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No. 7 of 2019

RODRIGUES

FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 7 of 2019

Sitting of Tuesday 14 May 2019

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

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019

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The Executive Council

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

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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

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

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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- (iii) Certified Annual Statements of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the Financial year ended 30 June 2018 (original; and**
- (iv) Report of the Director of Audit on the accounts of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (original)**

ORAL QUESTIONS

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Thank you, Madam Chair. B/34.

RS 35 M. CHEQUE FOLLOWING CYCLONE GELENA – CYCLONE JOANINHA

(No. B/34) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner Whether, in respect to the Rs 35 million cheque obtained from the Prime Minister, following the passage of Cyclone Gelena, he will table and state:

- (a)** how this money has been utilised up to now, indicating if there is any sum remaining; and
- (b)** if the victims of Cyclone Joaninha have also been compensated with same and if so, to give details?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I would like to answer Questions B/34, B/39 and B/67 together since the three questions deal with the same subject matter.

Following the passage of cyclone Gelena, the Honourable Prime Minister agreed to release a sum of Rs 35 m. from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund to meet expenses related to urgent relief, recovery works and disaster responsiveness.

This sum was initially earmarked to be spent as follows:

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- Urgent repairs to Public infrastructure : Rs 10 m.
- Repairs to Schools : Rs 0.4 m.
- Support to the Agricultural Sector : Rs 10 m.
- Support to the Housing Sector : Rs 5 m.
- Support to the Fisheries Sector : Rs 2 m.
- Cleaning Campaigns : Rs 5 m.
- Miscellaneous : Rs 2.6 m.

Madam Chairperson, consolidated budget amounting to Rs 42 m. was reworked out after the passage of cyclone Joaninha as follows:

- Urgent repairs to Public infrastructure : Rs 11.5 m.
- Repairs to Schools : Rs 0.5 m.
- Support to the Agricultural Sector : Rs 10 m.
- Support to the Housing Sector : Rs 5 m.
- Support to the Fisheries Sector : Rs 3.5 m.
- Cleaning Campaigns : Rs 8.5 m.
- Miscellaneous : Rs 3 m.

During the working session held with the Honorable Prime Minister and his delegation during their visit to Rodrigues after cyclone Joaninha, it was agreed that additional funds would be made available as and when required to meet the above expenditures. I am informed that as at today a sum of Rs 33 m. has been committed and payment amounting to Rs 10.1 m. has already been effected.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to Question B/39, the information required are being compiled and will be tabled. However, it would be unethical to table the list of beneficiaries.

I wish to bring to the attention of this House that all expenditures incurred under the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund follow the same strict procurement and administrative rules as for the Rodrigues Consolidated Fund. The House may rest assured that the funds earmarked under the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund will be used judiciously and in a transparent manner.

Madam Chairperson, Questions B/35, B/39, B/49 and B/50 also refer to the same subject matter. I am informed that the respective Commissioners will provide detailed information on the subject with regard to their portfolios. So, I propose to

leave it to the Commissioners to provide further details on the expenditures per commissions.

The Minority Leader: Okay, Madam Chair. Being given that the Chief Commissioner has given a vague answer to a very precise question. I would like to ask him whether all victims of cyclone Gelena and Joaninha have been compensated as at now?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said in my reply, it is that my Commissioners, my colleagues will reply to such, will give such information concerning how they have spent the money.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, *c'est une fuite en avant*. He is the Commissioner responsible for Finance, to whom the cheque of Rs 35 m. has been given. Therefore, for the sake of transparency, I would like to know whether he has sought information from the other Commissioners because this is what he should have done. Sought all the information and give us a clear answer. Now, we are being given a vague answer. And, can the Chief Commissioner tell us why? He has said that it is unethical to give the list of those who have been compensated. But it is not unethical at all because these people have been, they have been to the Police. Everything is transparent. So, are we going to have the list? Yes, or No?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have said, it is unethical. As I said also, I rely on my colleagues to give more information on different cases, on different information they will give, you know. And, I rely on them and I count on them to give the different, more information concerning the cyclone Gelena and Joaninha.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, we are here on behalf of the people of Rodrigues to seek information. If we are not given the information here, when are we going to have the information?

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, I understand your point but what the Chief Commissioner did mention is that, the respective Commissioners will provide you with the answers. So, please, Respected Members, please rest assured that the...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, please rest assured that the answers requested will be provided by the respective Commissioners. Thank you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, Madam, can we know from the Chief Commissioner when these information, will be tabled, will be made available? He does not mention where. Will it be in the Library? Will it be in next session? When? On the street? When these information, will be given to us?

The Chief Commissioner: You have the right to put question to the different Commissioners in the next session to have more information on the different cases on which you will like to have a reply.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, we have the right question and they are supposed to give us answers. The question is clear, will he table and he is tabling nothing. I would like to have answers from him, not from his other Commissioners because he is responsible for... he is the Commissioner responsible for Finance. Therefore, can I ask the Chief Commissioner, being given that *tout est bon dans les meilleurs des mondes*, can we know how he reconcile this fact with... the fact there is public outcry all over Rodrigues, so many people are saying that they have got nothing, they have not been compensated despite they have lost their cattle, their animals, their houses, up to now they have not been compensated. How does he reconcile the fact with that?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have said, Madam Speaker, is that my colleagues, who are responsible of the different sectors in Rodrigues...

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: *Eh ou ferme ou la bouche do ! Mo pé répone question ou répone !*

Madam Chairperson: Order ! Order !

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, order. Order!

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order! Order! Order!

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I suspend the House for ten minutes.

Madam Chairperson: I suspend the House for 30 minutes.

At 10.45 a.m. the sitting was suspended for ten minutes.

On resuming at 10.55 a.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I would like to call upon the good faith and the comprehension of each one of you, Respected Members, to uphold the decorum of this House. There has been contravention of the Standing Orders from both sides of the House. The Chair cannot allow any further flouting of same. So, I make an appeal to Respected Members from both sides of the House, to please be guided by the provisions of the Standing Orders. We have limited times for questions and for fairness, each Member who have put their questions on the Order Paper for today needs an answer. So, please. I understand the point of the Minority Leader but still Commissioners, there are questions addressed to respective Commissioners on the subject matter. So, I make an appeal to your patience. You will get the requested information in due time. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: I thank you, Madam Chair. Being given that the Chief Commissioner is not tabling the results in regard to the cyclone, can I ask the Chief Commissioner in regard to the compensation to be given to the victims of cyclone Gelena and Joaninha, can I know how this survey and the compensation have been done? And, can we know how the coordination work have been done?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Madam Chairperson, my colleagues who are here around me, they will give all information concerning the different sectors in which they are responsible, to give enough information, detailed information on the question of a cyclone, on the two cyclones. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I am given to understand that the Chief Commissioner himself, he has chaired committees, he has coordinated all the work prior to the survey, prior to get the victims compensated. This is why, I put the question to him. How, if he cannot do so, if he can table, how the work is being done so that we can give answers to these poor victims because there is public outcry there in Rodrigues?

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, I would like to remind you of Standing Order 21(4), which states that no answer to question can... answer to question cannot be insisted upon. So, we move to the next question.

The Minority Leader: This is so important. There are three questions. He is answering three questions. We cannot move like this. And, I am insisting because the question is clear...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, you cannot insist.

The Minority Leader: Can he table...

Madam Chairperson: You cannot insist. If you have another element that you want to raise, then I can allow but on this one you cannot insist.

The Minority Leader: Okay. I put another question, clear, precise one. Can we know how many victims who have gone to the Police, have gone to the Social Security or have filled the form, how many of these victims who have not been compensated yet?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have said, Madam Chairperson, my colleague will reply to that question. He has got all the information. That I am confident in them, their work, I am confident in their work. They are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Madam Chairperson: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Minority Leader, the next question you will have the time, you will have the opportunity to put questions to the Commissioner for Social Security in the next question.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, can I ask the Chief Commissioner, whether it is exact that some beneficiaries have obtained Rs 1,000 or Rs 2,000 only as compensation for repair of houses, etc. Whether... I am asking question; it is for the Chief Commissioner to answer...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you put your question, please.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, houses... how they went... whether they went to the respected commission to fetch the *bon*, to go to some hardware shop to have their materials? Is he aware of whether it is that and is he aware of this procedure?

Madam Chairperson: The question put the Chief Commissioner should be in the special cognizance of the Chief Commissioner and not under the purview of other Commissioners. Yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, according to the answer of the Chief Commissioner 38 or Rs 33 m. had been committed and to now only Rs 10.1 m. So, can we know the timeframe during which the money will be disbursed and the victims will be compensated?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Madam Chairperson, I must say again, all these is being worked out by my colleagues. They have all the information concerning houses, concerning - what else? Agriculture, fishing boats and so on, you know. As I said, they have all the information. That is why I said in my reply – all the information is being compiled, you know. And, we will see that they give you all the information. They are here, they are here to give information. They are capable of doing it. *Zot capable, pas capable? Nou capable.*

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we move to the next question.

The Minority Leader: Can I put one last question to the Chief Commissioner, being given that he is responsible for Finance. Can we know globally how much money, out of the 35,000 or more that have been obtained, how much money is left? How much money have been spent and how much money is left? Globally?

Madam Chairperson: It seems that the Chief Commissioner has already given the answer. Yes, he has already given the answer in his reply. So, we move to the next question, please.

The Minority Leader: B/35.

CYCLONE GELENA/JOANINHA - NEW URGENT HOUSING SCHEME

(No. B/35) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether following the damages caused to houses by cyclone Gelena and Joaninha, he will state if a new urgent housing scheme has been set up in order to help the victims and other families with poor structured settlements, indicating how this will be implemented and tabling same?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Madam Chairperson, following damage caused to houses by cyclones Gelena and Joaninha, I have to inform the House that there is no new urgent housing scheme that has been set up. However, Madam Chairperson, various measures have been taken to relieve families whose housing unit has been totally destroyed or heavily damaged by the two cyclones, on which I will elaborate more as well as forthcoming housing schemes in my reply to PQ B/49.

The Minority Leader: Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether the houses that will be given to the victims of cyclone Gelena and Joaninha, that is, those who has lost their houses, whose houses have been heavily damaged. Can I know whether these houses that will be given to them, will it be free or will it be contributory or if I can put it this way, will they be forced to take a loan to construct their house?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: I will give more details about these but for the time being I can say that it is free. There will be no loan.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, Madam Chair, can we know from the Commissioner, how many houses were totally destroyed?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: There is a similar question B/49, I will give all the reply to this.

The Minority Leader: Respected Commissioner does not know how many houses have been completely destroyed? How many have been damaged?

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, the Commissioner has said that he will give further information during his answer B/49. Yes, next question, please.

The Minority Leader: B/36, Madam.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – RRA/EFW – EX-POINTE VENUS HOTEL

(No. 36) **Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the sale and/or signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Employees Welfare Fund (EFW) with respect to the ex. Pointe Venus Hotel, he will state and table details of the said transaction, informing the House of:-

- (a) the deal price, indicating the benefits Rodrigues will enjoy thereon;
- (b) if there was any expression of interest launched prior to the acquisition of the ex-hotel by the EWF; and
- (c) the use to which this ex-hotel will be made?

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis): Madam Chair, with your permission, I will answer this question.

Madam Chairperson, following discussions with the then Minister of Finance and Economic Development, it was agreed that the ICT Sector would be one of the main engines of economic growth for the island. In that context, a request was made to the then Minister for the construction of a Technopole in Rodrigues. At that time, the ex-Pointe Venus Hotel was under liquidation and was being offered for sale. In view, of the fact that the floor space available within the premises was adequate for the setting up of such infrastructure, the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly decided to resume possession of the land on which stands the hotel against payment of the compensation for added value to the land. The said compensation was assessed at Rs 55 m. by the Government Evaluator.

Subsequent to the approval of Central Government for the installation of the Sub-marine Fibre Optic Cable and discussions held with the actual Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, the need to review the overall strategic and investment policy in the ICT Sector was felt. Meanwhile, the EWF, Employees Welfare Fund, a body corporate under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development aiming at the welfare of all employees and their families had expressed their interest to reopen the said hotel.

Madam Chairperson, further to the above, the Executive Council had to two options to decide upon. First, to maintain the setting up of the Technopole at ex-Pointe Venus Hotel or relocate the said project on another site. The matter was raised with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and further to the firm commitment of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to fully support the setting up of a Technology Park at another location as well as the investment in the EWF. As the investment of the EWF for the reopening of the hotel, the Executive Council decided to relocate the Techno Park on a bigger site at Baladirou.

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Madam Chairperson, several discussions were held with the EWF and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the 12th of April 2019, whereby the principle terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition by EWF for the reopening of the said hotel were agreed upon.

Employees Welfare Fund being a government corporate body, no EOI, Expression of Interest was required prior to acquisition of the said premises. The sale value of the building was assessed at Rs 75 m. by the Government Evaluator.

Madam Chairperson, the main benefits that Rodrigues would derive from the reopening of the said hotel are:

- (1) The availability of 56 additional rooms for the Tourism Sector.
- (2) The creation of some 100 direct employments.
- (3) The creation of another 100 indirect employment opportunities through related tourism activities and a further direct investment in the construction sector of about Rs 150 m. for the renovation of the hotel by EWF and in parallel, an additional investment of Rs 250 m. would be injected in the Rodriguan economy for the construction of the Techno Park at Baladirou creating additional jobs in the construction sector for the next two years. That is, we started with one project, the Technopole, nowadays we are ending up with two very interesting projects, the hotel and the Techno Park.
- (4) Moreover, the EWF as part of the conditions has agreed that the new hotel will source all the supply of foods and beverages to local suppliers in service providers, work with the Commission for Agriculture and that for Industrial Development to empower local planters and entrepreneurs for the purchase of their products.
- (5) To employ as much as possible only unemployed persons.
- (6) To provide training opportunities to students of Tourism Academy at Contour Oblasse.
- (7) To provide a special corporate rate to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and provide a special hotel tariff to all employees in the Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, the MOU contains a confidentiality clause whereby, both parties are bound not to disclose any information thereof without the consent of the other.

Madam Chairperson: I now invite the Deputy Chairperson to take the Chair.

At this stage at 11.08 a.m. the Deputy Chairperson took the Chair

The Minority Leader: Deputy Chairperson, well I wonder whether we are not going against the law by proceeding in that way. Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, why there has been no Expression of Interest launched prior to the acquisition of the ex-hotel by the EWF? Because who knows whether there would not have been another, other bodies who were interested with this hotel.

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I already replied to this part. Because it has been upon the advice of the Ministry of Finance, it has been decided to go without an EOI because the EWF is a corporate body. So, there is no need to do that.

The Minority Leader: Did you also take advice from your Legal Adviser?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chair, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the advice of the Ministry of Finance was clear. So, we have gone about, we have taken this advice and we have continued to work on the project like this, upon the advice of the Ministry of Finance who is also under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

The Minority Leader: *en catimini*. Because, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think other bodies could have been interested since everything has been done *en catimini*, so we will never know whether there would have been a better offer. Therefore, can I ask the Respected Commissioner whether the standard of the hotel, the new hotel that will be opened, whether it will be a 3-star, 4-star or a 5-star hotel?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: In fact, Mr. the Deputy Chairperson, it will be a 4-star hotel and I would like to point out that nothing has been done *in catimini*, everything has been done transparently and as I said, we have gone about the advice of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

The Minority Leader: B/37.

**NEW RUNWAY – PLAINE CORAIL AIRPORT/NEW SITE
PLAN/ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT/PILOTIS**

(No. B/37) Mr. L. J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the new runway of the Plaine Corail Airport, he will state and table:

- (a) the new site plan, indicating its alignment, length and average cost;
- (b) if any new survey and Environment Impact Assessment will be done; and
- (c) if any part of it will be constructed on piles (pilotis), indicating if any cave is found in its vicinity?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, As the house is aware the extension of the runway at Plaine Corail is a long awaited project and I have had ample opportunities to elaborate on this project in this House. With respect to the project, GIBB (Mauritius) Ltd. was appointed as Consultant by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in May 2016 for the ‘Design, Cost Estimation and Tender Documents for the Extension of the Runway at Plaine Corail Airport.’”

Following this study, a preliminary design report was submitted and was endorsed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the last quarter of 2017. The Consultants presented six (6) different options in view of considering a new land based runway. The advantages and disadvantages of each Options in terms of four (4) main parameters, that is, environmental impacts, constructability, airlines ease of the operation and indicative cost of earthworks were fully assessed. Based on the preliminary design the most financially and ecologically feasible option, that is, Option C was recommended. The Option C was approved by both the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as well as the Agence Francaise de Developpement, the funding agency for this project. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am tabling a copy of the proposed new runway alignment for Plaine Corail Airport.

I wish to inform the House that further to the submission of the Preliminary Design Report, the project has now been handed over to Airport of Rodrigues Limited for implementation. Subsequently, the tender for the preparation of the

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detailed design of the runway has already been launched, and I am informed that the bids received are under evaluation and the contract will be awarded soon.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am also informed that the exact final alignment of the runway will be further fine-tuned and determined in the detailed design phase. As per the Preliminary Design Report the new runway will be of 2100 metres length by 45 metres width and is estimated to cost about Rs 3.9 billion.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the cost estimates include the following:-

- (i) Airport airside infrastructure and facilities, that is, the runway, drainage, floodlighting and control systems;
- (ii) Building works, that is, meteo building, water tower, fire station and new air control tower amongst others;
- (iii) Civil and Utility works, such as, new access road, car park area, power, water and sewer systems; and
- (iv) Air navigation facilities, that is, all equipment and navigational facilities for the new air control tower

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the geotechnical and topographical survey of the site has already been conducted during the preliminary design stage. The Consultant to be selected for the detailed design stage will be required to assess and determine whether additional surveys would be required and advise accordingly.

Additionally, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, in line with requirements of *Agence Francaise de Developpement* and European Union, the funding agencies of the runway project, the following additional study have been requested, namely:

- (i) A Socio Economic Study in connection with new runway; and
- (ii) A Consultancy study for environmental and social impact assessment of the new runway at Plaine Corail Airport in Rodrigues.

I am informed, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that the report on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be submitted in August 2019 whereas the Socio-Economic Study will be completed in June 2019.

With regard to part (c) of the question, Madam Chairperson, I am informed that in line with the preliminary design report, no construction will be done on piles. Furthermore, no caves will be affected with the project alignment as opposed to Option D proposed by the Ecorys Report.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner has been talking about the Environment Impact Assessment, which will be done after the start of work, if I have been made to understand. Well, if I have been made to understand well. Can we know why the Environment Impact Assessment is not done prior to the start of work? Because he has been talking of geological and topological survey but not on Environment Impact Assessment. We believe that this should have been done prior to the start of work.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Agence Française de Développement et l'Union Européenne ont demandé ces études. Ces eux qui ont demandé de faire ces études. Et, nous n'avons pas refusé. Au contraire, ils ont vu que de notre part, on a pris au sérieux le développement de cette aéroport et cette nouvelle piste. Et surtout, c'est ce qui est important des *Economic Survey*, c'est-à-dire, qu'est-ce-que cette nouvelle piste va apporter à Rodrigues ? Et, cette nouvelle piste va apporter à Rodrigues les plus gros avions, comme le, A 319. Et, ces avions peuvent exporter sur Maurice des produits Rodriguais. Il y a une différence entre les ATR 72 et les plus gros avions. Donc, c'est pourquoi, ils ont demandé cette étude économique et surtout au niveau de l'environnement que l'option C, ne vienne pas bouleverser l'environnement autour de l'aéroport. C'est très important. Et, quand on regarde justement, le rapport Ecorys, vous allez voir le plan, c'est un plan à côté de la piste actuelle. Une piste à côté de la piste actuelle. Ce qui veut dire, beaucoup de bouleversements, les caves, les grottes, tout ça, vont être encore trembler sous cette nouvelle ligne de proposer par le Ecorys.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, *il parait que c'est maintenant que le Chef Commissaire vient de découvrir le Continent Américain sur la mappe monde. C'est ce qu'on a dit depuis des années.* Being given that he has said that, it is a very important project, long awaited. Can we know why the work is being done sluggishly? And, can we know whether being given that there have been other surveys, now we are talking of six new options. Six options! So, we have been made to understand that there are two new options that have been added. Can we

know, whether the first survey that has been done by the experts have been disregarded completely? Where there were four options, now we are talking of six and what is the cost of the new surveys that have been done?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of this question, Mr. Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this is a clear question. It is in line with what we have been asking. He himself has said, the Chief Commissioner himself has said, that we now have six options. So, is it difficult to know whether the first survey whereby there were four options, whether the first survey has been disregarded? I stick to this. I am sure he can answer this.

The Chief Commissioner: About the Option C, only the Option C, which replies to all surveys which have been done, you know. There will not be... I think he has seen... I tabled the new airport plan, you know. *Comme ça, au bord de la mer ! Oui, oui, ça ne va pas être comme ça ! Oui, oui. Alors, vous vous faites comme ça zot ? Hein, nous on fait comme ça, au bord de la mer. Oui, oui, oui, oui.*

The Minority Leader: I would like to know whether the Option C is from the first survey with the four options? Or ... This is why I am asking. Whether there has been new survey with the six options. And, can we have more details concerning the Option C? The Option C? In fact, it is the Option 4, that we have been talking about all the way, now we are talking of a runaway 2100 metres. In Agaléga, you have, now we will have a runaway of 3 kms. Rodrigues will have a shorter runaway. So, I would like to know whether, I would like to have some more explanation concerning this Option C?

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Since he is not answering. We are here to put question on the behalf of the people. We are not obtaining answers, we take note. No problem. Can we ask the Respected Chief Commissioner, whether the construction of the airport will start early next year? This is a clear question.

The Chief Commissioner: I think, I mentioned that in my reply. Yes. 2009, *oui, oui, oui.* All study will be completed in 2019, and it seems that the tender has been launched, I think. If we are... all the surveys, the two surveys, that is, socio-economic study in connection with new runaway and a consultancy study for environment, social impact assessment of the new runaway at Plaine Corail in Rodrigues. I informed, Mr. Chairperson, that the report on the environment and

social assessment will be submitted in August 2019 whereas a socio – June 2019. And, it seems that we can after those studies, we can launch for the construction of the project this year or early next year.

The Minority Leader: Well, it will be early next year, as he has said in his Budget Speech. One last question, I would like to ask the Respected Chief Commissioner. Well, we will be having an airport, an air strip of 2100 metres. Can we know whether this can be extended further, whether you have... on the plan you have this, whether it will be possible to extend it further in the future or it will remain at 2100 metres?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, according to Option C, it will be possible to extend the runway, you know. Is it possible? Is it possible?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Donc, ce plan ressemble étrangement à l'Option 4. Donc, j'aimerais poser la question au Chef Commissaire, quel est la différence en terme de taxiway, donc quelle sera la différence entre ce présent plan et l'ancien, c'est-à-dire, l'Option 4 ? Quelle différence il y aura ? Quelle incidence il y aura sur le taxiway ?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: M. le Vice-président, il est évident que l'option recommandée dans le rapport préliminaire de Gibbs et l'option D préconisé par le rapport de Ecorys ne sont pas les mêmes malgré que les deux sont des *land-based options*, les alignements sont clairement différents. L'alignement de la nouvelle piste sera plus orienté vers le côté mer afin d'éviter toutes les grottes répertoriées lors de l'étude géologique et sera à une distance assez loin des grottes existantes pour minimiser l'impact pendant et après la construction. L'option D comme préconisée par Ecorys aurait impacté sur les grottes de Caverne Bouteille, Petit Lac et Grotte.... entre autres. En sommes, l'option D de Ecorys aurait eu plus d'impacts environnementaux et écologiques.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le Vice-président, je pense que le Chef commissaire n'a pas répondu à la question. Moi, j'ai parlé de *taxi way*. Donc, quelle incidence il y aura ? Quelle incidence... Moi, je ne sais si c'est ce que c'est que *taxi way*. Quelle incidence il y aura sur... Maintenant qu'on a changé de plan, quelle incidence il y aura sur le *taxi way* ?

The Chief Commissioner: C'est le design technique. Un *taxi way* dépend de l'orientation de la piste. Ça veut dire dans quelle direction la piste va aller. Alors, d'après le plan qui a été donné, le *table* aujourd'hui là, c'est-à-dire la piste va allonger la mer. Donc, tout le gros travail allonger la mer et ensuite, de au bout, il y aura justement un... C'est peut-être ça le *taxi way* non ? De au bout au bout, au bout de la... au bout de la piste, il y aura vraiment une piste pour aller jusqu'à l'aérogare.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Next question.

ROAD DRAINS – REMEDIAL ACTION

(No. B/38) The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to road drains by the one-way road located next to Mr. M. B. retail shop towards Coromandel, at Grande Montagne, he will inform the House of the state thereof and indicate any remedial action his Commission intends to take in regard thereto and, if so, when?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the one-way road is of length 288m. The road side drain is on the length hand side towards Coromandel and comprises of 150m long open masonry drains 500mm wide and about 700mm deep. The overstretch of the drain is covered. The drain is in good state and was clean in March by the personnel of my Commission and cleaning exercise is planned as and when required.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, being given that the road, the drain, le drain qui se trouve à gauche mentionné par le Deputy Chief Commissioner, ce drain qui commence depuis la boutique de M. Baptiste allant vers le terrain de football, ce drain est resté « incouvert ».* Donc, ce qui fait que ce drain là représente un danger imminent et il y a même des cas fatals dans ce drain. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire adjoint envisage de couvrir ce drain là dans le plus bref délai pour éviter tout autre cas d'incident majeur dans ce coin durant cette année financière ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam... Mr. Chairperson, personally, I am not aware of any fatal case there. And, secondly, structurally speaking and in terms of engineering, the drain has been so designed that it 'cause' less inconvenience in regard to the danger that the respected Member is mentioning. This is why in my answer, I stated that the width...the depth of the road is 700mm deep,

this means about 70cm deep and normally, when we have such a drain of such depth, it is not as such important or how to say, *obligatoire* for a covered drain. But if there is any complaint and statistics reveals that there is the use of the covering of such drain, my Commission will go ahead but for the time being, I have no complaint whatsoever as regard to that particular drain.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mo compran to bane problème.* M. le Vice-président, cette question-là n'aurait pas venu sur table aujourd'hui pour venir demander au Chef commissaire quelque chose qu'il connaît déjà. Donc, moi, je suis arrivé avec cette question-là pour justement attirer l'attention du Chef commissaire adjoint. Il y a eu des morts fatals dans cette région-là par rapport à ce drain. Il y a des gens, il y a des villageois qui vivent, qui habitent dans le coin de cette... de la rue de Grande Montagne que je vous parle. Donc, moi... Bon, je ne suis pas venu ici pour ça. Donc, je demanderais est-ce que le Chef commissaire adjoint aura la possibilité de voir avec ses ingénieurs et tout son personnel s'il le faut de faire une étude, d'aller sur le terrain et de vérifier les propos que je viens d'annoncer ici et de voir si vraiment il est nécessaire parce que moi, moi-même, j'ai vu durant les grandes fêtes de l'autonomie, comment c'est dangereux parce qu'il n'y a pas de... il n'y a pas de *rail* pour empêcher les gens de tomber dans le trou quand il y a de grandes foules. Il n'y a même pas un genre de main courante, il n'y a pas suffisamment d'entrée pour que ces gens-là puissent entrer chez eux. C'est une question émanant du peuple ; ce n'est pas de Rosaire Perrine. Je ne fais que transmettre les douleurs de ces habitants là. Est-ce que le Commissaire adjoint, le Chef commissaire adjoint envisage t-il d'aller vérifier ce propos-là et de voir pour remédier à cette situation ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Two ports, Madam Chairperson.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson. If I were to follow the logic of the respected Member, then, we will have to go ahead with the covering of all drains in Rodrigues which will represent of course, as he is stating, a potential danger whenever there is a depth of 70mm.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, this is... There are so many roads in Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, bearing the same characteristics as the road that we are speaking about. If we go even along the road of L'Autonomie, if we go along the road of Pointe Coton, there are so many roads who are in this position. So, it is

not... I should not say it is not particular characteristics of the road from M. B. to Coromandel. The second point that I want to raise is that survey will not have to be done because it has been done. Yes, it has been done. I have been there with my Engineers. They have made the report as regard to that drain. This is why based on their recommendations and their advice, I will state that structurally speaking, it is not as such recommended or *obligatoire* to have such drain covered. Yes.

Third thing that I want to raise also, Madam Chairperson, I would like to know also about the fatal case that has been mentioned by the respected Member. I knew... I know that there have been two accidents in the vicinity that we are speaking about, fatal, but it is not along the road leading from M. B. to Coromandel. It is along the road leading from Grande Montagne to Palissade along the main road but not along... Additionally, Madam Chairperson, if we see the structure of the road, you will agree with me that we have a road which is... a one-way road which normally could have been a two lane road, a two lane and on one side, we have enough parking facilities. True, it may be to say that whenever there is crowd there and whenever there is parking of vehicles along this road, this may somehow cause some problem as regard to pedestrians. But this is an issue that I am going to see with the police whenever there is any crowd or public gatherings at Grande Montagne to ensure that there is enough space for the pedestrian to safely move about.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Next question.

COMPENSATION - CYCLONE GELENA

(No. B/39) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the compensation of victims of cyclone Gelena, he will inform the House of the sum disbursed therefor as at date, and table the list of beneficiaries thereof, specifying the sum paid in each case together with their respective electoral region?

[Vide Reply PQ B 34]

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION – ASSISTANT GROUND SUPERVISOR

(No. B/40) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the operation of the Department of Civil Aviation at Plaine Corail, he will state the number of Assistant

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Ground Supervisor posted thereat together with all duties currently being performed thereby and to table their official scheme of duties?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am informed that there are two Assistant Ground Supervisor posted at the Department of Civil Aviation at Plaine Corail.

I am further informed that with the taking over of the management of Plaine Corail Airport by Airport of Rodrigues (ARL), some duties related to aircraft, airport buildings and ground which fall under the scheme of service of the grade of Assistant Ground Supervisors have been taken over by the ARL. Out of the eleven duties enumerated in the scheme of service related the grade, the following ones are still being performed:

- a. To keep and make available equipment and stores for the maintenance of ground and building and the servicing of departmental vehicles, and to maintain all the related stores and ledgers;
- b. To keep records of servicing performed on vehicles to ensure that all faults reported are promptly brought to the attention of motor maintenance personnel;
- c. To carry out the scheduling of departmental transport in accordance with infrastructures... “infrastructures”;
- d. To monitor and supervise the work of the drivers, enforce discipline and ensure observance of driving instructions;
- e. To prepare and maintain inventories of all moveable government property under the responsibility of the division.

However, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am informed that the scheme of service of the Assistant Ground Supervisor will be revised in line with the recommendation of the report on the restructuring of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. I table the scheme of duty of the Assistants.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether, Airport of Rodrigues (ARL) to cover the airfield operation of Assistant Ground Supervisor?

The Chief Commissioner: I have just said it in my reply. I am further informed that with the taking over of the management of Plaine Corail Airport, by the Airport of Rodrigues Ltd. (ARL), some duties related to aircraft airport buildings and ground which fall under the scheme of service of the grade of Assistant Ground Supervisors have been taken over by the ARL.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am not... I will not table these documents but I will hand it personally to the Chief Commissioner to have an idea because there are public officers working there. Maybe he has been misleading. I give it to the Chief Commissioner to have an idea of what is happening at the airport.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Next question.

PARKING FACILITIES – PORT MATHURIN

(No. B/41) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to parking facilities at Port Mathurin, he will:-

- (a) Obtain information from any relevant authority to inform the House on the number of vehicles transiting in Port Mathurin daily; and
- (b) State the number of public parking spaces situated thereat, indicating if same are sufficient and, if not, what remedial measures his Commission has envisaged in regard thereto to prevent illegal parking by road users?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there is no specific data regarding the number of vehicles transiting in Port Mathurin daily. We however note that the trend of importation of vehicles keep on rising incrementally, causing the traffic density to increase accordingly island wise and as well as in Port Mathurin. However, in light of the regeneration project of Port Mathurin whose term of reference is being worked for the selection of the Consultant by Landscape Mauritius, a traffic count exercise will be proposed.

(b) The parking spaces available in Port Mathurin are as follows:

MCB Square: 18
Central Administration: 15
In front of Court House: 5
Rue Kennel Begue Road: 18
Near Patriko LIC Building: 8
Near Ex-Cinema Metro: 6
At jetty: 5
Bus terminus Baie Lascars: 37
Camp du Roi near stadium: 20

Which makes a total of 132. Yes, the bus terminal there: 37. The spaces... Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the spaces at Millennium Square on the reclaimed land and beside the Central Administration at Port Mathurin is also being used as parking area. These to provide some additional 300 parking facilities bringing facilities, bringing the total to some 432 parking sites. The number of parking spaces at Port Mathurin is so far, as so far mentioned is able to contain existing traffic flow transiting in Port Mathurin daily. However, as an avant-gardist vision, the Executive Council has decided to create an additional parking area of about 640m² at Camp Du Roi near the fire station. This was mentioned in the last budget speech of the Chief Commissioner. I would like to further add that my Commission is in possession of a request for the use of a private land in Port Mathurin to be used as parking facilities against payment and the request is under consideration.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Concernant le *bus terminal*, il a dit qu'il y a 37 *parking space*. Est-ce qu'il peut élaborer un peu plus là-dessus parce que d'après ce qu'on voit, il n'y a pas 37 mais est-ce qu'il peut nous dire où exactement on peut parquer nos véhicules ? Parce que sinon, à Port Mathurin, si on parque n'importe où, on se fait saboter. Donc, est-ce qu'il peut élaborer là-dessus ? Saboter !

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Clamping is very important of course if we want discipline. Yes, to date, if you ride or drive in Port Mathurin, you drive like a prince. Yes, you drive like a prince. This is what is meant by discipline and I remember, Madam Chairperson, it is... the same thing that came out whenever my predecessor, Mr. Simon came up to make some of the roads of Port Mathurin road *piétonnière*. There were so many outcry stating that some businessmen were even stating that: our business are going to fail. And, I am sure that today, if you happen to revert the situation, the same businessmen will say: be careful. Yes. Now, as

regard to the question that was raised by the... that has been raised by the respected Member, I think that I have mentioned clearly that the parking sites are at the bus terminal. You just have to go and count it, Mr... Yes.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. L'adjoint au Chef commissaire a mentionné qu'on peut garer les voitures sur comment s'appelle ? Millennium Square. Vu que c'est *restricted area*, ça appartient à *Mauritius Ports Authority* et que à mon avis, l'assurance, ça ne couvre pas s'il y a... si jamais il y a un tsunami ou etc. Donc, est-ce que... Je pose la question encore une fois, est-ce que l'adjoint au Chef commissaire est catégorique on peut garer là-bas ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we have got a problem of parking in Port Mathurin and the site is free for the time being and everybody that is using it, of course, they are using at their own risk. One thing. And, the second thing is that knowing that there is an issue of parking facilities in Port Mathurin, this is why we are going ahead with the construction of an additional one of surface capacity 640m². Alongside, there is the Regeneration Project of Landscape that is underway right now. They are on the eve of appointing a consultant to see the whole project of Port Mathurin as... to see Port Mathurin as a whole. We understand that with the increasing number of vehicles, we are having I should say, an additional of 1000-1200 that is entering Rodrigues per day. It is sure that we are going to have problem one day or the other in Port Mathurin. If it is not going to be next year, it is going to be in five years' time and we all know that Port Mathurin is not during. And where do we have space today? If we look in Port Mathurin, where do we have space for additional parking activity... additional parking facilities? Do we have it? This is why we have to vision for the future where space "are" available around Port Mathurin so that whenever as it is in our vision that we make Port Mathurin become *ene route, ene ville piétonnière*. This has been mentioned so many times. Yes. You know, projects take time, of course. Projects take time. It will come. It will come, Madam Chairperson... So, we have to vision the whole thing as the Chief Commissioner used to say: *cinq ans, dix ans, 50 ans*, what will become of Port Mathurin.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, on the one hand, he is saying that there are problem of parking. We all agree there are problem of parking in Port Mathurin. There "are" great problem. We know that on the Millennium space, during high tide, it is very, very dangerous to put your car there. It is not good because of the soil and so on. This is not good. Now, being given that there is a lack of parking and this is felt, on the other hand, he is saying to have discipline, we have to use repressive measures.

Là, il y a une politique de deux poids, deux mesures, ce n'est pas normal. D'un côté, il y a un manque de parking, de l'autre côté, on utilise de façon « répressif ». Et il vient de parler de faire de Port Mathurin, une ville piétonnière. Ville piétonnière mais qu'advient-il de ces magasins ? Comment ils vont faire pour débarquer leurs marchandises ? Je crois actuellement, il faut être un peu *lenient* en attendant qu'on construise des parkings. Certains magasins, on aurait dû leur donner la possibilité d'avoir des *parking space*. Il y a des magasins où il n'y a rien. Ils ne peuvent pas même débarquer leurs marchandises.

Je crois qu'en attendant qu'on ait ces parkings, on aurait dû essayer de faire la part des choses, d'aider ces personnes-là et non pas utiliser des sabots. Même le... je crois qu'il y a un Commissaire qui a subit... J'aurais aimé demander.... Mais je sais c'est un fait. J'aurais aimé demander au *Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he will see to it that until we have enough parking space*, de faire la part des choses, d'essayer de trouver des endroits où on peut avoir des parkings devant des boutiques, au moins un *parking space*. Quelque fois, il faut quitter les voitures à peu près un kilomètre avant de marcher. Donc, est-ce qu'il va aller dans ce sens ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Minority Leader refers to the clumping I think of one of the cars of the Commissioners.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: It was yes. He refers and he cited this as example. This shows the strength of our discipline. Nobody is spared. Nobody is spared. Even the Commissioners are not spared. Even my car is not spared. Yes!

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Even my car is not spared. So, we want... We want everybody to be on the same footing and everybody is on the same footing. Yes, this is the first thing. And, the second thing, Madam Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner... The Minority Leader has been speaking of leniency. Leniency and flexibility is there, Madam Chairperson. I am sure that the Police before coming with the repressive measure that has been mentioned as regard to clumping, the Police has done sensibilisation. Yes, there has been sensibilisation throughout the years. Who, Mr. Chairperson? Let us assess. Let us assess the economic cost even the social cost of traffic congestion and legal parking in Port

Mathurin. Many of you if you are driving and there is someone who has badly parked his car, you will get frustrated. Yes, everybody will get frustrated. Yes, everybody will be frustrated. Yes.

Nevertheless, as regard to the point that has been noted by the Minority Leader, with respect to businesses, even on that basis, we are very lenient because I do chair the Road Safety Committee. Yes, I do chair the Road Safety Committee and there are many times that businessmen do make representations at the level of my Commission and the Road Safety Committee to see that they are being affected and of course, we do send our representative to see whether the demand is acceptable or not. And, of course, we consider and if the case, if we see that the demand is okay, normally, we do agree and we go ahead with any modification that has to be made... that has to be done as regard to the loading and unloading spaces.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Two last questions: one for Mr. Grandcourt and for...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le Vice-président, d'après la réponse du Commissaire où il a parlé de la discipline, il a parlé aussi de mettre de l'ordre, décision qui a été prise. Donc, j'aimerais lui poser la question si la décision de mettre de l'ordre comme il dit, à Port Mathurin, la discipline, d'instaurer la discipline avec tout ce qu'on fait que les policiers ont fait à Port Mathurin, est-ce que cette décision a été prise dans le *Road Safety Committee* ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, the Police has got a clear mandate of the work. Yes, and the Police has got the duty to ensure discipline on the road.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Mr. Deputy Chairperson, maybe the Deputy Chief Commissioner has answered partly of the question that I... You have already answered part of the question that I will ask.* Etant donné que Port Mathurin est le chef lieu de toutes les transactions, il y a la banque, il y a les bureaux, la caisse centrale tout ça, et vu qu'il y a un manque d'espace, de stationnement, est-ce que étant donné que vous êtes le *Deputy* Chef commissaire et Chairman de *Road Safety Committee*, est-ce que vous allez demander à l'autorité policière un peu plus de souplesse le temps de trouver des *parking spaces* et puis, on *implement* la loi sévèrement ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if leniency will lead to indiscipline, I will be *catégorique* on that: no! Yes, if leniency is going to

lead to indiscipline as regard to illegal parking, no, but there can be some flexibility of course. There should be not... We should not go ahead or I do not think that the Police is as fierce as that but if someone just parked his car and he is standing by his car that they are going to clamp his car. As far as I know, if the driver is not by the side of his car and he has gone somewhere and he is in a site which is illegal, then, there is clamping but if the driver is there and the Police arrives and you are badly parked, I am not sure that they are going to clamp your car. Not even taken, we are not going to be taken a contravention. They will tell you: okay, just drive away. That should be the way and I do not think that the Police is as fierce as you are speaking.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question! I announced it that the two last questions were the last ones.

**EX-CORALIE LA DIFFERENCE
– POLE FORMATION POUR LE TOURISME**

(No. B/42) The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner for Vocational Training and Others whether, in regard to the use of the buildings of ex-Coralie La Difference for the setting up of the *Pôle Formation pour le Tourisme* in Rodrigues, she will inform the House if any memorandum has been signed between VATEL Mauritius and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and, if so, to give details and table a copy of all relevant documents?

The Commissioner for Vocational Training and Others (Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis): Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the following action “have” been initiated by the RRA for the setting up of the *pôle formation pour le tourisme* in Rodrigues:

- (a) Firstly, in line with the budget speech of the Chief Commissioner for financial year 2017/2018, an expression of interest was launched on the 11 April 2017 by the RRA for consultancy services for the setting up of a hotel school in Rodrigues. At the closing date fixed for 12 May 2017, two bids were received. After evaluation, the offer from Trianon Hotel and Tourism Management Centre Ltd. also known as VATEL Mauritius was retained;

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- (b) After negotiation by the representatives of the Trianon Hotel and Tourism Management Centre Ltd., it was agreed to set up a company to be known as Rodrigues Tourism Development Company Ltd. The company was incorporated on the 28 February 2018 with the percentage shareholding being RRA 51% and Trianon Hotel and Tourism Management Centre Ltd. 49% as shareholders. The object of the company was to carry out property management company on a plot of land of the extent of 2845m² situated in Rodrigues placed at Contour Oblass presently known as Coralie La Difference;
- (c) Thirdly, a lease agreement was signed between the RRA, the lesser and the Rodrigues Tourism Development Company Ltd., the lessee on the 25 May 2018;
- (d) A memorandum of understanding between the RRA and Trianon Hotel and Tourism Management Centre was signed on the 10 April 2019. The aim thereof is to form a pool of qualified professionals in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector in Rodrigues by easing access to quality tertiary education to Rodriguan students. The main scope of collaboration among others is as follows:

The Trianon Hotel and Tourism Management Centre Ltd. undertakes to deliver the bachelor degree course of VATEL Hotel and Tourism Business School in Rodrigues and select a maximum number of Rodriguan students per year based on its own criteria whereas the RRA shall pay 75% of the tuition fees per student for those who are unemployed and 50% for those in employment and to authorise the THTMC Ltd. to run the diploma and undergraduate courses and train its personnel on the premises situated at Contour Oblass, Rodrigues and Mauritius. The MoU has become effective as from September 2018 notwithstanding the date of the signature by both parties and shall remain valid for a period of five years.

Madam Chairperson, the MoU between the RRA and the Trianon Hotel and Tourism Centre Ltd. cannot be tabled now as per article 4, that is, confidential information as per the MoU.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson... Mr. Depuis ce matin, nous avons entendu des confidentialités à tout bout de champ. Nous avons l'impression qu'on est en train de cacher, les Commissaires sont en train de se cacher derrière cette confidentialité, article 17 ou 14 n'importe quoi pour ne pas révéler à la Chambre les clauses de ces MoUs. *Anyway*, le public va être tenu au courant. *Can I ask the respected Commissioner how come RRA set up a private company ? Since in the past*, ils nous ont martelé disant que toutes les compagnies que nous avons créées à l'époque, c'était des compagnies « illégaux » et aujourd'hui, nous avons le RRA qui a mis en place *a private company*. Okay. Can I ask the Commissioner what is the cost in terms of money ? What is the cost that the RRA invests in this company in terms of the 51%, representing the 51% of actions in this company?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, maybe before answering this question, I would like to cite the article 4 in the MoU where:

"...neither party shall disclose any confidential information, document or data received or supply to the other in the course of the implementation of this MoU to any third party except with a written authorisation of the other".

So, we will write, we will have this... We will see for... We will undergo this procedure and then, we will table the MoU. There is nothing to hide. There is nothing secret in the MoU but we have to abide to the conditions stipulated there. So, in terms of the sum contributed by the RRA, the 51% amounts to Rs 5.1 m. as contribution for the RRA. So, the whole project amounted to Rs 10 m. and 49% for the other party.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, comme je dis encore, c'est la deuxième fois qu'on entend ça depuis ce matin. Nous avons une immunité parlementaire. C'est-à-dire que les membres de l'autre côté, les membres du Gouvernement n'ont pas de confiance en cette auguste Assemblée pour pouvoir table des documents confidentiels ! *Is it the case ? Is it the case ?* Le peuple a le droit de savoir. Alors, Rs5.1 millions représentent les 51% des actions qui ont été achetées par l'Assemblée régionale de Rodrigues.

Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, prior to the purchasing or the setting up of this Rodrigues Regional Assembly company, private company, can I ask the Commissioner to whom belong these buildings found on the area that she mentioned 2845 m at Contour Oblass? To Whom?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : So, the building is for the RRA and we have the company which is a management company. The building remains for the RRA.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can I ask the Commissioner when the RRA took possession of this building?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Madam Chair, I have been answering many questions on that here in this Assembly. So, I have given the details about that in the past.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would refer the Commissioner to a deed of sales, a supposed deed of sales which has been registered at the Registrar of Rodrigues. And, par coïncidence, sur ce deed of sales, il n'y a aucune signature des vendeurs sur ce document. Il n'y a aucune signature de ces deux vendeurs. Can I ask the Commissioner est-ce que vraiment, l'Assemblée régionale est le propriétaire de ces bâtiments ou il y a des problèmes qui sont encore enfouis ? Is this in order ?*

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: M. le Vice-président, il n'y a absolument pas de problèmes sur ce... la transaction qui a eu lieu. Donc, toutes les procédures ont été suivies et aujourd'hui, on est content après un bout de temps, donc, le propriétaire avait des difficultés pour recevoir son argent. Aujourd'hui, tout est clair. Donc, il n'y a absolument pas de problèmes par rapport à l'acquisition de ce bâtiment en faveur de l'Assemblée régionale.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, s'il n'y a pas de problèmes concernant l'achat de ce bâtiment, est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire responsable de ce dossier là pourquoi l'Assemblée régionale a reçu une mise en demeure au cours de cette année 2019 concernant le non-paiement de la dite Rs7.3 millions ?

Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina: Madame la présidente... M. le Vice-président, excusez-moi, jamais j'ai été mis en présence cette information et je dois... je confirme ici, je confirme que la transaction a été faite comme il se doit et que « toutes

les parties » ont été satisfaits. Nous avons eu notre bâtiment et celui qui a vendu le bâtiment a reçu son argent. Toutes les procédures par rapport au notaire « a » été suivie et on est bien content qu'aujourd'hui, il n'y a pas de problème sur ce dossier.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, je demande tout simplement l'éclaircissement de ce dossier là parce qu'il y a des choses qui ne sont pas claires. Madame le Commissaire nous a largement élaboré les procédures ont été respectées, ont été respectées à la lettre, pourrais-je demander à la dame, au Commissaire en question pourquoi il y a eu une lettre émanant du bureau du *ICE* au notaire en question pour demander que l'argent de Rs7.3 millions soient payés immédiatement au propriétaire de ce lieu en 2018 ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : M. le Vice-président, c'est une preuve que l'Assemblée régionale a honoré ses engagements. C'est parce que le *Island Chief Executive* a dument signé le cheque en faveur de celui qui a vendu et que passant par le notaire, c'est vrai, on a parlé ici. Il y avait des retards pour entre le temps que nous avons remis le cheque et que le cheque a été... donc au notaire et que le notaire a remis le cheque à celui qui a vendu, c'est vrai, il y a eu du retard mais c'est pour cela. C'est parce que le *ICE*, responsable au niveau des paiements pour l'Assemblée régionale, a fait son travail en donnant le chèque et que effectivement, le cheque n'a pas été reçu au moment voulu à celui qui a vendu. Mais aujourd'hui, M. le Vice-président, tout est clair. Moi-même, j'ai rencontré celui qui a vendu cet établissement, il a reçu son argent et tout le monde est content aujourd'hui. Nous aussi, on est content que la transaction a été faite comme il se doit.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Est-ce que je peux demander au ex-Deputy Chief Commissioner when this transaction...

The Deputy Chairperson: Member Rosaire...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Quand est-ce que les vendeurs ont eu l'argent ?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis : En effet...

The Deputy Chairperson: No, Member Rosaire, you have to address to the Commissioner properly. You address to the Commissioner properly.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I remove that but she was an ex-Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chairperson: No, no, no.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Okay, I remove. I remove. I remove. Okay! Yes, I maintain my question.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: M. le Vice-président, je redis que ce qui s'est passé entre l'avocat et... Donc, le notaire est celui qui a vendu le bâtiment. En effet, ça ne devait pas nous regarder parce que nous avons fait la transaction en présence de la personne, du couple qui a vendu l'établissement. Ils étaient bien conscients des procédures mais par bonne volonté, on a voulu aussi les aider parce qu'on sait qu'on a pris leur ça... et on a donné le cheque. Donc, on est clair. Donc, les membres de l'opposition peuvent penser ce qu'ils veulent. Un moment, ils parlaient beaucoup de *juicy business*. Quand ils ont su maintenant qu'il n'y a pas de tout ça, c'est pour ça qu'aujourd'hui, ils viennent pour dire que nous n'avons pas fait les choses comme il se doit. Je maintiens que les choses ont été faites et malheureusement, malheureusement, celui qui a reçu le cheque ne lui a pas informé.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, the ex...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The Commissioner is mentioning.. sorry. *Non, non, non, korek sa. Silence la.* Yes, the Commissioner, Madam Gaspard Pierre Louis, is mentioning juicy business. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, you know, we are here, we are here to put questions and to have answers, clear answers for the sake of transparency and good governance. Right? Can I ask the Deputy... the Commissioner responsible for Vocational Training and Others if she has the exact date that the owner of the building signed the money and received the money?

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have been answering to these in the past many times. I gave all the dates on which same has been done. I will kindly request the respected Member to go back to the Hansard and see the dates.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I would like to...

The Deputy Chairperson: Last. Last question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine:in this House. Otherwise, I should have come with this question. Because until this transaction has “*took in*” place in 2016 and 2019, has taken place. *Sori, mo pa anglais, mo pa soz, mo gagne droit fer sa. Sori. Lerla ki enan ? Malelevé.* Yes, yes. Has taken place, *mo anglais ki coumsa*, has taken place, you know.

So, M. le Vice-président, en 2019, les personnes, les propriétaires... Je sais pourquoi je maintiens. Les personnes en question n’ont pas reçu leur compensation, n’ont pas reçu leur compensation depuis l’argent, depuis 2016. Je sais aussi qu’il y avait un problème de *handing over of keys* qui a été fait au mois de janvier. Right ? Mais à ce jour, je peux vous assurer que la personne... C’est ce que je dis là est vrai. A ce jour, je peux vous confirmer que la personne n’a pas... n’ont toujours pas reçu leur argent. Est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire responsable de cette transaction d’assurer une fois pour toute que l’argent soit remis comme il se doit au ancien *owner of this Coralie building*.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question. Member Perrine, please, next question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Si mo pou dir ou ki enan dan contract la, ou mem ou pou soké. Mai nou pou ale de l’avant ek sa. B/43.*

IMPORT OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS - RODRIGUES

(No. B/43) The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the import of vegetables and fruits in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) state and table a list of the quantity and type(s) of vegetables and fruits, respectively, imported from January 2018 to date, indicating, in each case, the importer;
- (b) state if there is any mechanism put in place by his Commission to monitor the quality thereof, and

- (c) inform the House how damaged and contaminated products are disposed of and where?

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that from January 2018 to date, a total of 153 containers of fruits and vegetables have been imported from Mauritius. An average of 116 containers of fruits and vegetables are imported annually. The main vegetables and fruits imported are as follows, I put it in French so that everybody can understand because some of the names are very difficult: calebasse, giraumon, French and Creole as well, calebasse, giraumon, chouchou, *bringelle*, tomate, haricot vert, concombre, courgette, le chou, betterave, oignon, pomme de terre, gingembre, ananas, orange, poire. *Mo pe dir zot seki... pêche, plum, mandarine, pamplemousse. Zot pose kestion apre zot pa lai reponse ? Raisin, kiwi... table la lamem pa per toi.* Raisin, kiwi and other seasonal fruits. As at now, there are no records on the exact quantity of fruits and vegetables imported from Mauritius to Rodrigues.

My Commission has already noticed that this constitute a shortcoming that has to be addressed. This is the reason why provision has been made for the introduction of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly... Regional Assembly Control on imports of products of plants and animals origin in Rodrigues, the regulations, which is in the process of being submitted to the State Law Office for vetting. With the coming into force of the regulations, an importer of agricultural products will have to apply for an import permit from my Commission. This will enable us to have better statistics on the type of products imported, their quantity, origin, name of importer, etc. which will in turn help us to take sound policy decisions with regards to importation of vegetables and fruits from Mauritius.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regards to part (b) of the question, I am pleased to inform the House that the following negotiations between my Commission the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security in 2017, four technical officers of my Commission have been trained by the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) in Mauritius for a period of two months. The objective was to acquire necessary skills and knowledge to be able to perform quarantine inspection, monitoring and control for better biosecurity of the island and better health of the population. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, since 15 December 2018, these officers are posted to the airport of Plaine Corail and the seaport of Port Mathurin to carry out inspections and control. The officers work as NPPO officers under the Plant Protection Act 2006. Since the setting up of a Quarantine Unit, every flight, vessel and yacht is being attended by

the NPPO officers with the collaboration of the Customs Department, passenger's luggage is being screened as a mean to identify, seize and destroy any plant or plant material which is illegally entering the island at the airport. At the seaport consignment of fruits and vegetables are being inspected and Phytosanitary Certificates are collected before importers are allowed to take possession of the goods from the container park. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the duties carried out by the National Plant Protection Officers are as follows:

- verification of phytosanitary certificates;
- carry out visual inspection of the consignments of vegetables and fruits in the container park;
- providing clearance for the said consignments and;
- collect and dispose of all rotten and damaged products that occur due to the transportation issues.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, my Commission is also insisting on the need to scan all passenger's luggage entering Rodrigues without any exception. Just like my colleague said: no inspection even for the Commissioners. The Executive Council has already approved to repair the broken down scanner at the airport of... of the Airport of Rodrigues Ltd. accordingly which will be solely used for this purpose. This action will be a great help not only for biosecurity reasons but will also prevent entering of drugs and other nasty things that will negatively affect the social life and the health of the people of Rodrigues.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regards to part (c), I am informed that upon inspection of imported agricultural produce by the NPPO, damaged, rotten, contaminated fruits and vegetables as well as products without Phytosanitary Certificates are seized and detained in line with the provision of National Plant Protection Act 2006. As a short-term solution, they are disposed at Montagne Plate by either burning or burying for the time being. In the long-term, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, provision is being made to have incinerators for both the seaport and the airport so as to better dispose of such products that cause a threat to our biosecurity. The matter is being discussed at the level of the Crisis Committee set up in the wake of... worm episode.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes, I would like to refer to part (b) of the question. The mechanism, can I ask the Commissioner whether there “are” a unit which has been set up at his Commission, a unit at his Commission and whether there are protocols which “has” been set up in order to diminish, to prevent contaminated products to... or disease to arrive on the land of Rodrigues?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I already answered this question. I said that there is Quarantine Unit set up and there are four officers working in the unit, four NPPOs.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, le Commissaire vient de mentionner qu’à long terme, il y aura... ils vont faire l’achat « d’une » incinérateur pour pouvoir détruire les produits contaminés. M. le Vice-président, le fait que Rodrigues souffre actuellement des rentrées des bêtes, des chenilles légionnaires, la fièvre aphteuse etc., n’est-il pas important au lieu de parler de long terme, n’est-il pas important de voir dans l’immédiat l’achat d’un incinérateur pour justement détruire ces plantes contaminées, ces viandes contaminées etc. qui arrivent sur le sol de Rodrigues ? Puisque là, il nous parle de Montagne Plate, il nous parle de *burying of* les produits etc. C’est ce qui s’est passé avec la fièvre aphteuse : *burying*. Aujourd’hui, qu’est-ce qu’il y a ? Toutes les nappes phréatiques de Rodrigues sont contaminées. Donc, est-ce que ce n’est pas une urgence de prendre ça comme une priorité et de faire achat qui ne coute pas cher d’un incinérateur pour mettre à la disposition de ces officiers pour qu’ils puissent faire leur travail correctement ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, Rome n’a pas été construit en un jour. On doit dire qu’il n’y a jamais eu de control de cette dimension avant qu’on a commencé vraiment...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Combien PPO to ti enan ?*

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes, *ce n’est pas bien de dire qu’il n’y a pas eu de control. Nous avons... Je vais... Je vais...* On a point of personal explanation, I would like to... Yes, I would like to explain...

The Deputy Chairperson: Is it a point of order or a point of explanation?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, a point of order and then, a point of explanation.

The Deputy Chairperson: No, that is not possible.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, let me take it as a point of explanation. Yes, I remove the point of order, I put point of explanation. You know, it is not correct to say that the Members of this side has nothing to... has done nothing with regards *les animaux contaminés etc. les maladies qui "ont entré" à Rodrigues. Nous avons en 2009, la fièvre porcine. Nous avons eu la fièvre porcine. Non, non, non. Personal explanation. Yes. En 2009 ou 2010, nous avons eu la fièvre porcine à Maurice. Il y a eu des mesures qui ont été « pris » par the then Commissioner for Agriculture et jusqu'à maintenant...*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: On a point of order.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Assize toi! Assize toi!* I am on my foot; you should sit down.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Ce n'est pas bien de dire que nous n'avons rien fait alors que nous avons combattu la fièvre porcine en 2009/2010.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, je maintiens ce que j'ai dit. J'ai dit que jamais les choses « a été fait » auparavant dans cette dimension. Il y a un mot qui est très important. Je n'ai pas dit que ça n'a jamais été fait mais ce que j'ai dit, c'est que dans cette dimension, je crois que ces deux mots sont très importants dans ce que j'ai dit. Parce que il n'y a jamais eu de Rodriguais formés et qui font ce travail. On a toujours eu quelqu'un qui vient d'ailleurs, une personne qui travaille divisée en deux. On peut diviser une personne en deux pour travailler à l'aéroport et là ? Aujourd'hui, on a... Quatre personnes, je maintiens ce que j'ai dit. Je maintiens que avant, ce n'était pas comme ça.

Donc, si on n'a pas d'incinérateur pour le moment mais dans le *master plan* de l'aéroport, il y a, dans le *master plan* du port, il y a. Ils disent : pourquoi vous n'achetez pas un petit incinérateur vous mettez là. Est-ce que nous, on est... Vous

m'appeler *Ti Richard* mais je ne suis pas... je ne fais pas des petits incinérateurs. Soit on fait quelque chose de bien soit on ne fait pas. Quand j'aurais mis... après avoir mis le petit incinérateur à l'aéroport, ils vont me dire : Pourquoi tu as mis un petit ? Il fallait mettre un gros. Il fallait... Non, non, non, non, non. M. le Vice-président, nous, on ne fait pas le travail à moitié. On a attendu. Maintenant, c'est le moment de faire le travail bien et dans les normes. Voilà.

The Minority Leader: *M. le Vice-président, il a parlé... Le respecté Commissaire a parlé de faire les choses bien et d'après les normes. Peut-être je peux lui poser cette question : how damage and contaminated products are disposed of ? We see that sometimes, you have vegetables coming and these are disposed like that without putting in plastic bags and so on. Something that is easy to be done and I would like the Commissioner to say whether he will go along this direction to have these vegetables or fruits put in plastic bag well closed because sometimes, it is put in the open. This is the problem. This is why we have got a *Bactrocera dorsalis* coming here. They have contaminated almost all the island. And, secondly, whether we can put spots on TV, on radio. This can be ongoing.*

Even sometimes if some people, despite the check that is being done at airport, some people can come with fruits. But on radio, des petites affiches qu'on peut mettre un peu partout pour faire savoir aux gens si vous voyez qu'il y a des petites bêtes dedans, ne les jeter pas, mettez-les dans les sacs en plastique ou bien brûlez-le. Des simples précautions comme ça, ça peuvent nous éviter des tas d'ennuis. Donc, j'aurais aimé demander au Commissaire de l'agriculture s'il peut aller sur cette ligne. Ça, c'est une proposition. J'espère qu'il va le prendre.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *M. le Vice-président, la proposition n'est pas mauvaise sauf que c'est déjà... c'est en train d'être fait ! Qui ne se souvient pas de quand on avait *dorsalis*, le problème de *dorsalis*, il y avait des sacs en plastique même si je n'aime pas ça, qui étaient donnés à des gens pour récupérer les mangues pendant la période de mangues de décembre. Donc, c'est défoncer une porte ouverte déjà. C'est défoncer une porte ouverte et moi, je dois dire aussi, c'est très important, ça. On a quatre officiers maintenant, quatre Rodriguais. C'est la première fois. On aurait dû faire une fête pour ça. C'est la première fois qu'on a quatre Rodriguais qui sont formés dans ce domaine là.*

Et vous savez, les difficultés qu'on a eues pour avoir ces quatre personnes parce que sous l'establishment de Rodrigues, il y a cette loi, ça tombe sous l'establishment de Maurice. Vous savez combien de missions j'ai fait moi, personnellement, combien de table j'ai tapé pour avoir quatre officiers maintenant

formés dans ce domaine pour faire ce travail ? Donc, et c'est quand je dis formé, je dis ces officiers qui sont formés, ils font leur travail bien et je suis fier. La seule chose qui nous manque actuellement, c'est les deux incinérateurs qui vont venir bientôt.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le Vice-président, le Commissaire a parlé de dimension, il y a eu des officiers maintenant formés. Mais pourquoi ? Parce qu'il y a eu tant de problèmes ! Après le problème de la fièvre aphteuse, après.... Après *dorsalis*, après tout ça, c'est parce qu'il n'y a pas une bonne politique, une politique assez sévère concernant tout ça. Et puis, il vient nous dire maintenant dimension : vous savez, il y a une dimension, on aurait dû faire une fête. Monsieur, je viens sur la question. M. le Vice-président, d'après les *Hansard*, l'année dernière, question B/26, il avait dit qu'il allait bannir, je ne sais pas s'il se rappelle de quoi lorsqu'il parle. Il allait bannir l'importation des légumes à Rodrigues. Il a dit ça. Et cette année-ci, il vient dire il va venir avec un règlement. J'aimerais que le Commissaire soit fixé une fois pour toute sur cette politique soit on importe, soit on n'importe pas. J'aimerais l'entendre sur ce point, M. le Vice-président.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, je trouve que c'est du n'importe quoi ce qui est en train de dire le membre.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson : Commissioner, you have to remove this.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je retire, je retire. Je retire. Je retire.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson : *Si, il a dit, il a retiré.* Please, continue, Commissioner.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, je trouve que ce n'est pas bien de parler comme ça parce qu'on nous parle de soit importer, est-ce qu'on importe, est-ce qu'on n'importe pas ? Comment est-ce qu'on contrôle l'importation ? Comment est-ce qu'on fait ça ? Qui a le droit légal de dire on ne peut pas ? Cette loi, c'est exactement ça : soit on importe, soit on n'importe pas. Et maintenant, il faut la loi pour pouvoir dire il vous faut un permis pour importer. Quand vous avez la loi, vous pouvez dire : *Hé*, il y a pleins de giraumons à Rodrigues, on ne donne pas de permis.

/UNREVISED/

Là il y a une loi. Mais c'est ça. On est en train de formaliser. On est de train....
Vini, taler mo montrer toi.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson : Order ! Order, please ! Allow the Commissioner to answer.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Moi, je peux... M. le Vice-président, si vous me permettez, les deux peuvent être fait: compote giraumon, je l'ai là sur mon ordinateur. Je peux vous montrer comment le faire. A La Réunion, ça se fait. Compote giraumon à la cannelle. A la cannelle. *Oui, mo kone fer. Oui. Mo ti pou dir toi ene zafer la. Mone dir toi arrêté ek moi.*

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Dir rezmen to Madame lamem. Sinon, mo ti pou done toi ene lere. Dir rezmen, rezmen to pa gagne ha lere la. To pa gagne ha lere la. Dir merci enkor. Mo pane.. Hou !* Donc, ce n'est pas une question d'importer ou ne pas importer. Il faut un cadre légal pour pouvoir dire si on doit importer ou pas. C'est ce qu'on est en train de faire. C'est exactement ce que j'ai dit, oui. On va bannir l'importation. On va contrôler l'importation. Je redis ce que j'ai dit. Je maintiens. Mais s'il faut contrôler, veut dire soit bannir, soit laisser rentrer. Mais s'il faut contrôler, ça veut dire ça : si on laisse passer, si on ne laisse pas passer.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chairperson: I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.37 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 1.41 p.m. with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Second Island Region Member.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, thank you. B/44.

**EXPORT OF ANIMALS TO MAURITIUS – NO. OF CONTAINERS FOR
TRANSSHIPMENT/AVERAGE/MONITORING**

(No. B/44) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the export of animals to Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, seek information from relevant authorities to state:

- (a) the number of containers normally available for the transshipment thereof and under which conditions;
- (b) and table the average number exported per trip per category pre 2019 and the number of animals per category shipped to mainland since January 2019 to date; and
- (c) if any mechanism has been set up to ensure a proper monitoring and equity in the transshipment thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am inform that the number of available and suitably converted containers for the transportation of live animals from Rodrigues to Mauritius is as follows:

- 13 containers for transportation of cattle, sheep and goats;
- 1 container for transport of basket of chickens.

Each container carries at most 10 bovines and a maximum of 40 sheep or goats.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the average number of live animals exported per trip, per category 2019 and since 2019 to date from Rodrigues to mainly Mauritius is as follows: *(to dir up to date matelot. Alé mo donne toi zis 2019 alor)*

January to April 2019

	Cattle	Sheep	Basket of fowls (i.e. chicken)
Average	70.9	186.8	2.3

I am tabling the information.

With regard to part (c) of the question, there is already in place a proper mechanism for monitoring and for ensuring equity in the transshipment of animals from Rodrigues to Mauritius.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am informed that the procedure is as follows:

- Reservation of places for livestock shipment is done on a first come first serve basis;
- Importers obtained an import permit from the Division of Veterinary Office in Mauritius, Réduit and submit the permit to Veterinary Service of my commission;
- The date and time of receipt of the permit is recorded in the Registration of Import Permits ... Export Book. The book is available at the Veterinary Service at my commission with all records in chronological order;
- Places on the shipment vessel are allocated according to the chronological order in which the permits are received;
- Due to the limited number of place on the ship, some exporters are put on the waiting list pending new shipments.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes. M. le *Deputy Chairperson*, la première partie de la question, le Commissaire vient nous annoncer qu'il y a 13 conteneurs plus un pour les poulets. Selon les informations que moi j'ai eu au niveau du bateau, il y avait au moins une vingtaine de conteneurs en tout. Mais apparemment certains de ces conteneurs ne sont en bon état. Donc, suite à ça, il y a bien sûre des difficultés pour que les *shipments of animals to Mauritius* souffrent. Pourrais-je demander au Commissaire en question, là il nous a fait comprendre aussi concernant la partie (c), s'il y a un mécanisme ? Il nous a fait comprendre que les *shipments* sont sur ordre chronologique, une fois qu'ils ont reçus le permis. Mais quand est-t-il de certaines personnes, certains acheteurs des animaux qui ont eu le permis depuis le mois de janvier et que jusqu'à maintenant ces personnes-là n'ont pas pu embarquer leurs animaux pour Maurice. Est-ce qu'il y a quelque chose de concret qui se font ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, il y a deux questions, la première c'est que, est-ce qu'il y a 20 conteneurs ? Non. Moi, je sais on a demandé, il y a 13. 14 avec pour les poules. Donc, il y a aussi, même si on a 20, même si on avait 20 conteneurs, il n'y avait pas de place dans un seul bateau pour emmener les 20 conteneurs d'animaux, vu que les animaux doivent être placé sur les extrêmes du

bateau pour avoir de l'air. On ne peut pas les mettre dans la cale. Il y a des endroits spécifiques pour ça. Donc, j'ai bien fait des recherches là-dessus. Donc, apparemment c'est le maximum que le bateau... peut-être s'il y avait Trochetia, on aurait pu changer les choses mais avec le bateau qu'il y a, c'est difficile d'aller vers plus de conteneur. Ce n'est pas une question... Et, l'idée qu'il y a plus, il y a des animaux qui attendent, c'est le bon signe. Ça montre que l'élevage est reparti à Rodrigues. Et, aussi il faut savoir qu'il y a des gens qui attendent beaucoup, c'est ce que... Est-ce qu'il y a des gens qui passent devant ? Non. Normalement, non. Parce que la procédure est telle que, comme j'ai dit, le livre est là à être vérifié au bureau du vet. Mais le problème des permis vient que c'est... je ne dis pas que c'est le Ministère, c'est à Maurice que ça, c'est le problème. Dès fois des gens ont eu leurs permis deux mois avant mais nous on prend la date que le permis a été envoyé à Rodrigues. Donc, ça peut être depuis janvier mais Réduit a envoyé le truc en mars. Du coup, la personne passe derrière. Donc, la question s'il y a question de passer devant des gens. Non, parce que si le Membre pense qu'il y a ça, il faut aller à l'ICAC. Parce que je pense que, moi je ne peux pas répondre ça. Mais je pense que les renseignements que j'ai, il n'y a pas de problème de ce côté. Parce que les livres est bien *tally* et j'ai même eu l'occasion de jeter un petit coup d'œil. Donc, tout se passe bien dans ce côté-là.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, nous ne voulons pas que ces choses qu'on peut régler d'une façon si on a un *proper*, s'il y a un *proper monitoring*, puisque la relation entre Rodrigues et Maurice sont dans d'excellentes conditions, je ne vois pas s'il y a un problème quelque part. Donc, il doit y avoir une solution rapide pour remédier à ce problème. Donc, Monsieur le Commissaire vient nous dire que, s'il y a de retard au niveau de Réduit ou autres institutions, il ne peut pas contrôler etc., etc. Mais puisque ce problème-là est arrivée jusqu'ici, c'est-à-dire, qu'il y a un problème. Il y a des gens qui sont des vrais acheteurs d'animaux qui attendent le mois de janvier pour pouvoir *ship* leurs animaux à Maurice. C'est le... je pense qu'au niveau la Commission de l'Agriculture, ils sont au courant. Puisqu'à plusieurs reprises, il y a eu des gens qui ont téléphonés pour dire, voilà nous avons depuis janvier, février des papiers qui sont là mais il y aussi, nous avons des informations ici qu'il y a des personnes qui sont à chaque fois premier sur la liste. Même s'ils viennent d'embarquer 50 cabris le mois dernier ou bien la semaine dernière mais cette semaine il a encore 50 ou bien 100. Donc, ce qui fait que, ce qu'on demande, ce qu'on demande, *we are making a plea to the Commissioner to assure the proper monitoring of the transhipment of animals to Mauritius*, pour que les éleveurs et les acheteurs aussi puissent avoir ça.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, moi je dis que le protocole est bien établi et respecté. Mais comme j'ai dit, je redis, il y a de lacune. On a remarqué que ça vient de Maurice. Ça ne vient pas de nous. Si la date est en mars, nous la personne a fait l'application en mars. Même si... parce que des faxes on peut modifier, on peut faire tout ça. Mais il n'y a pas de... régler le truc, oui. Et, moi je ne vais pas tolérer. Je ne vais pas tolérer et d'ailleurs, c'est un peu l'état de notre gouvernement en place. On ne tolère pas ce genre de chose. Si toute fois quelqu'un fait passer des gens avant les autres. Donc, s'il y a des cas, je pense que moi personnellement, en tant que Commissaire de l'Agriculture, je reçois tous les mercredis, sauf quand je ne suis pas là. Donc, je pense que je demanderais au Membre de dire à cette personne ou ces personnes qui pensent qu'ils sont mal, que leurs droits a été bafoués ou des trucs comme ça, il y a maldonne, un truc comme ça, de venir de l'avant et de me donner des preuves ou bien me parler. A ce moment-là, on fera une enquête pour voir s'il y a maldonne ou pas.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Concernant l'exportation des bœufs, (j'ai deux questions) demander au Commissaire si c'est seulement on export toujours que les taureaux ? C'est une chose. Deuxième chose, les mâles, pardon. Mais *zot apel ça taureaux zot !* Et puis, concernant moutons et cabris, si c'est les deux sexes ou bien bouquin seulement, bélier avec chèvre, avec brebis ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, c'est une des raisons, je pense que c'est une très bonne question. C'est la raison principalement pourquoi aujourd'hui, on n'a plus de place sur le bateau pour emmener les animaux à Maurice. C'est parce que les acheteurs, il n'y a pas que les acheteurs qui viennent prendre pour emmener à l'abattoir. Puisque le truc est libéralisé maintenant, il n'y a plus d'embargo. Donc, les gens viennent prendre n'importe quelle type d'animaux. Donc, les petits comme les grands. Il y en a qui prend pour nourrir, il y en a pour engraisser, il y en a qui... mais il y en a mâle comme femelle. Il n'y a pas de soucis de ce côté-là. Là, le truc est libéralisé hein.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le Vice-président, très bien, il n'y a plus de, comme dit mon ami, plus de discrimination. C'est bien. M. le Vice-président, mais on voit, par exemple, de janvier 2019 à avril, il y a que 23 paniers de poulet qui a été exporté. Le Commissaire a dit que la production est en expansion et *average* c'est 2.3 panier par *shipment*. Est-ce qu'il peut nous expliquer pourquoi est-ce que, s'est devenu comme ça ? Parce qu'on se rappelle longtemps lorsque j'allais à l'école c'était 50/100 paniers qui partaient sur Maurice. Et, l'effet peut être directe, c'est aussi les poulets qui mangeaient la chenille lésionnaire. Maintenant, il n'y en a plus

de poulet. Donc, je voulais savoir comment est-ce qu'il peut expliquer cette baisse dans la production de poulet locale à Rodrigues ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: M. le Vice-président, ça ne dépend pas que de la production. Ce qui se passe à Rodrigues maintenant, avec la politique du gouvernement en place, la Commissaire de... Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis travaille sur... on a archi parlé de ça depuis le budget dernier, comment diminuer l'importation de poulet de Maurice. Ce qui fait que les Rodriguais maintenant consomme plus de poulet locale. Donc, si on ne veut pas emmener des poulets locales... si on consomme plus, on ne peut pas exporter. Et, ça c'est très intelligent. C'est très intelligent. Je pense qu'on mange plus de poulet. Les Rodriguais commence à comprendre qu'il ne faut pas vendre comme les onions, vendre les onions à Rs 15 à Maurice et acheter à Rs 30. Va vendre les poulets à, combien, Rs 25, le poulet local et acheter le poulet de Maurice à Rs 80. Donc, je pense qu'on est en train d'évoluer dans la bonne direction. Et, je pense que c'est une très bonne chose.

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Il y a quelque chose que je ne comprends pas. J'aurais aimé demander une bonne explication au Commissaire. Dans le passé, il n'y avait pas assez de poulet qui vienne de Maurice, on mangeait nos poulets locaux. Et, on exportait par centaine de panier à Maurice. On mangeait ça. Ben là, on mange les poulet locaux mais il ne reste que deux paniers à exporter. Donc, il faut dire les choses tels quels sont. C'est un nivellement par le bas.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ce n'est pas vrai, M. le Vice-président. Il faut beaucoup de... C'est vous savez... scientifiquement parlant pour travailler là-dessus, il faut plus d'éléments. Il faut beaucoup plus d'éléments. Il y a beaucoup de... c'est vrai que le Rodriguais mange le poulet local. Mais avant on exportait. C'est une question de prix aussi. Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas aujourd'hui... la question qu'on peut se poser aussi. Normalement, il y a une seule personne qui exporte le poulet local vers Maurice, normalement. Est-ce que... *Permis la li vine rodé kado donne li sa*. Voilà ! Pourquoi les autres ne rentrent pas dedans, dans ce business ? Est-ce que les Rodriguais ne sont plus des... j'allais utiliser un mot, *unparliamentary*. Heureusement, que j'ai coupé juste à temps. Les Rodriguais ont compris qu'aujourd'hui... c'est comme les bœufs. Avant les Rodriguais exportaient les bœufs à vendre comme ça – estimation. Aujourd'hui, nous on a montré qu'il faut peser les bœufs. Aujourd'hui, les Rodriguais ont compris qu'il y a beaucoup d'exploitation des Rodriguais par rapport au poulet qui part à Maurice. Le mec, il voit, *to pé asté poule Rs 10 ek moi, mo pas pou van ek toi*. Ben, c'est ça le

truc. Mais quand vous marchez à Rodrigues, on voit des poules partout. Donc, si vous voulez vraiment entrer dans cette discussion, il y a beaucoup d'éléments qu'il faut vraiment mettre en place pour savoir qui a raison dans ce qu'on dit.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please. Member Grandcourt.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Mr. Chairperson, B/45.

ESTABLISHED PROTOCOL - OPENING OF REFUGEE CENTRES IN RODRIGUES DURING CYCLONES

(No. B/45) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, with regard to established protocol regarding the opening of refugee centres in Rodrigues during cyclones, he can state whether he will consider reviewing same and if not, why?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am informed that all matters regarding the opening of emergency shelters do not fall under the ambit of the Commission for Social Security. Therefore, my commission cannot decide when the shelters have to be opened. Our role and responsibilities are limited to manning of these shelters and provision of water and basic foodstuffs.

I am further informed that a protocol relating to opening of emergency shelters has been established for the Republic of Mauritius by Circular No. 11 of 1993 and dated 11 December 1993 issued by the Prime Minister's Office which provides amongst others the opening of these centres upon the issue of cyclone warning Class III bulletin.

Moreover, a National Disasters Scheme has been developed in 2015, which caters for a Cyclone Emergency Scheme, and provides all the guidelines and roles and responsibilities and actions of each stakeholder before, during and after a cyclone. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, under the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016, there is established under Part IV section 23, a Rodrigues Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, which amongst others is mandated under Section 24 to *inter alia formulate policies and disaster risk reduction and management*. It further stipulates that the approach of Rodrigues in disaster risk reduction and management has to be aligned with the National Strategic Framework.

In the event of a disaster in Rodrigues, there shall be a Rodrigues Crisis Committee, which shall supervise the conduct of disaster response operations. Section 33 of the Act enumerates the Functions and powers of the Rodrigues Crisis Committee, and paragraph 1 (f) of this section, clearly stipulates that: I quote:

“The Rodrigues Crisis Committee shall have all the functions and powers of the Rodrigues Council and shall take decisive and timely actions through the REOC to take such other measures as may be appropriate in the circumstances.” End of quote.

This clearly indicates that there is room for flexibility in real time as and when the situation arises. This is why, for example, for cyclone Joaninha, decision was taken to ask public officers not to go to work, and to open one emergency centre at Soupirs during cyclone Class II though as per protocol this should normally be done during warning Class III.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ... le Commissaire, c'est que, il y a la loi mais il y a aussi la possibilité à travers le REOC de prendre des décisions. J'ai posé la question pourquoi, étant donné que le REOC a suivi l'évolution du cyclone Joaninha, pourquoi est-ce qu'ils n'ont pas pris la décision d'ouvrir les *Refugees Centres*, les centres de refuges avant qu'on soit en alerte 3 ?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Donc, quand on a eu des appels d'un endroit spécifique et que les officiers sont allés voir pour constater de visu la situation, ils ont cru bon d'ouvrir ce centre en particulier. Mais il y a des officiers qui sont surtout partout sur le terrain, donc ils n'ont pas vu la nécessité de le faire à ce moment précis. Donc, c'est pourquoi par contre, le matin avant même de l'annonce du cyclone Classe III donc, on a pris la décision de demander au fonctionnaire de ne pas aller travailler et en même temps aussi de se préparer pour ouvrir les centres. Parce que pour l'ouverture des centres de refuges, il faut qu'il y a des préparations. On ne peut pas demander aux gens d'aller dans les centres s'il n'y a pas des Supervisors. Parce que les Supervisors, selon le protocole, ils sont au courant qu'à partir de l'annonce de l'alerte 3, c'est à ce moment-là qu'ils doivent aller pour ouvrir les centres.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mais le protocol... peut prendre des décisions. Pourquoi ne pas avant Class III dire aux officiers de se préparer. Parce qu'on sait, comme j'ai dit, tout le monde savait que ça va être un gros cyclone. Tout le monde suivait l'évolution de Joaninha. On savait que ça va être un gros cyclone. Pourquoi est-ce qu'il a attendu Classe III pour demander aux officiers d'aller ouvrir les centres ? Pourquoi pas Class II ? Le problème, on n'a pas eu de perte humaine mais

ça a été très, très difficile pour les réfugiés qui ont dû bouger des kilomètres pour aller dans des centres de refuges, M. le Vice-président. Donc, là je trouve que quelque part, il y a eu un manque de responsabilité vis-à-vis de la commission concernant ce problème. Et, j'espère que la prochaine fois, ils vont voir, ils vont voir/résoudre ce problème. Parce qu'on a été visité les gens dans les centres, c'était ça leurs soucis, c'est qu'en Classe III, ils ont bougé aller. Je trouve ça c'est inhumain de la part de ce qui devait prendre des responsabilités.

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: *Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think it is a matter of opinion. I am satisfied with the work done by the REOC because there has been no incident related to this decision.* Si seulement il y avait vraiment des incidents, à ce moment-là peut être qu'on aurait pointé du point. Mais il n'y a pas eu d'incident. C'est juste une question de pression mise par un petit groupe de personne et donc, nous ne pouvons agir par rapport à ce qu'une personne pense, c'est son opinion. Alors, que dans les faits et la pratique, les protocoles sont là et il y a des gens responsables qui peuvent prendre des décisions et s'ils ont pris la bonne décision.

The Minority Leader: M. le Vice-président, je pense qu'il ne faut pas aussi faire une politique *après la mort la tisane*. I would like to ask the Respected Commissioner, being given that there is room for flexibility concerning the protocol and being given the topology of Rodrigues, uphill when you are in Class II sometimes you have very violent gust and is it possible to arrange with the Meteorological Station, if you see that the cyclone is coming to Rodrigues, because we say that we can be flexible. Why do we not take into consideration that in certain places where there is violent wind, violent gust, we must think in term of the poor children, children that have to walk in Class III, disabled persons, old persons. I think, we have to be flexible on that. Are you going to go along with that?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there has been flexibility and that may be the Respected Member is not aware, the REOC is located at the local of the Meteorological Services. This means that, *je ne peux pas être plus royaliste que le roi, M. le Vice-président*. They know exactly what was the situation and that is why they decided to take decision accordingly. Just to remind the House at warning Class II, according to classes of cyclone warnings as well established in the Cyclone Emergency Scheme, with experts from Mauritius and all the departments and obviously, from Rodrigues, Class II is issued to allow as far as practicable 12 hours of day-light before occurrence of gust of 120 kms per hour. *Donc, ils ont réagi par rapport à ce qu'on avait comme donnés à la Météo et non pas sur les pensées d'une personne ou de quelques Facebookers.*

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, merci. M. le Vice-président, l'Opposition *as such* on est en train d'emmener aussi notre contribution pour la protection de notre population. On ne veut pas venir ici pour faire de la démagogie. Pourrais-je demander au Commissaire responsable de la Sécurité Sociale pourquoi à la dernière minute, il y a eu des centres qui on étaient retirés sur la liste des centres de refuges ? Je parle principalement du centre de Grand la Fouche Mangues.

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: M. le Vice-président, cette décision est prise toujours avant le cyclone. Parce qu'à un certain moment, normalement avant le cyclone, il y a un comité qui va pour vérifier si les centres sont dans les normes. Donc, *it might happen that, for example, during cyclone Gelena, everything was in order* mais entretemps, par exemple, si les toilettes sont abimées ou quelque chose comme ça, donc ils ne sont plus, ne répondent plus à ce qu'on attend. Donc, à ce moment-là on décide d'enlever ces centres sur la liste. Mais il y a toujours la flexibilité comme je vous dis, parce qu'il y a des Policiers, des voitures de la Police qui, si besoin est, comme ça a été le cas, par exemple, aussi à Thammes, une personne a été transportée de Thammes pour aller vers un autre centre de refuge mais avec l'aide de la Police. C'est pourquoi il y a le REOC qui est là, il y a des numéros de téléphone. Donc, si jamais, quelqu'un voit que, à cause du mauvais temps, peut être que ça peut représenter des risques, on peut toujours téléphoner et il y a toujours eu l'assistance des autorités concerner pour transporter ces gens-là *safely to the Refugee Centres*.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Madame Agathe.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: M. le Vice-président, je voudrais ajouter quelque chose. Ce n'est pas que l'Opposition nous venons ici pour venir faire de la démagogie mais pour aider la population. Comme, Monsieur le Commissaire a dit, il y a de la flexibilité. Je pense principalement au village de Rivière Banane. Il n'y a pas de centre de refuge, où est-ce que ces personnes-là vont aller ? Quand les gens nous ont téléphonés pour nous dire si les centres de refuges étaient ouverts, moi-même moi j'ai appelé le REOC, ils ont bien écouté mais ce que nous demandons ici c'est que dans des cas précis, dans certains villages, comme des villages de Rivière Banane, il n'y a pas de centre de refuge. Et, pour venir, je crois qu'il doit venir à Roche Bon Dieu, il y a déjà une rivière qu'il faut traverser ou bien il faut passer par Brûlé quand c'est Classe III, c'est difficile. Pour sortir de Pointe Coton pour venir à Roche Bon Dieu, je parle de ce que sait, c'est difficile. Ce n'est pas qu'on vient voir que tout n'est pas bon. Nous venons apporter notre contribution pour que le Rodriguais se sent mieux parce que de l'autre côté de la Chambre tout le temps ils nous disent qu'ils aiment le Rodriguais. Et, moi j'apporte cette contribution pour qu'ils aiment les Rodriguais d'avantage.

[Applause]

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: M. le Vice-président, la Membre à peut-être raison. Mais il y a peut-être quelque chose *she is not aware of*. Normalement, on a rencontré les Présidents des Communautés Villageoises pour expliquer, pourquoi on ne peut pas mettre des centres de refuges partout à travers l'île. Mais parce qu'il y a aussi des paramètres, les routes doivent être accessibles. Par exemple, ces derniers temps nous savons qu'il y a construction des routes. Les officiers de la Sécurité Sociale ou autres, ne peuvent pas aller dans des endroits qui ne sont pas accessibles. Il y avait un certain moment même à Citron Donis. Quand il y a de la pluie, il y a de la boue. Donc, on ne peut pas. C'est pourquoi on donne suffisamment de temps pour permettre aux gens de bouger. Mais toutefois, toutefois si on a des demandes par rapport à certains villages, comme ça a été le cas aussi dans le passé, le REOC va considérer. Mais c'est pourquoi, comme je vous ai dit, à la radio il y a des numéros de téléphoner. Parfois, je ne sais pas pourquoi ils vont vers les personnes qui ne peuvent pas les conseiller correctement ? Mais...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président, je pense que le Commissaire est à blâmer. Parce que, écouter ce n'est pas la première fois qu'on a des cyclones à Rodrigues. C'est vrai que ça fait presque 10 ans qu'on n'a pas eu des cyclones à Rodrigues mais on a eu deux à la fois. On a eu deux à la fois. On a eu Gelena en premier lieu et on a eu Joaninha en deuxième lieu. On a eu suffisamment de temps pour constater de visu les centres communautaires, les centres de refuges et de faire une maintenance complète de ces centres-là en attendant que nous soyons visités par ces cyclones. Donc, il y a une responsabilité de la part du Commissaire de la commission. Je sais qu'il y a certaine faiblesse. Mais il faut aussi prendre en considération les choses qui sont importantes. *These are basic things*. Nous avons l'impression que nous sommes en train de tout le temps, de se bagarrer pour des *basic needs* dans ce pays. Est-ce que le Commissaire va prendre en considération ce que l'Opposition à emmener comme propositions aujourd'hui, de faire un *survey* complet de tous les centres qui sont *scattered along the island* pour assurer que toutes ces personnes qui sont dans des villages, ils ont au moins un centre moins d'un kilomètre pour qu'ils puissent se réfugier là-dedans.

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: Peut-être que vous allez me dire que je suis arrogant. Mais je n'ai pas de leçon à prendre dedans. Parce qu'à chaque fois avant la période cyclonique, *this exercise is being carried out every time before the start, before the beginning of the cyclonic period. This is the first thing*. Deuxièmement, nous avons également des informations au niveau de la commission, pendant des années, moi

j'ai passé par au moins cinq cyclones, quatre/cinq cyclones, ici avant Gelena et il y a aussi des chiffres, des données, des statistiques. Il y a des villages où on n'a jamais eu de refugier. Donc, c'est pourquoi à un certain moment aussi, parfois la requête des villages mêmes, on a décidé de retirer ces centres sur la liste. Juste pour vous dire, on a eu une demande officielle du village de Roche Bon Dieu pour enlever l'école de Roche Bon Dieu sur la liste des centres. Mais ça, nous nous allons prendre des décisions par rapport à ça. Mais il est aussi important, de noter que je dois le dire une nouvelle fois, si nous sommes vraiment responsables, nous avons la responsabilité de donner un abri correct qui répond aux normes aux citoyens pour aller se réfugier.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le Vice-président. Très bien, merci beaucoup. M. le Vice-président, j'ai parlé du centre de refuge de Grand la Fouche Mangues. Il y a aussi le centre de refuge d'Anse Goeland. Combien ça va coûter à l'état, combien ça va coûter à l'Assemblée Régionale de faire des toilettes convenables dans ces centres-là et au moins donner un peu d'argent pour qu'ils puissent rehausser le niveau de leurs dalles ? Combien ça coûte ? M. le président, il y a une lacune. Il y a un manque de volonté au sein de ce Gouvernement Régional. Comme-ci dirait les personnes qui sont au bas de l'échelle sont privés de tous. Ils sont à chaque fois là pour se bagarrer. Non, je pense que le Commissaire doit prendre ça en considération et qu'il faut qu'il réagisse et nous dise qu'est-ce qu'il pense faire ?

Mr. J. D. Baptiste: M. le Vice-président, le Respecter Membre doit savoir, par exemple, que le centre d'Anse Goeland *is in a flood prone area*. Donc, comme je vous dit, il y a des personnes qui ont des compétences techniques et terrain pour aller déterminer si ces centres-là doivent... *We have seen how many ...* Nous avons vu combien de petits bateaux ont été endommagés là-bas, par exemple. *Because it is a prone area*, M. le Vice-président.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. B/46.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
– TRAINING & STUDENT SPONSORSHIP SCHEME
– ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/LIST OF STUDENT

(No. B/46) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Vocational Training and Others whether, in regard to the development of human resources under the Training and Student Sponsorship Scheme, she will for the benefit of the House and table:-

- (a) the eligibility criteria to beneficiate therefrom; and
- (b) the list of student beneficiaries thereof from 2016 to date?

The Commissioner for Vocational Training and Others (Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of the question, in line with the actual Regional Government's will with access to tertiary education, with a view to encourage the development of high caliber professional in Rodrigues, the following schemes have been developed under the Training and Students Sponsoring Scheme as detailed below:

- The payment of registration and tuition fees;
- One off-grant for acquisition of laptop up to a maximum of Rs 20,000;
- Monthly financial assistance of Rs 4,000;
- Grant for lodging of Rs 1,000;
- One off-grant of Rs 5,000 or Rs 2,000 depending on family income to post-secondary and tertiary students for setting up fees at start of studies only; and
- Assistance Scheme for parents having more than one student studying at post-secondary or tertiary level.

The eligibility criteria regarding all the above mentioned schemes are being tabled.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with respect to part (b) of the question, I am also tabling the number of students that benefitted from the schemes from 2016 to date on a yearly basis as I consider it to be unethical to disclose the names of students in this August Assembly.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can we know from the Commissioner whether there are exceptional cases where student has benefitted two or three student sponsorships?

Mrs. M. R. F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I cannot recall the cases where we have students with different sponsorship. But student may

benefit from different schemes. This is normally possible. For example, payment of registration fees is for all students for the first year. One off-grant, it is for all students. You may be benefitting from registration and at the same time from financial assistance. So, one student may be the beneficiary of multiple schemes. But one student cannot have different sponsorship. This is not the same thing.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/47.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUS SHELTERS – SINCE 2017 TO DATE

(No. B/47) Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of bus shelters in Rodrigues since 2017 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table a detailed list thereof, their respective location and electoral region, indicating the:-

- (a) number constructed for the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019, respectively;
- (b) number scheduled for construction for financial year 2019/2020; and
- (c) their respective successful bidder and the total amount disbursed for each financial year, respectively?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, two bus shelters were constructed under my commission during financial year 2018/2019 at Grand Var. I would like to point out that tenders for the construction of 14 bus shelters were launched on two occasions through Open National Bidding in years 2018 and 2019 and both biddings exercises were unsuccessful as the lowest evaluated bid is substantially above the applicable cost estimate.

First bidding exercise, launching date - 28 October 2018. Closing date – 14 December 2018. Number of bids received – 1. Procurement exercise – cancel, in line with Section 39(1)(b) of the Public Procurement Act 2006, because the lowest evaluated bid is substantially above the applicable updated cost estimate.

Second exercise, launching date – 14 February 2019. Closing date – 18 March 2019. Number of bids received – 3. All bids were rejected once again, in line with

Section 39(1)(b) of the Public Procurement Act 2006. Because once again the lowest evaluated bid is substantially above the applicable cost estimate of the project.

I would like to add that tenders have been relaunched on 10th of May for the third time with closing date set on 13 June 2019.

As regards to part (b), for financial year 2019/2020 with project to construct some 25 bus shelters around the island.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Can we know from the Commissioner, if the village of/from Baladirou, la route from Baladirou to Mt. Limon, Ile Michel to Rivière Coco, Baie Topaze to Camp Pintade, Citronelle to Terre Rouge and Caverne Provert to Baladirou, these villages, these streets will have their bus shelters?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, may be to give some addition information as regards to the road from Rivière Coco to Songes. *Non*, from Rivière Coco to Songes, yes. Ile Michel, the fact that we are constructing the road there, we are coming up with layby and then we are going to carry ahead, to move ahead with the construction of the bus shelters. If we have... we have the projection for 25. But we are going ahead for 14 for the time being. Why? Because we do not simply want to build a bus shelter. Before building the bus shelter, the instruction that I have given to my commission is that we should come with bus layby first of all. Because we know of the danger as regards to road safety matters. So, this is why out of the 25, we have launched for 15, for 14 and we will come up for additional 11 because this week itself we have awarded the contract for road maintenance around the island and we will be in the possibility for constructing bus layby where it is not available. For example, along the road for Dans Bébé. If we are going to build a bus shelter as it is right now, it is going to be a danger. So, what we have to do first, we have to come up with construction of bus layby under the Road Maintenance Contract and then we have ample space for construction of the bus shelters. So, we have as far as possible repatriate the construction of the bus shelters around the island. We have some 25 and this has been equally distributed in the six regions of the island.

The Minority Leader: Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner, the average cost of one bus shelter?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Normally, I should not give it here. Because it is on tender stage then this can cause prejudice. It can amount from Rs 300 to Rs 500 depending upon the type of the bus shelter that are being constructed. Because as regards to topography, as regards to the positioning of the shelters, we

have different types. We can have ... Yes, Rs 500,000, thousand. Because we have steel, steel type and we have concrete type also. Like, if you are building it on *pilotis*, if it is found near ... Of course, we have bus shelter which are built on *pilotis*. In Baie aux Huitres, in Oyster Bay. Yeah, Acaccia.

[Interruption]

So, the price is going to vary depending upon the site and the survey of the... cadastral survey has been carried out.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/48, Mr. Deputy Chair.

2019 INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES EVENT - INFRASTRUCTURES

(No. B/48) **Mr. J. R. Augustin (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to the 2019 Indian Ocean Island Games Event to be held in Rodrigues, she will state where matter stands as at date regarding the state of the infrastructures in relation thereto?

The Commissioner for Sports and Others (Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, first of all, I would like to inform the House that the calendar of activities in connection with the organisation of the Indian Ocean Islands Games of 2019 in Rodrigues has been finalised. With the arrival of the “*La Flamme des Jeux*” on the 6th of July, the Judo Team Event on the 25th of July and the Semi-Marathon on the 26th of July 2019. Two sports infrastructures, namely; the Malabar Gymnasium for Judo competition and the Camp du Roi Stadium for Semi-Marathon are under renovation. In view of the organisation of the forthcoming games, that is, the “Jeux des Iles”. These are being funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports through the association for upgrading of Indian Ocean Islands Games, that is, the OGI. And then, under this organisation, the two main scopes of work for infrastructure among others are:

- The Camp du Roi Stadium;
- The construction of a new two-storeyed building in reinforce concrete which will house a new weight lifting room, refurbishment of toilets, offices and cloakroom, repair of leaking, roof silting and installing of new doors and windows, installation of a medical room amongst others;

- At Malabar Gymnasium removal of existing mats to be replaced by resilient practice mats compliant with competition's standards;
- Removal of naco frames to be replaced by aluminium windows;
- Upgrading of weight lifting room, painting works amongst others.

Madam Chair, as at 10 May 2019... Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the overall progress was 83% for both projects and the completion dates... Date was originally set for the 25th of May and has been reviewed to the 2nd of June 2019 as a result of cyclonic conditions that prevailed in the month of March 2019.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that with regard to the upgrading works at Camp du Roi, which consist of construction of new stands, cloak room and offices by my commission, works are ongoing and has reached some almost 60%. The House may be informed that the Semi-Marathon trial was organised in the stadium as the local where the final destination is. So, the Semi-Marathon was organised in the stadium to test the competition setting and context, of course.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. Concerning the Camp du Roi Stadium, we have been made to understand that they have 60%, almost 60% completed. Since a long time this has been going on, the work has been going on. Can we know whether we are on target and whether this will be completed before the Indian Ocean Islands Games? And, secondly can we know whether it is the same contractor that is working at Camp du Roi, is he the same contractor that was supposed to construct the Roche Bon Dieu Stadium?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, having following the course of progress of the work, contractual measures will be taken shortly.

The Minority Leader: The second question was whether we are on target, whether the same contractor, as the one who was supposed to construct Roche Bon Dieu, whether the same contractor, we are dealing with the same gentleman?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: Yes, this is common knowledge to everyone. It is the same contractor.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire concernant le logement des athlètes et des officiels, qu'en est-il pour les jeux des îles?

Mrs. M.R.L. Edouard-Ravina: With regard to lodging of athletes and officials, so since I think the Member is worried that there is no infrastructure for this that is built. The whole lot of English Bay and Caverne Provert guests houses and other tourists resorts have been called upon, visited and they have been requested to provide the necessary lodging and to the athletes and official delegations.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

Miss M. R. Collet: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. Question B/49.

**DISCUSSIONS HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER - POST CYCLONES
GELENA & JOANINHA – SERVICE OF CONTRACTORS/TYPES OF
HOUSE TARGETED/NO. OF HOUSES REPAIRED**

(No. B/49) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the outcome of the discussions held with the Honourable Prime Minister, if any, post cyclones Gelena and Joaninha, he will state and table, for the benefit of the House as regards the:

- (a) enlistment of the service of contractors to repair all damaged houses at the earliest;
- (b) type (s) of houses targeted;
- (c) number of houses repaired or currently being repaired and the respective amounts disbursed therefor as at date;
- (d) status of the elaboration of the modified housing scheme aiming owners of "Trust Fund Houses", highlighting the number of Trust Fund Houses targeted and the intended date of implementation of the said modified scheme?

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Regional Government has not remained insensitive to the plight of our cyclone victim compatriots, especially the most needy and who have genuinely suffered from loss of property. As Commissioner responsible for the

subject of housing, I chaired a first meeting immediately after Cyclone Gelena, on 12 February.

After a survey carried out by Social Security Officers to confirm declaration made by victims based on memos obtained from police stations, it was found that 65 housing units were severely damaged. Accordingly, at its meeting of 22 February 2019, the Executive Council has agreed with the following measures to redress the situation with regard to damaged houses following the passage of cyclone Gelena, *donc* as follows:

- (i) Persons whose corrugated iron sheet houses have been seriously or completely damaged and who possess proof of address such as utility bills or letter of intent will be granted a new concrete house of 35 m².
- (ii) For those who do not have proof of address will be granted a new CIS house of the same size of the damaged one with concrete sub-structure.

For Beneficiaries of Ex-Trust Fund Houses:

- (i) The CIS roof will be removed and a new flat concrete slab will be casted. New external columns and beams will be added, if required.
- (ii) Those who had CIS room added to their Trust Fund house and destroyed by cyclone will be granted materials for the reconstruction of the damaged room.

In line with this decision, a first meeting was held with the concerned beneficiaries... sorry.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, unfortunately, during the month of March Rodrigues was hit once again by a second cyclone, Joaninha that affected even more families than for Gelena. I chaired a meeting on the 2nd of April, and it was decided once again to survey all reported cases of damaged housing units.

Following the report submitted by officers of the Social Security Division, it is to be noted that 1,284 visits related to housing have been effected for both cyclones, out of which 201, have been found to be completely or seriously damaged and requiring urgent attention. It is further observed that the most common damages are related to the CIS roof of the so-called 'Trust Fund' housing unit. In line with this, the Executive Council has decided to hire the services of local carpenters, to

help redress the situation in a reasonable delay.

Following a radio communiqué broadcasted from 30 March to 01 April, 32 skilled carpenters responded positively and in parallel the services of a Consultant were hired to work out the cost estimate and propose repair plans. This initiative has been finalised, and we will kick-start the repairs in a matter of days.

With regard to part (b) of the question, corrugated iron sheet and Trust Fund CIS roofs houses are being targeted.

As regards to part (c) of the question, so far nine such houses have already been repaired by our in-house labour. And, delivery of construction materials for the repair of 70 Trust Fund house roofs have already started to enable carpenters mobilise their resources. A first batch of 32 beneficiaries have been receiving their materials since last week, and works are expected to be completed for all the 70 cases within one month. According to estimates, I am informed that the whole exercise may turn around Rs 5 m.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (d)... *Pardon*, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, as regards to part (d) of the question, I wish to inform the House that we have not waited for the cyclones to hit our island so as to work on new schemes for housing. In line with our vision '*ene fami ene bon la case*', as announced in the Budget Speech, my commission is actually working on a new scheme for the extension of Trust Fund houses. The extension will comprise the replacement of CIS roof by concrete slab, setting additional columns and reinforcement of walls to enable construction of a first floor and will include a full concrete kitchen, toilet and bathroom with the option of having an additional room. The scheme will be contributive based on the same principle as the new Social Housing Scheme.

However, being given that some households of very low income groups are unable to secure their contribution either from banks or from their own savings, following discussions with the Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth during his one day post-Joaninha visit to Rodrigues on Thursday 28 of March it was agreed to develop a new scheme for these category of households. The details of this scheme are being worked out jointly by officers of the RRA and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and will be finalised shortly for implementation. The project is targeting about 800 CIS and Trust Fund houses and will be spread over several financial years.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

Miss M. R. Collet: B/50.

**ISLAND CLEANING CAMPAIGN
- POST CYCLONES GELENA & JOANINHA
– NO. OF CLEANERS & SUPERVISORS/DURATION/ PRIVATE
LORRIES**

(No. B/50) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the whole island cleaning campaign carried out post cyclones Gelena and Joaninha, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table as regards the areas of Rodrigues targeted, indicating the:-

- (a) number of cleaners and supervisors recruited and/or engaged therefor;
- (b) duration thereof and remuneration of the cleaners/supervisors and stating the effectiveness of the campaign; and
- (c) number of private lorries hired?

The Commission for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is common practice that after the passage of any cyclone in Rodrigues, lots of green wastes are generated which was the case for Gelena and Joaninha. Emergency actions are taken immediately after the cyclone, and cleaning campaigns organised all around the island including roads, rivers, beaches, drains and other public areas.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, for a more efficient operation, the cleaning campaigns were organised as per the RCSS regions whereby human resources, machines and equipment were invested as decided at the Cyclone Committee chaired by the Chief Commissioner just after the cyclones. Officers of my commission coordinated the cleaning activities closely with the supervisors of Rod Clean.

For the cleaning campaigns, staff of Rod Clean involved were; one supervisor, one field supervisor, three supervisors, four drivers and 120 scavengers, who worked during normal and extra hours for one month after the cyclone.

Additionally, 100 workers were recruited on a contract basis for a period of one month following both cyclones. The recruitment was made by Rod Clean Ltd.

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from a priority list of 150 unemployed obtained from the Commission for Employment. These potential candidates were interviewed and a short list of 100 temporary workers were recruited on the 14th of February 2009. These workers were deployed in the three Rod Clean sections, that is, 33 in Port Mathurin, 34 in Mont Lubin and 33 at La Ferme.

Following cyclone Joaninha, the same 100 temporary workers were recruited again and on the 27th of March 2019 for an additional period of one month where they were deployed in the three sections as stated above. The duration of the cleaning was two months, that is, from 14th of February 2009 to 16th of March 2009 and from 28th of March 2009 to 27th of April 2019.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the breakdown of expenses, remuneration of Rod Clean employees and the temporary workers engaged in post Gelena and Joaninha campaign are as follows (I think this is important for the Members on the other side because they were looking for this information this morning):

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| • Transportation of wastes and cleaning services amounted to | - | Rs 1,876,482.98 |
| • Embellishment of the island and green waste management | - | Rs 836,758.28 |
| • Rapid intervention team | - | Rs 250,898.53 |
| • Post Gelena cleaning of Rodrigues | - | Rs 1,572,003.65 |

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with regard to part (c) of the question, it has been decided at the Disaster Committee to hire ten lorries for 15 days for the carting away of green wastes. The lorries used were chosen from a registered list already available at the Environment Unit of my commission.

In view of the huge amount of green waste noted along the roads, public beaches and public places and to be able to cope effectively with the cleaning campaigns, there needed to hire ten additional lorries to be able to cater for the cleaning activities. A radio communiqué was issued for this mentioned exercise and then a total of 32 more lorries were registered thereto. The lorries were distributed as per the RCSS reason, on a roster basis, whereas 20 lorries were in operations per day. A list of registered lorries involved in cleaning campaign is being tabled.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether there is any case reported to the ICAC concerning hire of lorries due to cleaning campaign of cyclone Gelena?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have been informed that one of the lorries owner was not happy the way the things have been done, so he went to the ICAC but that is all I know because this is something I cannot go into.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

Miss M. R. Collet: B/51.

BAN ON CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS - FALL ARMYWORM

(No. B/51) Miss M. R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether he will state and table, for the benefit of the House as regards his leadership of a delegation to Mauritius the week of the 22nd April 2019 so as to hold discussions with the Minister of Agriculture concerning the ban on certain agricultural products following the outbreak of the fall armyworm in Rodrigues and to provide the outcome(s) thereof?

The Commission for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have to inform the House that on the 6th of April 2019, my commission was informed by the Officer responsible of the National Plant Protection Office of the Ministry for Agro-Industry that in the wake of the incursion of the fall armyworm in Rodrigues, the following measures were being taken to control and manage the pest in order to prevent negative impact on the Mauritian Agricultural Economy.

A temporary restriction was imposed on the movement of all plants, plants parts and plants products from Rodrigues to Mauritius. Aircraft movement from Rodrigues to Mauritius was going to be regulated as well, whereby no flight departing Rodrigues was going to be allowed after 18.30 hours. And, that the doors of the aircraft had to be closed by 18.15 at latest. The movement of ships, vessels from Rodrigues to Mauritius was going to be regulated as well, whereby no ship, no vessel or craft was going to leave Rodrigues for Mauritius after 18.30 hours.

The restrictions imposed definitely had negative, social and economic impacts on farmers, exporters of plants products, the tourism sector, emergency cases which

had to be transported to Mauritius, and I can say on the whole population of Rodrigues. This is why, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, my commission took the bold decision following the approval of the Executive Council to help these planters by purchasing lemons and pumpkins which was available in abundance in Rodrigues at that period through the Rodrigues Trades and Marketing Company. In addition, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, in view of finding a solution to this problem, I personally led a delegation which comprise the Departmental Head of my commission, the Manager, Agricultural Research and Extension Services to Mauritius from the 22nd to 25th of April 2019, to negotiate with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I must say that we had a very fruitful meeting with the Minister of Agro-Industry and his staff together with a representative from the Ministry of Rodrigues who were not fully aware of the impact that the ban was having on the Rodriguan economy. Furthermore, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I made it clear that given that the fall armyworm was present both in Mauritius and in Rodrigues, it did not make any sense to impose such a restriction. They were also informed that a crisis committee was set up under my chairmanship to monitor the situation closely.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, after the meeting I was convinced that the ban was going to be removed. And, I would like to seize the occasion to thank the Minister of Agro-Industry who had understood the big problem that Rodriguans were facing mainly after the passage of two big cyclones, Gelena and Joaninha.

On the 26th of April, my commission was informed by the Ministry that the temporary ban on importation of fresh lemons only from Rodrigues has been lifted. For instance, exporters had to comply with certain conditions set by the Ministry before agro products were exported to Mauritius. Once week later on the 3rd of May 2019, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Cabinet decided to waive all restrictions which was imposed on Rodrigues. I must say, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that this was a big *soulagement* for the population of Rodrigues and even if a lot of people were saying that *mo pé ale Maurice et l'embargo pa pou levé*.

To conclude, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would like to thank all these people of good faith who have in one way or another help for the removal of the restriction imposed on Rodrigues because of the outbreak of the fall armyworm. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chair, I would like to take note that the respected Commissioner has thanked the Ministry for Agroindustry in Mauritius but one question I would like to ask him: prior to his delegation going to Mauritius to

negotiate, there has been the embargo. Can we know whether this, the decision to put the embargo on lemon, on pumpkin and even watermelon, was this taken unilaterally by the Ministry for Agriculture or was it done in consultation with your Ministry of Agriculture?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this decision was taken in Mauritius because... Yes, yes. I have to thank them because the first decision... there has been two decisions. The first decision was taken and then we intervened and then, it was... Why did I thank them? Why did I thank them? It is important for that as well. They had all the powers with regards to the act of 2006, they had all the powers to keep the ban, you know. So, the fact that they understood, after discussion with us, they understood. Yes, they understood that it was important.... It was important to remove the ban and they did it. So, why should I not thank them? I think we need... We need to.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, this is... I would have said a bad word again but...

[Interruptions]

Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/53, B/54, B/55, B/56, B/57, B/58 and B/59 have been withdrawn and there are four minutes left for question. Next question!

CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE PLAYGROUND – MARÉCHAL COLLEGE

(No. B/52) The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Miss M. R. Collet) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a multipurpose playground at Maréchal College, he will state and table on the status thereof, indicating the intended duration and costs of the said works?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as announced in my last budget, in line with the policy of my Government to provide quality education... to promote quality education and provide adequate sport facilities to both students and other users of the vicinity, I am informed that my Commission will proceed shortly with the launching of bids in connection with the construction of a multipurpose playground project at Maréchal College. The project aims to equip

the Maréchal College with Sports facilities, mainly for athletic events and comprise of the following facilities :-

- (i) a 200 m running track with 6 corridors
- (ii) long jump pitch
- (iii) shot put pitch
- (iv) changing rooms and toilets facilities; and
- (v) concrete stands

The proposed project is in line with the Nine Year Schooling concept as I am informed that there is a need to support the Physical Examination in Grade 10 & 11 in various fields such as football, athletics and other outdoor activities. *Combien minutes resté la?*

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: The total estimated construction cost of the projects is Rs.12 m. excluding VAT with a duration of six months as from start of construction works.

I wish to inform the House that the Executive Council at its meeting held on 19 April 2019, has approved that my Commission launches bid for this project as per master plan and scope of works submitted by the Consultant.

I am also informed that the Consultant is presently working on the finalisation of the tender documents for launching a bid shortly.

The Deputy Chairperson: Question time is over.

MECHANISATION OF LAND – CROP PRODUCTION PURPOSES

(No. B/53) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the mechanisation of land for crop production purposes, he will state:

- (a) the total land surface area rehabilitated since 2016 to date, specifying the mechanism applied;

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(b) the locations and respective surface area recovered per year, indicating:

- (i) the starting and completion dates of works;
- (ii) the procurement exercise preferred, the successful bidder and the sum disbursed, in each case; and

(c) the scope of works and the different operations carried out on field?

[Withdrawn]

TOURISM ENTERPRISE LICENSE UNIT

(No. B/54) The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Z. Félicité) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Tourism Enterprise License Unit, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of licenses issued since 2012 to date indicating the different types of licenses for Rodriguans and non-Rodriguans, including non-Mauritian citizens, respectively, if any; and
- (b) from when new measures for the allocation of tourism licenses as announced in his budget speech 2019/2020 will be made applicable?

[Withdrawn]

CONSOLIDATION OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

(No. B/55) The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Z. Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Employment and Others whether, in regard to the consolidation of the employment office as stated in the budget speech 2018-2019, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

[Withdrawn]

**TRAINING PROGRAM –
GREENWICH UNIVERSITY (PAKISTAN – MAURITIUS)**

(No. B/56) The Third Island Region Member (Mrs. M. T. Agathe) asked the Commissioner for Vocational Training and Others whether, in regard to the training program offered by Greenwich University (Pakistan – Mauritius) in collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, for the development of the Youth of Rodrigues starting from May 2019, she will state and table the:

- (a) number of candidates enlisted therefor;
- (b) participation/contribution of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in regard thereto; and
- (c) fees payment mechanism, if any, together with relevant certificates to be awarded?

[Withdrawn]

SHELTER FOYER MERE MARIE MADELEINE DE LA CROIX

(No. B/57) The Third Island Region Member (Mrs. M. T. Agathe) asked the Commissioner for Child Development and Others whether, in regard to the shelter Foyer Mère Marie Madeleine de la Croix located at Baladirou, she will state and table:-

- (a) the conditions of admission thereto;
- (b) the number of children admitted thereto since 2012, indicating their ages; and
- (c) if all the persons working thereat have had the proper training therefor?

[Withdrawn]

NINE YEAR CONTINUOUS SCHOOLING

(No. B/58) The Third Island Region Member (Mrs. M. T. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the nine year continuous schooling, he will inform the House:-

- (a) if the pilot coaching/mentoring project for the benefit of struggling secondary school students as mentioned in his budget speech 2018/2019 has already been implemented and, if so, to indicate the outcome thereof; and
- (b) on the measures taken or being envisaged by his Commission as regards students leaving college after Grade 9 without admission to the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development?

[Withdrawn]

**NEW-BORN BABIES REGISTERED
– MEASURES**

(No. B/59) The Third Island Region Member (Mrs. M. T. Agathe) asked the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others whether, in regard to new-born babies, she will inform the House of measures taken at the level of her Commission to ensure that all births in Rodrigues are duly registered in time, if any?

[Withdrawn]

CYCLONE GELENA - ACTIONS TAKEN FOR VICTIMS

(No. B/67) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to cyclone Gelena, he will state the actions that have been taken for the victims thereof and the amount of money spent in connection therewith as at date?

[Vide Reply PQ B 34]

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

PERIODE CYCLONIQUE - COMPENSATION

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

M. le Vice-président, permettez-moi de faire un *statement* sur comme a si bien dit le Chef commissaire ce matin, il parlait du fait que les Commissaires sont mieux placés pour parler des effets de dépenses encourus pour la période cyclonique en terme de compensation aux sinistrés. J'ai entendu ce matin pas mal de cris, comme s'il y a un *public outcry*, il y a des personnes qui ne sont pas payées, comment se fait les *surveys* et les compensations et pourquoi il y a des gens qui ne sont pas compensés. Permettez-moi de parler un petit peu de ma Commission par rapport à comment les dépenses, comment on a fait les dépenses par rapport aux cyclones, les deux cyclones qui sont passés. C'est vrai qu'il y a eu Rs35 millions qui a été mis à la disposition de l'Assemblée régionale mais il paraît que ce qu'on a entendu sur les réseaux sociaux un peu partout comme s'il fallait partager les sous, les Rs35 millions à chaque Rodriguais et chacun allait avoir Rs1000 je crois. Et normalement, nous comme un gouvernement responsable, on n'a pas partagé les sous. On donne à ceux qui sont dans le besoin, qui ont perdu vraiment.

Et c'est pourquoi, je vais expliquer pourquoi il y a eu des retards. Je vais commencer par l'agriculture. Et il y a eu pas mal d'enregistrement de planteurs qui ont perdu. Il y en a qui sont vrais. Il y en a beaucoup faux. Je vais donner le chiffre, les statistiques pour montrer pourquoi on a pris autant de temps et pourquoi on n'a pas fini de payer. Le Chef commissaire a dit ce matin qu'il y a de l'argent, environ Rs10-12 millions qui a été déjà payé mais qu'il y a une bonne partie pas payée encore et je vais vous donner les raisons pourquoi après. Donc, à ce jour, on a payé à 372 planteurs et 31 éleveurs la somme de environ Rs1.4 millions et il n'y a pas... beaucoup d'argent, il y a aussi quelque chose que beaucoup de personnes doivent comprendre que il y a l'argent qu'on paye directement, on a fini de payer, il y en a qui sont *committed*. Ça veut dire qu'on va payer, les procédures sont en cours, le payement sera fait mais il faut attendre un petit peu, un peu de patience. C'est pour ça.

On aurait pu dépenser les Rs35 millions le lendemain juste de Joaninha. On aurait pu. Pourquoi pas ? Un petit partage de Rs1000 par personne, 35000 personnes, ça fait Rs35 millions vite fait. Mais ce n'était pas ça notre but. Il faut bien dépenser les sous comme le Chef commissaire le dit tout le temps.... Il faut dépenser. Donc, ce qui a été *committed* au niveau de l'agriculture qu'on n'a pas payé encore mais qu'on va payer, c'est *committed*, il reste pour le côté de Gelena, environ 3.7, 150000, 59000. Pour Joaninha, 3.6 millions, 3.7 millions pour Gelena, 3.6 millions pour.... ce qui fait un total *commitment* d'environ 7.3 millions. Donc,

l'argent qui va être payé bientôt, cet argent, il y a beaucoup de personnes qui pensent que comme dans les budgets, on va retourner cet argent, soit on va retourner cet argent à Maurice soit on est en train de faire des trucs pour qu'on ne paye pas ces gens. Ce sera... Quel politicien qui ne sera pas content que tout le monde soit satisfait ?

Donc, on a eu beaucoup de problèmes, M. le Vice-président, par rapport à pourquoi, je vais expliquer maintenant pourquoi on n'a pas payé à temps, pourquoi il y a des gens qui attendent encore. C'est pourquoi tout simplement, je vais donner quelques chiffres qui vont peut-être être un peu alarmants. On parlait de l'enregistrement des... l'enregistrement à la police et un enregistrement au niveau de la Commission. Au niveau de la police, je vais vous dire pour les *crops* par exemple, pour les légumes et les plantations abimées par le cyclone Gelena. On a eu 822 enregistrements mais quand on est parti vérifier sur le terrain, il y avait que 404 qui étaient éligibles, qui étaient vrais. Donc, ce qui fait qu'on était d'accord qu'il y avait... on avait dit ça d'ailleurs dans le comité de crise qu'il fallait, que la police devait dire que les fausses déclarations, c'est punissable. Mais même si on a fait ça, il y a beaucoup de personnes qui sont venues enregistrer. Au niveau de *livestock*, 538 personnes étaient enregistrées mais il y avait seulement 42 cas *genuine* qu'il fallait payer. Ce qui fait pour les *crops*, il y a 408 personnes qui sont venues enregistrer mais qui étaient fausses.

Pour le *livestock*, 496 personnes et pour les infrastructures, c'est-à-dire, les parcs, les trucs au niveau de l'agriculture, il y avait 87 personnes qui étaient venues fausses, c'est-à-dire 248 sont venues enregistrer à la police et seulement 151 vrais. Et ce qui fait ces 991 cas de fausses et ces 991 cas, on a dû visiter. Vous imaginez ? Là, je parle que de Gelena. Que de Gelena, 991 cas de fausses. Maintenant, je prends Joaninha. Au niveau *crop*, 1281. Même si on venait passer par le cyclone, les gens sont revenus, les mêmes personnes sont revenues, 1281 cas enregistrés pour *crop*. Seulement 803 là-dedans qui étaient payables, ce qui fait 478 cas fausses. Pour *livestock*, 487 enregistrements, 171 *genuine*, ce qui fait 313 cas fausses. Et pour les infrastructures, 109 enregistrés, 94 *genuine* dont 15 cas de fausses, ce qui fait 806 cas de fausses pour Joaninha. Et si on met les deux ensembles dans cette petite période, ça fait 1797 cas qu'on a visités et qui sont fausses.

Donc, avant de payer... Je viens pour les bateaux après. Là, je parle que de l'agriculture. Donc, il fallait payer mais on ne paye pas comme ça. Si on suivait les principes qu'il fallait payer tous ces gens comme on a dit de l'autre côté, il y a tous ces gens qui ont enregistré à la police. Nous, on aurait pu « fait » fausses de payer 1797 personnes. Donc, une fois qu'on a vu qu'il y a pas mal de fausses, il fallait bien faire

le travail, donc, c'est pour ça que j'ai pris la décision de parler de ça parce que je pense que c'est très important de dire pourquoi. Mais les gens, beaucoup de personnes ont été payées. J'ai dit, j'ai donné la liste. Parmi ces gens, et là, il y a toute une question de principes, procédures pour faire les paiements. Je ne parle pas des petits trucs qui sont... Je parle que des statistiques qui sont... Je parle que des statistiques qui sont vraiment... Au niveau, ce qui... Pourquoi il y a des faux aussi, il faut savoir. Je vais expliquer pourquoi. Il y a des critères à respecter. Si une personne avait perdu un *pié* de banane, on ne le paye pas pour un *pié* de banane. Mais il y avait des critères bien établies approuvées par le Conseil exécutif pour « le » compensation.

Pour les bœufs, il y a eu beaucoup de personnes qui ont déclaré des animaux perdus : 100 moutons ! Mais oui, il n'y avait pas mais pourtant, sur papier, il y avait. Sur papiers, il y avait 100 moutons perdus et quand les... C'est pour ça qu'on a fait venir même vu qu'il n'y a pas assez de vétérinaires à Rodrigues. On a fait venir deux vétérinaires. La volonté est là pour faire, pour aider à ce que le travail soit fait vite. Le premier paiement était fait deux semaines après mais après, on a callé parce que ce n'était pas bien fait. C'était... Il y avait beaucoup de faux. J'espère que ce que je dis aujourd'hui reste dans les annales de l'Assemblée, dans les *Hansards* pour que demain, on arrive à trouver une solution à ça. Après chaque cyclone, il y a beaucoup de personnes qui vont enregistrer faux à l'Assemblée.

Donc, c'est les chiffres qui sont là que je peux *table* l'Assemblée même si j'ai écrit un peu dessus. Je peux vous donner. Je *table* la liste. Je *table* la liste. Pas de souci. Je ne sais pas si c'est faisable mais je le fais. Je *table*. *Penan problème lor la*. Il y avait des catégories. Il y avait des critères à respecter. Mais pour les poules, pour les poules par exemple, on payait même plus. On remboursait même plus ce qui était supposé. Une personne qui a perdu 10, un à 10, un à 10, on lui donnait 15. Même s'il avait perdu deux poules, on lui donnait 15. Pour ceux qui perdaient 12 poules, qui dépassaient les 10, dans 10 et 25, on remboursait 30. Pour ceux qui perdaient entre 25 et 50, on remboursait 75. Pour ceux qui perdaient 50-50 et 75, on leur donnait 100 et pour ceux qui perdaient plus que 100, on leur donnait 125 petits poules.

Donc, la volonté est là pour aider ces gens à refaire, à remonter la pente. Mais pour la végétation aussi, il y avait toute une... des critères qui étaient mises en places qu'il fallait respecter. Les *mixed vegetables*, il fallait que ce soit 200m² de perdu. Si on perd un petit.... Mais je dois dire, M. le Vice-président, que quand même, j'ai été impressionné par une personne. Je ne vais pas dire son nom ici. Je n'ai pas le droit, je crois, mais une personne qui avait pendant la visite du Premier ministre

qu'on a visité qui avait perdu, qu'on avait vu constater beaucoup de melon d'eau. J'étais là, beaucoup de melon d'eau perdu et quand le Premier ministre... C'était la première personne qu'on devait payer parce que le Premier ministre était là. Quand le Premier ministre lui a dit, il faut demander, il dit : « *Non, non, bondié ine pren, penan probleme* ». Je vais reprendre la pente.

Donc, ça, c'est les vrais Rodriguais. J'espère qu'il y en a encore beaucoup comme ça que je ne crois pas trop mais je pense qu'il y en aura encore dans l'avenir des Rodriguais comme ça. Maintenant, je veux prendre le... Je vais aller du côté des bateaux. Les bateaux, M. le Vice-président, au niveau de Gelena, la perte au niveau de *Fisheries*. Là aussi, au niveau de bateau, il y avait 120 bateaux, ceux qui été enregistrés après le cyclone, 120 bateaux, *damaged boats*. Mais c'était classifié en catégories. Il y avait des bateaux qui étaient cassés complètement, qui devaient être remboursés complètement. Il y a des bateaux qui étaient cassés partiellement. Il y en a d'autres qui étaient cassés, ce qu'on appelle *slightly*. Donc, trois catégories. Donc, dans les catégories de *damaged completely*, il y avait 53. Dans catégories *damaged partially*, c'était 39 et *slightly*, 23. Et à ce jour, on a payé une maudite somme de Rs1775000 aux personnes propriétaires des bateaux endommagés. Il y a 24 qui vont être payés bientôt. Je vais arriver là-dessus, Madame. Ne vous pressez pas, Madame le...

Il y a 24 propriétaires de bateaux qui attendent le paiement. C'est pour ça je disais, le Chef commissaire disait *committed*. Il y en a 24 qui vont être payés une modique somme de Rs600000 bientôt mais qu'est-ce qui s'est passé, M. le Vice-président, par rapport aux bateaux ? Là aussi, il y a eu faux. Là aussi, il y a eu faux. Il y a eu beaucoup de bateaux qui sont... qui étaient. Là, on devait... Au niveau... Quand on a remarqué qu'il y avait des choses qui n'étaient pas faites comme il fallait, on a dû mettre un autre comité en place pour repasser, révérifier tous ces bateaux pour être sur. Et là, on a remarqué qu'il y avait 16 cas qui pouvaient être payés. Oké, dernièrement là et ma Commission, mes officiers ont mis des cas ce qu'on appelle *doubtful*. Ça, on n'est pas sur.

Quand on a regardé le bateau, on a dit, il y a des bateaux qui se trouvent au milieu de la terre, pas même au bord de la mer mais cassés depuis longtemps mais qui étaient enregistrés dans le truc. Ce qui fait qu'il faut faire attention. C'est pour ça. On aurait pu payer tous ces bateaux, pas de problème, ça aurait été un plaisir pour moi en tant que Commissaire de la pêche dire : *hou ! fini ek sa*. Mais non, mais non, on ne peut pas faire ça. Je pense que c'est la même chose pour les autres officiers : sécurité sociale et je pense que l'infrastructure publique surement pour les maisons cassées, pour les trucs, des personnes qui viennent enregistrer *ene vitre*

cassé depuis. Il faut peut-être retravailler sur les critères pour voir tout ça. Donc... Mais nous, moi, je dois... Moi, je suis fier en tant que Commissaire de l'agriculture et de la pêche que le travail a été bien fait.

Jusqu'à maintenant, il n'y a personne qui pourra venir nous montrer du doigt qu'on a mal fait le travail. Et je tiens à remercier mes officiers pour tout le travail accompli et là, je reviens à ce qu'a dit le Chef commissaire ce matin : les Commissaires sont les mieux placés pour expliquer ce qui s'est passé. Tout ce que j'ai expliqué, le Chef commissaire pouvait pas expliquer ce matin, d'où l'importance que vous venez avec d'autres questions supplémentaires dans l'avenir pour qu'on puisse... pour les autres Commissaires puissent vous expliquer exactement ce qui s'est passé. J'ai pris un petit peu de temps mais je pense que c'était très important pour moi de mettre sur... *on record* comment l'argent qui a été donné à la Commission pour payer les sinistrés des deux cyclones, comment ces personnes-là ont été compensés.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chairperson : Commissioner for Youth.

OUTCOME AND PERFORMANCE OF ATHLETES

The Commissioner for Youth and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina):
Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with your permission, I would like to highlight outcome and performance of our athletes in different recent competitions at high level. Mr. Deputy Chair, on the fourth of... the 4th International Meeting of Morocco 2019, one coach, Mr. Fabrice Ramsamy and two athletes from the mentally handicapped Regional Sports Committee namely, Eddy Capdor and Brigilla Clair participated in the 4th International Meeting of Morocco from 21st to the 28th of April 2019. The result has been outstanding with a total yield of four gold medals as per information received from the mentally handicapped federation, Mr. Malepa, Eddy Capdor obtained three gold medals in 100-200 and long jump respectively. Brigilla Clair received the gold medal in shotput.

Following this competition, Miss Brigilla Clair has obtained her qualification for the World Championship of Mentally Handicapped Sports and the Paralympic Games. It is worth mentioning that Eddy Capdor has missed the qualification minima in long jump by only 7cm but I think that he will do better next time. We are also informed by the federation that the two athletes are now officially classified as mentally handicapped athletes that will allow them to participate in all national

and international competitions. They are indeed the two, the first two Rodriguan handicapped athletes to be certified as such in view of congratulating the athletes and in recognition of their outstanding performances, a welcome ceremony was held at the airport on their arrival on the 02 May. This excellent result bears testimony of the policy of my Commission and the Regional Government to give the maximum support to the development of handicapped sports in Rodrigues.

With regards to *Jeux des Iles*, Mr. Deputy Chair, I am pleased to inform the House that 147 athletes participated in seven disciplines namely athletics, judo, football, boxing, volleyball, basketball and handball for the *Jeux des Jeunes Elites* and the outcome of this was very interesting, the *tableau de médailles* is as follows: 23 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 20 bronze medals. In addition to the above, the following performance of athletes... Following the performance of our athletes, Rodrigues has been proclaimed best region in athletics, handball and volleyball. The list of best athletes is as follows:

Judo:

Lewis Bégué

Handball:

Adel Stevenson Madelon – best scorer

Damien Luc Yoan Felicite – most promising player

Macy Jonissa Botsar – most promising player

In the volleyball sector, Cedric Jolicoeur was declared the best player. A special gathering in favour of the athletes and officials will be organised in the month of June. With regards to the pre-selected athletes of the Indian Ocean Islands Game to Mauritius, 10 volleyball players, that is six men and four women and two basketball players have joined the national selection as from mid April 2019 in Mauritius for team consolidation and team building. This has been made possible through the collaboration between the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through my Commission whereby the cost of air tickets, a daily stipend of Rs 100 to each athlete and the allocation of Rs 1500 to pre-selected athletes were made possible and available to the pre-selected athletes by the Commission for Youth and Sports.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport is making the cost of accommodation and is also providing a monthly allowance of Rs4000 to the athletes during their stay in Mauritius. My Commission has facilitated the release of all these athletes and recently, we have had the boys who have gone to Thailand for further training and

tomorrow, the girls will be heading to Thailand for further training and to deserve their seat in the national selection. With regards to Judo, I am pleased to inform the House that nine judokas obtained their selection for the games. They are already in Mauritius and are participating in judo competition and training camps organised by the different competent authorities. The last competition in which they participated was in South Africa April last. It is also worth noting that the Commission participated financially in this journey to South Africa. We also note with much satisfaction the coming back of Miss Christianne Legentil after her injury and we wish her good luck for the coming games.

With regards to boxing, Mr. Deputy Chair, Mr. Mervin Clair, 52kg and Fleurot Louis, 69kg participated in the St Petersburg Governor Cup in Russia from the 06 to the 12 May 2019 last. Mervin Clair won the silver medal and Fleurot Louis won the bronze medal in their respective categories. In the field of kitesurf, Mr. Luc Dranny Clair, one of the pre-selected kitesurf of the games will participate in the first African beach games from the 13 to the 24 June 2019 in Cape Verde this year. Rodrigues is taking charge of the air tickets on the route Rodrigues/Mauritius and back. The Mauritius Yachting Association will fund the airfares on the route to Cape Verde, Mauritius and back and the organising committee at Cape Verde will cater for his accommodation. This competition will increase his chances of winning medals in *Jeux des Iles* prochain. To note that the list of selected athletes “are” being known progressively and the estimated number has reached almost 50, almost 50. I wish good luck to all athletes. I wish them an...

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, I am listening to my colleague but on the other side, there are noisy people.

[Interruptions]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Members, please, this is not allowed in sitting position.

The Commissioner for Youth and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I wish good luck...

The Chief Commissioner: *Mo pou fer toi danse touni.*

[Interruptions]

/UNREVISED/

The Commissioner for Youth and Others (Mrs M. R. Edouard-Ravina): That is a really good one. That is a really good one.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of order, this is unparliamentary and unacceptable. The Chief Commissioner dir moi *li pou fer moi mars touni ? Etoi !*

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: I remove what has been said.

The Commissioner for Youth and Others: *Ayo, zot ava cessé.* So, I guess the reaction is due to the whole *tableau de médaille* that I am presenting here. So, I have an ending line. I wish good luck and outstanding performances to all our athletes. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair.

[Applause]

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly does now adjourned to Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

The Minority Leader: *Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson.* Je voudrais... Le sujet que je voudrais parler aujourd'hui concerne le Commissaire de l'Environnement. *We do not want to be wise after the event* mais plutôt être *wise before the event*. Il y a des changements qui s'opèrent dans le monde auxquels Rodrigues aura à payer un lourd tribut. Cela concerne le changement climatique. C'est connu que la fonte des glaces, la fonte des glaciers dans l'Himalaya, dans Groenland, dans l'Antarctique, c'est en train d'accélérer le processus de la montée des eaux et Rodrigues n'est pas épargné. D'ailleurs, nous en ressentissions les effets. Nous voyons qu'il y a l'érosion des plages. Inexorablement, nos plages sont en train

d'être érodés, nos routes sont en train d'être affectées même le millenium square. On voit marrée haute, l'eau de mer gagne du terrain. Et le plus grave concernant nos vallées, nos vallées, c'est là où se trouve les terres les plus fertiles à Rodrigues.

Vous avez à Rivière Bananes, à Rivière Cocos, différentes vallées, la montée des eaux, l'infiltration de l'eau de mer, ça va affecter la survie même de nos agriculteurs. Les plages sont en train d'être érodés. Nous aurions aimé savoir s'il y a des *mitigation measures* qui « est » prises par le Gouvernement régional, s'ils sont en train de prendre cela en considération, s'ils vont venir plus tard avec des.... ou si le Commissaire peut le faire maintenant pour savoir quelles sont les mesures pour protéger notre littoral, pour protéger nos plages. Parce que le touriste vient ici surtout pour nos plages mais si nos plages sont érodées, ce sera un manque à gagner terrible pour notre pays. Donc, j'aurais aimé que cela aille dans le *Hansard* et essayer de demander au Gouvernement régional de se réveiller, d'essayer de trouver des *mitigation measures*, de prendre des *mitigation measures*, de prendre des mesures appropriées afin de protéger notre île et protéger ses habitants, protéger notre économie surtout du côté touristique et du côté agricole. Merci, M. le Vice-président.

[Applause]

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MINORITY LEADER

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee):
M. le Vice-président, je suis parfaitement d'accord avec ce qui a été dit le *Minority Leader*. On sait que le changement climatique malheureusement est en train de nous affecter. C'est visible, d'ailleurs mais on a le problème que... Le problème qu'on a, c'est que nos récifs sont en danger aussi. En tant que plongeur, je peux vous dire qu'il y a pas mal de... il y a le blanchiment de coraux. Vu que le récif n'est pas en bonne santé, les vagues vont forcément monter plus haut. Le *Minority Leader* a demandé est-ce qu'il y a des *mitigation measures*, oui. Il y a pas mal de plans qui est en train d'être mises en place. Il y a à Grand Baie, par exemple, on est en train de refaire, remettre un peu de sable pour le moment et en même temps, il y a un ingénieur qui va venir bientôt de *Beach Authority* que je viens de contacter quand j'étais à Maurice pour forcément venir nous guider là-dessus. Il y a pas mal de plans qui est en place pour contrôler mais malheureusement, on ne pourra pas arrêter. J'aurais tant aimer pouvoir arrêter le changement climatique mais comme l'a si bien dit le *Minority Leader*, le... *mitigation measures*, c'est très important. Qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire pour diminuer l'impact du changement climatique ? On travaille

là-dessus et je suis d'accord avec lui qu'il faut faire quelque chose pour protéger nos plages.

ECLAIRAGE DES ROUTES

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le Vice-président, j'aimerais parler de l'éclairage des routes. C'est vrai qu'on a été visité par des cyclones. Rodrigues est presque dans le noir à Port Mathurin. Donc, avec l'arrivée de l'hiver, donc, il est important que nos routes puissent être éclairé. Mais en ce moment, malheureusement, on voit que les routes ou bien tous les autres endroits ne sont pas éclairés. Je sais qu'il y a un problème mais je vais faire un appel au Commissaire de voir au plus vite comment faire pour résoudre ce problème. Je sais qu'il y a une équipe à la Commission mais ne serait-il pas possible de ou bien *contract out* ou bien demander de l'aide de Maurice pour qu'on puisse résoudre ce problème ? Bon, c'est une question de sécurité routière aussi parce que dans les virages des fois, c'est dangereux. Il faut que ce soit éclairé surtout pour les piétons. Donc, je fais un appel au Commissaire et surtout, M. le Vice-président, c'est que le Gouvernement continue à payer au CEB le *monthly payment* par l'an. Donc, il y a des endroits qui sont *metered* mais il y a des endroits qui ne sont pas *metered*. Donc, le Gouvernement continue à décaisser de l'argent, continue à payer pour des lampes qui ne s'allument pas. Donc, j'aimerais juste attirer l'attention là-dessus et en même temps, voir comment le Commissaire, comment il peut accélérer les choses pour résoudre ce problème. Merci.

[Applause]

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR. GRANDCOURT

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I should say that following Cyclone Genela and Cyclone Joaninha, a survey was carried out by my Commission and it was found that about 75%, 75-80% of our street lightings were damaged or somehow affected by the violent winds. We have already established a programme to remediate the situation. In fact, we had.... Before the cyclone, we were proceeding with the installation of additional street lightings and in the store, we had some 150-200 street lightings which are already procured for installation on new sites. Nevertheless, with the passage of the cyclone, these street lightings have been completely used up. We have launched tenders for additional 200 and I have been informed this week itself, that we are going to get 200 additional street lightings to compensate for the lost that have occurred during the cyclone

Gelena and Joaninha. *Donc*, I expect that we are going to move ahead with the purchase of additional 500 in order to replace those which have been affected.

It is true that when I see the programme of work that have been established, we are repairing some 35 to 40 lamps per day and I, myself, I am not satisfied with the rate, the speed at which this is going. I contacted the CEB personally, Mr. Kevin Waterstone and I requested that additional help be given to us. In fact, we wanted the team of the SMF from Mauritius to give us a helping hand in the reestablishment of our street lighting but unfortunately, I was told that they have to move back to... embark to Mauritius. The difficulty that we are having is that we have only one... how do we say, one lift and this is causing much prejudice to our system. So, this has given us thought that we have to purchase another one so that we can proceed with the reestablishment of additional, of our street lighting whenever there is... we are affected. But I can ensure the Member that we are doing all our best. Unfortunately, I am told also that we have damaged street lightings but unfortunately, there is also damage in the... electricity system itself because you will see that if there is one lamp or two lamps which is not lighted at night, this means that there is particular problem with that light but if there is a whole series of lamps which is... this means that there is a problem with the network or there is a problem with the solar switch. So, we are moving ahead and we have given instruction so that we remedy the situation. I do agree that this represents a problem of road safety and also, it can lead also to social problems. So, we will take the matter at best.

LATENESS IN SCHOOL

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. *Donc*, moi, je vais intervenir sur le problème de *lateness* des étudiants à l'école, des collèges surtout. Nous savons que... Bon, après tout, le passage du cyclone etc. etc. les étudiants actuellement font face à des retards considérables au niveau des collèges de Rodrigues. *Donc*, les bus ne sont pas à l'heure ou c'est trop rempli etc. *Donc*, il y a ce souci là. Ce problème là a été soulevé dans le passé mais il y a eu des mesures correctives. *Donc*, là, je fais un appel pressant au *Deputy Chief Commissioner which is responsible also for transport* parce que le problème perdure. *Donc*, il est absolument important de prendre les taureaux par les cornes et de résoudre une fois pour toute ce problème de *lateness in school* parce que ça affecte non seulement la rentrée des classes etc. mais ça affecte tout le système éducatif alors qu'il faudra voir un peu comment améliorer ce problème là dans ce sens et par la même occasion, il y a des endroits qui ne sont pas desservis par exemple là, je parle dans la région où nous sommes.

Nous travaillons tous les deux dans la région 4. Les élèves qui marchent depuis Jardin Mamzelle jusqu'à Ti Reserve ou de L'Union jusqu'à Ti Reserve pour aller attraper le bus pour aller au collège. Il faut absolument que ces élèves là soient prisent en considération, mettez « une » van à leur disposition pour que... Et surtout en hiver là, surtout en hiver. Donc, je me souviens qu'à un moment donné, le Commissaire Roussety avait annoncé qu'il allait construire 600 km de *track road*. Et malheureusement, le 600 km est passé à 250 à 300. La route, les 200 mètres qui manquent, il faut absolument construire ces 200 mètres là pour que ces jeunes qui vont jusqu'à Jardin Mamzelle un petit peu plus au bas soient desservis directement par un transport pour qu'ils puissent les ramener le matin, le soir en revenant de l'école. Merci, Monsieur.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR. PERRINE

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, whenever we have complaints about problem of latenesses of students reaching school, the NTA normally carries a survey and monitor the matter in the morning. I should say since the start of the second term, I have not received so far any official complaint as such though some persons have told me that there is a problem with Maréchal College, mainly Maréchal College. This is what I have been told but the issue of redressing such situation, it is quite complex in the sense that we have a limited number of buses. I think our bus fleet amounts to 75 to 80. So, whenever there is a breakdown, we do not have the possibility of taking another bus from another route to compensate for that.... What we do in the Commission normally, we even take buses, we even grant special licence to buses which are off the road. Even if they are above 20 years old, we do grant them special permits for one month or two months just to compensate them for that period of time that the bus was supposed to be working.

As regard to Jardin Mamzelle, I should say that it is one of the village where students are not benefitting from the free transport facilities. Even those students who are coming from... who are going to Le Chou College or attending Oyster Bay Government School, they are not profiting from the transport facilities and I consider this even myself as a discrimination against them. I personally had a meeting with the Committees, with the villagers upon construction, completion of the construction of the road which is ongoing right now, we are going to do our utmost best to provide them with transport, free transport facilities as is the case for students who are coming from Soupir to Montagne Charlot or from L'Union to Montagne Charlot. So, this, I can assure the Member with respect to them. So, any case of latenesses caused by indiscipline of bus owners is taken promptly by my Commission.

In fact, we are going to have this coming Friday, the Rodrigues Transport Committee who is going to sit and who is going to take disciplinary action against those owners who are late in their schedule. But nevertheless, you will agree with me that we are somehow blocked in the sense that we have limited number of buses and if we happen to take disciplinary action and take them off the road, that does not solve our problem. So, this is why even if sometimes, they infract the rules and regulation as per said schedule, what we have to do, we have to wait for the coming vacation to apply the disciplinary actions. This is how... On the other hand, you could have said, you could have... you can ask me why is it that we do not increase the number of buses. That would have been a solution but we should also assess the economic impact that this is going to have on the bus owners. Already, they are saying that they are running at a lost. Maybe we will have to carry a survey to know really if there is a... They say that they are running at a lost. *Donc*, increasing the number of licences. In fact, we are improving. We are adding two additional. We are adding two additional: one for Soupirs and one for Grand Baie, two additional bus route has been advertised, it is already being advertised. But we have to see also what impact this is going to have on the bus owners before we grant any additional road service licence. Thank you very much.

VILLAGE DE FOND LA DIGUE

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Merci, M. le Vice-président. Je voudrais intervenir concernant le village de Fond La Digue où quand il y a des grosses pluies et même pendant les passages de Gelena et Joaninha, les murs de soutènement, les murs qui empêchent l'eau de rentrer chez les gens. Ces murs-là « a » été endommagés et même pendant les grosses pluies, il y a beaucoup de terre qui descendent vers la mer et les gens se sentent un peu pas en sécurité quand il y a des grosses pluies. Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Commissaire qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire justement pour régler la situation des villageois de Fond La Digue. Merci.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR. AUGUSTIN

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : In fact, Madam... Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we had a problem with Fond La Digue uphill. I personally, I visited the site and we have launched tenders three times for the construction of drains but unfortunately, the tenders have not been responsive. I think that the tenders for Fond La Digue Drainage System uphill is already... is on right now and let us hope that this time, we are going to have a good result as regard to the different bidders. Thank you.

The Deputy Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 15.13 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising adjourned to Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WATER PRODUCTION – DESALINATION

(No. B/60) The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to water production through desalination in the eastern region of Rodrigues, he will inform the House on where matters stand, giving details about how this infrastructure will improve distribution on the whole region?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the project for the seawater desalination plant at Pointe Coton is almost completed. The design capacity of the plant is 1000 m³ of potable water per day. The commissioning of the plant has started on the 6th of May by the contractor under the supervision of our consultant and is expected to be completed on the 15th of May.

The operation of the plant will considerably improve the water supply in the eastern region which was being supplied with water from Mourouk and Rivière Banane.

Madam Chairperson, the treated water will be pumped from Pointe Coton to Mt Piquant reservoir, Grenade reservoir and Roche Bon Dieu reservoir. Furthermore, a pumping station is under construction at Roche Bon Dieu to convey the water further up to Petit Brule/Coromandel reservoir and thus covering more consumers.

With this reliable water supply from Pointe Coton Desalination plant, a new programme of water distribution is being established with objective to ensure water supply once weekly in line with the policy of the Regional Government as announced by the Chief Commissioner in his “Discours Programme”. 35 villages involving approximately 2800 families will be directly concerned with this new distribution programme.

I would like to add that consequently, water from Petit Brule reservoir coming from Mourouk will no longer be distributed only to the eastern part of the Island. The corresponding excess amount of water which was usually being distributed to the villages in the East will be transferred to other regions thereby improving water distribution in the rest of the Island.

Madam Chairperson, it is worth noted that with the commissioning of the new desalination plant of Songes producing 500 m³ of potable water daily since November last year and the forthcoming operation of the plant at Baie Malgache which will produce an additional 1000m³ of water per day, I am confident that my Commission will fully achieve the objective of weekly water distribution most villages around the island this year.

FIBRE TO HOME CONNECTION – RODRIGUES

(No. B/61) The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunication and Others whether, in regard to fibre to home connection in Rodrigues, she will inform the House of the works that are being undertaken by her Commission or any other partner since the landing of the optic fibre cable at Grand Baie in November 2018 and to indicate the timeframe under which the whole population will fully take advantage of this infrastructure?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with respect to Question B/61, I am informed that a contract was awarded to the Mauritius Telecom Ltd for procurement of Internet Connection Bandwidth services through Undersea Fibre Optic cable from Mauritius to Rodrigues island on 18 November 2017 for the contract amount of US Dollar Forty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Four and Six Hundred and Ninety-Four (USD 44, 784, 694) excluding VAT.

The successful bidder should take into account among others of the following minimum requirements as follows:

- (i) A dedicated undersea fibre optic cable with a minimum design of 32 wavelengths consisting of at least 100 Gbps per fibre pair. The system shall initially be quipped to provide at least 100 Gbps; and
- (ii) Provide the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with an internet connection bandwidth capacity of 100 Gbps in a first instance.

The contract of period is for the provision of a minimum internet connection bandwidth of 500 Gbps over a period of 20 years and the successful bidder shall arrange to provide internet connection bandwidth within 24 months from letter of award.

Madam Chairperson, in that context, I am further informed that the Fibre to home connection in Rodrigues is thus a project undertaken by Mauritius Telecom to offer high-speed internet connectivity to its customers. Since the landing of MARS in November 2018 at Grand Bay in Rodrigues, the company has undertaken the necessary infrastructural works to bring connectivity to its customers and same were scheduled to be completed in May 2019.

However, Madam Chairperson, with the two cyclones namely Gelena in February and Joaninha in March which hit Rodrigues consecutively, the project has been delayed and is thus rescheduled as per information obtained from the Mauritius Telecom to be completed by the end of July 2019.

Madam Chairperson, I am also informed that the Central Electricity Board (CEB) FiberNet, a Telecommunication National Service provider which is a hundred (100) percent subsidiary company of the CEB has expressed interest to implement a Metro Ethernet (MSTP) Optical Transmission net work in Rodrigues shortly to provide wholesale data services.

SECOND PHASE – SURVEY ON CERVICAL CANCER – RODRIGUES

(No. B/62) The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the second phase of the survey on cervical cancer in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state briefly the major observations and recommendations resulting therefrom and to table a copy of any report thereon?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the Rodrigues Cervical Cancer Screening Project is being conducted in Rodrigues by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in collaboration with my Commission.

The main objective of the Project is to make early detection of cervical cancer among married or sexually active Rodriguan women aged 30 to 60 years in order to

reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and minimize prevalence of death and human suffering.

The specific objectives are:

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

The project is being carried out in four phases over a period of twelve months. The first phase was completed in March/April 2018 where screening exercise was carried out at Mont Lubin, Grand Montagne, Anse aux Anglais and La Ferme in April/May 2018. 1,172 women were screened out of 1,240 invited, with a response rate of 94.4%.

The second phase was undertaken in September 2018 wherein 1051 women were screened. The findings are as follows:

- ❖ 27 cases (2.57) showed a borderline changes/ascus/agus . It might be due to inflammation, as a result of repair or even due to atrophic changes in relation to age.
- ❖ 7 cases (0.67%) were detected with mild dyskaryosis which mean that the tissue of the cervix is reproducing much faster than normal. This is not cancer but does have some pre-malignant potential.
- ❖ 18 cases (1.71%) were found to have severe dyskaryosis which is not a cancer. The immature cell has started growing faster but is not causing any invasion. Necessary treatment and biopsy need to be provided to diagnose and treat the condition to reduce further progression to malignancy. When a patient is diagnosed with cervical lesions like mild moderate and severe dyskaryosis, it will not be ideal to call this reporting as cancer but if necessary action is not taken it can ultimately lead to cancer.
- ❖ 153 women (14.55%) were detected with candida infection/inflammation. Inflammation of the cervix is a common condition and may be caused by vaginal infection, that is, certain sexually transmitted diseases, infection

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with human papilloma virus or trauma. These cases have been referred to hospital/Area Health Centres for treatment.

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

❖ 29 women (2.76 %) inadequate specimen.

❖ The results of 817 women (77.73 %) were normal/negative.

Gynaecologist from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was in Rodrigues from 03 to 06 May 2019 to examine those women found with abnormal results and to provide early treatment as appropriate.

Madam, Chairperson, it has been observed that Candida infection/Inflammatory is the major cervical problem in women, in Rodrigues. Appropriate treatment and follow-up action is very important in view of preventing any possible development of cancer.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) remains one of the main cause of cervical cancer worldwide and in Rodrigues also. It is recommended by the World Health Organisation that HPV vaccine which has already started in Rodrigues be administered to all girls, aged 09 to 13 yrs.

It is further recommended that more sensitization and screening campaigns be organized in order to detect pre-cancer and to provide appropriate treatment in time.

A copy of the report of the second phase is being tabled.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION
– ARTS AND CULTURE**

(No. B/63) The Second Local Region Member of St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the intercollegiate competition in arts and culture being undertaken by her Commission, she will enlighten the House about the objectives thereof stating the approximate cost to be incurred therefor?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the organisation of the 1st Edition of the Arts Intercollegiate Competition is a budget measure, announced by the Chief

Commissioner in the budget speech 2018/2019, under *‘l’engagement 14: Preservation de l’Ame Rodriguaise’*.

Madam Chairperson, the Arts Intercollegiate Competition is a component of the ‘Arts Etudes’ Programme aiming to promote young artists evolving artistically in different secondary schools of Rodrigues. The organisation of Arts competitions is an excellent opportunity that brings discipline and seriousness in the student’s attitude. These Competitions will allow students to grow as a promising artist and to develop the sense of responsibility and team work. Receiving Prizes after a performance is also a form of motivation for the young artists and being able to win an art competition promote the feeling of self-achievement.

Madam Chairperson, the main objectives of the arts intercollegiate competition which relate to the promotion of arts in schools will contribute to the holistic development of the students in terms of developing of creative, artistic, language, social, decision-making, risk-taking, and inventiveness skills. At the same time, it permits talent detection and provision of support to its laureates. The recipient of the Art-Etude Programme and participants of the competitions will, in addition, develop their critical thinking and promote healthy competition and healthy activities amongst the youths.

Madam Chairperson, the programme also encompasses a cognitive aspect which involves demonstrating proficiency in mental use and oral and physical communications. The participants will have the opportunity to compose and deliver effective, audience-appropriate presentations that develop and support an idea and also demonstrate a proficiency in dramatic literature, stage history, and aesthetics and develop strategic skills in arts. The participants will therefore acquire proficiency in various areas of the Performing Arts and perform in various styles.

It will also enable them to connect with their culture and be exposed to other cultures, thus enhancing participation amongst the young. They will also gain proficiency in various areas of the Performing Arts and perform in various styles and comprehend, analyse and practice cultural arts.

Madam Chairperson, for this First Edition, the competitions will be launched in seven arts fields, particularly, traditional dance, modern dance, short stories, theatre, slam, paintings and songs. For future editions, other fields will be added to the list, such as choirs & instrumental music. Some of the parameters of the competitions are that each school will have to organize its own competition to select participants for the Arts Intercollegiate Competition in each artistic field in line with

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recommendations for the final. Working sessions are also being organised by the Commission with suitable resource persons to support students and educators in their preparations for the Inter-College. Certificate of participation will be given to all participants and shield and cash prizes to winners. A special prize of Rs. 50, 000 will be awarded to best college and Rs. 15, 000 to best supporters club.

Madam Chairperson, the estimated cost of the event, which includes organisation cost, payment of fees and prizes and procurement of shields will be cost-shared between the Commission for Education and the Commission for Arts and Culture and amounts to a total of Rs. 488, 400.

Madam Chairperson, I am very proud to inform the House that this 1st edition is being hosted jointly by the Chief Commissioner's Office/Commission for Education and the Commission for Arts and Culture and is warmly welcomed by the different colleges. The competition was officially announced in the launching of Art-Etude Programme in colleges on 16 February 2019 followed by issue of circular to colleges to encourage participation on 11 April 2019. The deadline for registration was on 13 May 2019 and the preliminaries and semi-final will be held on 18 May 2019. The official opening and the final and prize giving ceremony is scheduled on 31 May 2019 on the football playground of Mont Lubin College.

Madam Chairperson, a meeting is scheduled with college coach on Wednesday 15 May 2019 followed by meeting with adjudicator on Thursday 16 May 2019 and meeting with Technical resources persons on Tuesday 21 May 2019. The semi-final and final are scheduled on Friday 24 May 2019 and 31 May 2019 respectively for theatre and slam competitions at the Cultural and Leisure Centre at Mon Plaisir. A briefing session with finalists will be held on Tuesday 28 May 2019.

Madam Chairperson, the expected outcome of this programme is to have a maximum of youths who engage themselves in a professional career in the cultural & arts field as well as facilitating talent detection.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**BUSES – BUS ROUTE 2013 –
TERRE BORNE BUS TERMINAL TO RIVIÈRE COCO**

(No. B/64) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he is aware that buses operating along bus route 2013, from Terre Borne Bus Terminal to

Rivière Coco, are not available after 16.30 hours and, if so, to indicate the remedial measures his Commission intends to take in regard thereto?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, to-date there are five (5) buses operating along bus Route 213 (Riviere Coco – Baie du Nord via Terre Borne Bus Terminal).

According to the actual time table, the last bus on that Route leaves Baie du Nord at 16.30 hours passes through Terre Borne Bus Terminal at around 16.45 hours to reach Riviere Coco at 17.25 hours.

To date, no complaint or request for an additional service on this route has been received at my Commission. However, the National Transport Authority will ensure close monitoring of the service and a survey will be carried out to assess the need for an additional service and if required the present time table will be amended accordingly.

Appropriate action will be taken in terms of contravention for not observing time table and intimately disciplinary action can be envisaged against the operator.

ELECTORAL REGION NUMBER 2 – LIST OF PROJECTS

(No. B/65) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. N. Nemours) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to electoral region number 2, he will, for the benefit of the House, give the list of projects:

- (a) implemented for the period January 2017 to December 2018; and
- (b) earmarked for implementation in 2019 and, for each case, indicating the amount of money budgeted therefor?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, with regards to Part (a) of the question, I am informed that same is being compiled and will be tabled in the Library of the Assembly.

As regards part (b) of the question, at least some thirteen (13) projects have been earmarked for implementation during Financial Year 2019-2020. I am tabling the list thereof.

**PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS
– ASSOCIATED WORKS IN RIVIÈRE COCO**

(No. B/66) The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J.N. Nemours) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the relevant authority, including the National Development Unit, information as to if there is any project for the construction of drains and associated works in Rivière Coco and, if so, to indicate when works are likely to start?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that a contract for Drain Works at Rivière Coco has been awarded by the National Development Unit of the Prime Minister's Office to Transinvest Construction Ltd for a Estimated cost of Rs.52,508,840.15. The works is to be completed within 7 months from the start date of 25 April 2019.