ICT development and create a platform for developing technology based businesses. As such, a Techno Park, which will constitute an important tool in that endeavor will be set up as announced in the Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner for financial year 2018-2019. The

Techno Park will host outsourcing relating businesses, which will create remunerative employment for the younger generation and improve the standard of living of the population in general.

Further development of the ICT Sector would diversify the economic pillars of the island and lay a strong foundation for the next era of economic development of the island. The ICT Sector is expected to add to the growth of the economy while at the same time creating employment, traditional sectors which are growing rapidly will highly benefit from ICT thereby, increasing efficiency and value addition.

The emergence of the ICT Sector can also enable the export of services as it will enable the setting up of Call Centers, other than CSL which will propose services to wider range of people from different countries and will also undertake foreign marketing for local products leading to more job creation in the economy.

In this context, and in line with the vision of making ICT a vibrant sector of the economy while contributing to job creation and attracting potential investors, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is seeking technical assistance with a view to increase employment opportunities by creating remunerating employment for the younger generation which in turn will improve the standard of living of the population of Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, pending the recruitment of the Consultant or consultancy firm to advise the RRA on the sectors that can potentially develop in Rodrigues, my Commission has organised a one and half day workshop from 13 to 14 February on the theme: *“La connectivité pour des emplois durable”*. Resource persons from Mauritius, Reunion Island and France intervened on the following areas:

- Employment opportunities and challenges
- Training needs requirements
- Les métiers du future et les nouvelles technologies

Following the workshop, my Commission is now working on schemes and incentives to be offered to local, national and international entrepreneurs and businesses willing to tap the opportunities being offered by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly so as to attract potential investors in view of boosting the ICT Sector in Rodrigues.

Madam Chair, may I share our main objectives of creating at least, 1000 direct jobs for the five years to come, knowing that many indirect also will be created pending the setting up. Madam Chairperson, with a view to ensure an

efficient and effective management of the bandwidth allocation on MARS cable, it has been decided to set up an appropriate organizational structure. Pending the setting up of the same structure and pending the finalization of a pricing mechanism for allocation of bandwidth on the MARS cable by the RRA, it has been decided in the meantime to allocate the internet connectivity of 2 GBps on a test and trial period until further notice to the two operators in Rodrigues namely: Mauritius Telecom and EMTEL Ltd. in order to assess the demand and fully understand the market potential of the MARS Cable.

Mme. la présidente, comme là si bien dit le Pape François dans son message spécial adresser au peuple de Rodrigues à l'occasion de ce pas géant que le pays a franchi ce samedi 16 février, je cite : « *Je forme le vœux que ce progrès technologique permette une plus grande solidarité entre les hommes, favorise le développement économique de l'île en particulier l'emploi des jeunes et la diffusion des valeurs humaines fondamentale ainsi que les enseignements de la foi.* » Il poursuit en disant : « *Je souhaite aussi que par l'intercession de la Vierge Marie, les Rodriguais sachent se garder des mauvais usages parfois contraires à la dignité humaine de ce magnifique moyen de communication* » fin de citation. Merci, Mme. la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner for Health and Others.

**REPLY TO DOCUMENT TABLED BY MINORITY LEADER/PQ B6
- AVASTIN TREATMENT**

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety):
Madam Chairperson, with your permission I would like to make statement following the paper which has been tabled by the Minority Leader this morning concerning PQ B/6 relating to prescription of treatment to eye patient.

Madam Chairperson, I reiterate my answer provided this morning and reassure this House that no Avastin treatment has been prescribed to patients in Rodrigues since this treatment has been stopped in Mauritius in the year 2014.

The paper which the Minority Leader has tabled relates to a referral form dated 23 July 2018 concerning the patient Mrs. I. S. This referral form is not a prescription. It contains information given by the patient. This paper which the Minority Leader has tabled relates to a referral form dated 23 July 2018 concerning the patient I. S. This referral form, I repeat again is not a prescription. It contains information given by the patient. In fact, when my Commission has studied the file deeply, no Avastin treatment has ever been prescribed to the

patient. Instead she was injected with Intravitreal Kenacort injection by the Specialist when she was admitted in Female Ward on the 20 February 2018. This is commonly used in any government hospital in Mauritius to treat end stage of diabetes retinopathy. Thank you, Madam the Chairperson.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others.

IMPORTATION DES LEGUMES DE MAURICE – CYCLONE GELENA

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

Mme. la présidente, merci de me donner l'occasion de faire une petite déclaration à cette Assemblée concernant la décision prise par ma Commission et qui a été prise par le Conseil Exécutif de ce présent Gouvernement Régional par rapport à l'importation des légumes de Maurice afin de pallier la pénurie attendue à Rodrigues suite au passage du cyclone Gelena. Normalement, les importateurs, Madam Chairperson, des légumes de Maurice ont la liberté d'importer n'importe quoi, n'importe quels légumes et écouler sur le marché Rodriguais à n'importe quel prix. De ce fait, ça fait une compétition directe avec des planteurs Rodriguais et également il peut y avoir des abus par rapport au prix. Cette mesure est un premier pas vers le contrôle des légumes de Maurice vers Rodrigues. L'idée est d'autoriser l'importation lorsqu'il y a un manque sur le marché et de bloquer l'importation quand il n'y a pas de pénurie.

Mme. la présidente, le cyclone Gelena a affecté Rodrigues dans la nuit du samedi 9 février 2019 et a été néfaste pour le secteur agricole. Les techniciens de ma Commission ont scionné l'île après le passage de Gelena pour un premier constat. Le bilan est lourd, Madam Chairperson. Et, on estime que la perte s'élève à environ 80%. Alors, Mme. la présidente, on prévoit une pénurie de légumes sur le marché Rodriguais pendant au moins les prochains trois mois. Étant un gouvernement responsable, on ne peut pas rester insensible face à cette situation.

Mme. la présidente, une pénurie de légumes entraînera beaucoup de problème par rapport au mode de vie de nos concitoyens. Le prix exorbitant des légumes ne rendra pas les légumes accessibles à bon nombre de personnes vivant à Rodrigues. C'est justement dans cette optique d'assurer la disponibilité des légumes sur le marché local que ma Commission entre en jeu. Le challenge, Mme. la présidente, était de trouver la meilleure formule afin de protéger les intérêts des importateurs, les 25 plus personnes qui ont des étales dans les différents marchés de Rodrigues ainsi que le consommateur. Ma Commission a donc décidé de travailler avec la Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company, le

TRMC, qui agira comme régulatrice du marché pour les prochains trois mois à venir.

Mme. la présidente, avant de prendre une décision finale se basant sur nos principes d'appliquer la démocratie participative, j'ai organisé une réunion de consultation avec tous ceux concerner dans cette chaîne de vente de légume aux membres du public le jeudi 14 février 2019. Le but de la réunion était de trouver un consensus sur la meilleure modalité afin d'assurer la disponibilité des légumes sur le marché pendant les trois mois à venir pour que tout le monde sort gagnant. Une fois que la situation rentre dans la normale après ces trois mois si tous les conditions sont favorables, le système reviendra comme avant.

Mme. la présidente, après discussion il a été accepté à l'unanimité que la RTMC achètera des légumes qui sont en manque à Rodrigues à travers des commandes à l'AMB. Permettez-moi, Mme. la présidente, de faire ressortir encore une fois, que je protégerai les intérêts des planteurs Rodriguais les intérêt des planteurs Rodriguais et que seulement les légumes qui ne sont pas disponibles à Rodrigues seront importés par la RTMC. Le coût du fret du bateau sera pris par l'Assemblée Régionale et un Management Fee sera payé à la RTMC pour le travail accompli. Les légumes importés seront vendus aux grossistes qui détiennent une licence en bonne et due forme *at cost price*, c'est-à-dire, au même prix que la compagnie a payé à AMB. Les grossistes par la suite vendront à ceux qui opèrent au marché enregistrer, qui en suite vendront aux consommateurs au prix fixé par l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues. C'est pour la première fois à Rodrigues on aura des légumes fixer, Mme. la présidente.

A partir de ce samedi, les officiers de ma Commission feront des sauts aux différents marchés de Rodrigues pour faire la suivie sur la situation par rapport à la disponibilité prix des légumes qui va par la suite influencer la demande sur Maurice. Une des mesures, budgétaire de ma Commission, Madam Chairperson, pour cette année financière est la promulgation des règlements pour contrôler l'importation de la viande, des fruits et des légumes de Maurice. Ces règlements, Mme. la présidente, renforcera la biosécurité et protégera les agriculteurs Rodriguais.

Avant de terminer, Mme. la présidente, je tiens à remercier mes collègues du Conseil Exécutif pour leurs engagements et supports, les maraichers, la RTMC, les officiers de ma Commission ainsi que l'AMB qui ont joués un rôle primordial pour mettre en place les arrangements nécessaires pour l'importation des légumes pendant les trois mois à venir. Je vous remercie, Madam Chairperson.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner for Sports and Others.

**OUTCOME- PARTICIPATION OF ORANGES CLUB SPORTIF
D'AMITIE AND OLYMPIQUE MONTAGNE GOYAVES - 25TH
CHAMPIONNAT DES CLUBS DE LA CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE
DE VOLLEYBALL – ZONE 7**

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard):
Madame la présidente, permettez-moi cet après-midi d'informer la Chambre de la performance fort louable et remarquable de nos athlètes en ce début d'année surtout après la tentative vaine de ce matin de certaine personne pour détourner l'attention des accomplissement de nos athlètes et surtout de l'envergure du succès que nos athlètes ont pu emmener à Rodrigues.

Madame la présidente, nos volleyeurs de l'équipe de Mt Goyaves (Messieurs) et Orange Club Sportif d'Amitie (Dame) ont su raviver et instaurer la fierté dans la population de Rodrigues en ce début d'année surtout après le passage du cyclone Gelena

Madame la Présidente, c'est la troisième fois que Rodrigues participe au Championnat des Clubs de la Confédération Africaine de Volleyball - Zone 7. Cette troisième participation, tenue à Madagascar du 3 au 10 février 2019, s'est vue être marquant dans l'histoire du sport collectif à Rodrigues. Rappelons-le en 2017, l'équipe de Olympique Mt Goyaves (Messieurs) a fait honneur à Rodrigues en ramenant à la maison la médaille de bronze. Cette année encore, Madame la présidente, en 2019, les deux équipes de Rodrigues ont su se démarquer et montrer la force et le progrès du sport Rodriguais en récoltant la médaille d'argent chacune.

Madame la présidente, a l'heure où je vous parle, Rodrigues est le vice-champion de la 25^{eme} Championnat des Clubs de la Confédération Africaine de Volleyball- Zone 7. Sur le plan individuel, Madame la présidente, nos athlètes ont aussi pu faire la différence. Nos athlètes ont su faire notre fierté. Je félicite donc les athlètes suivant pour leur performance remarquables dans cette compétition :-

- Best digger: Kevin Larose
- Best Blocker: William Polimon
- Best Setter: Hansley Casimir
- Best Digger: Dorinette Nanette

Madame la présidente, le meilleur joueur de la rencontre de la Zone 7 n'est autre qu'un Rodriguais : Kevin Larose.

Madame la présidente, je saisis cette grande opportunité pour étendre mes sincères remerciement et appréciation aux personnes suivantes :

- (1) Je remercie le Chef Commissaire et le Conseil Exécutif pour toute la considération qu'il porte à nos athlètes.
- (2) le Comité Régionale Volleyball de Rodrigues et La Fédération de Volleyball avec qui nous avons une relation de travail harmonieuse et qui ont pu faire en sorte que Rodrigues soit représenté lors de cette prestigieuse compétition.
- (3) les comités exécutifs des différentes équipes ainsi que les joueurs eux-mêmes, leurs familles et les Rodriguais en général.

Rappelons-le, Madame la présidente, que cette compétition a vu aussi la participation des îles Maurice, Seychelles, Madagascar et Mayotte. Ayant été moi-même un témoin de leurs entraînements et après des diverses discussions régulières avec les entraîneurs, j'ai pu prendre note que cette année nous allions être mieux placé que l'année 2017. Madame la présidente, cette performance sportive est le fruit d'un travail d'équipe colossal. Le soutien et la collaboration de tous les partenaires ont été important.

Madame la présidente, la réforme au niveau du football et du volleyball porte ses fruits. Cette performance extraordinaire nous rassure après l'implémentation de notre politique pour l'avancement du sport collectif mise en place en 2017 que le Sport D'équipe vraiment avance et est en bonne voie. Nous donnons, Madame la présidente, l'opportunité à nos équipes de participer et de concourir dans des compétitions de haut niveau, amenant ainsi nos athlètes et le sport collectif vers un niveau plus professionnel. L'expérience acquis par nos athlètes à un effet positif sur leur perception du sport, leur engagement dans le sport et tous les enjeux qu'il faut prendre en compte en participant dans le sport de haut niveau. L'Assemblée Régionale à travers la Commission des Sports n'a pas hésité à donner son support total pour que les deux équipes se préparent et participent à cette compétition de l'Océan Indien. Notre soutien a été comme suit :-

- (i) Nous avons étendu le service d'un Senior Coach de la Commission spécialisé en volleyball pour le soutien et suivi technique de nos athlètes.

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- (ii) La consolidation de l'équipe d'Orange avec les jeunes joueurs du Centre de Formation de Volleyball.
- (iii) Madame la présidente, nous avons mis une somme de Rs 1,526,000 à la disposition du Comité Régionale Volleyball de Rodrigues pour prendre en charge les tickets, le logement, la nourriture, les frais de participation et les assurances de toute la délégation.

Madame la présidente, pour honorer leurs performances, lors du Sports Award 2018, nous avons récompensé les deux équipes pour leur performance en leur offrant des gift vouchers leur permettant ainsi de s'acheter des Equipment qu'il faut.

Madame la présidente, je profite donc de cette occasion pour dire quelques mots sur le Sports Award tenu Dimanche 17 février à l'hôtel Mourouk Ebony. Cette soirée de récompense a tenu toutes ses promesses avec la consécration de nos meilleures athlètes dans pas moins de 21 catégories.

Je voudrais encore une fois remercier le Chef Commissaire et mes collègues, tous les sportifs, les comités régionaux, les encadreurs, le comité de jury et le staff de ma Commission pour leur dévouement et participation active à faire progresser le sport à Rodrigues. Nos sincères remerciements aussi vont aux sponsors qui soutiennent de plus en plus notre politique sportive.

Madame la présidente, le Sports Award est le symbole que tous nos athlètes partagent la même conviction pour le sport d'Elite. Mme. la présidente, nous faisons le chemin dans la cour des grands et nous poursuivons notre marche vers le sommet. Merci, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly does now adjourned to Friday 22 March 2019 at 16.00 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 3.14 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 22 March at 4.00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NEW OPERATION THEATRE - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/25) Mr. J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether he will inform the House on if the new operation theatre of Queen Elizabeth Hospital is already operational and, if not, to state why?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to inform the House that all equipment has been installed in the New Operating Theatre. However, following recommendation of the Engineer from the Electrical Service Division posted at Jeetoo Hospital in Mauritius, there is need to install a separate Gas Reticulation System for the Operating Theatre. I am informed that same is being presently effected by technician from *Les Gas Industrielles* Ltd. We expect that the New Operating Theatre in the Maternity Block will be operational by the end of next week.

REFUGEE CENTRES – CYCLONE GELENA

(No. B/28) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to people calling at the different refugee centres in Rodrigues during cyclone Gelena, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the total number thereof and indicate all facilities put at the disposal of those refugees?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, during Cyclone Gelena, thirty-nine out of forty centres were operational as Cyclone Refugee Centres. Thammas Community Centre did not open. As per the prevailing protocol, they were opened to admit refugees and as soon as Cyclone Warning Class 3 was issued with the sixth Cyclone bulletin at 13.10 hours on Saturday 09th of February 2019.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that all the centres were attended to by a Supervisor and an Assistant Supervisor who recorded the particulars of each refugee who dropped in.

The refugees came gradually during the night and some came even the next morning. After the all clear bulletin on 10 February, the field officers organized the collection of the refugee attendance sheets from all the centres. According to the data collected a number of 259 refugees had sought refuge at the 39 centres.

I am tabling, Madam Chairperson, the statistics for all refugees and refugee centres.

Madam Chairperson, the decision to convert Community Centres and schools into Cyclone Refugee Centres dates back to some decades. These concrete buildings offer a secure place and also provide a minimum of comfort during the period when cyclonic conditions are prevailing.

The refugee centres have toilets, running water facilities and are resistant to cyclonic gusts. The Supervisor and the Assistant Supervisor are at the service of refugees and ensure the security of and discipline among refugees.

The ration per person is: 1.5 litre of bottled water, one can of Tuna, one packet of salted biscuit. Each centre is also provided with two packs of candles and two match boxes. At the all clear bulletin, the refugees have to regain their homes and are eligible for a cyclone refugee allowance at the rate of Rs 182 per person per night spent at the centre.

DEBRIS AND/OR GREEN WASTE AFTER CYCLONES – DUMPING AREA

(No. B/32) Mr. F. A. Gramdcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the debris and /or green wastes produced after the cyclones recently visiting Rodrigues, he will inform the House as to where same are being dumped and/or disposed of?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, one of the biggest impact of cyclone Gelena on Rodrigues has been the destruction of trees and branches all over the island. This is why immediately of the passage of the cyclone at the level of my commission we initiated the necessary actions to clean Rodrigues in the shortest possible period of time.

Normally green wastes were taken to Oyster Bay Compost Centre. Due to the excessive amount of green wastes available on Rodrigues and because of distance as an important parameter we had no choice as an emergency measure to temporarily earmark two other sites for the disposal of green wastes emanated from the passage of cyclone Gelena. These two sites are:

- (i) Montagne Plate Inert Disposal Site; and
- (i) Roche Bon Dieu opposite to the Dumping Site.

The green wastes will be shredded and eventually be made available to planters for boosting up agricultural production and same free of charge. The estimated amount of green wastes collected is 5200 m³.

Wastes collection is being done mainly by private lorries contracted out by my Commission as Rod Clean Company has to proceed with its usual waste collection activities. It is expected that the collection and disposal of green wastes will be completed around 25 February, 2019.

**CYCLONE GELENA – OWNERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR
BOATS/MEASURES TAKEN**

(No. B/33) Mr. Zepth Félicité (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the passage of cyclone Gelena in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House table a list of the fishermen and/or owners who have lost their boats, and indicate measures his Commission has taken or is contemplating to compensate the same?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, it is also a fact that cyclone Gelena has caused important damages to many fisherman boats and some 104 cases have been reported. However, as enquiry is still ongoing, it would be inappropriate to state any decision on compensation yet or table any names.

As a matter of transparency and good governance. Any decision taken will be in the interest of those concern.

In this connection, a meeting is schedule with the concerned fishermen tomorrow and in light of their complaints and suggestion the House will be informed accordingly.

Slightly	24
Partially (include nature damaged that can be repaired)	40
Completely (include broken and out of order)	38
Total	102

**IMPLEMENTATION – SHIFT SYSTEM – ROTATIONAL
SYSTEM/HEALTH OFFICERS/QEH & AREA HEALTH CENTRES**

(No. A/1) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) 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;
- (b) intended date of implementation therefor, indicating if same is to be on a pilot basis or otherwise; and
- (c) survey carried or to be carried out amongst concerned parties to determine the need for change/replacement of current working system prevailing thereat?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, during the last visit of the Honourable Minister of Health and Quality of Life in Rodrigues in May 2018, a meeting was held regarding the implementation of the shift System for Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers. It was agreed that same will be implemented in Rodrigues.

As regard to part (b) and (c), I must inform the House that my Commission has initiated the necessary action for the creation of additional post of Medical and Health Officers in the next budget for the implementation of the shift system.

We need some 33 Medical and Health Officers for this purpose. We presently have 21 funded posts out of which there are 2 funded vacancies which will be filled in a near future. My Commission has proposed that twelve additional post of Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers are created in the forthcoming budget.

The intended date for the implementation of the shift system will depend upon the finalization of necessary procedures for the creation of the additional post as well as the recruitment process which we cannot specify for the time being.

Madam Chairperson, as regard to part (d), as the shift system for Doctors is a National Policy, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life sent two officers in November 2017 to look into the implementation of this measure. The survey

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concluded that additional Doctors are needed for a proper shift system to be established in Rodrigues.

The respected member is referring to a Tuck-shop which does not fall under the purview of my commission. I regret not to be in a position to provide an answer to this question.