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No. 1 of 2020

**RODRIGUES
FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 1 of 2020

Sitting of Tuesday 25 February 2020

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

(Mrs. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2020

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The Executive Council

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

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

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALLOCATION OF SEATS

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, I have one announcement. Further to a request from the following Respected Members, the First Local Region Member of No. 1, the Second Island Region Member, Second Local Region Member of No. 1, the Third Island Region Member and the Fifth Island Region Member to sit as Independent Members as from today, 25th of February 2020. I have made arrangements in accordance with Standing Order 6 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The allocation of seats to Members in the Assembly Chamber shall henceforth be as per circulated. Thank you.

OBITUARY

DEMISE OF SIR JOSEPH VICTOR GLOVER, KT, GOSK

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, please allow me to make a short statement to this House. As the House is aware, we have been informed of the sudden demise of Sir Victor Glover on the 2nd of February 2020.

Madame la présidente, permettez-moi de retracer le brillant parcours de Sir Victor Glover. Après ses études secondaires au collège de Saint-Esprit, il a été lauréat de la bourse d'Angleterre en 1952 et a poursuivi ses études à travers l'université d'Oxford. Il a prêté serment comme avocat en 1957 et a eu une carrière bien remplie au sein du judiciaire. Sir Victor Glover a rejoint le bureau de l'Attorney General en 1962 après avoir quelques années au barreau mauricien. En 1976, à l'âge de 44 ans, il devient Juge de la cour Suprême. Il a ensuite été nommé Chef Juge en 1988. Retraité en 1994, il a travaillé comme Consultant Légal pour le privé et pour le bureau de l'Attorney General. Il a été président de la Commission de Pourvoi en Grâce de 2010 jusqu'à ce jour. Je voudrais souligner l'immense contribution de Sir Victor Glover à la rédaction d'un projet de loi afin d'amender la Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2002. Ce fut un plaisir personnel de le côtoyer et de travailler avec lui.

Madam Chairperson, I would kindly request you to direct the Clerk to convey to family of Sir Victor Glover, particularly to his two sons Brian and Gavin, my sincere condolences as well as those of the Majority Side of this House. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

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

The Minority Leader: Thank you, Madam Chair, on behalf of the minority I would like to associate myself to the tribute paid to the late Sir Victor Glover, a great judge, next great judge and a respected judge. I would like to convey our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family of Sir Victor Glover. I thank you very much.

Madam Chairperson: I wish to associate myself with the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader to express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Sir Victor Glover. I also direct the Acting Clerk to convey the condolences of the House to the concerned family.

PAPERS

- (i) First Report of the Standing Orders Committee (Original)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

(No. B/1) Mr. L.J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak that is expanding worldwide and the dengue outbreak affecting Reunion Island, he will state: -

- (a) the precautionary measures his Commission has taken in order to detect and prevent any affected person or goods from entering Rodrigues and the enforcement protocol established therefor; and
- (b) if on or about the 8th February last, a feverish passenger was allowed to enter the island from Plaine Corail Airport, indicating if there was non-observance of any set protocol and the reasons therefor?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam, Chairperson, in response to the question of the Minority Leader, I wish to inform the House about the following measures and protocol which my Commission has put in place with the collaboration of other stakeholders in Rodrigues and Mauritius in view of preventing the entry of the Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19 and other vectors of non-communicable diseases in Rodrigues:-

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- Our Health Team at Plaine Corail Airport has been reinforced with one Medical and Health Officer, two Nursing Officers and two Health Surveillance Officers who are in attendance at the airport upon the arrival of each flight from Mauritius.
- Each disembarking passenger is submitted to body temperature control with the use of two portable Infrared Forehead Thermometers at the Entrance Gate before the Immigration Counter.
- The history of travel of each passenger is verified together with any symptoms through the Health Declaration Form which each disembarking passenger is required to fill before landing. Any passenger with fever or other symptoms associated with COVID – 19, is seen by the Medical and Health Officer and dealt with accordingly to symptoms and history of travel.
- For flights from Reunion Island, same procedure applies. In addition, there is the presence of one Public Health and Food Safety Inspector who gives health clearance to the plane to disembark passengers, after being satisfied that there is no case of contagious and infectious disease on board. This is verifiable through the General Declaration of Health submitted by the Pilot and through inspection as per the International Civil Aviation Organisation Regulations and the Quarantine Act. Moreover, the passport of each passenger is also verified for history of travel.
- Any non-resident passenger who has been in China, South Korea, Italy within the last 14 days are denied entry and will be sent back through same flight.
- For resident, their spouse and/or children who visited China and the other countries that I have just said within the last 14 days, they will be sent to the Quarantine Centre, at Baladirou for observation for 14 days.
- Those with symptoms of COVID–19, they are sent directly to the Isolation Centre at Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre, Mont Lubin for necessary health care. A second building has been identified at Manique to serve as a second Isolation Centre.

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- Apart from tests to detect COVID-19, tests are carried out for detection of Chikungunya, Dengue Fever and Malaria as per protocol set up in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- All evacuation is carried out through the tarmac via the Health Post at the airport. All those who shall come in close contact with such passenger and the passenger, are fitted with protective equipment including Particulate Respirator N95.
- All incoming passengers are subjected to Health Surveillance for 14 days by the Health Surveillance Officer of my Commission.
- My Commission has also set up a Rapid Response Team comprising of a Medical & Health Officer, Nursing Officer, Public Health Inspector, Ambulance - Driver & Attendant for evacuation of passengers from airport to the Quarantine and Isolation Centre as the case may be.
- All stakeholders at the airport have been requested to have in their possession, the necessary protective equipment including respiratory mask and hand sanitizer in line with the Public Health Emergency Plan for outbreak of Communicable Diseases of the ARL.

The above protocol also applies to the port.

I must also inform the House that a meeting was held on the 12th February 2020 under my Chairmanship with key personnel of my Commission and other stakeholders of the Airport, Port, Shipping and Container Handling to disseminate the different protocols regarding prevention of COVID-19.

My Commission has already started to raise awareness and sensitise the public on the issue. As at date, at least four radio programs have been broadcast to inform the public about the preventive measures which have been taken by my Commission and the measures that need to be taken by the public in order to prevent entry of the disease in Rodrigues.

The above measures complement the preventive strategy which has been deployed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Mauritius with which we are working in close collaboration.

In fact, a delegation of two experts from the latter Ministry is presently on a two days' mission in Rodrigues since yesterday at the request of my Commission to evaluate the measures and protocol which we have put in place and to ensure that same are efficient and up to norms.

From the discussions I have had so far, the measures and protocols we have put in place have been agreed upon and we are happy that up to date, there is no case of COVID-19 which has been reported neither in Mauritius nor in Rodrigues.

However, I invite all stakeholders to remain cautious and to continue to observe strictly the protocol put in place and precautionary measures which need to be taken. Meanwhile, my Commission with the collaboration of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, we are following the situation concerning the evolution of the disease on the international front. Other measures will be taken if need be to protect our population.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the house that on the 8th February 2020, while observing the above described protocol at the Plaine Corail airport for Health Clearance of Flight UU 751 from Reunion Island, it was observed that one passenger who usually reside in Rodrigues for several months was having high body temperature. He was referred to the Medical and Health Officer and tests were carried out. I was informed that no symptoms of contagious disease and the passenger has not travelled to any declared high risk countries for COVID-19 in his travel history. As such, he cannot be denied access in the island as per protocol from World Health Organisation. Nevertheless, it was decided to refer the passenger to the Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre at Mont Lubin where he was seen by a Specialist.

His blood samples were collected and brought by an Officer of our laboratory services on the same day to the Central Laboratory of Queen Victoria Hospital in Mauritius for examination. Results were obtained on the following day and were negative with regard to the presence of infectious communicable disease. This case has shown the efficiency and effectiveness of the protocol put in place in Rodrigues and for the good collaboration with services of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Mauritius regarding our health surveillance system.

However, Madam Chairperson, I must deplore the fact that certain unscrupulous persons have preferred to distort the above facts by spreading false news information on the social media to create psychosis and panic among

the public particularly in the catchment area of Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre. We have referred the matter to police for enquiry.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair, we are here talking of a very highly contagious virus that is spreading worldwide. It is an endemic, it is spreading into a pandemic. More than 2200 people have died in China because of this. Well, we hope that it does not reach our shores. But having said that, this highly contagious virus, can I know from the Respected Commissioner, what has prompted the choice of the building that are used for quarantine purposes?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs Chairperson, Madam, the building which is found at Baladirou is adapted to the quarantine purposes as we have no other buildings that we can use for quarantine purposes in Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, the Respected Commissioner, have been talking of Baladirou but the one at La Ferme, what have prompted the choice of this building? Normally, we are dealing with a highly contagious virus, at La Ferme it is near a Mosque, it is near the Saint Luc Church. You have a playing ground nearby. Many, many people live there. I would like to ask the Respected Commissioner, whether he is contemplating the possibility of moving this out to choose another place? *Ale met li lor Fregate si pa kot sa!*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *Madam Chairperson, Mme. la présidente, le site de La Ferme n'est pas un site de quarantaine, c'est une site d'isolation. Pourquoi ? Parce que c'est tout près de l'hôpital, s'il y a une complication avec un passager, un malade, alors l'hôpital est tout près pour faire le transfère.*

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, I was amazed to hear – even this site – well you will have diseased persons there. It is very dangerous. I have heard the Respected Commissioner, talking about the type of repression that he is using. Going to the Police because people having said this and that. We must understand, people are scared. They are scared. Instead of trying to educate them, to inform them what is happening, how to deal with the virus, with the disease, he tried to use repression. Well, I would like to ask him whether he will withdraw this case from the Police and tried to inform the people instead?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, we will not remove from this place because it is very near the hospital and I am sure that the Minority Leader is not well aware of the Coronavirus. Because the Coronavirus is not an air borne disease, it is spread by droplets within one metre or two metre. So, there will be no contagious effect to the other houses at Manique.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Volbert, yes?

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam Chairperson.* Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Commissaire de la Santé, si on a des ambulances adapter pour transporter ces malades-là ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Madam Chairperson, we have the ambulances.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member, Grandcourt?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Oui, Mme. la présidente, merci. Donc, je voudrais demander au Commissaire, il a parlé de Centre D'Isolation et Centre de Quarantaine. Est-ce qu'il peut nous expliquer la différence entre les deux ? Parce que lorsqu'on met quelqu'un en quarantaine, cette personne est en isolation. Donc, est-ce qu'il peut nous expliquer la différence entre les deux ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, la quarantaine c'est pour quelqu'un qu'on doit surveiller s'il va être infecté par le virus, si la fièvre va monter ou si la fièvre va descendre. Mais en isolation, c'est pour guérir le patient s'il est déjà affecté par le Coronavirus.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam Chair, can I know from the Commissioner, he has been talking about quarantine and isolation centres. Can we know the number of rooms available and whether these centres are fully equipped?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, the quarantine at Baladirou will be fully equipped with about.. can put up to 70 beds at Baladirou - quarantine. But for the isolation at Mont Lubin, it will be six beds and La Ferme it will be also six or nine beds.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, the Respected Commissioner, have been talking of the way the virus spreads. Is he aware of the last information being given that in the hospital in China, even doctors are contaminated, they do not know how? Even the head of the hospital in Yuhan has died of this disease. Is he aware of that?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Of course, Madam Chairperson, I aware of the situation in China and even in Italy, the Coronavirus is spreading. And, even in South Korea. And, as I have said in China, we have millions of people walking everyday in the streets. That is why the virus has been spreading very quickly.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member, Volbert?

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam.* Peut-on savoir du Commissaire en ce qui concerne le *isolation room*. Si les staffs qui vont travailler dedans, ils ont eu une formation ? Et, en plus où est-ce qu'ils vont déposer les équipements qu'ils ont servis ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bon, la formation, ils sont en train de le recevoir aujourd'hui avec un épidémiologiste qui est venu de Maurice hier et pour les équipements, ça doit être bien traité pour aller au incinérateur.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, it is well known that prevention is better than cure. Can I ask the Respected Commissioner whether he has procured enough mask for the Rodriguan population if ever this disease spread in Rodrigues?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Je dirais au Minority Leader de ne pas être si pessimiste. Parce que Rodrigues est une petite île, moi je suis confiant que nous n'aurons pas, à moins que, si le virus vient de Maurice, là où on a une chance de l'avoir. Mais moi je dis que nous ne l'aurons pas. Et, tous les équipements nécessaires sont en train d'être pour nos infirmiers.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Grandcourt ?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: J'aimerais demander au Commissaire s'il a reçu une pétition de la part des gens de La ferme et s'il n'a pas encore reçu, il l'aura bientôt. Donc, qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire ? Parce qu'il y a un genre de psychose, je dirais, dans la région. Que les gens ne veulent absolument pas qu'on fait le centre d'isolation ou centre de quarantaine à La Ferme. Donc, qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire dans ce cas ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Non, Mme. la présidente, je n'ai pas reçu de pétition de la part des habitants de La Ferme. Mais comme je dis, à Souillac aussi c'est un endroit très habité et on doit accepter, on doit chercher un endroit pour mettre les patients en isolation et les patients en quarantaine. Alors, il faut s'il faut chercher un autre endroit, on va chercher un autre endroit, un troisième endroit. Mais les deux endroits restent actifs pour le moment.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (SC) EXAMINATION

(No. B/2) **Mr. L.J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the students who have failed to

secure five credits at the last School Certificate (SC) examinations in Rodrigues, he will state the:

- (a) number and percentage thereof, indicating those who will not be allowed to re-sit therefor and the alternatives provided to them;
- (b) number of technical schools, including the number of seats available therefor; and
- (c) strategy of his Commission concerning this problem?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Madam, Chairperson, allow me to reply to questions B/2 and B/15 as they fall under my responsibility as Commissioner for Training. I will reply both questions together as they deal with the same subject matter.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, please proceed Commissioner.

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Madam, Chairperson, as the House is aware, the policy of Education rests with the Ministry of Education whereas the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is responsible for the administration of the Education sector in Rodrigues.

Subsequently, in line with the current reforms in the educational sector and the need to achieve excellence in educational attainment, the Ministry of Education has decided to review the criteria for admission to Grade 12 from three to four credits to five credits as per Circular Note 4 dated 10 January 2018. The Ministry therefore requested Heads of Schools to notify their students that:

- (i) the requirement of three credits were maintained exceptionally in 2018;
- (ii) for 2019, students would be required to have obtained four credits; and
- (iii) from 2020 onwards, they would be required to have obtained five credits.

The aim of raising the standards to five credits for admission to Grade 12 is to prompt the students to improve their level so as to have a solid foundation for a smooth continuation to Tertiary level.

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Madam, Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of Question B/2, I am informed that out of the 814 students of Grade 11 that sat for the School Certificate 'O level' Examinations for Academic Year 2019, 647 students or 79.48 % have failed to secure the five credits required for admission to Grade 12 for Academic Year 2020 and 277 are not eligible to repeat Grade 11.

A complete breakdown of the results of the Cambridge School Certificate 'O level' for Academic Year 2019 is being tabled as per part (a) of Question B/15.

Madam Chairperson, the Educational Reform Programme provides for different pathways and opportunities to students who wish to pursue their studies after taking part in the SC 'O level' Examinations in either academic, technical or other fields.

As such, students who have not been able to secure five credits at the School Certificate Examinations can, depending on their choices, either repeat Grade 11 to improve their results if they have sat for the first time or join Technical Education Stream.

For those students who cannot repeat Grade 11, the alternatives provided to them at present are as follows:

Students can:

- i) Either enrol on coaching sessions being offered by the Commission for Education and thereafter sit for SC GCE O Level Examinations as private candidates with a view to improve their qualifications; or
- ii) join Technical Education Stream in programmes offered by the MITD (Mauritius Institute of Training and Development) of Le Chou, Lycée Agricole de Saint Gabriel and other private registered institutions such as Vatel Hotel school, Wisdom in Tech; or
- iii) join other Technical Education centres falling under the management of the MITD Mauritius, Polytechnics Mauritius and other private registered training institutions in Mauritius as it has always been the case in the past.

In addition, it is expected that in the near future as informed by the Ministry of Education that students will also be able to join new Technical Training Programmes that are being developed to equip youth with technical

skills such as the National Skills Development Programme (NSDP) funded by the HRDC (Human Resource Development Council).

Madam, Chairperson, I am tabling the number and list of technical schools available in Mauritius and list... In fact, it has been tabled together with the first envelope. And, Madam Chairperson, it is good to note that as a responsible and caring Regional Government, one of our main concerns is the future of our Youth. This is why our Government considers that our focus should not be limited to those students who have not been able to secure a seat in Grade 11 but to approach the matter of Out of School Youth as well as the Training and Development of our youth in a broader perspective. We strongly believe that it is our responsibility and duty to ensure that our Youth in general including those who drop out at either Grade 9, Grade 11 or Grade 13 are provided with the necessary opportunities and avenues to further enhance their competencies and skills for more employability.

With the introduction of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector is being called upon to play an important role in the reform process. The TVET sector... That is why the RRA will continuously strive to make the TVET Sector attractive and recognised as an alternative pathway to general education.

Subsequently, with the mission of promoting lifelong learning among our youth so as to enable them to become more knowledge-based and skills-driven workforce and professionals for more employability, my Commission is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that different pathways that suit their abilities and needs as well as opportunities in areas in which there are better prospects for employment are made available to them.

Madam Chairperson, as a matter of the fact, in October 2018, a study entitled '*Etude de faisabilité d'un dispositif de formation professionnelle initiale et continue rénové à Rodrigues*' was undertaken under the Special fund FRCC from the Agence Française de Développement and the Ministry of Finance. And, thereafter in line with the recommendations of the study my Commission is working on a Strategic Plan to promote a vibrant TVET sector that our island needs.

On the occasion of the recent Career Guidance Fair few days ago, I seize the opportunity to chair a meeting with all relevant institutions to discuss the possibilities of operating on a full time basis or part time basis or develop new programmes to address the skilling and upskilling of our youth and the population at large.

In that connection, a few proposals have been received and are under consideration.

In addition, action is being taken to uplift and equip the building at Citron Donis and revert it back to its primary purpose of housing Technical and Vocational Education and Training. The works could not be undertaken before as the building was housing an Annex to Le Chou College till the end of academic Year 2019 following the operationalisation of the Annex at Songes.

Furthermore, the revamping of the existing Training Centres like Ateliers de Savoir and La Maison Familiale Rurale are being looked into so as to make them become more reliable and provide quality training and education. There is also the need to ensure that the delivery of Award Vocational Training Programmes at these institutions.

In addition to these existing financial assistance schemes available, additional scholarships will be offered with a view to encourage more students to opt for Technical education.

Madam Chairperson, a committee under my chairmanship comprising High Level Officials from the Commission for Education, Commission for Training as well as Representatives of REDCO and Rodrigues College and Parents Teachers' Association of both colleges have been set up to discuss further on the way forward and ensure timely implementation of actions being envisaged for the reforms of the TVET sector in Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Madam Chair, I was amazed and it is unfortunate to hear that out of 814 students that sat for SC exams, you have 647 who failed. And, out of these 277 are not eligible for re-sit. This is quite a large number. Therefore, can I know from Respected Commissioner, because I have seen that she has not answered my question. How many seats are available in these technical schools of Rodrigues?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Madam Chair, may be I would like to mention again, out of the 814 students who sat, 647 (I think), they could not score the five credits. It does not mean that they failed. And, out of these, of course, 277 could not continue with the general education at college level. And, I am happy to inform the House that the seats available in the different schools, technical schools in Rodrigues that can be an option for these students, they are as follows:

- At the MITD, the MITD has a capacity of 150 students among which, among whom 85 can pursue at NC3 Level (Full time), 15 at

NC4 Level (Full time), 50 for the National Apprenticeship Program for hotel sectors, the Lycée Agricole can offer 40 seats, the VATEL Hotel School can offer the programs for 30 per batch. If we have more than 30, we can have two or more batches and the Wisdom in Tech can accommodate 25.

So, we are optimistic that all the students desiring to have a seat for technical training, this will be possible. And, as I told in my answer, as it has been the case in the past, some of the students they chose to go for technical education in Mauritius and our schemes that we have at the Commission for Training caters for these students.

The Minority Leader: So, Madam Chair, I have been made to understand that the number of seats are limited. Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether a survey has been done in order to know in which field these students that are not allowed to re-sit, in which field they want to continue their studies?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Effectivement, Mme. la présidente, on a saisi l'occasion de Careers Guidance Fair récemment. On avait mis un desk au Career Guidance Fair où ces jeunes ont été invités à venir remplir une fiche par rapport à leurs choix ou bien leurs désirs, donc en terme de domaine de formation dont ils sont intéressés. Et, en ce moment on est en train de compiler ces informations. Bien sûre on ne peut pas satisfaire *the whims and caprices of each and every student*, mais on va prendre en compte leurs souhaits et on va les canalisés dans ces domaines.

Donc, pour vous dire aussi, Mme. la présidente, en mentionnant les chiffres de 150 pour MITD, Lycée Agricole – 40, VATEL – 30 per batch, Wisdom in Tech – 285. Cela nous emmène à un chiffre de 380 seats available in our technical schools and we have 277 students needing these training programs.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, may be many of these students will not find a seat at the technical schools of Rodrigues because the sector in which they want to study is not available here. So, they will have to go to Mauritius. Can I know how many scholarships your Commission is available to give to these students?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: In fact, Madam Chair, it is good to note that all the schemes that are available for students who have completed their HSC and go for university, they are also applicable for all those students willing to do technical training. So, the scheme for monthly stipend, for

lodging, for fees all these are applicable. So, each and every students willing to go to Mauritius to pursue TVET training, they will be accompanied by the RRA under the same schemes provided for HSC students.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Agathe?

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, je voudrais demander à la Commissaire, qu'est-ce qu'elle pense de ce que je vais lui dire. Etant donné qu'il y a beaucoup d'élèves qui n'ont pas pu avoir les cinq crédits pour monter. Maintenant, ces élève-là automatiquement s'ils veulent continuer à apprendre ils voudront aller à la MITD. Mais maintenant qu'est-ce qui va arriver aux élèves de la Grade 9 qui ne vont pas pouvoir continuer ? Parce que c'est un gros, gros problème.

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Mme. la présidente, effectivement, donc Respected Member, Agathe is right. Donc, c'est pour cela que dans ma réponse j'ai bien mentionnée qu'au niveau du gouvernement nous ne considérons pas seulement les élèves qui n'ont pas réussi leurs Grade 11. Nous avons cette approche globale par rapport au développement et la consolidation du secteur donc vocationnel et technique à Rodrigues. C'est pour cela j'ai mentionné l'étude qui a été financé par l'AFD et commandité par l'Assemblée Régionale parce que cette étude fait provision pour des recommandations qui vont nous aider à mettre en œuvre des projets qui vont toucher aussi ces jeunes qui ne réussissent pas leurs Grade 9 mais surtout aussi on veut aller beaucoup plus loin. Parce qu'aujourd'hui c'est un fait. Les gens choisissent d'aller dans le vocationnel, choisissent, sont contraints parce que les élèves n'ont pas pu réussir académiquement. Notre souhait et notre travail s'est pour rendre le TVET sector *attractive* et surtout que ce soit un choix, ce qu'on appelle dans l'étude au lieu que le TVET soit une orientation subite que ce soit une orientation choisie. Demain un jeune, même s'il est très bon académiquement, s'il choisit de faire carrière au niveau technique, il faut lui donner le choix. Il ne faut pas que la technique soit réserver qu'à ceux qui ont échoués. Et, c'est dans ce sens-là que nous travaillons et il y aura des projets qui vont arriver très, très bientôt.

The Minority Leader: Can I know, Madam Chair, from the Respected Commissioner, whether there is or there will be a special scheme for students coming from families situated at the lowest rang of the ladder in terms of poverty?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Mme. la présidente, cela a toujours été le cas. Donc, on a toujours voulu donner des attentions spéciales à ces jeunes qui viennent des familles vulnérables. Et, je dois assurer la Chambre

ici qu'au niveau du gouvernement, sous la direction du Chef Commissaire, on ne veut pas qu'un jeune soit priver de l'éducation ou de la formation parce que ces parents sont pauvres. Donc, nous avons toujours était là pour donner un accompagnement spécial et on va le faire comme d'habitude.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, Agathe?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Merci, Mme. la présidente, je voudrais poser une autre question à Madame la Commissaire. Nous savons que... parce que nous entendons ça souvent, il y a beaucoup d'études qui sont faites. Mais est-ce que Madame contemple de faire circuler les résultats de toutes ces études parce que la population n'est pas trop au courant. Peut-être même dans les collèges, dans les PTAs avec les enfants qui Grade 9 et ce qui prennent part au SC. Déjà les parents savent à quoi ils s'attendent. Parce que je crois comprendre que pour rentrer à la MITD, *there is a written exam. How would you consider it? Will a child of Grade 9 who has not been able to succeed in his exams compete with a student who has already sat for the SC?*

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: En effet, Mme. la présidente, donc on a pris déjà la décision que désormais, chaque année pendant les premières semaines du deuxième trimestre mes officiers iront dans les collèges pour vulgariser d'avantage les possibilités de formation. Et, surtout aussi en lien avec le développement économique de Rodrigues pour mieux les canaliser dans leurs choix. En effet, aussi lors de l'atelier que le bureau du Chef Commissaire a organisé en janvier donc par rapport au décision que l'Assemblée Régionale va prendre par rapport au *Grade 9 students*, on avait déjà vulgarisé les recommandations du rapport, que j'ai mentionné. Et, il n'y a rien de secret dans ce rapport. On travaille dessus avec les recteurs et on va le mettre à la disposition du publique s'il y a des gens qui veulent le consulter. Donc, on va le mettre à la bibliothèque, donc à Malabar, au centre de documentation où les jeunes viennent chaque fois pour faire leur enregistrement.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Perrine?

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. J'ai entendu la Commissaire mentionnée à plusieurs reprises une étude qui a été faite et financé par l'AFD, si je ne me trompe pas, est-ce que c'est possible d'avoir une copie de cette étude-là au sein de cette assemblée ? Merci.

Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK: Bien sûre, Mme. la présidente, on peut toujours déposer une copie. Comme je l'ai dit aussi donc

pour l'Assemblée peut être se sera réserver pour les Membres mais on va mettre aussi une copie au Documentation Centre à Malabar pour tous ceux et celles qui veulent le consulter.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

The Minority Leader: B/3 Madam.

HEAVY DUTY SHREDDER

(No. B. 3) Mr. L.J. Von-Mally, GOSK (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the heavy duty shredder that is left idle at Oyster Bay, he will state:

- (a) the reason thereof, indicating if it is in good running conditions;
- (b) if it will now be put to contribution, following his Commission's proposal for selective wastes sorting at the Roche Bon Dieu dumping site, indicating the time frame?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regard to part (a) of the question I am informed that the heavy-duty shredder is unfortunately not operational due to a failure in the hydraulic system. The Commission is experiencing difficulties to find the appropriate spare parts because the official representative of the logistic in Mauritius has ceased its operations.

As regards to part (b) of the question, of course Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, it is not now that the shredder will be put to contribution for the sorting of green waste, it has always been the case. Because it is the duty of a shredder to convert green waste into compost therefore preventing dumping of same at Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site.

Mrs. Chairperson, I am happy to inform the House that provision have been made by my Commission for the procurement of two new shredders. However, due to the embargo imposed because of the outbreak of the Corona virus in China, delivery has been delayed and is now scheduled for the end of March this year. In the meantime, a mulcher has just been acquired last week to further contribute in the management of green waste. Procedures have also been initiated for a second heavy duty mulcher which will be acquired shortly for better management of green waste and its conversion into compost.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, being given that this shredder, it is a heavy duty shredder. Can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether the breakdown, the shredder that has broken down, the breaking down is it not due to the fact that the shredder was left idle without being protected from adverse weather conditions? Is this not true? And, if you buy two new shredders, if you put it idle in adverse weather conditions, are we not going to have the same problem?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, a shredder is not to be put in a *boîte coton*. This is something that should normally, which is put outside to do the work. Let me just inform the Member, the Minority Leader that this shredder was bought in 2012 and, it has been used well. And, unfortunately, machines break, you know. This is a machine. Even people die but machines break. And, as I said we do not have the spare parts, unfortunately. But we could get it, we could get it. We have, the thing is, we have to make someone comes from Italy because we bought it from Italy. And, also it is not a cost effective the fact that due to the age of the machine and the cost that will imply to repair it. This is why we... But, but we have made it, organised for that. We have a centre at Oyster Bay. The Minority Leader said it is a heavy duty, heavy duty. But heavy duty is meant to put heavy things, strong things in that. So, all the things that goes to Roche Bon Dieu normally the green wastes are mainly grasses, are mainly grasses or things that people collect in their back yard and then send to the dumping site. So, this heavy duty will serve nothing, shredder if we put it at Roche Bon Dieu. That is why I said, we are buying two new ones because we think it is most cost effective two new ones than repairing the other one.

The Minority Leader: Madam Chair, the Respected Commissioner, has been talking of sorting of waste at Roche Bon Dieu. Can I know whether the sorting of waste has started or whether there are goats that are doing the job?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, there is a question following on that. I will answer later.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, B/4.

CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH CENTRE - OYSTER BAY

(No. B/4) Mr. J. N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the

construction of a community and health centre at Oyster Bay, he will inform the House on where matters stand as at date, specifying if there is any dispute or legal action initiated involving the contractor as regards the settlement of claims and, if so, to give details on the reasons therefor?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, the construction of the Community Health Centre at Oyster Bay is still ongoing. Works are about 80% completed with delays of more than 12 months for reasons imputable to the contractor. The building is almost completed and the remaining 20 % concerns mainly the site works. In view of the considerable delay from the contractor to complete the works, the contract has been terminated after mutual agreement and the site was taken over from the contractor on 24th December 2019. Lux Consult is presently finalising tender document in view of mobilising another contractor to complete the remaining works.

Madam, Chairperson, as at date, I am not aware of any dispute nor any legal action initiated involving the contractor regarding settlement of claims.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, Madam Chairperson, can I know from the Respected Commissioner, whether there is any modification in the construction drawing compared to a tender drawing?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Madam Chairperson, there is no modification.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, j'ai eu des documents dans ma boîte au lettre concernant des modifications qui a été apporté dans la construction. Voilà, je depose pour la reference de... *Another question, Madam Chairperson, can I know who is the engineer supervising the work?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is Lux Consult, engineer from Lux Consult, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Can I know whether *on peut savoir si l'ingénieur a été licencié quelque temps de cela ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The question should be addressed to Lux Consult, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Est-ce que c'est vrai qu'il y a des délais de plus d'un an de retard dans la livraison, un an de demi dans la livraison de ces bâtiments, et pour quelle raison ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Comme j'ai dit, Madam Chairperson, c'est vrai qu'il y a eu des délais de plus d'un an. Mais ça c'est *accountable to the contractor*.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Dans une réponse, Madam Chairperson, datant le 20 août 2019, une question adressait par la Membre Collet. Dans sa réponse le Commissaire a mentionné qu'il y aura des penalty. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir s'il y a des penalty et quelle est la somme qui a été payé juste qu'ici ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bien sûre, Mme. la présidente, il y aura des pénalités et les procédures sont en cours.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, étant donné que le contracteur a été licencié ou terminé ou a écrit depuis le 24.12.2019, la *cessation of work*. Can we know when the penalty will be applied?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, it will be calculated according to the contract and work still going on for the... claiming the penalty of the contractor.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, je ne sais pas si j'ai bien compris. Mais j'ai pu comprendre que le contrat a été *terminated*. Mais si le contrat a été *terminated* comment est-ce qu'il peut venir nous dire maintenant après qu'il va calculer le *liquidated damage*, les *penalty* ? Et puis, il vient nous dire après *work is still going on*. Which is which, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam? We want to know; we are here to put questions. So, we want to know. And, prior to the termination of a contract how many notices have been sent to the contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I said work is going on. It is for calculation of the penalties to be claimed to the contractor. I have no information regarding the number of notices submitted to the contractor.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, when we talk about work, this is physical work. Work does not consist of ... This is administrative work. Work is still going on... *ezoto bé ça!*

Madam Chairperson: Come up with your question, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Oui, *I am coming*. Non, je n'arrive pas à comprendre, Mme. la présidente. *Work is still going on*, c'est les gens du bureau qui font le travail lorsqu'on parle ... je ne comprends pas, je n'arrive pas à comprendre le

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you can come with a question for clarification.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *I am coming with my question.* Comment se fait-il on a deux dessins et on a été sur place pour vérifier. Le Commissaire vient nous dire... est-ce qu'il peut affirmer que on n'a pas changer les changer, je veux qu'il affirme qu'on n'a pas changé les dessins et qu'on n'a pas changer la structure physique du bâtiment ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Non, Mme. la présidente, on n'a pas changé les dessins. Je ne sais pas d'où ces dessins sort. Peut-être du Coronavirus !

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, dans sa réponse du 20 août 2019, le Commissaire a mentionné que le *liquidated damage will be arrived soon*. Mais j'ai encore un document que je vais déposer. J'ai encore un document que je vais déposer. Il y a une somme de Rs 1.4 million qu'on a payé la fin de mois d'août, le 27 août plus précisément, c'est-à-dire, après la session de 20 août. Et, il n'y a rien qui a été mentionné là-dessus concernant le *liquidated damage*. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous confirmer pourquoi ça n'a pas été mentionné ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I would like that these documents that the Respected Member is laying on the table is authenticated from what source did he have the documents?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner what is the variation amount which occurred on this building as per as its cost?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I need notice of this question, Madam Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam Chairperson, étant donné que c'est l'argent du publique, l'argent des contribuables qui est investi dans ce genre de projet, nous sommes là pour poser des questions et nous avons besoin des réponses aussi pour donner à nos mandants. Parce que la construction de ce centre, dispensaire si on peut dire comme ça, à Baie aux Huitres date de belle lurette. Et, les gens attendent depuis belle lurette pour l'ouverture de ce centre. Puisqu'on a des difficultés à prouver, à donner des réponses à ces questions, est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous confirmer quand est-ce que ce centre sera opérationnel à Rodrigues ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I have already answered part of this question because as I have said 80% have been completed regarding the building. There are only 20% concerning the site works. And, Lux Consult is presently finalising the tender in view of mobilizing another contractor to complete the remaining works. Liquidated damage will be applied upon payments of the pre-final certificate which is being presently worked out by the contractor. Up to date there is no variation work on the construction itself.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, is it a tendency, est-ce que c'est une tendance de résilier les contrats des contracteurs lorsque le contrat est à presque 80, 90% à chaque fois et ensuite pour redonner un autre contrat à un autre contracteur pour avoir des *liquidated damage*, pour avoir des *variations* dans ça ? Est-ce que le Commissaire de la Santé peut confirmer, peut assurer à la Chambre que lorsqu'il s'agit de *Good Governance* l'argent du publique sera bien utiliser et il va nous donner des comptes ici concernant toutes les questions qu'on a posées, qu'il n'a pas de réponse aujourd'hui ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mme. la présidente, nous avons bien étudié avant de résilier le contrat de ce contracteur. Il est vrai que ça a pris du temps mais à la fin on a vu que le contracteur ne pourra pas continuer voilà pourquoi on a arrêté. On aurait dû peut-être arrêter bien avant mais on lui a donné la chance de pouvoir terminer le bâtiment et la cour aussi. Mais il n'a pas pu. Mais alors on a dû définitivement terminer le contrat.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mme. la présidente, avec votre permission, le problème, maintenant on comprend, le problème c'est que l'ingénieur est venu lui donner des instructions sans une lettre. C'est-à-dire, que l'ingénieur a enduit le contracteur en erreur. Lui il a suivi mais les lettres qui est supposé venir de la Commission n'ont suivis. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire s'il est au courant de ça et oui, s'il va ouvrir une enquête ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, this are technical matters, I cannot answer it. Can the Commissioner come with another substantive question he will have the answer? The Member.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Est-ce que le Commissaire est au courant que H.K. l'ingénieur, a été licencié parce qu'il n'est pas *eligible, legally legible*. Pour pouvoir opérer un ingénieur doit avoir cinq ans comme ingénieur et huit ans enregistrer dans le Council of Engineer. Est-ce que M. H.K. a été licencié parce qu'il ne possède pas ça ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: J'ai déjà répondu à la question, Mme. la présidente.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/5, Madam Chair.

TERRITORIAL SEA – RODRIGUES

(No. B/5): The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the territorial sea around Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain, from the relevant authorities in Mauritius, information as to the:-

- (a) different survey/s, if any, carried out in relation thereto since 2017 to date and to table the findings thereof;
- (b) extension of the continental shelf of Rodrigues, giving details on the objective thereof and indicating if a roadmap has been set up to better explore the seabed for hydrocarbon and other minerals;
- (c) mechanism put in place, if any, for its surveillance; and
- (d) amount of money generated since 2017 to date, if any, pursuant to its exploitation by the Republic of Mauritius?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the information requested in this question has been sought from the relevant authorities. However, as at now, no replies have been received yet. Upon reception of the information, it will be tabled at the Library for the attention of the House.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, can I know from the respected Chief Commissioner whether there is regular information on this concerning these between the Central Government and the RRA? Because I have been made to understand that there has been a timeframe for the asking for 126,000 km² of the extended continental shelf near Rodrigues to the annex... to the Republic of Mauritius. I think the RRA should be made aware of that. I think more information will be obtained from the Central Government.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, that is why we have asked for information from the relevant authorities. But, when we will see those information, those information will help us concerning the environment, the number of kilometres around Rodrigues. However, we have no reply from the relevant authorities in Mauritius. I am sorry.

The Minority Leader : One more question. Well, it was questioned to put in place a seismic station near Rodrigues because we are near the triple junction and this may affect Rodrigues at any time like it has been done in Indonesia. Can I know where we arrived at concerning the seismic station? Whether this, we have started to build it, whether this will be installed or not.

The Chief Commissioner: I am not aware of that, Madam.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: The Chief Commissioner just said he has asked from the relevant authorities answers to this question. But can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether with the meeting with the Prime Minister, whether this issue was addressed?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I think now, because we asked this question, so, we will discuss the matter with the Prime Minister so that we can... It has been told there is more information concerning sea around Rodrigues, blue economy around Rodrigues, you know. But we have not even any information on the blue economy in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, thank you very much. Madam Chairperson, *cette affaire de ne pas donner de réponse*, we do not have reply, we will put in the library, *cette affaire-là devient de plus en plus agaçant*. The Chief Commissioner is responsible for the country, for the good running of the country. The Chief Commissioner mentioned in lots of speeches that the relations between Port Louis and Port Mathurin is very good. Can the Chief Commissioner inform us what is, what does he consider as very good relationship when he does not have any reply to a very important question tabled by Members in this August Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam, that depends on the kind of questions. They are asking a special... in this question, there are special information but we do not have the whole information. So, when now, the question has been put to us, we will see with the Central Government what can be done, what can be put, what kind of information should either, should give us all the information or make a sort of MoU with the relevant authorities in Mauritius. But this question will help us for the future.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, can the Chief Commissioner can inform the House with regards to the plan that handed to him in the residence during the year 2019 made by.... Can the Commissioner

inform the House about this plan the Commander.... gives him, remit to him officially in the residence?

The Chief Commissioner: Could the Member come with a special question?

[Interruptions]

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the Chief Commissioner...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Chief Commissioner seems not to be aware of any apparatus. Can I ask him what about the seismic apparatus put at Citronnelle? Whether it is still in good working condition and... *Si*. There is an apparatus put on ... at Citronnelle. So, what about that apparatus? Whether he is aware of it.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I cannot understand on what the Member is speaking.

Madam Chairperson: Indeed, this is not related to the main question. The question has been put, it has been answered. It is unfortunate that you are not satisfied, I am sorry. Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/6, Madam Chair.

AMENITIES AND TABLES INSTALLED – BEACHES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/6): The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the amenities and tables installed at the different beaches in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the number of beaches concerned together with the list of amenities and the amount of money involved in each case;
- (b) the successful bidder and the tendering procedures, if any; and

- (c) if the amenities installed are in line with the project Rodrigues, île écologique?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, my Commission has the responsibility to provide adequate amenities including tables on all the public beaches around the island with the view to beautify the beaches and bring better services to the users. With regards to part (a) of the question, the amenities and tables installed at the different beaches in Rodrigues are as follows:

SN	Amenities	No. of Beaches	Cost Rs
1	Tuck shops	8	2,664,884
2	Toilets	2	2,783,650
3	Concrete benches	13	1,287,500
4	Solar Lights	13	1,413,750

I table the information. And, we have seven Sorting Bins placed on the beaches and this has been sponsored.

With regards to Part (b), the tendering procedures for these projects were made through restricted bidding in line with the Public Procurement Act 2006 which is the legal procurement procedure for projects costing up to Rs 5 m.

The successful bidders for the different projects are as follows:

SN	Amenities	Name of Bidder
1	3 Tuck shops at Anse Aux Anglais	M. K
2	1 Tuck shop at Anse aux Anglais	J. R. E
3	4 Tuck shops (2 at Pointe Coton + 2 at Mourouk)	T. R
3	1 toilet at Rivière Banane	G. R
4	1 toilet at Graviers	G. R
5	60 Concrete benches on 18 beaches	J. R. E

With regards to part (c) of the question, yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, the amenities installed on public beaches in Rodrigues by my Commission are definitely in line with the vision to make Rodrigues an ecological island.

The Minority Leader : Well, Madam Chair, the respected Commissioner has been talking of the installation being in line with *Rodrigues*,

île écologique. Can I know whether the table that are being constructed, they are made of concrete or wooden? Or made of wood?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam, I knew this question was coming. Definitely, we use... We have been putting... and that makes about seven years I am Commissioner for Environment. And for six years, we have been putting tables, wooden tables, which is more likely to be more ecological than the concrete ones but what has happened? Everybody knows in this room what is happening to these tables. People move them. Some people steal them. Some use them for firewood. So, it was of course, it would have been better to have wooden, I admit, to have wooden tables and benches but unfortunately, the fact that for the reason I just said, we cannot continue with this because it costs a lot to put, keep putting wooden tables on the beaches. But, the concrete one is not just concrete; it has been changed, the way it is more aesthetic and there was some sort of drawing on it which make it more ecological.

The Minority Leader : Madam Chair, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner whether, he is contemplating the possibility of using, you know, sometimes, you have big trunk wood coming from other countries alighting on the beach of Rodrigues, whether he will use these wood even to cover these concrete table, to make it more ecological. And, by the way, why not put certain sites for barbecues like it is done in Australia for the Rodriguan to use them? Instead of lighting fire under the trees here and there?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, yes, I said, I agree that it could have been better with wood but the Minority Leader is talking about putting barbecues on beaches with regards to just copying Australia. What has happened to Australia? Do people know? What has happened? I just put the question. What has happened to Australia? Do we... If you go... It is a fact. It is a fact, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is a fact. If you go on some of the beaches on Rodrigues, you will see filao trees starting to burn where people has been drunk. What happened to... What has happened to Ile Gombrani last time? The reason for the fire outbreak there was because of barbecue. So, we are not really for this idea of putting whatever barbecue system because we do not... if Australia has not been able to manage their fire, can you realise what will happen here if we get a fire like this on Rodrigues. Thank you, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Félicité.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Z. Félicité: Thanks, Madam Chair. So...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. Z. Félicité: Concerning toilets on the beach, are they supplied with water everyday?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Madam. We had a problem in the past. We bought a tanker for that but unfortunately, it was not working like we expected it would work. Yes, we have been putting, we are providing, we have given the tanker to RodClean and for the time being, this work is being done well. But unfortunately, I have to say that, I regret to say I have the pictures in my tablet. We put... We fixed two new toilets at Anse Ali on a Wednesday and on Friday, people have stolen both of them. This is what is happening unfortunately on this island. I think, I do not know if I have to put the toilet in *béton* as you know, maybe that could be a solution but to be honest that we, people have to take care of what the Government is putting in place for people. I said in my answer that it is all for the users to be friendly but unfortunately, this is not the case, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Grandcourt.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, le Commissaire constate et puis, il ne fait rien. Il dit que les gens cassent tout, volent tout. Mais c'est sa responsabilité de voir, de mettre en place des politiques pour justement arrêter, pour parler à ces gens, faire de l'éducation. Il y a une Commission qui est derrière lui, il peut faire des...

Madam Chairperson: Your question, please !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: ...machin etc. Il ne peut pas venir nous dire ça comme ça.

Madam Chairperson: Your question, respected Member !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming. D'après l'information qui a été *tabled*, *concrete benches* 13 et *cost* Rs1.28... Rs1,287,000, à peu près Rs100000 par banc. Rs100000 *ene* banc. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire quelle est la dimension de ce banc, s'il a des informations techniques à nous donner sur ce banc et je vais poser aussi une autre question – *solar lights*, 13 *solar lights* pour Rs1.4 millions, *Rs1 million passé ene solar lights*. Qu'est-ce

que... Quels sont ces genres de *solar lights* ? Donc, j'aimerais lui demander s'il a des spécifications techniques là-dessus, de nous donner.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, I said, in part of my answer to part of the question, that is, part (b), the tendering procedures for these projects were made through restricting bidding in line with the Public Procurement Act. So, I am not the one to go and buy stuffs like this. Everything has been done like this. So, if it costs like the cost I said, this is not my fault because this concrete bench, maybe the Member see it more expensive but with the long term, if you look at the long term, we used to buy benches for... tables for Rs 20000 and then, after six months, it is gone. So, I think it is... everything is done according. Concerning the solar lights, yes, this is sophisticated. We could buy some cheap things. Because we want things to last, that is why we say that this ecological thing is... So, we are buying good stuffs, Madam Chairperson, for this island.

The Minority Leader : The respected Commissioner is making a laughing stock of the ideas given concerning the barbecue. Well, there has been fire in... in Gombrani Island maybe because there is not a secured place for the barbecue! This is what I am talking about. Is he contemplating the possibility of putting barbecues in secured places? And, he has been talking of vandalism. Well, we have a *Police de l'environnement*! What is it doing?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, this thing about barbecue, you know, it is... Do you know that doing barbecue pollutes the environment and pollutes the people that goes, that are resting on the beaches? So, do you want people to go to the beach and cannot sit there because there is someone doing barbecue? So, barbecue, you can buy your barbecue and take there! So, the Government is not supposed to put everything for people on this island. So, I think this idea of putting barbecue on beaches is not a good one and I am not working on this, Madam Chairperson.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, revenons sur la question des bancs. Il dit que ça a été fait sur *restricted bidding* qui est... normalement pour avoir un meilleur prix, ça n'aurait pas dû être le cas mais c'est leur choix. La question, c'est que: quel est le *evaluated cost of the benches* ? They should have "a" evaluated cost before they launch a tender. So, what is the evaluated cost per bench?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, I do not have this answer but I do not think that these people that are being evaluating these are... There must be! These people, I think there are people. We are putting... saying that these people are not doing their job properly? So, I think they are doing... they know

what they are doing. Of course, there should be an estimated cost and they must if they have given the project to someone, it must be in line with the law that prevails.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee:Madam, excuse me. *Mo pas fonctionnaire moi.*

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/7, Madam Chair.

**SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY
– “LA MAISON DES PECHEURS”**

(No. B/7): The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the supply of electricity at “La Maison des Pêcheurs”, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the average monthly consumption of electricity thereby;
- (b) the total cost of installation of solar photo-voltaic system thereat indicating the actual production of electricity thereby from the installation to date and giving details on any benefit derive therefrom;
- (c) the date of acquisition and maintenance cost of the generator thereat, indicating the frequency and average period of use; and
- (d) the detailed number of claims therefor settled by his Commission with the Central Electricity Board, indicating the corresponding date and sums, respectively?

The Commissioner for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): *Pas fonctionnaire mem moi ta.* Yes. Before I table the information because I think it will be... I table it before I start. Madam Chair, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that average monthly consumption of electricity at “La Maison des Pêcheurs” based on bills for period November 2017 to April 2018 is around 4,034 KW.

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mrs. Chairperson Madam, I am informed that the total cost of installation of the solar photo-voltaic system

installed there was Rs 458,700. However, the information about the actual production of electricity in being compiled by the CEB.

As regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed that the generator which is a back-up system for supply of electricity in case of blackout was installed ever since the setting up of the *La Maison des Pêcheurs* in the 1980's and has not been used so often as it is supposed to be used when there is no electricity which has rarely been the case.

I am also informed that this very old generator was repaired twice in 2014 and 2015. The first repair which also included the extensive review of the wiring system of both the plant and the electric calibration of the building was effected on 14 October 2014 at the cost of Rs 86,400. The second repair was effected at the cost of Rs 55,000 and it end on 29 January 2015.

As regard to part (d) of the question, I am informed, Madam Chairperson, that my Commission has settled seven claims in respect of electricity to the tune of Rs 1,125,004. I can give the date but I have already... If you want me to give the date but I already tabled the information. If you want it, you say. I will give it to you.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Concerning the generator, can I know from the Commissioner who supply diesel for the generator? And, whether there is a control mechanism that has been put in place to control this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I said in my reply, Madam, that this generator is a backup system and it is not used very often. So, this problem of putting diesel is not... does not arise.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: B/8, Madam Chair.

RECRUITMENT OF SCAVENGERS – RODCLEAN COMPANY LTD

(No. B/8): The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the recruitment of scavengers by Rodclean Company Ltd on or about the 6th January 2020, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information therefrom and state:

- (a) when notice for recruitment was made in relation thereto, indicating the different means adopted;
- (b) if an interview panel was set up therefor, indicating the composition thereof;
- (c) the number of candidates called for interview specifying the number of days interviews were held; and
- (d) the number of scavengers recruited, specifying if on a temporary or permanent basis?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chair, my understanding of the question is that the respected Member is referring to the most recent recruitment exercise of workers carried out by the RodClean Company Limited which operates under the purview of my Commission. The RodClean Company Limited is a RRA fully-owned private company by limited shares and is governed by the company's Act, the RRA Investment Regulations and the Cleaning Enterprise (Remuneration Order). As a matter of fact, Madam Chair, the last recruitment exercise by the Company involved the grades of Refuse Collectors, Laboratory Attendant and Plumbers. The Cleaning Enterprise Regulation 2010 has been amended by the Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training on 24 October 2019 whereby, the job with title 'Scavenger' has been removed and replaced by that of 'Refuse Collector'. So, stop talking, telling these people as scavengers. With your permission, Madam Chairperson, I will now answer Question B/8 notwithstanding the term 'scavenger' used by the respected Member in the question.

Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that no public notice was issued for this particular exercise. Instead, on 17 December 2019, the Employment Exchange Office was notified of the number of vacancies in these grades and was requested to submit a list of potential male and female candidates satisfying specific criteria such as age, qualification and experience amongst others. Upon receipt of the list of 100 potential unemployed candidates from the Employment Exchange Office, an interview panel comprising of three Board Directors and the Secretary of the Board of the company was constituted to interview the potential candidates who responded to the interview for... the invitation of the interview. The selection exercise was carried out during four consecutive days from the 20 to the 24 December 2019 whereas... whereby only 92 potential candidates who responded to the invitation of the company were interviewed by the panel.

As regard to part (b) of the question, 20 Refuse Collectors were selected on the 31 December 2019 for the post. They joined the company on the 06 January 2020 for a determinate period ending 05 November 2020. Their respective contracts are liable to renewal upon satisfactory recommendations and in line with the provision of the related labour laws.

Mr. J. R. Augustin: During the recent cyclone, there are about 100 Refuse Collectors as the Commissioner said, who were chosen to work for the RodClean to clean Rodrigues. Can I know from the Commissioner how many from these people have been employed by the RodClean for the last recruitment?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, I cannot answer this one because the one, the exercise that we took was for an emergency purpose. So, we did not have the time to really do the real procedures. We just collected the names from the labour office because simply, we did not have the time but these people, it was clear that they were not supposed to be employed by RodClean directly like this. They had to go. If their name appear again, then, they will have the chance to do it. But unfortunately, this exercise was done only for the emergency because we did not have the time. Thank you, Madam.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: D'après la réponse du Commissaire de l'environnement, les *newly recruited scavengers*, ils sont sur une base de... temporaire. Qu'en est-il de ceux qui sont là depuis 12 ans ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Those who are here, the ones which are... just been... joined RodClean on a temporary, of course, they have to be... Even people who join Government are on temporary basis until they are confirmed. This is the same thing. For the other ones, we are working. Things is almost done, that they already employed, you know, with regards... if we look at all the laws, they are already employed. But they just want a piece of paper and this piece of paper is coming, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Miss M. R. Collet: Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson, question B/9.

STATE LANDS IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/9): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Miss M. R. Collet) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to State lands in Rodrigues that are vested in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will enlighten the House on the:

- (a) extent thereof together with demand for leases thereof specifying if same are by Rodriguans residing in Rodrigues, Rodriguans not residing in Rodrigues and non-Rodriguans;
- (b) number of applications for lease received, for all approved categories, respectively, since 2012 to date, specifying the number thereof that have been approved and/or allocated;
- (c) criteria and time limit for the allocation of lease indicating any backlog thereon and measures to clear same, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, as you are aware, the island of Rodrigues has an area of some 10,000 hectares (104km²). Some 1,000 hectares are privately owned while the remaining are state lands. The 1,000 hectares of private lands are scattered in different regions, mainly Port Mathurin over the central part of the island. The state lands comprise mainly forests, mountains, natural reserves, agricultural/farming land, residential and commercial site land.

In view of the exiguity of Rodrigues Island, land is in high demand for various purposes all competing among themselves and not always mutual exclusive. The balance which consists of state lands has got to be judiciously utilised in the best interests of the population.

Madam Chairperson, the present criteria for granting of residential state land leases is referred in accordance with Section 6 of the State Land Act and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

The main criteria for eligibility of residential leases, is that the applicant and/or his spouse must satisfy the following conditions:

- Be of Mauritian nationality and above the age of 18
- Residing in Rodrigues
- Not normally be a land owner in Rodrigues and Mauritius
- Not be owner of a housing unit in Rodrigues and Mauritius

Subject to availability of land, the Applicant who satisfies the above criteria is granted a site for residential purposes. It is only when all the required information regarding the applicant and the State Land applied for has been collected and screened that an appropriate recommendation is submitted for approval.

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Madam Chairperson, the guidelines for allocating industrial and commercial leases is that any applicant/promoter willing to lease State land for industrial or commercial development should submit application on the prescribed form at the office of the Invest Rodrigues supported by a business plan and other relevant documents. After screening by the above office, the project is sent for approval by the Executive Council and is thereafter referred to the Cadastral Unit for processing of lease application subject to all criteria and conditions being met by applicant.

Furthermore, subject to availability of land, the applicant is granted a Commercial or Industrial Site with option of renewal for four consecutive periods of ten years at an annual rent assessed by the Valuation Department.

Madam Chairperson, the main criteria for granting of residential state land lease is that the applicant shall be a Mauritian citizen, residing in Rodrigues as mentioned in policy for granting of leases mentioned above.

As regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the application for leases are processed in chronological order based on year of application. Presently, the Cadastral Unit is finalising all outstanding applications up to 2013 amounting to about 1224.

Based on the records at the Cadastral Unit, the number of applications received for residential purposes since the year 2012 to 2019 is 3902.

The number of commercial/industrial leases applications for the same period is 503.

The number of state land leases issued since 2012 to 2019 including residential and commercial/industrial is 5435.

With regards to Part (c) of the question, I am informed that presently, the Cadastral Office is completing the screening of applications as at 2013. There is an outstanding amount of 4148 applications for state land leases for the period of 2014 to 2019. 4148 applications for state land leases for the period 2014 to 2019. Hence, a total of 5372 unscreened applications are still outstanding as at date.

I wish to inform the House that I am fully aware that the present staffing position of the Cadastral Unit does not allow the office to meet the growing demand of state land leases from the public in the immediate future.

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Hence, in view of improving service delivery and to grant more state land leases, the following measures have been undertaken by my office:

- Recruitment procedures are underway for 03 new trainee surveyors.
- 04 Survey Technicians have been recruited in October 2019
- 02 Trainee Surveyors will undergo University Courses in Mauritius this year in view of becoming fully qualified surveyors in four years.
- It is to be noted that since April 2019, new policies have been designed to facilitate pledging of leasehold rights for loans up to Rs 4 m. being undertaken by all financial institutions.
- Tender has been launched during this current month to contract out the services of a Private Surveyor for the survey of 2000 lots in the next two years.
- The acquisition of new tools, equipment and software in order to upgrade the actual system at the Cadastral Unit. The new software will accelerate the drawing of lease agreement and processing of plans which will subsequently increase the efficiency of the Unit.
- Technical assistance will be received in early March 2020 from the Ministry of Housing and Lands to help in the preparation of a terms of reference for the hiring of a consultancy firm to work on a local planning framework for Rodrigues. This will allow better planning for allocation of leases in specific zones and types of development accordingly. It will also help promote sustainable land management; and
- Tender has been launched this month for the complete renovation of the building housing the Cadastral Office. In addition to improved working environment, the upgraded infrastructure aims above all at providing a more customer-friendly environment for the heavy flow of public commuting to this office on a daily basis.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member Augustin?

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Yes, the Chief Commissioner just mentioned that there are many people who are waiting for their bail.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Augustin: *For their lease, for their lease! For the lease, sorry.* Qu'en est-il des gens qui payent déjà leur bail mais qui n'obtient pas le bail dans leurs mains ? Mais il y en a beaucoup, les personnes âgées qui attendent ça pour le coulage de la dalle. Qu'en est-il de ces gens-là ? Merci.

The Chief Commissioner: Je suis au courant de ce que le membre dit, c'est vrai. Même j'ai remis un cas ce matin à Madame Pamela, avec Cadastre, Pamela Soopraven Kwet-On. C'est vrai, il y a des gens, même une dame qui a payé son bail en janvier de cette année et qu'on lui a dit que c'est dans six mois qu'elle va recevoir son bail. C'est vrai il y a des cas comme ça. C'est pourquoi nous avons fait mention d'augmenter le personnel du cadastre pour que le travail soit fait le plus vite possible et en même temps, alimenter le cadastre dans de nouveaux équipements pour que vraiment, cela puisse se faire le plus vite possible. Merci.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Le Chef commissaire avait déclaré dans son discours budget de l'année dernière qu'il va effectivement augmenter le nombre. Le manque de staff peut souvent aider à ce problème. Je ne sais pas si cette année-ci ils ont fait ou bien ils vont refaire encore ou est-ce qu'ils... où ils sont avec ce processus de recrutement ou je ne sais pas ?

The Chief Commissioner: C'est déjà dans ma réponse, Madame. Madame, est-ce que vous m'autorisez à répondre une autre fois à cette question ?

Madam Chairperson: No, this is not necessary. Yes.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Merci. Merci, Madame la présidente. Madame la présidente, ce problème de *staffing* au niveau du cadastre ne date pas d'hier. Et le Chef commissaire est responsable de state land depuis 2012 à ce jour. Donc, ce qui fait qu'il y a... Non, je veux parler de 2012 parce que j'étais là en 2012 en tant que député de cette Assemblée. 2012 à 2019, là, on est en 2020. Ça fait au moins sept ans. Huit ans. Le problème de *staffing*, vous l'avez maintes fois... maintes reprises dire et redire qu'il y a le problème de *staffing* et que des solutions sont en train de voir comment faire etc. mais jusqu'à maintenant, rien. Ça, c'est un. Deuxième chose. 4148.

Madam Chairperson: Your question, please! This is question time.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: I will come with my question. It is in that little statement. 4148 baux en attente de 2014 à 2019 et 5372 qui n'ont pas été encore vérifiés. Madame la présidente, le Chef commissaire aussi a parlé de local planning. Est-ce qu'il... Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire s'il est au courant qu'en 2010, il y a eu une étude qui a été faite au niveau du cadastre pour justement voir cette affaire de local planning ? Il y a eu deux composants dans cette étude-là en 2010. J'ai une copie de ce... J'ai les deux copies. Je ne sais pas si le Chef commissaire en a une copie mais en tout cas, *this was straightforward*. Il y avait des solutions à tous ces problèmes qu'on est en train de mentionner aujourd'hui. *Will the Chief Commissioner for the good faith*, pour la bonne marche du département du cadastre, reconsidérer, revoir cette étude-là et de faire en sorte que cette étude-là soit prise en considération même si cette étude n'a pas été fait par son gouvernement ?

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse, pour la formation d'un arpenteur, ça prend quatre ans et cette formation, on ne la donne pas tous les ans. Cette formation, on ne donne pas tous les ans. Et justement, comme le membre a dit, et c'est vrai que dans le passé, il y a eu des études qui ont été faites et c'est pourquoi nous voudrions demander qu'il y a une équipe des terres à Maurice qui vont venir pour justement voir cette étude qui a été faite dans le passé. Et justement, il y a cette collaboration avec le Ministère des terres et là, ce matin, j'ai pris... Je pars pour Maurice bientôt et j'ai pris contacte avec le Ministre Obeegadoo. On se connaît bien lui et moi et on va essayer vraiment d'avoir une collaboration plus étroite et que je vais lui donner toutes ces informations à partir de cette question et que pour que lui aussi, il puisse voir comment aider Rodrigues à résoudre tous ces problèmes concernant les baux, concernant le personnel et ainsi de suite. Alors, c'est tout un travail qui va commencer bientôt et nous souhaitons vraiment que la question posée par l'honorable membre va avoir une réponse dans quelques temps.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Madame, je ne veux pas... Je ne peux m'empêcher de réagir. Mais le Chef commissaire, il est responsable des terres à Rodrigues. On est autonome ! Pourquoi est-ce qu'il doit chercher une équipe de Maurice pour venir étudier les rapports qui ont été faits par les Rodriguais, par ceux qui connaissent l'île, aller voir le ministre pour aider à faire des baux à Rodrigues. Mais qu'est-ce que c'est ? Et puis, il dit « *capable, pas capable* ». Mais là, il montre qu'on est incapable ! Qu'est-ce qu'il va faire ? Est-ce que... La question, c'est que, est-ce que le Rodriguais, il n'y pas des gens à Rodrigues pour étudier ce rapport et aider à donner, à l'implémentation à donner des baux plus rapidement aux Rodriguais ? *Ayo*.

The Chief Commissioner: *Ayo, ayo. Ayo.* Madame, nous avons une certaine collaboration entre Maurice et Rodrigues. Nous ne sommes pas une île isolée. Même si nous avons une autonomie, nous ne sommes pas isolées. Mais... Et nous avons besoin par exemple comme des experts d'extérieurs, ailleurs pour nous aider dans notre travail. Et cette équipe qui va venir pour Rodrigues, c'est pour nous aider vraiment à avoir une méthode de travail beaucoup plus approfondi et beaucoup plus débrouillardise justement. C'est une question de collaboration. Collaboration. Nous ne sommes pas un pays isolé. Nous avons besoin que ce soit par exemple, là, on a posé des questions tout à l'heure-là concernant le virus. Le virus, on a besoin des personnes de Maurice pour venir nous aider, nous donner beaucoup plus d'informations. Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça, Madame ? Alors, d'accord, oui, l'autonomie mais nous ne sommes pas indépendants. Nous sommes autonomes.

Alors, nous, au niveau du gouvernement, nous aimons travailler dans la coopération avec Maurice, les autres îles de l'Océan indien et le monde entier. Vous comprenez ? Alors, il y a là tout ça. Et ce qui veut dire que parfois aussi, nous envoyons des personnes pour un stage dans tel ou tel pays, dans tel ou tel domaine et c'est ça justement. Alors, cette équipe qui va venir de Maurice au niveau de la terre, c'est justement pour nous aider à mettre en place toute une méthode plus efficace pour que nous puissions répondre justement aux besoins, aux demandes de toutes ces personnes qui cherchent un bail. Mais il y a aussi, Madame, un point assez important. Ce que nous appelons l'aménagement du territoire. Il faut faire bien attention. Il y a un mois de cela, j'ai donné des baux à des gens mais c'était des gens *built-up* qui avaient déjà construit sans un bail. Je me souviens dans le passé il y a eu des politiciens qui ont dit aux gens : construisez-vous autrement là où vous voulez votre maison, là où vous voulez. Si vous avez des ennuis, venez me voir. Alors, c'est dans le journal ça. C'est dans les journaux ! J'ai lu ça. Alors, justement, alors, ce qui veut dire ces gens-là ont construit des maisons des agriculteurs et aujourd'hui, nos terres agricoles ont diminué ! Alors, ils encourageaient les gens à construire leurs maisons...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

The Chief Commissioner: ...dans la terre agricole. Et quand on donne des baux, ils sont venus....

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

The Chief Commissioner: *Ah zot koné! Alé koz fort!*

Madam Chairperson: Order ! Order !

The Chief Commissioner: Non, Madame, Madame, nous, nous avons une vision où il faut bien justement respecter, faire l'aménagement du territoire pour les constructions et aussi respecter nos terres agricoles. C'est notre terre agricole. Je dois dire ici, Madame, excusez-moi, un dernier petit mot. L'année dernière, une dame m'a dit qu'elle a fait, elle a pu voir Rs500000 avec ses haricots rouges. Voyez-vous, Madame ? C'est pourquoi même en 1976, j'avais dit : « *Rodriguais, pas compte lor manze ki sorti dehors ! Compte lor manze ki sorti dans ou later.* » *Ou ine tandé sa ?* Ils ont entendu, ça, Madame. Alors, excusez-moi, j'ai causé un peu fort. J'ai été euh... Alors, merci beaucoup, Madame.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Excusez-moi, je dois poser une question. Encore, je ne peux pas m'empêcher de poser la question. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire... le Chef commissaire, pardon, l'école de Pistache a été construit sur une terre considérée comme quoi ? Terre agricole ou pas ? Il parle, *bla bla bla, bla bla bla*. Est-ce que...

Madam Chairperson: You have to come with a substantive question, respected Member. Yes, respected Member Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson,* ce que le Chef commissaire est en train redire encore ce matin, il a maintes fois redit ce qu'il vient de dire mais nous avons un sérieux problème.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please, be brief ! No statement. Question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *I will be brief. The Chief Commissioner is mentioning* aménagement du territoire. L'aménagement du territoire, j'ai fait mention tout à l'heure, ce plan de local planning de 2010. Je me souviens il a fait venir une belge qui a fait une partie d'aménagement territoire dans la région 1. Est-il au courant ? Il a fait... On a fait la présentation au *Human Resource Centre*. Et il était présent. C'est lui. Il était le Chef commissaire. Il a applaudi, il a dit: "Nous allons continuer dans cette direction-là." C'était en 2004 ou en 2005. Aujourd'hui, on est en 2010, en 2020. Donc, ce qui fait que il n'a pas... il n'a rien fait jusqu'à maintenant. Donc, les gens attendent. C'est pourquoi qu'il y a des gens qui construisent n'importe quoi parce qu'il en a marre. Même des gens de la fonction publique qui attendent depuis 10 ans pour un morceau de terre. Mais par contre, ceux qui viennent de Maurice, en un clin d'œil, en un

claquement des mains, ils ont 31000m² et 18000m²... de construire ... à Saint François.

Madam Chairperson: Your question, please !

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question is there, is: whether consideration will be given to these Rodriguans who have applied for a portion of land to build their house and they have the money, whether consideration, whether special consideration...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, thank you, respected Member.

The Chief Commissioner: Madame, j'ai répondu tout cela dans ma réponse.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member Grandcourt.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Madame la présidente, j'aimerais demander au Commissaire il y a deux types de gens qui demandent des baux à Rodrigues. Il y a des gens qui...

Madam Chairperson: Be brief, please !

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Oui, je vais être *brief*. Il y a des gens qui font, qui demandent comme ça mais il y a des gens qui vont se marier, qui ont besoin de ça d'une façon assez urgente. Est-ce qu'il y a un *fast-track* au niveau de sa commission pour considérer ces cas-là ?

The Chief Commissioner: Ça est considéré en rapport avec les demandes et le cadastre et tout ce qu'on peut faire. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member Volbert.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Thank you, Madam Chair.* On a entendu, on a souvent entendu parler, entendu le Chef commissaire : il faudra préserver l'autonomie, il ne faudra pas empiéter dans l'autonomie. Quand il s'agit de les gens qui viennent à travers le Chef commissaire, ça, ce n'est pas empiéter dans l'autonomie mais quand il s'agit quand d'autres personnes...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, put your question, please !

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Est-ce que... Est-ce que...

Madam Chairperson: There is no time for statement ! This is question time.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: *Yes, Madam. I am asking my question.* Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire si il y a une priorité des mauriciens sur des rodriguais quand il s'agit des bail ?

The Chief Commissioner: Il n'y a aucune priorité. C'est bien dit dans ma réponse. Celui qui demande un bail doit être de nationalité mauricienne mais rodriguais ; pas les mauriciens. Si le mauricien demande, soit pour faire des hôtels ou ceci ou cela ou lancer des entreprises mais on ne donne pas à des mauriciens qui habitent Maurice, avoir un bail ici et ça, ça ne se fait pas. Et même si ces personnes cherchent un bail ici et s'il a un bout de terrain à Maurice, ils n'auront pas.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

(No. B/10): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Miss M. R. Collet) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to environmental protection, he will state and table to enlighten the House on:

- (a) the number of environmental complaints relating to noise pollution, odour, dumping, eyesores, illegal slaughtering and nuisances caused by derelict bare lands recorded in Rodrigues for the year 2018 and 2019;
- (b) the efficiency of response to citizens by the present Environment Protection Unit indicating the number of breaches of environmental laws and types of enforcement actions taken; and
- (c) any sensitisation campaigns carried out in the community, especially on noise pollution together with the sum budgeted and amount disbursed therefor, respectively, the financial year 2018-2019?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, as regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that 2,440 environmental complaints have been recorded for the year 2018 and 4,371 for 2019 by the *Police de l'Environnement* as follows:

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SN.	Types of Complaint	Year 2018	Year 2019
1.	Noise Pollution: (a) Neighbourhood (b) Insufficient Silence	1789 417	2942 1209
2.	Illegal dumping	26	17
3.	Eyesore	176	186
4.	Illegal slaughtering	Nil	Nil
5.	Nuisance by derelict bare land	32	17

As regard to part (b) of the question, for the year 2018, **12,436** complaints have been received by the *Police de l'Environnement* and **2,279** i.e 98% of these cases have been effectively attended.

For the year 2019, we had **19,313** complaints and 97% of these complaints have been attended.

Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, all the cases are in breach of the Environment Protection Act and **7,648** cases have been referred to Court in 2018 and **9,111** in 2019.

[Interruptions]

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): 9000, oui. Mrs Chairperson... *Mais ine amene lacour matelot!*

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please address the Chair!

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Yes, Madam. Madam Chairperson, concerning part (c) of the question, **25** sensitisation campaign sessions have been carried in 2018 including 16 Community Forum, 7 radio programmes and 2 television programmes.

As for the year 2019, **38** sensitisation campaign sessions have been held, including 23 Community Forum, 11 radio programmes and 4 television programmes.

That is it, Madam. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Est-ce que le... On voit que le nombre de contravention, le nombre de cas référés à la cour sont en hausse à Rodrigues. Donc, j'aimerais demander au Commissaire quelle est sa politique globale concernant comment faire pour résoudre ce problème ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chairperson*, c'est sûr que notre politique globale, ça commence par l'éducation, la conscientisation. On ne fait que ça. Mais malheureusement, il y a des personnes qui ne respectent pas et ceux qui ne respectent pas doivent être punies.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Pour établir une contravention liée au *noise pollution*, on doit s'en servir de *decimal apparatus*. Peut-on savoir qui, si on a un appareil de ce genre ici et qui opère cette appareil et qui donne les certificats d'authenticité ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Madam Chair*, on avait un appareil pour les décibels, qui mesure le décibel. Malheureusement, on a un petit problème avec. Même le *smoke meter*, on avait mais on a un petit problème avec mais on est en train de procurer d'autres appareils que ça.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mais, Madame la présidente, ce problème date depuis longtemps ! Comment se fait-il qu'il vient ici maintenant, il nous dit que il y a 9000 contraventions ? 9000, ça veut dire 9000 personnes. 9000, on est à 40000. 9000, ça fait 25%, presque 25% de la population ? Vous imaginez, Madame la présidente, presque 20 à 25% de la population sont en effraction alors que le *smoke meter*, alors que la machine qui mesure décibel ne marche pas. Mais qu'est-ce qui se passe ? Est-ce qu'il peut nous répondre ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Bien sûr je vais vous répondre. Ça marchait. Quand on a pris les contraventions, ça marchait mais là, on a un petit souci. L'appareil a un petit problème. On est en train de réparer. Mais...

[Interruptions]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please, you allow the Commissioner to answer.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Les membres doivent même se souvenir. On était à la télé. Il y a même le ministre de l'environnement avant qui avait soumis l'appareil en bonne et due forme devant la télé devant tout le monde. Donc, je ne suis pas en train de mentir, Madame.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Peut-on savoir qui opérait l'appareil et qui donnait le certificat d'authenticité ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: La Police de l'environnement, Madame.

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

At 12.33 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 01.33 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Question?

Miss M. R. Collet: B/11.

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICERS/SENIOR MEDICAL AND
HEALTH OFFICERS POSTED IN RODRIGUES**

(No. B/11) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers posted in Rodrigues, he will seek information from the relevant authority to state and table on:

- a) the total number thereof on the Civil Establishment of Mauritius (CEOM) and presently serving in Rodrigues;
- b) the number thereof on the Civil Establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (CEOR) on specialist training in Mauritius or abroad indicating their respective specialty;
- c) any discussion held by the Commission with the Ministry of Health for the posting of specialists thereof in Rodrigues and the outcome thereof; and
- d) any intended recruitment of specialists on the CEOR for the respective fields of oncology, respiratory and sleep medicine, and sexual health, detailing on any need thereof in Rodrigues?

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Madam Chairperson, as regards to Medical Health Officers/Senior Medical Health Officers posted in Rodrigues, the answers are as follows: There are 11

Officers on the Civil Establishment of Mauritius who are presently serving in Rodrigues.

For the question (b), out of the nine Officers on the Civil Establishment of Rodrigues, there are two who have already undergone specialised training in the field of General Medicine and Psychiatric respectively. Arrangement has already been made with the Ministry of Health and Wellness for both of them to receive at least six months practical training and experience in hospitals in Mauritius. One is already on posting in Mauritius and the second will proceed shortly during the month of March 2020.

Out of the remaining seven Rodriguan doctors, we are expecting that at least five of them will proceed for specialised training abroad in the field of Gynecology, Orthopedics, General Surgery, Pediatrics and Cardiology. It is expected that these doctors will proceed for their training abroad by the end of this year. Initially the Commission for Training made arrangement with the University of Malaysia but with the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the Asian Continent, it would be perhaps advisable to opt for another recognized Universities elsewhere where the disease is absent. I will discuss with my colleagues Commissioner for Training in this respect to finalise a decision rapidly.

As regard to part (c) of the question, I must inform the House that there is already a standing agreement with the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the posting of Specialists in Rodrigues at least on a month to month tour of service for the five major field of specialities, that is, General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, Anesthesia, Radiology, Pediatrics and Psychiatric. As for the other fields such as Oncology, Cardiology, Ophthalmology and Urology among others, Specialists from the Ministry of Health come of short visit of about one-week duration every two to three months due to scarcity in Mauritius. My Commission is pursuing discussion with the Ministry to increase either the frequency of these visits or the length of stay of these Specialists in Rodrigues on considering the increasing number of cases in Rodrigues. Discussion is still ongoing and I will personally take the matter with the new Minister of Health and Wellness.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (d) of the question, necessary arrangement is being made for the recruitment of an Oncologist on a contract basis in view of the increasing incidence of cancer in Rodrigues. We have only seven posts of Specialist on our establishment and it is difficult to create additional post as long as we do not fill all these seven posts. This is why we are sponsoring our Rodriguan doctors to get specialised training and become eligible to fill the existing post for which the earlier mentioned fields have been

given priority. The other fields mentioned by the Respected Member respiratory, sleep medicine and sexual health will be given consideration at a later stage with the creation of additional post of Specialist on our establishment.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir en ce qui concerne la section (d), le remplissage du poste de *Respiratory and sleep medicine and sexual health*. Peut-on savoir quelle date, à peu près quelle date que ça va remplir ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Madam Chairperson, the post must be created first and then we will advertise it.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Scarcity de staff à Maurice dont qui a une répercussion sur Rodrigues. Donc, n'est-il pas possible de recruter ces gens-là ailleurs ? Quelle est la possibilité et quelle est son stand là-dessus ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Bon, Mme. la présidente, il y a un recrutement qui se fait en Inde et le Ministère de la Santé va s'occuper de ce poste là aussi pour Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Miss M. R. Collet: B/12.

ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

(No. B/12) Miss M.R. Collet (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others whether, in regard to assistance offered to families in distress, she will enlighten the House on the:

- (a) number of beneficiaries thereof from July 2018 to date, indicating if same was financial or otherwise;
- (b) set criteria to benefit therefrom indicating the timeframe between application therefor and grant thereof;
- (c) budget earmarked and amount disbursed therefor for the financial years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, respectively; and

- (d) any collaboration with the relevant ministry in Mauritius as regards uniformity of schemes developed therefor across the Republic of Mauritius?

The Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others (Mrs. M.R.F. Gaspard Pierre-Louis, CSK): Madam Chairperson, the Women and Children in Distress Scheme was amended in 2013 to include in addition to Food Aid and other aids (i) Assistance for educational purpose; (ii) Setting up of a small income generating activity; and (iii) expenses in connection with the completion of a construction of a house for people who are in real situation of distress.

The object of the Scheme is to provide temporary relief as well as urgent assistance to (i) Women and children in distress including cases where persons need immediate financial assistance due to the sudden death of close relatives in dramatic and exceptional circumstances, (ii) victims of domestic violence who have to leave the family's roof following an Emergency Protection Order, and (iii) where after enquiry the Commissioner for Child, Women and Family matter is satisfied that a person is in real situation of distress requiring urgent consideration.

However, in line with the third goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations, the scheme was renamed to Family in Distress Scheme in May 2019 with a view to adopt a gender based approach and promote gender equality. In addition, the Scheme was broadened to include other cases that do not fall under the mentioned categories:

- i) Women/Families who are dependent on their son or daughter who dies as a result of tragic circumstance; and
- ii) Victims of domestic violence who are temporarily sheltered following an Emergency Protection Order and who cannot return to their previous residence and have to look for another home

Madam Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed that 54 beneficiaries have benefitted from food aids and other aids such as school materials, mattresses, connection of electricity supply and financial assistance on a case to case basis from July 2018 to date as per eligibility criteria set by the Commission.

With respect to part (b), the criteria to be eligible for assistance under the Scheme for each category are as follows:

1. Assistance for educational purpose

A financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs 10,000 on a case to case basis so as to ensure that pupils/students have the required facilities for their successful schooling are granted as follows:

- 1) Procurement of spectacles provided that the mother or any other responsible party is not in receipt of social aid; and
- 2) Procurement of school materials subject to mother or any responsible party is not in receipt of social aid or is not registered under SRM by NEF.

2. Setting up of a small income generating activities

An amount up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 is provided to women to start a small income generating activities as per the following eligibility criteria: -

- i) Women who are not in fixed employment and who are diagnosed with cancer or become handicapped and thus can no longer perform any arduous activities;
- ii) Women who are unemployed and victims of domestic violence who have to leave the family's roof after an Emergency Protection Order; and
- iii) Women who are in unemployment and who become widow after sudden death of husband in tragic circumstances such as accident, poisoning, drowning, shipwreck, suicide or any other exceptional circumstances as approved by the Commissioner.

3. Completion of construction of a house for people who are in real situation of distress

An amount up to a maximum of Rs 20,000 is granted on a case to case basis to those women who live alone and who are not in receipt of social aid and subsequently does not benefit from any facilities under the Housing Scheme.

4. Food Aid and other aids

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Food Aid up to a maximum amount of Rs 1500 and other aids such as electricity connection, mattresses are provided where after enquiry the Commissioner for Child, Women and Family matter is satisfied that a person is in real situation of distress requiring urgent consideration.

Madam Chairperson, the timeframe between application and grant of assistance to beneficiaries varies from case to case. Food aids are granted on the same day of request after recommendation of the Commissioner and approval of the Departmental Head of the Commission responsible for family matters whereas other requests for financial assistance are screened by a committee and depend on a Social Enquiry that need to be carried out either by the Officers of the Commission responsible for Family matters or Social Security.

With regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed that under Sub Head 4-101 Women's Affairs, Family Welfare and Child Development Item No. 27210.007 - Assistance to Family Distress, an amount of Rs 300,000 was earmarked for Financial Year 2017/2018 and an amount of Rs 126,591.34 was disbursed thereof. And, out of the funds of Rs 500,000 earmarked for Financial Year 2018/2019, an amount of Rs 238,573.50 was spent.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (d), I would like to point out that the Family in Distress Scheme has been worked out in consultations with the Parent Ministry but the scheme has been elaborated whilst taking into consideration the specificity of the island so as to better respond to the needs of the population.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: B/13.

CLOSURE – FORMER ROCHE BON DIEU DUMPING SITE

(No. B/13) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the closure of the former Roche Bon Dieu dumping site, he will, for the benefit of the House, state: -

- (a) how many sites are now being used for the disposal of wastes indicating how, when and why these sites have been chosen;
- (b) if the officers working on these sites have all required safety equipment and, in the affirmative, to give details and if not, to state why; and

(c) for how long these new dispositions will prevail?

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, with regard to part (a) of the question, three sites are now being used for disposal of wastes in Rodrigues, namely Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site, Grenade for temporary stacking of glass bottle and Montagne Plate for Inert Waste. Roche Bon Dieu and Montagne Plate were identified following recommendations made by experts from the Ministry of Local Government and Public Utilities after consultation with the Ministry for Rodrigues well before the advent of the autonomy.

Mrs. Chairperson Madam, with regard to part (b), all public officers working on the site are properly equipped with protective equipment. No complaints whatsoever have been received from the workers of the private sector who are ensuring security on the site concerning the provision of safety equipment.

Mrs. Chairperson Madam, with regard to part (c), all incoming wastes are currently being sent directly to the usual Roche Bon Dieu Dumping Site. As explained in my reply to part (a) of the question, wastes were being temporarily disposed on a site adjacent to the dumping site during the fire outbreak which took place from 19 December to 11 February. During these two months the Commission has been able to deal with the fire so that it extinguishes completely. In addition to extinguishing the fire, the Commission used both in-house and contracted services to clear the dumping site by pushing and compacting all wastes to one side. This has provided enough additional space to extend the life span of the site. The adjacent temporary site is now being cleared, is already 30% done and about 1000 tons of wastes remain to be transferred and this activity is expected to be completed by end of March this year.

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Mme. la présidente, je voudrais demander au Commissaire s'il a déjà fait une visite au site. Parce que moi-même j'y suis allé. J'ai vu les personnes travaillant là-bas sans aucune protection et on déversait toute la saleté. Et, même là où on déverse les excréments humains, j'ai eu la mal chance où le bonheur, je ne sais pas, quand je suis arrivé là-bas, on était en train de dévider le camion dans la nature avec une odeur nauséabonde extraordinaire. Et, à côté il y a même les travailleurs du CEB qui parfois ne peuvent même pas manger quand il y a des mouches. Alors, je voudrais savoir si le Commissaire a été là-bas pour voir si les équipements qu'on leurs donnent ils s'en servent ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Mrs. Chairperson, Madam,* concernant les équipements définitivement la Commission donne à tout le monde. Il n'y a personne normalement qui travaille sur le dépotoir, directement sur le dépotoir. Il ne devait pas y avoir. Parce que c'est plus des gens surement qui viennent récupérer des choses sur Roche Bon Dieu. Mais travailler sur le dépotoir, il n'y a personne qui travaille, appart les gens qui travaillent sur les camions qui viennent de temps en temps. Sinon, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse pour le côté de... pour des gens qui travaillent pour la sécurité du dépotoir. Donc, cette question de sécurité ne se pose pas parce que les gens qui travaillent là-bas sont supposés avoir. Est-ce qu'ils mettent leurs équipements de sécurité, ça c'est une chose. Parce que là tout le monde sait qu'on est dans le dépotoir, il y a le risque de contamination, risque des maladies. Ben, normalement au niveau de Rod Clean tout le monde obtient. Mais on a aussi des officiers de la Commission qui font des travaux pour voir ce qu'on appelle faire... essayer de voir quel pourcentage pour avoir plus de donnée scientifique, statistique sur le contenu du *waste* qui va sur Roche Bon Dieu. Et, ces gens-là sont forcément même ils mettent même des vaccins avant d'aller là-bas. Est-ce que j'ai été ? Oui, *Madam Chairperson*. J'ai été plusieurs fois. J'ai même emmené le Conseil Exécutif. On est parti tout le monde, le Chef Commissaire et les autres Commissaires étaient là, on a fait la visite. On a fait la visite et on a pris des mesures assez strictes pour remédier à la situation. C'est là qu'est venu l'idée de prendre 20 nouveaux, ce que vous vous appelez Scavengers, pour travailler dans ce secteur qui s'appelle le *Sorting of Waste*.

Concernant l'autre que vous parlez, c'est le *Waste Water Treatment Plant*, c'est vrai que ce n'est pas quelque chose de super. C'est pour ça qu'on investit beaucoup d'argent cette année dans ce projet, qui attend encore. Parce qu'on est encore au stade, le Consultant travail encore dessus. On va faire un *Waste Water Treatment Plant* en bonne et due forme. Mais bien sûre ça aussi, ça cale un petit peu pour le moment mais ça va venir.

Mr. Z. Félicité: So the Commissioner just mentioned that there are unauthorised people entering the dumping site. So, can I know what his Commission has done to prevent these people entering the dumping site?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Normally, the dumping site is fenced. But unfortunately, unfortunately, it is very unfortunate that these people, I do not know if they earn a living out of collecting thing from the *dépotoir*, but sometimes we keep seeing the fence cut and the people get in. We have also security there but unfortunately, you know, these people need things from the *dépotoir*, which we do not like, we do not accept. The Police de l'Environnement very often goes and do some patrol there but they stay in the woods and then they come in when you get there they just go away. So, it is

very difficult to control. May be in the future we will have to do something better. But with this thought, this work that we are trying to do with sorting of waste, I think this problem will be solved. Because they will be able to get the thing directly from a protected area.

The Minority Leader: This is the disposal of human waste. We believe this is something that must be taken of very, very urgently. We are talking of Coronavirus and so on, there can be an outbreak, an epidemic at any time because of that. Can we know whether the Respected Commissioner has a time frame for the dealing of this problem? Whether we will have to cover it, whether we have to put soil on it? Because whenever it rains you have plenty of these faeces going to the sea. And, this is not good for the environment. At a time when we are talking of Rodrigues Ile Ecologique.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Yes, Madam, as I said in my answer before, l'appel d'offre est déjà lancé pour le Waste Water Treatment Plant et bien sûr, on attend. Ça a été le problème de tous le gouvernement. Tous les gouvernements, il y en a qui sont déjà là et aurait dû résoudre le problème depuis tant d'années et qui n'ont pas pu le faire. Mais ça a été un gros problème pour nous. Heureusement, qu'on vient maintenant avec une façon. On a pris du temps pour trouver la solution. Et bien sûr aussi, il y a aussi cette question de budget, parce que heureusement que là on a plus que Rs 150 million qu'on va investir dans le truc. Et, je pense qu'on aura... on avait la solution mais on n'avait pas les moyens. Mais maintenant on a les moyens, on a la solution, on a les moyens, ça va se faire.*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Volbert?

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Yes, thank you, Madam. La dernière fois on a été là-bas, quelques Membres de l'opposition on a était là-bas sur le site. On a vu des cabris, des porcs, des cochons dans le *dumping site*. Et, dans le passé on a eu des bouchers ont eu des seringues dans l'estomac des cochons. Qu'en est-il ? Est-ce que vous allez faire le nécessaire pour empêcher que ces animaux-là ont accès dans le *dumping site* ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madam Chair, j'ai vu que vous étiez là-bas. Et, je suis d'accord, je ne dis pas non, qu'il n'y a pas des animaux qui vont là-bas. Et, comme partout il y a des animaux errants un peu partout, il y a de la nourriture sur le dépotoir, forcément. Mais c'est un fait que j'accepte sauf qu'on est en train de tout faire. Les Forestiers ont récupéré pas mal de cabris du dépotoir. Mais ce n'est pas facile. Ce n'est pas évident de les attraper. On a même utilisé les filets qu'on collecte au niveau des Fisheries. Ce n'est pas simple, simple, hein ! Mais je dois dire que l'avenir est prometteur et que dans l'avenir déjà le

dépotoir même va être transformé complètement avec des *high level fence* pour mettre tout ce qui est inerte après avoir retiré tous ce qu'on n'utilise pas. Tout ce qui va être utilisé, réutilisé ou recyclé va être retiré de tous ces débris et en même temps on aura l'occasion de... On travaille sur le plan pour améliorer même le site présent.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Grandcourt?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Madam. C'est un fait, il dit que c'est un fait. Mais c'est un fait inacceptable. Il est Commissaire depuis six ou sept ans, *huit ans si pas neuf ans*, il vient nous dire que c'est normale. Ce n'est pas normale, Mme. la présidente. On a été voir sur le site. On a eu qu'il y a trois dépotoir. Trois sites. Et, les trois sites, il y a... site principale est clôturé mais les deux autres sites ne sont pas clôturés. Et puis, il vient dire que c'est normal, qu'il y a des cabris qui rentrent dans le dépotoir...

Madam Chairperson: Come with your question, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Oui, j'aimerais lui demandé, est-ce qu'il y a eu le fence ? Ça c'est une chose. Deuxième question, si je peux me permettre. Est-ce qu'ils ont eu le EIA pour faire des nouveaux sites conformément au Environment Protection Act ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je crois que le Membre, Madam Chairperson, n'a pas vraiment écouté la réponse que j'ai donnée. Parce que dans ma réponse c'est clair. On a vu qu'il y avait du feu dans le dépotoir, qui continuera à mettre du pétrole sur le feu, mettre des cartons et tout ce qui est des ordures sur un feu existant, c'est augmenté l'intensité du feu. Il fallait faire quelque chose ! Qu'est-ce qu'on fait ? Parce qu'on ne pouvait pas dire aux gens, aux Rodriguais arrêter maintenant, vous prenez...il ne faut plus... les ordures vous gardez chez vous pendant une semaine. Donc, il fallait le gérer. Donc, il faut prendre une décision. Et, la décision on la prit. Le Conseil Exécutif l'a pris pour... C'est pour ça j'ai dit on est bien parti là-bas. Tout le Conseil était là. Et, pour prendre temporairement, stacker en dehors du dépotoir, juste en face. C'est vrai, ce n'était pas beau. Moi aussi je trouve que c'est... Mais qu'est-ce qu'on aurait pu faire mieux, Mme. la présidente ? Parce que tout simplement, il fallait gérer les ordures, il fallait gérer le feu en même temps. Donc, on a pris la décision qui s'imposer. Mais il n'y avait pas besoin de EIA. Ce n'est pas un site comme-ci un dépotoir, un deuxième dépotoir à Roche Bon Dieu. C'était juste un genre d'annexe temporaire le temps que on arrive à maîtriser ce feu qui était assez important. A ce moment-là on a déposé, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse aussi, on est en train de le remettre. On a créé de l'espace et ça se fait petit à petit. Malheureusement, tous les jours, il y a cinq ou six camions qui viennent à

Roche Bon Dieu. Donc, il faut en même temps prendre ce qu'on a *stacké*, remettre dans le dépotoir et en même temps gérer ce qui arrive tous les jours. Donc, ce n'est pas travail donner. Donc, je ne crois pas qu'il y a... on ne peut pas faire de la magie mais je pense que tant bien que mal on est en train de bien gérer ce problème.

The Minority Leader: Mme. la présidente, le Respecté Commissaire a dit qu'il ne peut pas faire de la magie. Mais je pense qu'avec un peu de bonne volonté on peut faire pleine de chose. Par exemple, est-ce que je peux lui demander si pendant tout ce temps qu'il a été Commissaire, il a pensé que, presque 90% des déchets sont des déchets organiques. Et, si on arrive à broyer et on utilise ça pour l'agriculture, il n'y aurait pas eu de feu. Parce ce que le feu est occasionné par les microbes, les bactéries, les activités bactériennes, qui créer le feu. Donc, s'il veut faire de la magie il n'a qu'à broyer la matière organique, utiliser ça comme composte, il n'y aura pas grand-chose à mettre à Roche Bon Dieu. Est-ce qu'il va aller dans ce sens-là ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mme. la présidente, la première question que j'ai répondu c'était ça. On parlait de *shredder*. Le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu, on parle de... le Membre, le Chef de la Minorité dit qu'il fallait broyer. Mais c'est ce qu'on fait. Il est en train de défoncer une porte déjà ouverte. On est en train de *shred*. Vous allez à Baie aux Huitres, c'est ce qu'on fait. Mais la seule différence...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr. J. R. Payendee: La seule différence c'est que le broyeur ne se trouve pas à Roche Bon Dieu. Et, maintenant quand on parle des matières qui vont sur le dépotoir, ce n'est pas... J'ai dit aussi dans ma réponse. Ce n'est pas les matières organiques comme des gros trucs. Le *shredder* que le Minority Leader lui-même a dit, *is a heavy duty shredder*. Ça ne coupe pas, ça n'écrase pas l'herbe. C'est plus l'herbe et les débris de la cour des gens, des petites feuilles que les gens vont jeter là-bas. Mais c'est sûr, oui tant bien que mal même les cocos maintenant ne partent pas à Roche Bon Dieu. C'a part sur Baie aux Huitres en attendant les moulures qui arrivent. Maintenant, vous rigolez quand je dis que le *shredder*. On a créé l'espace pour ça, à Baie aux Huitres. Si le *shredder* est tombé en panne, ce n'est pas ma faute. Mais la volonté, j'ai dit *we have the political will to invest, to invest*. On a un *shredder* qui vient d'arriver, magique, ça n'existe pas, c'est la première fois qu'on voit ça. Même à Maurice ils n'ont pas. Pour broyer le piquant loulou d'en haut. Il y a un autre qui arrive, la semaine prochaine. Et puis, il y a deux autres, un sur la

chaîne, il y a un sur... On ne parle pas d'un *shredder*, on parle d'au moins cinq qui sera là bientôt. Donc, gérer les matières organiques se sera... c'est déjà quelque chose qui est très en marche et va être fait incessamment.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mme. la présidente, il y avait un site où il a mis, on avait prévu pour ouvrir un nouveau dépotoir à Pointe au Sel dont il a utilisé pour mettre des bouteilles en verres. Vous voyez lorsqu'on prend mal les décisions quel répercussion ça a ? Et, là je vois, en étant là-bas on a vu qu'ils ont tout nettoyés, ils ont retiré les bouteilles et j'aimerais lui demander qu'est-ce qu'il va faire de ce site ? Parce qu'on aurait... s'il avait utilisé ce site, on n'aurait pas eu le feu, on n'aurait pas eu tous ces problèmes. Donc, qu'est-ce qui est devenu de ce site qu'on avait, à l'époque moi j'avais laissé pour faire un autre dépotoir ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Ce matin quand il y avait une question à mon collègue par rapport au Coronavirus et quand il parlait de mettre ça, *cot ça* ? A Manique, le Membre en question, qui est en train de poser cette question, lui-même disait, non pas là-bas ! Mais qu'est-ce qu'on fait de Roche Bon Dieu ? Lui, il parle de Pointe au Sel, c'est où Pointe au Sel ? Par rapport à Roche Bon Dieu ? C'est juste tout près. Ben oui, exactement ! Madame, il y a la Membre qui habite à Roche Bon Dieu, qu'est-ce que vous pensez de ça ? Est-ce qu'on va faire tout, on va mettre tous les ordures organiques dans Roche Bon Dieu ? Est-ce qu'on va faire, mon collègue Commissaire-là et le Chef Commissaire qui sont des élus de la région, vous ne savez pas, nous on part dans des réunions. Ces gens-là, si je transférais je pense qu'on va essayer de travailler là-dessus. Si je transférais, Madam Chair, si je transférais le prochain dépotoir à Pavillon, que va ressentir le Membre en question ? Donc, il faut penser aux autres dans ce pays. On ne peut pas continuer à dire, *wey wey on retire là on met là*. On va pourrir Roche Bon Dieu ou quoi ? Ces gens-là, ils ont une vie là-bas aussi. Ils ont besoin de respirer. C'est pour ça peut-être on va travailler sur la question de bouger le prochain dépotoir, je vais le faire à Pavillon. On va voir ce que va dire les autres. Merci, Madame.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Le Commissaire, il est en train de rigoler. Parce que le site en question dont je parle est juste à côté du site qu'il a choisi pour mettre leur saleté, pour faire le nouveau dépotoir. Il dit n'importe quoi. S'il veut choisir un autre endroit, ça c'est son problème...

Madam Chairperson: This is unparliamentary, Respected Member, you have to withdraw.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Je retire ce que j'ai dit. Je retire ce que j'ai dit. *I withdraw, I am withdrawing*. Ce que je veux dire, Mme. la présidente, le site

dont je parle est à côté du site qu'il a choisi lui-même. Bon, c'est ça je dis. Pour quoi ils n'ont pas utilisés ce site-là ? Après on met ça... là on a compris qu'il n'y a pas d'EIA, il a dit que *adjacent*, mais l'autre, c'est-à-dire, le troisième site est beaucoup plus loin du dépotoir, il aurait fallu un EIA. Donc, il esquivé en disant, voilà il a emmené le ça... mais il est contre la loi, Mme. la présidente. J'aimerais l'entendre là-dessus.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame, le Membre ce vente de ce site. Le site dont je parle mais c'est... j'allais dire un mot *unparliamentary* ! Heureusement, que je me retiens. Mais ce site en question, Madame. Quelle est la superficie de ce site ? Combien de jour d'ordures si toutefois on faisait les mêmes techniques qu'on utilise maintenant, on allait mettre ça là-bas, combien de jour ça allait tenir ? Pour moi ce n'est qu'une semaine, une semaine. Après le problème revient entier. L'idée de mettre des bouteilles là-bas, c'était, c'est encore pour pouvoir... le *shredder* est là. On a acheté d'autres *shredders*. On vient d'acheter un encore, le *shredder*. *To bizin rode renseignement là bien*. Donc, l'idée de mettre les bouteilles là-bas c'est pour diminuer l'impact. On fait Baie aux Huitres pour mettre les déchets verts. Bientôt, la solution il faut avoir pour une île écologique, il faut avoir une solution durable. Bouger le problème ailleurs ce n'est pas la solution durable. Ce qu'il faut, c'est trié les déchets et c'est pourquoi qu'on a employé 20 personnes. On travaille là-dessus et je suis sûre... on est en train, je dis tout le temps, on est en train jouer... jeter de l'or dans le dépotoir de Roche Bon Dieu. On doit pouvoir récupérer tout ça, les *e-waste* tout ça. Donc, tout ça c'est... ça c'est la solution. Mais prendre un petit bout là, j'allais dire ça en créole on dit un mot, mais c'est *unparliamentary* dont je ne peux pas le dire. Un petit bout comme ça, un petit carré comme ça, comme-ci c'était ça la solution. C'est la solution magique du problème de Roche Bon Dieu. Non, ce n'est pas la solution. C'est juste bouger le problème ailleurs. C'est pour ça, moi j'aimerais bien avoir un endroit un peu plus grand ailleurs pour faire ça. Et, je vais travailler sur le projet. Je le dis bien.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Je peux avoir une autre question, s'il vous plaît ?

Madam Chairperson: Be brief, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: C'était séparer les déchets à la maison et puis emmener là-bas. C'est ça le petit bout de ça. Okay ? Donc, j'aimerais lui poser la question. Est-ce que les *scavengers* comme on dit, est-ce qu'ils séparent les déchets, ils trient les déchets au dépotoir en ce moment ? Et si oui, comment est-ce qu'ils font ? Lorsqu'un camion arrive tout le monde vient, ils trient les déchets, tous les déchets qui sont contaminés, avec tous les risques qu'il y a, est-ce que c'est ça ce qu'il veut ? Est-ce que c'est ça ce qui va se passer ? Est-ce

que c'est ça ce qui se passe en ce moment ? Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous éclairer là-dessus ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mme. la présidente, on n'a pas encore commencé ce travail. Déjà il faut mettre tous les trucs en place pour pouvoir faire ce travail de tri de déchet. Mais la question aussi se pose pourquoi aujourd'hui, aujourd'hui si tout le monde... il parle du projet de... Bon on a fait ce petit bout là parce qu'on était supposé trier le déchet et emmener là-bas. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé avec ce projet qui était fait ? On triait, on faisait semblant de trier. A Pointe L'Herbe chez moi, je sais, je me souviens de ce projet. Je n'étais pas politicien mais je me souviens. J'étais là quand ils ont lancé le projet. C'était en créole on dit *couyonne dimoune*. Parce que on triait, on donnait trois poubelle à des gens. Et puis, Rod Clean passait ramasser les trois et mettre ensemble dans le camion. C'était quoi ça ?

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madam, on a point of order. The Commissioner cannot say *nous pé vine couyonne dimoune. Li pa korek ça*. Can you rule on that, please?

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you have to withdraw, Respected Member.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I remove, Madam.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On a point of personal explanation, Mrs. Chair.

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner has to give way.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner, please proceed.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *This thing about... no madam. This thing about...* Cette affaire de tri de déchet qui avait commencé, c'est vrai, je suis d'accord avec le Membre que la solution de Rodrigues, c'est le tri de déchet. Et, c'est exactement ce qu'on est en train de faire. Mais encore une fois, je dis. Le Minority Leader disait qu'on ne peut pas faire comme ça, on doit trier, on ne doit pas emmener les déchets organiques à Roche Bon Dieu. C'est ce qu'on fait, c'est ce qu'on fait exactement. Il faut que vous bougez un petit peu aller voir ailleurs ce qui se fait. C'est ce qu'on fait exactement. Donc, c'est vrai que la gestion des déchets à Rodrigues, c'est une épine, c'est une épine, ce n'est pas simple. Voilà, *pa zis corne mo pou parlé*. C'est une épine mais qui a besoin de réflexion, a besoin de beaucoup de finance et je suis sûre qu'on arrivera à une bonne solution dans les années futures, Madame.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member, Agathe?

Mrs. M.T. Agathe, PMSM: Merci Madame. Tout-à-l'heure le Commissaire a dit que les personnes qui travaillent sur le dépotoir, ils sont bien équipés à cause des maladies. Et puis aussi, il a dit qu'il y a des personnes qui viennent faire la fouille. Nous savons malgré que moi personnellement je ne suis pas trop satisfaite de la gérance de ces dépotoirs. On sait très bien qu'il ne faut pas venir fouiller sur les dépotoirs. Mais il y a des gardiens. Je pense qu'il faut commencer à appliquer les lois. Si, on attrape une personne qui vient sur le dépotoir, on le met en cage. Même pour une minute, les autres ne reviendront jamais. Qu'est-ce qu'il pense de ça ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Madame, je pense que c'est une bonne suggestion que je vais ramener à Roche Bon Dieu et je dirais que d'où ça vient. D'où ça vient, parce que là c'est les gens de chez elle. Mais je vais le faire, on va le faire faire suite à ce qui a été dit dans l'Assemblée, il faut attraper ces hommes, malheureusement qui sont très pauvres et vivent de ça. Malheureusement, malheureusement mais *fingers crossed*, Ben, oui pourquoi pas ? On va payer la caution, Madame, pour la dame...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member Perrine? Last question.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Madame, cette question de Roche Bon Dieu, c'est une question très sérieuse. J'ai l'impression que lorsque les Membres de la Minorité apportent des propositions pour essayer de voir comment diminuer le risque des accidents sur ce site, le Commissaire croit que nous sommes en train de lui bombarder à des questions à n'importe comment. On veut tout simplement, parce que la démocratie existe, on veut tout simplement apporter notre contribution pour dire quand il y a un problème et qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire, qu'est-ce qu'on pense faire ? Concernant cette affaire de tri de déchet, le Commissaire est allé une fois mettre une pancarte, il a fait l'inauguration tout, mettre une pancarte pour dire, le site de tri de déchet qu'il propose. Très bien ! Après trois ans, le panneau est sorti, il ne reste que les deux colonnes pour transférer l'ancien site sur un nouveau site qui va causer le même problème. M. le Commissaire est en train de réaménager deux autres sites. Est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire en question, M. Richard Payendee, a-t-il pensé une fois pour toute de faire toutes les infrastructures nécessaires même si c'est temporaire comme Simon Pierre la fait, le Commissaire Simon Pierre a fait à Camp Pintade pour l'incinération de ça... même si les gens ont déjà pillé le *fencing*. Mais on aurait dû mettre quelque chose de solide...

Madam Chairperson: Your question, please.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Ma question, c'est là. Ma question...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, we are waiting for your question now.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: *Yes, my question... I have already started my question. My question is, I repeat.* Ma question est, est-ce que le Commissaire Payendee a vu correcte de s'aventurera sur ces deux autres sites, qu'il est en train d'aventure maintenant, de mettre en place les *fencing* pour empêcher les cochons, les cabris ainsi que d'autres créatures qui peuvent venir sur ce site-là, *tamper to these sites*. Donc, est-ce qu'il a pensé ça, avant même d'aller dans ces deux autres sites ? Pourquoi ne pas le faire ?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Je continue à me répéter, malheureusement. Ça paraît un peu compliquer, ça devient un peu compliquer à expliquer. Si vous me permettez, j'expliquerai ça en Créole mais je crois que ce n'est pas trop permis. On n'a jamais eu d'autre site. On a temporairement bougé...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of order, Madam Chairperson. The Commissioner mentioned there is a temporary site that all Members of the Executive Council...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, you have put your question, please allow the Commissioner to answer first and then you will react upon that.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: The Commissioner is...

Madam Chairperson: The Commissioner is answering.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Bé li pé met... imputing motives.*

Madam Chairperson: He is answering. Yes, Commissioner please proceeds.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: You know, it would have been great to put all the fences and all that. We do not do that on a temporary site. It was supposed to be... we did not know that the fire would last so long. It was by the day we had the fire we had to bring waste at the same time. So, we just dumped, no sort of dumping, disposed it just in front of the door. It was not another site.

Ce que les Membres n'ont pas dit, c'est que, quand on descend plus bas aujourd'hui à Roche Bon Dieu. Là à l'heure qu'il est. On a bulldozer un terrain énorme plus bas pour faire le site. C'est tout près, oui c'est tout près. On a bulldozer, on a enlevé le piquant loulou. Je n'ai pas dit parce qu'ils vont dire que je suis en train de faire des plaidoyers. On a bulldozer le site. Là on a lancé

l'appel d'offre pour courir une partie du site. On a un plan déjà établi pour commencer justement le tri de déchet. C'est pour ça qu'on a employé 20 personnes. Et, pour le moment ces 20 personnes ne sont pas... ne travaillent pas sur le terrain parce que ce n'est pas prêt. Mais on les a employés parce qu'il faut une formation. Ces gens sont en train d'être formés. Et, en plus de ça, ce que je n'ai pas dit, ce que vous avez sûrement, tout le monde voit à la télé. On a commencé un travail d'éducation, conscientisation avec... Le problème de Rodrigues, c'est quoi ? C'est qu'on jette tout dans la poubelle. Ça devait commencer à la maison. Ça devait commencer à la maison ! Si tout le monde faisait ça. Donc, il y a aussi qui accompagne ce projet, le tri de déchet, il y a tout le volet d'éducation, de sensibilisation déjà commençait par la Police de l'Environnement, par le bureau de l'Environnement. Donc, le travail se fait, Madame la présidente.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madam Chair, B/14.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE (PSAC)
– NINE-YEAR CONTINUOUS SCHOOLING PROGRAMME**

(No. B/14) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) of the nine-year continuous schooling programme for Rodrigues, he will state and table: -

- (a) a complete breakdown of the 2019 PSAC examination results; and,
- (b) the number of the 2018 PSAC pupils admitted in extended streams in the different colleges sat for the PSAC in 2019, if any and, in the affirmative, the number who consequently joined the normal stream, and if none, to give details why?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, in respect with the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) 2019 of the Nine Year Continuous Schooling Programme for Rodrigues, I am informed that 799 candidates sat for the assessment, that is, 399 boys and 400 girls. The initial pass rate was 70.59 %. Same was increased to 74.72 following re-assessment of candidates after the resit exams.

I am tabling a complete breakdown of 2019 PSAC examination result per School.

As regards to part (b), I am informed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate that according to their records no candidate from Secondary Schools sat for the PSAC 2019 Assessment.

However, I am further informed from information gathered from Colleges, 11 students from Grade 7 Extended Stream sat for the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) in 2019; five of them joined the normal stream and one preferred to stay in the Extended Stream.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je sais que le Chef Commissaire, il aime beaucoup l'éducation mais quand même c'est un sujet très préoccupant. Concernant les élèves qui prennent part aux examens du PSAC, qui ne réussissent pas en un sujet, *as we say the core subject*. Donc, ça démontre que déjà-là l'enfant a une faiblesse. On lui fait reprendre un seul sujet et normalement dans n'importe quel examen il y a certains qui vont réussir. Le fait que l'école est obligatoire jusqu'à 16 ans, est-ce qu'il n'aurait pas été mieux que cet enfant refait sa sixième parce qu'il va refaire les mêmes sujets, qu'il ait un meilleur certificat pour pouvoir entrer au collège ?

The Chief Commissioner: Madame, c'est une décision nationale. On ne peut pas aller contre ça. Et, nous nous suivons tout ce qui est dit au niveau national. Parce qu'au niveau de *Policy*, c'est le Ministère de l'Éducation à Maurice qui a tout. Nous on n'a pas le *Policy*. Nous on a tout simplement, organise tout simplement, on organise surtout la formation des enseignants. Et, nous prenons aussi certaines décisions par contre nous disons dans chaque classe il ne doit pas y avoir plus que 20 enfants. Et, ça c'est très important pour que l'enseignant puisse avoir une considération pour chaque enfant dans la classe. Et, je dis aussi que l'enseignant doit avoir un amour pour cet enfant. Je suis allé beaucoup plus loin en disant à des enseignants, aller rendre visite à cet enfant, là où il habite pour savoir quel type de maison, sa vie sociale, parce qu'il y a des enfants qui habitent soit avec maman ou avec grand-père/grand-mère et pour voir aussi si dans la cour il y a un petit jardin. Parce qu'en 82, quand j'étais Ministre de Rodrigues et des Îles, j'ai introduit dans les écoles primaires des jardins scolaires. Il y avait même des parents qui étaient contre cela. Des jardins scolaires. Vous comprenez là ? Alors, c'est ça justement. Mais nous en dehors de la politique de gouvernement national, au niveau de l'éducation, nous prenons certaines décisions et là justement, la dernière fois j'ai fait une rencontre avec les maîtres et maîtresses d'écoles, je leurs ai dit, il vous faut chaque semaine organiser votre travail. Il faut que les maîtres et maîtresses d'écoles puissent avoir un esprit de leadership. Vous comprenez la ? Et là, je vais faire cette rencontre régulièrement. Il y a aussi toute la question des parents. Il faut quand les professeurs, des enseignants fassent des rencontres

avec des parents. Et c'est là, justement nous ne voulons pas qu'il y est des enfants qui ne réussissent pas aux examens. Et, vous savez, Madame et ça, c'est très grave, que même au primaire il y a des enfants qui ne savent pas lire ni écrire. C'est ça. Qui ne savent pas lire ni écrire ! C'est grave. Alors, il y a toute une attitude pour l'enseignant de suivre l'enfant. Et, c'est pourquoi nous n'avons pas plus que 20 enfants dans une classe. Si dans une classe... c'est pourquoi nous venons là, nous sommes en train de demander qu'il y ait beaucoup plus d'enseignant dans les écoles. Parfois il y a les Deputy Head Masters qui font des classes hors ce n'est pas leur devoir. Mais d'après *duty*, ils peuvent aussi faire des classes. Vous comprenez là ? Donc, il y a tout une politique de développement à Rodrigues concernant l'éducation des enfants et que l'enfant lorsqu'il quitte, lorsqu'il compose pour la PSAC, il doit toujours réussir pour aller en Grade 7. Alors, c'est ça notre vision d'avenir que l'enfant au primaire puisse avoir une bonne éducation et aussi et aussi au secondaire exactement nous sommes en train de travailler dans ce sens. Merci, Madame.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je suis... j'ai été touché par le ton de la voix du Chef Commissaire quand il a parlé des enfants qui ne réussissaient pas. Il a parlé des enfants qui quittent le primaire qui ne savent pas lire. Mais étant donné nous tous ici nous savons que à Rodrigues nous n'avons que l'administration de l'éducation. Mais je me rappelle que, moi aussi j'ai été dans les écoles pendant longtemps, il y avait des projets pilote. Le fait que le gouvernement et en très bonne relation avec Port Louis, est-ce que le Commissaire aurait pu, le Chef Commissaire, excusez-moi, aurait pu demander qu'on fasse un *pilot project* chez nous. Parce que nous savons tous, tous ce qui ont été dans l'éducation que le mécanisme de la lecture ne se déclenche au même moment dans tous les élèves. Donc, le prof lui il a enseigné la lecture. Mais moi je ne suis pas prête pour la lecture, je ne vais pas pouvoir lire quand je ne sais pas lire, je ne vais jamais réussir. Mais je crois c'est quelque chose, peut-être à laquelle on n'aurait pu penser. *Why not a pilot project in Rodrigues as we have done for the plastics? Thank you, Madam.*

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, il y a beaucoup à faire auprès des enseignants. Ce n'est pas juste anglais, français, mathématique, sciences. C'est pourquoi nous pensons beaucoup en ce moment-ci sur la nouvelle formation des enseignants. Et, je dis toujours à des enseignants, si vous avez une période de 30 minutes, prenez cinq minutes dedans pour parler avec les enfants. Et là, justement tout dernièrement, il y avait des séminaires, des ateliers de travail sur le cancer, pour parler aux enfants, quoi manger, quoi boire et tout ça c'est très important. En dehors de l'enseignement, l'enseignant doit pouvoir parler aussi de l'environnement. Et, tout ça c'est très important. Et là, au niveau du primaire nous allons lancer le carnet scolaire. Et, ce carnet scolaire ça va être entre les mains des parents et les parents aussi doivent pouvoir parler

avec leurs enfants. C'est pourquoi dans chaque classe du primaire, il arrive de temps de temps que l'enseignant fait une rencontre avec les parents de la classe. Tout ça c'est des méthodes d'enseignement. Pas juste anglais, français, mathématique et puis s'en aller. Non, il y a tout un travail pour que l'enfant, pour que l'enseignant puisse faire l'enfant entrer dans sa vie de tous les jours. Et, même mon collègue a parlé tout à l'heure-là, ce matin justement, que l'enfant dès le primaire doit pouvoir savoir plus tard qu'est-ce qu'il veut faire ? Ça c'est très important. Pas juste en secondaire mais dans primaire aussi l'enfant doit développer en lui ce qu'il voudrait faire plus tard lorsqu'il va quitter le collège ou aller plus loin. Alors, Madam c'est tout une politique de formation qu'il faut faire. Nouveau type de formation moderne pour les années à venir. Ça pourquoi je dis toujours, que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans ? Que sera Rodrigues dans 10 ans ? Dans 15 ans, 20 ans, 50 ans ? Il faut avoir une vision d'avenir en ce qui concerne l'éducation. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (SC) EXAMINATIONS

(No. B/15) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recent Cambridge School Certificate, he will for the benefit of the House, state and table:-

- (a) a complete breakdown of the 2019 examination results thereof; and
- (b) the measures his Commission has taken or is envisaging for these students who passed the examination but do not meet the criteria to be admitted to Grade 12?

(Vide Reply PQ B/2)

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madam Chair, B/16.

BROADCAST ON RODRIGUES TELEVISION – PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS

(No. B/16) Mrs. M. T. Agathe, PMSM (Third Island Region) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the time allotted for the broadcast on Rodrigues television of the parliamentary sittings of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will seek information, for the benefit of the House, from any relevant authority, including the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation to:-

- (a) state if consideration is being or will be given to the broadcast of complete sittings indicating if so, when and if not, why; and
- (b) give the January 2020 programme concerning local events broadcast?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, the information requested in this question has been sought from relevant authorities in Mauritius. However, as at now, no replies have been received yet. Once the information will be secured, it will be tabled at the Library. But I must add something, a few days before I was in Mauritius and I had a meeting with Mr. Ramdenee, the Director of the MBC and I told him that we must change the way the MBC in Rodrigues is working. We are an autonomous country, we must be..., the MBC should work according to this autonomy. And, to give our people here, in the MBC new training in the production of the MBC, the different programs and so on. I think this is what the question of Madam, it is very important. This will allow us to question the MBC. And, now the next time I will go to Mauritius perhaps I will meet Mr. Ramdenee, the Director of Education and I will tell him that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly's sittings, we have talked about this, the new program instead of... I know the program of the MBC of the sitting... it is only two minutes. Two minutes! Why not much more than that? Much more than that! You know. Madam, this is... so that the population can learn a lot about what is being said in the Regional Assembly. You know it is a question of information. To inform people what is going on. How we here in this Assembly we are working? What kind of questions we are putting in this Assembly? I think we must go forward to have an MBC here. What we say a Rodriguan MBC. Thank you.

Mrs. M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je dois congratuler le Chef commissaire pour avoir questionner la MBC. Je suis ravie, ravie, ravie, ravie. Mais en même temps, je lui demanderais s'il ne peut pas porter la question jusqu'au Premier ministre. Peut-être que... Parce que peut-être lui, il pourra prendre des décisions parce que comme nous disons ici, nous sommes dans une démocratie participative. Le peuple serait aussi ravi que moi de savoir qu'est-ce qui se passe dans cette illustre Chambre. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/17, B/18, B/19, B/22, B/20, B/21, B/24 and B/25 have been withdrawn by the respective Members. Thank you.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. Z. Félicité: Madam Chair, B/23.

[Interruptions]

**DISCOVERY RODRIGUES COMPANY LTD
– RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

(No. B/17): The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Discovery Rodrigues Company Ltd, he will obtain information therefrom to inform the House if there has been any recruitment process for the post of Manager thereof cum/ or Tourism Office recently indicating: -

- (a) the number of applications obtained therefor and the name of the selected candidate;
- (b) the salary and any other benefits attached to the post; and
- (c) to table the detailed composition of the selection board?

[Withdrawn]

**RESETTLEMENT OF INHABITANTS – STE MARIE -
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RUNWAY**

(No. B/18): The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr. J. N. Volbert) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the resettlement of inhabitants of Ste Marie in connection with the construction of a new runway at Plaine Corail Airport, he will state and table:

- (a) the name of any organisation(s) financing the project and the cost of each housing unit;
- (b) the number of families concerned indicating the surface area allotted to each family and exact location;
- (c) the contractor(s) undertaking the construction of houses therefor indicating the selection process therefor; and
- (d) if any of the sites allotted therefor was previously subject to any restriction for construction of residential dwelling?

[Withdrawn]

**RESETTLEMENT OF VILLAGERS OF STE MARIE
– LA BOUCHERIE/PLAINE CORAIL**

(No. B/19): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Zepth Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the resettlement of villagers of Ste Marie to La Boucherie/Plaine Corail, he will state and table: -

- (a) the list of registered farmers from all concerned locations together with their respective strength of livestock;
- (b) the area available in the vicinity for farming detailing on any study and/or recommendations regarding the impact of merging the two flocks; and
- (c) if his Commission conducted any meeting with farmers of both villages, indicating if yes, when and in the negative why?

[Withdrawn]

MAINTENANCE OF ALL TOURISM SITES - RODRIGUES

(No. B/20): The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner for Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the maintenance of all tourism sites around Rodrigues, he will state and table:

- (a) if there is a team therefor and, in the affirmative, to detail the composition thereof indicating the date same was established and the tasks attributed thereto;
- (b) if the sites of Trou D 'Argent, Caverne Patate and Ile aux Cocos are fully equipped in terms of equipment and infrastructures for the safety for the visitors; and
- (c) the number of visitors per site from January 2017 to December 2019?

[Withdrawn]

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – WATER SECTOR
– RODRIGUES**

(No. B/21): The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner for Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the development projects in the water sector in Rodrigues, he will state and table on:

- (a) the total sum disbursed for water production from desalination plants, surface water and borehole from January 2014 to end 2019;
- (b) if there is any agreement signed with another stakeholder for the running of any desalination plant in Rodrigues;
- (c) the status of the desalination plant of Songes as at date indicating the daily production capacity, daily cost of operations highlighting the cost for rejection of brine in the lagoon, respectively; and
- (d) the status of the desalination plant of Anse Goeland/Baie Malgache as at date?

[Withdrawn]

**CYCLONES GELENA AND JOANINHA
– GREENHOUSES DAMAGED AND/OR DESTROYED**

(No. B/22): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Zepth Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the passage of cyclones Gelena and Joaninha in 2019, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of greenhouses damaged and/or destroyed thereby together with their respective location, if any, and the sum disbursed to compensate these victims, if any?

[Withdrawn]

**SETTING UP OF TWENTY SEED FARMS
– ONION, GARLIC & RED BEANS**

(No. B/23): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Zepth Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the setting up of twenty seed farms for onion, garlic and red beans in Rodrigues as stated in the budget speech 2019/2020, he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

The Commissioner for Commissioner for Agriculture and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Madam Chairperson, in line with the Budget Speech

2019-2020, my Commission is embarking on the Seed Production Scheme Project, whereby necessary facilities will be provided to eligible farmers in view of increasing seed production of key products such as garlic, onions and local red beans. This will help to decrease our dependency on Mauritius with regards to supply of onion and garlic seeds to farmers.

Madam Chairperson, the schemes will be allocated as follows:

Sn	Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries Targeted
1	Red Bean Seeds Production	5
2	Onion Seeds Production	10
3	Garlic Seeds Production	5

The schemes have already been drafted and will be launched shortly.

Communiqués will be broadcasted on mass media to inform the planter community about the schemes and they will be invited to apply accordingly. These applications will be assessed by a Technical Committee and successful applicants will be selected for the implementation of the project which is expected to start in April this year.

Mr. Z. Félicité: Can I know the.... eligible farmer... Can we know what are the criteria for them?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: As I said, Madam, I do not have the criteria. The scheme is being prepared, will be launched shortly. So, the criteria is not finalised yet.

MANAGEMENT OF CRAB ISLAND –REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

(No. B/24): The Second Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner for Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the management of Crab Island by the regional government, he will state and table: -

- (a) if the said island is a government owned property and if not, to provide details, including any material documents related thereto;

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- (b) the details of all projects currently running on the island together with the costs incurred monthly therefor specifying if there is any new project in the pipe line so far and, if yes to give details?

[Withdrawn]

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

(No. B/25): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Zepth Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Licensing and Others whether, in regard to the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak around the world, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the relevant authorities to state and table on the: -

- (a) list of the most imported products in terms of basic necessities and raw materials from affected Asian countries, if any; and
- (b) measures her Commission has taken to avoid shortage of these products, if any?

[Withdrawn]

Madam Chairperson: Question time is over.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

Madam Chairperson: Yes, statement.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD (RYELA) IN RODRIGUES

The Commissioner for Youth and Sports (Mrs. M. R. Edouard-Ravina): Madam Chair, I would like to do a little statement on the organisation of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, the Ryela in Rodrigues very soon.

Madam Chair, I am very pleased and honoured to inform the House of the organisation for the first time in Rodrigues of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (Ryela) which will be held in Rodrigues from the 10th to the 15th of March 2020. The Ryela is most anticipated yearly program organised under the aegis of the Rotary International, seeking to empower the youth around the world on leadership and developed with the perspective of spearing a youth dedicated to serve the community above self.

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Madam Chair, this year for the first time ever, the Ryela of the Rotary International District 9220 of which Mauritius and Rodrigues form part will be hosted in Rodrigues. Along with this great sense of pride of this recognition that Rodrigues can host such an event, there is also the great responsibility of actually delivering the best Ryela as to date.

It is worth mentioning that the District 9220 comprising of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Djibouti, Reunion, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mayotte and Comoros Islands. I have been informed by the Rotary Club of Rodrigues that some 125 participants coming from the above mentioned countries will participate in the Ryela in Rodrigues. Madam Chair, the Ryela goes in line with the missions and the visions of my Commission and the whole of Rodrigues Regional Assembly to respond to the aspirations and the needs of the young people to empower them so that they are able to face coming challenges and ensure that our young people are offered facilities and opportunities to further develop their character and leadership skills.

Madam Chair, the Ryela will also provide an opportunity for furthering youth exchanges with our youths and youths of other countries participating in the Ryela. And, also for the participants of other countries to discover the facets and traditions of Rodrigues. My Commission is therefore extending assistance and logistic support to the Rotary Club of Rodrigues for the smooth organisation of the Ryela in Rodrigues.

Madam Chair, I am very grateful to the Rotary International and to the Rotary Club of Rodrigues and all other sponsors of the project to make it that the Ryela is organised in Rodrigues. We firmly believe that we need to continue to work together to expand the horizon of opportunity for the youths. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 27 March 2020 at 16 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

LA ROUTE BAIE LASCARS – ANSE AUX ANGLAIS

Mr. J. R. Augustin: Merci, Madame la présidente. Je voudrais attirer l'attention de la Chambre concernant la route de Baie Lascars à Anse aux

Anglais. Après la fermeture de la route de Crève Cœur pour les bus, maintenant les bus, ils desservent Crève Cœur par la route de Baie Lascars à Anse aux Anglais. Et sur cette route, il y a beaucoup de difficulté. Il n'y a pas de trottoir pour les gens et la route est un peu rétrécie/petite. Et aussi, il manque des arrêts d'autobus et les bus, ils arrêtent un peu n'importe où sur cette route-là et ça cause des difficultés à des personnes qui marchent justement sur la route ou à des véhicules qui vont dans les directions inverses. Donc, je voudrais demander au Commissaire d'infrastructures publiques s'il y a un projet, s'il y a de l'argent prévu pour améliorer ce tronçon de route ou bien pendant le budget qui va venir, de mettre justement des sous pour faire... pour améliorer cette route pour la sécurité des passagers aussi bien que des automobilistes. Merci.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR. J. R. AUGUSTIN

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, let me react to the statement made by the respected Member. It is true that with the closing of the road through Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there is now more traffic circulation going through the littoral road. In fact, we have already started to work on the project as regard to the enlargement of the road. It is true that when we reach near the cemetery, there is a problem and in fact, we have discussed it also with the colleague in the Executive Council that with the frequent high tides that arise quite often, there is a problem that has been... that can be foreseen. As regard to the bus stops that you have spoken about, we are also studying the possibility of including a layby near the Anse aux Anglais Community Centre for those who are moving towards the hospital. But for those who are moving towards Port Mathurin, we are exploring the possibility of putting a bus stop near... just before we reach the cemetery of Baie Lascars. This has already been discussed with the Road Safety Committee and we are going to act accordingly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Member Grandcourt.

DISTRIBUTION DES MATERIAUX – REPARATION DES MAISONS EN TOLES

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes. Je voudrais, moi, attirer l'attention sur leur distribution des matériaux pour la réparation des maisons en tôles surtout suite aux cyclones Gelena et Joaninha. Madame la présidente, lorsqu'on va sur le terrain, on remarque qu'il y a beaucoup de gens qui n'ont pas eu, n'ont pas encore eu leurs matériaux. Donc, on se pose la question comment est-ce que c'est fait, comment est-ce qu'ils ont identifié ? Parce que ces gens, ils nous disent que la police est venue, il y a.... par contre dans certains cas, ne sont pas encore arrivés sur le lieu pour les visiter mais ce qui nous tracasse, c'est que ça

fait un an depuis qu'il y a eu ce cyclone et il y a certains bénéficiaires qui n'ont pas reçu leurs matériaux de constructions. On a été visiter quelqu'un à Montagne du Sable, quelqu'un qui a mis un peu de tôle entre deux bassins ronds. Deux bassins ronds, Madame la présidente, et il a pu se réfugier là-dessus pour dormir aussi, pour faute de chambre, faute de maison. Donc, il a attendu, attendu et ça fait un an. Donc, j'aimerais attirer l'attention de la Chambre là-dessus. Donc, il s'appelle M. Milazar à Montagne du Sable. Donc, je demanderais au Commissaire de voir... alias 'Ti Georges'... d'aller voir et de... Il y a beaucoup de cas aussi pareils, des gens qui n'ont pas encore eu leurs matériaux de construction pour réparer leurs maisons. Je demanderais au Commissaire de voir, de revoir ce dossier, je sais que ça fait longtemps, de revoir ce dossier et de pallier à ce problème au plus vite. Merci.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR. F. A. GRANDCOURT

The Commissioner for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): I will look into the matter concerning this case but I must say that in most cases, we have called the concerned persons in the office and few of them have agreed to opt for either Extension Schemes or the New Social Housing Schemes. But it is true, I understand that there are some cases where they are still awaiting for their construction materials, especially iron sheets. But being given that we have realised that few of them who have been able to obtain these materials, they are unable to construct the house. That is why we have opted for another option whereby we will invite contractors to provide labour force also. That is why some maybe... but if ever there are extreme cases that you know, you can still inform us.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Nobody is above the law. Sir Anerood Jugnauth...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, respected Member ?

LAWS APPLICABLE IN RODRIGUES – IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Yes, I am... This is my speech! Yes, my speech, my statement. My statement. "Nobody is above the law", comme dit souvent Sir Anerood Jugnauth, lorsqu'il s'agit des lois dans notre République. Madame la présidente, la Rodrigues Regional Assembly a passé une loi concernant les importations des véhicules en 2017. Il y a eu beaucoup de restrictions concernant l'âge des véhicules qui doivent être importés pour rouler sur la route,*

sur nos routes à Rodrigues. Malheureusement, nous avons observé des cas où on constate des véhicules avec des plaques d'immatriculation des années 1995 à 2009 qui à notre humble avis, n'est pas conforme 'aux lois' qui a été passée ici. Madame la présidente, là, je parle en exclusivité d'un camion qui a été importé, qui appartient à la *Mauritius Meat Authority* qui est toujours en bocage sur le quai de Port Mathurin parce que cette camion-là n'est pas aux normes... ce camion n'est pas aux normes concernant son âge etc.

Madame la présidente, personne n'est au-dessus des lois. Si la loi est appliquée pour beaucoup des Rodriguais, il doit être appliqué aussi pour d'autres institutions ou d'autres personnes qui sont... qui ont leur responsabilité d'importer des véhicules qui sont aux normes. J'aimerais poser quelques questions. Comment ce camion est arrivé à Rodrigues ? Qui a donné l'autorisation pour que ce camion arrive jusqu'à Rodrigues ? Est-ce que ce camion a eu un permis, un import permit dûment conforme aux lois qui existent localement et à Maurice ? Jusqu'à maintenant, on est dans le trou. Dans le trou. Maintenant, last but not least, le Chef commissaire adjoint a fait mention qu'il va mettre sur pieds un comité pour revoir cette loi qui a été passée jusqu'ici. Mais jusqu'à maintenant, nous n'avons rien entendu. Donc, on aurait aimé avoir son point de vue là-dessus et pour éclairer cette Chambre et que pour tout le monde concerné soit au courant de la situation qui se passe. Merci.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Madam Chairperson, in fact, the Member said it right. Nobody is above the law because law is law. But if he happens to go through the regulation that was passed in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly here and which they did not participate in fact, it is clearly stated that there are some exceptional cases that can be taken by the Departmental Head upon the application of those vehicles which are not within the age limit or for whatever other conditions. There has been so many applications which has been provided to my Commission for the importation of vehicles which is... which does not fit to the regulation; not only to the age limit but with respect to the condition that had to print-in and every time that this case has come to my Commission, we have referred the case for legal advice. And, many of these cases, we have considered it on a case-to-case basis to see whether there are some matters which can be considered so as to give the possibility of the person for importing the vehicle to Rodrigues. The law that was passed of course, there is a question of flexibility, and we are looking on a case-to-case basis as regard to each and every case that has come to my Commission.

If I remember well, there could have been, I do not have the exact figure, there could have been since 2017, some 5-10 vehicles who have been given import permit and whose ages are above seven years old. They could have been looked considering of course what are the conditions attached to these import

permit. But there is one thing that we have to note also. Since the passing of these Regulations, we can see that there has been a change in the automobile park in Rodrigues. This is... This can be seen. When you ride or you drive across the island, it can be perceived that there is an improvement as regard to our automobile park. Yes, it can be seen even as regard to the buses. Formerly, we are having buses coming from Mauritius whose age were 10 years old. Most of their owners were importing buses with ages above 10 years old. Today, we are having buses new from India, even from Japan. And, we have of course, in our course of action, we endeavour to have the renewal of the bus fleet, renew up to 75% by 2022. As regard to the case that has been mentioned by the respected Member, as regard to the importation of the Mauritius Meat Authority lorry, there was in fact an application which was made by the Commission for Agriculture to my Commission and which of course, we consider it on a merit basis.

Why did we consider it meritorious at this particular point in time? Because with the closing of the butcher's site here in Port Mathurin which was shifted at Baie Diamant, we have to transport meat from Baie Diamant to the different market around Rodrigues and we have to ensure that this is done into hygienic condition. That was the purpose. If we were to go through the procurement exercise, through the procurement for the purchase of a new lorry, this would have taken us maybe six... maybe one year. So, what do we opt for in the first instance, was to have a lorry from the MMA so that we can transport meat in the hygienic condition so that it can best serve the Rodriguan population. But the thing is that when the thing, when the lorry was imported to Rodrigues, at the same time, the persons who are operating the butcher's shop at Baie Diamant, they happen to buy their old lorries. So, it is good for Rodrigues.

So... Yes, this is why. No, this is private desist. It is private! No, it is private. But we could not have... We could not have imposed these persons to go forward with the purchase of a cold, chilled lorry, given the fact that there has been a change of site from Port Mathurin to Baie Diamant. So, I consider it wise that in an effort to reduce hygienic conditions or unsanitary conditions for transportation of meat, we consider it wise that we act the quickest possible so that this condition is met. As regard to the point raised concerning the *comité* which was set into place, I think that I once said it in this House. We... There is a case which is pending before the Supreme Court in Mauritius. I personally, I wanted to know what is the point of view of the Court and on that basis of what is going to be said, we will be able to act accordingly. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 02.54 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 27 March 2020 at 04.00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

GRADE 9 STUDENTS

– NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (NCE)

(No. B/26): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Grade 9 students expected to take the National Certificate of Education (NCE) examinations this year, he will inform the House if all:

- (a) textbooks have been provided thereto for their preparation therefor and, in the negative, to state reasons therefor; and,
- (b) the colleges in Rodrigues are providing thereto the appropriate number of subjects, especially with regards to non-core subjects, so that they satisfy the entry requirements for the NCE and, in the negative, to state any remedial actions the Commission is envisaging in relation thereto?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, in regard to the Grade 9 students expected to take the National Certificate of Education (NCE) examinations in 2020, I am informed that a first batch of 8 out of the 14 prescribed textbooks by the Mauritius Institute of Education were received from the Ministry of Education on 22 January 2020 and were delivered in colleges by 24 January 2020.

A second batch of textbooks comprising of Maths, Science and Information, Communication Technology (ICT) were received on 17 February 2020 and delivered in Colleges the following day, that is as from 18 February 2020.

Textbooks for Social & Modern Studies, Drama & Theatre and the remaining textbooks for Information, Communication Technology (ICT) will arrive by ship leaving Mauritius on 29 February 2020 and necessary arrangement will be made by my Commission for distribution of same at the earliest.

I am also informed by the Ministry of Education that textbooks for Life Skill and Values are still at the printing stage in Mauritius and have not yet been distributed.

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Madam Chairperson, I was further informed that soft copies of all textbooks from Grades 1 to 9 are readily available on the website of the Mauritius Institute of Education and that necessary arrangements were made at level of all colleges to download same to facilitate teaching of these subjects in a view not to penalise students.

Madam Chairperson, in regard to part (b), I am informed that all Colleges in Rodrigues are providing the compulsory core subjects that students will be assessed for the National Certificate Education (NCE) for the first time in 2020; the core subjects are:-

- English
- Mathematics
- French
- Science
- Information and Communications Technology
- Technology Studies
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Social and Modern Studies
- Art and Design

And as regards to non-core subject; colleges should provide at least 2 non-core subjects to satisfy entry requirements for the National Certificate Education (NCE).

I am informed that REDCO Colleges are offering Physical Education and Life Skill and Values as two Non-core subjects at the National Certificate Education (NCE). Some Colleges are already offering Performing Art as a third non-core subject and REDCO Ltd is contemplating to extend the teaching of same in all REDCO Colleges.

I am also informed that Rodrigues College was offering only Physical Education as non-core subject but has already initiated actions to teach also Life skills and Values as a second non-core subject.

FISHMONGERS SELLING FISH AT HIGHER PRICE

(No. B/27): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and Others whether, in regard to fishmongers selling fish at a price higher than fixed by the relevant authority, he will state the measures his Commission is contemplating in response thereto, if any?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that fresh and chilled fish, gutted or non-gutted is a controlled commodity the wholesale and retail prices of which are fixed under the Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Chilled, Fresh and Gutted Fish) (Maximum Price) Regulations 2018) which came into effect on 10 December 2018.

However, Madam Chairperson, I am given to understand that some fishmongers are exploiting their customers by selling fish at much higher prices than the fixed price ceiling. In spite of this, the Consumer Affairs Unit has not recorded any formal complaint as of date. There has been only one anonymous complaint by phone in 2019.

Madam Chairperson, Members of both sides of the House would surely concur with me that the way fishmongers sell their fish, makes it quite difficult to carry out checks and inspections. They are always moving in vans or on motorbikes sounding their horns all along the way. Besides, with six hundred and forty-four (644) registered fishmongers, it is not humanely possible to track them as they do not have fixed points of sales.

Madam Chairperson, it is no secret that no one can better fight for consumer rights than the consumers themselves. This is why my Commission has launched a campaign to sensitise consumers about their rights with regard to prices of fish. They are also being encouraged to report such cases of abuse to the Consumer Affairs Unit or to any Police Station. A communiqué is being aired on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, Rodrigues (MBC) FM since last week.

Madam Chairperson, the officers of the Consumer Affairs Unit of my Commission are also increasing the number of checks and inspections at regular points of sale, particularly near the markets for better enforcement of the regulations.

Last but not least, my Commission is working in close collaboration with the Public Health Office and the Fisheries Protection Service in view of exercising better control with respect to the conditions under which fish is being sold. The objective is to protect the health of the population by seeing to it that the fishes on sale are fit for human consumption and that the priorities of the Food Act are being adhered to.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

E-HEALTH PROGRAMME

(No. B/28): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the E-health programme, whether he will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at to date?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, the e-health project started in October 2018. Since then, the Infrastructure installation and configurations, business process review, design, development, User Acceptance Testing, training and change management process have been completed as well as the release of the following six modules namely:

R1-Patient Registration which was completed on 22 January 2019

R2 and RA- Health Record and Appointment, chronic Diseases-completed in April 2019

R3 and R5- Consultation, Bed/Ward Management and Physician Order-completed on 28 June 2019

R6 - Pharmacy and Stock Management-completed on 9 August 2019.

My Commission with the collaboration of the RCSS and the Agents de *Sante Communautaire* undertook a mass registration campaign throughout Rodrigues as from June 2019. As at date, about 36,600 people in Rodrigues representing more than 85% of the population have been registered and captured into the e-health system. The distribution of an e-health card to all those who have been registered has already been started last week will be completed by mid-March 2020.

The readiness of the sites at QEH, Zita Jean Louis and La Ferme Area Health Centre has also been completed in January 2020. Presently, the soft launching of the system is ongoing at QEH until the beginning of March 2020. The GO LIVE of the e-health system at QEH, Zita Jean Louis, Mont Lubin and La Ferme Area Health Centre is scheduled during the forthcoming month of March 2020. *We are also envisaging that the new e-health system will cover all Community Health Centres and home visits by Doctors.*

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS – RODRIGUES

(No. B/29): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of track roads in Rodrigues, he will enlighten the House where matters stand as at to date?

Reply: Madam Chairperson, tenders for 30 km of track roads was launched twice last year.

Firstly, tenders for 30 km of track roads were launched on 19 March 2019 with closing date on 3rd May 2019. Only one bid was received and found non-responsive as the tendered value was substantially higher than the estimated cost.

Tenders were re-launched on 16 July 2019 with closing date on Thursday 22nd August 2019. That procurement made provision for tendering to be made in lots of 5 km for the six regions of Rodrigues respectively. The awards were to be made to bidders having submitted the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid which meet the qualification criteria of the bidding document.

Only lot 2 amounting to a total of 5 km corresponding to Local Region 2 was successful and the contract for Lot 2 was awarded on 30 October 2019 for an amount of Rs.19,069,863.50. A short list of track roads and footpaths to be executed under the above contract has already been drawn and Work Order be issued.

Actions have already been taken for the re-launching of bids exercise for the construction of track roads in the other 5 Local Regions.

Concurrently, with the recruitment of General Workers recently, my Commission is contemplating to execute in house some track roads and footpaths considered as top priority for example to give access to disabled, sick and bedridden persons.