

/UNREVISED/

RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 6 of 2019

Sitting of Friday 05 April 2019

The Assembly met in the Assembly House,
Port Mathurin, at 1.00 p.m.

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 05 APRIL 2019

CONTENT

MOTION

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

“This Assembly resolves that, for the purposes of section 44(1) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, there is approved the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue, Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for the financial year ending 30th June 2020”

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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

MOTION

RESUMPTION AND CONCLUSION OF DEBATE

“This Assembly resolves that, for the purposes of section 44(1) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, there is approved the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue, Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for the financial year ending 30th June 2020”

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I thank you for allow me to rise and offer my contribution to budget 2019-2020 as presented by the Chief Commissioner on Friday 22 March 2019. I would like Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson with your permission to express my condolences to the Clerk of the Assembly, I do not want to cry madam, following the demise of your mother. I have also a special thought to all the families who have suffered by the cyclone Gelaya and also by the cyclone Johanina. Our prayers go to all of them.

Madam Chairperson, the Budget Debate is taking place under two special circumstances this year. Firstly, we have got to commit to the rebuilding of Rodrigues, after not one but two major cyclones in one-month period, as far as I remember, it is the first time that Rodrigues has been hit by two strong cyclones within such a short period of time. I personally have noted that there are some positive things that have crop up out of that. I have observed that there is throwing these two cyclones “*ene revey psychologik*” among our citizens. Why do I say so? It is because formally whenever the radio is announcing the coming or the approach of a cyclone, most people will say: “*ene cyclone sick sa*”. But I am sure that today once we hear the jingle of the cyclone on the radio, everybody will start getting prepared. Preparedness madam Chairperson.

The second thing that I have noted positively from the cyclone in the village where I live there are many bats flying, we have got also a natural control of bats, where, I know for a fact that my colleague the Commissioner for Environment will not like that, but nevertheless we know about complaints that were being done by planters as regards to the fruits and certainly there should have been a control that should have been done and I think that with the cyclone we have had some sort of control.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes.

Thirdly Madam Chairperson, we also note that there were a rampant growth as regards to coshni, now following the passage of the cyclone Gelena cumulative with that of Johanina and the falling of trees, we can say once again we have been lucky for a natural control of such a disease. Nevertheless, madam Chairperson I want to add to be struck twice by two different cyclones is unusual within one year, very, very unusual. As far as my knowledge goes, the last time that we had a cyclone which hit Rodrigues violently it was in 2003 when we were first in the first year of autonomy and I remember on the very date, it was on the 12 March, and on that day, that was the day, the year rather, when Rodrigues did not celebrate independence and republic day. So this is why I consider there are some significances that we can crop that we can get out of this. Yesterday during the budget debate, I have been listening calmly to all those who have come up with their speeches. I have observed two things, I have seen that some members of the Miniority are still under the cyclonic effect, yes, they were still under, **there were some sort of a speech**^[PMRA1]... but yet there were still some cyclonic effect on some of them. I listen carefully, calmly, you know what? I remember my years of study at university I happen to have the chance to visit an Osho centre, the Osho centre of Poona, I know that my friend from Commissioner for Social Security did study in Poona, and there is an Osho centre. When I was visiting that centre, one of the disciple of Osho came to welcome us at the gate and he gives us each one card of the philosopher and the card that I got it wrote, it was written like this, it said, “the whole world is a cyclone, but once you have found the centre, the cyclone disappears, this nothingness is the ultimate peak of consciousness”. This was the text why yesterday I was so calm. Very very very calm yes. Because the cyclone derives its power from a calm centre, yes, so do I.

I was saying Madam Chairperson, as it was quoted from the ... from Osho, “this nothingness is the ultimate peak of consciousness when you have become a master of your emotions”, yes. And you know what Madam Chairperson? This very Assembly in which we represent the people it is a centre of consciousness, this assembly in which we represent the people, it is a centre of consciousness. This is why Madam Chairperson, following the different speeches that have been brought to this house yesterday I will cross-examine the consciousness of the minority. Yes, as regard to what have been said, as regard to what have been said of the different portfolios of the different commissions. And when you listen to them it is as if everything in Rodrigues is wrong, I will have the opportunity to cross-examine their consciousness Madam Chairperson, we will cross-examine their consciousness on that. I do agree on one point, Madam Chairperson, I do agree on one point, that on a democratical stand point there should be differences, I do agree with that. The opposition, as I understand, they cannot be what I will

term as, favourable witness to the government, I will rather consider them as hostile witnesses to the government. That is their role? But, even if they have got the natural instinct to oppose, even if they have got the natural instinct to oppose, but what about the fundamentals? At least Madam Chairperson, we should have differences, but we should have, what I will term as, honest differences. Everything cannot be wrong, everything cannot be bad. You know what? ... yes

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson, see. This is the budget speech of the Chief Commissioner. I am told that we should never judge a book by its cover. But I can assure this House, the cover as well as the content is very good.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Both content and cover, it is very good.

Madam Chairperson: Order! Please address the Chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, both the content and cover are very good. Why Madam Chairperson? I started to count how many measures that the Chief Commissioner has announced on Friday 22nd, I counted. After some time, I get bored. But I can say, I estimated that there should be at least, two hundred to two hundred and fifty measures which has been announced by the Chief Commissioner in this. Yes, in this budget speech Madam Chairperson.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: And when we listen to the Minority group, they come to this House to state that there is nothing good in that. There is nothing good in that Madam Chairperson.

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order! There is a point of order. Order!

The Chief Commissioner: Merci Madam.

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

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I was speaking Madam about the content of the budget speech as read by the Chief Commissioner and before that I was speaking about **how honest differences**^[PMRA2], we should have honest differences. Where are we, where do we agree all in this House? We are, we agree for a commitment to better jobs, for Rodriguans. We agree for agree for more infrastructural development, for better health, for housing, for school for our children. Can the Minority group honestly state that there is no action taken as regard of this in the budget that was stated by the Chief Commissioner? Can you state that honestly speaking? Yes, you are becoming my witness madam, that is good.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: No cross talking please. Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I was telling you that they are unfavourable witness to the government developmental proposition, now I see that slowly at least one of the member is becoming a favourable witness, he does agree that, yes, in that budget speech there are good, there are good measures that have been taken.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, Deputy Chief Commissioner please, please wait. Respected Members I shall remind you of Standing Order 11 where it is stated that “no member shall interrupt any other Member, except on a point of order.” Thank you. Yes, Deputy Chief Commissioner. If you have anything, you rise on a point of order Respected Member, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Thank you Madam Chairperson. I consider Madam Chairperson that I had a very delicate job today. Delicate in the sense that we have to teach a team who is maliciously pretending to be blind. Yes, maliciously pretending to be blind Madam Chairperson. Why do I say maliciously? Because they always come with a dangerous cocktail of risk and uncertainty in whatever sentence they will come up in this Assembly, they will always associate measures with risk and uncertainty with the hope of making people lose in confidence and not believing in the future. A cocktail of risk and uncertainty Madam Chairperson and this tactic it is as old as, I do not know, and it no longer works, yes it no longer works. Make people fear, frighten, that the future is not bright, darkening their mind, it no longer works Madam Chairperson.

An alternative to government should come with alternate ideas. How many new ideas have we been able to hear yesterday? They have come up, take up the budget speeches of 2012-2013-2015-2016 and say, this has not been done, this has not been done.... But what proposal have you done, have you given? There was no proposal! Respected Member Reddy did not do that yesterday? He did Madam Chairperson! What about Respected Member Perrine? He came "*je pense à ...*" everybody can think, even myself I can think. Not thinking in his way but thinking positively, not on the negative side. Yes, *je pose une question encore une fois Madame la Présidente* before I get into the gust of the debate the fundamental question and I am cross-examining your mind once again, *eski Rodrigues pé rétourn 50 ans en ariere ou eski Rodrigues pé résolument projete li lor 50 ans kip é vin*, examine your conscience.

Madam Chairperson: Deputy Chief Commissioner you please address the chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, let us analyse the facts now Madam Chairperson, let us analyse the fact, as stated in the Chief Commissioner, the social investment, the social investment leading to social safety nets for our citizens, yes, I can say from this budget that we are putting money where it is most needed. I can say that! Let us come to the program of the Commission for Social Security "*ene fami ene bon lakaz*". If I remember well, for cyclone Gelena, there were some 272 refugees approximately and this has increased to some 480 for cyclone Johanina. The increase is inevitable because there was still the effect of Gelena, this is why it has increased. But imagine yourself Madam Chairperson if we were hit by such two consecutive cyclones in the year 1980's or in the year 2000. What would have been the situation in Rodrigues now? Catastrophic, yes it would have been catastrophic! Why am I saying so? It is because within the years there have been a program of accompaniment to the people, even if yesterday they were criticising, they were criticising, the trust fund houses that started with us in 2000. Imagine yourself that there were no 1500 *lakaz trust fund dan sa pays la* these people would have been living in CIS houses. What would have been the effect after Gelena and Johanina? We would have had 1500 *par 4*, 6000 refugees minimum, 6000 refugees minimum. While here 472, 482 refugees which represent 0.0118% of the population, isn't that great Madam Chairperson? 0.0118% of the population were refugees. When you look at this as regard to when you have cyclone which strikes Madagascar, Mozambique lately. Can you assess the impact? There are positive measures which have been taken throughout the year Madam Chairperson, you want to recognise it or not, it is right, it is true. This is why the policy of the regional government it is to ensure that our citizens has a good house. It cannot be done all at once, but we are in the process of doing it, with all the schemes, with all the schemes that is under the Commission for Social Security. Yes, and yesterday it was very pitiful, it was very pitiful, in the

sense that, we at the level of the executive council, we decided to house what I will say, the only *sans domicile fix* of Rodrigues by giving him a quarter. JR which was mentioned by your friend Mr Perrine. Did you know what he says about that? Did you know what he says about that? Because we house the only one SDF *dan* Rodrigues? This is a characteristic of Rodrigues Madam Chairperson. Every stranger, every visitor that comes to this island, will recognise one thing, homelessness is unusual here. Homelessness is unusual, why? Because the regional government has a safety net for those in need. Yes, it is true Madam Chairperson that some of these dwelling need to be re-habilitated and upgraded, yet honestly, we should honestly admit that throughout the years we have provided help to the vulnerable of our society to improve their lives, yes, we have done it throughout the years Madam Chairperson Sir. I will not go into cheap politics in analysing what the MR party did in 2006-2011.

Mrs M. T. Agathe: Madam Chairperson a point of order. When here the members have to talk we all have to address the Chair. Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner trying to... *est ce qu'il est entrain de forcer de sortir parce qu'à chaque fois il nous regarde, il ne vous adresse pas, à chaque fois il me regarde tous ces piques sont sur moi. Alors, qu'il se rectifie ! J'ai un mari Monsieur le Chef Commissaire.*

Madam Chairperson: Deputy Chief Commissioner I have been telling you, please address the Chair. No, address the Chair Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I am addressing you, I can speak without looking at you. Yes, because every time I am saying Madam Chairperson. But for my concentration I have to glance, yeah, I have to glance the chamber. Yes, for inspirational purposes sometimes, yes.

Madam Chairperson: After this exchange of compliments Deputy Chief Commissioner please proceed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Sorry Madam. Yes, Madam Chairperson, yes. *Oui* I was saying that we were helping the vulnerable of the society, to provide happiness, productivity, this is very important. You know what? One of the philosophy of providing a person with a good housing is that when she or he goes to bed at night he has a place where he can think for his tomorrow. But if you are living under a bridge Madam Chairperson, it is quite difficult for you to think, what I am going to do tomorrow for my children. But if you are given a good roof like a trust fund house, it may be small but if you are secure when you get inside at least you have a peace of mind to think of your tomorrow. This is why I say productivity, productivity and independence in their life. Yes, we have been attacking, Madam Chairperson, that housing problem on

all fronts, on all fronts. Providing help to the needy, accompany those who are in the middle income group up to Rs20,000 today, even if a family is earning a revenue up to Rs20,000 they can still be helped by this regional government, yes. Formerly it was not like that, it was up to ten thousand, we have increased the threshold to increase the safety net. And if we want to talk about home ownership Madam Chairperson, the fastest way to ensure that someone can afford a house is to make sure that he can have access to finance. Yes, building a house is not that easy today, you should have access to finance. It was pitiful Madam Chairperson, when Respected Member Grandcourt yesterday came in this house and said, we are encouraging people to become *sur-endéter*, why? Because, in his budget speech the Chief Commissioner said “*à partir le 15 Avril dimune pas pu bizin al cadaster pu gagne lotorisation pu pledge zot bail*” we are removing that bureaucratic red taping of administration so that our future citizens can have access to finance for building their house and for other purposes, for education also. And he said that we should have been silent on that because we are encouraging *sur-endetement*. This is how you interpret; this is how Member Grandcourt interpret that measure yesterday. Now how do I interpret his interpretation? He is taking the Rodriguan to be irresponsible Madam Chairperson. When he said that people will go to bank for pledging *et etre sur-endéter* this means that he is taking the Rodriguans to be irresponsible. People needs Rodrigues, Rodriguans do not know how to use money^[PMRA3], if he is *sur-endéter* to build a good dwelling where is the bad? Where is that bad? I think most of us maybe here we have debts; why do we have debts? Because we have contracted loans, mortgage from the banks. How many people in this Rodrigues Island can, without conducting a loan from the bank, build a house? A good one? How many? Very few! So, removing redtaping procedures does not amount to making the *Rodriguais* become *sur-endéter*, *non*, I do not agree with that. I would say that, what the Chief Commissioner announced on Friday 22nd, it is a revolution, yes, it is a revolution Madam Chairperson, this is how I interpret it. Additionally, Madam Chairperson we have to see also the positive effects of our housing program. We are not only tackling a basic human need, but investment in housing is a priority because it promotes growth, it creates employment opportunities and here I think of the contractors, the service providers such as the plumbers, the carpenters, the painters, the electricians, from our housing program, all these persons that I have just mentioned, they are getting a return from investment because it filters down to all sections of the society. That is right.... Madam Chairperson, it is no idle boast, it is no idle boast Madam Chairperson, it is a program set oriented not only to tackle one issue but to tackle two or three issues at the same time *et c'est ça gouverner* this is governing, not being single minded but seeing the broad spectrum of things, this is the characteristics of our executive council, broad spectrum, thinking broadly Madam Chairperson, on this issue also I have a point, another point to add. I go on field several times Madam Chairperson, during the week, and I observe. We have in Rodrigues some pockets

of poverty and we observe also that there are some families which get into an infernal scenario, it is the truth. We have single parent mothers which is being provided with a dwelling and after some time she get a children, a daughter, that daughter will also become single mother, not all, but we can identify this. In my region number 4, I have identified at least three such poverty, such poverty areas. This is why on this very basis I will make an urging, an urging pledge rather to the Commissioner for Women, it has been mentioned here, it has been mentioned, "*la consolidation du programme d'empowerment des parents*" this should reach these families, yes. *Responsabilisation familiale* as it is mentioned in this. Yes, it should go and reach, yes it should reach these families. We should act, *on doit agir, on doit agir* to break what I will term as this poverty wheel, yes we should break this poverty wheel and this break can be done maybe I will say can only be done *a travers la responsabilisation et a travers l'éducation*, you have a great job Madam, yes. I come to the education sector Madam Chairperson, what is our aim? We want quality education for our children, yes quality education for our children. Investing today means investing in the future, in the economic future of this island through education. It is central to our mission Madam Chairperson, this is very important. If you see the so many steps that we are taking through this budget and previous budgets, there are so many. I am going to cite only four. In this budget speech we are providing scholarships to all girls ranking from 1-10 who sit for HSC, *20 la bourse deja*, outside the traditional scholarship I mean. *Tout zanfán ki classé premié ziska 10 filles et garçons, 10 foi dé* twenty, they can have a seat at University. Is this not providing means to our youth? Is it not? Second Madam Chairperson, we are going further, still further for those who study up to S.C we are encouraging universities to continue further studies here Greenwich University Mauritius campus branch, targeted, targeting rather, targeting those who have stopped studies at S.C level. Tailor made. Is it not that accompanying our youth? Ensuring a better future? How are you going to call that? Third Madam Chairperson, while focusing at the secondary level we are also taking care of our small childrens, restructuring the pre-primary sector, restructuring the pre-primary sector. These persons they are on their own Madam Chairperson, it has been for too long, it has been for too long. Now we are providing them with an administrative officer, we are providing them with coordinators, we are providing them with an office, this is re-structuring. Can you imagine today Madam Chairperson as I am speaking with you right now, I got my son who is in kindergarten, if his little miss does not come to school, who accounts for that today? Who accounts for that? We got the system, but is it really accountable? They are going to phone their Chairman of their association to say I am not coming to school? Am sick.... am taking a sick leave.... am taking a local leave and this is their due. But today we are providing them with that office, structuring madam Chairperson of the Pre-Primary Sector. And last but not least as we used to say and this has been mentioned also yesterday, it is about that student-teacher ratio, this is very important. If I just flash back in the last or let me take it from

2002 onwards, we have had the construction of Mont Charlot, Arocaria^[PMRA4], Mont Goyave, Anse Quitor, we have had extension also in different schools, now we are coming with Baie Malgache. If you see the statistics on birth in Rodrigues, it is more or less constant. We have some 800-850 births every year and with 5 additional schools with the influx or the inflow of these children in our system, you can imagine how we will, with time, lead to a re-equilibrium as regards to the student-teacher ratio and we are not going to stop here, I was mentioning it yesterday to the Chief Commissioner, after Baie Malgache we will focus on Baie Topaze because it is not fair enough to see our small children moving from Plaine Mao, Camp Pintade^[PMRA5] take a bus to Ter Borne and then from Ter Borne to La Ferme, this is very long. *Ou pas dacor met ene lecol dans Bair Topaz Mr?* Yes, we will analyse that of course, we will analyse that. If we are going to have one stream school with ten in a class that will do Madam Chairperson. That will do. This is the international trend, did you know that? We were focusing on 1-20, if you go to France today do you know what they are speaking about?

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, this could have been good why not? They are speaking of 1-15. Yes, this is the international trend, so we are going to focus on the Madam Chairperson. Baie Topaze, because in the philosophy of our Chief Commissioner, and I know, I know very well because I was with him in the first mandate when he came with the philosophy of community school, there were so many reluctance to that. There were people who were saying “*moi mo pa pu envoy mo zanfand Montagne Charlot lekol*”. How many of us could have dreamed that we could have had a school at Montagne Charlot? Today if you go to Montagne Charlot and you say you want your kid to go to Basile Allas, you are going to be kicked, I am not going to say where, but you are going to be kicked. Because the concept of community school it has been impregnated in the mindset of all of us, that was a revolution within the Republic of Mauritius Madam Chairperson. I remember that there was one Minister who came here, one Minister who came here, the Chief Commissioner is ... he said that we should apply this on Mainland Mauritius and I think there was one Minister from the Seychelles I think I remember well, one Minister who came here when we were exposing that concept of community school, they said “wow, this is a perfect concept”, a perfect concept Madam Chairperson.

So as regards to that, we are moving and we know where we are moving *pa pe al au hazar ein* it is not arbitrary, it is well set, well planned and you know in the education sector it takes time to reap what you have sown, it takes time and we are reaping already. I may say that it takes time, we are reaping already, when you look at the performances of Arocaria, it is almost most of the time above 80%, most of the time, I think it is one of the school, maybe the one is too strong,

that can *rivalise avec les écoles R.C.E.A*, because normally the school of R.C.E.A if we see the performances it is a fact, they have good performances and we should use them as examples, because I consider that possibly in the R.C.E.A school they have a control on the student-teacher ratio. If they are giving us lessons why should we not use the lessons? We should, we should madam chairperson. I was speaking about the safety nets, yes, what are the other measures that you are providing in this regional government?

We have mentioned, I will not go into details about that, the ERF Employment Relief Program, we have a rainwater harvesting scheme for household for agriculture, *moter bato pour pesser*, special grant to needy families for *entreprenariat*, we also provide even free transport for those with disabilities to attend school, this is accompaniment Madam Chairperson, this is accompany the vulnerable because we want them to groom up, to grew up and not be left aside. This is the duty of a caring government, yes, this is the duty of a caring government. To care for the least needy, to care for the most vulnerable of our society. Yes, Madam Chairperson. Having said that, we should not, Madam Chairperson, lose sight of the spirit transgressing through this budget. The spirit it transpires in the theme chosen and the theme chosen should have been, should be, an inspiration for all of us. Last year it was "*Le Rodriguais Catalyseur de son développement*", yes, there was argument yesterday about whether *les Rodriguais sont vraiment, ont été vraiment catalyseurs* but the Chief Commissioner provided the answer in his budget speech when he said in his budget speech "*ou guet gauche ou guet droite partou ena development*" but I ask the question, who are behind these developments? Who are behind these developments?

Ce sont les femmes et les femmes de cette terre, Madame la Présidente, it is the men of this island, yes! Rodrigues is progressing with the help of its men power and we are resolutely moving ahead positively, which is irreconcilable with the taste of the Minority Leader. They do not see anything happening. They see nothing happening. I may ask them the questions because I said that I am going to question, to cross examine their mind. How many workers have been fired be it in the construction industry, be it in the private sector, be it in the tourism industry during the last one year. How many? How many? *Saem ki apel résilience!* This is resilience! If there are opportunity for people to invest, what is the problem? Anybody can invest. Anybody can invest. Facilitation Act of the Republic, Business Facilitation Act. There is a guarantee for that. Yes, there is a guarantee ensuring that all and everyone has the opportunity. Yes! You know what? I have questioned this because I am going to step now in that infrastructural construction industry. Unfortunately, the former Commissioner for Public Infrastructure is not there because yesterday, he attacked me as regard to road construction. I have been able though last night to go and study what he did when he was Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. No, he did. But you

know what? I am going to use my left fingers, my left hand because I can count using the fingers of my left hand about the number of road that he did in five years' time.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, I can tell you. I can tell you. La route Roseaux. That was you. Very good, yes. It is a very good... *Oui*, I am not saying that it is not bad, that it is bad...

Madam Chairperson: Deputy Chief Commissioner, you should be addressing the Chair.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That was... You had *la route Terre Rouge*. You re-asphalted the road from Grand La Fouche Corail to Rivière Cocos. You did a road from La Ferme to Baie Topaze and then, there was Nassola Road. Yes.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : That is great but what is not great is what ? What is not great? What is not great? When we see the engineering of these roads, Madam Chairperson. Do you know now as I stand, when I came in 2017, I requested for it? I wanted to put a Road Transport System, Bus System along Roseaux. Road test *pa passé*. *Pa passé!* The road test of Terre Rouge was limit, limit. It was limit, limit because the NTA from Mauritius came for that. We take a special officer from NTA from Mauritius to do a road test for Terre Rouge. It was conclusive. Yes, I would not have put anybody in danger if that was the case. No, I am responsible of that. If it was not possible, I would have said it is not possible. Yes, we took at that time all the drivers, the bus owners who were serving Grand Baie and those who were to serve up to Soupis, they come to the bus together with my officers and we did the road test together. Yes, there was objection from the owners of Grand Baie because this is going to have an incidence on their revenue. This is why they objected. They filed a case against my Commission when I put that bus service on that road and I, myself, I filed an affidavit. I filed an affidavit against the bus owners of Grand Baie. I did that and they failed in their objective. They failed, Madam Chairperson. Yes. So, I was thinking about the engineering of these roads. Let me... Let us try to visualise, Madam. You start to drive from Terre Borne and you are going to Camp Pintade. *Pshht*. When you reach Cader home, Cader, when you started the road, there is no bus nearby. There is no soulder or *trottoir*. You continue to

drive. You arrive at end of Baie Topaze. *C'est comme si ki maintenant ki ou rentre dans la ville.*

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : You have.... Yes, *trottoir*. Not only that. Last... When the road came into function, you know what? One mother told and “he” told me that Commissioner, my baby who is five years... three years old, he is being disturbed. I say why? Because he does not recognised when it is the day and which is night.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yeah, you know what I mean. Yes, you know what I mean. Yes, *shoop!* We have enlightened the whole road. This is far sightedness. It is going to be the same thing for Rivière Banane. All roads that are going to be constructed in this island as long as this Government is here, we are going to provide them with the necessary facilities because there is one question that is cropping up internationally these days. It is the question of road safety. *Et lor la, nou pa zoué.* That question of road safety. I take another example, Madam Chairperson. You resurface the road from Grand La Fouche Corail to Rivière Cocos. If the same journey that you are going to have, now we are constructing from Rivière Cocos to... for Songes. We are going to provide all these amenities and any visitor who is going to ride will say “I was riding like this and then, there is a rapid change”. This is why I am taking it as a promise in this House and I want my colleague, Mr. Nemours of Region Number 2 and Miss Roxana of Region Number 2 as we proceeded with the construction of the Rivière Cocos/Songes Road, we are going to do all the lighting from Grand La Fouche Corail to Songes.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, we are going to light it, Madam Chairperson. We are going to light this. You know why I am doing that? Because the landscape of this part of the island, it is going to change. I do not know if you have visualised but there is going to be a change in the landscape of that part of the island. If you see that the measures that have been mentioned in this budget, we have at Rivière Cocos, le village écologique, the landscape is going to change there. We have announced in this budget the road from Anse Raffin to Anse Raffin Dam. We are going to decide with the Executive Council whether it is going to be concrete or tarred. Yes! And when we travel along this road, we are going to end up with a secondary school where we have to provide parking facilities, converting at the same time all these *radiers* into bridges. Deja,

Madame la présidente, there is the injection of Rs 52 m. by the NDU for drainage at Rivière Cocos. 52 millions. Contract has been awarded. Is it Mr. Nemours? The contract has been awarded. Rs52 millions for land drainage at Rivière Cocos. We are going to change that landscape with the infrastructural facilities and the necessary amenities that these villagers require. Madam Chairperson, yes. So, I am not going to go into details the other roads that have been mentioned but which are so important. So important especially as regard to *des enclavements des villageois*.

Yes, we recognise. I do recognise that there are still some villagers which are suffering whenever there are torrential rains. It is not normal, Madam Chairperson, that whenever there is some 50mm of rain, sometimes even less, if it is have rained on consecutive days that children are not able to go to school or there will be communiqué to say that no school for children because there is the possibility of flooding of *radiers*. We should assess the economical impact of that. There is an impact, meaning that it has become essential that we focus where the need is. We should focus. We should not remain insensible. I know and I recognise that is a big job, converting all these *radiers*. I have counted around the island, there are some 15 of them, 15. *Il y en a 15*. It costs, you know. It costs. Unfortunately, for Anse Ali, as regard to the contract that has been launched by the NDU, it has not been responsive due to its high cost. Otherwise, we would have got the contract awarded. Unfortunately, it has to be aborted. Unfortunately.

But I know that my party colleague is focusing once again to relaunch the tender so that we can go ahead. But nevertheless, one good news, one good news as regard to Anse Ali because it was mentioned yesterday also, *c'est vrai en ce moment*, and it happened also, we should be honest about that, it has happened that tourism, tourists rather who are in St François, have not been able to go to the airport whenever there has been flood. This is a truth! But now, we are tackling the matter in two ways. First, the *radiers* problem but also, we have put in our budget, the construction of the road from St François to Montagne Cabris. Yes, yes, I know that. We are going to tackle that matter. Do not think that we just came into this Assembly and say that we are going to build St François to Montagne Cabris. Non, it was well focused because we identified that there is a real problem in these villagers and we have to sought it out. We have to sought it out. Yes. So, we hope that through this, throughout this financial year 2019/2020, we are not going to have any hindrance as regard to procedures, procurement procedures because this Regional Government, they have got the willingness to help those people who are in need, Madam Chairperson. I come to the sensible issue. In fact, I think everybody would be waiting for what is our policy as regard to the water sector.

Many including, Respected Member, Zeph Félicité, when the Chief Commissioner announced that we remain focus on our intention to provide water once a week for every family. They say that this is not possible. They said, *non*. I say, we remain focus, Madam Chairperson. Yes. There have been many things that have been said about desalination but I will question once again and cross-examine the consciousness of the Minority Group on that.

You know, when we were in power in 2002-2006, we commanded a study for the construction of the 4000 m³ desalination plant at Mourouk. Yes, recommended that. When they came into power, they aborted the project. And, now yesterday when I hear the Minority Leader speaking, he was saying that what we are doing as regards to desalination is a threat to environmental live or marine live. He was in contradictory. I will show your contradiction. I will show your contradiction. Twice, where you were contradictory to yourself. The first question that I asked, the first question that I asked – who set, Madam Chairperson, who set the first desalination plant in Rodrigues? It was the MR. At Songes. *Le pecher original*. Now it accused us now.

[Interruption]

Yes. If it were a sin, you started the sin. But I do not considerate it as a sin. Yes, I do not consider it as a sin. And, then your next contradiction is what? You said that, Commissioner for Fisheries did not agree with the installation of fishing traps and this does not represent a danger. Why? Because there is the flow of water that can diffuse whatever is to be diffuse. But it is the same thing for brine. Yes. It is the same thing. It is the same thing. If what is produced by agriculture can be diffused by currents, but the brine also can also be diffused. And, additionally we are coming up with modern techniques. Do you know, Madam Chairperson, that the brine that is rejected at Caverne Bouteille, we are taking brackish water from a caves. Do you know that the brine is less dilute than sea water? Sea water amounts I think to 43,000 ppm. and the brine that we are rejecting in the lagoon, it is 29 ppm. In fact, we are using our brine to dilute the sea.

Second, Madam Chairperson, it was mentioned yesterday about Anse Goeland. *Noune défigir Anse Goeland*. And, they were asking also about the effect on the marine eco system there. But let me tell you the brine that is going to be rejected at Anse Goeland, we are going first of all to dilute it with sea water. When it comes from the desalination plant it is going to go through it – tank, ... diluted and then it is released in the sea. This is the technique that we are applying.

Thirdly, there has been much which has been said also about the cost desalination plant. Yes, the initial investment, it is high. When I do invest but once investment has been done, once investment has been done, you know what it costs the commission to produce one litre of water. In a desalination plant with capacity 1000 m³ per day, like the one at Pointe Coton, like the one at Anse Goeland that we are going to have, what is going to be the cost of one litre, the cost of production of one litre of water. Of much do you bet for that? Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 60? Rs 15? Rs 0.05. 0.05 cents. I have worked this figure with experience that we have got since the running of the desalination plant with the engineers and the officers of my commission. Our running cost for one desalination plant, our running cost for one desalination plant of 1000 m³ per day, it amounts to Rs 18,786,000 per year, in terms of electricity. In fact, the electricity is the budget It is budget ... Yes. In terms of electricity, chemicals the person operating these plants. But with these Rs 18 m that we are injecting every year, we are having Rs 365 million *litres délo*. Make the calculation. It will run to Rs 0.05. These are facts. These are facts, Madam Chairperson. Yes. So, the arguments that is going out these days – *farfelu*. It is *farfelu*, Madam Chairperson. So, this is why, this is why if I were to come to the objective of once water to each family once a week, I will allow myself to divulgate what has been done at my commission so far.

We have already at my commission, Madam Chairperson, carry survey as regards to the number of household *prises* which are being served by each and every reservoir. The figure reveals that we have so far Rs 12,328 *prises* collected to our system. If I am to provide 4 m³ of water per week to each family, I will need some 50,000 m³ per week. This is theoretical. This is theoretical. In our Budget Speech we have noted, it is noted that we are focusing for a stable 9,000 m³ *délo* per day. And, when I say 9,000 m³ per day, I can substantiate it in terms of sources also. Because this can be easily questioned. Not only questioned but, I am not saying my ... just give me one minute, Madam. Sorry. I am not seeing figures unfortunately. Yes, as regards to sources, our focus sources from the different sources. We have sources of surface water, desalination and of course, we boreholes. Yes.

As at stand now, as at stand now, March 2019, we are having a production of 3,000 m³ from boreholes. Our production from desalination is 1240 representing 19%. This can easily be checked. And, our production of surface water *c'est* 2460. In the two months to come, yes, our desalination production will go to 3240 with Anse Goeland and Pointe Coton coming into operation. We have new boreholes that we are going to put into operation and our production in the borehole production will be 3400 with the coming into operation of the Fond Baie aux Huitres. Meaning that we are going to have ... contribution of borehole - 35, surface – 31 and desalination – 34. And as far as our experience goes in the

water sector, if I see the least scenario, because what is going to influence our production it is going to be on the surface production. And, our experience with respect to 2017 at the worst scenario we were having 1600 to 1700 m³. So, I do not expect that our production will go less than 1500 to 1600 m³ whatever be the... Unless, we have a very very very severe drought. So, meaning that we know, Madam Chairperson, where we are heading and with the coming into operation of Pointe Coton and Anse Goeland, we are going to have what is known in the water sector the cascade effects. Do you know what is meant by that? The whole system is going to be changed. Now, we have a certain way of distributing water, transferring water. We are taking water from Mourouk, going to Pointe Coton but with the coming into operation of the Pointe Coton desalination plant there will be no need of water coming from Mourouk to Pointe Coton. Water will be going uphill from Pointe Coton and water that used to go from Pointe Coton, P'ti Brûlé, sorry, Mourouk, P'tit Brûlé to Pointe Coton, that water will be diverted to villages where it is needed. It is the same thing for Anse Goeland. Anse Goeland is being served today with water from Lataniers. From Lataniers! Going through the reservoir of Quatre Vents and then Mt. du Sable. When the desalination plant of Anse Goeland will be in operation, the water is going to go uphill via Mt. du Sable to Papayes to Quatre Vents. And, that borehole that we are using for bringing water to Quatre Vents, we are going to give it to one village which is very affected sometimes, it is going to be the village of Ste. Famille and the village of Camp Paul.

[Applause]

This is why I say there will be a parading shift in our water system once these two desalinations plants will come into operation. We know where we are heading. Like I said when I started my speech we are calm, we are in the centre of the cyclone. But it is the centre which determine the strength. And, we are going to perform, Madam Chairperson.

I think, I have been long. I could have talked about *les petits projets dans les villages*, there are so many things but I consider that many of my colleagues have mentioned it in their respective regions. So, I am not going to go into that. But nevertheless, Madam Chairperson, as a conclusion the traditional political games of the Minority is not fair. Yes, it is no longer fair. Yes, I think what people look at now is who is best place to deliver services, to deliver that what people wants and how we work to facilitate these opportunities. Yes, so when I look at the budget, the strength of it, it is in the smarter and better use of available of resources. Yes, we are not just coming here, proposing things and not knowing where we are moving. We know where we are moving. Yes. So, we are redoubling, Madam, our efforts to make Rodrigues fit for the future. Yes, we are not on a planet where we can collect money from trees. *Non*. This is why and that

remains the word of the Chief Commissioner since I joined politics – *Chaque roupie ki nou dépensé nou bizin accountable for that*. Because it is worth and valuable. And, this shows good governance, yes, good governance and good utilization of public funds.

So, Madam Chairperson, it is with a lot of pride that I have deliver my speech to that budget, a budget which addresses all the issues that is needed for the society, the issues of health, the issues of infrastructure, the issue of youth, the issue of education and the issue of social justice. This is why I very much command the Budget of the Chief Commissioner to the House. I thank you.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: Motion to go beyond 7.00 p.m.

MOTION

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 9(3)

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

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: I now invite the Chief Commissioner for the Summping Up.

SUMMING UP

– CHIEF COMMISSIONER, MR. LOUIS SERGE CLAIRE, GCSK

Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, je tiens en premier lieu à remercier et féliciter mes collègues qui ont intervenu sur le budget 2019/2020. Je remercie aussi les... Excusez-moi. Je remercie aussi d'avoir... certains permis eux d'avoir parlé du tourisme et de l'éducation, deux secteurs qui me concernent. Je tiens aussi à remercier toute la population de Rodrigues d'avoir accepté ce budget 2019/2020 avec beaucoup de bon sentiments et j'espère que ce budget va leur apporter beaucoup de changement dans leur vie de tous les jours. Je voudrais ici, Madame la présidente, faire mention que le 03 avril 1977, nous avons, le parti OPR avait organisé un congrès et dans ce congrès, il a été dit que l'OPR est

une organisation visant le développement de Rodrigues par les Rodriguais eux-mêmes. OPR reconnaît aux Rodriguais, la capacité de penser son développement et d'être responsable de son avenir.

Un autre article de la résolution : OPR veut installer à Rodrigues, une mentalité créatrice et productrice, bannissant ainsi la mentalité d'assistée qui est néfaste pour l'avenir du pays. Et notre résolution : OPR croit que c'est dans un engagement concret qu'elle peut mieux toucher le peuple de Rodrigues, le saisir, le comprendre, savoir ses besoins, l'aimer et travailler avec lui, travailler dur dans la liberté, la justice et l'amour au profit de Rodrigues. Et cela, Madame la présidente, nous l'avons fait pendant des années et c'est ce qui nous a toujours guidé année en année chaque fois que nous présentons un budget, nous guider par rapport à cette population de Rodrigues. Et comme vous le savez, j'ai toujours dit à mes collègues, Jésus Christ disait dans l'Evangile : « *Je suis venu pour servir et non pas pour être servi* ». Ce qui veut dire, l'OPR au pouvoir est là pour servir ce peuple, est là pour être attentif à ce peuple, connaître ses besoins et aussi, très important, l'orienter vers ses responsabilités.

Et c'est pourquoi dans le budget 2019/2020, nous parlons beaucoup de la formation qui est entre les mains de Madame Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis. Il faut former ce peuple, former ce peuple. Donc, nous disons que nous voulons développer, nous voulons installer à Rodrigues, une mentalité créatrice et productrice. C'est pourquoi il m'arrive temps en temps de dire : produire, transformer et exporter, c'est la base même de l'économie Rodriguaise. Vrai, pas vrai ? Et ici, ils ont parlé, ils ont dit que Rodrigues n'a pas d'orientation économique. Alors, nous, depuis 1977, nous parlions de ça et en 1976, je disais aux Rodriguais : « *Pas compte lor manzé sorti dehors. Compte lor manzé ki sorti dans ou latere* ». Et justement, nous avons suggéré aux Rodriguais pendant des années même de développer l'agriculture, planter de la pomme de terre, planter les patates, planter les maniocs, planter des légumes, planter les oignons, de l'ail, du gingembre et aujourd'hui, nous avons... Et aujourd'hui, nous avons le safran. Le safran que nous exportons de Maurice est un safran différent de ce safran que Maurice importe de l'Inde. Le safran est de meilleure qualité que ce safran qui est importé de l'Inde. J'avais même dit à des Rodriguais justement, il y a des pots, des petits pots en verre et que dans ces petits pots, vous pouvez mettre confit nos petits oignons *toupi* et les exporter vers Maurice. Il y a beaucoup de choses qu'on peut exporter vers Maurice. Vrai, pas vrai ? Beaucoup de choses.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Il sait très bien, Madame la présidente, de la richesse de la terre. Cette terre Rodriguaise qu'il faut toujours protéger, qui produit beaucoup de choses. Moi, je vous dis franchement, j'aime manger ma

patate douce, j'aime manger mon manioc que je plante chez moi dans ma petite cour. J'aime tout ça, tout ce qui sort de la terre. C'est pourquoi je pense que lui, en ce moment, il lutte contre cette chenille qui va faire du mal à notre maïs et ce plat de maïs, voyez-vous, Madame la présidente, quand mon épouse cuit du maïs à la maison, il faut à tout prix accompagner ce maïs avec *ene zarico rouz*. Bon, pas bon ? Extra ! Et aussi, j'ai encouragé les Rodriguais à planter des fruits dans leur cour, plus particulièrement la papaye et nous faisons des salades avec la papaye. Un beau jour, il y avait quelqu'un de La France qui était venu chez moi me rendre visite et on lui a servi de salade de la papaye. Mais c'était une dame, elle a tout mangé ! Elle a tout mangé ! Ils avaient rien laissé. Vous comprenez ?

Alors, c'est justement, Rodrigues, nous avons des richesses. Les Rodriguais aussi sont des personnes capables et tout vient justement de l'éducation. En 1982, quand j'étais Ministre de Rodrigues et les îles, j'ai été nommé par Sir Aneerood Jugnauth. Et qu'est-ce que j'ai fait ? J'ai introduit à l'école primaire le jardin scolaire. C'est-à-dire, nous avons appris aux enfants à l'école de travailler la terre. Il y a même beaucoup de parents qui étaient contre : « *ki, mo envoye mo zenfan lekol pou ale pios latere ?* » Et c'est ça justement ce que nous avons vu, nous avons voulu à la base de l'éducation : amener les enfants à aimer la terre. Et chaque fois, je dis aux parents quand vous allez dans votre jardin, *amene ou zenfan avec ou, montré li ki nou latere, li importan pou nou lavi et nou lavenir*. Et justement, il y a beaucoup dans le passé, des politiciens quand nous avons parlé de ça, se sont moqué de nous. Mais il y a *ene kozé ki dir*, j'ai vu ça dans le Brahma Kumaris : "*If people make a fool of you, remember that there is great wisdom in humility and silence*". La sagesse dans l'humilité et le silence, ne pas répondre à quelqu'un qui nous insulte, qui vous chicane.

C'est ça justement. Il ne faut pas se rendre esclave de ce type de personne qui ne voit que le mauvais côté de la vie. Nous, à l'OPR, on regarde que le bon côté de la vie. On regarde ce que le Rodriguais peut faire de bon, de mieux. Et c'est pourquoi notre philosophie, notre vision, c'est former ce peuple pour que ce peuple *kapav deboute lor so deux lipieds*. Vrai, pas vrai ? Oui ! *Rodriguais, déboute lor to deux lipieds*. C'est ça, justement. Nous avons dit souvent que Rodrigues doit être un exemple dans la République de Maurice. Rodrigues doit être un exemple dans l'Océan Indien et j'ai même dit que Rodrigues doit être un exemple dans le monde. Nous avons déjà justement par notre vision du développement de Rodrigues placé Rodrigues dans le monde, pas juste dans l'Océan Indien. Il y a les autres îles dans l'Océan Indien et c'est pourquoi nous disons nous ne voulons pas être isolés. Nous voulons toujours travailler avec les autres peuples et c'est pourquoi, nous avons un immense travail avec les organisations internationales comme la FAO, l'AFD, l'Union Européenne et d'autres organisations internationales.

Cette ouverture, Madame la présidente, est extra. Et c'est pourquoi au niveau du sport, qu'est-ce qu'on voit ces temps-ci à Nael, Nael Ravina qui va aller où là ? En Turquie. J'ai demandé à Madame Rose de Lima de lire cet article qui a été publié dans le journal, un journal Mauricien, il y a deux ou trois jours. On parlait de ce jeune Rodriguais qui n'est pas un majeur. Quel âge a-t-il ? – 16 ans. Et quand on a voulu vraiment le faire accompagner par son entraîneur, par quelqu'un d'autre, sa maman, *dans Maurice, tape lor nou*, nous critiquait comme si disait nous ne sommes pas des humains, comme si disait nous n'avons pas de visions de la vie. Comme si disait, nous ne savons pas comment faire. Alors, c'est ça qui est terrible. Vous comprenez, Madame la présidente ? Alors, justement, c'est pourquoi justement. Pourquoi Rodrigues ? Nous posons la question maintenant. Pourquoi Rodrigues ne participe pas dans les jeux des îles de l'Océan Indien ? Pourquoi pas ? Mayotte, département français, La Réunion, département français, Rodrigues, région autonome ! Région autonome. Alors, pourquoi Rodrigues ne participe pas dans les Jeux des îles de l'Océan Indien ? Hip, hip, hip !

[Applause]

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, nous continuons dans notre vision de développement pour Rodrigues. Au centre de cette vision, il y a l'homme et la femme Rodriguais et au centre de cette vision, il y a l'éducation, le système d'éducation. Et justement, je remercie mon collègue, M. Nicolson Lisette, qui a parlé de l'éducation tout à l'heure-là et j'ai lu d'un journal Mauricien, quelqu'un qui disait : il faut changer le système d'éducation. Beaucoup dans le monde, beaucoup réfléchissent sur l'éducation et c'est pourquoi je dis toujours aux Rodriguais : que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans, dans dix ans, 20 ans, 15 ans, 20 ans, 50 ans ? Ces enfants qui sont là aujourd'hui, au pré-primaire, comment doit-on les orienter ? C'est pourquoi on a parlé justement qu'il ait une unité qui s'organise. Tout commence là, la base. Et nous allons aussi recruter un... comment on appelle ça ? Un *resource person* pour faire de la formation des parents ou des enseignants du pré-primaire. Pourquoi cela ? Parce qu'on a cité beaucoup que les résultats au *School Certificate* et à HSC baissent.

Alors, comment faire ces résultats augmenter ? Commençons par le pré-primaire. Ces enfants-là, aujourd'hui, si vous les voyez, Madame la présidente, avec un téléphone à la main. Ils jouent, *chuk, chuk, chuk, chuk*. Moi, je n'arrive pas. Je suis étonné ! Je suis étonné de voir qu'aujourd'hui... Et c'est pourquoi MARS va permettre à ces enfants-là de marcher ! MARS, marche, n'hésite pas à marcher ! Et là, justement, Mme Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis qui est là, c'est entre ses mains. Et là-dedans, on parle de giga, *bgiga, bgigige*. Comprenez, Madame la présidente, il ne faut pas que Rodrigues soit en retard suit dans le développement international. Justement, c'est ma grande fierté aujourd'hui

quand le Premier ministre est venu, il a... En quelle année ça ? Pour MARS ? Cette année ? L'année dernière ?

Cette année ? Oui, il est venu pour MARS. Vous comprenez là ? Et ça justement, et là, je dis fort, c'est la première fois que Maurice, la République de Maurice regarde Rodrigues à égalité avec l'île Maurice. C'est la première fois. Parce que toujours, dans le passé, moi, j'ai subi ça. Moi, j'ai souffert beaucoup de cela, où on nous traitait : Rodriguais, les citoyens de deuxième grade. Alors, aujourd'hui, nous sommes en train de montrer ce que nous pouvons faire, où nous sommes arrivés et c'est possible, Madame la présidente. C'est possible. C'est pourquoi, je ne voudrais pas être très long. Je remercie mes collègues qui ont parlé sur le tourisme et l'éducation.

Je vais dire quelques mots sur le tourisme. Madame la présidente, permettez-moi de remettre en perspective les avancements dans le secteur touristique. C'est un fait indéniable que le secteur touristique a pris de l'essor ces sept dernières années. Il va de soi que certaines personnes avec des visières ne pourront accepter ce fait. Le nombre d'arrivé pour l'année 2012 était de 52,043 visiteurs. Et, de 76,264 visiteurs pour 2018. Nous sommes convaincus que le chiffre de 100,000 sera atteint d'ici 2025. Comment en est-on arrivé à ce chiffre de 100,000 touristes ? Pourquoi pas plus ? Les différentes études du potentiel touristique entreprise Rapport de ..., le SIDPR etc. ont toutes prudemment recommander ce chiffre de 100,000 touristes. Pour pouvoir loger ces 100,000 touristes, il nous faudra environ 1200 à 1300 chambres disponible sur l'île. Hors, actuellement nous avons moins de 900 chambres disponible. C'est pourquoi il nous faudra au moins 200 chambres additionnelle d'ici 2022 d'où la décision de faciliter la construction de 200 chambres additionnelle.

Madame la présidente, j'ai entendu dans cette Chambre qu'il n'y a pas de pilier économique pour le développement à Rodrigues. Je l'ai dit tout à l'heure-là, j'ai répondu à cette question. Nous avons commandé une étude pour la période d'octobre 2016 à juin 2017 pour estimer pour la première fois l'apport du secteur touristique dans l'économie Rodriguaise.

Permettez-moi de citer quelques points proéminents de ce rapport fait par le Bureau du Statistique de Rodrigues. Le touriste séjourne à Rodrigues en moyenne quatre à cinq jours. 40% de nos touristes logent dans les hôtels et environ 40% dans les gîtes et les *guests house*. Le touriste dépense en moyenne Rs 2500 par jour à Rodrigues. L'étude a estimé que la contribution secteur touristique dans l'économie Rodriguaise ce chiffre à plus de Rs 1.2 milliard.

[Applause]

Ce chiffre est très conservateur et sera confirmé par une seconde étude qui se fait actuellement et donc l'échantillon des personnes interrogées sera beaucoup plus nombreux.

Madame la présidente, si ce n'est pas un pilier économique, je me demande c'est quoi alors ? Afin d'assurer le développement soutenable du secteur et que tous les Rodriguais en tirent profit, j'ai annoncé que mon gouvernement vient de l'avant avec une politique d'intégration verticale pour établir l'impartialité et la mise en valeur de tous nos produits et des activités touristiques existantes.

Madame la présidente, nous voulons que tous les Rodriguais aient une partie de revenue générer par le tourisme à Rodrigues. C'est quoi cette politique que nous voulons mettre en place ? Je vous cite quelques exemples, Madame la présidente :

- Hébergement touristique. Tous types de projet de développement de moins de 10 chambres sera réserver aux résidents de Rodrigues. C'est mentionné dans le budget 2019-2020 ;
- Les détenteurs de permis d'hôtel et de chambre d'hôte doivent soustraire le service pour les activités en mer. Ces activités comprendront parmi tant d'autres : sport nautique norme autorisé tel que pédalo, canoé, kayak et bateau à voile^[AMS6], laser boat, location de kitesurf, centre de plongé, planche à voile et un hangar boat house ;
- Les détenteurs de licence d'hôtel, pension de famille, *guest house*, résidence touristique, chambre d'hôte et gîte ne seront pas autorisés à avoir un permis pour l'opération d'une agence de voyage, agence de location de voiture, scooter, vélo ou d'un bateau de plaisance à des fins commerciales. Les tours opérateurs. Un tour opérateur ne sera titulaire d'aucun autre permis délivré par la Commission du tourisme.
- Bateau de plaisance pour activité commerciale. Un opérateur de bateau de plaisance ne sera titulaire d'aucune autre licence délivré par la Commission du tourisme. Deuxièmement, le permis de bateau de plaisance commercial doit être limité à deux permis, deux bateaux par entité.
- Location de vélo. Les agences de location de vélo seront limitées aux résidents à Rodrigues uniquement. La mise en valeur des

produits locaux afin de mettre en avant l'utilisation de nos produits de terroir et d'assurer une production continue. Le Gouvernement vient de l'avant avec des critères d'opération pour les entreprises touristiques qui veulent être certifiées 'Rodrigues authentique' tel que un pourcentage des produits utilisés par les hôtels doivent être fabriqué ou produit localement. Cela permettra aux artisans locaux de vendre leur produit et service directement aux opérateurs du tourisme. Ces restaurants doivent s'assurer à l'utilisation de produits locaux. Hôtel et chambre d'hôte de plus de 20 chambres auront l'obligation à la promotion des produits Rodriguais dans leur établissement respectif en organisant chaque mois un *mini fair* avec les artisans Rodriguais dans leur établissement respectif.

- Facilitation des entreprises touristiques. La politique d'investissement touristique proposée vise à couvrir les domaines dans lesquels les investissements du secteur privé peuvent se mobiliser et améliorer le climat d'investissement dans le secteur du tourisme. Un document sera préparé pour informer les investisseurs potentiels du domaine d'activité prioritaire à l'investissement. La politique d'investissement touristique chercher à créer une équité dans le développement des affaires parmi les promoteurs étrangers et locaux. Les domaines suivants peuvent présenter un potentiel élevé pour les investisseurs étrangers. Projet de conservation dans les parcs marins, présentant certaines caractéristiques des activités écotouristiques
- Marina et pêche aux gros. Un *Fast-Track Committee* sera mis en place pour faciliter les procédures, la consolidation des structures administratifs et réglementaires pour promouvoir et accroître les investissements dans le secteur du tourisme est en cours. Avec le développement durable et en vue de professionnaliser le service offert aux détenteurs de permis et futurs promoteurs, le Gouvernement met actuellement en place un système de licence en ligne pour le traitement de toutes les demandes de permis touristiques à partir de juin. La mise en place de la première phase du projet sera lancée. Toutes les démarches pour le renouvellement d'un permis se feront au niveau du bureau de licence à Port Mathurin.

Gestion des terres. Madame la présidente, nous travaillons à ce que d'ici 2022, nous pouvons octroyer au moins 3000 baux supplémentaire. Nous allons assouplir les procédures pour l'obtention du *pledging*. Suite à une rencontre avec les différentes institutions bancaires pour leur exposer les nouvelles procédures,

je suis fier d'annoncer que ces derniers ont unanimes accueilli l'annonce. Pour mieux faciliter ces procédures et encore plus souple et rapide, le plafond sera augmenté à Rs4 million au lieu de Rs2 million.

[Applause]

Madame la présidente, je voudrais apporter des précisions concernant notre politique de recrutement dans le secteur de l'éducation. Dans notre politique d'améliorer la supervision dans les écoles primaires et d'assurer que le ratio enseignant/élève sur le plus bas possible nous avons investis massivement dans le recrutement et la création de poste.

Permettez-moi de citer quelques chiffres, Madame la présidente :

- Deputy Head Master de 18 en 2012 à 24 en 2019, soit une augmentation de 35% ;
- Teaching cadre de 128 en 2012 à 225 en 2019, soit une augmentation de presque 80% ;
- Inspector cadre, 2 en 2012 et 4 en 2019, soit une augmentation de 100% ;

Et justement, dans les écoles primaires, nous imposant que dans une classe il y a au moins 20 enfants pas 30, 40. Et même de même dans les collèges, et c'est pourquoi il va avoir des constructions des salles suppléments, des classes suppléments. Dans les collèges 20 enfants aussi, pas 30, 40, 50. Il y a une fois aussi dans une réunion, j'avais dit il y a des enseignants, d'aller visiter ces enfants-là où ils habitent pour savoir, parce qu'à Maurice, à Rodrigues on sait qu'il y a beaucoup de parent qui sont séparés ou bien je ne connais même pas mal de parent, le papa est parti pour Maurice et l'enfant habite avec la maman. Il y a des enfants-mêmes qui habitent avec le grand-père, grand-mère. Pour connaître vraiment leur milieu social et pour connaître aussi leur milieu économique, vous comprenez-là ? Alors, ça c'est très important. Parce que là aussi, Madame la présidente, je dois vous dire que et je dis ça aussi toujours en ce qui concerne l'université, l'enseignant ce n'est pas simplement Anglais, Français et Mathématique, l'enseignant doit avoir un amour pour cette enfant-là.

Très important que ces enfants doivent avoir une place dans son cœur, pas juste Anglais, Français, Mathématique, Science. Et, quand je vais à Maurice, je rencontre des étudiants Rodriguais qui sont à l'université : « *To pou retourne Rodrigues ? – Moi ? Avec mo niveau d'éducation ?* » Un autre qui répond : « *Moi retourne Rodrigues pou ale Sali mo la main ?* » Alors, vous voyez, Madame la présidente, c'est pourquoi je dis souvent à des personnes que ce soit même des *lecturers* de l'université : l'université est dépassée. L'université donne

juste un degré mais l'université ne forme pas la personnalité du jeune. Et c'est pourquoi, nous ici, à Rodrigues, nous mettons l'accent sur la formation de la personnalité du jeune pour que ces jeunes soient libérés et qu'ils vraiment, qu'ils puissent arriver à se lancer dans n'importe quel métier. Il ne faut pas qu'il ait honte de créer une entreprise et c'est pourquoi vraiment, nous mettons la formation, l'accent sur la formation.

Voilà, Madame la présidente, et encore une fois, je remercie mes collègues qui ont participé et tout le monde y compris de l'autre côté de la Chambre aussi. Mais il nous faudra maintenant travailler sur le budget. Et c'est pourquoi nous pensons justement aller un peu dans les villages un peu partout. Nous pensons mettre sur... travailler sur « un » petit newsletter pour dire ce qu'il y a dans le budget, pour mettre les gens au courant de tout ce qui va se passer dans ce budget, de tous les développements qui vont avoir lieu.

Merci, Madame la présidente.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: I suspend the House for 30 minutes.

At 3.18 p.m., the sitting was suspended for 30 minutes.

On resuming at 3.59 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, we have concluded the debates on the motion of the Chief Commissioner and in pursuance of the provision of Standing Order 55, the Draft Estimates now stand referred to the Draft Estimates Committee.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have an announcement for the guidance of Members for the proceedings of the Draft Estimates Committee. In line with Standing Order 55A, we will consider each vote of expenditure in turn and as usual when reaching same we will move page by page until the question is put thereon. Respected Members, I have to further inform the House, that I have under Standing Order 55A (4), had consultation with the Chief Commissioner, the Minority Leader and I have decided to allot a maximum of 30 minutes for the consideration of the Vote Item for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2020. Of course, I will be flexible when the need arises. Thank you.

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 2.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair. The Vote 21110.001 – Editor, Regional Assembly, Reporter, Assistant Reporter. I would like to know whether, we can have some information whether there will be an increase in the number of Reporters because sometimes when we put questions in order to have our answers to correct, they can... Whether there will be an increase in that, in the number of the Reporters and so on?

The Chief Commissioner: No funded position for Editor. Recruitment will be made in a sessional basis. On a sessional basis.

The Minority Leader: So, there will be no improvement in the way the work is being done.

The Chief Commissioner: No funded position for Editor, as I said. Recruitment will be made on a sessional basis.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner, year in year out for many years, we have seen that there is no intention behind the recruitment of an Editor for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and I think this is very important for us as Members as the Parliament to have our debates done, edited, revised, unrevised, revised for us to be regularly updated? This should be improved.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Editor will be recruited when required on a full time basis when the need for a full time person, the post will be funded. The post is not funded.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I would like to ... for the sake of history, in order that tomorrow we can have in the hansard everything that have been done in this House. Anybody wants to write history of Rodrigues, what has been happening in this House. We should have corrected copies, revised copies. For this to happen we must have Editors, Reporters. The proper numbers of Editors. They say as and when required. I think time has come. We need these Reporters. Not only for us, for you also.

The Chief Commissioner: The post will be funded. Now, it is not funded. Well, we will take action. Okay?

Madam Chairperson: Page 3.

The Minority Leader: Page 3 – Capital Expenditure – 31 31112.001. Construction of New Regional Assembly House (Consultancy). There were Rs 500,000 earmarked for the Estimates 2018/2019 and then this year also Rs 500,000. Can we know, whether the site has been chosen? Whether we will go ahead with this project after 17 years that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly exists?

The Chief Commissioner: Consultancy for the construction of a new Regional Assembly House – consultant has been requested to work on the design and a first draft has been submitted. Payment will be effected once preliminary design has been completed.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the question of the Minority Leader is clear. What about the site? Whether, he wants to know, we want to know on this side of the House, whether the site has been chosen and where, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam?

The Chief Commissioner: Not yet. Not yet decided. But formally, it was near the Administration. Near the Administration, near the administration, near the administration on the site, you know?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Chief Commissioner seems not to be quite clear, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. He said, not yet and then ... How can a consultant work on a design when he does not know the site? He must have some specifications; he needs to know. So, I would like to ask the question once more, precisely where is the site on which the RRA House will be built?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, as I have said. Port Mathurin, next to the Administration Building. Consultant is writing on the design and access adequacy of the site.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, the Chief Commissioner said formerly the site was near the Administration Building. But we know with *avec la montée des eaux qui arrive, changement climatique, il y aura des problèmes. Est-ce que s'est avisé de faire ça là-bas ? Pilotis ?*

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: There is no more question?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, yes. I would like to come again on that question of site of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. *Madame la présidente, nous savons tous que la montée des eaux. Regardez les pecheurs de Anse Goeland qui a eu tout dernièrement, ils avaient l'habitude de laisser leurs bateaux a une distance pour les cyclones. Maintenant, avec la montée des eaux, avec le changement climatique, nous avons vu l'Administration sous l'eau. Et, ce n'est pas la première fois qu'on voit ça. Il y a un chenal qui vient directement emmener l'eau salé ici dans le bloc administratif de l'Assemblée Régionale.*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, excuse me, this is out of order. This is a policy decision.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Sorry, what?

Madam Chairperson: That is a policy decision. We are in committee. Yes, Respected Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Ça veut dire l'Assemblée Régionale pou construire ene sel...*

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22900.927 – Training. From 150 to 500. Can we know who will have the training and can we have more information about this?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant to meet the cost of training of Members and staffs in view of the setting up of the e-parliament.

Madam Chairperson: Okay, I put the question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: 22900.014 – Hospitality and Ceremonies. It has been always the same figures. Can we know/have more information?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant to cater for expenses to be incurred when the Chairperson hosted delegation, give a gift to visitors and organisation of cocktail for the Budget Speech.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item 22900.994 – E-Parliament. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House of the final project of E-Parliament?

The Chief Commissioner: I have just said, provision represents the payment for purchase of software for the computerization of the Parliament which

include the submission of question online, Order Paper. Remote Access to Library Systems, the implementation of E-Parliament will reduce the use of paper.

Vote 1-1: Office of the Clerk (Rs 21,630,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-1: Chief Commission's Office – Central Administration was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 9.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can we know from the Chief Commissioner, why the post of Manager, Human Resources has not yet been filled and no money has been earmarked for this on this item? Manager.

The Chief Commissioner: No, provision has been provided as there is no qualified candidates for the time being. No qualified candidate.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item No. 21110.001 – Citizen's Advice Bureau Officer. Can we know why this post has not been filled?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Post are for NDU, which is not under the responsibility of the RRA.

The Minority Leader: Page 9 – Social Worker, Rodrigues Regional Assembly. It seems that there was an estimates for 2018/2019, 177,000 and this has increased for the Revised Estimates about five folds, 703,000. And, then for this year 2019/2020, it has come to 16,000. Can we have some information about that?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is for payment of one month's salary to the Social Worker to be recruited. The salary of the seven Social Workers in post is paid by the respective Commissions.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. So, in the budget last year, it has been said that 11 Social Workers will be recruited. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain to us why is it that only seven or I do not know the figure he gave, why is it only ... the figure has been recruited?

The Chief Commissioner: There are 10 recruited. 10.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, thank you. Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can we know from the Chief Commissioner, why we do not have in post a Head of Finance in the RRA?

The Chief Commissioner: No qualified candidates by the PSC after interview. No qualified candidates. The PSC made the interview.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I will come back to the Manager, Human Resource. The Chief Commissioner said in his reply that there is no qualified candidate. I would like to ask him whether it is by promotion or whether there has been advertisement of the post?

The Chief Commissioner: The election will be by advertisement.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: He said that there has been no qualified candidate and then he just said that will be. So, I want to clarify this point. I want him, sorry, to clarify this point, please.

The Chief Commissioner: It will be by internal advertisement.

Madam Chairperson: Page 10.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Under the same item, we have Electrician. One in post and Electrician (on shift), six. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner where these Electricians will be posted?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision represents the payment of three increments to the officers to be promoted Electrician (on shift). Their salaries are under their respective Commissions. Four additional posts have been created for the implementation of the proper shift systems.

Madam Chairperson: Page 10.

The Minority Leader: Okay, Madam Chair. Internal Control Cadre. Principal Internal Control Officer, we see there is nothing, not a cent earmarked. And, the post supposedly will not be filled. And, Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer, there is only two for 2019/2020. Are we to understand

that we are phasing out the Internal Control or are we going to away with the Internal Control?

The Chief Commissioner: Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Officer, provision represents payment of increments for three months to the officers to be promoted Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Officer. But for the Budget 2019-2020, there are 12 Internal Control/Senior Internal Officer – 12.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I beg to differ. Owing to the ... after having gone through the Audit Report, it is said that there are only two officers in the Internal Control, actually. But, are we to understand that this year there will be about 12 officers?

The Chief Commissioner: 2019/2020, there will be 12, this means ...

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I wonder whether the Chief Commissioner is not confused because here we have Rs 12,000 earmarked but there is no post ... it is not said that there will be 12 more posts. I wonder he is not confused.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: There are five officers posted, out of which, three from Mauritius. The two posts are to recruit, two Rodriguan officers, the two posts.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item, Legal Services – Attorney, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Legal Officer, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, how is it that no funds are available?

Madam Chairperson: Order.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, there is a difference between funded position and officers on contract.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item No. 21111.002 – Overtime. Can the Chief Commissioner give details on this item, please?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided will be sufficient to meet payment of overtime to the staff of Central Administration as it is expected to recruit additional staff with initial salary. Therefore, the rate payable as overtime will be lower.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Item 21110.001 – Procurement and Supply Cadre. No Manager (Procurement and Supply) and Assistant Manager (Procurement and Supply).

The Chief Commissioner: No provision has been made as there is no qualified candidate. Actually, one Manager (Procurement and Supply) from Mauritius is being posted on a tour of service.

Madam Chairperson: Page 11.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item No. 22120.002 – Fees to Chairman and Members of Board and Committees. So, can the Chief Commissioner give details on this item which has been increase?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of fees to Members of Departmental Bid Committee and Bid Evaluation Committee for the evaluation of major projects and procurement of equipment and other machinery.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22110 – Overseas Travel. There is a sum of Rs 2 m, can we know *quels sont ceux qui voyagent sur cet...*

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of subsistence allowance, per diem to delegation of all Commissions proceeding on mission abroad.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22060.005 – It Equipment and Licences (Maintenance Agreement), 1,950,000 and has been increased to 2,550,000. Can we have more information about that?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is meant for payment of maintenance of the Treasury Accounting Systems, HRMS Licensing and Cadastral Systems, renewal of licence for exchange server, RRA mail, licence of Anti-virus software and renewal of mail boxes. *Tou sa la.*

Mr. Z. Félicité: So, Item 25110 – Subsidies, Subsidy to Shipping Services to and from Rodrigues. So can the Chief Commissioner give us details on this item?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is due to the payment of 50% freight on private buses up to Rs 75,000 maximum on raw materials for small and medium enterprises and payment of freight rebate on animal feed, essential commodities, such as, milk, tea and edible oil.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.993 – Enhancement of Work Environment in Civil Service. *Peut-on savoir si le bâtiment administratif de La Ferme est concerné ?*

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for upgrading of office to enhance work environment. Enhancement of work environment in Civil Service.

Madam Chairperson: Page 12.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: 26313.075 – Grant to Public Officers Welfare Council. Ben, on voit que year in year out, 400,000. Mais je pense qu'il est temps quand même de reconnaître les fonctionnaires, les Public Officers Welfare Council, leur donner un petit peu plus d'argent. Parce que je pense que c'est important. J'aimerais savoir/avoir l'avis du Chef Commissaire là-dessus ? Merci.

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is meant for the organisation of activities for public officers and participation in Kermess in Mauritius.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Item 26.147 – Contribution to MBC for the production of Local Informative Programmes. Being given that the RRA, is contributing to the MBC for the production of such programmes, can we know whether this also include the debate at the RRA, because this is a way to inform people what is happening here? Does this include the debates here?

The Chief Commissioner: Grant to the Mauritius Broad Casting Cooperation is for the production of local informative programmes to vulgarise government policies and sensitising the population on existing schemes.

The Minority Leader: If I may, Madam Chair, are we to understand what we are doing at the RRA is not local and is not informative at all?

Madam Chairperson: I think you can come with a substantive question on the matter later.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – 31112.807 – Renovation of Government Buildings. Can the Chief Commissioner give some explanations on the decrease on the Revised Estimates for 2018/19 and this increase for this year to 6 million? So, can he give some details on this figure and whether it also include the *bâtiment administratif de La Ferme*?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is meant for the payment of ongoing and new projects, such as, renovation of veranda at Central Administration and Consultancy for the upgrading of La Residence.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, one question. 31113.438 – Water Sector Development across Rodrigues. So, can the Commissioner explain, the Chief Commissioner sorry, explain why this item is here under his commission, first of all? And, secondly what does this figure represent?

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided is meant to cater for payment of retention money for rain water harvesting projects on government buildings under the EU second call for proposal. EU. The projects have already been completed and are operational.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 31121.001 – Vehicles, Machinery, Equipment and Launch. Can we know what type of equipment, machinery because we have an increase in the Estimates for 2019/20?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the acquisition of ambulance and double cap vehicles and water lorry for dialysis purposes.

Madam Chairperson: Page 13.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam. Item 31 32150.006

...

Madam Chairperson: 13.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: What 13?

Madam Chairperson: We have moved to 13.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: But I have a question on 12, we have not finished.

Madam Chairperson: We have only five minutes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, yes, okay. But I would like to ask the question regarding the Rodrigues tourism Development Company and the second one Rodrigues Business Park Development Company. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House on these two issues?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: These represent of equity participation in these two companies.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: But if Commissioner, what percentage of equity? Can you enlighten the House with regard to the share, the number of shares of RRA, the percentage of RRA, number of shares of RRA and the company, the two companies?

The Chief Commissioner: The RRA is 51% and Vatel is 49%.

Madam Chairperson: 13, 14.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, 14. Item 22010.002 – Telephone. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House, why such an increase from 100 to 380?

Madam Chairperson: It is Rent.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Okay. Yes, yes, sorry. 22030 – Rent – Rent of Vehicles.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of rental of vehicles for the conveyance of excision and gas from Container Park to Queen Elizabeth Hospital and for conveyance of personal effects of officers coming on tour of service to Rodrigues.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21111.100 – Overtime. Je vois que le montant de la somme à doubler from 1.4 million de 2.8.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: The amount provided will be sufficient as there will be recruitment of additional Drivers-on-roster.

Madam Chairperson: 15.

Vote 2-1: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 265,382,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 2-2: Chief Commissioner's Office – Management of State Land was called.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Management of State Land. Yes. Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. In last year's budget, it has been announced that the technical staff of the Cadastral Office has been increased by 11. So, can the Chief Commissioner tell us more about the grades, the new grades which have, the new posts, rather which have been added and which have been funded under last budget?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Recruitment is in process as detailed in last budget. Member may be referred to all funded positions as detailed in last year budget.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Senior Surveyor – 2 posts. Surveyor – 2. Trainee Surveyor – 6. Senior Cartographer – 1. That is all.

Et ensuite, Cartographer/Senior Cartographer – 2. Surveyor Technician – 7. Trainee Cartographer – 3. Voilà. C'est tout. Okay.

Madam Chairperson: 18.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 21110.001 – Principal Surveyor. No Principal Surveyor in post and no post funded. Can we know that we will not have a Principal Surveyor?

The Chief Commissioner: Principal Surveyor - acting once qualified. The post will be filled.

Madam Chairperson: 18.

The Minority Leader: Item 31, the last item .005 – Acquisition of Property. I can see that there is no fund earmarked and I would like to know

whether it is from this item that the Mont Venus Hotel, whether this has already been paid Pointe Venus Hotel? Is it from this item?

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order. Order, we are waiting for the answer. Order.

The Chief Commissioner: No provision is being made as no acquisition is being foreseen for the time being.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital Expenditure Item 31 31112.001 – Renovation of Cadastral Building for additional office space. We have a budget of 1.5 for 2019/20. Renovation of Cadastral Building.

The Chief Commissioner: The ground and first floor will be ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

The Chief Commissioner: ... renovated including electrical wirings and sanitarities. The ground and first floor will be completely renovated including electrical wirings and sanitarities.

Madam Chairperson: 19.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam. Item 21110.001 – Assistant Ground Supervisor (Rodrigues). *Etant donné que le poste* is no more needed from Civil Aviation, can we know why there is an increase from 2 to 3 in the Budget 2019-2020?

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for payment of salary July 2019 to 20 including increment as from January 2020.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Let me have the permission to rephrase this question, Madam Chairperson. The number of Assistant Ground Supervisor (Rodrigues) has been increased from 2 to 3. In force – 2, funded – 3 for 19/20, why?

The Chief Commissioner: Additional posts required to establish a shift system.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, ARL has taken over everything. So, are we putting officers to turn around at the airport for nothing. Supervisor to check *basin delo*! What are they doing there? This is not correct. It is government money.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Assistant Ground Supervisor has a different role. ARL is the operator while Department of Civil Aviation is a Regulator.

Madam Chairperson: 20.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: One more question on page 19. With regard to overtime, Item 21111.100 – Overtime, has doubled from 800,000 to 1,600,000. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House, why a huge increase in that overtime?

The Chief Commissioner: Increase in provision is due to the increase in the number of flights and lack of staff.

Madam Chairperson: 20.

The Minority Leader: 20, Madam. Item 31.434 – Airport Development. I have seen that Rs 8 m. was earmarked for 2018/2019 and it has been revised to Rs 17,880,000, now 2019/2020, we have Rs 43,625,000. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us on that? How this money will be used?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the cost associated with the resettlement of inhabitants of Ste. Marie in connection with the new runway project. It also includes related studies and consultancy fees.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 21110.001 – Head, Tourism. Can we know why till now we have no Head for Tourism as tourist is the pillar of the economy?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: No qualified candidate.

Madam Chairperson: 21.

The Minority Leader: Page 21. 22900.922 – Promotion of Tourism. We have 13 million that is earmarked, can we have more information on that? And, .990 – Major Tourism Events, I would like to know what are these major tourism events?

Madam Chairperson: One at a time, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant to increase visibility of Rodrigues through new marketing strategies and advertising. The amount meets expenditure for the promotion of tourism, operation cost of the Rodrigues Tourism Office, quarterly meeting with tourism operators and World Tourism Day.

The Minority Leader: Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us further on this new strategy?

[Interruption]

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chair, we have a point of order. Because when talking about the tourism, the policy, it is related ... when talking about the strategy it is related to the policy. And, we cannot question here the general principal of the Executive Council's Policy and Administration.

The Minority Leader: We are not...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, please, let me rule on that. Yes, the Commissioner is right. It is policy. If you have questions, then, you will have to come with substantive question in due time.

The Minority Leader : In fact, Madam Chair, we are not questioning the policy. We are just asking for enlightenment. That is all.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: I have noted the point of the Minority Leader but I am sorry to say that Standing Orders are clear indeed, that you have to come with a substantive question if you need more information about that.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22060018: Emblishment of Tourism/Cultural Sites. Can we know, can we have a list of these tourism cultural sites?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the upgrading and maintenance of existing tourism sites. Provision is also meant for the maintenance of *sentier de randonnée*.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, can we know from the Chief Commissioner with regard to Item 22900990: Major Tourism Events? Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to the name of events, the number of events to be organised or have been organised with regards to the sum allocated for that 9090.

The Chief Commissioner: Amount is meant for the following activities: sponsorship of tourism events such as trail de Rodrigues, Kitesurf Festival and Festival de la Randonnée and Organisation of Major Tourism Event, Expedition Africa/Rodrigues 2019.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regards to the Expedition Africa 2019, can the Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to the sum allocated for this specific event.

The Chief Commissioner: It is expected that the project will cost RRA about Rs1 m. as all the expenses will be sponsored.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item 3131113.447: Tourism Sector Development. We have seen that there has been a decrease. So, can the Chief Commissioner give details on this Item?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for the first setting up of a tourism circuit amongst thousands islets namely Ile Gombrani, Hermitage and Ile aux Chats. Upgrading of historical sites for Heritage thrill and third, payment of consultancy fee for the development of new tourism site at Plaine Mao.

Madam Chairperson: 22.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Item Port Development. There is a sum of Rs 131 m. Can the Chief Commissioner... Yes, the project value is.... Can the Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to the sum allocated for this financial year 19/20 on this Item Port Development?

The Chief Commissioner: Contract for consultancy services has already been awarded to Lanka Hydraulic Situation Ltd. in a letter dated 09 January 2019. The work is in three phases and the implementation period is one year and nine months.

Vote 2-2: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 112,952,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 24.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Page 24. Item 21111100: Overtime. Estimates Rs 400,000, Revised estimates Rs 900,000. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to such huge increase in Overtime?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Why is it that the sum has nearly... In Revised yes, more than doubled from Rs 400,000 to Rs 900,000 with regards to Overtime.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of Overtime to officers under Vote 2-301: General. Working after normal working hours. Increase for financial year 2019/2019 is due to additional staff and more extra hours were performed.

Madam Chairperson: 25.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22010.002: Telephone. There is an increase. Estimate was 190,000 and Revised was 240,000. Can we have more details?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of telephone charges. Increase is due to additional lines for new staffs. The monthly average is Rs 17,000.

Madam Chairperson: 25.

The Minority Leader : Item 28, 031: Nine Year Continuous Basic Education (NYS) for which he has Rs 1 m. earmarked and revised estimates Rs 1.2 m. Can we have more information about that?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made to cater for expenses related to Nine Year Continuous Basic Education, comprises of training and workshops for primary and secondary students as well as primary and secondary educators after school sport and fitness programme and Digital Learning Programme. Provision is also made for procurement of equipment for Holistic Educational Programme (HEP) such as sports equipment and musical instruments.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member Agathe.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: *Item 26313.124: Grant to Free Pre-Primary School.* Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire que si ça aussi affecte les *pre-primary schools* qui se trouvent dans les écoles du gouvernement?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment of monthly grant to *Association des Ecoles Maternelles de Rodrigues* to cater for salaries, travelling and End-of-Year Bonus to Pre-Primary Teachers, allowances to Helpers and employers' contribution for National Pension Scheme. Increase for financial year 2019/20 is due to new recruits, that is, one Administrative Support Officer and two Coordinators for the Secretarial of the Association and payment of rental of building for the Secretarial and benefits to the Pre-primary Teachers such as annual leave and retirement benefits. This does not concern pre-primary schools, pre-primary in government schools.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Another question, Madam. *Question additionnelle.* *C'est que je peux comprendre là que les pre-primary teachers working in government schools, they do not have the same salary as the pre-primary teachers dans des autres écoles.*

The Chief Commissioner: It is not the same. This is a private pre-primary education. They have nothing to do with the primary education in the government schools.

Madam Chairperson: 26.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item Number 3131112001: Education Infrastructure Development Project. There has been an increase. Can we know what are these structures, infrastructures please?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment in connection with completion of construction works, oh yes, of pre-primary school at Montagne Charlot, Trèfles and Montagne Malgache. And to start construction works at Jardin Mamzelle Pre-Primary School and upgrading all pre-primary schools.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Item 21110: Trainee Educator (Kreol Morisien). Mais on vient de dire que on va faire le créole Mauricien? Et puis, il y a que six ou 13 écoles. Quel créole qu'on va faire? Creole Mauricien? Creole Rodriguais? Creole de la République.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision for financial year 2019 is meant for three Trainee Educators increase for financial year 2019/20 is due to increase 2020. No, it is not the Creole Mauricien where we are preparing for a manual for Creole Rodriguais. Manual Creole Rodriguais for all pre-primary schools.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 21110001...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Head of Education (Primary). No one in post. No post funded but there are estimates for...

The Chief Commissioner: Decrease for financial year 2018/2019 is due to retirement of the officer. For financial year 2019/2020, there is no qualified officer as it is based on promotional post from Senior School Inspector with three years' experience in the grade of Senior School Inspector.

Madam Chairperson: 27, 28.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: 27, Madam. Item 28212.020: Zone d'Education Prioritaire Programme. Zone... .020 : Zone d'Education Prioritaire Programme. Est-ce qu'on peut avoir plus de renseignement là-dessus ?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made to cater for payment of allowance to Primary School Educators and non-teaching staff of schools performing additional coaching during Winter School Programme. Increase is due to more activities were organised in financial year 2018/2019. Provision for financial year 2019/2020. Yes, yes, yes. Provision made to cater for the procurement of bottles of water for pupils of Sainte Therese de l'Enfant Jesus RCEA School under ZEP Programme.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam. The ZEP programme. Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas des critères pour qu'une école reste dans « le » zone prioritaire dépendant de son taux de réussite, son pourcentage de réussite ? Est-ce que Rivière Cocos n'a pas dépassé ça ?

The Chief Commissioner: Madame, nous suivons les règlements de ZEP à Maurice.

Madam Chairperson: 28.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 2207... 22070.006 : Cleaning of Toilet Facilities in Schools. La somme est passée de Rs3.64 millions à Rs300,000.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for the contract out of cleaning services for toilets in all primary schools. Tender was launched but there was no successful bidder and tender has been relaunched.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Grandcourt.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, thank you, Madam. Thank you, *mone dir thank you Madam Chair*. Yes... Yes, please, Education Infrastructure Development. So, can we know from the Chief Commissioner the figure 31112.001, Item Vote. So the figure has been increased. So, can the Chief Commissioner explain this increase in figure, please?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment in connection with ongoing and new projects. Provision is meant for construction, upgrading, renovation, extension and embellishment works of primary schools.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can the Chief Commissioner explain?

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam, Item 28211: Transfer to Non-Profit Institutions. Mais l'année dernière dans le budget, on avait parlé de Maison familiale rurale. It is not... It is a non-profit institution. Ce n'est pas inclut dedans les maisons familiales rurales? MFR.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: It is under training. The respected Member Zeph Félicité.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Madam the Chairperson, Capital Expenditure, Item 31112.002. Sorry, 012: Construction of Community Schools. So, can we have more details on these Community Schools?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made for payment in connection with construction of Community Schools at Baie Malgache.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, with regards to Item Vote 28211002: Block Grant to RCEA, financial year 2018, Rs90 m., revised estimates Rs102 m. and

this financial year, Rs106 m. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House why there has been an increase in revised estimates and why also there has been an increase for this budget, this financial year 2019/20.

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made to cater for monthly grant to RCEA for payment of salaries and other emoluments to the employees of the RCEA. Increase is due to payment of performance grant, recruitment of new staff and grant for asphaltting of the schoolyard of Saint Esprit RCEA.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 28212004: Primary School Supplementary Feeding Project. There has been an increase in the amount. Can we have more information about it?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made to cater for the procurement of milk, cheese, butter and loaves for pupils of pre-primary, primary schools, enhance schools during schooldays and also during Winter School Programme for primary schools. Provision includes expenses related for hot meals once a week in five primary schools on a pilot basis.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, since the beginning...

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order, please!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regards...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to the School Feeding Project Supplementary, yes, but my son since January is having only bread and butter and the Chief Commissioner announcing bread, butter, cheese, eggs. Where are these... *Kot été?*

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: 28.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: What about... Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to Item Vote 22900925: Books for Students in Secondary Education why the amount has decreased after revised estimates from Rs10000 to Rs9428, million?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision made to cater for procurement of textbooks for secondary students. Provision for financial year 2018/2019 will be sufficient.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question was not with regards to sufficient or not but my question was why there has been a decrease... 9428 pane decrease? You... Yes! *Bon, ki sanla sef comiser la toi ou bien...*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, put your question!

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I have already put my question. Why has there been a decreased?

Madam Chairperson: Yes, thank you.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Chief Commissioner: The Ministry for Education is providing some of the books free of charge.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 31112.004: Construction/Extension of Secondary Schools, Equipment and Furniture. Peut-on savoir quelles sont les *secondary schools* touchées?

The Chief Commissioner: Provision is meant for construction, upgrading, renovation and extension of secondary schools. Increase is due to additional provision for construction of *college de Songes*.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire si la somme comprend aussi tout ce qui est équipements et meubles pour les collèges? Je pense il n'a pas mentionné ces items là.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, on a eu des plaintes d'après des parents provenant du collège Pistache, pas La Ferme,Pistaches.

Alors, qui eux, ils disent La Ferme. J'aimerais poser la question qui sont ceux qui font, qui décident de la spécification concernant les meubles dans les....

The Chief Commissioner: A grant is given to REDCO for furnitures and so on in the college.

The Minority Leader : Yes, Item 31.007. Last Item, Port Development. Can we have more information on that? Rs 4,240,000.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, the Item has been transferred.

Vote 2-3: Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 669,962,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 33.

The Minority Leader : Yes, prior to page 33, Madam Chair, I would like to have some enlightenment from the Deputy Chief Commissioner. On the 29, it is said the main achievement for financial year 2018/2019, they initiate the construction of .8km of road from Songes to Rivière Cocos Road...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, excuse me, this is policy.

The Minority Leader : No, this is policy, I know but...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, for policy, you have to come with a substantive question.

The Minority Leader : This has not been done just for enlightenment because...

Madam Chairperson: No, this is not in order, Minority Leader. I am sorry. 33.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Civil Test... Setting up of a Civil Test Laboratory in Rodrigues. So, I want to know whether this has been done prior before this financial year.

Madam Chairperson: Which Item?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Item Number 22900.

Madam Chairperson: Which page?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ...*33 nou été la?* Page 34. It is on page 34.

Madam Chairperson: 34? Okay, 34.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, 22900.981: Setting up of a Civil Test Laboratory in Rodrigues. So, what is it first of all? And, whether this has been set up.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : The Commission intends to carry out simple tests as regard to road materials. We have already contacted the Mauritius Standard Bureau (MSB) so that they can recommend the required material for the setting up of the laboratory. We are already working with the.... Yes, bituminous, block, concrete block, simple tests that can be performed independently at our Commission.

Madam Chairperson: You put your question! Next page, 35.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 22900: Purchases of Marquees. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten us with regards to this purchase and for what purpose?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the Marquees, they are under the supervision of my Commission. We have noted that there has been a degrading in the state of the Marquees. So, we have provided for provision so that we can purchase new ones for events that we are going to organise by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, for page 35, Senior Field Supervisor, Carpenter, Multi-Skilled Tradesman. So, we have seen that there is nobody in post. So, can he tell us so what is happening, why is it that these posts have not been filled? Or, what are other alternatives that he had at his Commission? Because we know that public infrastructure, we need Carpenters, we need Multi-Skilled Tradesman and so on.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Multi-Skilled, you mean Multi-Skilled Trades... Senior Field? Yes, Madam Chairperson, let me check it out first. *Mo pa pe trouve li la.* It is for the maintenance of building and other assets.

No, there is no provision for that. No, if it is not funded, this means it does not... the purpose does not exist. Yes.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Maybe. There is a possibility that we have it in other fields.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : In the quarters or whatever it is.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : No, let me check it out. Let me check it from my maintenance. Maintenance of Building 001. So, we are recruiting Tradesman Assistant first. There are 108 posts under the Central Administration.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 22010.001: Electricity. So, we have seen that there is an increase. So, can the Commissioner give details on?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : ...realise that there has been as per the revised estimate and increase from Rs800,000 to Rs1.5 m. So, to keep in line with the revised estimate, it has been put to Rs 1.2 m. So, if we are... If there is a revised increase in estimate, this means that we are going, we are working more and we are using more electricity.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22060.001: Maintenance Buildings. Can we know the number of buildings for maintenance and....

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, maintenance of buildings. C'est 22 ça non? Yes, 220060, yes. So, provision made for the general minor repairs and maintenance of buildings of the Commission. So, it is even stated that Rs 1.95 m. has been transferred from capital Item Refurbishment of Government Quarters.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the maintenance of the building of... administrative building of La Ferme falls under this item or is it somewhere in another Commission?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can I? Can I have your views on that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Consider that upgrading and renovation of public buildings falls under my Commission, so, the sum will be taken from that Item.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I make an appeal to the Deputy Chief Commissioner? The workers over there are working in a deplorable state with regards to “pigeon” etc. Will the Deputy Chief Commissioner consider the renovation of this building at earliest? Please.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21110.004: Allowances. There is an increase from Rs 900,000 to Rs 1.2 m. Can I... Page 35.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, for extra remuneration under maintenance of buildings, 22003. Allowances. It is allowances? That is it? Donc, there is an increase from Rs 900,000 to Rs 1.2 m. Good. So, provision made for payment of allowances to members of Bid Evaluation Committee and responsibility allowance, acting allowance to officers assigning duties at higher level: night shift, public holiday allowance to Security Guard and others. Out of pocket and subsistence allowance payable to staff on mission. We estimate that the average cost expenditure is about Rs 100,000 per month.

Madam Chairperson: 36.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Capital Expenditure. Item 31112.813 : Construction of Market in villages. So, can we know whether this market has already completed or whether it has not been completed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : For Grand La Fouche Corail, the contract has already been awarded. I think by end of January and the construction is 150 days. It has already been awarded to the... Yes, the start of the work was to be on 15 of February and from 15 of February, we have 150 days for completion of the work.

Mr. Z. Félicité: And for Riviere Cocos?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : For Rivière Cocos, Madam Chairperson, there is a possibility that we are going to review that decision being given that with the construction of the market at Grand La Fouche Corail, the villagers of Rivière Cocos can use that of Grand La Fouche Corail. This is why we have decided instead to go ahead with the upgrading of the bus terminal at Rivière Cocos.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Small market at Grand La Fouche Corail. So, can we know whether we have already identified a stable location site? And where?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : If handing over has already been done to the contractor, this means the site has already been identified. Yes, it is next to the filling station. That is there.

Madam Chairperson: 37, 38.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets. 31113.022: Construction and Upgrading of Bridges. So, can the Commissioner... I see an asterisk... Ah, it is NDU. So, okay. So, can we know where are these bridges? Where are they? Where will they be constructed...?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Bridges... the NDU. Contract for Camp du Roi has already been awarded. Unfortunately, the bids for Anse Ali has been non responsive because it is of very high side as compared to the estimated cost. There is the bridge of Port Sud-Est that is also being considered through construction by the NDU.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 31113.440: Road Safety, Maintenance and Rehabilitation. Sum earmarked Rs600. Revised estimates... Comment?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Rs 600,000 and estimates, revised estimate Rs 2.6 m. Can we know more about it?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, road safety remains a top priority for that Government. So, this is why we have decided to enhance security mainly around school. There is... We are considering to construct footpaths at Brûlé. We have spoken in the budget about Terre Bornes to La Ferme. There is also additional Parking Facilities that we are to consider at Antoinette Prudence at Lataniers. So, it is in line, in the objective of enhancing the security around schools which we consider as very important.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regards to the maintenance and rehabilitation of road. But with regards to maintenance and rehabilitation of track roads, does the Commissioner have something in his Commission for the repairs of these track roads? Because we are suffering lot not only in the village of Roseaux but almost around the island where track road has been built long time ago and are in a pity state. Can he enlighten the House?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson, it is to be noted that many of the track road which has been built by villagers on a voluntary basis are in a very bad state in certain villages. This is a truth. We have two possibilities now for upgrading of these track road. We have already launched tender for 30km additional track road whose tender are going to be closed on the 03 May and additionally, we have also launched and we are proud to award the contract for road maintenance and associated works and I consider that we have already notified the contractor which I tendered under the contract. So, once these are clear, we will be able to continue with the upgrading of track road and other features around the island.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: This is not in order. You have to put your question.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : We are going to use the very contract if the need arise.

Madam Chairperson: 39, 40.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, 39. Item 21110: Personal Emoluments, General Worker. Can the Commissioner inform the House why there is nothing in post and nothing funded for General Worker in the maintenance of roads and bridges.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : There was a provision Rs 290,000 and now, for revised and ça, there is no provision for that. So, if provision were made and there is the revised estimate is nil, this indicates that the person has retired from the service. Yes, it has retired from the service. So, this means we have considered that the Rs 290,000 is no longer required. So, it has been relocated somewhere else. But nevertheless, at the level of my Commission, we do have General Worker in other fields which we can consider failing from the other Item Vote because it is found under my Commission instead.

Madam Chairperson: 40, 41.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: 40, yes.

Madam Chairperson: 40.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item Vote 25500002: Bus Modernisation Scheme. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten the House with regards to this scheme please?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Yes, Madam Chairperson. Everybody will realise that we have made a revolution in the bus industry here. Because whenever you travel around the island, you will see that our bus park is constantly increasing. We are having buses 2018/2019 and we are making provision in this budget for the renewal under the Bus Modernisation Scheme for some six to seven new buses. Because these owners, they can have up to Rs 1 b. depending upon the cost of the buses. This is why our objective is that by 2022, our fleet of buses should have been renewed by 70-80%.

Madam Chairperson: 41.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Capital Expenditure – 31113.010 : Improvement, Renewals, Minor Projects and Infrastructural Works in Villages. We have seen that there has been a decrease and can the Commissioner... decrease. Can the Commissioner give details on this Item and state the villages where these work have been done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, there has indications given in the budget speech as to what improvements that we want to make in the villages. We have mentioned track roads, we have mentioned bus shelters. Though I should state here that unfortunately, after launching of the tenders, it has been nonresponsive. So, we have to relaunch again. In fact, we wanted to construct some 15 at the first instance, 15 bus shelters around the island but the tenders have... the bids have not been responsive. Donc, it will include all projects that will enhance the standard of living in any village. Yes.

Madam Chairperson: 42.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, as announced in his speech, the Commissioner said one scientific officer would be recruited in the Water Sector. So, it is 21110.001: Scientific Officer. So, can he now give explanation why this post has not been filled even though he announced that same will be done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, this is a new post that was created. Yes, since last year. And for new posts which are created, there should be the creation of new scheme of duty. In fact, we have already consulted the trade unions as regard to the scheme of duty as per the procedures. Yes, and now, the procedure has.. the procedures have reached the Ministry for Civil Service. So, once this is approved and agreed by the Ministry for Civil

Service, we are going ahead to the recruitment. This is the normal procedure. Yes, this is the normal procedure. We cannot bypass any procedure as regard to recruitment. If you want to have transparency...

Madam Chairperson: 43.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Then, everything should be in line with established procedures.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, 43. Item 22020001: Fuel and Oil, Vehicles. There has been an increase whereas the number of drivers, there are three drivers. Can we know how? About this increase? 22020001: Fuel and Oil, Vehicles.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, your question is why is it that it has increased? We have only three drivers.

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : So, you can see from the figure itself that we budgeted Rs 2.8 m. and the revised estimate for the ongoing financial year has increased to Rs 3.4. So, based... increase. So, based on this, we cannot decrease the estimated cost. This is why we have cut it for Rs 3.4 m. Meaning that there are more work to be performed by the Commission and as such, there are more fuel which are being used which account of course for an increase in the use, in the cost of fuel.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: ...the type of vehicles that use so much fuel?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : If I refer, it is for water production. Yes, we speaking about water production. So, we have as far as I can remember, some four, three to four vehicles which are attached to the Commission for... to the water production department, specifically for maintenance and to go around the island and how to say, monitor water quality and also check about the production on different boreholes, surface water and other water source that is under the aegis of the Commission.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Capital Expenditure, Item 31113.435 : Desalination Project. Estimate of 2018/19, 121... *Non*, Rs 63 m. and revised estimate – Rs 121,445,000 and estimates for 2019/2020 Rs 46,800,000.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : This can be explained by the fact that we are already, we already have or rather we are proceeding right now with the installation of the equipment by the contractors. So, we expect to pay once these contractors, once these equipment have been installed and commissioned. So, this is why there has been a revised estimate on the increase. But as for next year, there will be a decrease in the amount. As I have explained this morning, there are funds required for the running cost of the desalination plant. And, we also, we will also consider the upgrading of the desalination plant of Anse aux Anglais and Caverne Bouteille.

The Minority Leader: Item 31113.004 – Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs. 9 million earmarked, Revised Estimates – 6 million and now you have 2019/2020 – 27,100,000, that is, about more than four times. It has increased four folds. Can we have more information about that? Where the reservoirs will be situated and so on?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: If I remember well, last year we spoke about the start of the consultancy for the dam of Pavé la Bonté. ... okay? Yes, it does include. But once we completed the consultancy we are going to launch the tenders and we expect that there will be some payment that are going to be made within the financial year 2019/2020. It is going to be a new one. Probably. Yes, it is going to be a new one.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: But what about the reservoir of Accacia, 1000...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This is why I am adding additionally. So, we have also launched tenders for Accacia and Montagne Cabris. Yes, Montagne Cabris. And, we have included in the Budget 2019/2020 an additional reservoir at Montagne Goyaves because the steel of Montagne Goyaves is no longer in operation and specially we have had a problem following cyclone Gelena, with the steel reservoir at Montagne Patate. So, this means that we have to build a reservoir within that region to be able to be served the region of Baladirou efficiently.

Madam Chairperson: 44, 45. Time is over.

Vote 3-1: Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office (Rs 430,206,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 51.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. Can we know from the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Child Development, with regard to Psychologist. In post, unfunded, 1, 1. Can we have more explanation on that?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: We already have one Psychologist in post, yes. We have two Psychologists. One in Capacity Building Programme, it is not under this budget item. And, one posted at my commission. Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regard to Shelter Care Attendant, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Shelter Care Attendant (on shift), can we have some explanation on why there is no fund for it, nobody is in post?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, as you are aware, Madam Chair, the Foyer Baladirou is under the management of Les Filles de Marie. And, so they are given a grant every year and under this grant they recruit staff themselves. So, there is no need to have Shelter Care Attendant (on shift).

Madam Chairperson: 52.

Mr. Z. Félicité: 22090.001 – Security Services. So, we have seen that there has been an increase, a huge increase. So, can the Commissioner give details on this?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, the increase in Revised Estimates is due to the new contract awarded for Mont Venus Hotel 75,000 monthly, which is actually under our supervision. And, provision made for the next financial year for payment of security services for Baladirou Shelter, for Family Integrated Centre, for Cooperative Building and the provision of security services for activities organise by my commission.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item – Capital Expenditure. Item 31112 – Non-Residential Buildings. *En bas net page 52.* Family Training Centre. Estimates for 2018/19, it is 500,000 and Estimates for 2019/20, 2.6 million. Can we know more about it?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, provision is made to kick start the construction of the Dual Purpose Complex, to house Rehabilitation Youth Centre for Girls and an Emergency Shelter for victims of domestic violence, renovation of Family Integrated Centre at Malabar and equipping of two offices at La Ferme Block into the Women Centre.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.989 – Jeux des Femmes Inter-Iles. Yesterday the Commissioner said that it has been postponed. Can we now know when will ...

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chair, as you are aware also, the Jeux des Femmes Inter-Iles has had to be postponed due to the prevailing conditions under Joaninha, the cyclone Joaninha. So, we have met the committee... the committee for this activity and we are actually considering to postpone the activity for June 2019.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 22900 – Parental Empowerment Programme/Single Mother. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House on this item?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, Madam Chairperson, under this Item Vote, we will cater for the 25,000 grant that has been announced by the Chief Commissioner to the different PTAs of the schools for the Parental Empowerment Programme, for the *Plus Vif Programme*, that is, *la lutte contre la violence domestique* and also for rehabilitation programme since schools, for sensitisation on bullying and so on.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Item 22090 – Security Services. You have already answered? 221120.027 – Creche Scheme (SRM). Can you enlighten the House? You have an Estimates of 500,000, revised to 100,000 for year 2018/201919, 2019/2020?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, this Scheme was introduced last year and we wanted to have a sort of Creche Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs, who have their kids not yet at school and we are actually preparing all the documents and put up the procedures and this is why we have not kick started the project. And, this financial year we will start on a pilote basis.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 27210.007 – Assistance to Family in Distress. Can we know more about this item, the sum estimates?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: As it is said in assistance itself, it is under this Scheme provision is made to assist families who suddenly, for example, lose the bread-earner after an accident. And, also this year the actual financial year, provision has been made also to assist women in distress and willing to kick start a small economic activity.

Madam Chairperson: 53, 54, 55.

The Minority Leader: 53. Capital Expenditure. 31112.818 – Incubators for Entrepreneurs. Can we have some information on that?

[Interruption]

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, this provision is made for extension of building of Graviers for the Lemon Juice Project, to house the lemon extraction oil project and for the setting up of the model poultry farm at Montagne Croupier.

Madam Chairperson: 54, 53.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 28212.022 – Support to Small and Medium Enterprises. So, can we know what types of support the Commissioner is being provided to these entrepreneurs?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, this financial provision is made for the organisation of activities, such as, Tournée Rodriguaise, fairs in Mauritius and also for the organisation of the entrepreneurship week, which we will celebrate for the first time this year and for capacity buildings programme for SMEs. That is it, yes.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 28212.030 – Implement Family Farming Project. Sum Estimates 2018/2019 – 500,000 and 2019/20 – 250,000. Can we know about it?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, this, Madam Chairperson, this estimates for the year will be used to grant 10 beneficiaries under the Small Scale Poultry Scheme in view to the decrease of the importation of chicken.

Mr. Z. Félicité: The same heading – Capital Expenditure. Item 31112.819 – Construction of “La Maison de l’Entreprise et des Cooperatives”. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House on this Capital Expenditure?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, Estimates during this financial year were meant for the payment of retention money for the project « Construction of « La Maison de l’Entreprise et des Cooperatives » », provision for the next financial year will be for consultancy services for the conversion of Citron Donis into a Poly Technique after the children actually there will be moved to Songes.

Madam Chairperson: 54.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can I ask the Commissioner for Item Vote 22120 – Fees. 0.29 – Service Fee for Cable Bandwith. Can us have more information on that fee and to whom it is being paid? Bandwith?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, this Estimates represent the monthly payment as we have to pay to Mauritius Telecom. In fact, we have to buy the bandwith with them. So, this is the amount will be paid to Mauritius Telecom over the year.

Madam Chairperson: 55.

The Minority Leader: Item 22900.988 – Learning Corner in Villages. Can we know what is this?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, in fact, years before we had 21 learning corners which was set up by NEF and National Empowerment Fund, National Empowerment Foundation and after the years they have... they are no longer maintaining these learning corners. Since two years back, the Commission is catering for the connectivity of internet at these 21 learning corners around Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: 56.

The Minority Leader: 56. Item 22900.971 – Research Grant Scheme. Can we have some enlightenment on that Research Grand Scheme?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, two years back, we organised a forum with the partners in Rodrigues to define the priorities in term of research to be done and this grant is given to MRC and to implement projects as per the priority defined.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 28211 – 28212.033 – Rodrigues Skill Development Programme. There is a decrease in the amount. Can the Commissioner explain the House?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: The decrease in the amount in the Revised Estimates is due to the fact that the financial support will be extended by the HRDC, Human Resource Development Council in Mauritius. The provision made for placement programme in the construction sector, mechanics and for graduates, also registered unemployed in local enterprises in Mauritius or in Mauritius to increase employability skills.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.927 – Training and Student Sponsorship. Can we know from the Commissioner how many students have benefited from such sponsorship for the year 2018/19?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, in fact, this amount is for all these different Schemes that are being mounted for student going to universities. So, it is known that we have some 10 Schemes. And, so I do not have the number of students but we know also that around 100 students each year go for universities. So, all of them up to now, they were having the assistance for registration and tuition fees and so on.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.961 – Training Courses in Agriculture. A sum of Rs 5 m. earmarked. Can we know more about this training?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Provision made... Madam Chairperson, this provision is made for the contribution of RRA in view of the conducting of different programmes BPA Programmes in collaboration with *Le Lycée Polytechnique de St. Joseph* and these training courses are being done at *Lycée Polytechnique de St. Gabriel*.

Madam Chairperson: 57.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Item 31112.803 – Human Resources, Education Centre and Renovation of HRDC Centre. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House with regard to this item and the sum?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, the increase in the Revised Estimates. So, this sum will be used to undertake some additional work at *Lycée Agricole de St. Gabriel* and to upgrade their workshops and to upgrade the HRDC building and the construction of a masonry wall.

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

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, as everybody knows it is the Antoinette Prudence Human Resource Development Centre at Malabar.

Madam Chairperson: 58.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 26 – Grants. 26313.146 – Support to Cooperative Societies. The sum earmarked has been decreased. Can we know why?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Madam Chairperson, this year this sum will be used to accompany cooperatives in the wood sector to help them to have more equipment and to offer better facilities and the sum earmarked will be wholly sufficient.

Mr. Z. Félicité: On the same heading. Can we know how many cooperative societies we have in Rodrigues?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: So, we have around 80 active cooperatives societies actually.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 26313 – contribution to Local Organisation. Can we know what are these organisations, local organisations and why there is a decrease from Rs 2 m. to Rs 1.7 m.?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, it is clearly spelled out there, that these local organisations they are Caisse Villageoise, FACER, the Young Farmers Cooperative and the amount earmarked will be sufficient also with regard to the projects we will implement with cooperatives.

Madam Chairperson: 59, 60.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item No. 22900.005 – Provisions and Stores. Can we have more details on this item?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: This, Madam Chairperson, the provision is made for the next financial year to increase the number... is due to an increase in the number of detainees and the price of commodities.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital Expenditure – Item 31112.811 – Infrastructure to Prison Building. Can we have information ...?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the payment of retention money for the construction of Remand and Convict Block at Pointe La Gueule. The implementation of Phase 2 for the construction of the New Prison Block and for the conversion of the existing building into a workshop for rehabilitation of detainees.

Madam Chairperson: 61, 62.

Vote 4-1: Commission for Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Child Development, Industrial Development, Information and Communication technology, Vocational Training, Cooperatives, trade, Commerce and Licensing

and Prisons and Reforms Institutions (Rs 235,148,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 66. Respected Member Félicité.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item No. 22030 – Rental of Vehicles. We see that there has been an increase. So, can the Commissioner explain to us?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Provision is made for Rental of lorries for conveyance of waste from different Health Centres to QEH for incineration. Rental of 4 x 4 vehicles, mini-bus for conveyance of Specialists and staffs due to shortage of vehicles at the Commission as and when required. The Revised and Proposed Estimates are based on actual trend of Expenditure.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir si ces véhicules sont registered comme contract vehicles ou private vehicles ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Madam Chairperson, registered as contract vehicles.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: As regards, to overtime, can the... *ça veut dire*, Item 21111.100 – Overtime. So, you have seen that there has been an increase. So, can the Commissioner explain, give details, if he can about this increased. Because we have heard that doctors, *mo capave dir ça là? Non, pas capave dire, laise li. Docter atane congé pou zot fer lopération!*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Provision is made for payment of extra hours putting by employees in pursuance of their duty. Increase in Revised Estimates is based on actual trend of expenditure where the rise is due to increase of basic salary and extra remuneration and also due to shortage of staffing. The provision for 2019/2020 has been made taking into consideration the national policy by the Ministry of Finance to curtail overtime.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, there was already a question being put there.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21110 – Management Support Officer. Estimates 2018/19 – Rs 1.971 m., Revised Estimates – Rs 2.9 m. and Estimates 2019/2020 – Rs 3.1 m. Can we have some details about it?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, provision is made for payment of salary to Confidential Clerk, increase in provision due to the incremental credit payable in January 2019. New recruit was effected in November 2018.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: So, the Commissioner has been talking about overtime. He has been talking in his answer of Basic Salary. So, what is the ... *quel est le lien entre Basic Salary and Overtime? Je ne comprends pas. Est-ce qu'il peut expliquer?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, about the rate, if the Basic Salary has been increased by increment, so the overtime will be increased.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you put your question in an orderly manner, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I shall put my question again. So, why is it, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, that after Revised Estimates 2018/19, it has increased from 550,000 to 900,000 and for this year, it goes down to 550,000? So, how can he explain? He told me about increase in Basic Salary, there has been an increase. So, why is it that this year, it has decreased? Has there been any decrease in the Basic Salary? Where is the l'Audit? *Cot l'audit là été?*

[Interruption]

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I repeat, that the increase in overtime is due to shortage of staffing but the provision for 2019/20 has been made taking into consideration Account of the National Policy by the Ministry of Finance to curtail overtime. So, we will try to curtail overtime for the next financial year.

Madam Chairperson: 67.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.950 – Conferences and Seminars. Can we know where these conferences took place or will take place and what about the increase in the sum Rs 125,000 to revised to Rs 200,000?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this provision is made to meet the cost occurred in connection with the organization of seminars and workshops, confection of banners, stationeries, payment and resource persons, fees travelling and refreshments. The Revised Estimates for 2018/19 is based on the actual trend

of expenditure. This provision for 2019/20 will be sufficient. All the conferences and seminars will be held in Rodrigues.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madam Chairperson, 26313.002 – Agent de Santé. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire où il a eu l'argent pour payer les Agents de Santé qu'il a drastiquement augmenté ? Parce qu'ils n'ont pas... les agents n'ont pas été trop payé. Ce n'est que maintenant qu'il met de l'argent.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madame la présidente, pour l'argent, c'est Dieu qui donne. Et, nous avons fait ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Nous avons fait les réallocation pour l'année 2018/19 et l'année 2019/2020 et une somme de Rs 3,600,000. Et, pour les Agents de Santé, à partir du mois de juillet 2019. And, the re-allocation was made from allowances.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. Item 27 – Social Benefits. 27210.008 – Assistant to Patients needing Specialised Treatment. There has been an increased for the year 2018/19 and in the budget, I think, that the sum paid to these patients have been increased. Can we have more information about this assistance, please?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Madam Chairperson. For this year 2018/19, we have an increased in patients undergoing special treatment in Mauritius. This increase in the Revised Estimates are based under trend of expenditure. So, we will spend about Rs 15 m. for the year 2018/2019. But to the decrease in the proposed Estimates 2019/2020, is due to the fact that my Commission will acquire New Medical Equipment and facilities, which will enable decrease the number of patients being sent to Mauritius.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 22900.002 – Accommodation Cost. We have seen there has been an increased. So, can the Commissioner give details on this item?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This item makes provision to cater for board and lodging for Specialists on a month to month tour of service in Rodrigues, to Medical Officers posted in Rodrigues accommodated at hotel pending the transfer to Quarters. Medical staffs and Nursing Officers who accompany patients to Mauritius and vice versa. The increased is based on the actual trend of Expenditure. Due to the increase in the visit of Specialists on short mission, the Proposed Estimates will be sufficient due to the fact that the commission is undertaking to recruit specialist on long term basis where Quarters will be provided.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam, Chairperson Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House with regard to Item Vote 31112 – Other Structures, Health Infrastructure Development – about the infrastructure development, the project, how many projects will be catered under this item and where?

[Interruption]

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, regarding this item vote Health Infrastructure Development Project – the project are the constructions of medical wastes incinerators at La Ferme and Crève-Coeur, renovation of three wards including toilets and inward kitchen at Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centres, setting of a new operating theatre at the Maternity Block, upgrading of new Community Health Centres, Roche Bon Dieu, Cascade Pigeon, Rivière Coco, Port Sud Est, Cascade Jean Louis, excuse me - Cascade Jean Louis. Furniture for waiting rooms in Area Health Centres.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson Madam. The Commissioner has been talking about incinerators. Okay? Money for incinerators, medical wastes. So, can we, *La Ferme et Crève Coeur*, so can I ask him whether he will upgrade the incinerator at Camp Pintade?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No incinerator at Camp Pintade, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

[Interruption]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Why is it so?

Madam Chairperson: 68.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: With regard to the Operation Block at Mme. Ancilla Jean, does the Operation Block has come into operation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: What item number, please?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item No. 31113.014 – Health Infrastructure Development Project.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Already been answered, Respected Member.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Has partly been answered. I would like to know whether the Operation Block is in operation or will be in operation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: You have asked for what type of project there is and the Operation Block will be operated in the near future.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, already given the answer. Yes?

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital Expenditure, Item 31122.004 – Equipment and Furniture for Hospital and Others. Can we have the list of these equipment and furniture for hospital?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the list of equipment is as follows:

- Mammography
- X-Ray equipment for QEH
- Equipment for new Male and Female Ward
- Equipment and furniture for Operating Theatre
- Acquisition of a diving chamber for ICU
- Equipment for Laboratory

Madam Chairperson: 68, 69.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: 69, Madam. 69.

Madam Chairperson: 69, we cannot go back, unfortunately. The Member Agathe is already on her feet. 69.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Physiotherapical, Madam. La présidente...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Est-ce que le Commissaire peut expliquer le fait que, en mars il y avait deux Physiotherapy Assistant, maintenant c'est devenu, *five*. Pourquoi, est-ce que ces deux Assistants-là n'ont pas été promu ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas de personne qualifiée pour ça ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Vous pouvez répéter la question, Madam ?

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Avec plaisir, monsieur le Commissaire. Il y a deux Physiotherapy Assistants en mars, maintenant ça a été augmenté à cinq mais pourquoi est-ce que ces deux Assistants n'ont pas été promu ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas des personnes qualifier à Rodrigues pour ça ? Parce que lors d'une question que j'avais posé l'année dernière vous aviez dit qu'on devait avoir un Physiotherapist, un Senior Psysiotherapist. *Mo mémoire encor bon mem mone vié !*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *Madame la présidente*, the Scheme of Service not yet prescribed for the post of Senior Physiotherapist.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: *Yes, Madam.* Mais par rapport au norme de la santé on sait très bien parce que j'ai déjà expliqué ça ici, que *a Physiotherapy Assistant cannot give care to people in the ICU. What is the answer of the Commissioner ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Madam Chairperson, I am aware but just after we received the Scheme of Service, we will take necessary action with the PSC for the finalisation of the appointment of the Physiotherapist.

Madam Chairperson: 70, 71. No, we cannot back, unfortunately. 70, yes.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Security Guard, okay. So, can the Commissioner give us more detail on this item, please. Security Guard.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: 71.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regard to Item Vote 21111 – Overtime. Can the Commissioner explain to the House the huge increase in Revised Estimates with regard to overtime?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The increase in the Revised Estimates, Madam Chairperson, is due to the following reasons:

- New Policy in opening and closing of market which require an increase in sanitary supervision to palliate the shortage of staff due to the opening of new wards and unit, shortage of ambulances, Ambulance Drivers at the Commission and other staffs. The decrease

is proposed in 2019/2020 is due to recruitment of additional staff during the forthcoming coming year and also based on the National Policy to curtail overtime.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item Vote No. 22060 – Maintenance, .003 – Plant and Equipment. The amount has been doubled. Can we have more information about these plants and equipment?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, provision made for the repairs of existing office equipment for Programme 5-102: Curative Services, approved Estimates 2018/2019 are the same based on the natural trend of expenditure. Estimates for 2019/2020 caters for a new cost effective approach of maintenance and in addition all equipment will be replaced by new one.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22140.001 – Medicines, Drugs and Vaccines – from Rs 32 m. to Rs 60 m. And, still at the hospital there are lack of medicines and drugs.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Can the Member substantiate what kind of medicines which is lacking there? Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the purchase of medicines, drugs and others. The increase in the Revised Estimates 2018/2019 is due to settlement of long outstanding claims to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life for the supply and delivery of drugs, medical disposal and consumable which are available at the Central and Supply Division in Mauritius. The proposed Estimates for 2019/2020 will be sufficient based on the realistic....

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22900 – Provision and Stores. Can we have more information about these provision and stores?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *Bé pou asté manzé pou ban malades.* Provision is made for the payment of food stuffs, cleaning materials and other related store required by wards and units of the hospital. Revised Estimates 2018/19 is based on the actual trend of the Expenditure. The provision 2019/2020 will be sufficient.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item 22120 – Fees, 0.18 – Refund of Subscription Fees to Professional Bodies. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House with regard to Professional Bodies, what fees, etc.?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This provision is made for the refund of annual medical subscription for Medical Officer. The Proposed 2019/2020 is maintained since the Approved and Revised Estimates are the same based on the actual trend of expenditure.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.951 – Promotion for Health Living. From 400,000 to 800,000. Can we know more about this?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this provision is made for the organization of activities related to the breast and cervical cancer. The Revised Estimates 2018/2019 is based on actual trend of Expenditure. The Proposed for 2019/2020 will be sufficient.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item – Extra Assistance (Family Doctor) - .005. Can we know more about the Rs 3 m. earmarked in this budget?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, Madam, five doctors will be appointed during the Budget 2019/20 to begin the project of Family Doctor in villages in five Community Health Centres.

Madam Chairperson: 72.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Yes, Item No. 31122 – Other Machinery and Equipment, .004 – Medical Equipment. Can we know more about these types of medical equipment?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This provision is made for purchasing of new medical equipment and

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I do not understand, we see many medical equipment, we see medical equipment everywhere in the item. So, how come? We have medical equipment *ici*, medical equipment...

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

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Can the Commissioner explain, please? Thank you.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the previous equipment was for wards and office, it is a rectification on my part. Previous item will cater for X-ray machines

Madam Chairperson: 73.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam. Item 31113.015 – Minor Works and Improvement to Community Centres. Can we know what are the Community Centres? And, if the Graviers Community Centre is included?

[Interruption]

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Non, Madame la présidente, Graviers n'est pas dans la liste. Mais... pas pour cette année mais l'année prochaine. Mais là nous avons commencé avec la construction d'un Centre Communautaire à Anse Femy et aussi à Fond la Digue.

Madam Chairperson: 74, 75.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: 74, Item 21110.001 – Officer in Charge, Fire and Rescue Services. No officer in post, no money for Budget 2019/2020, why?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the Scheme of Service is being revised by promotion from Divisional Officer and it will be appointed after the Scheme of Service is being revised.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22030 – Rent, .006 – Rental of Communication Facilities. We have in the Estimates Rs 100,000 and no money earmarked. Can we know what Communication Facilities?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this equipment regarding Communication Facilities – equipment provided as donation by the Mauritius Fire Services are no more operational.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam. Item 22900 – Other Goods and Services, .001 – Uniforms. The amount has been decreased from 950,000 to 650,000. Yes, can we know more about it?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the procurement of uniforms and payment of respective allowance to eligible officers, employees under Programme 5105. Decreased in the Revised 2018/19 is based on the actual trend of Expenditure. The Proposed Estimates for 2019/20 is the same as Revised Estimates. There are uniforms that will be received shortly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Firefighting equipment. So, can the Commissioner explain this drastic decreased in the figure? Since we know that

lorries at the Fire Station are more than 25 years old. So, does this figure this year will cater for buying of lorries amongst others, amongst other equipment?

Madam Chairperson: Order. Order!

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the purchase of firefighting equipment and a foam tender lorry.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, Item 31-31112 – Construction of Fire Station at Mt. Plaisir. Can we know where we have arrived at that concerning this station?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the construction of the Fire Station at Mont Plaisir has a long delay, nearly nine months and the contractor has not ... I supposed the percentage of work is about 55/60% and the project is not yet completed. Fund allocated to this project is being reallocated to health infrastructure for emergency projects not budgeted in 2018/19 as they will not be able to complete the project during this financial year.

Madam Chairperson: 76.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets – 31122. So, can the Commissioner explain .007 – Meteorological Equipment/Minor Works. So, where will the works be carried out?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The construction of an Automatic Weather Station will be carried at Port Sud Est. And, Rivière Banane also will be constructed. And, no Montagne Cabris Corail...

Madam Chairperson: 77, 78.

Vote 5-1: Commission for Health, Community Development, Fire Services, Meteorological Services, Judicial Services and Civil Status (Rs 563,942,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to move that Vote 6-1, Commission for Social Security, Housing, Labour and Industrial Relations, Employment and Consumer Protection is amended as per amendments circulated.

Question put and amendments agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Page 82.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. So, can we know the Goods and Service – 22010. So, can he explain the electricity, why is it, Rs 830,000 *pour payer* – Rs 430,000 *pour l'électricité*. *Est-ce qu'il peut expliquer ce chiffre ? Qu'est-ce qu'on paye comme ça, Madame la présidente ? Ça concerne quoi ? Je n'ai pas encore terminé, s'il vous plaît. Ça concerne quoi, les bâtiments ?*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, thank you.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Made for payment of consumption cost of electricity, average monthly cost is Rs 35,833.

Madam Chairperson: 83.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: May I know from the Commissioner, Madam Chairperson, Madam, for Item Vote 31112.808 – Social Security Centres, Infrastructures. The sum after Revised rising from Rs 47 m. to Rs 47,000 to Rs 1,050,000. Can the Commissioner explain to this House where these infrastructures are situated and what amendments will be done?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, Social Security Centres at Port Mathurin, Malabar, La Ferme and Grande Montagne.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Same item. 821 – Construction of Administrative Block at Mont Lubin. Can we know to date where matter stands and when this building will finish?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: It will be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Can we know Item 31112.822 – Construction of Elderly Recreational Centre at Baie Lascars. So, can he give details about this and how? Brief details about this project?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Baie Lascars near Camp Pintade, it is a project, it is like a hotel for residential purposes for elderly persons.

Madam Chairperson: Order. Order!

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Same item, 823 – Constrution of Respite Care Centre at Le Chou. Can we know from the Commissioner, when it will be operational?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, once we get the licence, the permit from the board, from Mauritius. So, we are expecting to be in June.

Madam Chairperson: 84, 83.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Social Worker, Rodrigues Regional Assembly. So, can he explain, last year they say they will recruit 11 Social Workers and now there is the figure 3, can he explain?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Earlier the Chief Commissioner said that 10 Social Workers have been recruited in total and three have been posted to the Commission for Social Security.

The Minority Leader: Can I know what ... page 83 – 31.827 – Training Complex for the Disabled, where will this be situated?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, it will be mainly related to upgrading of existing training centres. It will not be a new construction. So, we will start with MITB whereby training courses are already being carried out. So, we have to make it disabled friendly as unfortunately, disabled persons cannot have access to some part of the building.

Madam Chairperson: 84.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item 22030 – Rent - Rental of Building. So, can we know what are the purpose of renting this building and why the cost has been increased?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, it is normally for rental of the Mauritius Housing Company Building and a store section which is just next to Procurement Office. So, it is just a slight increase according to the agreement. So, there is a small percentage increase.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22120 – Fees. 001 – Fees for Medical Board and Domiciliary Visits. Can we know from the Commissioner, the number of Medical Board done each year and the domiciliary visits to patients?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: It depends according to the number of patients who call for these boards. But for visits we have around 1500 visits. So, board it can

be once in a week about 52 boards per year or it can increase if we have more demand.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.933 – Promotion and Welfare of People with Disabilities (formerly International Day for the Disabled), can the Commissioner enlighten the House about the Rs 275 earmarked?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, it is mainly collected the organisation of the International Day for the Disabled on 3 December each year.

Madam Chairperson: 85, 86.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Casting of Roof Slabs. So, can we know, there has been an increased on the Revised Estimates. So, first of all, Item 28212.012. So, can he explain these figures? The increase and the decrease.

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: This is due to the fact that we have been able to cater for more measurements as now roof slabs are measured in Rodrigues. All the processes are being done in Rodrigues. So, there were some backlogs. We will catch with all the backlogs this year, during this financial year. So, that is why we have obtained this Revised increase in the Estimates. And, for the coming financial year, it will be quite normal trend.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital Expenditure – Item 31113.012 – Housing and Rehabilitation Programme. The Estimates has been decreased for the Revised Estimates 2018/19 and we have an increased for the Budget 2019/20. Can the Commissioner explain?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: So, there has been introduction of new schemes, like Basic Sanitary Schemes, Rehabilitation of Cité Housing Units. There are two ... the Extension Schemes, Trust Fund Housing Schemes, also.

Madam Chairperson: 87, 88, 89.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22900.966 – Plan de Prestation Transitoire and another Plan de Prestation Transitoire at 28212.005. Can the Commissioner explain? And, the sum of money?

[Interruption]

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Transfer to other expenses Item 28212005.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: What will you do with this sum of money?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Provision is recurred for Plan for ERP Trainees at the end of their placement, that is, for the procurement of equipment and materials to facilitate the implementation of their projects.

Madam Chairperson: 90.

Vote 6-1: Commission for Social Security, Housing, Labour and Industria, Relations, Employment and Consumer Protection (Rs 977,500,000) was, on question put as amended, agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: I suspend the Committee for one hour for dinner.

At 7.11 p.m., the sitting was suspended for 30 minutes.

On resuming at 8.16 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to move that Vote 7-1, Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry is amended as per amendments circulated.

Question put and amendments agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: Page 95.

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

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 21111.002 – Travelling and Transport. Estimates Budget 2018/2019, there is the sum of Rs 762,000 and Revised Estimates – Rs 972,000 and Estimates for 2019/2020 – Rs 976,000. Can the Commissioner give us explanation?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, amount is meant for paying of travelling allowances, car allowances and travel grant.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam, Item 22020.001 – Fuel and Oil per vehicle. There is an increase in the number of, in the Estimates Budget 2018/2019 from Rs 250,000 to Rs 285,000. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is based on the trend of expenditure.

Madam Chairperson: 96.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Capital Expenditure Item 31112.829 – Construction of Upgrading of Agricultural Infrastructure. Can the Commissioner give us more details?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is about the assessment of foul pig, foul pig production, consultancy fee which is about 0.52 million. We will purchase a pilot fan assisted solar dryer for turmeric.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Under the same heading, Capital Expenditure, Item No. 31113.021 – Agricultural Research and Development. So, we have seen that there has been a decreased. So, can the Commissioner explain to us why?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: For ongoing projects like the Lycée, we are still paying the lycée, the yard and also for equipment for disease and surveyance research.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Item 22900.961 – Training Courses in Agriculture. We do not see any sum of money allocated for that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The fund has been transferred to Programmes 7104, which is, Extension and Marketing Services.

Madam Chairperson: 97.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chair, Item 22140 – Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment. Can we know from the Commissioner what types of drugs and equipment and the sum of Rs 170,000 earmarked?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is drugs mainly for pests control, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: 98.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Can the Commissioner... Vote Item 22900.978 and 979. So, can the Commissioner explain why there has been no increased in the amount of money for Fruit Production Scheme and Incentive for Red Bean Production?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is mainly for the Agricultural Incentive Schemes and land mechanisation. So, it is a trend of expenditure.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair, 22900.954 – Fruits Flies Control. I would like to know from the Respected Commissioner, whether this programme is still on and whether it is done throughout the island?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, yes the programme is still on and still being ... we are really concentrating on this because we just got this problem of dorsalis recently.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, Madam. Capital Expenditure 31113.017 – Water Distribution for Irrigation. So, we have seen that Estimates 18 m. has been earmarked last year and he has been talking about water distribution for irrigation and then we see Revised Estimates only...almost 4 m. has been used out of 18 m. So, can the Commissioner explain this change in figure?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the changed in figure is mainly because we have retention money for the three retenue collinaires of Rivière Banane, Batatran and Baie Malgache. *Non*. Montagne Goyaves and ... it is about retention money and also the fact that we are not satisfied with the work, the money is still there we have not paid...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We have put a question last time in this Assembly concerning water distribution. And, he told us that the network has not yet been installed. So, I think that money was used, was intended to set up the network. Is it true, Mrs.?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I am pleased to announce that the network for Batatran and Motagne Goyaves have already been done and we are waiting for... we are just doing the one at Baie Malgache.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 22900, Batatran *in fini dir*. 22900.977 – Promotion of Organic Farming. Has there... the project has stopped. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House because no money has been budgeted for this item?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It will be done in two different places, Anse Ally and Montagne du Sable.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, 22900.980 – Exchange Program (Coffee Producers). Can the Respected Commissioner enlighten us on that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, with regard to coffee producers, we sometimes do exchange program with Mauritius and Reunion. We

send the coffee producers to these places so that they learn more about the coffee production.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. Capital Expenditure, Item 31113.016 – Improvement of Foodcrop Production. Can we know the type of foodcrop production?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Mo pa ti pou répone toi mais mo pou répone toi kanmem.* Because the question is not clear. But I will answer because I have the answer. Normally it is about ongoing projects like, coffee plant. We have also the fencing scheme which is in that. We have building and equipment for land rehabilitation, lemon orchard, gene bank and consultancy for storage room.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair. Item 21110.001 – Veterinary Officer. I hear that it is earmarked, we have two Veterinary Officers for 2019/2020. But we have been made to understand also that there ought to be five Veterinary Officers. Can we know what has happened to the three other Veterinary Officers?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, normally for Veterinary Officers, the problem is that there is no Rodriguans ready for that and we are still trying to get Rodriguans to go for training. We are searching and it is a rare bird. It is difficult to get these people. We are happy to have two Rodriguans Veterinary Officers. That is why for the three other ones, it is under the Chief Commissioner's Office, we are trying to contract out in other countries to get this... It is under Capacity Building item.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, he has got more than one year to contract out as he said the service of the three Veterinary Officers. So, why is it that he has taken so much time, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. It is not our problem that they are scarce and so on.

Madam Chairperson: You have already put your question. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: He announced that there will be three more.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I think the Member did not understand what I said. As said this post is... this is a rare bird. Does he understand what a rare bird means? It is not easy. It is not you go... you do not go to the shop and buy Veterinary Officers. You do not have Veterinary Officers in Rodrigues. You do not have in Mauritius. And also, what we are doing for the time being... just we are trying ... you know just after... yes, I said. You can say you want something but you cannot it.

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you. 99.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22060.001 – Maintenance of Buildings. Can the Commissioner, enlighten the House on what building maintenance has been carried out?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is all about repairs for...minor repairs for mainly all the buildings which is under the Commission.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item No. 22900.953 – Incentive for Livestock Production. So, we have seen that there has been an increased. So, can the Commissioner explain to us why this has increased?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is all about the Schemes that is being put forward for Livestock Production, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. Item 22090 – Security Services. Can the Commissioner inform the House why there has been an increased in the Revised Estimates from Rs 773 to Rs 1,570,000? What has happened?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is because there has been a contract which started on the 2nd of July 2018.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. Is it a private contract?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Private.

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

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam. Item 22900.962 – Improvement of Livestock Rs 1 m. Can the Commissioner explain what is the improvement of livestock?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Improvement of livestock is also about the schemes that is being put forward.

Madam Chairperson: 100.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Encore. 31113.020 – Improvement of Livestock and (*partou sa mem*) Local Poultry Production. The Estimates for 2018/19 was Rs 11 m. and the Revised Estimates was... it went down to Rs 5.3

m. only, half, 50% of the money was used for local poultry production. So, can the Commissioner explain this change in figure, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, it is not just about local poultry production, it is an improvement of livestock as well. So, it is all about ongoing projects, like upgrading livestock unit, equipment for schemes, new bio-security measures, The project with Silvo Pastoral at Montagne Kali. The impound station and the post quarantine at Oyster Bay.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam. Item 21111.100 – Overtime. Encore une fois, la somme doubler de 200,000 à 417,000. Peut-on savoir comment ? Et puis, pour le Estimates Budget 2019/2020, c'est à 225,000.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is more about the lots of surveys we are doing. And also, about for the post cyclones and pest control.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam. With regard to Item 21110 – Agricultural Engineer. This post, the Commissioner has made long speech about this post, Agricultural Engineer. Can the Commissioner explain to the House, why till now we do not have any Agricultural Engineer? *C'est un oiseau rare aussi?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, effectively. C'est un oiseau rare. C'est difficile. Parce que c'est... There is no qualified candidate for the time being.

Madam Chairperson: 101.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, for Honey Production. Item No. 22010.969 and 970. Can he explain about this...for honey production? Why the budget has not increased? And, can he explain the Bird Net? So, there has been an increased from 200,000 to 1 million. So, can he explain the Bird Net? What is a Bird Net? What does it mean?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The Bird Net is all about nets that we used to protect you know fruits trees, like litchis against *sauve-souris*. Yes.

[Interruption]

And... *Bé ene bird net mem...*

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: That is her name. That is the technical term. And, also for honey production. It is the normal trend.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. Can the Commissioner explain why the Item 135 – Grand to RAMPCS, we see these grants at two different places. At the page 96. Again the same thing. And, 101, Grant to RAMPCS. Why is it *splitted* two different pages under the same Commission? Why is this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It has been transferred to the other one.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam. Money has been ... *Bé kifer to pa élimine ene ladans?*

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam. 22900.983 – Seed Production Scheme. Can we know from the Respected Commissioner how this scheme will be implemented?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: This is all about we want Rodriguans to produce. We do not want to import seeds anymore. We want to produce the seeds locally. And this is what autonomy is all about. We will be sending people to Mauritius as well to see how people are doing things. And also, we will give them...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Eh ou là, énan kitchose dimoune...*

Madam Chairperson: Order. Respected Members, you please put your question in an orderly manner.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Bé ale deter to papa fer li vini...*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please provide the House with your answer.

[Interruption]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the ... we do not understand. He said that they have to send planters to Mauritius to learn how to make seeds. But we do have...

Madam Chairperson: Put your question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I am putting. We do have officers. I will like to tell him whether...*est-ce que ça ne peut pas être fait par les officiers qui sont, qui travaillent avec lui, à la Commission ? Pourquoi est-ce qu'on ... les gens à Maurice ?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je pense que ça peut... Je suis entièrement d'accord que ça peut être fait. Je n'ai rien contre les officiers qui sont qualifiés derrière moi. C'est pour ça, c'est toute une équipe et je suis content de les voir. Mais des fois, il faut aller voir un peu ailleurs, comment les autres font les choses. *A picture is worth a thousand words*. Quelqu'un qui voit quelque chose, quand il revient c'est différent. Il faut donner la chance. On a envoyé des gens en Inde pour faire des choses. Pourquoi ne pas les envoyer ces gens-là voir.

Madam Chairperson: Respected...

[Interruption]

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.984 – Supply of Irrigation Equipment to Beneficiaries of Chilli Farm. Can we know how many beneficiaries have obtained this equipment so far?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: We have already 42 but this one is more about, we are inviting more people to come and this will be for these new comers.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Item 22900.982 – Establish Standards for 5 Key Rodriguan Products. Can we know from the Commissioner what are the five Key Rodriguan Products and give more details to the House about these products?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Onions, beans, chili, garlic, ginger.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we have seen nothing for the boosting up of production of beans, 5 Key Products. We have seen nothing in his budget. So, can he tell us where and under which item does it falls?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I did not get the question; can you repeat it?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Does lemon form part of these 5 Key Products?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner mentioned, onion, beans, garlic, ginger, safran and then lemon. That make 6 Key Products. So, I think that the Commissioner should be more serious. Whether he wants to give good answers to this House. Because if he does not know, he tells us.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, thank you, Respected Members. Commissioner would you please, enlighten the House about this matter.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: There is only one ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is about lemon, honey and garlic, chili and beans. Lemon, honey... Lemon, honey, onion, garlic, chili. *Voilà*.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Augustin.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Concerning the beneficiaries of Chili Farm, the Commissioner just said that there are 42 beneficiaries. But in the 2018/2019 Budget Estimates, Chili Farm Schemes, number of beneficiaries – 45. Can we know where are the three others beneficiaries?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the thing about chili, it is not yesterday. We are not talking about chili being planted yesterday. So, there is a lot of chili ... Yes, of course, there are a lot of chili planters in Rodrigues. There are some who are professional chili planters and some are just ...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, you please address the Chair.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Bé zot bizin arret coz ek moi. Ou bizin fer zot arret cozé.*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: So, and according to my information, we had 45 but three stopped from doing the work. So, actually there is 42.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. Item 22900.981 – Equipment for Food Testing Laboratory in Rodrigues. Can the Commissioner inform the House with regard to the laboratory, whether the laboratory is operating and where are the laboratory situated?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the laboratory is operating. It is based at Citronelle. And, we spent Rs 1 m. last time. We bought quite a lot of equipment and we need this Rs 500,000 will be done by this, will be getting the necessary equipment that is missing.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, 22010.963 – Control of Stray Dogs. So, can he give figures about how many dogs have been captured and what has been the *modus operandi* for controlling all these dogs, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, controlling dogs, control of stray dogs is not just about catching dogs. Controlling dogs is also taking care. Because MSAW is not a dog catcher to kill. MSAW is all about taking care of the animals. But for the time being, we are not catching the dogs but we are doing sensitization campaigns to train people, to make them understand. And, also I can give you the figures. And we are doing a sterilization campaign, 89 dogs have been sterilized and not just dog, there is also cats, 11 cats have been sterilized.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner enlighten the House with ...

Madam Chairperson: Order

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Capital Expenditure 31113 – Extension and Marketing Services. Can he enlighten the House with regard to this Item Vote?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, it is all about setting up of an information system for data collection, growing of medicinal plants, construction of a dog compound and the Honey Research Centre at Oyster Bay.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam Chairperson, 22900.963 – Control of Stray Dogs. I would like to ask the Commissioner if the biggest dog of Rodrigues which damaged the retinue collinaire of Roche Bon Dieu has been captured?

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: If there is no other question. I will put the question, now.

The Minority Leader: One more question. But he said it.

Madam Chairperson: Order.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order. Order!

The Minority Leader: 31113.027 – Extension and Marketing Services. Can the Commissioner enlighten the House on this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I have already answered this, Madam Chairperson.

Vote 7-1: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry (Rs 162,188,000) was, on question put, agreed to as amended.

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

Madam Chairperson: Page 103, 104, 105, 106.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, 106. 31113.009 – Protection of the Environment. Can the Commissioner explain this change in figure? The figure changes from the amount of money earmarked was 10 m. and Revised to 3.6 m. only, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam. So, can the Commissioner explain this change? What is he doing in his commission?

Madam Chairperson: Yes, thank you.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, what am I doing in my commission? I am doing a lot of work, Madam. The reason for the change is that most of the money will be needed for the protection of the environment has been moved to NEF. I have got Rs 150 m. for that.

Madam Chairperson: 107.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 27 – Social Benefits. 27210.005 – Social Assistance to Professional Fishermen. The Estimates 18/19 was 52 m. and Revised Estimates 52 m. and for the budget 2019/2020, this has decreased. Can we have more information from the Commissioner, please?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam Chairperson, it is a social aid and additional fund will be provided by the Ministry of Finance whenever needed.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair, 22900.927 – Fisheries Research and Training, can we know which research is being carried out, which training? And, .973 – Collection of Marine Data for Rodrigues. I think this form part of the research and so on. Can we have more enlightenment on that?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, collection of marine data is mainly about collecting, it is mainly for octopus and most of the work that Shoals of Rodrigues and the other NGOs ... Yes, as well. Thank you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, can we know from the Commissioner about the insurance premium?

Madam Chairperson: Which item?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Insurance premium is for Diego Rodriguez when it goes for training every time we have to put an insurance on the boat.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 28212.002 – Compensation to Net Fishermen. Can we know from the Commissioner; how many Net Fishermen have been compensated to date?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The money is mainly for the close season. But I do not have the figure how many there are but I can... 30.

Madam Chairperson: 108.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Fisheries Development. Can the Commissioner inform the House about the drastic changes in figures with regard to Revised Estimates from Rs 1,185,000 to Rs 6,800,000?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I said in my speech that the Chief Commissioner announced that we are buying other craft, a new type of boat. And, also even if the Watch Tower is sort, we have a small problem with it, but we are buying equipment for it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can he inform the House about the drone? Whether it forms part of this Fisheries Development and where does matter stand about the drone?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: The drone is a pass, Madam Chairperson. We already bought it in different budgets. So, I do not want to reply to this.

Madam Chairperson: 109, 110, 111.

The Minority Leader: 111, Item 31 – Cultivated Assets – Improvement of Cultivated Areas (Reafforestation). Can the Respected Commissioner enlighten the House on this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, enlighten the House on what? I need a question. Tell me what question. Ask me question, I will answer.

The Minority Leader: Improvement of Cultivated Areas, can we know how the cultivated areas have been improved and can he explain the change in figure? There 1 m., Revised Estimates 835,000. And now, 2019/2020 – 900,000 only.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is more about ... It is also written in the paper. We are talking about reafforestation. So, it all about all this works that we are doing with regard to Community Forest with regard to replanting of ... We talk about this project that we will do on the beach, I mean, Coastal Restoration.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam. This morning we heard, no I think, it was yesterday, Mr. the Commissioner is a Botanist. But here, 31410 – Non Produced Assets – Botanical Garden, Nature and Golden Bat Reserves. Can the Commissioner inform the House where does matter stand with regard to the Botanical Garden and why this garden is taking too long to be put in place?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Member needs to understand. May be he does not know what is a botanical garden. The botanical garden is already on. I mean, the plants have already been planted and a botanical garden cost according to the last estimates, it costs about Rs 60 m. And, we are working with two botanical gardens to try to come forward with ...

Madam Chairperson: Order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: to come forward with the implementation of this project. We are getting the BTCI and Mississippi from America. We are getting the funds soon to implement the project. But what is missing with this garden is all about the infrastructure. But the garden itself is already there.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can we know from the Commissioner when this garden will be opened to the public?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, the Member needs to go there very often. The garden is always opened to the public.

[Applause]

Madam Chairperson: I will put the question, now.

Vote 7-2: Commission for Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries Marine Parks and Forestry (Rs 202,117,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

Madam Chairperson: 116.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Madam Chair, Item 22030 – Rent – Rental of Building. In the 2018/19 Revised Estimates, no money has been earmarked and we have seen that for the Budget 2019/20, there has been earmarked. Can we know what buildings we are talking about?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, we are talking about renting of new office spaces to accommodate new staff because we have just recruited new staff for the Commission.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item No. 21111.002 - Travelling and Transport. So, we have seen that there has been a huge increased. So, can the Commissioner explain why this is so?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, provision here is being made for payment of travelling by bus, travel grant, mileage, chauffeur driven car, petrol allowances. So, there is an increase in the Revised Estimates in travelling. This is due to the number of staff that as I have told you has increased.

Madam Chairperson: 117.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner inform the House with regard to Item 22060 – Maintenance of Buildings and why there has been a decreased in the sum, Revised and what buildings are we talking about?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, this is based on the trend of expenditure amount and this will be sufficient for the minor renovation work that will have to be done at the Head Office or the Commission to have a better working environment, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairperson: 118.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Item 22900.949 – Promotion of Youth Activities. For Estimates 18/19, there was 1.7 and the Revised Estimates 2 million. Can we have information about these activities which have proposed?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, for this year we had two major activities which comprised of so many youths, that is, the Youth on the Move, where 1000 youths were concerned and the Youth Cocus. So, this is why there is this increase. But the amount that is provided for this coming financial year will be sufficient.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 311222 – Other Machinery and Equipment – Infrastructure, Equipment and Furniture. Can we know from the Commissioner, why a huge sum is being earmarked and what for from 499 to 3 million?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Yes, Madam Chairperson, as you already know we have to equip the Baladirou Residential and Training Centre and as announced in the Budget Speech, there are multimedia units that have to be set up in all the Youth Centres. So, this 3 million will cater these.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. The same item 31113.013 – Youth Centres. Revised Estimates – 30,461,000 and for the 2019/20 – 5,420,000. Can the Commissioner explain us about this drop in?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Yes, indeed, Madam Chair, there is a drop in the amount because the major payment for Baladirou Residential Centre will be made during this financial year and we have to do the equipping of same, the next financial year.

Madam Chairperson: 119.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Item No. 21111.100 – Overtime. So, we have seen that there has been a huge increase. So, can we know from the Commissioner, the changes in figure, why?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Yes, indeed, Madam Chair, this is to cater for the Training Centres because I have mentioned about the Centre de Perfectionnement. So, we need to revise these... to need more people to work on it. And, of course, the Indian Ocean Island Games are approaching and we need people to work overtime to be able to meet the requirement for these games.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. Item 22060.017 – Upgrading of Sports Ground, Rs 2 m. provided. Can we have a list of these Sports Ground that will be upgrade.

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: I have already given the list yesterday in my speech, Madam Chair. There were 10 grounds mentioned.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Is Reposoir is in that grounds? Yes?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Already answered also.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, one more question, Madam. Item 22010 – Electricity. Why there has been such a huge increase from 1.5 m. to 2.1 m.?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: This is due to the re-opening of Maréchal Swimming Pool. Thank you.

Madam Chairperson: 120.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22900.942 – Promotion of Sports Activities. Revised Estimates 9 m. and for the Estimates 2020 – 8.5. Can the Commissioner explain to us about this?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Yes. You mentioned about the Promotion for Sports Activities. So, provision is being made here for the Promotion of Sports Activities by the Regional Sports Committees because there are actually 23 disciplines that we are catering for and the increased in the Revised Estimates is due to the participation of the volley-ball team in the CCOI Competition in Madagascar.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Item 22900.946 – Jeux de Rodrigues. Can the Commissioner inform the House, when next Jeux de Rodrigues will be held?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: This pertains to Policy decision. We are going to inform about same whenever same is going to be applied.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madam Chair, 22900.943 – Allowance to Sports Animators. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir combien d'animateur il y a ?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: There are 42 Sports Animators actually, Madam Chair.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, Item 22900.958 – Indian Ocean Games. Can we know from the Commissioner what the Rs 2 m. is for?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: The Rs 2 m. has been earmarked to cater for the needs of the athletes, coaches and the disciplines that are to be organised here in Rodrigues and those that the athletes are to be trained in Mauritius but then there is the Rs 1 m. that will cater for the game itself as we know, it will be in July and we have to... and the end of the financial year. So, we have to cater for these Rs 1 m. to provide for their expenses.

Madam Chairperson: 121.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: 120.

Madam Chairperson: Okay, one last one.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Item No. 31113.002 – Sports Complexes. Can we know from the Commissioner, the number of Sports Complexes that will be under this budget that has drawn now in the Revised Estimates for 2018/19 to Rs 18 m.?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, there are projects that are being done, that are under way for this Financial Year and we are doing our best to pay maximum sum. But also there are, as I have mentioned that there are 10 sports grounds that ought to be upgraded and there are budget measures, like the *vestiaires* and all these. And, we know that there are documents that ought to be prepared, that needs to be ... there is a procurement exercise that need to be made. So, this will be done in a timely manner. A proper planning will have to be made with regard to all these.

Madam Chairperson: 121.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I ask the Commissioner, why since long there has been no recruitment of Technician Light and Sound for the Commission for Arts and Culture?

Madam Chairperson: Which item?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Item 21110.001.

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: So, as at now, Madam Chair, the Scheme of Duty is being finalised but there are people who are acting as such in the

Leisure Centre to provide for the service. But we are preparing the scheme to have someone permanently in this post.

Madam Chairperson: 122.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Safeguard and Promotion of Segá Tambour of Rodrigues – 22900.991. Can the Commissioner inform the House with regard to this Intangible Heritage what will be the course of action with this Rs 500,000 budgeted with regard to Promotion?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, there is a series of recommendations from the UNESCO that we have to cater for. So, we are going to draw a priority list and you are going to implement same under this item.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, Madam, Item under the same Item Vote, .930 – Festival Créole. Since, the Commissioner announced that this year we will celebrate the 20th Festival Créole, the 20th Edition of the Festival Créole can the Commissioner enlighten the House with regard to the participation of countries, Créole countries who will attend the Festival Créole and why the budget has remained almost the same for the 20th Edition?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, the budget has remained the same that the activity will change and we will cater for it under this budget. Thank you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: There is a part of my question that you did not answer. Can I know from you, the Commissioner where there will delegation from Créole countries abroad to attend the 20th Festival Créole, Trinidad Tobago, for example?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: There is always a delegation of people from abroad here.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair. Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Item No. 31112.013 – Cultural and Leisure Infrastructure. The amount has been slightly the same for the Revised Estimates 2018/19 and for the Budget 19/20, we have an increased in this item. Can the Commissioner enlighten us?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Indeed, Madam Chair. Provision is made under this item for the consultancy services for the preparation of document and project for Malabar complex, for the procurement of an adjustable modular podium and also for the preparation of the project, *Parcour Culturel* to the Monument Séga Tambour.

Madam Chairperson: 123, 124, 125.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Commissioner inform the House about the... where does matter stand about the Acquisition of Artefacts for the Museum?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chair, the Acquisition of Artifacts for the museum is an ongoing process and we are acquiring artefacts regularly at the museum, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairperson: 125.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, with regard to Capital Expenditure – Museum, Archive and Art Gallery. So, can the Commissioner inform the House, since she has already set up a museum at Baie Lascars, what about of the Archive Unit and Art Gallery? Where does matter stand?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: With regard to the Museum, Madam Chair, there is a consultant that is arriving to Rodrigues for the setting up of same for the interior setting up on the 11 of April. For the museum, there will be consultancy services to have the design of the building to house the archive and audiovisual archive at Mont Plaisir. And, the Art Gallery is still under way, Madam Chair, when and where to do same. So, we have lots of projects and have to prioritise.

Vote 8-1: Commission for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Library Services, Museum, Archives and Historical Sites and Buildings (Rs 139,468,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 9-1: Contingencies and Reserves was called.

Madam Chairperson: 126.

Vote 9-1: Contingencies and Reserves (Rs 50,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Summary of Revenue – Summary of Revenue was called.

Madam Chairperson: Page 1 to 8, 1 to 9, 130.

Revenue (Rs 3,830,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

REPORT STAGE

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have to report to the House that the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue, Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for the Financial Year 2019/2020 have passed the Draft Estimates Committee with amendments.

The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Revenue, Recurrent Expenditure, Capital Revenue and Capital Expenditure for Financial Year ending 30 June 2020 were, as amended, agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam. Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 10.30 hours.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Others (Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis) rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 9.12 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 10.30 hours.