

No. 7 of 2020

RODRIGUES
FOURTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 7 of 2020

Sitting of Tuesday 04 August 2020

The Assembly met in the Assembly House,
Port Mathurin, at 10.30 a.m.

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 04 AUGUST 2020

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- (No. B/78) - Association des Ecole Maternelles de Rodrigues [*Withdrawn*]
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- (No. B/85) - SME Welfare Fund – Budget Speech 2019-2020 [*Withdrawn*]

MOTION

- **The Chief Commissioner**

Sustainable Development Goals Committee

“This Assembly resolves that, in accordance with Standing Order 65A of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following five Members to sit on the Sustainable Development Goals Committee: -

- (1) Mr Jean Richard PAYENDEE;*
- (2) Mrs Marie Rose de Lima EDOUARD-RAVINA;*
- (3) Mr Franceau Aubret GRANDCOURT;*
- (4) Mr Joseph Reddy AUGUSTIN; and*
- (5) M. Jean Nicolas VOLBERT.*

ADJOURNMENT

MATTERS RAISED

- **Mr Von-Mally:** Lack of Gynaecological Services
- **Mr Roussety:** Reply to Intervention of Mr Von-Mally
- **Mr Augustin:** Access Roads – Caverne Provert
- **The Deputy Chief Commissioner:** Reply to Intervention of Mr Augustin
- **Mr Grandcourt:** Urgent Need – Housing Mrs C. – Camp du Roi

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- **Mr Baptiste:** Reply to intervention of Minority Leader, Mr Grandcourt
- **Mr Perrine:** Covid-19 Pandemic – Bad Weather Allowance
- **Mr. Payendee:** Reply to Intervention of Mr Perrine
- **Mr Volbert:** Staffs and Patients – La Ferme Area Health Centre
- **Mr Roussety:** Reply to Intervention of Mr Volbert
- **Mrs Agathe:** Working Conditions – Supply Teachers
- **The Chief Commissioner:** Reply to Intervention of Mrs M. Agathe
- **Mr Félicité:** Poor Quality of Drinking Water – Papayes
- **The Deputy Chief Commissioner:** Reply to Intervention of Mr Félicité

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| (No. B/77) | - | Supply Teachers – Government Schools – Rodrigues |
| (No. B/80) | - | Vocational Training – Nine Year Continuous Basic Education (NYCBE) Project |
| (No. B/81) | - | Protection of Crop Plantations – Stray Animals |
| (No. B/82) | - | Sexually Transmitted Infections – Rodrigues – Most Recent Figures |
| (No. B/86) | - | Tablet Loan Scheme – Budget Speech 2020-2021 |

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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

Serjeant-at-Arms - Constant Perrine, Mr Stenio

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

GRANTS – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

(No. B/58) **Mr F. A. Grandcourt (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner for Community Development and Others whether, in regard to grants by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Rodrigues for the financial year 2019-2020, he will state and table the: -

- (a) NGOs concerned together with their respective percentage increase in funding allocated for the last three (3) financial years, if any;
- (b) detailed list of the NGOs who have submitted their last annual report and audited accounts to his Commission indicating the date of submission thereof?

Mr Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to inform the House that my commission provides grant to some NGOs every year for use to promote community development and activities in view of promoting the health of the population of Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, the NGOs concerned together with their respective percentage increase in funding allocated for the last three financial years are as follows:

S.NO.	NGO	Percentage Increase			Remarks
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	
1.	Rodrigues Council of Social Services	(Rs 0.5 m.)	(Rs 0.5 m.) No increase	(Rs 1.5 m.)	The increase of Rs 1 m. in the grant in aid is meant for the project entitled “Nu Zoli Vilaz”
2.	Solidarité Rodrigues	-	-	(Rs 184,000)	First time grant to Solidarité Rodrigues in the financial year 2019-2020

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S.NO.	NGO	Percentage Increase			Remarks
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	
3.	CRAC	(Rs 100,000)	(Rs 100,000)	No increase (Rs 100,000)	These NGO's namely CRAC Anti-Drogue, Lumière et Vie, Voluntary Blood Donors Association and Diabetic Pro did not apply for financial grants as such. They requested for funding from my commission. Whenever they organise activities, my commission paid for expenses such as sound equipment, catering, t-shirts etc. upon submission of invoices.
4.	Lumière et Vie	(Rs 50,000)	No increase (Rs 50,000)	No increase (Rs 50,000)	
5.	Voluntary Blood Donors Association	(Rs 50,000)	(Rs 100,000) 50% increase	(Rs 150,000) 50% increase	
6.	Diabetic Pro	(Rs 100,000)	No increase (Rs 100,000)	No increase (Rs 100,000)	

Regarding to part (b), Madam Chairperson, as per existing financial procedures, an NGO is not required to submit an Annual Report and audited accounts to my commission for the disbursement of grants. However, NGO's are compelled to submit same to the Registrar of Associations responsible for accounts and auditing.

Madam Chairperson, the documents required and submitted by NGOs applying for the disbursement of grants as per Grant Memorandum signed with my commission, are as follows:

- (a) A revised estimate of expenditure and revenue for the financial year;
- (b) The cash flow statement for the last 12 months;
- (c) Cash flow forecast for the period to the end of the financial year;
- (d) Bank statement showing bank balances;
- (e) A progress report on delivery of outputs

Madam Chairperson, the date of submission of the abovementioned documents by the two NGOs, which have applied for grant in aid from my commission, is as follows:

- (i) RCSS - 06 June 2020
- (ii) Solidarité Rodrigues - 01 July 2019

I am tabling the requested information. I thank you Madam Chairperson.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, can I ask the Commissioner, the fact that there is the Grand Memorandum, is it the only way for the commission to, in some way, audit the expenses of the NGOs or there are other ways of controlling the expenses of the NGOs?

Mr Roussety: Madam Chairperson, as I have said there are only two NGOs which are registered with the Registrar of Association, RCSS and Solidarité Rodrigues. For the others they have to submit the expenses they incurred and then we refund the expenses that have been done.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, I do not understand. The Commissioner is saying to this House that there are only two NGOs which are registered. This means that according to him, to what he is saying, this means that the other NGOs are illegal. So, how come that he gives grants, we are not against them, but we want to know how come that he gives grants to NGOs who are not registered. And, this is contrary to the Registration of Association Act, Madam Chairperson?

Mr Roussety: Yes, Madam Chairperson, for the condition of grants according to the financial instruction of administrative for government grant, the condition is as follows: *“The recipient organization shall have to furnish to the company’s accounting officer of parent Ministry/Commission, such information with respect to its activities as the accounting officer may require. In this regards, proper books and accounts shall be maintained and made available to the accounting officer or his authorised representative.”*

Mr Grandcourt: He has not answered the question, Madam Chairperson. We have associations which are registered. He said there are only two associations which are registered. Others, they said that they are not registered, how come that he give money to those who are registered?

Mr Roussety: Madam Chairperson, they are not being given grant as such, but we refund their expenses of these associations which help us in our mission for committee development and health services.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes, still Madam Chairperson, but it is in the budget. We debated about it in the Assembly. How come that he now comes here and said that he only foot the bill these associations? It is written in the Budget Estimates. So, how come? Which is which?

Mr Roussety: I would like to ask the respected Member/the Minority Leader to which association is he referring?

Mr Grandcourt: We put question, he cannot put question to me. He has to answer the question. Where are we going? What is going on in this Assembly, Madam Chairperson? He cannot put question to me. He has to answer the question.

[Interruption]

Mr Volbert: *Madam Chairperson, dans cette liste de NGOs que le commissaire a mentionné, dans la liste qu'il a mentionné, il y a une association non-gouvernemental, le 'Befrienders'. Le 'Befrienders' qui ne figure pas dans cette liste. Etant donné qu'il y a une hausse des cas de suicide à Rodrigues, est-ce que le commissaire compte voir s'il va aider cette association pour qu'il puisse mieux gérer cette situation ?*

Mr Roussety: Pour le 'Befrienders', je dois dire que c'est à la commission de la Sécurité Sociale qui aide cette association.

Mr Félicité: Madam Chairperson, can I know from the commissioner on which criteria they provide grants to NGOs, which are not registered?

Mr Roussety: It is based association.

Mr Perrine: *Madam Chairperson, being given that, actually with regard to RCSS, nous avons une guerre ouverte entre certaines membres de l'Exécutif. Nous savons que le commissaire ne peut pas rentrer dans les day-to-day running of a business of the RCSS but being given that there is a problem with finance, malversation au sein de cette association, can the commissioner inform the House where matter stands?*

Mr Roussety: Madam Chairperson, it is an alleged allegation. In fact, we have been informed that the complaint has been lodged at the ICAC. So, at this level of the ICAC, we cannot enter in it, a competent authority. It does not make sense for my commission to undertake an enquiry. We are awaiting the result enquiry from the ICAC.

Mr Perrine: Le fait que nous parlons beaucoup, le Chef Commissaire l'a bien souvent dit, concernant la transparence et leur bonne gouvernance. Est-ce que le commissaire ne voit-il pas qu'il est temps de, une fois pour toute, lorsqu'il s'agit de donner de l'argent ou

grant money to any association being registered or not, n'est-il pas temps qu'une fois pour toute on demande à ces associations de nous faire un financial status à chaque qu'ils réclament de l'argent à l'Assemblée Régionale ?

Mr Roussety: *Comme je vous dis, Madame la présidente, des associations font leurs accounts, leur balance sheet, keeping their books records. And, with regard, again I say, the allegation which is being made by one person to the ICAC, we cannot entertain this enquiry ourselves now.*

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS

(No. B/59) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (Minority Leader) asked the commissioner for Sports and Others whether, in regard to sports infrastructural projects in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and table a list of all projects which are completed, ongoing and not yet started for the last two financial years?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that the renovation, upgrading and development of sports infrastructure around the island, is a top priority of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and my commission. I am hereby tabling the status of infrastructural projects under the Sports Division of my commission for the last two financial years. The following projects have been completed, Madam Chairperson:-

- the upgrading works at Camp du Roi stadium Phase I;
- construction of Mourouk football ground;
- construction of cloak room at Nassola;
- reopening of swimming pool of Maréchal;
- renovation works at Malabar gymnasium; and
- renovation works at Camp du Roi stadium (the cloak room of Camp du Roi stadium).

Projects that are ongoing and that have already started, Madam Chairperson, are as follows:-

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- the renovation of sports ground around the island (there are around 10 amongst them);
- renovation works of cloak room at Champs;
- development of the football ground at Ste. Famille;
- a *pétanque* court at Citronelle.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to draw the attention of the House to projects related to:-

- upgrading works at Roseaux football ground Phase II;
- upgrading works at Camp du Roi stadium Phase II (tenders are under evaluation as at now);
- the construction of Roche Bon Dieu stadium (tenders will be relaunched shortly).

With regard to the projects that have not yet started, the designs and the scope of works are being prepared and/or finalised by the consultants under the Global Consultancy Services for the RRA and the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office, Commission for Public Infrastructure. These projects include:

- the cloak room at Baie Lascars and La Ferme;
- the dome like structure at Montagne Goyaves;
- Maison des arts martiaux;
- multi-purpose ground at Roche Bon Dieu and Montagne Chéri;
- warming of track; and also
- the master plan for Grande Montagne Sports Complex.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that the renovation works on sports ground around the island is a continuous projects. And, that with regard to Champs, we are expecting projects to be completed on 13 August and for Roseaux, tender was closed to 17 July whereas, for Camp du Roi tenders were closed on 24 July. For the construction of Roche Bon Dieu Stadium, it is to be noted that the tender was launched on 02 March 2017 and 23 October 2019, respectively. For the first launching, unfortunately, the contract was terminated. For the second launching of bid, the public procurement proceedings was cancelled as the lowest evaluated bid was substantially above the applicable updated cost

estimate. Bids will be relaunched very shortly. Madam Chairperson, as at now, the draft tender documents are being vetted by the Central Procurement Board.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, so out of 20 projects which have been listed and tabled on the paper, we see that there are only six projects, out of 20 which are completed, six which are still ongoing, which represents 30% and eight out of 20, which represents 40% of projects which have not yet started. So, I would like to ask the commissioner what is she doing in her commission, why is it that projects are not being completed as per money which has been earmarked in the budget?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, as I said earlier, there are two projects that are yet to be completed in this month of August, that is, Dans Bégué and Champs' cloak room. This is to be completed. Madam Chairperson, there is a move to make as if there are no projects that are being completed at the level of my commission. Where there are delays, the delays are closely related to procurement procedures whereby the commission does not have any control and whereby we have to let things flow as per legal requirements.

Mr Volbert: In the budget speech 2017-2018, it is mentioned that: Manique and Grande Montagne will be provided with gymnasiums. Can we know (it is nearly three years) what has happened to these gymnasiums?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, as I have already said for Grande Montagne it was a master plan that was announced in the budget and we are awaiting it to start the Phase I of the master plan.

With regard to the Regions 1 and 2, there is the gymnasium that will be constructed in La Ferme College. The procedures have already completed and things are moving smoothly. So, this will be made available to the villagers for sports there. But with regard to Manique, no such mention was made.

Mr Félicité: The commissioner just mentioned that they have reopened the swimming pool at Maréchal. Can I know from the commissioner since the swimming pool is opening why there is no activity carried there?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, I think that we all know that we have been in a COVID situation whereby all sports activities were stopped. Of course, we had to take our time and relaunch all activities and activities with regard to every sports, every discipline is now being started. And, if we have followed scrutinously the note of meeting of the Executive Council, you would have seen that there are request from private institutions

and we have come with a regulation of how private institutions can use the swimming pool, since there have been requests and also how NGOs are about to use it. So, activities are coming there.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, I do not agree with the commissioner. She cannot come here and tell us that because of COVID... one swimming pool it is about...

Madam Chairperson: Please put your question.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes, I put my question. One swimming pool, it is about treating the water and uses it the day after. How come she is coming here and telling us that it is coming and ...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please you put your question now. Keep your opinion for yourself, please. Put your question.

Mr Grandcourt: I am giving the opinion for the House not for myself. So, how come from the answers she gave she said that the activities are coming when we know that to treat the water in a swimming pool it is a question of hours or at least 24 hours. So, how come that she is coming here and tell us that it will come months after we have been able to move freely in Rodrigues?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, I am not understanding the argument of the Minority Leader, unfortunately. But for treating water, this is one thing but for the launching of activities this is another thing and this is coming. I maintain, this is coming.

Mr Félicité: *Madam Chairperson, dans le discours budgétaire 2019-2020, il est mentionné que le sport – « faire appel au service d'un consultant pour l'élaboration de plan détailler pour la construction d'un dome light gymnasium à Montagne Goyaves. Peut-on savoir where matter stands ?*

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Yes, there have already been site visits. The details have been sent to the consultant and we are awaiting his final reply for this.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Augustin.

Mr Augustin: Yes, Madam Chairperson. The commissioner has said that there is a technical committee working on maintenance of sports infrastructure. So, can I know from the commissioner what happened to the resurfacing of annex sports complex at Jean Paul II?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: I think the technical committee the member is referring to was the technical committee that was set up for the Indian Ocean Island Games. So, but however, there are projects at the level of my commission that is being put in place to ensure that after renovation of especially minor sports infrastructure, there is a better care of this infrastructure. For example, we have different little sports ground in villages and we have seen that when we repair the fencing and after two or three months people come and damage it or either there is *auto-école* on our fields or there is grazing of animals. So, we are doing joint committee with the village committee and the Comité Régionale to get the way of our commission to ensure the smooth running and the protection of these playgrounds in the long term.

Mr Grandcourt: *Madam Chairperson, the commissioner is blaming herself because she cannot manage football grounds in Rodrigues.* Concernant les projets, on a vu là qu'il y a 70% des projets qui n'ont pas été terminés. Donc, 70% d'après la liste qu'elle m'a donnée. 14 sur 20, donc lorsqu'on prépare un projet à la commission, lorsqu'on vient dans le parlement pour annoncer un projet, est-ce qu'il n'y a pas un *forecast* ? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas une *performance capability* qu'on fait avant qu'on commence, qu'on annonce un projet ? Parce que ce qu'on voit là, il y a beaucoup d'effet d'annonces mais derrière ça ne suit pas. Donc, est-ce que le commissaire peut nous expliquer ?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madame la présidente, je suis vraiment désolé d'entendre que 70% de nos projets ne sont pas complétés alors qu'on vient d'inaugurer Nassola, qu'on vient d'inaugurer Mourouk. Je crois qu'on tente de noyer le poisson. C'est ça qu'on veut faire maintenant. Donc, ce que je vais dire maintenant c'est que tous les projets qu'on met en avant, il y a un *forecast*. Mais encore une fois je le répète, il y a les procédures *procurement* qu'il faut respecter. Le Minority Leader a déjà été commissaire, il le sait très bien qu'on n'a pas le contrôle sur *procurement procedures and this we have to let things go as per legal parameters*.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Von-Mally.

Mr Von-Mally: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have heard from the respected Commissioner that new tenders will be launched concerning the Roche Bon Dieu proposed stadium. Can I know whether his commission has come to an agreement with the people owning or leasing land in the surroundings? Because last time this was the problem. And, I

will like to know also whether, he will relaunch football in Rodrigues? *Parski football, le football est mort à Rodrigues.*

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, with regard to agreement with the lessees, the agreement has been reached with the lessees and things are moving very swiftly and we hope that the agreement will be signed before the 12 August this month. What I will say also with regard to the death of football, I am not seeing it dead. Because last time we were in the MFA Cup, we reached a higher performance than those performance we had before. So, *il le sait bien, il est bien vivant mais je ne comprends pas comment on peut voir que c'est mort.*

Mrs Agathe: Madame la présidente, je voudrais savoir de la commissaire parce que je suis dans la Région 6, il y a le *football ground* de Batatran, pendant les dernières élections ont commencé, on avait dit qu'on allait reclusuriser. Et puis, il y a le terrain de football de Rivière Banane qui n'est pas éclairé. Et puis, ce fameux stade, je ne sais pas comment est-ce qu'on peut appeler ça, si stade, si élevage de moustique de Roche Bon Dieu, jusqu'à quand ça va être un *eyesore* ? Parce que quand des personnes passent par là pour aller à Pointe Coton.

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madame la présidente, permettez-moi de sourire. Dommage que vous ne voyez mon sourire. Mais je vois que le respecté membre ne connaît pas sa région. Il n'y a pas de terrain de foot à Batatran. Il y a un *multi-purpose course ground* et ça a été rénové. Donc, deuxièmement, par rapport à Grenade, Roche Bon Dieu annexer à Rivière Banane, c'est sur la liste des dix petits projets qu'on va rénover. On a déjà commencé l'éclairage des terrains. Ça a déjà commencé, on a fait presque neuf ou dix terrains qu'ils ont déjà été éclairés. Pour le *fencing* c'est en cours parce que malheureusement, encore une fois, *tender procedure* on doit relancer. Mais pour Roche Bon Dieu tous les documents ont été revus et ça a été envoyé au Tender Central Procurement Board comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Augustin.

Mr Augustin: Yes, Madam Chairperson. Can we know from the Commissioner (we are talking about renovation of port infrastructure) what the commission has done regarding to the boxing centre at Malabar? This boxing centre is like a *passoir* when we have heavy rain.

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: With regard to boxing centre at Malabar, a technical survey has already been done to evaluate the work that has to be recovered there. It has started.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, as regards to funds allocated to each projects, can we know from the Commissioner how did her commission manage the funds? Are there money left? Are there money reallocated? So, what has she been doing with the funds?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Since I said that there are projects that have completed - no money left.

Mr Perrine: Can I know from the Commissioner, with regard to projects, which are late, can she enlighten us, why these projects are late?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Procurement procedures.

Mr Perrine: *Madam Chairperson, c'est trop facile à dire. Les procurement procedures. Tout-à-l'heure le commissaire a dit : « She does not have any control on procurement procedures. » We agree. Moi personnellement, je ne suis pas d'accord. Parce que le rôle du commissaire...*

Madam Chairperson: Put your question, please.

Mr Perrine: Yes, I will put my question. Le rôle du commissaire c'est de faire le suivi, c'est de veiller à ce que le projet lorsqu'il a été programmé pour un certain temps que le projet arrive à bon terme et non pas ...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, no question should be a pretext for debate. You put your question now. You put your question now!

Mr Perrine: If you want me to sit down now we sit down...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader.

[Interruption]

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, la commissaire dit que « *no money left* ». Ça nous donne une idée de comment elle gère la commission, Madame la présidente. Sur 20 projets, six projets terminé - *no money left*. 14 projets – *no money*. C'est ce que... Donc,

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Minority Leader please.

Mr Grandcourt: As a season politician, as a gentleman who has been serving this Assembly for several mandates, you should be giving the example to the new members of this House. This is question time. No statement. Supplementary questions are meant only for

you, if you have not understood something for some clarification. There is no need to introduce supplementary questions. So, please I have been very lenient with you. You put your question now.

Mr Grandcourt: I was about to put my question when you interrupted me. Yes, so how come, Madam Chairperson, that there are 20 projects? Out of these 20 projects only six projects have been completed, 14 not completed, even eight not yet started, how can she explain the fact that money has been earmarked in the budget, no money is left when there are some 14 projects which have not been completed out of which six are ongoing and eight are not yet started?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, I beg to reply to this because there is a tendency to make people believe that things are not being done. I say it again – there are six projects that are completed, two will be completed by the end of this month. This make a total of eight. Others are being surveyed, are being designed by the consultant or under any framework. So, how can the Minority Leader come and do such demagogies? So, I think that there is a tendency to *noyer le poisson, parce qu'on vient d'inaugurer et Mourouk et Nassola, il cherche des outils pour faire de la politique, c'est tout.*

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente,...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Volbert you have something to say?

Mr Volbert: Yes.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, you put your question now.

Mr Volbert: I would like to know from the Commissioner how many pocket of cement...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, Volbert you wear your mask properly, please.

[Interruption]

Mr Volbert: Everybody is wearing mask like that, everybody. I want to know from the respected Commissioner how many pocket of *ciment ine gaté at Nassola?*

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, this question has to be put to the contractor. Unfortunately, I was not on site, I did not count.

Mr Perrine: I would like to know from the Commissioner with regard to Roche Bon Dieu whether, there has been liquidated damage apply with regard to the termination of contract of the contractor? And, how much?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: This question was already answered on a previous sitting. So, we will have to check the Hansard.

Mr Perrine: Madam Chairperson, yes my question remains. My question remains. Previous or not, I want to ask the Commissioner what has happened with the contractor for the commission to terminate the contract?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Bon, liquidated damage not applicable on terminations. So, if there are further questions to Roche Bon Dieu, this question has already been replied. I will not reply any...

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, comment le commissaire dit qu'elle va terminer les autres projets et bien sûre cette année financière qui est devant nous-là, elle va peut être terminé d'autre projet ? Comment est-ce qu'elle va faire pour payer ces projets-là ? Le fait qu'elle-même elle a dit *no money left* ?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, the Minority Leader is playing with the members of this House. We are talking about the last budget. Now we are in a new budget, so things are going to start now. So, I will not reply anymore.

Mr Grandcourt: My point. For two years, she has completed only six projects. We have one year coming and we know, we know in the budget we know...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader you are repeating yourself. This question has already been put. Put another question, please.

Mr Grandcourt: No, I am putting the question. I am putting the question. So, will there be a lack of money as regards to the completion of these projects, the remaining projects?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: When the time reaches to pay, we are going to see whether there is a lack or a surplus of money.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

(No. B/60) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Arts and Culture and Others whether, in regard to the replacement of the Nelson Mandela bust at Mont Lubin, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and table on: -

- (a) any report or study by her Commission prior to the replacement thereof;
- (b) the amount of money incurred by her Commission for the purposes thereof?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, with regard to question B/60, the bust of Nelson Mandela was unveiled on the on 18 August 2018. Following the unveiling of same, divergent comments was noted by certain persons here and outside of this House. There is no report or study by my Commission prior to the replacement of the bust. However, there has been a technical committee that has been set up to work on it and in an email dated 20 August 2018, the supplier reacted as follows and I quote:

'I have created the 3D bust with reference to internet photo of Mandela from different angles and I have realised the statue of SSR, Bissoondoyal, Sir Gaëtan Duval, Dr. Maurice Curé, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Satcam Boolell and other renowned personalities. For the bust of Nelson Mandela I have realised is about the age of 60 where he looked neither too young nor too old.'

Madam Chairperson, the bust of Nelson Mandela has been realised throughout the world and each one has its own characteristics in terms of physiognomy and expression. It is therefore concluded that observation of the bust is subject to appreciation, interpretation and perception.

Following the email from the supplier, it was decided that the officers of my commission meet the supplier to negotiate with the supplier to rework on the bust. A meeting was therefore organised on Friday 19 October 2018 with the supplier in Mauritius and the supplier accepted to collaborate in view of his reputation and agreed to replace the bust within the existing contract and the contract amount. It was agreed that the supplier would work out a clay model of the bust which will be submitted for vetting prior to the working on the bronze casting of the bust. And, of course, a technical committee was set up by my commission whereby a local artist, Rodriguan sculptor, was taken on board, officers of my commission and a person from Mandela Centre for African Culture to vet the clay modelling. Subsequent to the vetting of the clay modelling, the bronze casting was completed.

Madam Chairperson, the bust was installed by the supplier on 14 July 2020 after the resumption of flights between Mauritius and Rodrigues. A Ceremony to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela was held on Saturday 18 July 2020 with the participation of the youths.

Madam Chairperson, as per part (b), as per agreement reached with the supplier, the latter agreed to replace the bust within the contract amount of the award made to him on 09 August 2017 for clay modelling, bronze casting and installation of the bust of Late Mandela, that is, for the sum of Rs 480,000 exclusive of VAT.

A first payment representing 60% of the contract amount, that is, Rs 288,000 was effected to him on 24 April 2018. Payment for the remaining amount of Rs 192,000 which was withheld until the supplier replaces and reinstalls the bust, is in process. So, Madam Chairperson, with regard to the comments stating that we used some additional funds of extra phenomenon amount of money to replace it, I wish to draw the attention of the House that no additional cost was incurred for the replacement of the bust except the shipment fee of Rs 1,894.04.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, when they said that there has been a technical committee, which has been set up after the placing of the first bust, the first one. So, can the commissioner tell us why there has been the need of putting the technical committee after the first one has been put in place?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, since there has been comments in this House itself and I would go back to the Hansard on the sitting whereby some of the members, the then Minority Leader, was calling us to get it replaced, to do something and etc. So, this why we had to do a technical committee to see whether this was founded or not. We did what was necessary but before we did not need a technical committee because there was a tender procedure, a procurement procedure that was in placed. A technical committee ...

Mr Grandcourt: So, does it mean that the Commissioner agreed with us at that time that the bust was not that of Nelson Mandela?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: I will never agree on comments of the Minority side because I have my replies at hand. I said, what you see about the bust of Mandela is based on interpretation, perception and appreciation. Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. I will never agree to any of the comments.

Mr Volbert: *Madam Chairperson*, dans sa réponse au PQ du 28 aout 2018, à la question du *then Minority Leader*, à un certain moment, Madame la commissaire a dit, je

cite : « *Il y a un séga qui dit : si to pa trouve mo fam super, moi mo trouve mo fam super.* » Quant est-il de la supériorité de la femme, on a mis cette photo-là, ce buste-là et puis on a changé on a mis cela. Est-ce que vous êtes d'accord, vous-même vous n'êtes pas d'accord que votre femme était super ?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: C'est quoi cette histoire de femme, j'ai une femme, je n'ai pas de femme. Je ne comprends pas le respecté Membre. Non, non, non, je ne comprends pas cette question mais j'ai dit que dans la Chambre ici on a pris une photo de Mandela jeune, l'artiste a écrit un rapport pour dire qu'il a pris une photo de Mandela jeune. On était pas d'accord, certains personnes n'étaient pas d'accord que Mandela était jeune à cette époque-là, on a pris une vieille photo. Donc, maintenant tout le monde est content avec la vieille photo. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Please, next time you respect ladies of this House. Yes, question, you proceed.

Mr Grandcourt: Madam Chairperson, elle nous dit là qu'elle a changé la photo mais dans la réponse que Madame a donné, je cite: « *Madam Chairperson, with regard to the resemblance of Mandela, please note that the bust, the model that was used was a photo of Nelson Mandela in his early sixties.* » Il avait 60 plus. Il est mort à 91, okay ? Donc, je ne crois pas qu'il y a beaucoup de différence. Simplement il faut dire à la Chambre que le *supplier* nous a induite en erreur. Ça, il faut être honnête. Parce que la photo ressemble à feu France Félicité. Donc, j'aimerais demander à la commissaire qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait de l'ancien buste ? Qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait de ça ? Has it been destroyed or given to the family of Mr Félicité?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: We did the same thing as we did with the plaque of Cyber Papayes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Mr Grandcourt: I do not know, I still do not know what she did with the plaque of Rivière Papayes? So, she has to be a bit more precise, Madam Chairperson.

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: I have already replied, Madam Chairperson.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, peut-être que nous ne mesurons pas la porter, le mal, l'outrage, je veux dire, l'entorse à l'histoire de Rodrigues, à la personne même de la mémoire de Nelson Mandela. Peut-être que certaines d'entre nous ne réalisent pas l'ampleur du dégât qui a été causé par la mise en place de ce buste à Mont Lubin. C'est une entorse à l'histoire de Rodrigues. C'est une entorse à la mémoire de Mandela. J'aurais aimé demander

humblement à la commissaire en question, qu'est-ce qu'elle compte faire pour laver tous ces dégâts, tous ces entorses qu'elle a fait à la population de Rodrigues, à la mémoire de Nelson Mandela et à cette Chambre ici ? Merci, Madame la présidente.

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: I feel the respected Member is being a bit emotional on the issue and of course, we organised a very beautiful ceremony on Mandela. There were things that we did last time on when we first installed the bust. So, there is no *entorse*, we did celebrate this big leader, this big and huge monument because he is a model to us and we are going to celebrate our leaders like this all the time. So, he is being emotional. I will not indulge into emotions but facts. We did celebrate. The theme was on how to help communities. How to get people to do initiatives and the young people that was invited there, they appreciated it. Thank you.

Mr Perrine: Madaam Chairperson, it is not a question... This is my perception of doing things even if I am emotional. When you treat us on the 28 August 2018 as *“démagogique, pessimistic manner and to create demagoguery”*, why did you change this bust? Why? Can you enlighten the House why?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please address the Chair.

Mr Perrine: Yes, I am addressing you. Can the Commissioner inform the House why there has been a drastic change in these two busts that you put at Mont Lubin? Why did you take it out?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: I have already answered to the question and of course, Madam Chairperson, I am not here to answer question based on emotion but on facts.

Mr Volbert: Yes, Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir de la commissaire pourquoi les travaux pour échanger le buste a été fait la nuit ?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, done during the day, done during the night, it is done and we are happy about it. Thank you.

Mr Perrine: In the time where we are cutting down overtime, we are cutting down cost to sustain the population; did the commissioner find it normal to replace this bust at 07.00 hours? And, inform the House what about the cost of overtime, if ever has been made?

Mrs Edouard-Ravina: Madam Chairperson, I have already said, no cost, only shipment cost related to this project. Thank you.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SEVERE DUST PROBLEM - STONE CRUSHER

- CITADELLE/GRAND LA FOUCHE CORAIL

(No. B/61) **Mr L. J. Von-Mally (First Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the severe dust problem experienced by the inhabitants of Citadelle/Grand La Fouche Corail and the surroundings, due to the activities of the stone crusher situated thereat, he will inform the House on where matters stand in regard thereto?

Mr Payendee: Madame la présidente, permettez-moi de...

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order !

Mr Payendee: Madame la présidente, permettez-moi de remercier le respecté Membre pour cette question, car je pense que c'est très important ce sujet qui date depuis très longtemps.

Madame la présidente, ce problème de pollution d'air venant d'une concasseuse que les habitants de Citadelle/Grand la Fouche Corail endurent, ne date pas d'hier. J'ai été Commissaire de l'environnement depuis 2012 et comme vous le savez, ainsi que tout le monde ici présent dans cette auguste Assemblée, que je suis très sensible au problème de l'environnement de cette île. Le combat ouvert que je mène, cette rage que j'ai et cette vision que notre gouvernement s'est fixé peut en témoigner, Madame la présidente.

Je suis triste de voir que ce n'est que l'année dernière ou plus précisément le mardi 17 septembre 2019, c'est-à-dire, environ sept ans après que ces habitants qui souffrent sont venu me voir pour les aider à apaiser leur douleur. Pourtant il y a eu un Commissaire de l'environnement juste avant moi, élu dans cette région qui n'a rien fait pour ces gens sinon on ne serait pas là aujourd'hui, Madame la présidente.

Mr Perrine: On a point of order. The Commissioner is imputing motive on a Member of this House. This is not correct. You cannot say that nothing has been done.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, I will rule.

[Interruption]

Madam Chairperson: Order, please. Order, order, please. Respected Member, Perrine please. Yes, please.

It depends on interpretation. According to Standing Orders the Chair does not find any contravention of the Standing Orders in what the Commissioner has said. But, well I do not find any contravention of Standing Orders.

Mr Payendee: Merci, Madam Chairperson. Et, maintenant on me met la pression sur moi car j'ai promis à ces gens que je vais tout faire pour les aider et je suis persuadée qu'il y aura des gros progrès dans un avenir pas trop lointain.

Let me now, Madam Chairperson, shift to English. As I said before on Tuesday 17 September 2019, I received a series of photos from one of the inhabitants living close to the stone crusher at Grand la Fouche Corail showing a significant amount of dust in her living room which according to her, came from the stone crusher. The next day, that is, on Wednesday 18 September 2019 while I was receiving the public, a group of villagers of La Ferme Citadelle came to see me as Commissioner for Environment, to express their grief regarding the nuisances caused by the stone crusher.

Madam Chairperson, as a responsible Commissioner, in a caring government and sensible to the cause of the environment and the quality of life of people of Rodrigues, I immediately convene a site visit there the very next day, that is, on Thursday... (*écouté to pou trouve li là. To pou tandé là*)

Madam Chairperson: Order. Commissioner you please address the Chair.

Mr Payendee: That is, on Thursday 19 September at 08.00 hours to see by myself and to get a clearer view on what was going on there. I was accompanied by officers of the Environment Unit of my commission, la Police de l'environnement, a Public Health Officer in the presence of the aggrieved party.

Madam Chairperson, during the visit, I took cognizance of the gravity of the problem that the villagers of the vicinity were facing. The nuisance caused by dust emanating from the stone crushing activities was visible. We have witnessed the presence of important layers of dust on the infrastructures and plants of nearby residents. I was even made to understand that some health problems have been reported to be possibly caused by the polluted air.

Madam Chairperson, being confronted with the urgency of the situation, I immediately convened an urgent meeting at my commission at 10.30 hours the same day with the manager of the stone crushing industry, officers of my commission, a Public Health Officer and the Officer in Charge of the Mauritius Research Council (Rodrigues Branch). The Mauritius Research Council was invited at the meeting because the latter is actually working

on a new project of air monitoring in Rodrigues and will assist in the monitoring of air quality in selected locations around Rodrigues, including the proximity of a stone crusher.

Madam Chairperson, the objectives of the meeting were to identify immediate mitigation actions, medium term solutions and long-term measures to palliate to the emerging nuisances.

Madam Chairperson, one of the urgent measures that my commission could have taken is to issue a Stop Order to this stone crushing activity as per the environmental laws in force. However, same was not envisaged in view of the possible economic and social impacts. Madam Chairperson, the company is very important in the infrastructural development of Rodrigues and creates significant direct and indirect jobs.

I am informed that the company has a production capacity of 41,000 concrete blocks and 5,000 tons of aggregates per week, that is five working days. The company has 38 employees and on regular basis, employs 30 drivers and helpers for the convenience of boulders from the stone quarry to the stone crushing plant and the delivery of construction materials from the manufacturing plant to the general public. Besides, it is estimated that more than a hundred person are engaged in the transportation of construction materials arising from the activities of the company around the island. Madam Chairperson, let me now elaborate on the actions that my Commission has done and together with the stone crusher to decrease the problem of air pollution. The stone crusher has been advised to conduct a more efficient monitoring of the stone crushing activities. The company has already installed sprinklers on the site. I have already contacted, Madam Chairperson, my colleague, the Deputy Chief Commissioner who is also responsible for water so that necessary assistance be provided to the company regarding the provision of water to successfully abide the dust pollution. Madam Chairperson, I also convened the Chief Executive Officer, the Head Operation, the Head of Finance and other senior officers of a company from Mauritius for an urgent meeting at my office here in Rodrigues on the 06 February...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please, have you got for long?

Mr Payendee: No, it is very important, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: You can give details in a statement later but please, be... Try to summarise your answer, please.

Mr R. Payendee: They want to know what I have done, what has been done.

Mr Von-Mally: Point of order. I am amazed to see that the respected Commissioner is giving the same answer that he gave last year. He could have told us to go back to last year's answer. He should give new answers.

Mr. Payendee: Madam Chairperson, why do they keep asking questions...

Madam Chairperson: Commissioner, please! I should rule on the point of order, first. On whatever the respected Member is saying in his point of order about the Hansard, I have not the Hansard at hand now, I cannot rule on that but please, Commissioner, the point is that you should be brief. Please, do not make statement now. You can have a statement later at statement time.

Mr Payendee: They want to know. I just close this because everything is in my head, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we have, apart from what was said last time, we have come forward with a... put a steering committee which is working ... a new committee which is working on the short-term and long-term solutions. In the committee, all the Members of the village are represented. The Manager of the stone crusher together with all the team from the Commission and from Commission for Health, we have decided that yes, the stone crusher industry need to be relocated. This is a... *Toi to pane fer narnier. Pas kozé.*

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson: Order! Minority Leader, please, you allow the Commissioner to answer. Yes.

Mr Payendee: Needs to be relocated. So, I have already convened... We have located a site to move the stone crusher industry and we have visited the site with the Executive Council and together with the Manager and it seem that they were okay with the site except that it is quite far away. There are quite a lot of problems with regard to roads and stuff which can cause some inconvenience. And, this is why in the last, last steering committee, the Manager of the stone crusher has come with a new proposal. He has located a new site, is proposing a new site which I visited yesterday in his company and the next step is to take the Executive Council to the site and then, decision will follow. But, I can assure the House that the Executive Officers from Mauritius, they are happy, they are prepared to move and I think that we will win this matter. I think in the very near future, these people around the stone crusher will be relieved from the problem of dust which is affecting them, Madam.

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, all these have been said last time. I would like to ask the... just to set the record straight, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner whether, he is

aware when the first time the people in the vicinity of the stone crusher sent a petition to the authorities. Are you aware?

Mr Payendee: That is why I said, Madam Chairperson, they are coming back to the fact that yes, there was a Commissioner there at that time and that Commissioner did nothing to that petition. Yes, I see, I know the petition. I have a copy in my office. It was given. There have been different petitions. I have all the copies in my work except there has not been any petition all the time I have been Commissioner for Environment. This is the point I wanted to raise. So, it is only last year that these people came to see me.

Mr Von-Mally: Madam Chairperson, this party has been in power for more than 30 years. I would like to table the first petition that these people, the villagers sent to the right Honourable Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth at that time in 1993. I would like to table that for your files. Secondly, being given that these people have been suffering since 1973, this stone crusher has been set up there, and we cannot develop this surrounding. It is a region where people should construct their house where we can develop it as a beautiful village but because of this stone crusher, we cannot do anything. Can I know from the respected Commissioner, being given that he has said that last time, he has 'vote' a select committee to fast-track, he has said this several times, to fast-track the relocation process... Now, he has said that he has visited this site yesterday; can we know where this site is situated?

Mr Payendee: Madam Chairperson, first of all, I am a bit... This paper that has been tabled, I said, I have a copy in my office. Yes, yes, I have it in my office. I do not even need it. I already have it. That is why I said I am happy that this question was put because these people are suffering. I agree that these people have been suffering for long. But if the Minority... the ancient Minority Leader is saying that if he knows that all these times, these people have been suffering, they came in power; why did they not do? And, he was Minister in the National Assembly. He could have talked to his colleague, Minister for Environment at that time or the Prime Minister or whoever. So, they did nothing and it is only now and he has been leader of the opposition as well, it is only now when I am doing something for these people and my action date only six months and you can see all that have been saying which they call a statement, has been done in six months, removing the confinement period in that. So, I think about four months of work, there is a lot of things has been done. Regarding the site, for the time being, I cannot say where it is. I am waiting. I have to take the... I have no

problem with this but I have to take the Executive Council first. Then, after that, I will come with a.... Everybody will know where this will....

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Von-Mally, yes.

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, Madam Chairperson, being given that the work, I believe the respected Commissioner has been demagogical in his approach by saying that nothing has been done. Is it not true, I would like to ask him, that a new site has been identified when we were in power? I was not here but I always put question. Even now, you are trying to react due to this question. I would like to know whether you are aware that a new site was identified? And, it is your Government that gave this site to a hotel promoter. This is why this problem has been going on and on. Is it not true?

Mr Payendee: It is not true, Madam. It is not true. It is not. Unless the Member wants to give the answer but me as Commissioner, I am saying it is not true. The same sort of... same region was identified. Same sort of region. Yes, I am telling you. You do not know where it is. So, I am telling it. So, the same region has been... same sort of site has been identified except that as I said, the new thing is that the stone crushing industry is seeing that this is a bit difficult for them. If they want to know, as far as competition is concerned, the cost of production would be higher for them. And, of course, there is competition between two stone crushers. So, this is the question that is being raised. That does not mean that we will stick to the new one. But I personally saw, noticed that the new one also is interesting. I will not say more about this. Thank you.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader?

Mr Grandcourt: Thank you, Mrs Chairperson, Madam. Le Commissaire... Ce n'est un peu pas correct de dire que rien n'a été fait. Je vais lui poser la question. La carrière se trouve juste à côté de Anse Nicolas. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons à l'époque choisi Anse Nicolas pour être très bref et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons construit cette route. C'est une question de route pour aller à... si vous parlez de Montagne Croupier. Maintenant, c'est une question de route. On avait fait. On avait fait, on avait identifié le site de Anse Nicolas et on avait fait aussi la route. Il y a aussi si vous allez voir là-bas, le réseau électrique a été développé pour justement *relocate* 'la' concasseur. Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Vous avez donné des baux là-bas...

Madam Chairperson: Minority Leader, we can debate another time on the matter.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes.

Madam Chairperson: Please put your question, now.

Mr Grandcourt: My question is how come that after seven years, he told us that after seven years, he has been in office and it is only now? But he has officers in his Commission. How come that he said that he was not aware? We have Health and Safety Officers. We have the Rodrigues Environment Committee (REC). It was, I remember that time on the agenda: Rodrigues Environment Committee, the relocation of the stone crusher. So, how come that he says here that only after seven years that he has been made aware of the situation?

Mr Payendee: I will answer this question the same way that the Minority Leader put it. How come these people have taken so long to come and see me about this problem? How come? How come? They could have come! If they came, I would have done something. I am saying in four months...

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson: Order!

Mr Payendee: I have done more than a lot of people have done in a lot of years, Madam.

Mr Von-Mally: The respected Commissioner did not know his files. He should have read the files because since 30 years, this was there. Can I know from the respected Commissioner being given that... to an answer to the last question, he said that this will be done in the shortest time? He said it several times that the stone crusher will be relocated. And, now, it is only yesterday that he went to see the new site. Can I know, has there been any timeframe to relocate this? Because this is a human drama going on there. People are getting health problem because of this. I believe... To construct road, I think the Commissioner of Infrastructure will agree with me. Infrastructure, no problem to build the road to have water. I believe we must do this urgently for the sake of the people of Citadelle and the surrounding.

Mr Payendee: Mrs. Chairperson, how come the respected Member is talking about drama. Drama. So, what have they done? Nothing, I am saying apart from saying "yes we have located a site". Talking of yesterday was the first visit was done months ago to the normal site which was chosen by the Executive Council, the normal site. But as I said in the last committee, the Manager said it is a problem for them. So, that is why the last committee was done recently. Of course, it proposed a new site. What should I do? I went to visit the

site and I did it yesterday. Yes, I did it yesterday and it is a not so long time. So, people who have not done nothing for years concerning a problem and now putting all these problems on someone else and saying that it is a drama, I see this as being wrong, Madam, but I promised these people. This is what I said, yes, I said. I said in the very short time. Very short time. But when you are talking about short time, you need to understand what short time mean. You took years to do something; in four months, I have done a lot and I am sure, I will not put a date, I am sure you will see. "Time will tell" like Bob Marley said. Time will tell that these people... I have taken this problem. This problem has become one of my biggest priorities, Madam.

Madam Chairperson: One last.

Mr Volbert: Yes, *Madam Chairperson*, le Commissaire a dit dans sa réponse que sept ans depuis qu'il est... *he is in office*, il vient de prendre connaissance de ce problème-là. Peut-on savoir du respecté Commissaire si les habitants n'ont pas fait de pétition, ont signé des pétitions, des lettres adressées à la Commission de l'environnement.

Mr Payendee: *Madam Chairperson*, j'ai dit et je redis, je maintiens ce que j'ai dit. Non, il n'y a pas eu. Pas à ma connaissance ! Ce n'est que six mois de cela que ces gens sont venus me voir. Et je l'ai dit dans le *Steering Committee* je ne savais pas. Vous savez ce que je pensais ? Personnellement, s'ils veulent savoir, moi, je vais le dire. Moi, je pensais qu'il n'y avait pas trop de problème. Il y avait un genre de *agreement* entre les gens pour compenser ce qu'on appelle normalement. Je pensais que c'était ça. Je savais qu'il y avait un problème. Autrement, je roule là, je suis à Rodrigues, je suis un Rodriguais. Je voyais qu'il y avait, qu'il pouvait y avoir un problème là mais le fait que personne ne venait de l'avant avec, je pensais qu'il y avait un *mutual agreement between these people*.

May be they are getting something, some facilities from UBP. Maybe these UBP was paying for the damages caused to them. That is what I said to them. But it is only when they addressed the photos to me that I realised that yes, there has been problem and they came eventually with this letter than the Mino... the... I keep saying Minority Leader. I do not know why. That it is only when I got these photos from the inhabitants from there that I realised there was really a problem and that people in the past have been sitting on these *dossiers* and nothing has been done, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM – PORT MATHURIN

(No. B/62) The First Island Region Member (Mr L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether in regard to the drainage system actually being set up in Port Mathurin, he will state to the House:

- (a) the total cost of the whole project, the funds that have been disbursed up to now, indicating if it will be extended to other areas of Rodrigues;
- (b) if tender procedures were strictly followed, giving the names of the different tenderers as well as the successful one;
- (c) if the network will be interconnected so as to allow for the waste water to be eventually treated; and
- (d) if the inhabitants concerned were consulted prior to excavation works being effected?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that

- (a) The cost of the Drain Projects in Rodrigues – Port Mathurin Phase II is Rs 191,863,842 (Incl. VAT).

As at date, a sum Rs 17,971,696 has been disbursed.

The project location for the ongoing project is within Port Mathurin area.

- (b) Bids for the Drain Projects in Rodrigues – Port Mathurin Phase II was launched under emergency procurement on 15 October 2019 and the closing date for submission of bids was 29 October 2019.

Twelve contractors were invited for the bidding exercise. However, on closing date of the bid, that is, on 29 October 2019, only two bids were received as follows:-

Sn	Name of Contractors	Amount (Rs) Incl. VAT
1.	Phil Alin Didier Co. Ltd	220,979,528.00
2.	Transinvest Construction Ltd	191,868,842.00

After a bid evaluation, the contract for the project “Drain Project in Rodrigues – Port Mathurin Phase II” was awarded to Transinvest Construction Ltd for an amount of as stated above.

The duration of works is 330 days.

- (c) The drain network being constructed under the project is meant for rainwater run off only. Wastewater will not be connected to the drain network. However, it is to be noted that the Minister of Finance has announced that a feasibility study will be carried out for the implementation of wastewater network in Port Mathurin in his Budget Speech of 2020/2021.
- (d) Inhabitants were and are made aware of the implementation of project through Radio Communiqué and by the necessary public relations exercises carried out by CAB Rodrigues and by the Contractor. Police assistance is also provided to ensure safety. Wherever applicable, consent forms are signed by the relevant inhabitants.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to add that any inhabitant who feels aggrieved due to any disturbance or nuisance may contact either the CAB Office of Port Mathurin or my Commission for any possible redress.

Mr Von-Mally: Yes, Madam Chairperson, can I know from the respected Commissioner whether the whole project have been done according to a global plan for Port Mathurin?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I have so many times in this very Assembly referred to one report which was made in 2014: the Desai Report. In fact, in the report, it is described what is the problem related to flooding in Port Mathurin and as per the design which was made by the Global Consultant, same has been taken on board.

Mr Von-Mally: Well, having heard that, Madam Chairperson, I know that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. When there will be flash flood, then, we will know whether these drains have been well done or not. Can I ask the respected Commissioner if this has been done according to a global plan, can I know why along the road because people have been talking around? Along the road of Miss Roussety, the drain has been cut on the other side of the road, that is, further away from the hill Montagne Fanal. Why this has not been constructed nearer to the hill? Otherwise, you will have surface run-off flowing on the road to get into the canal. Can he give an answer to that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, it is a fact that whenever a project is going on, there will be some issue that is going to crop up when the project is over. Even when we are going through the construction of roads, even with whatever measures the Commission takes into consideration, there are issues that 'is' going to crop up after any heavy rainfall and of course, we are going to act, to mitigate any such matter. But as regard to the issue that is being raised by the respected Member, I do not have the design in head so that I can really give an appropriate answer as regard to that. But I will look into the matter with the NDU to see what can be done if ever what you have said is of utmost importance.

Mr. J. Von-Mally: On the issue that has been raised, well, the drain 'have' been constructed, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner if this has been done according to a global plan, why is this that we have a series of "*kassé ranzé*" here and there in Port Mathurin?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Where is the "*kassé ranzé*", Madam Chairperson? Of course, we are "*kassé ranzé*" to make good. Yes, we are "*kassé ranzé*" to make good. Of course, there should be a lot of "*kassé ranzé*". But if you are referring to....

Mr Von-Mally: What has recently been "*ranzé*"....

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, if you are referring to...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: If ever the design as proposed by the Consultant is not being done as it should be by the Contractor, then, it has to be pulled down and make good as it is designed. Yes, this means that the work is being monitored as it should be by my Commission, by the CAP and by the Consultant.

Mr Von-Mally: This should be done at one go. One last question I would like to ask the respected Commissioner. Concerning the security aspect, can I know whether this will be strictly adhered to? Being given that several people have been hurt, they have been injured, falling into the trench, trench has been dug during the day and at night, no lights, no sign. Well, I think you should look at that. I would like to ask whether you are going to look at that ahead.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Madam Chairperson, you would have note while going to Port Mathurin, that we have first of all, reinforced the presence of the police, police officers at most junctions. I personally, I am chairing a committee very regularly to see

into the matter of security in the town and I have personally delegated a subcommittee in case that I am not free comprising of the Consultant, the Contractor, officers of my Commission and the CAP Office and the police to see and to get as quickly as possible in any security matters that arises during the execution of the work. But the problem is that there are some works which have to be executed at night. Because when you see the structure of Port Mathurin, there is only one main road, especially when you are coming from Mont Lubin that you have to go through. It is the road of François Leguat. So, every vehicles coming from Mont Lubin will have to go through that road and this is why work has to be performed at night at the particular place.

Mr Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the Deputy Chief Commissioner was referring to report made if I understand in 2014. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner make this report available to this House?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: So many times, Madam Chairperson, I have referred to this report and I was going through it... So many times, I go through it with my colleagues from the CAB Office, Mr respected Member Honourable Francisco François. What is nice to note from there is that in that report where there were 20 projects which were surveyed by the then Consultant, wue have already reached... We have mostly completed 12 of the projects. You will note that there has been much drain work which has been done at Rivière Cocos, Petit Gabriel, Allée Tamarin, Baie aux Huitres, Fond Baie aux Huitres, Pointe Monier, Camp du Roi, Lataniers. There are 12 projects out of 20 which are either ongoing or which have been completed. Now, there is the fords of Baie Malgache which have yet... which the NDU is going ahead shortly. At the level of my Commission, there were the issues of fords in the southern region of Rodrigues, mainly along the road from Rivière Cocos to Songes. We are attacking that portion also because in the next phase of Rivière Cocos/Songes, we are going to go ahead with the construction. We are going to start ahead with the construction of bridge as has been highlighted so many times in this Assembly. So, I have no problem of tabling that report to the House for the benefit of all and one.

Mr Von-Mally: Madam Chairperson, one if I can put one last question to the respected Commissioner. In order to reduce to a minimum, the episode of *kassé ranzé*, can I know from the respected Commissioner why there has not been a coordinated approach between the CEB, the Telecom and your Commission in order to do the work once and for

all, put the telephone lines, the Telecom lines also, the optic cable, why not at the same time? Because otherwise, after a few months, he will be *kasser* and *re ranzer*.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, you will realise that as per the value of the project, this is one of the biggest project that Rodrigues has entailed so far. Yes, true it is there is that issue of CEB and Telecom but nevertheless, you will note that there has been an integrated approach in the sense that in this scope of work of this project, there has been the scope for the underground water network of Port Mathurin. This is something that we have had. Yet, as you have mentioned, as you have noted in your question itself, there is the Waste Water Project which is yet to come but as you know, projects move forward as per availability of funds. So, if we have funds for doing... for catering for run-off water and the water sector, it is better that we take it and move forward and maybe in the waste water project, then, we can include these underground network that you are proposing.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

FOND LA BONTE DAM

(No. B/63) The First Island Region Member (Mr L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether in regard to the Fond La Bonté dam, he will state: -

- (a) when it was last desilted and indicating if this process will be done soon;
- (b) its actual water retaining capacity, indicating if there is any plan for his Commission to increase this capacity together with the time frame;
- (c) the number of families connected thereto and the frequency with which they receive tap water therefrom indicating if this will be improved?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson,

- (a) I am informed that the Fond la Bonté dam commonly known as ‘Gros Maman’ was last desilted in year 2007 at the cost of about Rs 18 M. I am informed that the dam was exploited for domestic use only for a very short period after its desilting by the then Government, Regional Government, because it became very difficult to treat the water to the required norms.

Presently, the dam is providing water for irrigation to the planters of Fond la Bonté, Fond Baie aux Huîtres and part of Oyster Bay on a daily basis.

- (b) The actual water retaining capacity of the Fond La Bonté dam is estimated at about 5,000 cubic metres.
- (c) Madam Chairperson, as stated above, no water is being provided from Gros Maman dam for domestic use. I would, however, seize the opportunity to give an insight of water distribution in the northern part of the island, especially those receiving water from Pavé La Bonté dam via the reservoirs of Allée Tamarin and Hauteur Accacia, from reservoir Tindoye, from Fond Accacia via the reservoir of Jardin Mamzelle and reservoir Dans Banane.

Madam Chairperson, Allée Tamarin reservoir serves six villages namely Baie aux Huitres, Allée Tamarin, Baie Malgache, Baie Diamant, Anse Pansia and Pointe La Gueule. All these villages are being served with water once every week.

Hauteur Accacia reservoir, on the other hand, serves three villages namely Pointe Monier, Camp du Roi and part of Port Mathurin. These villages are being served once every 10 days on average.

Tindoye reservoir serves the villagers of Fond La Bonté and Fond Baie aux Huîtres once a week.

Distribution from Dans Banane reservoir which serves the part of Oyster Bay commonly known as Dans Corneflore is being served with water once a week.

Distribution from Fond Accacia via Jardin Mamzelle reservoir serves the villages of Accacia, Hauteur Accacia and Pointe l'Herbe once a week.

The total number of families of these 14 villages being served by these reservoirs is approximately 1,494.

Mr Von-Mally: Madam Chairperson, the respected Commissioner has said that this Fond La Bonté dam has been used only for a certain period of time. Well, true, because of silting, there is a great problem of soil erosion in Rodrigues. Therefore, can I ask the respected Commissioner whether the dam will be desilted soon? I think this must be done regularly.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I think that the respected Member is somehow misleading because the capacity of the dam is 7,500 m³. As I have stated in my answer, now, there has been the silting of about 2,500. This means the capacity, the storing capacity as it is right now, it is 5,000. But the thing with the dam is that when you

did that desilting in 2007, it was meant for domestic purposes but the thing is that water become so quickly nauseous for treatment. Even there was a treatment plant just next to my house, I should say, when you started to treat the water, because the water is stagnant, it becomes almost impossible to treat the water to the standard norms. So, this is why even with the injection of Rs 18 M that we made at that time, it was impossible for you to use the water for distribution to the villagers of Baie aux Huitres and Accacia and the villagers. The idea was good in looking for additional production of water but you did not look into the technical aspect as regard to the treatment of water and this is why the project fails as it was dim in its objective. This is why these days; the reservoir is being used for irrigation purpose mainly.

Mr Von-Mally: I would like to ask the respected Commissioner at some point in time, there was a project to raise the height of the dam so that they can have more water and this will lengthen the time for the water to become nauseous. Can we know where, what has become of the project whether we will go ahead with this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I think you are getting confused once again. So sorry. Because you are speaking mainly I think of Pavé La Bonté Dam. You are speaking of Pavé La Bonté Dam but here, I am referring... because your question refers to the dam of Fond La Bonté. But there is no need for the time being for raising the dam of Font La Bonté, being given that its capacity is 5,000 m³ in terms of stocking capacity and water is being served daily for all the planters in the region. But if you are referring to Pavé La Bonté, even at the level of my Commission, we have looked into the possibility of heightening the walls but after much thought, we have seen that with the construction of the reservoir at Hauteur Accacia, there is no such need for the time being, being given that as per the production that is being made there, the water can be directed directly by cavity to Hauteur Accacia for distribution to the villagers of... But I should say...

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, this is not the proper way of putting question, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I should say that our objective of a larger dam to a capacity of 1,000 m³ remains but we have other priorities because as I have explained right now, the water that is to be collected at Pavé La Bonté, they are going to use for serving the northern part of the island but as per my answer, I do not have much problem because the

objective that we have set for distribution of water in that part of the island from Baie Malgache to Hauteur Accacia even to part of Port Mathurin, we have already reached it. So, I prefer to focus on another part of Rodrigues where we are having problem.

Mr Von-Mally: One last question I would like to ask the respected Commissioner. Concerning the security aspect, this part, this dam was used to be fenced, properly fenced and now, there is no fencing and there has even been a fatal accident recently. Is his Commission going to put the fence back, to fence this region because it is really, really dangerous to desilt what you have in this dam?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Not only one but two fatal accidents. Let us put it straight. Yes, there has been two fatal accidents if I refer well for the last five years. Five years. Nevertheless, the security aspect we have to look upon but unfortunately, I should say, as regard to the last accident, true it is, the person who ‘gets’ drown there, I will not say negligently but this could have been avoided if I refer to the information that I have got as regard to that, this could have been avoided. Even with the presence of a fence as many of our reservoirs have these days, if anyone wants to get over it and gets drown, we will not be able to avoid that. Yes, we will not be able to avoid that. So, there is a question of common sense also that each and every citizen to have to avoid such accident but nevertheless, the security aspect will have to be looked into. Thank you very much.

Madam Chairperson: Next question!

SANITARY PROTOCOLS – SCHOOL INSTITUTIONS – RODRIGUES

(No. B/64) The Minority Leader (Mr F. A. Grandcourt) asked the Chief Commissioner whether in regard to sanitary protocols put in place in school institutions in Rodrigues, applicable both before and after the school resumption of the 3rd August 2020, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the measures taken by his Commission for the implementation thereof; and
- (b) table a list of materials procured therefor by his Commission together with the respective specifications, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, as regards to Sanitary protocols put in place for the resumption of schools as from 03 August 2020, I am informed that measures being implemented are in line with the Guidelines for Health and Sanitary measures in

Primary and Secondary Schools provided by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. The measures are being contextualised for Rodrigues.

I am informed that the following measures have been initiated at school level before school resumption: -

- (i) deep cleaning and disinfection of school premises;
- (ii) provision of adequate hygiene facilities on school premises for both staff and students;
- (iii) training of staff on safety measures taken to prevent spread of Covid-19; and
- (iv) accommodation of an isolation area as far as possible in case of detection of a suspect case.

Madam Chairperson, I am further informed that as from resumption of schools on 03 August 2020, Heads of School were requested to implement the following measures: -

- (i) organised the breaks, arrival and dismissal time in order to minimize crowd gathering;
- (ii) daily contactless temperature checks at school entry; and
- (iii) reinforced hygiene measures, as regards to
 - (a) the frequency of cleaning and disinfection carried out;
 - (b) the removal and disposal of trash; and
 - (c) the frequency of proper hand washing.

Madam Chairperson, the above measures have been worked out in collaboration with the major stakeholders of the Education Sector and may be reviewed in light of the valuation of the Covid-19 pandemic and the opening of borders.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to part (b), I am informed that 90 frontal thermometers have been procured and already issued to all educational institutions and same are being used for daily temperature checks since school consumption. The quantity issued to each Educational Institution is based on the number of pupils/students in the schools. Moreover, all Primary and Pre-primary Schools have been provided with cleaning materials and sanitary. For Secondary schools, necessary arrangements have already been made at their levels for procurement of cleaning materials and sanitary items.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that following the resumption of flights in Rodrigues and the mandatory wearing of masks, the Executive Council has decided that the Commission for Industrial Development in partnership with the PTAs of all institutions entrust the manufacturing of eco-friendly masks by local entrepreneurs in order to ensure the security of all students upon school resumption. A maximum of three masks is being sold at the subsidised price of Rs 10 each to every student.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that I presided a press conference on Saturday 01 August 2020 with the stakeholders of the Education Sector to remind parents about the importance of sanitary measures being taken in context of Covid-19 pandemic. A communiqué has also been broadcasted on the radio to inform about the following measures to be effective as from Monday 03 August 2020: -

- (i) mandatory wearing of masks;
- (ii) temperature check before entering school premises; and
- (iii) the necessary of keeping sick children at home and not sending them to school.

Madam Chairperson, I am tabling the list of materials procured.

Mr Volbert: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir du Chef commissaire s'il y a un officier, un staff de la santé qui est posté à chaque entrée de l'école pour prendre la température? Et sinon, si la personne qui est en charge de prendre la température a eu la formation nécessaire.*

The Chief Commissioner: *En principe, oui. Ces écoles-là ont eu une formation d'un personnel de la santé. Mais il me semble que même ce sont les enseignants qui peuvent prendre les températures des enfants qui arrivent à l'école. Et nous demandons aussi aux parents de voir si leurs enfants avant d'aller à l'école n'ont pas la grippe ou la toux ou les températures. En tout cas, tout cela a été fait, Madame la présidente, concernant justement le sanitary resumption of schools on the 03 August.*

Mr Grandcourt: *Madame la présidente, une question pratique. Le Chef commissaire a parlé de 19 frontal thermometers. C'est-à-dire un...*

(Interruptions)

Mr Grandcourt: *90 ? 19?*

Madam Chairperson: 90.

Mr Grandcourt: Excusez-moi. J'ai mal entendu. Alors, est-ce que c'est suffisant pour prendre la température des enfants qui viennent, par exemple, qui viennent tous en même temps ? Est-ce que ça ne va pas créer du retard dans les horaires de classes ? Ça, c'est une chose et deuxième chose, pourquoi est-ce que les enfants doivent payer pour avoir un masque ?

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, on nous a fait savoir que 90, pour la température, c'est peu mais nous allons augmenter. Tout dépend de chaque école. Mais, Madame la présidente, déjà, un masque, la fabrication, ça coûte plus chère que Rs10 et nous, nous finançons la fabrication de ces masques. Mais nous aurions voulu dans l'optique d'une population responsable, que les parents aussi prennent leurs responsabilités. Nous ne voulons pas développer dans cette île Rodrigues, une mentalité d'assistée. Nous voulons que justement, que les gens aussi, ils participent. Et je pense déjà, nous avons participé dans la fabrication de ces masques mais nous avons lancé aux parents une responsabilité vis-à-vis les enfants. Alors, Rs10 par masque, évidemment, c'est peu. Mais je pense que les parents doivent faire un effort en faveur de leurs enfants. Quand les parents participent Rs10, ça veut dire ils aiment leurs enfants.

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: Quoi ? Qu'est-ce qu'ils disent ? Non ? C'est non ? Cadeau ? Pourquoi toujours donner un cadeau ? Pourquoi donner en cadeau ?

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson: Order! Order!

The Chief Commissioner: Non, nous, notre politique, c'est amener la population à prendre leur responsabilité dans tous les domaines. Et c'est ça justement. Nous ne voulons pas créer à Rodrigues, une mentalité d'assistée dans cette population-là. Le fait que justement, les parents participent en achetant Rs10 un masque, c'est déjà une... comment on appelle ? Une mentalité que nous voulons justement lancer dans cette population-là. Merci.

Mr Félicité: Yes, Madam Chairperson, j'aimerais demander au Chef commissaire si les dispositions ont été faites pour si jamais il y a des enfants qui ont de la température, s'il y a une salle du genre salle isolation jusqu'à ce que l'enfant soit 'transmettre' à l'hôpital.

The Chief Commissioner: Non, c'est-à-dire, au début, si les parents voient que l'enfant a la grippe ou ceci que cela, ils l'envoient pas à l'école et que à ce moment-là, ils doivent les amener à l'hôpital. Mais à l'école même, il y a une salle. Il y a une salle pour les enfants, surtout pour l'isolement tout ça. Et c'est prévu dans ce programme, ces protocoles *sanitary*, sanitaires à l'école aujourd'hui.

Mr Félicité: So, I see that the Chief Commissioner has taken some measures concerning sanitary at school. So, my question is before school and after school, especially, we talk about social distance, so, what measures his Commission has taken concerning transport, especially school bus?

The Chief Commissioner: Are we respecting social distances here?

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: Non, le *social distancing*, ça n'existe pas à l'école. Donc, ça n'existe pas et même dans les collèges, tout ça. Parce que il y a des classes comme il ne peut pas avec le *social distancing*, il y a des classes, il n'y a pas suffisamment de pupitre pour qu'un enfant soit derrière un pupitre ou ceci ou cela. Alors, tout cela, Madame la présidente, c'est une question très importante, ce qui va nous permettre à l'avenir justement de voir dans toutes ces écoles que les enfants, qu'il y ait beaucoup plus de pupitres qu'on met à la disposition des enfants. Mais c'est pourquoi je dis aussi que le maître et la maîtresse d'école doivent aussi voir qu'on ne laisse pas les enfants aller en groupe dans la cour pour aller jouer ou ceci ou cela. C'est à eux de voir que vraiment, ces enfants-là ne sauvent pas récréation ici et là.

Mrs Agathe: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire si jamais il y a des enfants ou même des profs qui ont des problèmes respiratoires ou qui souffrent du l'asthme et le port du masque étant obligatoire, qu'est-ce qu'on prévoit pour ces personnes-là ?

The Chief Commissioner: Cela suppose qu'on a pris la température et tout cela évidemment, il y aura la visite du médecin ou bien on va les transférer à l'hôpital. Il y a tout cela, il y a tout un protocole sanitaire au niveau de la santé justement. Alors, tout ça, les maîtres, les maîtresses d'écoles, les recteurs sont mis au courant de tout cela. Si un enseignant ou des enfants ont de la fièvre ou ils sont malades, qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire, tout ça, ils sont au courant, quelle mesure prendre, quelle attitude à adopter par rapport justement à ces cas-là.

Mrs Agathe: Madame la présidente, le Chef commissaire a répondu partiellement à ma question parce que je pense que c'est une question très pertinente. Parce que l'enfant qui a des problèmes respiratoires, il a ces problèmes ou qu'il souffre du l'asthme même l'enseignant. Est-ce qu'il y a des masques spéciaux pour ces personnes-là ? C'est ça ma question.

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, ça, je ne sais pas s'il y a des masques spéciaux mais tout simplement, voyez-vous là, je mets mon masque comme ça.

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner:Non, pourquoi? Parce que justement quand je couvre mon nez, c'est-à-dire, la respiration vient dans mes lunettes, je ne vois pas. Vous comprenez là ? Il y a tout ça et je dis même justement s'il y a une personne qui a de l'asthme, qui tousse, pas nécessaire qu'il y ait un masque typique mais ça, je ne sais pas.

Mr Grandcourt: En parlant de protocole, Madame la présidente, j'aimerais poser cette question au Chef commissaire. Il y a eu, on a appris qu'il y avait des gens qui nettoyaient les toilettes dans les écoles primaires. Donc, le contrat a été résilié d'après ce qu'on a appris. Donc, comment ça se passe maintenant ? Comment est-ce que ça se passe ? Il y a d'autres organisations qui se préparent à *step in* ou bien... Et là, à l'heure actuelle, comment est-ce que c'est ? Est-ce qu'il y a des gens qui remplacent ou bien c'est comme avant ?

The Chief Commissioner: Nous sommes en train de travailler, d'avoir des rencontres avec le Rod Clean parce que nous avons vu que ce *brillant cleaning*, quelqu'un qui sort de Maurice et qui vient ici et qui ne fait pas le travail comme il faut et au niveau que ce soit son cas a été même au bureau de l'emploi. Alors, là, nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec Rod Clean. Il me semble que Rod Clean va récupérer ces personnes ou recruter des personnes pour nettoyer les toilettes dans les écoles.

Mr Grandcourt: Mais, Madame la présidente, si je comprends bien là, les toilettes ne sont pas nettoyées dans les écoles. Si parce que le Chef commissaire dit qu'on va s'arranger. Donc, je vais poser la question. Je pose la question pour lui demander...

Madam Chairperson: So, you have already put the question. Yes, Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, oui, oui. Depuis hier, ça a commencé.

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

At 12.29 hours, the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 13.35 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

MANAGEMENT OF CRAB ISLAND – REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

(No. B/65) The Second Island Region Member (Mr R. Perrine) asked the 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; and
- (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 pipeline so far and, if yes to give details?

Mr Payendee: Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that Crab Island is a government owned property.

With regard to part (b), the only project going on Crab Island, is the production unit for sheep and goat of the Commission for Agriculture and at a monthly cost of Rs 321,471. There is nothing to table on that.

Mr Volbert: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir du respecté Commissaire s'il y a des ruches d'abeilles sur l'Ile aux Crabes?*

Mr Payendee: Madam Chairperson, I am not aware if there is *ruche d'abeilles* on the island.

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, à un certain moment, concernant l'Ile aux Crabes, lorsqu'on parle de l'Ile aux Crabes, on parle des moutons. A un certain moment, il a été mentionné qu'on va retirer tous les moutons qui se trouvent sur l'île. J'aimerais demander au Commissaire si c'est toujours le cas ?

Mr Payendee: Madam Chairperson, il y a un projet pour mieux gérer les moutons parce que des fois, c'est un petit peu compliqué, la gestion des moutons sur l'Ile aux Crabes. Et, en vue de mieux encadrer les jeunes qui étudient au Lycée Agricole de Saint Gabriel, on pense mettre en place un centre scientifique pour les moutons et les cabris sur le *mainland*.

Mr Volbert: *Yes, Madam Chairperson, peut-on savoir du respecté Commissaire s'il y avait un cas de vol de mouton rapporté à la police, plus de 30 moutons, pendant le mois de mars cette année-ci ?*

Mr Payendee: *Oui, effectivement, Madame la présidente, je suis au courant qu'on a perdu. Il y a eu des cas qui ont été rapportés. Donc, 30 moutons effectivement ont été rapportés perdus et le 19 mars 2020 et le cas a été rapporté à la police. Donc, la police enquête.*

Mr Grandcourt: *Après cet incident, je dirais, Madame la présidente, que fait la Commission pour atténuer ce vol de mouton, pour empêcher que d'autres personnes viennent voler ces moutons-là ? Le fait que l'île est petite et entourée d'eau, donc, c'est facile d'accès d'après moi, donc, que fait la Commission ?*

Mr Payendee: *Premièrement, on pense que ce vol est arrivé pendant la période... plus le confinement, il n'y avait pas vraiment... Il y avait un genre de problème entre l'échange des gardiens et d'autres problèmes tout ça. Et du coup, ma commission travaille pour mettre des gardiens privés, la sécurité privée sur l'île.*

Madam Chairperson: *Next question.*

TRANSFORMATION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS

- LEMON, SWEET POTATO, CASSAVA, DRIED OCTOPUS & HONEY

(No. B/66) Mr J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the transformation of local products including lemon, sweet potato, cassava, dried octopus and honey by small entrepreneurs as well as cooperative associations and companies, she will state and table for the House on: -

- (a) the quality of processed products sent for the Mauritian market and abroad since 2017 to date, stating the quantity per category, date shipped and the country thereof;
- (b) if there has been any scientific report available for the above named products, including the quality and traceability thereof; and
- (c) if there has been any agreement signed for the marketing thereof and, if so, to provide a copy?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed that only data regarding shipment of dry octopus, lemon and honey, which are systematically captured and compiled by the Statistic Unit.

With respect to other remaining products, they are all grouped as agro-products and are not categorised. Thus, to date the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has no records regarding the quality volume saved for honey, lemon and dried octopus, date shipped and category of process products sent to Mauritius or abroad. In that respect, I am tabling a copy of the quantity of dry octopus, lemon and honey shipped to Mauritius from the year 2017 to year 2019 as submitted by the Statistics Office, Rodrigues.

As regards, to part (b), I am informed that there is no scientific report regarding the quality of agro-products sent to Mauritius but there has been preliminary tests which have been conducted in 2018 in Mauritius since we have a wholesale company which is interested to commercialise our local products.

In addition, prior to 2017 all products from Rodrigues which were shipped to Mauritius underwent stringent laboratory test before getting access to the shelves of supermarkets in Mauritius. As such, a pre-market certificate was issued by the government Analyst Division through the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The pre-market certificate was not however, a compulsory document for Rodriguan entrepreneurs to ship products to Mauritius. It was rather a pre-requirement of some supermarkets in Mauritius. As the test per product was highly expensive, many SMEs involved in processing, even those in Mauritius could not afford those tests. Hence, they could not have access to certain selling point in Mauritius. Thereafter, in 2017 as a strategy to improve the ease of doing business, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has amended the Food Regulations 1999 to streamline procedure and review the scope of food related business requiring a pre-market approval permits. To date the following are the new list of products that require pre-market certificate:

- Any novel food;
- Baby feed bottle;
- Teat, nipple and baby feed mug;
- Bottled water;
- Canned food for infant and child;

- Edible fat and oil including shortening, margarine, vanaspati, ghee and irradiated food;

As regards, the traceability of agro-products, the SME Mauritius offers a grand scheme to encourage all entrepreneurs to have a barcode. For the past years, 25 SMEs have already obtained their barcodes and five applications are under processed. In addition, the RTMC also gives a barcode service to SMEs.

Madam Chairperson, regarding part (c) of the question, negotiations is ongoing with a well-known wholesale distributor of food products in Mauritius for the distribution of Rodriguan products, such as, pickles, cassava, flour and turmeric. The RTMC is currently playing a role of intermediary between the wholesale distributor company and the local entrepreneurs.

In 2019, after intense price negotiations, an agreement was reached between the different parties. The draft contract has already been vetted by the Legal Advisor and has been forwarded to the company for final signature. However, with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic including the lockdown and negative impact on business activities, the signature of the agreement has been delayed. At present, communication has been rested with the wholesale distributor company to finalise the signature of the contract.

Mr Perrine: Madam Chairperson, can I ask the respected Commissioner with regard to lemon, two years back, she stated in this House that some tons of lemon was sent to Italy for test and in her reply today there is no mention of this lemon sent to Italy. Can I ask the Commissioner for Industrial Development why this is so?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, I do maintain that we sent lemons to Italy. However, the question here relates to transformation of local products. So, that is why I could not take care of this question of lemon. What we sent to Italy it was lemon that we picked from trees and not transformed yet.

Mr Volbert: Madam Chairperson, j'aimerais demander à la respecté Commissaire si elle est au courant que des dizaines, des milliers de limon qui devaient être transformés à Maréchal dans le Limon D'Or sont jetés dans la nature fréquemment ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: En effet, Madame la présidente, juste pour reprendre ce que j'avais dit récemment puisque dans le cadre de la collecte des graines de limon par la Commission de l'Agriculture, juste après la période de confinement, on avait proposé que les

personnes qui souhaitent prendre ces limons gratuitement, au lieu de jeter le reste après avoir enlevé les graines, elles peuvent prendre ces limons et couper et transformer. Donc, c'est ce qu'on a fait avec elles récemment. Donc, je ne suis pas au courant s'il y a des limons qui sont jetés. Si des limons sont jetés c'est ces limons-là. Bien sûr je vais m'enquérir mais ces limons ont été donnés gratuitement à la suite donc du travail que la Commission de l'Agriculture avait fait pour enlever les graines.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, par rapport à la transformation de limon, encore une fois, les extraits de limon que Madame, a fait mention dans une de ces dernière déclarations dans cette Chambre, discours budget, peut-on savoir où en est cette affaire-là ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, en effet pas plus tard que hier après-midi très tard, on a eu une conférence téléphonique avec M. Michel Mann qui est un des parfumeurs qui est intéressé avec l'achat de notre huile essentiel, on a discuté en autre de la finalisation des prix pour ce produit, étant donné quand même le marché, beaucoup de chose à changer avec le COVID et on a eu une discussion. En même temps aussi de notre côté on a vu que le prix de l'équipement de la Pelatrice qui avait déjà été commandé, avec le taux d'échange de l'Euro le prix a beaucoup grimper. Donc, on est encore en discussion pour finaliser le prix pour ce produit et très bientôt on sera en mesure de prendre une décision finale par rapport à ce produit.

Mr. J. N. Volbert: Peut-on savoir de la respecté Commissaire si l'usine de Gravières est opérationnel dans la transformation de limon?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: En effet, la partie qui existe en ce moment, qui est opéré par deux coopératives, une coopérative de jeune et une coopérative donc qui existe depuis plus longtemps. Oui, ils ont récemment, elles ont fait le *processing* de limon. La mission de cette coopérative c'est de faire le *pre-process lemons*, c'est-à-dire, couper et salé et puis après pour que le Limon D'Or transforme. Donc, effectivement elles ont eu des activités pendant la période où il y avait des limons. Actuellement il n'y a pas de limon donc l'activité à cesser.

Mr Perrine: Qu'en-est-il des jus de limon en cube, est-ce qu'on est en train de finaliser ce projet-là ou ça a été mis de côté ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, vous conviendrez avec moi qu'on aura le volume de jus quand on va commencer à extraire le volume d'essence. Donc, ce projet est encore en '*on*' aussi. Donc, sachant aussi cependant quand on va aller de l'avant

avec ce projet on aura un gros volume, donc 40,000 kilos de jus, 45,000 kilos de jus pour les 230 tonnes de limon. Et, on a pensé que dans un premier temps ce serait peut-être difficile de tout absorber ici pour la transformation, on va probablement chercher une partie, donc un marcher pour une partie donc de ce jus. D'ailleurs, il y a eu des entreprises qui ont commencé à faire des produits élaborer à travers ce jus de limon et une partie aussi sera transformer effectivement à Rodrigues.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, nous constatons que d'année en année depuis plus de cinq ans déjà, ce projet de Gravières, transformation de limon qui est la base même de nos produits alimentaires à Rodrigues est en train de tourner en rond. Nous constatons que le projet n'avance pas et qu'à chaque fois nous avons, l'intention qui est très bonne d'ailleurs, mais il n'y a pas d'action. Est-ce qu'on peut demander au commissaire responsable Mme Gaspard Pierre-Louis quand est-ce que réellement cette usine de Gravières de transformation de Gravières va nous donner, au moins à l'Assemblée, quelques briques de limon qu'on peut utiliser localement ici, Madame la présidente ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: En effet, Madame la présidente, je l'ai dit ici je crois plusieurs fois, encore une fois je vais reprendre ce que ma collègue la Commissaire Edouard a dit ce matin. C'est une question de *procurement procedures* aussi. A deux reprises on a lancé l'appel d'offre pour construire le bâtiment pour mettre cette Pelatrice et à deux reprises on n'a pas eu. Donc, celui qui a quotté n'a pas été trouvé comme *responsive*. Donc, c'est pour cela que ce projet a tardé. Même si je peux influencer comme ils pensent qu'on peut le faire, les procédures du *procurement*, si quand on a lancé le *tender*, on a vu que le *tender* n'est pas responsive, je ne peux pas faire grand-chose puisque je ne suis pas technicien. Donc, là on va relancer ce *tender*.

Mr Perrine: Pourrais-je savoir où en est le projet que le Gouvernement Régional s'est associé avec le Bio Labo X pour développer le projet de limon ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, c'est la première fois que j'entends le nom Bio Labo X, je ne sais pas où le respecté Membre a trouvé ce nom mais ce nom ne me dit rien. Bio Labo X, je ne connais pas.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, j'ai ici-là, je vais référer à ce document-là. Donc, c'est par rapport au débat, la motion de Chef Commissaire daté du 26 mars 2018 où je cite le paragraphe : « *les tests effectués sur ce limon on vient d'envoyer 1.4 tonnes en Italie pour les tests finals. On a vu que le prix marchande de l'essence, de l'huile essentiel de limon*

de Rodrigues va varier entre 18,000 et 20,000 le litre. Donc, pour vous dire aujourd'hui que ce limon va nous permettre de faire un bond en avant et le gouvernement aujourd'hui s'associe à travers la RTMC, le gouvernement s'associe avec le Bio Lab X pour développer ce projet. Un projet innovant, un projet qui non seulement va faire connaître le limon de Rodrigues mais aussi va faire connaître Rodrigues elle-même. » Est-ce que cela suffit pour que madame nous éclaire ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, j'ai bien dit je n'ai jamais entendu parler de Bio Labo X, en fait, c'est le Bio Labex. Donc, je n'avais pas bien compris le.. Donc, c'est un nom, c'est Bio Labex, pas Bio Labo X. Donc, c'est pour ça que... En effet, le projet que nous menons c'est avec les mêmes partenaires. Donc, Bio Labex, pas Bio Labo X.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME) PARK - OYSTER BAY

(No. B/67) Mr J.L.R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the small and medium enterprise park of Oyster Bay, she will state and table: -

- (a) any feasibility study or report or concept document made thereon including the relevant site plans, costing and leases to be offered to entrepreneurs for the setting up thereof; and
- (b) if any tender document has already been launched therefor stating the relevant date(s)?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, with your permission I would like to reply to questions B/67 and B/84 at the same time as both questions deal with the SME Park of Oyster Bay

Madam Chairperson, during the visit of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development in Rodrigues in 2017, the concept of setting up a Techno Park at Baladirou and SME Park at Oyster Bay that will have significant impact on the socio-economic development of the island was discussed and agreed upon. In that connection, Landscape Mauritius Ltd, which was entrusted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to carry out a first scoping mission, has submitted a project proposal in May

2018. Together we agreed, RRA and Ministry of Finance that a feasibility study be undertaken by a consultant for the proposed SME Park at Oyster Bay.

According to the project proposal, the SME Park will be developed on a plot of land of an extent of about 3.49 hectares. The project will comprise an SME block, seafood processing unit, an agro-processing unit, manufacturing and light industries in cubators and, an open area which can be rented to prospective investors or to be used as training centre.

The main aim of setting up an SME Park at Oyster Bay is to provide a SMEs spaces and facilities to promote entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment and create sustainable development.

With regard to part (a) and (b) of the question, I am informed that after consultation and discussion between the RRA and central government, it has been decided that a company namely, the Rodrigues Business Park Development Co. Ltd. be set up for the developments and managements of the Techno Park and the SME Park at Oyster Bay. The company was incorporated on 11 February 2019 with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Development Bank of Mauritius as shareholders.

I am further informed, that the company has decided to defer for the time being, the construction of the SME Park at Oyster Bay and to give priority to the implementation of the Techno Park at Baladirou in the first instance. As such, to date neither feasibility study nor tendering exercise has been initiated, yet.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, encore une fois, nous constatons que ce gouvernement est plein de bandes d'annonces, plein d'annonces, plein des idées mais en réalité nous tournons en rond. Ce projet de Techno Park de Baladirou était supposé arriver avant l'arrivée de la fibre optique à Rodrigues. C'est ce que Madame a dit dans cette Chambre. Alors, est-ce qu'on peut savoir de la commissaire responsable de TIC, qu'est-ce qui s'est passé, donner nous un aperçu qu'est-ce qui s'est passé réellement ? Aujourd'hui, la fibre optique supposément entre guillemet, on est « *connected in Rodrigues* », mais le Techno Park à Baladirou n'est toujours pas dans l'actualité et même pas *budgeted* pour ce budget de 2020-2021.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, en effet il y a une question sur la Techno Park, juste après. Donc, je prendrai l'occasion de donner les détails sur ce projet.

Mr Félicité: Concerning to promote entrepreneurship, I think that this project at Oyster Bay, in fact it was a good one. So, can I know from the Commissioner why there no feasibility study has been taken and why the project has been put aside?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, à aucun moment je n'ai dit que le projet a été *put aside*. J'ai dit que ce projet, on a décidé effectivement qu'il faudra faire un *feasibility study* mais que dans un premier temps, il y a le projet de Techno Park qui sera aussi confier à cette entité nouvellement créer. Donc, en temps et lieu, ce projet va arriver mais le *feasibility study* va se faire et le projet n'a pas été mis *aside*.

Mr Perrine: Oui, c'est vrai, j'ai fait une erreur en posant cette question. Mais la formule reste la même. Le parc de Baie aux Huitres remonte à beaucoup d'année. Le Chef commissaire l'a annoncé lui-même en personne ici dans cette Chambre lors des différentes mesures budgétaires et, pourquoi jusqu'à maintenant il n'y a même pas un *feasibility study* qui va nous donner une indication de ce que ça va être le parc de Baie aux Huitres, pourquoi il y a ce retard dans ce *feasibility study* ? Et, pourquoi à chaque fois *there is a delay* ? Nous comprenons, enfin moi je pense qu'il y a un *delaying tactic* dans ce genre de projet, est-ce que la Commissaire en question a eu l'aval du Conseil Exécutif ou du gouvernement de Maurice, qu'est-ce qui se passe ? Pourquoi *there is delay in these projects* ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Je pense avoir déjà répondu à cette question. C'est une question de priorité. D'ailleurs, je ne sais pas de quelle date le respecté Membre parle ? Moi, j'ai fait état dans ma réponse de 2017, cette idée a émergé en 2017, on a commencé le travail. Et, comme je l'ai dit, la Techno Park est le projet qu'on considère en ce moment et avant la fin de 2022, on aurait eu le temps de compléter le *feasibility study* pour le SME Park.

Mr Félicité: If I have understood, you mentioned that the project will be constructed on 3.4 hectares but during your speech, you mentioned that there are ... *il y avait 10 arpents*. So, can I know that the project, the estimated fund has been decreased, that is why you will construct on a...?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, je n'ai pas en tête combien ça fait un hectare pour un arpent mais je pense que les chiffres tournent autour de ça.

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, on n'a pas encore fait de *feasibility study*, pourquoi se fixer sur Baie aux Huitres ? Pourquoi ne pas voir aussi d'autre endroit ? Oui, La Ferme oui, aussi *capav fer*. Donc...

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

Mr Grandcourt: Pourquoi pas d'autres endroits à Rodrigues pour faire ce projet ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, c'est vrai que d'autres endroits méritent des SME Park, mais c'est une décision du Gouvernement Régional de commencer par Baie aux Huitres. Et, effectivement avec le temps s'il faut aller dans d'autres endroits. Déjà à La Ferme nous avons un Industrial Park que la DBM a mis en place. Donc, effectivement avec le temps s'il faut bouger dans d'autres régions on le fera.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, j'aimerais poser la question suivante au commissaire. Landscape Mauritius a été cité, elle a cité le nom de Landscape Mauritius dans la mise en place de ces projets-là. Est-ce qu'on peut demander au Commissaire comment Landscape Mauritius a été choisi et qui a choisi Landscape Mauritius pour *drive these projects* ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, vous savez sûrement, l'expérience de Landscape au niveau de Maurice, dans la construction de la première Cyber Cité à Ebène, sa capacité, son expérience et expertise, leur savoir-faire dans la mise en place de ce type de projet. C'est pour cela qu'après discussion, je l'ai dit, entre l'Assemblée Régionale et le ministère des Finances, on est tombé d'accord qu'on va prendre avantage de cette expérience, cette expertise pour développer le concept de ce projet. Mais le *owner*, celui qui développe et *manage*, qui va gérer le projet, c'est l'entité qui a été créée. Bien sûr, c'est, comme j'ai dit, c'est sous les conseils avisés de Landscape Mauritius.

Mr Perrine: Ben oui, Madame la présidente, encore une fois. Alors, Madame nous fait comprendre que Landscape Mauritius a suffisamment de l'expérience dans la gestion ou la mise en place de ces deux projets d'envergures qu'elle a mentionnée. Ça fait déjà trois ans. Pendant ces trois-là Landscape Mauritius n'a pas trouvé bon ou la Commission des TIC n'a pas trouvé bon de relancer Landscape of Mauritius pour qu'on puisse avoir une idée, une *feasible idea* pour que ce projet-là ne sombre pas comme le projet de Pointe Venus ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, je pense que le respecté Membre a un problème pour écouter. J'ai bien dit dans la réponse, qu'on a eu un *proposal*, un *project proposal in May 2018*. Donc, ce travail a été fait. Je ne sais pas s'il a un problème pour écouter, pour comprendre.

Mr Perrine: Can I have a copy of these documents?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Je vous demande de venir avec une question et je déposerai le document.

Mr Perrine: La question est simple et directe, je pense. Je vais relire si vous me le permettez ? *Whether, in regard to the small and medium enterprise park of Oyster Bay, she will state and table...*

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member Perrine. There is no need for that, please.

Mr Perrine: C'est écrit *table*. A moins que nous avons deux séries de question. C'est écrit noir sur blanc. Je ne sais pas. Est-ce que c'est moi qui a mal compris ou quoi ? J'ai demandé de *table the documents*. *So, either you table it or not.*

Madam Chairperson: Yes.

Mr Perrine: Can I know when I will be made available of these documents?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: As the procedures are clear, I will lay it in the library, not to you directly.

Mr Perrine: Madame la présidente, cette affaire de déposer les documents à la librairie, il y a eu plusieurs fois que certains Membres de l'autre côté ont dit qu'ils vont déposer les documents à la bibliothèque et jusqu'à maintenant niet. Donc, j'aimerais savoir quand est-ce que ces documents vont être *table* à la bibliothèque ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: En effet, Madame la présidente, bon il y a un petit souci. En effet, du même, donc les Membres ont posé, deux personnes la même question. Supposé une question de coordination. C'est vrai je me suis concentré sur le SME Park de Baie aux Huitres, je n'ai pas vu le côté *table*. Mais le document est prêt, on va le faire la prochaine fois.

Mr Perrine: Non, mais toujours est-il, j'attends. J'attends une réponse. Quand est-ce que j'aurai ce document-là ici à la librairie ?

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, please. The Commissioner has already answered. Yes?

Mr Volbert: J'aurais aimé posé une question. Je ne sais pas si la respecté Commissaire va répondre à la question. Le fait qu'il y a litige avec Landscape Mauritius, est-ce que vous allez continuer avec Landscape Mauritius ou ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madame la présidente, ce sont des allégations dans les journaux faits à Maurice. On n'a pas de litige entre l'Assemblée Régional et Landscape Mauritius. Je dois vous avouer que jusqu'ici ce litige ne nous concerne pas.

Mr Perrine: Peut-on savoir qu'elle sera le rôle de Landscape of Mauritius, est-ce qu'elle va agir comme consultant ou l'organisme implémentation ?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: J'ai été clair. Cette entité déjà mise en place depuis le 11 février 2019, une compagnie où il y a qu'un *shareholder* RRA DBM, c'est l'entité qui va développer ce projet et qui va gérer ce projet.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

CADASTRAL UNIT - OPERATION

(No. B/68) Mr J.N. Volbert (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the operation of the Cadastral Unit of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the organigram thereof;
- (b) the number of officers from the Civil Establishment of Mauritius posted thereat from January 2012 to date, indicating their respective grades and duties; and
- (c) if any request for transfer to the Civil Establishment of Rodrigues was received in regard thereto, providing, in the affirmative, the outcome thereof in each case?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, the organigram of the Cadastral Office is hereby tabled.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the number of officers from the Civil Establishment of Mauritius posted at the Cadastral Unit of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly since 2012 accounts to three namely, on a rotational basis in the grades of:

- (i) the first officer served the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for period 01 July 1999 to 09 December 2014 in the capacities of Surveyor and Senior Surveyor respectively;
- (ii) the second officer from 08 June 2011 to 26 June 2014, served the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as Principal Surveyor; and
- (iii) the last officer posted to the Civil Establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly served in different Capacities:

- (1) For period 01 July 1999 to 06 January 2011 as Surveyor.
- (2) The latter was promoted to the grade of Senior Surveyor on 07 January 2011 and continued to serve the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as such up to 17 August 2013. The officer was posted to the Mauritian Establishment on 18 August 2013 upon the end of his tour of service.
- (3) The officer was once again posted to the Civil Establishment of Rodrigues for period 08 January 2016 to 27 January 2018 where he served as Acting Principal Surveyor.

Madam Chairperson, their respective duties are being tabled.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed that one Mr L.C. made a request for permanent transfer to Rodrigues Regional Assembly as Principal Surveyor. The fact that he did not hold a substantive post of Principal Surveyor, his request could not be acceded to. However, he was informed that he could apply for permanent transfer to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the capacity of Senior Surveyor, that is, his substantive post but he would have to take rank after the Senior Surveyor in post on the establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in line with existing regulations in force.

Madam Chairperson, I am further informed that the latter in an official correspondence dated July 2017 apprised my office that he is not agreeable to the transfer under such terms and conditions.

Mr Volbert: Madam Chairperson, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that on 24 February 2012, Mr J.A.O. was offered the post of Senior Surveyor in the Rodrigues Establishment though he is on the Mauritius Establishment?

The Chief Commissioner: Excuse me, Madam Chairperson, I do not have the information in my reply and I need notice of the question.

Mr Volbert: Is the Chief Commissioner aware that Mr J.A.O. has asked for clarification and has asked the Island Chief Executive whether the post of Principal Surveyor will be available before his acceptance?

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of the question, please.

Mr Volbert: Madam Chairperson, is the Chief Commissioner, still I think, he may be aware or still he is not aware that Mr L.C. while Mr J.A.O. refused and resigned from the Establishment, Mr L.C. was the next senior on the Mauritius Establishment but who

domiciled in Rodrigues and working in Rodrigues since 1999, he asked to consider his application to replace Mr J.A.O., to have the offer of Mr J.A.O. in 2014?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, as I have said, Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed that one, L.C. made a request for permanent transfer to Rodrigues Regional Assembly as Principal Surveyor. The fact, that he did not hold a substantive post of Principal Surveyor, his request could not be acceded to. However, he was informed that he could apply for permanent transfer to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the capacity of Senior Surveyor, not Principal Surveyor.

Mr Volbert: Is the Chief Commissioner aware that on 24 April 2017, Mr L.C. who was acting as Principal Surveyor and received the prescribed ad-hoc allowance, is he aware that Mr L.C. was already doing the job of Principal Surveyor and is he aware that he asked for a permanent transfer on the Rodrigues Establishment?

The Chief Commissioner: It is an administrative matter dealt at the level of the ICE's Office and the Ministry of Civil Service.

Mr Volbert: Is the Chief Commissioner aware that Mr J.A.O. is the '*cousin sec*' of the ICE, who was offering the post of...

Madam Chairperson: Respected Member, these allegations, this is not the forum. The assembly cannot hear... Respected Member, you may have information, I understand, you may be right in saying that but the assembly is not the forum to deal with that. If you have information, you have to consider the appropriate institutions. You cannot use your privilege as Member to attack a person who cannot defend himself. So, please.

Mr Volbert: Okay. Is the Chief Commissioner aware that Mr L.C. asked for a permanent transfer to the Rodrigues Establishment in 2016 and he received a reply from the Island Chief Executive 15 months later, *le temps que le premier senior, le premier Rodriguais senior soit nommé pour dire après de take rank* after the one which had been promoted Senior Surveyor?

The Chief Commissioner: Excuse me, Madam Chairperson, I do not have any information concerning what the Member is saying.

Mr Volbert: I am going to table this information for your information. And, I think that...

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member, if you have... Do you want to put another question? It is over? Next question.

Mr Volbert: No, he is not aware of anything. So, I am tabling for your information, Chief Commissioner and for an enquiry at your end, please.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can I put a question to the Chief Commissioner?

The Chief Commissioner: After all, the information given by the Member, we will make an inquiry on that case.

Mr. J.L.R. Perrine: Can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether actually at the Cadastral Office we have a Principal Surveyor or an Assistant Principal Surveyor, Acting Principal Surveyor?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question.

Madam Chairperson: Next question, please. Next question, Respected Member.

TECHNO PARK - BALADIROU

(No. B/69) Mr J. L. R. Perrine (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunication and Others whether, in regard to the implementation of a techno park at Baladirou, she will, for the benefit of the House, state and table on:-

- (a) any feasibility study or concept plan or other report made therefor including the costing thereof; and
- (b) the expected modus operandi of the park indicating if any local organisation will be involved in the running thereof?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed that following discussion between the RRA and the government in 2017, it was decided, in view of optimising the provision of high speed bandwidth through the installation of the MARS cable, that a techno park be constructed to promote an IT lead business culture in Rodrigues through the setting up of a platform for developing technology based businesses and creation of remunerative employment for the younger generation, which in turn will improve the standard of living of the population of Rodrigues.

In that connection, the services of Landscape Mauritius (I just said that) when listed in 2018 to prepare a concept plan. Subsequently, following a scoping mission in 2018, a

concept plan was submitted for the setting up of a techno park at Baladirou which consists of the construction of a state of the art building of four levels, ground plus three of an area of 5,200 metres at Baladirou with eye-catching façades and modern coddling with high tech facilities.

The Rodrigues Business Park Development Company Ltd having as shareholders the RRA and the Development Bank of Mauritius incorporated on 11 February 2019 has been entrusted to develop and manage the Techno Park.

Madam Chairperson, I consider it not ethical to disclose the cost estimates of the Techno Park at this stage as bids for the construction of same have been launched in July 2020 with the closing date set for 31 August.

Madam Chairperson, I am tabling a copy of the concept plan of the Techno Park at Baladirou.

With respect to part (b), the Rodrigues Business Park Company Ltd will lease the available floor space to potentially investors for setting up of ICT related businesses in a conducive environment.

Mr Perrine: Madam Chairperson, can I ask the respected Commissioner to inform the House where exactly this park will be erected?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: As per the documents just laid down the table of the House, it will be constructed at Baladirou, Rodrigues.

Mr Perrine: Yes, Madam Chairperson, can I know from the Commissioner, she mentioned in a debate, as I said some minutes ago, that this building, this project will be ready before the arrival of the cable optic, can I know why this is not the case?

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, I am more than proud that the fibre cable MARS came well before planned.

Mr Perrine: Can I know from the Commissioner what will be the role again of Landscape Mauritius in the project.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre-Louis: Madam Chairperson, the role of Landscape as I said, was to design the concept plan and that is it.

Madam Chairperson: Next question.

ACCESS ROADS/TRACK ROADS – GRANDE MONTAGNE

(No. B/70) **Mrs M. T. Agathe, PMSM, (Third Island Region Member)** asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to access roads, including track roads, in the electoral region of Grande Montagne, he will state and table, for the benefit of the House on where matters stand as at to date?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, as have been stated several times in this House, tender was launched on 19 March 2019 for the procurement of the construction of 30 kms of track roads including footpath and civil works in Rodrigues for the six Local Regions. The closing date was fixed on 03 May 2019. Only one bid was received and non-responsive because the proposed offer was above the estimated cost of the project. The procurement process was cancelled on 22 May 2019.

Tender was re-launched on 16 July 2019 and the closing date was fixed on 22 August 2019. One bid was received and the Central Procurement Board recommended to award for Lot 2, this means for Region No. 2 only. Works have already started in that Region.

A new procurement exercise was launched on 26 May 2020 for the construction of 25 kms of track roads including footpaths and other civil works in Local Regions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The closing was fixed for 08 July 2020 and three bids were received.

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to announce that the Central Procurement Board has on 30 July 2020 (that means last week), has approved the award of the contract for the construction of 25 kms including footpaths and other Civil Works in Rodrigues to Transinvest for Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 for the total amount of Rs 86 m.

My commission has issued notification of award to selected and unsuccessful bidder on 31 July 2020. We expected works to start shortly in all these regions, which include the electoral region of Grande Montagne after all formalities have been completed.

Madam Chairperson, as regards to access roads in electoral region of Grande Montagne:

- (a) Access road to Baladirou recreation Centre and the families living there has been practically completed at the cost of Rs 8,034,242. Works for the upgrading of Chateau D'eau road to the sum of Rs 4,918,247 is underway

- (b) My commission is presently finalising the design for the construction of access road from Saponaire to Anse Femie for which provision in the budget has been made to the sum of Rs 13.6 m.
- (c) As regards to the Mt. Cabris-Saint François road which was announced in the Budget Speech, a provision of Rs 8 m. has been made in the budget. The design and survey works will be entrusted to the contractor shortly.

Mrs M. T. Agathe: Madame la présidente, je voudrais demander au *Deputy Chief Commissioner* qu'elles sont les raisons principale pour construire des *track roads*, par exemple, de Mt. Cabris passant avant l'école primaire, il y a un monsieur il est diabétique, il ne peut pas trop marcher, sa femme est malade. Et, au fond il y a une vieille dame, quand on doit aller à l'hôpital ils ne peuvent pas sortir. Est-ce qu'il va considérer ça ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, we have discussed in the Executive Council as well as with our colleagues, we are going to give priorities for the coming construction for dialysis patients, for those who are handicapped, for those who are bed-ridden and for those who have domiciliary visits by doctors. So, most probably the persons that you are speaking about will be included in the list.

Mrs M. T. Agathe: *Thank you, Deputy Chief Commissioner.* Mais en même temps, je voudrais être un petit peu plus clair que ça. Parce que ma question avait été posé pour la dernière séance, après ça j'ai vu beaucoup de va et vient dans cette région, dans morcellement Montagne Piquant, Montagne Longue, partout. Mais là, ce sont des intentions. Parce que ces personnes-là, comme le dit souvent le Chef Commissaire, il a à cœur le bien-être des personnes âgées. Je demanderais au Commissaire Lisette de faire de son mieux pour que ces personnes-là puissent vivent un bon moment avant de fermer les yeux. Merci.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, there has been visits, of course by the Executive Council, not with respect with that project specifically but the real intention is when the project is funded in the budget. We can have a lot of intentions but if there is no money which is put in the budget so the intention is volatile. But in the case that we are speaking both for Montagne Cabris and for Saponaire, you will realise that the budget was discussed here as far back as March or April last and in that budget itself there was good intention from this Regional Government to include the access road of Montagne Cabris/St. François, Anse Décidé to Saponaire for the welfare of the villagers.

Mrs M. T. Agathe: Yes, Madame la présidente, concernant la route menant à la chapelle d'Anse Fémie, cette route d'accès est très, très difficile sortant de Graviers pour aller à l'église, qu'est-ce que la commission pense faire ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I have already replied to that question. It was stated, I stated it in the reply itself that my commission is presently finalising the design for the construction of access road from Saponaire to Anse Fémie and there has been projection, the provision of Rs 13.6 m in the budget for 2020-2021. So, it is under process of being implemented.

Mr Grandcourt: Je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire Adjoint quand est-ce que le projet, c'est-à-dire, la construction des *track road* va commencer ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, the construction of track road in Region No. 2 has already started. It has already started for Region No. 2 because as I have stated that was awarded in the last procurement exercises. Now, we are having a last procurement exercise which was approved by the Procurement Board last week on 30 July 2020. So, what we have done now? We have issued letter of notification to the successful and the unsuccessful bidders. There will be the formalities that are going to come up like these submission of insurance administrative matters but once the administrative matters are completed, then, we are going to kick off with the work. Yes.

Mr Grandcourt: Parce que si je comprends bien, le contrat est spécifique à *region number 2*. On a déjà commencé. C'est spécifique pour région numéro 2. *The works*.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There was a procurement exercise which was done, which was launched on 16 July 2019 for all region but it was... We have the approval of only for region number 2. So, we have relaunched another tender on 26 May 2020 for 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and it is only now that the Central Procurement Board is giving us the approval for the awarding.

Madam Chairperson: You have only 10 minutes left for question.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes. Donc, pourquoi je pose la question? C'est que si je comprends bien, comme l'a expliqué le Chef commissaire adjoint, c'est spécifique pour région 2, ce qui on est en train de construire. Le souci, c'est qu'il y a des centaines. On a vu la dernière fois il y a Monsieur Legentil, il y a une dame là juste à côté qui va fêter son anniversaire. Donc, tout le monde attend en ayant 100 ans, c'est d'avoir un *track road*. Donc, le souci, c'est que là, il n'y a pas de *track road*. Donc, comment se fait-il ? On est un

Gouvernement, on aurait bien pu prendre la décision de construire ce *track road* là. Il y a une dame là la semaine prochaine qui va fêter ces 100 ans et ce n'est pas très long. Est-ce que le Commissaire pense qu'il peut faire quelque chose ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: These matters will be taken up, Madam Chairperson, as we get into the respective regions of these centenaries.

Mr Félicité: Yes, can I, since the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned region 2, so, can I know whether at l'Ile Michel, there will be construction of track road at Ile Michel, especially at cité La Cité?

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There will be...

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Not only construction at Ile Michel but...

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson: Order!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There will be construction of track road in all the villagers and all the villagers of region number 2.

Madam Chairperson: Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/73, B/76, B/72, B/78 and B/79 have been withdrawn by their respective Members. Thank you. Next question.

STATE LAND LEASES

(No. B/71) The Third Island Region Member (Mrs M. T. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether in regard to State land leases, he will inform the House on conditions and facilities being associated with the right of elevation on existing infrastructures thereon?

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson with a view to reduce pressure in terms request for new leases, my office is encouraging applicants to go for right of elevation. You will conquer, Madam Chairperson, that Rodrigues being only 104 km², land is very scarce especially when we have to consider the equitable distribution between economic, residential and agricultural purposes amongst others.

Hence, in my last Budget Speech, I re-iterated the wish of my Regional Government to improve the housing conditions of all Rodriguans, especially the needy families to have access to a decent house. I have announced several measures to provide strong support to these families one of which I quote:

«Favoriser le Droit de Surélévation, c'est à dire encourager les rodriguais à construire à l'étage de la maison d'une personne de lignée familiale».

Madam Chairperson, in view of encouraging more rodriguans to opt for the “*Droit de Surélévation*”, my Commission will introduce the following measures:

- The costs of the notarial fee and drafting of the “Acte of Co-propriété” will be borne by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.
- All applications will be processed on a fast track system regardless of the application date.
- Applicant will be exempted of payment for the right to lease for the first five years.
- An additional grant of Rs 25,000 will be allocated to any person eligible under the new social housing scheme.

Madam Chairperson, any lessee who wishes to grant a “Droit de Surélévation” to one of other descendants/ascendants will have to submit a request on a prescribed form which will ‘made’ available soon at the Cadastral Office.

Once the “Droit de Surélévation” has been approved, the applicant will have to submit a duly registered notarial deed within six months of the approval date and a duly registered notarial deed witnessing the “Règlement de Co-propriété” within one year.

Madam Chairperson, it is noted that as the 01 July 2020, all notary associated costs for drafting of the above mentioned documents will be met under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly irrespective of the family income.

Madam Chairperson: Next question. Respected Members, the table has been advised that PQ B/83 and B/85 have been withdrawn. Also, PQ B/74 has been withdrawn.

FARMER’S CARD – 2016

(No. B/72) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr J. N. Volbert) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether in regard to the issue of farmer's card in 2016, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the allocation process used therefor;
- (b) the number of cards issued per Local Region, indicating if all beneficiaries were full-time farmers;
- (c) any money obtained from beneficiaries in connection thereto and the outcome thereof;
- (d) all facilities attached thereto indicating if same concur with those being provided for in mainland Mauritius; and
- (e) on any application for the renewal thereof specifying if the cards have already been renewed and, if not, why?

[Withdrawn]

ALLOCATION OF LAND – FARMERS

– STE MARIE, PLAINE CORAIL, CASCADE JEAN LOUIS & OTHERS

(No. B/73) The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme (Mr J. N. Volbert) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether in regard to the allocation of land to farmers from Ste Marie Village, Plaine Corail, Cascade Jean Louis and any other relevant applicant, he will state and table, for the benefit of the House, on the site plan and surveys carried out therefor in La Boucherie/Plaine Corail?

[Withdrawn]

GLYPHOSATE – PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE

– RODRIGUES – HEALTH HAZARD

(No. B/74) The First Island Region Member (Mr L. J. Von-Mally) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether in regard to the use of glyphosate in the practice of agriculture in Rodrigues, he will state if he is aware of the health hazard it represents, indicating: -

- (a) the measures his Commission undertook or intends to take to protect the population; and

- (b) if he will arrange with any relevant authority to have a study carried out for the determination of its impact on the health of the Rodriguan population?

[Withdrawn]

**QUARANTINE CENTRES SET UP – RODRIGUES
– COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(No. B/75) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether in regard to the quarantine centres set up in Rodrigues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, he will state and table, for the benefit of the House, the: -

- (a) list thereof indicating the total number of passengers transferred thereto and the total amount paid in each case for the:
- (i) 21st and 22nd March 2020; and
- (ii) month of June 2020;
- (b) transport facilities provided for the transfer of passengers;
- (c) list of the different amenities purchased and the amount paid for the Baladirou quarantine centre; and
- (d) caterers concerned and amount paid in each case?

Mr Roussety: Madam Chairperson, I wish to thank all the persons who help us to make their utmost effort for combatting the coronavirus not entering Rodrigues.

Up to now, no case of coronavirus - Covid-19 is in Rodrigues.

I wish to thank the members of the High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner of the Chief Commissioner for their valuable ideas to keep Rodrigues safe.

My most appreciation goes to the staff of my Commission *qui ont fait un travail formidable en préparant le protocole visant à garder un Rodrigues COVID free.*

Madam Chairperson, as the House is aware, following the detection of COVID-19 in mainland Mauritius on 18 March 2020, passengers coming to Rodrigues on 21 and 22 March had to be placed in quarantine centres in view of protecting the health of the population by avoiding the risk of possibly infected person getting contact with other people in Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson, when the situation improved in Mauritius to the point that there were no new cases registered after more than 36 days, decision was taken by the authorities for the repatriation of patients together with their relatives which were in Mauritius since a long time. As a security and safety measure, these passengers were placed in quarantine centre for a period of 15 days to minimise all risks.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to place on records that we were in a situation of emergency and therefore, my Commission had recourse to emergency procurement in line with Section 21 of the Public Procurement Act for the provision of accommodation, transport, amenities for quarantine centres and catering etc.

Madam Chairperson, a High Powered Commission was set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner to look at all issues affecting Rodrigues as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and to take rapid decisions for the security of Rodriguan's population.

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (a) of the question, the quarantine centres concerned together with the total numbers of passengers and the total amount paid in cash in each case are as follows:

- (i) 21 and 22 March 2020, the quarantine centres were at:

S.N.	Quarantine Centre	Number of passengers	Amount paid/payable (Rs)
1.	Les Cocotiers Hotel	27	221,000
2.	Les Flamboyants Hotel	48	756,000
3.	Baladirou Youth Centre	05	-
4.	Le Recif Guest House	22	Free of Cost
5.	Mourouk Ebony Hotel	57	724,500
	TOTAL	159	1,701,500

- (ii) for the month of June 2020

S.N.	Quarantine Centre	Number of passengers	Amount paid/payable (Rs)
1.	Les Cocotiers Hotel	41	525,000
2.	Les Flamboyants Hotel	43	630,000
3.	Escales Vacances	17	153,000
4.	Mourouk Ebony Hotel	27	(claim has not been submitted yet)
	TOTAL	128	1,308,000

Madam Chairperson, with regard to part (b) of the question, for the 21 and 22 March 2020, vehicles of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly namely the bus, minibus and 2 x 4 of my Commission and one 4 x 4 from the Central Administration were used for the transfer of passengers to quarantine centres.

For their return home, bus services were hired from Ravanne Transport Services Co Ltd, Ravy Choony, Golden Bats Co. Ltd and Joycelin Legofe.

Madam Chairperson, for these repatriated during the month of June:

- Bus facilities were provided for airport transfer to quarantine centres;
- Minibuses were provided for the transfer of passengers from quarantine centres to their place of residence.

The suppliers were Ahmad Reshad Cader, Mr. Benedict Edouard, Shekinah Transport Co. Ltd, 360 Degrees Tour, Joseph Jarlin Stephan and Marie Dianie Casimir. They are all operators of the tourism sector whose livelihoods have been affected as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Madam Chairperson, not to abuse the time of the business of the House, I will table the list of amenities purchased and the amount paid accordingly for Baladirou Quarantine Centre. As stated, purchase 'were' made through emergency procurement.

With regard to part (d) of the question, again, I wish to place on records that we were in a situation of extreme emergency, 'une situation sans précédente', Madame la présidente. My Commission could not therefore launch quotation for the provision of catering to different quarantine.

Madam Chairperson, caterers were contacted by phone to see who were those who had the capacity to supply and we proceeded with those willing and able to do so at a reasonable price.

/UNREVISED/

The caterers concerned and the amount paid to each are as follows:

(i) For period 21 to 05 April 2020

S.N.	Name of Supplier	Amount (Rs)
1	La Plage Resto (Triple View Ltd)	837,400
2	Soleil Rodriguez	87,600
3	Fatemamode Abdool Rashid	17,375
4	Nabeel Bégué	20,000
5	Mengs Snack	81,025
6	Snack des Iles	925
7	Lemon Food Processing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd	49,410
	TOTAL	1,093,735

(ii) For June 2020

S.N.	Name of Supplier	Amount (Rs)
1	Fathemamode Abdool Rashid	145,970
2	Mr. Jean Patrick Plaiche	44,880
3	Mengs Snack	107,690
4	Nabeel Snack	133,760
5	Soleil Rodriguez	24,180
6	Lemon Food Processing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd	39,840
7	Mrs. Marie Paulina EDOUARD	60,500
	TOTAL	556,820

I am tabling all the information requested.

Mr Von-Mally: We believe that emergency procedures should not be used as a pretext to give tenders to.... to *les petites copines et les petits copains*.

Madam Chairperson: Please, be brief, respected Member. You have only one question.

Mr Von-Mally: Therefore, I would like to know from the respected Commissioner what has prompted the choice of these institutions, for example, the hotel premises.

Mr Roussety: Madame la présidente, nous étions dans une situation d'urgence et nous avons contacté les hôtels. Certains hôtels ont refusé et alors, nous avons pris les hôtels qui étaient libres. Et aussi, je dirais quant au *catering*, c'était emergency et je ne crois pas que le respecté Membre aura voulu que les gens, les *passengers* restent sans manger.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE – BAIE DIAMANT

(No. B/76) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether in regard to the Slaughter House at Baie Diamant, she will state, for the benefit of the House, if it is now operational, indicating: -

- (a) the company selected therefor as well as its track record/experience in the sector, and the conditions attached thereto;
- (b) if an open tender exercise was launched therefor, tabling, in the affirmative, the list of tenderers as well as the tender document; and
- (c) how far will her Commission be involved in its operationalisation?

[Withdrawn]

ASSOCIATION DES ECOLE MATERNELLES DE RODRIGUES

(No. B/78) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr J. R. Augustin) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Association des Ecole Maternelles de Rodrigues, he will obtain information therefrom or from any relevant authority to state, for the benefit of the House: -

- (a) if the association is duly registered with the Registrar of Association and the Early Childhood Care and Educational Authority and, if so, since when;
- (b) if all employees appointed thereby have been given a contract on such terms and conditions including remuneration in line with prescribed guidelines and scales; and
- (c) the composition of the board of directors thereof and when did they take office?

[Withdrawn]

HOUSEHOLD BIOGAS PROJECT

(No. B/79) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr J. R. Augustin) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, he will, in regard to the household biogas project co-financed by the Indian Ocean Commission and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, inform the House on where matters stand as at date indicating the: -

- (a) starting and completion date thereof and the successful bidder;
- (b) total number of bio digesters implemented under this project and the villages concerned; and
- (c) total cost of the project and the amount of money disbursed therefor as to date?

[Withdrawn]

MONTAGNE CABRI CORAIL FOOTBALL PLAYGROUND

– DEPLORABLE STATE

(No. B/83) The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr Z. Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Sports and Others whether, she is aware of the deplorable state of the Montagne Cabri Corail football playground and, if so, to indicate the measures her Commission proposes to take in regard thereto?

[Withdrawn]

CONSTRUCTION – SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME) PARK

– OYSTER BAY

(No. B/84) The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr Z. Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the construction of a small and medium enterprise park at Oyster Bay, she will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

(Vide Reply PQ 67)

SME WELFARE FUND – BUDGET SPEECH 2019-2020

(No. B/85) The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr Z. Félicité) asked the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Others whether, in regard to the SME Welfare

Fund announced in the budget speech 2019-2020, she will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at date?

[Withdrawn]

Madam Chairperson: Question time is over.

MOTION

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move the motion standing in my name and which reads as follows:

“This Assembly resolves that, in accordance with Standing Order 65A of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there are elected the following five Members to sit on the Sustainable Development Goals Committee: -

- (1) Mr Jean Richard PAYENDEE;*
- (2) Mrs Marie Rose de Lima EDOUARD-RAVINA;*
- (3) Mr Franceau Aubret GRANDCOURT;*
- (4) Mr Joseph Reddy AUGUSTIN; and*
- (5) Mr Jean Nicolas VOLBERT*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that this Assembly does now adjourn to Tuesday 15th of September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Chairperson: First Island Region Member.

MATTERS RAISED

LACK OF GYNAECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Mr Von-Mally: *Thank you, Madam Chairperson.* Je voudrais adresser les représentations de certaines personnes concernant le Commissaire... pour le Commissaire de la santé. J'ai été contacté par un bon nombre de membres de la gente féminine pour parler de problème de gynécologie à Rodrigues. C'est un fait que la gente féminine fait plus de 50% de la population Rodriguaise, plus de 22000 personnes à Rodrigues. Etant donné les récents problèmes, il y a beaucoup de problèmes que les femmes rencontrent en allant à l'hôpital, pour les problèmes gynécologiques. Elles se plaignent du fait qu'il n'y ait qu'un seul gynécologue à Rodrigues. Je pense qu'il est grand temps pour nous d'avoir au moins deux gynécologues parce que bien souvent, les femmes vont à l'hôpital, elles passent devant les généralistes et je vous dis, il y en a beaucoup qui ont peur, ils ne veulent plus aller à l'hôpital. Il y a eu ces derniers temps, pas mal de problèmes.

Je ne vais pas m'étayer là-dessus parce que vous le savez peut-être mieux que moi, parce que la santé des femmes Rodriguaises, de la femme Rodriguaise, la santé de nos petits-enfants, ce n'est pas normal qu'un petit enfant naisse avec des membres cassés, des membres par exemple, cassés, des os cassés. Ce n'est pas normal. Il faut qu'on respecte la femme Rodriguaise. Il faut qu'on envoie aussi des gynécologues dignes de ce nom à Rodrigues. Donc, je voudrais demander aux Commissaires de la santé, au respecté Commissaire de la santé d'essayer de voir même avec son collègue, le Ministre de la santé de Maurice si on ne peut pas avoir plus de gynécologues, même s'il faut voir ailleurs, essayer d'avoir.

Avant, il y avait des égyptiens même des indiens. Pourquoi pas ? *Because the high gynaecologist turnover rate is not good for our ladies here in Rodrigues.* Parce que le suivi, on ne peut pas aujourd'hui, une femme ce mois-ci, va voir un gynécologue, le mois prochain, elle rencontre un autre gynécologue. Mais où est le suivi ? On ne peut pas jouer avec la vie de la femme Rodriguaise comme cela, avec les enfants Rodriguais qui naissent comme cela. Donc, je voudrais demander au Commissaire de la santé d'essayer de voir s'il peut remédier à cette situation. Merci.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR VON-MALLY

Mr Roussety: Madame la présidente, je suis d'accord avec le membre Von-Mally. C'est vrai que nous avons eu des problèmes avec un gynécologue, des gynécologues dans le

passé et c'est vrai qu'il y a eu des problèmes mais nous avons pris des actions tout de suite, des actions en vitesse et celui qui a commis ces erreurs de gynécologue, d'erreur dans les accouchements, on l'a retourné tout de suite à Maurice et un rapport a été fait au Ministère de la santé pour que cette personne ne revienne pas à Rodrigues. On est au courant.

(Interruptions)

Mr Roussety: *Ok, en vacance. Une fois que je ne le rencontre pas. Mais je suis d'accord que nous avons un problème de gynécologie, de gynécologue depuis bien longtemps. Nous avons même recruté en Inde, qui était efficace. Le gynécologue était efficace et nous pensons aussi redemander au Ministre de la santé de nous faire avoir au moins deux mais c'est difficile. Même à Maurice, il n'y en a pas. Et aussi, nous avons déjà pris la décision d'envoyer nos docteurs en Malaisie pour des spécialisations en gynécologie et pédiatrie et orthopédique mais dommage, c'est arrivé avec le confinement. On n'a pas pu continuer avec l'université de la Malaisie pour envoyer nos docteurs en Malaisie. Mais je suis conscient du problème. Moi-même, je suis très ennuyé, très embarrassé avec ce qui s'est passé à l'hôpital mais j'espère qu'avec la nouvelle gynécologue qui est arrivée, on n'aura pas ce problème-là comme c'est arrivé. Merci.*

Madam Chairperson: Fourth Island Region Member.

ACCESS ROADS – CAVERNE PROVERT

Mr Augustin: *Merci, Madame la présidente. Je voudrais remercier le Deputy Chief Commissioner qui a pris en compte le problème d'accès de route à Caverne Provert. Donc, mais le problème, c'est que la route d'accès n'arrive pas, comme vous avez dit tout à l'heure, priorité sera donnée aux personnes âgées et aux personnes que les médecins, ils viennent chez eux. Et à Caverne Provert, il y a deux familles et la route n'arrive pas jusqu'à ces personnes-là. Ce sont des personnes âgées et puis, il y a à côté, c'est la famille L'Eveillé et de l'autre côté, c'est la famille Castel. Il y a la rivière tout ça. Donc, essayez de voir si on peut régler ce problème pour que ces gens puissent avoir accès à la route. Merci.*

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR AUGUSTIN

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: *Mrs Chairperson, it is nice to hear someone from the other side congratulating the Government for a good work which is being done. In fact, the concrete road that is being constructed there will palliate the problem of some 10 to 15 families. C'est vrai, I have met the villagers in the committee there. There is that request to extend that road up to les L'Eveillé. Unfortunately, fund is not as that available but I have*

promised to these families that somehow, I am going to render the access... render it accessible for the families, especially, there is an 85 old lady who lives there. But as regard to the family, *les Castel*, the issue is a bit complex because you will realise that if you are going to go ahead with the construction of a bridge as it is required there, which have to drain the whole river as it is being done in Port Mathurin along Fond La Digue River. Unfortunately, we do not have funds for that much of works but nevertheless, we will see in the future how best we can help the family so that at least that access can be made available to them, especially during heavy rainfall but I consider that this is an important project that needs to be done in order to alleviate the suffering of these people who live on the other side of the river. We will consider in the future. Thank you very much.

Madam Chairperson: The Minority Leader.

URGENT NEED – HOUSING MRS C. – CAMP DU ROI

Mr Grandcourt: Madame la présidente, moi, j'aimerais m'adresser au Commissaire de la sécurité sociale. Donc, j'ai été approché par la famille C. de Camp du Roi. Donc, c'est par rapport à une de leur proches, une dame, question qui... est à l'hôpital pendant... qui réside, je dirais plus ou moins à l'hôpital pendant plus de huit mois. Donc, avec les travaux qui a été entrepris à Camp du Roi, donc, cette dame-là, elle était malade. On a détruit sa maison entre temps. La dame est à l'hôpital et la maison n'est pas encore construite. Donc, je sais aussi qu'il y a une possibilité de l'emmener au... à *Respite Care Centre* mais ce que la famille veut, c'est que la maison de cette dame soit construite. Donc, je demanderais au Commissaire de la sécurité sociale de voir que ce soit fait dans le plus bref délai.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MINORITY LEADER, MR GRANDCOURT

Mr Baptiste: C'est un cas quand même je dois dire un peu particulier. Nous avons pris les décisions nécessaires, je pense, parce que cette dame habitait dans une maison vraiment très, très délabrée. D'ailleurs, on avait donné des matériaux pour la construction de cette maison je pense depuis 2013 mais malheureusement, rien n'a été fait. C'est pourquoi nous avons pris la décision au niveau de la Commission et vu qu'elle est aussi une patiente qui souffre d'une certaine maladie, nous avons demandé aux Commissaire de la santé et les médecins évidemment de trouver peut-être un certain temps/moment pour qu'elle puisse aller à l'hôpital et se faire soigner. D'ailleurs, je suis très heureux de dire qu'aujourd'hui, sa situation a nettement amélioré. Et entre temps, il y avait des travaux pour l'aménagement du drain qui représentait un danger juste à côté de cette maison et tout a été fait sous la direction

de la NDU en collaboration avec la Commission des infrastructures publiques et un contrat aussi a déjà été alloué à un contracteur pour la construction de cette maison. Donc, les travaux sont déjà en cours, les choses sont en train d'avancer et je suis sûr que très bientôt, elle aura sa maison grâce à la Commission de la sécurité sociale qui a fait un travail extraordinaire mais juste pour vous dire, ce n'est pas huit mois. Ça, c'est quand même exagéré. Je n'ai pas exactement... Non, huit mois, c'est exagéré. Non, non, non, c'est faux.

Madam Chairperson: The Second Island Region Member.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC – BAD WEATHER ALLOWANCE

Mr Perrine: Merci, Madame la présidente. Donc, moi, j'aimerais attirer l'attention du Commissaire de la pêche, Monsieur Payendee, concernant la situation des pêcheurs actuellement dans l'île. Avec la Covid-19, les pêcheurs se sont retrouvés dans des situations difficiles et de plus en plus difficiles avec les *bad weather allowance* qu'ils n'ont pas eu comme il se doit et les allocations durant le Covid-19 qui n'ont pas été payés à ces pêcheurs-là, les casiers qui se sont laissé abandonner dans le lagon, endommagés. Donc, les pêcheurs actuellement sont dans un état très critique. Maintenant, nous avons aussi ce problème de carte de pêcheurs. Il y a des pêcheurs qui ont reçu des cartes provisoires depuis plus d'une année et que jusqu'à maintenant, ils n'ont pas reçu la possibilité de professionnaliser ces cartes pour qu'ils puissent avoir accès au *Bad Weather Allowance*.

Il y a aussi le VRS, *Voluntary Retirement Scheme*. C'est un projet alternatif pour que les pêcheurs du lagon puissent rendre leurs cartes et en même temps, opter dans un deuxième temps hors-lagon pour diminuer la pollution au sein du lagon. Mais jusqu'à maintenant, ce projet-là semble être arrêté. Donc, je vais demander au Commissaire en question s'il peut d'une pierre, trois ou quatre coups de revoir cette situation et en même temps, de penser, de voir s'il faut notre collaboration, on va le faire, pour voir si on peut éliminer cette affaire de zoning qui existe, qui est un casse-tête pour les pêcheurs à Rodrigues.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR PERRINE

Mr Payendee: Donc, je voudrais rebondir sur quelques points que le membre Perrine vient de parler. Au fait, je ne me souviens pas avoir en main des doléances par rapport à *Bad Weather Allowance* que les pêcheurs n'ont pas eu. Je pense que peut-être le membre fait référence à ce qui a été écrit dans un journal par rapport à les pêcheurs qui n'ont pas eu leur *Bad Weather Allowance*. Les pêcheurs qui n'ont pas eu, ce sont les pêcheurs qui ont bien sûr,

fini leur formation pour avoir la carte professionnelle. Mais malheureusement, parmi ces pêcheurs, il y a beaucoup qui ne sont pas éligible dans le sens qu'il y a des pêcheurs qui malheureusement, quand on a fait l'enquête, ils ont donné des dimensions de bateaux qui ne sont pas adaptées pour aller pêcher en haute mer. Par exemple, il y en a qui ont dit, qui ont donné la longueur du bateau 20 pieds alors que la longueur demandée, c'est 23 pieds. Et sur au moins 150 pêcheurs, il y a que 90 qui franchement étaient dans les normes.

Donc, on a fait le nécessaire. J'ai emmené un papier au conseil et à partir de ce mois-ci, ces pêcheurs pourront bénéficier du *Bad Weather Allowance*. Les pêcheurs dans les états critiques, quasi abandonnés, je ne sais pas. Je ne suis pas au courant. Je n'ai pas vu. Il n'y a pas un seul pêcheur qui est venu me voir par rapport à 'quasi abandonné', 'quasi resté en mer'. Tous ces trucs, ça, je ne suis pas au courant. Carte de pêcheur plus d'une année, ça aussi, ce n'est pas vrai. Le dernier batch de pêcheurs qui ont eu leurs cartes professionnelles, ça fait quatre mois et dans les quatre mois, il y a eu confinement contrairement à ce qui a été dit dans les journaux. Il y a eu confinement. Du coup, 'la' suivi des pêcheurs, ça doit se faire pendant trois mois avant qu'on leur donne la carte professionnelle mais si on prend quatre mois de carte provisoire sans suivi pendant deux mois de confinement et en plus, ces pêcheurs, malheureusement, il y en a qui sont un peu malhonnête. Il y a parmi ces pêcheurs, il y en a qui ont obtenu les Rs5100 que la MRA mettait à la disposition de ceux qui ne pouvait pas travailler.

Donc, c'est un peu... C'est malheureux de voir que il y en a qui sont un peu malhonnête dans ce sens. Et personnellement, je ne vois pas de problème par rapport à *Bad Weather Allowance*. Au contraire, je vois qu'il y a beaucoup de pêcheurs qui sont contents parce que Maurice a augmenté le truc de *Bad Weather Allowance*, passant jusqu'à Rs425 par jour de mauvais temps. Par rapport à VRS, c'est un projet du passé et pour le moment, ce n'est pas un projet d'actualité. Malheureusement, c'est un projet qui n'a pas forcément marché aussi parce que les pêcheurs qui ont rendu leurs cartes à l'époque et qui ont bénéficié d'une allocation de Rs30000 pour finalement arrêter de pêcher, normalement, c'était ça les règles. Ils ont eu un projet pour faire un travail et on a retrouvé tous ces pêcheurs dans le lagon après. Donc, c'est un peu la tricherie. Normalement, ils ne devaient pas. On ne peut pas empêcher quelqu'un. La mer, c'est domaine public. C'est impossible d'empêcher quelqu'un d'aller en mer pour pêcher mais normalement, les conditions, c'était : tu rends ta carte de pêcheur, on te donne un projet sur terre et tu arrêtes. L'idée, c'était de protéger le lagon, diminuer l'impact sur le lagon et ça ne sert à rien de retirer quelqu'un du lagon et

après, quand il a eu ses sous, il a son projet et il retourne dans la mer. Donc, c'est un peu un projet qui, il faut peser, il faut attraper avec des pincettes par rapport à ce projet, Madame la présidente.

Madam Chairperson: The Second Local Region Member of Number 1.

STAFFS AND PATIENTS – LA FERME AREA HEALTH CENTRE

Mr Volbert: Madame, j'aimerais attirer l'attention de l'autorité régionale, plus précisément le Commissaire de la santé sur le problème qui surgit actuellement au centre de santé de La Ferme. Ce centre qui a pris plus de six ans avant d'être complété mais voilà à peine mis à la disposition des malades pour l'admission, beaucoup de manquements et de problèmes font surface. Par exemple, les matelas ne sont pas conformes et c'est comme si dirait il y a la paille coco à l'intérieur et c'est très, très, très dur et ce n'est pas confortable pour les patients. Le *female ward*, il n'y a pas de *female staff* pour faire les suivis, la tournée. Il n'y a qu'une servante qui fait les va-et-vient. Et aussi, pour ceux qui doivent faire le pansement le matin, ils se sont mis à l'extérieur du bâtiment de l'hôpital, exposé au vent, la pluie et au froid. Et l'accès de la cuisine qui se trouve dans un centre, dans un *quarters* de l'autre côté, c'est assez loin, plus de 35 mètres et ça rend difficile les servantes pour transporter le repas du *quarters* à l'hôpital. J'aurais aimé au Commissaire de trouver une...

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR N. VOLBERT

Mr Roussety: Madame la présidente, si les matelas sont durs, c'est bon pour leur dos. Alors, ils ne vont pas avoir des matelas « *kachak Charlie* » mais pour moi, c'est... Quelqu'un... qui est très dur, c'est bon pour leur dos. Mais pour la question des *Nursing Officers* dames, les *Nursing Officers* sont là à peine cinq mètres, six mètres. S'il y a un problème, ils font le va-et-vient. Mais seulement, du côté de la cuisine, c'était nécessaire d'ouvrir la cuisine de l'autre côté d'un *quarters* parce qu'on avait besoin de la salle qui était prévu pour la cuisine. On va mettre un appareil radiographie dedans. C'est bien pour les habitants de La Ferme pour qu'ils ne viennent pas à Crève-Cœur ou à Mont Lubin pour faire 'un' radiographie et aussi concernant pour le pansement, ça, je vais voir. Je vais passer personnellement là-bas pour voir qu'est-ce que c'est.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, the Third Island Region Member.

WORKING CONDITIONS – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Mrs Agathe: Madame la présidente, cet après-midi, je voudrais m'adresser spécialement au Chef commissaire qui a un amour sans limite pour les enfants. Je vais parler de *Supply Teachers* parce que j'ai rencontré plusieurs d'entre elles. Premièrement, ce sont des personnes qui ont de bonnes qualifications mais ils signent des contrats à court-terme. Ils n'ont pas de congé, pas de *maternity leave*. Donc, pas de *sick leave*, pas de *local*. Et ils sont payés par jour de travail. Pendant les périodes festives comme la paques, 'la' Noël, ils ne sont pas payés. Donc, quand nous, nous sommes en fête, *zot, zot a pe ploré*. Maintenant, pendant le confinement, ces mêmes *Supply Teachers* n'ont reçu que Rs1600 contrairement à ceux qui ne travaillaient pas qui ont reçu Rs5100 de la MRA. Les années avancent sans perspectives pour ces personnes. Certains sont employés pour plus de six ans et vraiment pour eux, ils vieillissent et ce n'est pas normal qu'ils ne gagnent pas de *mainstream*. Pourquoi je dis ça ? Parce que ces *Supply Teachers* font un travail formidable. Ils remplacent les enseignants pendant leurs absences *maternity leave*, des absences journalières et elles enseignent beaucoup de matières. *Holistic, they are holistic teachers*. Il y en a certaines qui travaillent dans deux écoles. Il faut se déplacer. *So, as we see, they are Jacks of all trades*. A quand une régularisation? Parce que si nous voulons que le pays avance, ces personnes doivent aussi travailler dans de bonnes conditions. Merci, Madame la présidente.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MRS M. AGATHE

The Chief Commissioner: Madame la présidente, il était prévu une question à être posée par Madame. Est-ce que je vous réponds la question ?

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: *Non, c'est vrai que ces personnes sont des help holistic. Mais they are recruited under delegated powers by the service... by the PSC, Public Service Commission. Moi voir un petit coup là.... The employment of supply teachers 'are' based on school calendar and the renewal of employment depend on whether the services will be required or not. I am tabling the duties performed by the Supply Teachers. Madam Chairperson, as regard to part (c), supply teachers are being paid in monthly fee of Rs 16075 computed on days on which they actually work and also being refunded travelling expenses based on the number of days they attend duty. Supply teachers cannot be recruited on a permanent employment since there is no established post of supply teacher. The supply teachers may apply for the post of Trainee Primary Educator or Support Teacher whenever same are advertised.*

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: *Fodré zot kalifié.* It is to be noted in March 20, three supply teachers were offered appointment as temporary support teachers in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Madam Chairperson: Yes, the Fifth Island Region Member.

POOR QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER - PAPAYES

Mr Félicité: Madam Chairperson, so, I would like to draw the attention of the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner for Water, concerning to the poor quality of water that was distributed in the village of Papayes last month. According to the villages, the water distributed to them was not good. I think it was not treated accordingly. So, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner to look into the matter so that in the future, this matter does not happen again in this village and also in other region. Thanks.

REPLY TO INTERVENTION OF MR ZEPH FELICITE

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This has been raised. In fact, the matter was informed to me and as at now, we are going ahead with the change of the filter plant which is found at Anse Raffin. So, we hope that this matter will not arise again whatever be the water that is going to be distributed in the future.

Madam Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 03.19 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SUPPLY TEACHERS – GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS – RODRIGUES

(No. B/77) Mrs M. T. Agathe (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to supply teachers in government schools in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table: -

- (a) the number thereof actually in post;
- (b) their employment conditions including the scheme of duty, if any;
- (c) the salary and/or any other allowance per month; and

- (d) if consideration will be given to the permanent employment thereof and, if so, when?

Reply: As regards to part (a), the services of Supply Teachers are required to palliate shortage of staff in some primary schools and to assist in the teaching of Holistic Education Programme (HEP) pending the recruitment of Trainee Primary School Educators – HEP. They are recruited under delegated powers by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Presently there are ten (10) Supply Teachers whose employment have been extended until the end of the third term for the school calendar year 2020/2021 and they are posted in different Government Primary Schools to provide assistance in the Holistic Education Programme (HEP) in the context of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education Programme.

As regards to part (b) The employment of supply Teachers are based on school calendar and the renewal of their employment depend on whether their services will be required or not. I am tabling the duties performed by Supply Teachers.

As regards to part (c) Supply Teachers are being paid a monthly fee of Rs16,075 computed on days on which they actually work and are also being refunded travelling expenses based on the number of days they attend duty.

As regards to part (d), Supply Teachers cannot be recruited on a permanent employment since there is no established post of Supply Teacher. The Supply Teachers may apply for the posts of Trainee Primary Educator or Support Teacher whenever same are advertised.

It is to be noted that in March 2020, three (03) Supply Teachers were offered appointment as Temporary Support Teachers in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING – NINE YEAR CONTINUOUS

BASIC EDUCATION (NYCBE) PROJECT

(No. B/80) Mr J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Training and Others whether, in regard to the vocational training that students could opt for after Grade 9 for the next school year, as announced in the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education (NYCBE) project, she will enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at to date?

Reply: As the House is aware, with the introduction of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education commonly known as the Nine Year Schooling, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector is being called upon to play an important role in the reform process.

The new reforms take into consideration not only the development of knowledge but also the development of skills so as to help produce skilled workforce that will bring a boost to the economy. As such, the focus is also on improving the training system through increasing access and relevance to Technical and Vocational Education Training including Polytechnic Education and higher education programmes which are aligned to the economical needs.

Since, the systematic reform caters for the diverse interests and learning needs of children, students at the end of Grade 9 will have the choice of either pursuing their academic education or opting for a skilled-based education and a professional training that will later give them access to Training Centres and Polytechnics.

Since the implementation of the Nine Year Schooling in Rodrigues, my Commission is leaving no stone unturned to ensure and ease access to the TVET Sector in Rodrigues.

Thus, in October 2018, with the financial assistance under the Special Fund FRCC (Fonds pour le Renforcement des Capacités commerciales) by the Agence Française de Développement and the Ministry of Finance, “*une étude de faisabilité d’un dispositif de formation professionnelle initiale et continue rénové à Rodrigues*” was entrusted to Académie de La Réunion.

According to the main findings of the study, it was noted that the TVET sector in Rodrigues is considered as an “*orientation subie*” instead of an “*orientation choisie*” by most students and their parents. As such, there is the urgent need to rethink the role and image of the TVET sector in Rodrigues so as to render it attractive.

In Rodrigues, the main provider for TVET programs is the Mauritius Institute Training and Development (MITD) of Le Chou. However, the Centre at Le Chou is facing an acute shortage of space to accommodate more trainees and is unable to diversify its training programmes as per the needs of the island.

With a view to elaborate an action plan regarding the way forward for students at the end of Grade 9, a one-day workshop was organised in January 2020 by the Chief Commissioner’s Office, Commission for Education. Subsequently, it was recommended

among others to come up with the Reform of the TVET Sector in Rodrigues so as to be aligned with the socio economic development of the island.

In that connection, a Committee comprising Representatives of the Education and Training sectors has been set up to look into the implementation of the recommendations from the workshop and ensure their timely execution.

With a view to promote a vibrant TVET sector in Rodrigues, action has already been initiated to recruit a Consultant shortly to:-

- i) Establish clear pathways to promote the attractiveness of TVET sector;
- ii) Review programmes of existing Training Centres;
- iii) Propose new training fields responsive to the needs of trainees;
- iv) Advise the Rodrigues Regional Assembly regarding the setting up of new polyvalent Training Centres/Institutions;
- v) Formulate a strategic and action plan regarding the recommendations of the study; and
- vi) Provide guidelines regarding the development of innovative jobs in vocational and technical sector.

Meanwhile, in line with the Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner for Financial Year 2020/2021, necessary actions are being undertaken for the setting up of a Polytechnic School at Ex-Citron Donis College in collaboration with Polytechnic Mauritius. The institution will operate on a full time basis in Rodrigues so as to address the skilling and upskilling population of the island. The school is expected to be operational next year.

It is hoped through a well-structured framework that the TVET sector will become more attractive and enable Rodrigues to produce human capital for transforming the Rodriguan economy into one which is knowledge based and skills driven.

PROTECTION OF CROP PLANTATIONS – STRAY ANIMALS

(No. B/81) Mr J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the protection of crop plantations from damages caused by stray animals in Rodrigues, he will state to the House the measures that are being taken or considered by his Commission to alleviate the burden of planters?

Reply: I am aware that there is indeed an outcry by the planters' community with regard to damages caused to their plantations by straying animals in Rodrigues.

This is why this particular problem has become a priority for our government and has been taken as a priority by the Chief Commissioner in his Budget Speech 2020-2021.

In view of relieving the pain of the planters affected by this problem, my Commission is investing heavily on:-

- (i) Fencing of valleys and blocks with high agricultural potential namely Anse Ally, St. François, Mourouk, Port Sud Est, Anse Enfer, Oyster Bay and Mt. Goyaves representing 75.5 hectares of prime agricultural land.
- (ii) Providing fencing, galvanised poles and aggregates to individual planters for fencing of their plots. As at date 30,130 m of fencing and 8,981 galvanised posts (6 ft high) have been delivered to beneficiaries of fencing scheme.
- (iii) Implementing the new Fencing Scheme announced in this present budget by the Chief Commissioner which is providing fencing to full time planters at a subsidised cost of Rs 25,000 per acre of land.

Madam Chairperson, in addition to the above, a Mobile Squad has already been put in place at the level of the Forestry Service to seize straying animals causing damage to the plantations of the farmers. The seized animals will be secured in the impound station located at Mt. Plate until all legal procedures is completed.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS – RODRIGUES

– MOST RECENT FIGURES

(No. B/82) Mr J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the sexually transmitted infections in Rodrigues, he will state and table the most recent figures available therefor, indicating if any increase has been observed, and, in the affirmative, to state any measure that his Commission is taking to curb the propagation thereof among each age group that is being affected?

Reply: The fight against the propagation of sexually transmitted infections is high on the agenda of my Commission in particular and the Regional Government at large, including civil society organisations.

Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the most recent figures on new cases of sexually transmitted infections in Rodrigues are as follows:

S.N.	Type of infection	Period July 2018- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020	Increase/Decrease
1.	Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination Assay (TPHA) (Syphilis)	116	115	-1
2.	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses (HIV)	12	16	+4
3.	Hepatitis B virus (HBV)	09	07	-2
TOTAL		137	138	+1

Overall Madam Chairperson, there has been an increase of only one in terms of new cases of sexually transmitted infections detected over the last two financial years.

Néanmoins pour nous, chaque cas est un cas de trop. My Commission will never be satisfied even if there is only one single case of sexually transmitted infection detected.

This explains why my Commission has hired the services of Mrs. S. B. Goulamally-Soobhany, Programme Officer of the National Aids Secretariat in view of preparing a strategic plan for Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV and Aids for Rodrigues for period 2020-2024. The multi-sectoral strategic plan was submitted to my Commission in January this year.

The strategic plan has been prepared after consultation with all relevant stakeholders including Medical Health Officers, Nursing Officers, NGO's and representatives of different commission of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The very objectives are as follows:

- Objective 1: 90% of people living with HIV will know their status,
- Objective 2: 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive antiretroviral therapy,

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- Objective 3: 90 % of people on treatment will have suppressed viral load,
- Objective 4: Reducing HIV transmission and HIV associated diseases (STIs, TB, HEP, Bec),
- Objective 5: Zero stigma and discrimination,
- Objective 6: Health and Community System Strengthening, and
- Objective 7: Coordination and management of the National Response.

In view of the costs implications of the activities specified in the strategic plan, my Commission will implement same on a priority basis using funding from the UNFPA matching Grant and Rodrigues Regional Assembly's budget. The plan will also be submitted to the National Aids Secretariat to seek funds under the Global Fund Grant Making Process.

In line with the implementation of the strategic plan, the following actions are being taken in view of curbing the propagation of sexually transmitted infections among each age group:

- (i) Acquisition of HIV combined syphilis rapid test which gives results in 2mins rather than 15mins as the test is available in Mauritius;
- (ii) Sensitisation is being done in all secondary school where more than 3000 students were reached in 2019 and 1000 reached up July 2020;
- (iii) Sensitisation through social media with the clip "stop sida ensam" more than 162,000 views;
- (iv) Early screening among pregnant women to prevent congenital syphilis;
- (v) Screening and sensitisation at workplace, villages and specific groups;
- (vi) Review of the treatment protocol as from June 2019 for HIV, that favours adherence thus reducing new infection;
- (vii) Validation of the HIV multi sectorial strategic plan
- (viii) Actually follow up and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) such as syphilis gonorrhea. The conversion on the AIDS unit into a reproductive health centre for the management of all the sexually transmitted infection and other issues related to sexual and reproductive health (counseling condom etc.)

- (ix) To favour behavioral change among youth setting up of health clubs in all secondary school

My Commission is aware of the consequences of sexually transmitted infections on society and the fact that it can propagate rapidly. This explains why with the support of NGO's and civil society, we encourage a responsible sexual behavior of the population. Prevention is better than cure, Madam Chairperson.

Let us take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the work done by the staff of my Commission, particularly the AIDS Unit, NGO's fighting against the propagation of sexually transmitted diseases and to all those who unanimously are contributing to this objective of stopping its propagation for the well-being of our population.

I am tabling the requested information.

TABLET LOAN SCHEME – BUDGET SPEECH 2020-2021

(No. B/86) Mr J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunication and Others whether, in regard to the Tablet Loan Scheme mentioned in the budget speech 2020-2021, she can enlighten the House as to where matters stand as at to date.?

Reply: As the House is aware, the Chief Commissioner in his Budget Speech for Financial Year 2020/2021 announced the following measures for students:-

- Développer un Tablet Loan Scheme au sein de chaque Collège. Ce Scheme permettra aux étudiants venant des familles à faible revenus d'avoir accès à une tablette en emprunt ; et
- Subventionner l'achat d'une tablette à hauteur de 50% ne dépassant pas un montant de Rs 3,000. Sous ce plan d'aide, priorité sera donnée aux étudiants de la Grade 9 à 13 dont les parents perçoivent un revenu ne dépassant pas Rs 10,000 par mois.

The aim thereof is to give a fair chance to all students in Rodrigues to have access to internet and online educational programmes as well as enhance and supplement their learning.

Subsequently, a meeting was held with the Manager of the Rodrigues Educational Development Company Ltd and the Rector of Rodrigues College to discuss the modalities for the implementation of the above two mentioned measures.

Thereafter, a survey was carried out as from 20 May 2020 in each secondary school to determine the number of students that will be eligible for the Tablet Loan Scheme.

The survey has revealed that there are about some 2,000 students that will be concerned under the Scheme.

The Commission is at present in the process of verifying, in collaboration with Management of schools as well as the Commission for Social Security and the National Empowerment Foundation, all information submitted by parents.

It is expected that tenders will be launched for the procurement of the Tablets by the end of August at latest.

With respect to the provision of a subsidy of 50% up to Rs 3,000 on procurement of tablets to students of Grade 9 to 13 whose family income does not exceed Rs 10,000 monthly, communiqué has been issued as from 09 July 2020 to invite interested parents to submit their application to benefit from the Scheme.

To date, some 150 parents have expressed their interest. , The screening exercise is ongoing and eligible parents will be requested to make their own arrangements for procurement of Tablets. Thereafter, necessary refund to parents or top up to suppliers to a maximum of Rs 3,000 will be made by the Commission accordingly.