

/UNREVISED/

No. 11 of 2022

RODRIGUES

FIFTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022

/UNREVISED/

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

ADJOURNMENT

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

/UNREVISED/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

- (No. B/89)** - Materials – Individual, Valley, Associations and village committees – year 2020/2021 (Withdrawn)
- (No. B/90)** - Policy in Entertainment Facilities – Elderly
- (No. B/91)** - Meeting Held on 25 May 2022 – Drug Trafficking in Rodrigues
- (No. B/92)** - Direct Flights – Reunion-Rodrigues
- (No. B/93)** - Prevalence of Monkey Pox and Avian Flu
- (No. B/94)** - Provision of Permits to Collect Water – Public and Private Water Tankers
- (No. B/95)** - Shortages of Various Commodities – Rodrigues
- (No. B/96)** - Octopus fishery winter closure 2022
- (No. B/97)** - Food Fair – World Food Day 2022
- (No. B/98)** - Missions – Commission for Health and Others
- (No. B/99)** - Water treatment plants
- (No. B/100)** - 12th Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l’Ocean Indien (CJSOI) Games
- (No. B/101)** - Celebration - 20th Anniversary of the Autonomy of Rodrigues
- (No. B/102)** - Rodclean Co Ltd – Composition of board/monthly package/restructuration
- (No. B/103)** - Recruitment Process – Rodclean Co. Ltd Initiated in 2022
- (No. B/104)** - Tourism Related Projects – Rodrigues Island
- (No. B/105)** - Road Safety – Port Mathurin – Rue De La Solidarité
- (No. B/106)** - Construction of Track Roads/Footpaths (Lot 6)
- (No. B/107)** - Construction of Roads – Works Order
- (No. B/108)** - Mission – Reunion Island/October 2022
- (No. B/109)** - Office spaces – Employment/Labour & Industrial Relations – Administration building/Mont Lubin
- (No. B/110)** - Activities undertaken - Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd – From August 2022
- (No. B/111)** - Staffing - Cardiac Dedicated Unit/Rodrigues

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER

- **The Commissioner for Health & Others:** Missions to Mauritius/Commission for Health

ADJOURNMENT

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| (No. B/112) | - | Sustainable Integrated Development Plan (SIDPR) |
| (No. B/113) | - | Renovation – Ex laboratory building |
| (No. B/114) | - | Training – Rodriguan medical practitioners – Specialisation fields |
| (No. B/115) | - | Missions – Experts/consultants – Commission for Agriculture |
| (No. B/116) | - | Recruitment of staff – Rodrigues Sports Co Ltd |
| (No. B/117) | - | Fencing – Area of land – Valley side/Mourouk |
| (No. B/118) | - | Ongoing constructions – New/additional facilities - Pre-primary & primary |
| (No. B/119) | - | Rehabilitation Youth Centre – Baie aux Huitres |
| (No. B/120) | - | Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC)– Board of directors |
| (No. B/121) | - | Baie Malgache Community School |

/UNREVISED/

The Executive Council

(Formed by Mr Johnson Roussety, G.O.S.K.)

Mr Johnson Roussety, G.O.S.K.	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (Administration), Education (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Services (Administration), Registration, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, State Lands, Town and Country Planning, Cooperatives, Handicraft, Industrial Development, Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Vocational Training, Civil Status, Customs and Excise (Administration), Judicial (Administration), Postal Services (Administration), Marine Parks, Water Resources
Mr Franceau Aubret Grandcourt	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure including Highways and Roads and Public Buildings and Utilities, Transport, Environment, Community Development, Housing
Mr Louis Ange Perrine	Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Production, Forestry, Plant & Animal Quarantine
Mr Jean Nicolas Volbert	Commissioner responsible for Health (Administration), Social Security (Administration), Fire Services, Prisons & Reforms Institutions (Administration)
Miss Marie Christiane Agathe	Commissioner responsible for Women's Affairs, Child Development, Family Welfare, Consumer Protection/Price Fixing
Mr Jean Alain Wong So	Commissioner responsible for Tourism, Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations, Information Technology & Telecommunications
Mr Joseph Varok Ravina	Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports, Arts and Culture, Museums, Archives, Historical Sites and Buildings, Library Services

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Chairperson	-	Leopold, Mr Joseph Christian
Deputy Chairperson	-	Tolbize, Mr Justar
Clerk	-	Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick
Serjeant-at-Arms	-	Larose, Mr Georges Harold Banwell

/UNREVISED/

RODRIGUES

Fifth Regional Assembly

Debate No. 11 of 2022

Sitting of Tuesday 15 November 2022

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

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Chairperson in the Chair)

/UNREVISED/

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr Chairperson: Expected Members, before we go further, the table has been advised that PQ B/89 has been withdrawn.

**MATERIALS – INDIVIDUAL, VALLEY, ASSOCIATIONS
& VILLAGE COMMITTEES – YEAR 2020/2021**

(No. B/89) **Mrs M. A. L. ALLAS (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, he will inform the House if his Commission has delivered materials to individual, valley, associations and village committees during year 2020/2021 and, in the affirmative, to indicate:-

- (a) the date, name and address of each beneficiary, specifying the type and quantity of materials delivered thereof, and
- (b) if there have been any discrepancies, and if any, to request and in-depth inquiry to be carried out thereon?

(Withdrawn)

Mr Chairperson: B/90, question.

POLICY IN ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES – ELDERLY

(No. B/90) **Mrs M. A. L. ALLAS (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, he will inform the House if any new policy in entertainment facilities have been provided to the elderly recently?

Mr Volbert: Mr. Chairperson Sir, may I have your permission to remove my mask?

Mr Chairperson, Sir, even though we have only administrative responsibilities in social security matters as a responsible Regional Government, we care for the wellbeing of our elderly.

After consultation with the *Fédération des personnes âgées*, we have decided to innovate instead of the only annual picnic.

We have therefore unanimously agreed that we should encourage our elderly to be more physically active for their own well-being. This is in line with our promotion of physical activities in the health sector.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given that “*La Troupe Ganding*” has just presented the show of “*Bananin Kosté*” and that the show reflects “*la vie longtemps of our elderly*”, it was an opportunity to bring the elderly back to their youth memories to revive their life/emotions in those hardship days of Rodrigues.

We have decided to give opportunities to all elderly to cherish the golden days.

I must say here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I have not met a single person who was not satisfied after attended the show.

I am pleased to inform the House that even elderly with reduced mobility was happy to assist the show as different representations have been done around the island to enable all the elderlies to enjoy the show.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that even Honourable Mrs. Fazila Jewa Dawreeawoo, Minister for Social Security was impressed that we are concerned for our elderly as in Mauritius, they have difficulty to regroup the elderly in their respective local region and to get them out of their houses.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the activity has far reached success even outside Rodrigues and even our youngsters had a taste of how life was in the early days in Rodrigues.

I must say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that through this activity, we have exposed the basis of our cultural heritage to the Rodriguan population and the rest of the world as same have been published on Social Media, which is accessible everywhere.

My Commission, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will leave no stone unturned when it comes to the benefit of our elderly. We are actually working on new formula to improve on the existing basis to celebrate the elderly days for the next coming year. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand that this is a new policy and there was this performance by ‘*La Troupe Granding*’ I would like to know whether to continue this policy, the Commissioner has other projects in mind and that they have started to work out new projects in relation to this new policy of entertainment facilities.

Mr Volbert: In my reply, the Commission for Social Security *travaille étroitement avec* le Ministère de la Sécurité sociale à Maurice. Donc, nous avons que l’*administrative responsibilities* ici à Rodrigues. Donc, ce n’est pas une *policy*.

/UNREVISED/

Mr Baptiste: Yes. So, do you mean that there is no new policy then part from the '*La Troupe Ganding*' has organised and you have seized the opportunity to make it available in different regions? Because we are talking about new policy here.

Mr Volbert: *Je redis.* Even though we have only administrative responsibilities, I have already answered to the question, Mr the Speaker, Sir, that we have only administrative responsibility here in Rodrigues. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: In his reply to the answer, the Commissioner for Social Security mentioned that he will ensure that his Commission will remain... ensure that no stone will remain unturned. I would like to ask him how much fund has been earmarked for the entertainment facilities to be provided to the elderly list.

Mr Volbert: M. le président, il y a Rs900000 *earmarked* chaque année. Mais malheureusement, chaque année, il n'y a que Rs500000 qui est servi. Donc, cette année-ci avec les Rs900000, nous avons assuré que les personnes âgées aient ce qu'ils doivent. Donc, pour moi, les Rs900000 mises à leur disposition, on a servi, on a utilisé. Donc, il y a un budget de Rs900000, M. le président.

Mr Baptiste: Can we know then how much, what is the cost implication for the organisation of this activity in relation to the show you talked about, '*La Troupe Ganding*'?

Mr Chairperson: I am sorry. If you look at your question, you should not come with course. It is on policy.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: *Mr Chairperson, Sir,* donc, le Commissaire a dans sa réponse, lui-même a parlé de la prestation de '*La Troupe Ganding*', donc, en lien avec ce projet. Donc, est-il au courant que même si c'est vrai, ceux qui ont participé, ceux qui sont venus voir le spectacle, ils ont apprécié, est-il au courant qu'il y a un mécontentement généralisé chez les personnes âgées par rapport à la prestation... pas par rapport à la prestation mais par rapport à la journée où c'est le 01 octobre où ils ont fait cette prestation parce qu'ils l'avaient vu avant et que ces personnes-là n'avaient pas pu justement participer, ces personnes âgées-là.

Mr Volbert: Je ne suis pas au courant, M. le président.

Mr Ramdally: *M. le Commissaire a parlé de physical activities qu'il va provide to elderly.* Donc, est-ce que je pourrais avoir plus d'éclaircissement sur les *physical activities*.

Mr Volbert: Come with a substantive question. I will reply next time.

MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2022 – DRUG TRAFFICKING IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/91) The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr J. P. Speville) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the meeting held on 25 May 2022 on drug trafficking in Rodrigues under his chairmanship, he will inform the House of the outcome thereof, indicating if there have been any subsequent meetings in connection thereto and, if so, the number thereof together with the corresponding outcomes?

Mr Ravina: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that no meeting was held on 25 May 2022 on drug trafficking.

Consequently, other question does not arise, please. Thank you.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, donc, en lien avec la réponse du Commissaire, on a vu qu'à l'Assemblée nationale, le Premier ministre a répondu une question de B/770 où il mentionne, je cite:

«The Commissioner for Youth and Sports and Arts and Culture held a meeting on 20th May 2022 at Port Mathurin on strategies to combat drugs addict in Rodrigues.»

So, does he mean that this is not correct?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir...

Mr Chairperson: I am on my feet. Your question is on drug trafficking but you just answered it is on drug addicts. It is not the same thing. So, if the Commissioner said there was no meeting on drug trafficking, it is not on drug...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Anyway, the Commissioner has given his answer. You have to go by his answer. Next question.

DIRECT FLIGHTS – REUNION-RODRIGUES

(No. B/92) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to the direct flights between Reunion and Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state?

- (a) When same begun, indication the number thereof effected until the suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic together with the number of passengers travelling for the said period; and

- (b) The details for the postponement of flight resumption, indicating if a new date has been set therefor?

Mr Wong So: M. le président, permettez-moi d'enlever mon masque pour pouvoir répondre à la question convenablement.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me start by informing the House that Reunion Island is the second largest tourism market for Rodrigues. The total number of visitors from Reunion Island on both direct flights and from Mauritius in 2019 was 9,573 passengers. Following the resumption of commercial flights to Rodrigues post - COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 820 visitors from Reunion were recorded between May and July 2022. With the resumption of direct flights, the number of visitors from Reunion Island is expected to increase.

Subsequently, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in terms of the start date of direct flights from Reunion Island and Rodrigues, I have been informed that Air Mauritius began operating two weekly flights from Reunion Island to Rodrigues in December 2003 for a period of approximately nine months.

In the same process, Air Austral on the other hand, began operating two flights per week to Rodrigues from Pierrefonds Saint Pierre as from 08 May 2015 to 20 January 2018, but on holidays only during the months of March, May, July, August, October, December, and January.

As a result, thereof, from May 2015 to December 2018, 108 direct flights from Reunion Island to Rodrigues were operated. Furthermore, according to the most recent statistics, 4254 passengers boarded from Reunion Island during this time period. It should be noted, however, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that in December 2018, Air Austral operated only one flight per week from Roland Garros Airport Saint Denis to Rodrigues.

Additionally, Air Austral ran a weekly service from Roland Garros Airport Saint Denis to Rodrigues from 06 April 2019 to March 2020. There were about 50 flights operating during this same period, carrying a total of 2329 passengers.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last Air Austral flight to Rodrigues was on the 19th of March 2020.

Regarding Part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that, following fruitful discussions the Chief Commissioner and myself have had with Air Austral representatives during the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' recently held in Reunion Island,

Air Austral informed us that the first resumption flight would land at Plaine Corail Airport on 02 November 2022 at 17.30 hours and I precise, subject to clearances received from all concerned parties. I repeat, subject to clearances received from all concerned parties.

However, I have been informed that the request to operate the flight, as well as all additional information required from Air Austral, was submitted late, and the office of the Director of Civil Aviation did not have enough time to process the request because the inputs and also the clearances of other stakeholders, specifically public health officers and authorities, had to be sought due to the prevailing Avian Flu and Monkey Pox disease. As a result, the flight was rescheduled for a later date.

Finally, the resumption flight arrived in Rodrigues at around 17h35 on 09 November 2022, with 48 passengers on board. The company Air Austral will continue to operate a weekly flight to Rodrigues up to 22 March 2023 as agreed by parties concerned.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, je viens d'écouter la réponse du Commissaire du tourisme par rapport à la date d'application de Air Austral et je voudrais savoir du Commissaire du tourisme étant donné que comme il a dit, il y a des situations sanitaires assez complexes en ce moment à La Réunion, est-ce que l'Assemblée régionale a fait une demande pour que les conditions sanitaires soient respectées ou bien c'est parce que je suppose, le Conseil exécutif, sa priorité doit être de protéger Rodrigues ou bien c'est l'Aviation Civile qui a demandé, qui a insisté pour que ces conditions soient revues, il y a des conditions de vigilances qui soient mises en œuvre? Est-ce que c'est l'Assemblée régionale qui a fait cette demande ou bien c'est l'aviation civile qui s'est soucié de la protection de Rodrigues ?

Mr Wong So: Merci pour la question, Mme la Minorité. Justement, la question qui vient juste après va répondre justement sur ce point de *Avian Flu and Monkey Pox*. Je voudrais juste vous dire à ce niveau que l'Assemblée régionale a pris toutes les précautions nécessaires pour que le vol soit repris le 02 novembre. Mais il va s'en dire, je crois qu'au niveau de cette Assemblée, on est tous au courant qu'on n'a pas la main pour pouvoir tout décider au niveau des vols venant directement dans La Réunion. Il y va sans dire qu'au niveau de la DCA et de *Prime Minister's Office*, c'est eux qui ont la dernière main pour décider de l'arrivée de l'avion venant de La Réunion sur Rodrigues. L'affaire de *Avian Flu* et de *Monkey Pox* est arrivée au dernier moment. Malheureusement, c'est arrivé à un moment fatidique où on a dû quand même *delay* le vol. Dans ma réponse, ça a été clairement stipulé que les vols ont été repris à partir du

09 et que successivement, vous aurez un vol par semaine et probablement deux si le besoin se fait sentir.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, je suis sûre que le Commissaire est au courant qu'il y a un document en circulation par rapport à l'insistance du Ministère de l'Aviation civile au lieu de l'Assemblée régionale alors que l'Assemblée régionale présentait ses appréhensions seulement parce que les vols étaient en retard. Donc, je trouve cela irresponsable. Ceci dit, j'allais poser la question au Commissaire. Le Commissaire est au courant de ce document. Le Commissaire du tourisme, je voudrais savoir est-ce qu'il y a un comité qui a été mis en place pour assurer pour que toutes ces mesures qu'il faut prendre sont prises en considération ?

Mr Chairperson: But your question is not relevant with your main question, please. So, stick to your question.

(Interruptions)

Mr Wong So: M. le président, permettez-moi d'apporter une précision. Ce que je vois drôle, Mme de la minorité est en train de parler d'un document que je ne suis même pas au courant et dont elle est au courant. C'est la question qui se pose dans cette Assemblée de quel document est en train de parler que le Commissaire en exercice n'est pas au courant. C'est assez dangereux pour le pays qu'un Chef de la minorité ait un document dont le Commissaire n'est pas au courant. *Right.* Ceci dit, je dois vous dire que le Commissaire de l'agriculture est ici présent. On avait fait maintes précisions pour pouvoir quand même faire en sorte à ce que le vol soit repris le 02. Vous êtes en train de bagarrer sur un *issue* qui est un *no issue*. Merci.

Mr Baptiste: I would like to ask the Commissioner whether it would not have been better first of all before confirming the date for flight resumption to work out the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with concerned authorities in Mauritius to make sure that all protocols are already there before announcing a date and then, cancel it at the last minute? Is it not amateur de la part...

Mr Wong So: M. le président, c'est avec joie que je vais répondre à M. Baptiste, le respecté membre de M. Baptiste. Croyez-vous que Rodrigues a la possibilité de pouvoir décider du 2 ou du 29 ou du 6 ? Ceci incombe à la compagnie, sachez madame, que ceci incombe à la compagnie qui voudrait desservir Rodrigues de pouvoir quand même statuer par rapport à son calendrier de vol, de pouvoir le mettre. Ce qu'ils ont décidé de le mettre pour le 2 novembre, ça a été *agreed* à leur niveau et que nous, on doit *abide*. Est-ce qu'on peut dire le 2 n'est pas

bon et qu'on doit venir le 9 ? C'est eux qui décident par rapport à leur calendrier de vol. C'est aussi simple que ça mais on est tous d'accord que le *Avian Flu* et le *Monkey Pox disease* est arrivé en attendant, ce qui nous a mis un petit peu dans l'embarras. C'est tout.

Mr Chairperson: Next question!

PREVALENCE OF MONKEY POX AND AVIAN FLU

(No. B/93) **Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the prevalence of Monkey Pox and Avian Flu, he will inform the House on measures undertaken by his Commission to prevent the arrival and spread thereof locally?

Mr Volbert: Mr. Chairperson Sir, since the question of the Respected Minority Leader is too vague and does not make any specific reference to the world, I would request the member, the Minority Leader to come up with a more specific question next time.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that the Avian Flu is a phytosanitary problem and it concerns the Commission for Agriculture; not the Commission for Health. Thank you.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry but Monkey Pox is an issue, the health issue. So, I think that this is not correct in the two answers about the prevalence of Monkey Pox and the measures taken by the Commission for Health.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I said, order please! Next question.

PROVISION OF PERMITS TO COLLECT WATER

– PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER TANKERS

(No. B/94) **Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the provision of permits to collect water by public and private water tankers, he will state and table: -

- (a) the number thereof being delivered daily, giving details on the specific water collection points and volume being provided;
- (b) if there are outstanding applications and, if so, to state the number thereof, and

/UNREVISED/

- (c) if any other authority other than his Commission is delivering or will deliver these permits and, if so, to give details?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

(a) With regard to Part (a) of the question, the number of permits issued by the water unit daily, including specific water collection points and volume being provided are as follows: -

Section	RRA Tankers	Private Tankers	Approx. Volume (m³)
South : Tamarin	3	-	21m ³
North : Creve Coeur	5	-	40m ³
East : Grenade	1	As and when required	8m ³
Central: Le Chou	2 (for dialysis)	-	16m ³
Mourouk	-	20	140 -150m ³
Mourouk	22	-	154m ³

(b) With regard to Part (b), there are outstanding applications, which is something to be expected during a situation of water crisis prevailing in Rodrigues. The total number is 720. These applications will be satisfied in the following weeks. There are people, however, who normally cancel their applications in case they have been supplied water through our network in the meantime.

- (c) With regard to part (c), as at date, the only authority delivering permits for water collection is the Water Unit of the Commission for Water Resources.

The Executive Council at its meeting held on 28 October 2022 has decided to provide, to approve that water tankers be allowed to collect water for tourism operators at Pte Coton desalination plant against payment of Rs 50 per m³. For this purpose, it will be the Commission for Tourism that will process applications and payment and issue of permits.

My Commission has already made necessary arrangements to enable the collection of water at Pte Coton in the near future.

I am also tabling the requested information. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as per the reply of the Chief Commissioner, there are 720 applications which are in in agreeance. I would like to know from him being given that there is a scarcity of such a vital commodity which is water, whether the applications that are being taken by his office are being segregated as regard to the different use. I mean, domestic, agricultural or construction or commercial.

The Chief Commissioner: There is no order of priority, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The order of priority is chronological and of course, the officers at the Water Unit in Malabar who issue, Mr Pierre Louis who issues the permit, has discretion to help specific people who are facing hardships such as in cases of deaths.

Mr Lisette: The Chief Commissioner mentioned about the chronological order that is being taken by his Commission. I would like to know from him, whether he would agree with me that there should be a fast-track that should be applied to applicants, especially in the case of casting of slabs and in the case that we are right now for those who are applying for holy communions.

The Chief Commissioner: I do not agree, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I think until a few months ago, the Member now on the other side was Commissioner. He had ample time during 10 years to implement a fast-track. He did not do it. We are reforming the water sector now. We are giving all the resources, the manpower and the reorganization in the water sector. For 10 years, he did not do any fast-track. It is not today that he will come and propose fast-track.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of explanation, I would like to inform the House that during my stay in office as Commissioner for Water, there was a fast-track principally for the two that I mentioned. There was a deaf that he mentioned and there was also for casting of slab and also for whenever there is holy communion. I would like him to take note of that. Yes, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner as regard to the policy that has been taken by the Executive Council with respect to the provision of water to the tourism industry whereby, there is a fee that is being applied, why is it that priority is being given over for the tourism industry being given that we are facing a problem of scarcity of water for domestic use.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Member is contradicting himself. On one side, he states that we should prioritise and on the other side, he wants according to what he is saying, the tourism industry to die. Because of our efforts, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and I would like to put on record the contribution of Mr Claude Wong So and his teams, all the

young technicians of the water unit who have managed to repair a reverse osmosis unit which was laid unrepaired and abandoned at Coton Bay. When I visited Coton Bay upon assuming office, the electrical panel was completely dismantled and was in a state of rust. We repaired it and we put it back on track and this is why with these 500 additional meter cube of water, we decided to help our people who are giving a lot of their monies invested in the tourism industry and who are facing a lot of hardship.

This is what we are doing: relieving the hardship of people in tourism industry because you cannot just cancel reservations/bookings because you do not have water. So, they will pay for it. There will be a priority list. Each tourism industry according to its license, to its number of rooms, will be allocated one or two lorries, tankers of water per week. This is helping the tourism industry survive pending the arrival of the rains. And, I must say the other unit; not the one we have repaired, the other unit is now not operational because there are faults and when there are faults, I am not blaming the technicians. The technicians are not trained. This is what happened during the last 10 years. They put up desalination plants which are not adapted. We are transferring the one from Baie Malgache because it is not functional.

There is no borehole for it. They thought that they would desalinate mud because what comes into the pipe, into the input of the desalination plant is mud, we cannot desalinate mud. This is a shame for the ex-Commissioner, for the people who were there in the policy. He is speaking of the policy. So, the one now at Pointe Coton, the one which was operating is not operational. We are transferring two: one from Baie Malgache to Pointe Venus to help the northern region because it cannot operate at Baie Malgache anyway. There are no options apart transferring them and we are transferring one to Songes. The cost of this is Rs17 m. We are doing everything. Population must know that we are doing everything. I wake up at five every morning and at five, I am speaking to all officers.

I am speaking to people who are suffering and all this because of the bad policies of the previous team. The water problem would have been solved today had they not dissolved the water company and had they implemented all the measures which were recommended in the Cheney Report, in the Khroda Report. They cannot come, Mr Chairperson, Sir, today and blame us because we are doing an arts work. There is no network to transfer water from Pointe Coton to other sides of the Island. We are producing near to 1000 m³ at Pointe Coton and we proposed to produce more but there is no network to transfer the water from Pointe Coton to other parts of the Island.

I am here since March and we are in November. It is only eight months we are here. And, we have set up, operationalised with the water company. We are recruiting the drivers for the water tankers. We have procured three more and we will bring the *ça*. We have a lorry at RodClean which is doing a marvellous work. We have just received a new lorry and I placed people on it and they are helping people. It is not my fault if there is no water. It is the fault of the policies of the previous government. Ten years doing nothing, wasting money, wasting hundreds, billions of rupees in projects which do not work.

(Applause)

Mr Lisette: Yes, we know this. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner now as regard to control that are being exerted during the distribution of water by private tankers. Being given that there are demands and applications made by people on the same day in the same villages on the same line, that when these public tankers reach the villagers, there is some sort of so as not to say discrimination with respect to the distribution hereof. How does he account for that?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I see that he was Commissioner for Water but he is not aware of how the process work. He, himself, he is stating about prioritising water distribution by network according to hardship case. If there is a hardship case, I had a hardship case in a village in Local Region Number 6 where there was a mother with two children and having rashes, skin problems and they had no water to wash themselves. So, we decided to send a water lorry to give them water. What will happen when the lorry reaches the person is that other people nearby will also request for that water. This is what is happening. When a lorry water tanker goes and help one person in a village, maybe because this person, the network during distribution because of the network problem, they have not received water or they have asked water for a specific purpose, all people in the surroundings will also expect water. This is what happens and it is a bit normal because people are receiving water once every three months, once every month. It is not me, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Maybe I am shouting but it has to be clear! There is video on it. It is not me who said I will give water once a week in 2010 and now in 2022, coming and asking question. The one who said water will be given to people once every week is himself.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, le Chef commissaire a parlé de l'ordre chronologique dans lequel les gens qui viennent faire l'application, ils ont l'eau. Ne trouve-t-il pas cela injuste que s'il y a une personne qui a eu l'eau, j'ai eu des cas des gens qui ont eu l'eau

il y a un mois. Ils ont été faire leur application. Il y en a, ils ont eu l'eau tout de suite et ceux qui ont attendus depuis trois mois qui ont fait leur application, attendre encore plus longtemps. Ne pense-t-il pas qu'avec cette question d'ordre de priorité en ordre chronologique d'application, il faut aussi voir quand est-ce que cette personne a reçu l'eau pour la dernière fois ?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if the Minority Leader had read the SIDPR 2009, she would have seen that SIDPR says that the whole water system management distribution is archaic. And, this is why there was a reform. This is the system. They decided to put to death the Rodrigues Water Company which was the solution for the water sector in Rodrigues in 2012 for mere political vendetta. Because it was not...

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: Will you allow me to answer? You want to direct my answer? Do you want to direct my answer? Let me answer, please. I know it is hard for the truth to be heard but it has to be said. Thank you. So, I agree with her. The whole system is archaic, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We lack people. We lack people who are qualified in logistics, in network management, in fleet management to manage these lorries. We lack technological system, information systems so that we can manage where people need water with these tankers and how to direct them. This is being put in place with the Rodrigues Water Company, the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation and we are bringing results. We have transferred two units.

We are starting the procurement to enlarge by 3000 m³ the desalination plant at Coton Bay because we believe there is clean water there and there is good quality of intake water and there is least problem at Pointe Coton. We are thinking about a network to transfer water from the East of Rodrigues to the West with new pipelines. What have they done, Mr Chairperson, Sir? They have put a pipeline from Baie Malgache to Montagne Du Sable which is not being used today. How much money has been wasted in Baie Malgache because they did not do the feasibility of their project? They '*mette saret divan bef*'. And, today, they are speaking of problems. Yes, there will still be some years, some months and some years of problems before we set up the whole Rodrigues Water Company, the whole public utilities corporation with all its staff and with all its logistics to deal with this problem but we are determined to do it and we are doing it.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, I think that the Chief Commissioner is talking about the past but we are facing the worst water crisis in Rodrigues right now and we want people to have solutions today with what we have. May I ask the Chief Commissioner about the mechanism in place to ensure that there is a better coordination between the Water Resources Unit, RodClean and the lorry used for dialysis in hospital and the Water Supply Attendant to ensure that there is a better, a more efficient and equitable distribution of water in Rodrigues by water tankers? Because right now, some people are getting from water resources and one week later by the RodClean. So, what is the mechanism set up to ensure that some people are not getting more than others?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the mission of the water tanker for RodClean, I congratulate them. They understood the mission of RodClean and they provided for that water tanker. It is better late than never. The mission of this water tanker at RodClean is to cater for public toilets and some essential amenities which are managed by RodClean. After hours and over time, they are doing their best. We must congratulate these workers, these drivers, these workers from RodClean, work it up into the dark to give people water, to give to hardship people water, whether there is a death, where there is a funeral, they are there. Whenever there is a problem, they are there. I call them personally.

The Commissioner responsible also calls them and they bring the water to people. And, there is also the water lorry at the dialysis unit which is not supposed to go and distribute water because dialysis is an essential service. We cannot force this lorry too much, use it too much because if it breaks down, we have problem but we are using it. We are putting it to contribution to give water to people, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and all the other lorries, their coordination is under the responsibility of the Departmental Head for Water. There is an officer who is responsible for the water unit. There is a Senior Inspector in Malabar who is in charge of the network. All these people, they are coordinating and directing the water lorries. There are the different sections: North, South, East, West, Mr Chairperson, Sir. And, each of these sections, the heads of these sections, for example La Ferme, the South section, each of them, they have attached with them a water lorry and it is up to them to use their discretion.

For example, there is Mr Sylvain Pierre Louis here in the North where I speak to him very often. Every day in the morning, I speak to him. I bring to him problems and he has the lorry at his disposal. He uses it as he wishes. Mr Sylvain Pierre Louis as well as the other one, Mr Perrine, the other people who are heads of sections, they have their lorries at their disposal because they are the heads of the sections and they know where are the hardship cases and they

use these lorries to give hardship cases. If there are issues on distribution, you must go and ask these people who are responsible of these sections and under whom these lorries, the responsibility of the lorries and giving instructions to the drivers are being given. So, they are managing.

They are supposed to be managing but, of course, you know how Rodrigues is. Some people are more equal than others, even the drivers. I have seen one driver in the North delivering water to a commercial *gite*, to a commercial business one day and I filmed him but his explanation was plausible because at this business, there are not only tourism; there are residents. We should be careful about this. When a government lorry is giving water to a tourism business, this tourism business, they have local residents, the people working in that business, that family and they have the right to the water and we cannot blame that lorry driver even though we suspect that some of them may be doing distribution.

It is a shame for some of them, some of them working in the water distribution sector, what do they tell to the people? *'Aler ale get lallians. Mo pa ti dir ou vote lallians moi. Mo pa pou done ou delo.'* It is a shame how some of these people behave. This is why we want accountability. We have advertised the post of Water Tanker Drivers and they will be working nearly 24 hours' basis. You will be receiving water if need be at 04 a.m. in the morning because we will have drivers on roster and we will transfer all these lorries under the water unit to these drivers and then, we will have more efficiency. I hope it is clear for them.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, je voudrais savoir du Chef commissaire par rapport à cette mesure qu'il a annoncé pour le secteur du tourisme parce qu'ils ont investi. Je pense qu'il est au courant qu'il y a aussi beaucoup d'éleveurs qui souffrent parce qu'ils ont leur bétail qui meurt de soif. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire va rendre applicable cette mesure pour les gros éleveurs aussi ?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have to prioritise. The Commission for Agriculture, they have one or two tractors, I think, which are equipped to pump raw water. Raw water from St Gabriel and other parts of the Island to distribute to breeders but of course, in a situation of crisis, the priority is human beings. Thank you. Not animals for the time being.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

SHORTAGES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES – RODRIGUES

(No. B/95) The Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Mr L. D. Baptiste) asked the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and Others whether, she has been made aware that there are currently shortages of various commodities in Rodrigues, including construction materials and other basic commodities and, if so, to give the reasons thereof, and to give details about the actions taken or to be taken to ensure that consumers are not penalised during this end of year period?

Ms Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no shortage of various commodities as such in Rodrigues as mentioned by the respected Members.

I have been made aware that there is only a shortage of cements and some types of animal feeds on the local market. Even though no official complaints have been received from consumers, the shortage of these commodities has been confirmed during the routine checks performed by the officers of the Consumer Affairs Unit of my Commission.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, information has been obtained from the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd (MSCL) that the Company is taking all necessary measures to ensure that there is normal service delivery of all commodities, not only basic commodities, to Rodrigues, so as there is no shortage, especially during the end of year.

Since October 2022, the MV Mauritius Trochetia has already performed four back-to-back voyages to Rodrigues. Another voyage to Rodrigues has been planned for tomorrow 16 November 2022, comprising 70 containers of essential commodities and 60 containers carrying 48,000 pockets of cement to satisfy the demand in Rodrigues.

Up to 31 December 2022, the MSCL has tentatively scheduled four additional voyages to Rodrigues and one voyage to Agalega. In this respect, some 400 additional laden containers will be shipped to Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish also to reassure the House that information has also been obtained that a new Charterparty Agreement would be signed by MSCL for the chartering of a vessel to service Rodrigues before the end of this month. Thus, the MSCL would have two vessels at its disposal to service both Rodrigues and Agalega.

Thank you, Mr, Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner responsible for Consumer Affairs being given that he said that his Commission is aware that there is a shortage

of only of cement in Rodrigues. I would like to know whether he has not been informed even of the lack of bottle water on the market these days?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, no.

Mr Baptiste: I am quite surprised by the answer because the Commissioner mentioned that there are monitoring exercise by officers of the Commission. But I think it is a problem which is generally being felt, being given that the scarcity of water right now, many people are having recourse to these mineral water. Would the Commissioner consider this matters urgently to find out and ensure that in the coming shipments, there are enough to such commodity to ensure that the consumers are not penalised?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have already answered in my answers, there are 70 containers of essential commodities which are coming to Rodrigues by tomorrow. Thank you.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, je pense que Mme la Commissaire n'a pas bien cerné la question. En ce moment où on a des problèmes d'eau, ce matin j'ai été dans une boutique, il n'y a pas de bouteille d'eau. Vous avez parlé de 70 conteneurs. Est-ce qu'il y a suffisamment d'eau ou bien vous allez veiller à ce que sur les *consignments* qu'on aura bientôt, il y aura suffisamment d'eau ? C'est votre responsabilité en tant que Commissaire responsable de Consumer Protection. Ben, c'est sa responsabilité. Sinon, elle n'est pas....

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that they already know that after Black Rhino is no more coming to Rodrigues, we have moved to Mauritius Trochetia which the loading capacity is not the same. This is why we have this situation, that is, they have to put certain things on the container. They have to remove things. That is why we have this situation but I will look into the matter. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: I understand that you have no control on the issue of the shipping. It is true but in the past, also, we have had problems. I would like to know whether, at the level of her Commission, there has been a monitoring exercise to see the possible commodities, essential commodities that would eventually be in a shortage in the coming weeks due to the problem of shipping and whether, you have addressed any correspondence to relevant authorities at least to prioritise, to ask them, to request them to prioritise products which are more required by the consumers, by people in Rodrigues during this end of year festivities, whether any correspondence has been done after the monitoring exercise.

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, yes, there are monitoring exercises and we are liaising with the parent ministry also to ensure that we have everything in Rodrigues. There is no shortage. Thank you.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

OCTOPUS FISHERY WINTER CLOSURE 2022

(No. B/96) The First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Dr H. Agathe) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the Octopus Fishery Winter Closure 2022, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the budget committed to date for travelling and stipends for alternative activities set in relation thereto;
- (b) if the reopening was postponed and, if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the output of alternative activities carried out in relation thereto, and
- (d) the catch of octopus during the first five days following the reopening of the octopus's fishery?

Mr Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

(a) As regard to part (b), I am informed that the budget committed to date for travelling and stipends for alternative activities is a sum of Rs 18,265,595.

(Listen, you will hear.)

(Interruptions)

(b) As regard to part (b), the pre-set date for the reopening was postponed following request made by the Fisher's Community as a result of favourable tide conditions.

(c) As regard to part (c), Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Alternative Livelihood Programme was restricted to the Agricultural and Forestry sector, in order to support my Commission to fulfil its objectives in terms of land rehabilitation and forest management. In same vein, following a request from the Commission for Environment, the Alternative Livelihood Programme was extended to the aforesaid Commission to assist them in the implementation of their different on-going projects.

The output of the alternative livelihood activities can be summarised as follows: -

1. Rehabilitation of pasture at St Gabriel, Mt Plate and Mt Cali.

/UNREVISED/

2. Cleaning and maintenance of drains and dams at Baie Malgache, Gravieres, Mt Goyaves, Rivière Banane, Mourouk and Port Sud Est.
3. Removal of invasive species in forests areas at Mourouk, Anse Quitor Nature Reserves, Mt Limon, Cascade Pigeon as well as waste collection in other several forests; and
4. Cleaning of roadsides and river beds throughout Rodrigues.

I am tabling copy of the output of the alternative activities.

As regard to part (d), Mr Chairperson, Sir, the daily catch of the Octopus Fishery on the reopening was: -

- (i) 09 November 2022 – 16.5 tons
- (ii) 10 November 2022 – 8.5 tons

I must say that we are conducting some inquiry about these figures because not all catch passes through the landing station.

(Interruptions)

The catch of the octopus' fishery will be analysed on a monthly basis. This period will trigger a significant push for more data quality, increasing the activity of the Commission to make evidence-based policy recommendations. It is to be noted that our mission is to ensure optimal utilisation of the fisheries resources for the benefit of the Rodriguan people through sustainable management, ecosystem based approaches and significant development. Thank you.

Dr Agathe: Je voudrais remercier le Commissaire, M. le président. Mais j'aimerais qu'il nous redise le montant dépensait pour le financement des activités alternatives, puisque nous n'avons pas bien entendu de ce côté-là de la Chambre ? S'il vous plaît.

Mr Perrine: It is Rs 18,265,595.

Dr Agathe: Je m'étais étonné d'avoir mal entendu. J'avais un peu entendu en fait puisque le budget prévu pour l'année c'est de l'ordre de Rs 14 millions précisément. Et, on est censé avoir deux fermeture. Donc, j'allais vous demander premièrement, pourquoi cette hausse, comment se justifie-t-elle ? D'où vient l'argent qui finance cette hausse ? Et, est-ce qu'il y aura une deuxième fermeture étant donné que l'historique de ce budget nous indique que le budget

a été augmenté à Rs 15 millions à un moment donné pour pouvoir avoir une deuxième fermeture en été ?

Mr Chairperson: The Member is perfectly aware of the Standing Order. You have to ask one question at a time. So, you chose one and you ask the first question.

Dr Agathe: First question, why this increase in budget, please?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, c'est que quand j'ai pris en charge la commission de Fisheries, c'est un désordre complet. Aucun record. Par exemple, le nombre de pêcheurs à l'ourite, combien nous avons à Rodrigues. Où est le registre ? Où est le nombre ? Il fallait arriver à un moment décider combien de personnes sont engagés dans ce secteur. Comment savoir ? *La liste politique !* C'est qu'on a fait, on a demandé à tous les Rodriguais qui sont engagés (pas qui veulent – *ou ki dir qui veulent*) dans ce secteur de se faire enregistrer. Et, nous avons eu 1460. On a pris tout le monde. *We did not pick and choose like you did.* Nous avons pris tout le monde *on board. Com di tou dimune ensam.* C'est à partir de là, maintenant on est en train de construire une base de donnée pour savoir qui sont ceux qui sont vraiment engagé dans ce secteur. Et, nous allons venir avec des règlements à partir l'année prochaine et nous allons donner des permis pour savoir qui sont ceux qui sont engagé dans ce secteur. Nous, nous sommes pour mettre des règlements, faire que la Commission puisse honorer ces règlements, contrôle et surveillance et organiser sur une base professionnelle et non pas sur une base Saint Vincent de Paul. Merci.

Dr Agathe: Est-ce qu'il y aurait une deuxième fermeture dans l'année en été ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, ce projet a démarré en 2012 comme un projet pilote pour savoir combien de fermeture il y aura et pour combien temps. Pendant dix ans on n'a pas fait d'évaluation. Mais ça ne peut pas durer éternellement. C'était pour justement arriver à savoir quand il faut fermer et pour combien de temps. Ce qu'on va faire ! On va essayer de voir les résultats. D'ailleurs, il y aura un expert qui va venir. On est en train de suivre, collecter les données, mettre en place un système de collecte des données fiables. *Pa tou lé monde criyé lor montagne dir mone gagne dé liv orite.* On va contrôler tout pour savoir exactement quelle est la situation et on va venir avec des règlements. S'il faut continuer, on va continuer, on va continuer mais s'il faut arrêter on va arrêter.

Dr Agathe: A entendre le Commissaire, je voudrais lui demander, M. le président, s'il est satisfait ou pas avec la fermeture qui a eu lieu cette année ?

Mr Perrine: Bon, c'est trop tôt de donner une réponse. Parce que je vous dis il faut observer pendant une période de temps. Pas de décider aujourd'hui et demain. Ma satisfaction est qu'il n'y a pas eu festival de personne en mer quand on a démarré le 9. C'était tout le monde, des étrangers touristes, fête on organisait tous. Ça, accès à la mer, ça je suis satisfait. Je suis satisfait mais il y a la vente, les gens qui achètent l'ourite en mer, qui n'observent *landing station*. Et, je vous dis, M. le président, le nombre de '*banian*' qu'il y a à Rodrigues, c'est incroyable. Il y a, guerre de '*banian*', ils poussent le prix. C'est pourquoi c'est arrivé à Rs 100. Qui ? Ce n'est pas moi qui a décidé de donner autant de '*banian*' ? Les petits copains ! Tout ça, on va revoir. Et vous savez, ils n'observent pas les conditions qu'il y a sur leur permit. Ils font n'importe quoi. Vous savez c'est un pays, qui pendant 10 ans était dirigé au petit bonheur – ce qu'on pensait, ce que les gens demandaient, un petit groupe, etc. Nous, nous allons nous baser sur des données réelles et nous allons faire ce secteur devenir, secteur productif parce que c'est important pour l'économie de Rodrigues et opérer sur une base professionnelle.

Dr Agathe: En ce qu'il s'agit des données, c'est une question très importante. D'ailleurs, la pêche c'est quand même un domaine où s'englobe beaucoup de chose, socio-économie, écologie, économie. Donc, les données sont très, très importante. En fait, un des aspects très important, c'est la continuité dans la collecte des données. Et, savez-vous, M. le président, que en fait, il y a eu une amélioration pendant les dix dernières années des prises de l'ourite. Et qu'il y a des données suffisamment qui existe dans ce pays, qui sont collectées, qui permettent de voir comment il y a eu une amélioration significative. Des indicateurs majeurs de la pêche.

Mr Chairperson: Sorry, are you coming with a question or a statement? Because you have right for a statement but at the proper time. Now you put your question.

Dr Agathe: La question est déjà posée. La question est, reconnaissant l'importance des données, sachant qu'il y a des données, est-ce que vous êtes au courant qu'il y a des indicateurs qui montre qu'il y a eu une amélioration continue de cette pêcherie à Rodrigues, grâce au fermeture ? Alors que, ce que vous étiez en train de dire que ce n'était pas le cas, qu'il n'y avait pas de donnée, il n'y avait pas d'amélioration.

Mr Perrine: Vous savez, ce que considérons comme important, qu'est-ce que les pêcheurs ont eus ? On peut augmenter le nombre. Mais qui on bénéficiait de ça ? Vous, vous savez là, le pauvre pêcheur est en train de vendre son produit à Rs 70/90 le demi kilo. Quelqu'un

va l'envoyer à Maurice pour vendre à Rs 300 le demi kilo. Qui bénéficie de ça ? Et vous, qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Quand je suis arrivé, la Maison des Pêcheurs, qui devait faire ce travail là – fermer ; banqueroute. Et, ne parlons '*Mourouk Multi-purpose Cooperative*', c'est en train de rouiller à St. Gabriel. Je pense qu'il ne faut pas poser des questions. Parce que nous nous avons travaillé pour la population, pour les pêcheurs. Pas pour une grande production, pour être exporté et puis, quelques personnes vont avoir tous les profits. Ce n'est pas ça. Oui, mais la population n'a rien gagné. Le petit piqueur ourite est encore '*piker ourite. Ine vine pli for le cout de la vie, etc.*' c'est ça qu'il faut voir, M. le président. Merci.

Mr Baptiste: I think that my colleague has rightly said that figures are already available. So, you have talked about the postponement of the reopening due to tide. So, I think that since 2012, this is the very first time that this situation has arisen. I would like to know whether the Commissioner has taken on board all the stakeholders and the local experts that we have? Because since 2012, this has never happened or whether by trying to dismantle everything that is why this has happened this time, for postponement. It has never happened since 2012.

Mr Perrine: M. le président, ça me fait rire. Mais ce n'est pas statistique qu'il faut observer n'importe quoi qu'on a écrit mais on est là pour essayer, bouger et changer. S'il faut changer la date même de fermeture/ouverture, on va le voir. On va faire la même chose tout le temps ? Non, ce n'est pas ça du tout. Et ça, c'est Rodrigues qui dirait si nous avons une demande des pêcheurs, des opérateurs et nous voyons qu'on peut le faire, nous allons le faire. Pas parce que vous avez fait ça, nous allons faire pareil, non ! Nous allons changer. Nous sommes satisfaits qu'il fallait étendre, on l'a fait.

Mr Chairperson: One last question.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, nous savons qu'il y a eu au cours de la période des fermetures, des soucis de surveillance, par rapport au ourite. C'est connu dans la communauté, le Commissaire de la Pêche ne pense-t-il pas que le démantèlement des *Fisheries Posts* de Petite Butte et Gravières on était une mauvaise décision dans le cadre de la surveillance, en général mais principalement aussi pour les ourites ?

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: M. le président, il n'y a aucune station qui a été démantelé. C'est faux ! C'est faux ! Mais on a eu un changement. Vous savez, on peut transférer les officiers, c'est dans leur *Scheme of Service* ça. On change pour savoir – on peut retourner, échanger, etc., pour

donner satisfaction au service. Nous avons bougé les gens qui sont entrés dans le *Squad*, on remplace, il y a des jeunes qui arrivent, on leur donne la possibilité de faire le travail aussi. Mais il ne faut pas crier. C'est pourquoi *zot ine manz tou zot ine perdi élection, hein*.

FOOD FAIR – WORLD FOOD DAY 2022

(No. B/97) Dr H. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the food fair held in the context of the celebration of the World Food Day 2022, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of butchers involved therein;
- (b) the criteria used for the selection of butchers, and
- (c) if any butchers have not been participating therein and, if so, to state the reasons therefor?

Mr Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following a call for registration of butchers willing to participate in the World Food Day 2022, ten butchers participated in the event. The criteria used for the selection of butchers were as follows: -

- (i) Butcher must have registered at the Public Relation Unit of my Commission within set date and time limit, that is, from 19 to 21 October 2022 between 8.30 to 14.30 hrs.
- (ii) Butcher must hold either: -
 - (a) a Butcher's shop licence, or
 - (b) document from the Public Health Office attesting that he/she is operating as butcher or use to slaughter animals, or
 - (c) selling meat in regional markets (Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin and La Ferme).

As regards to part (c), Mr Chairperson, Sir, several butchers have not participated in the fair for various reasons, that they know themselves including: -

- (a) Non registration to participate in the agri-fair scheduled for 28 and 29 October 2022;
- (b) Late submission to participate in the fair;
- (c) One registered goat/sheep butcher namely J. E. refused to participate, and

- (d) Two registered beef butchers namely I. E and J. E were not authorised to participate due to on-going enquiry following a complaint against them. We will consider their participation in future fairs upon completion of the enquiry.

Dr Agathe: Donc, d'après votre réponse, il y a quand même des personnes qui se sont enregistrées et qui n'ont pas pu participer ?

Mr Perrine: Let me read again, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Yes, one registered goat/sheep butcher namely J. E. refused to participate. He participated in the registration exercise but he declined for reason unknown to us.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I refer to the enquiry mentioned by the Commissioner in his answer, and in reply to B/10 of 31 May 2022, he informed the House that an enquiry was ongoing with respect to complaints received by his Commission with respect to butchers. I would like to know why is it taking so long to complete the enquiry, and where does matter stand with respect to that?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as Commissioner I do not interfere in enquiry, especially this is a completed case, a serious case, and there is a departmental committee dealing with this case. And, they have not yet submitted their report, so I have to wait. This is an important case because we are talking about Rs 12 m. And, I am not taking this case lightly. Thank you.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner of Agriculture whether there was a time frame that was given to that Departmental Committee to complete its enquiry?

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not going to put pressure on anybody. We will take as the Chief Commissioner has rightly said, he will take the time that he will take.

(Interruptions)

Mr Baptiste: Yes, but at least can the Commissioner then mention whether there was a term of reference for same? Because I think we cannot penalise people on things that we suppose has happened. Whether there is a time frame and there is a term of reference for it?

Mr Perrine: I do not have the term of reference in my pocket! If this respected Member want to the answer, he will have to come with a question next time and I will then give the answer.

/UNREVISED/

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: Est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire de l'Agriculture, est-ce que c'est vrai que ces gens qui ont déclinés leurs participations, c'est parce qu'on les informe à la veille de l'évènement alors qu'ils n'ont pas le temps de s'organiser. Est-ce que ce n'est pas un problème dans l'organisation de l'activité ?

Mr Perrine: I do not think so, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Because this was advertised from 19 to 21 October and the fair was on 29 November.

(Interruptions)

I think it is a question of, they are engaged in other things. You know, it was a Saturday and they have stalls in Port Mathurin and La Ferme, etc., and they are not interested.

MISSIONS – COMMISSION FOR HEALTH & OTHERS

(No. B/98) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the different missions he fielded to Mauritius and abroad, he will state and table:

- (a) the duration of each mission;
- (b) the composition of each delegation together with the facilities made available thereto, and
- (c) the outcomes of each mission together with the total cost thereof?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, given the lengthily answers related to my six missions to Mauritius, I am coming with a statement at adjournment of this parliamentary session.

As regards to part (c), the total sum will be compiled and tabled at a later stage. Thank you.

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, puis-je demander au Commissaire si pour les missions à l'étranger, ça requiert une autorisation d'une quelconque autorité, et si oui, quelle autorité ?

Mr Volbert: La question, je crois, devrait être adressé au Chef commissaire. Parce que moi je ne pense pas que la question est relatif à moi. Parce que je n'ai pas été on *official mission abroad*.

WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

(No. B/99) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the water treatment plants recently acquired by his Commission, he will state:

- (a) when tenders were launched therefor;
- (b) the cost implications;
- (c) the specifications of the plants, and
- (d) where the treatment plants have been put in operation?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, tenders for the procurement of two mobile water plants on trailer were launched on 03 September 2021 through restricted bidding.

With regard to part (b), the contract was awarded to the lowest evaluated bidder for the sum of Rs 2, 997,636 VAT exclusive as per letter issued, dated 22 November 2021.

With regard to part (c), the specifications of the plants are as follows: -

- (i) Intake Pump Head 50m
Flow rate 10m³/hr
Submersible pipe
- (ii) Electric panel and safety devices
- (iii) Canvas Flexible Hose diameter 2"
- (iv) Booster pump
Head 50m
Flow rate 10m³/hr
- (v) Coagulation and flocculation station with chemical tank
- (vi) Potable transfer pump

With regard to part (d), the plants have been put in operation at Anse Raffin Pumping Station to treat water from Anse Raffin dam and at Crève-Coeur reservoir compound to treat water from Cascade Pigeon dam. Thank you.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether both the plants that have been installed, one at Crève-Coeur and the other one at Anse Rafin are still in operation/functioning?

The Chief Commissioner: The Member should have asked this in his question, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I am aware there are technical issues on the units. I will enquire and may be let him know later. But I do not have this information presently.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner as regards to the installation of the pump and its commissioning. Who did the commissioning and who supervised the installation of the commissioning at the level of his Commission?

The Chief Commissioner: The installation and the commissioning, Mr Chairperson, Sir, was done by the supplier in the presence of Officers of the Commission.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, with respect to the supplier and the supervision that was undertaken by his Commission whether the type of water that needs to be treated by these mobile treatment plants was taken into consideration?

The Chief Commissioner: This is a technical question, Mr Chairperson, Sir. If the Member wanted a technical answer, he would have asked the technical question in his question. I do not have these technical specifications here. But I must say that we received, as the date indicates, the tenders were launched on 03 September 2021 and the ... was on 22 November 2021. I may understand the purpose of treatment idle water which contains dirt, treatment of water, where there is specific water storage in some rivers or areas. But should say this was not the solution, the permanent solution for treating water in Rodrigues. For example, at Cascade Pigeon, for ten years they failed to put in place a water treatment plant and for ten years the water lied idle at Cascade Pigeon. We are now with the Rodrigues Public Utility Corporation (RPUC) in the process of putting a fixed water treatment plant like the one we have at Fond Accacia, and which is working and generalize this with the proper technical maintenance to ensure that water is treated. If the water which has been treatment is not the water which was expected to be treated, it is because that at Cascade Pigeon the water has been lying for ten years. Ten years they left Cascade Pigeon abandoned and for ten years they could not connect a pipe from Cascade Pigeon to the treatment facility at Crève-Coeur, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Chief Commissioner is wrong being given that water was being used for Cascade Pigeon and being channelled to Pointe Canon for

distribution upon, of course, treatment and chlorination. Nevertheless, I would like to ask him. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner if he has not been made aware that the treatment plant which was installed at Crève-Coeur has not been functioning for two to three weeks?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have said, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the whole water system in Rodrigues is archaic. You can put the best equipment but if you do not have the necessary trained personnel – and maybe there are some who have a purpose in breaking it down, so that they do not work. We are reforming this. We are training the correct man-power. It is not only a question of the equipment. You will see a lot of equipment work as long as the supplier is monitoring it. As soon as the supplier leaves, the equipment breaks down. Because you cannot take people who are not trained. General Workers, they are doing their best but they do not have the technical knowhow, they do not have the willingness may be to work late hours, to work hard to solve the issues. This is public service. It is unfortunate. We are reforming all this. I will see that the treatment plant, if it is not working, it is repaired and properly used.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, being given the experience that has been brought forward with respect to Crève-Coeur and actually the treatment plant that has been installed at Anse Raffin is not being in operation for safety reason with respect to experience obtained from Crève-Coeur, I would like to ask him why is it that this treatment plant which can still be used and made to come into operation at Anse Raffin is not transferred to other places so that we can somehow increase the production of water especially, for the type of water that can be treated and one example that we can use is at Letchi.

The Chief Commissioner: Can I return the question; how will you bring this treatment plant to Letchi? Letchi? Have you been there recently? Do you know the degree of the slope of the track road? How you had a look at the trailer? Will it resist? It will not resist! It will break down. It is too steep. It is a question of safety. Nobody will drive this trailer there with a lorry or with a tractor unless, you volunteer to do it at your own cost and peril.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the solution is not for this type of water treatment unit. I agree with him. These treatment units are for emergencies, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I have been to Letchi recently. I have been also to Saint D'Or and we have a reservoir under construction at Montagne Goyaves which is nearing construction. The solution is to have fixed properly manned treatment plants. So, we are planning, we are thinking together with RPUC of desilting Saint D'Or that they have left in an abandoned state. Saint D'Or is in an abandoned state. We

/UNREVISED/

have to desilt Saint D'Or to rehabilitate it. We have to desilt Letchi. He is thinking of Letchi. Letchi reservoir, *batardeau*. It is full of mud. The last time it was cleaned by Mr Darcet Edouard in 2008 and then it was left abandoned up to date. Not clean for ten years, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We will clean it. We will take the raw water to the reservoir, the site of the reservoir of Montagne Goyaves – there is not only Letchi, there is another reservoir downhill Letchi. There are two of them. We will take this water to Montagne Goyaves where we will have a treatment plant on the model of the one we have at Accacia, which is working well. Why is it working well at Accacia? Because we have an experienced and committed person there, Mr Michel Bégué, who have mastered the technique, the technology and who is doing his job correctly allowing the flocculation in the flocculation basin to remove the big debris and then having the water push into the sun filter and then transferring the water to the reservoir at Jardin Mamzelle. He knows it perfectly. He knows that this system was working but he kept insisting buying two – I would say, they are helpful but which are not adapted. What we need to do is proper treatment plants. We are having WAPCOS, the Indian specialised agency in water, technical consultancy in water, electricity, etc. They are coming in January. This week we are having a delegation from the French Embassy. We need to have all net water in Rodrigues treated. We need to have a holistic approach in the water sector. We need not have one and bit and pieces of measures. I am thinking that maybe we should have a system of raw water from which we can transfer the raw water from where it is to a treatment centre within a specific area in Rodrigues, Mr Chairperson, Sir. And, then by gravity we process the water, we treat it and then send it to the distribution network.

I understand the qualms of the Member but may I invite him and other Members of the opposition to join us to solve and work on resolving this water issue. It is not a question of politics, it is a question of giving Rodriguans a proper water network, a proper water supply. And, the task is big. *La tâche est titanesque, M. le président. Comme je vous ai dit, il nous faut un conduit d'eau. Des autoroutes de l'eau de l'est vers l'ouest, qui traverserait la crête de l'île et où on pourrait avoir des centres de traitement. Et tout cela, ça demande de l'argent, ça demande des investissements et ça demande une volonté.*

**12TH COMMISSION DE LA JEUNESSE ET DES SPORTS DE L'OCEAN INDIEN
(CJSOI) GAMES**

(No. B/100) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports and Others Whether, in regard to the forthcoming 12th

Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien (CJSOI) Games to be hosted in Mauritius in December 2022, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table:

- (a) the number of participants from Rodrigues, indicating their respective events and role of each member of the delegation;
- (b) if any request has been made for the holding of some events in Rodrigues and, if so, to state where matter stands, in relation thereto, and
- (c) if any facilities are being provided to the athletes and coaches for their preparation therefor?

Mr Ravina: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the 12th Edition of the CJSOI Games will be held in Mauritius from 04 to 11 December 2022. We are informed by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Leisure that 12 athletes and two coaches from Rodrigues have been selected for the game across four disciplines:

- (i) Athletics - 8 athletes
- (ii) Weight lifting - 1 athlete
- (iii) Boxing - 1 athlete
- (iv) Mentally handicapped - 1 athlete
- (v) Visually handicapped - 1 athlete

The official delegation which will accompany the group of athletes has not been finalised yet.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that a request was made by the then Commissioner of Sports to hold some events of CJSOI in Rodrigues in a letter dated 06 January 2022.

In their reply dated 06 April 2022 the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation informed my Commission that the organizing committee of the CJSOI Games 2022 has decided that no sports competitions would be hosted in Rodrigues due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and budgetary constraints.

With regard to part (c) of the question I am pleased to inform the house that my Commission is already giving transport facilities to all CJSOI selected athletes for their preparation as they are now training on more regular basis, sometimes twice daily.

/UNREVISED/

Furthermore, the Executive Council at its meeting of 11 November 2022 has decided that a complete meal will also be provided to athletes and coaches during their training as from Monday 14 November until they leave for Mauritius at the end of this week. In addition, a stipend of Rs 6,000 will be allocated to all selected athletes for the competition so that they can meet expenses for a training shoes and for additional food supplements. Coaches who have been designated/selected by their respective federation to accompany the athletes will also be provided with a financial assistance of Rs 3,000 for acquisition of a training shoe.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, to further motivate our athletes to achieve high performance during the games, the Executive Council has also approved that cash prizes will be awarded to medal winners as follows: -

- (i) Gold medallists - Rs 20,000
- (ii) Silver medallists - Rs 15,000
- (iii) Bronze medallists - Rs 10,000

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling: -

- (a) the list of participants from Rodrigues and their respective events;
- (b) the reply of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Leisure following the request of my office, and
- (c) the facilities that are provided to the athletes and coaches for their preparation.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Sports as regards to those athletes who have been selected to participate in the CJSOI Games in December, there are prior training that is to be done in Mauritius. I would like to know from him, whether his Commission has had any request for the training of the athletes in Mauritius?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have received information that all the athletes will be in Mauritius on 28 November.

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Sports, whether there has been any letter/correspondence emanating from the 'La Fédération des Boxes' for the boxer Prosper to join the delegation as from 07 November, this year, and if yes, if his Commission has attained to that request?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as from now, no.

Mr Baptiste: I know that when there is negotiation we do not just rely on official correspondence. In relation to holding of some events in Rodrigues, I understand that in certain point in time it was agreed in principle that some athletic events would take place in Rodrigues. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether when they receive the letter dated 06 April, whether they just keep quiet or whether there were further discussions to try to find out how to set up the necessary protocols so that this event could take place in Rodrigues?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have not insisted due to the answer we have received, due to the budget problem.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I come back to my previous question with respect to request emanating from the ‘Association Rodriguaise des Boxes’ for athletes to go for training in Mauritius. I would like to table a letter dated 31 October 2022 in which – should you allow me to read, Mr Chairperson, Sir? Yes. For the knowledge of the House:

31 October 2022, letter emanating from ‘Association Rodriguaise des Boxes’

“In connection with the above games in Mauritius scheduled for 04 to 11 December 2022, please note that boxer Prosper is being selected to represent Mauritius team in 52kg category.

In this context, boxer Prosper shall be in Mauritius as from 07 November accompanied by one coach during his training and competition. We shall be much grateful if your Commission could provide two air-tickets, boarding and lodging for the abovementioned persons during their stay in Mauritius.”

I am tabling that letter which the Commissioner says that he is not aware of.

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of this letter. I have not received any letter in connection with this. It is the first I am hearing this.

Mr Lisette: I would like to further ask the Commissioner for Sports, whether still he is not aware of any letter emanating from *cette fois-ci* from ‘La Fédération des Boxes de Maurice’ for effectively requesting for this boxer and his coach to be in Mauritius for training prior to the competition?

Mr Ravina: No, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je voudrais à J – 18 des jeux, c’est dommage qu’on ne peut *host au moins un* event à Rodrigues. C’est un retour en arrière. En 2019, on a eu les Jeux des Iles à Rodrigues. Est-ce que le Commissaire ne pense pas qu’on aurait pu – je vois

que la pétanque est un des disciplines. Est-ce que le Commissaire n'a pas pensé à préparer une équipe de jeune parce que nous savons combien nos jeunes sont friand du sport et sont vraiment ils ont la compétence. Est-ce que le Commissaire n'a pas pensé à préparer une équipe pour que nos jeunes aujourd'hui nous représente au niveau au niveau de la pétanque ?

Mr Ravina: You are saying for petanque' please? For petanque the discipline is not mentioned in the list of CJSOI Games for Mauritius, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Baptiste: I think that this is a very important event and that we should give the best condition to our athletes to perform better. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he will consider also giving some equipment. Because we know that it is very high cost for the athletes, being given that all the efforts that they are giving and we know that here we are not professional and being sponsored. Whether, he intends also to give some equipment to help these athletes to get a better preparation?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it will be considered, yes.

Mr Lisette: In line with what has been reported in this Assembly right now, and with respect to the letter that I have tabled to this Assembly, I would like to know from the Commissioner what course of action he is going to take under it? What course of action is he now going to take with respect to the information that he has received from this Assembly?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, enquiry will be done to ascertain all the information. We will have to look into the matter and to have an enquiry.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: The Commissioner has just received the answer. I do not find it proper now that he can answer what will be the course. So, he said he will look into the matter, he will look into the matter. This is why we are moving to the next question.

CELEBRATION - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTONOMY OF RODRIGUES

(No. B/101) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Arts & Culture and Others Whether, in regard to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Autonomy of Rodrigues, he will state and table:

- (a) the sum earmarked therefor;
- (b) the expenses incurred per item for each event, and
- (c) if there has been any reallocation in respect thereof and, if so, to give details?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in response to part (a) of the question, the sum initially earmarked for the celebration of the Rodrigues Day in this current budget Rs 1.7 m.

Given the historical importance of the 20th Anniversary and after various discussion with the Executive Council, it was decided to organize more activities with respect to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Rodrigues Day and the budget was reviewed.

However, it is worth to note that different commissions and departments of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and sponsors/partners have considerably contributed for the realizations of the events/activities.

As regards to part (b) and (c) of the question, from information gathered from my Commission, I have to inform the House that we are still awaiting submissions of claims and bills from our suppliers. As such, the expenses per item incurred for each event is still being compiled.

A preliminary estimate is at Rs 9 m. and given the high importance of the celebration, the green light of the Executive Council was obtained and clearance to re-allocate from other items was obtained from the Chief Commissioner.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, let me assure the House, that as soon as all information are completed, I will submit and table same to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire des Arts et de la Culture, dans les cas où tous les bills ont déjà étaient reçus pour certains évènements, le 1 et 2 octobre, est-ce qu'il y a des paiements qui ont commencé à être effectué ?

Mr Ravina: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Est-il au courant qu'il y a des gens qui viennent tous les jours à son bureau chercher leur paiement, ceux qui ont travaillés le 2 octobre ?

Mr Ravina: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Needful will be done, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Ms Raffaut: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner for Arts and Culture inform the House whether there were only local artists involved during these activities?

Mr Ravina: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, only local artists.

Ms Raffaut: Can the Commissioner for Arts and Culture inform the House whether there was renting of materials from foreign firms?

Mr Ravina: No, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

**RODCLEAN CO. LTD – COMPOSITION OF BOARD/MONTHLY
PACKAGE/RESTRUCTURATION**

(No. B/102) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Rodclean Co. Ltd, he will obtain information, to state and table:

- (a) the detailed composition of the board of directors thereof, indicating, in each case, the terms and conditions of appointment;
- (b) the monthly pay package and other benefits drawn thereby, and
- (c) on any reorganisation/restructuration process therefor including the creation of new grades, promotion exercise, giving details?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Rodclean is a company fully owned by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and established in 2007 to cater for the cleaning services, transportation of waste, embellishment of the island, management of green waste and include also toilets maintenance.

The company is directed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Executive Council upon recommendation of the Commissioner to whom responsibility of the company has been assigned in accordance with Regulations 10 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Investment Management) Regulations 2008.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the day to day management of the company were entrusted to a Manager assisted by Administrative Personnel with an operational force of 195 workers and a fleet of lorries.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since its inception in 2007, the scope of work of the company has widened to cater for changing circumstances, including the increase in quantity of wastes produced and transferred daily. It is to be noted that according to characterization exercise carried out by my Commission in 2014 and 2020 respectively, the figures demonstrate a spectacular increase from 35 tonnes to 86 tonnes per week excluding inert wastes, electronic wastes and liquid wastes. It is to be noted that in 2014 the green waste component represented 34% as compared to 6% for 2020.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to reiterate to the House that the Board of Directors of Rodclean is approved by the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as per Regulations 10 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

(Investment Management) Regulations 2008 upon recommendations of the Commissioner to whom the responsibility of the company is assigned.

The Board of Directors of Rodclean is composed a Chairman, who is also the Managing Director, seven Directors and a secretary. The Board of Directors is appointed to facilitate the implementation of general policy as directed by the Commissioner as provided by the Regulations 17 of the said piece of legislation.

As regards to part (b), the Regulation 12(b) the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Investment Management) Regulations 2008 make provision for the remuneration of a Chairperson and Directors. In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Regulation stipulates that in case where the shares in a company are fully owned by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Executive Council shall decide on the remuneration of Directors and the Chairperson.

Mr Chairperson Sir, the Executive Council, has in view of the increased in the scope of Rodclean Ltd, included the cleaning and maintenance of 29 toilets around Rodrigues and also all toilets within Queen Elizabeth compound, all toilets with the Mont Lubin Health Care Centre and new flu clinic, all toilets within La Ferme Hospital, and all toilets in 11 government primary schools which are not mentioned in the contract agreement. Besides, with the construction of new track roads and the project of waste segregation at household level, the services of the company have been widened to cater for those needs. In addition, 50 new employees have been recruited in June 2021 over the 200 which were budgeted to allow Rodclean to deliver its services accordingly.

The allowance paid to the Chairperson of Rodclean and directors have been reviewed accordingly. The Directors are paid a monthly allowance of Rs 7,890 and the Chairperson who has been also given additional responsibility to act as Managing Director as per Regulation 13 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Investment Management) Regulations 2008 which stipulates that: -

“(1) The Board of Directors of a company may: -

- (a) appoint one member of the Board to the office of Managing Director; and that a Managing Director shall, subject to the terms of any agreement enter into in any particular case, receive such remuneration, whether by way of salary, benefits, etc. as the directors may determine.”*

/UNREVISED/

He is perceiving an allowance of Rs 45,000. The Board members, as I have just mentioned, and allowance of Rs 7,890 per month and also the Chairperson also receives a monthly telephone allowance of Rs 1,500.

As regards to part (c) Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that as I have reported above, the scope of work of Rodclean has widened and the need for additional type of labour force has become vital.

With the implementation of the waste segregation project at household level and following the distribution of 27,000 waste segregation bins to the household in Rodrigues, Rodclean has to put additional effort for the collection of recyclables around the island. In the same instance, with the construction of new track roads and new cleaning activities of Rodrigues in hospitals, health care centres and schools, the need for reorganisation is crucial.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have therefore, created the position of Chairman/Managing Director in line with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Investment Management) Regulations 2008. Furthermore, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the posts of 25 Refuse Collectors have been restyled to Plant and Machine Operators (including Bush Cutter, Trimmer, Chain Saw Operator, Limping Saw Operator and Blower) to cater for growing needs in the fields of bush cutting and trimming of grasses along roadside and other places.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, an internal promotion exercise has also been carried out by the company where 14 employees have been promoted to the posts as follows:

Internal Promotions		Qty	Remarks	Restyling of Post		Qty
From	To			From	To	
Supervisor	Acting Field	1		Refuse	Plant &	25
Team Leader	Acting	3				
Refuse	Watchman	6				
Refuse	Driver	2				
Refuse	Driver	2				
Refuse	Team Leader	1	Segregation			
Refuse	Office	1				
TOTAL		14		TOTAL		25

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House, that the employees of Rodclean have also been given confirmation letters in the respective grades with effect from 06 September 2022. A committee will be further set up to review the salaries of the different categories of workers in respect to the rate which are already established.

Mr Baptiste: I understand that there is now a Managing Director and I understand also that Rodclean had a Manager. Can I know what is the difference in the job descriptions between the role of a Manager and the role of the Managing Director?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I will ask the respected Member to Google and then see the difference between the Managing Director and a Director. Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Manager has its role whereas the Managing Director has its role. Because as I have explained, the activities of Rodclean has widened therefore, I brought a paper to the Executive Council, it was approved and then...

(Interruptions)

Can I continue, please?

It has gone to the Executive Council; it has been approved. So, the Managing Director is also the Executive Chairman. So, in order to facilitate decision taking and implementation – because one thing you have to bear in mind, Mr Chairperson, Sir, at times we have to take decisions in Rodclean. So, you know quite well what is the difference between a Manager and a Managing Director, I do not want to lose time but one thing is important, the creation of this post, the Managing Director, was very important because at times decision has to be taken and with the scope of work and with the increase in scope of work, so the two they have shared responsibilities and they are making things work. And, I would like to congratulate them for that.

Mr Baptiste: Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware that actually there is *justement* a big confusion on the part of employees. Because if I refer to the Investment Management Regulations that he has mentioned earlier, Regulation 21 (2), where it stipulates that an employee of the company shall be under the administrative control of the Board of Directors or any Managing Director or Manager appointed by the Board of Directors. And, because of this today, people are getting confused because everybody is coming to give different directives, different instructions and there is a general confusion. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner enlighten the House about what is the specific role of each of these?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: *Mr Chairperson, Sir, so far we have not received any complaint, first of all, from the employees. So, I know Rodclean is a team. C'est une équipe. Vous êtes en train de créer de la division dans cette équipe et vous n'allez pas pouvoir le faire. Le Managing Director en étant le Chairman, il a bien sûr lorsqu'il prend des décisions – et moi je leur ai dis – bien sûr il faut prendre des décisions ensemble avec le Manager. Dans ce style d'organisation ce qui se passe c'est qu'il y a un partage de responsabilité. C'est vrai le Chairman et puis on a le Manager, Chairman of the Board. Mais ce qui est important c'est ils agissent comme une équipe, M. le président. Ils travaillent en équipe. Et, si vous dites qu'il y a confusion, le Manager, le Managing Director etc., ça n'empêche pas que ces travailleurs-là ils travaillent jour et nuit, s'il le faut, ça n'empêche pas que ces gens-là gardent, par exemple... Un travailleur ne peut pas poser la question qui c'est qui est le Managing Director avant de faire son travail ? Donc, c'est la raison pour laquelle moi je dis, il n'y a pas eu de plainte. Et, je sais que le Managing Director, il a son rôle, le Manager lui aussi il a son rôle, moi aussi j'ai mon rôle à jouer, nous formons une équipe et nous travaillons ensemble. Ce n'est pas à moi de venir dire... Vous auriez dû poser la question et me dire *what is the scope of work of the Manager and that of the Managing Director*. Donc, vous n'avez pas pose cette question-là, alors vous savez très bien ce que c'est qu'un Managing Director, qu'est-ce que c'est qu'un Manager. Je préfère m'arrêter là. Merci.*

Mr Baptiste: So, as a Business study teacher, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner because I have read in many books like that for the quest of good governance, it is always advisable that Chairman should act as independent and non-executive director. So, is it not that this situation will give rise to conflict of interest being given that the Chairman who is supposed to be *le chien de garde* acting himself as the Managing Director and giving rise to sort of authoritative style of leading a company?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is the opinion of the respected Member, which I respect. The thing is that we have taken the decision. The Council has taken the decision and also it is allowed, Mr Chairperson, Sir. It is allowed. It is also our role to see to it that there is no conflict. To date there has been no conflicts and the company is working, is delivering and I am fully satisfied.

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: M. le président, j'ai écouté le Deputy Chief Commissioner, je voudrais savoir de lui, par rapport à toute cette restructuration, *restyling a new post – bien*

entendu ça aura un impact sur le budget, est-ce que tout ça va rentrer dans le budget prévu pour cette année financière ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il faut comprendre pourquoi on a créé Rodclean. L'esprit derrière la création de Rodclean à cette époque, peut-être qu'ils ne savent pas, c'est que si on avait à faire les travaux que Rodclean, la compagnie est en train de faire en ce moment, on aurait peut-être la moitié du budget de Rodrigues, de notre budget de la Commission, aurait été utilisé pour payer la compagnie. Donc, c'est vrai, il y a un montant qui a été *earmarked* mais s'il le faut – bien sûr j'ai parlé au Commissaire des Finances, on en discute dans l'Executive Council. Il faut prendre des décisions, M. le président, et il faut prendre des décisions courageuses. Parce que moi je pense qu'on parle d'île Rodrigues écologique. Si on veut vraiment que Rodrigues devienne une île écologique, il ne faut pas hésiter à investir dans la compagnie. Donc, oui, il y a une somme qui a été *earmarked* mais s'il faut augmenter, s'il faut *reallocate*, on va le faire en temps et lieu.

Mr Baptiste: The Deputy Chief Commissioner has talked about new additional grade for promotion, I would like to know whether there was *exercice d'appel de candidature pour la selection de ces candidats?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is a board. So, in fact, yes the board has decided and it is internal, of course. It should be *appel à proposition* and then there has been a selection exercise and they have been appointed and they have been promoted.

Mr Chairperson: A last question? Okay.

Mr Baptiste: I would like to know these promotion exercises these are temporary or permanent in nature?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il y a eu une exercice de promotion et je pense qu'ils sont *on probation* ceux qui ont été promus et bien sûr le board prendra une décision par la suite.

Mr Chairperson: It is high time for us to break for lunch. Break for one hour, please.

At 12.36 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 01.51 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr Chairperson: Member Baptiste.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS – RODCLEAN CO. LTD INITIATED IN 2022

(No. B/103) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recruitment process by Rodclean Co. Ltd initiated in 2022, he will obtain information to state and table:

- (a) when notice was made therefor, indicating the different means used;
- (b) the number of applications received and the number of candidates called for interview specifying the number of days' interviews were held;
- (c) the breakdown of the cost implication, and (d) if there has been any recruitment in relation thereto as at date, and, if not, why not?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Executive Council at its sitting dated 22 April 2022 has approved that Rodclean Ltd. be authorised to recruit additional casual workers to replace employees who have retired or resigned and to reinforce the actual labour force in connection with the cleaning of schools, hospitals and health centres amongst others.

Notice was therefore given by the company to the public through open advertisement through a communiqué on the local radio from 10 to 17 June 2022. The notice for recruitment was displayed at all the offices of Rodclean Ltd. namely at English Bay, Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin and La Ferme. The Advertisement was further affixed on all notice boards around Rodrigues and on social media to ensure a wider coverage.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regard to part (b), I wish to bring to the knowledge of the House that 3,564 applicants responded to the call for application at its closing date and 3,551 candidates were thereafter called for an interview.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the interviews took place over 12 days starting on the 11 July to end on 23 July 2022. Mr Chairperson, Sir, to facilitate the candidates for the interview, the personal interviews were decentralised as follows: English Bay Community Centre, English Bay Youth and Family Centre, Mont Plaisir Cultural and Leisure Centre and the La Ferme Youth Club.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regard to part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the costs involved for the interview exercise amounted to Rs 198,742 including a fee of Rs 2,000 per day for the chairperson, Rs 1,500 for member per day and Rs 700 for supporting staffs per day.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (d) of the question, I wish to inform the House that no recruitment has been made thereto as at date as the competent authority is presently carrying an inquiry into the matter.

However, being given the heavy workload at Rodclean Ltd and the dire need to recruit additional workers to meet the set target, a decision will be taken in due course for the recruitment of the new workers.

Mr Baptiste: I would request the Deputy Chief Commissioner if he can table for cost implication, please. And, by the way, I would like to know whether there is a certain number already defined, how many workers will be recruited? How many workers are expected to be recruited....?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: So, there was a recruitment exercise in 2021 where out of 200 labourers, only 50 have been recruited. Mr Chairperson, Sir, it will be around 100 new workers to be recruited around the Island by routine to work, to cater for all the services around the Island.

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Environment with respect to his answer that he gave formerly with respect to the promotion that has been made within the company itself? There has been promotion which has been made within the company from refuse collector to supervisor. I think that forcibly, there should be some gaps which remained unattended I should say. So, being given that there has been some promotion, does he not think fit that it is good that these vacancies are filled for the betterment of the company?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to the question. In fact, as I have said, there is a competent authority who is carrying out an inquiry into that exercise. And, we will take a decision shortly to recruit these additional workers.

Mr Baptiste: In the question, I requested to table. I would like to know whether you have the information, particularly for part (c).

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, will be tabled.

TOURISM RELATED PROJECTS – RODRIGUES ISLAND

(No. B/104) **Mrs R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K (Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to tourism related projects in Rodrigues island and its associated Islets, he will:

/UNREVISED/

- (a) state and table the list of applications received, processed and/or approved since the coming into office of the new regional government, together with the submission dates, the promoters and the expected investment for each project;
- (b) state if any project has been rejected and, if so, to give reasons therefor, and
- (c) give details on the procedures to follow for such projects?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) With respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed that 21 applications have been received with regard to tourism related projects in Rodrigues Island since the coming into Office of the new Regional Government with effect from 05 March 2022 as follows:

2 applications in the month of March 2022;

3 applications in the month of April 2022;

4 applications in the month of May 2022;

2 applications in the month of June 2022;

1 application in the month of July 2022;

1 application in the month of August 2022;

4 applications in the month of September 2022; and

4 applications in the month of October 2022.

I am informed that none of the applications received pertains per say to tourism projects on any of the islets surrounding Rodrigues.

That is, we have no project write-ups submitted. However, in a letter dated 31 May 2022, one Jean Jacques Constant claiming to be Société Ile aux Crabes, has submitted a request for development on Crab Island.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, these people are claiming that Crab Island forms part of their family heritage and in the letter, they are saying that they want to come up with a project of several modern luxury village taking into consideration, renewable and sustainable energy and facets. The contentious on the Crab Island is clear and we have already replied. Crab Island was never a private property. In 1820, the colonial government granted to Mr Maragon. He is fair and

successes. *Seulement la jouissance de l'îlots connu sous le nom de l'île aux Crabes est des fous pour y former un établissement de pêche à la charge.*

A copy of the title was registered and transcribed on Rodrigues. As mentioned in the title, one of the conditions of the grant of the *jouissance* was for the grantee to vacate the land at the first request of the government without any claim for indemnity. It can therefore be seen that government had never colonial or after colonial, had never granted full ownership rights over the Ilot Ile aux Crabes which has therefore remained state land. As such, the alleged sale in the file of the state land by Mrs Seraphine Pipon to Lisa Larose as per the purported document under the private signatures is null unvoid. Lisa Larose had no right to buy and Seraphine Pipon had no right to sell the said property because Maragon had only the *jouissance*. This is clear in the title deed.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am taking this matter seriously. I have information and documents pertaining that there has been a title deed which has been made by one C. L. for a sale, for a transaction with the sale for a transaction with the said J. J. D. C and they have this *société* and the said C. L. has brought Crab Island as part of the assets in the said *Société Ile aux Crabes*. All these transactions are illegal and we will take adequate action in due course.

For the rest of the projects, Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given that all the projects are still at consideration and application evaluation stage, I consider it unethical to disclose the names of promoters and their expected investment for the projects as each promoter has ownership over his/her personal information and thus, we have the ethical obligations to respect and protect the privacy and confidential nature of the information that they have entrusted to us.

We will submit upon questions or statements those who eventually receive or approve and receive leases.

Subsequently, I am only tabling the number of applications received for tourism related projects on a monthly basis as from March 2022.

- (b) As regards part (b), I am informed that no project has been rejected to date as all the applications received are still under consideration.
- (c) Regarding part (c) of the question, I would like to inform the House that the Executive Council at its meeting held on Friday 30 September 2022 has decided

/UNREVISED/

to review the administrative procedures for the evaluation of commercial and industrial projects by Invest Rodrigues and restyle the Entrepreneurship Committee to the Business Project Evaluation Committee so as to ensure that all approved investment projects in Rodrigues are in line with the vision and policy of the Regional Government.

Henceforth, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the administrative procedures for the evaluation of all commercial and industrial projects have been streamlined to include the following five distinct stages as follows:

First: Application Stage

- All applicants for projects are submitted to Invest Rodrigues; and
- The project will be screened based on the promoter's profile and capacity to implement the project.

Second: Policy Clearance Stage

- All applications for projects will be referred to the Executive Council through the Commissioner responsible for Industrial Development for policy clearance; and
- The promoter is informed whether his/her project is being considered further or rejected.

Third: Technical Stage

- After the green light of the Executive Council, the project is referred to the appropriate authorities for views and clearances; and
- Upon receipt of technical views, the Business Project Evaluation Committee (BPEC) formerly the Entrepreneurship Committee will technically assess the project so as to ensure compliance with the existing laws and regulations.

Fourth: Land Lease Stage

/UNREVISED/

- Upon recommendation of the Business Projects Evaluation Committee (BPEC), projects are referred to the Commission for State Lands for planning views and confirmation for potential sites for the project;
- Recommendations are submitted through the Departmental Head to the Commissioner for State Lands for approval; and
- The Commission for State Lands informs Invest Rodrigues accordingly.

Fifth: Approval Stage

- The recommended projects through the Departmental Head are referred to the Commissioner responsible for Industrial Development, who may decide to refer the projects to the Executive Council for approval; and
- Once approval is obtained, the promoter is informed and lease procedures are initiated by the Cadastral Office.

Mr Chairperson Sir, the rationale behind the review of administrative procedures for the approval of commercial and industrial projects in Rodrigues are as follows:

- (i) It is mandatory that a Regional Government has an overview over the type of developmental, commercial or industrial projects being implemented on the island so as to ensure that all projects meet the needs of the island for sustainable economic and social development growth.
- (ii) Exercising policy control by Policy makers regarding projects to be implemented to ensure that projects are in line with the policy of the Regional Government. For instance, under the former procedures, applications may meet all assessment criteria when being assessed by the relevant Authorities but not in line with the Policy of the Regional Government which involves a waste of time in processing projects that the Regional Government does not want to approve.

Thank you.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, en lien avec le projet dont le Chef commissaire a parlé sur le *Crab Island*, donc, d'après ce qu'il a partagé, il y a eu une lettre pour un projet. Donc, il paraît que le gouvernement régional souhaite garder, maintenir cette îlot, donc, entre les mains de l'Etat. On a vu qu'à Maurice, nous avons le *Islet and Off-shore Unit* où nous avons 49 *islets* définis et le *Crab Island* ne forme pas partie de cette liste et parmi ces 49, il y a certains qui sont déclarés comme *nature reserve* et d'autres *national park*, est-ce que le Chef commissaire contemple la possibilité de faire, d'assurer que Ile aux Crabes soit parmi cette liste, sous le *Islet and Off-shore Unit*?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is already a livestock breeding centre as you are aware for sheep. So, the question of maybe converting Ile aux Crabes to a better purpose, nature reserve or maybe a good tourism project for the benefit of the whole island maybe by Discovery Rodrigues or an organisation of the Regional Assembly. The matter will be looked upon but the question here which the Minority Leader, I invite her to seize, it is the question of ownership of Ile aux Crabes. I repeat and I want the Opposition to support us on this issue: Ile aux Crabes has never been a private island and it will never be a private island. In reply to the letter sent by the Representative of Société Ile aux Crabes, in a letter dated 31 August, the Departmental Head has informed him that the island Ile aux Crabes which forms part of land invested in the state has now been transferred to the Regional Assembly and Government has full ownership over the Ile aux Crabes.

The person has therefore been requested not to take any action in regard to Ile aux Crabes because this would be in illegality. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I deplore the acts and doings of some people here in Rodrigues who claim to be the heirs of the late Ms Lisa Larose. As I have said, the title deed which has been registered and which is available for consultation is not a grant of land. It is *jouissance*. It was given to Maragon for operation of a *pêcherie*. What these people are believing is that it was given as a concession which is not the fact and they have entered into an illegal act with a notary in Mauritius and they are insisting that they will go ahead with their project. I have to warn them that we will not allow this to happen and we will use all legal and existing statutory framework to prevent and to forbid them from doing this. Ile aux Crabes is a common heritage of all the people of Rodrigues.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, sur une autre question, un autre volet par rapport à la question posée, donc, est-ce que le Chef commissaire nous confirme qu'il n'y a aucun projet d'hôtel approuvé jusqu'ici depuis son entrée au gouvernement?

The Chief Commissioner: Reply confirmation is no, Mr Chairperson, Sir. No hotel project has been approved per say. We are only at application stage. As I repeat, on the 30 June, we have reviewed the application stage. We have recently considered a number of projects which we have given our policy clearance. These are still in process. We are at step 2 and therefore, no lease has been granted by us. We have on the contrary been put into fait accompli regarding certain projects, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We have for example, one Société Civile Balao Bay for hotel projects at Anse Ali which has been given one *arpent*. 10000 m2 of land at Anse Ali behind the Anse Ali Beach. I have instructed being given the sensitivity of the site, instructed the respected Commissioner for Environment and also for Building Permits to see to it that this project goes in line with environment requirements. There needs to be an EIA. They have also allocated, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a number of other projects for people who do not seem to be connected to Rodrigues. I see here the name of the project at Anse Ali is Claverie, Société Civile Balao Bay. I see there, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a container and a CIS House has been built and connected to electricity. We are looking into the matter.

Mrs Gaspard Pierre Louis: Can the Chief Commissioner tell the House whether there has been any timeframe defined between the time of application and for the processing of the project.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the shadow Chief Commissioner, I would say must be aware that there is no timeframe specific for any project. It all depends on each individual project, how the project is, whether the project is in line with other policy, whether they have submitted all the documents, whether they pay their reservation fees and they comply to all sorts of requirements such as the EIA and other aspects. There are multiple stages, application stage after all the approvals. They receive a letter of reservation where they have to pay and they have to submit their plans. After that, they have a letter of intent and then, after that, they have a lease and there are conditions of the lease. Most of them are for 18 months' completion and they have to comply to these.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, a number of people not from Rodrigues, it is desirable that they invest in Rodrigues because people in Rodrigues, we do not have 80-200 million rupees to invest in hotel projects. We have a number of, I would say for Rodrigues, large establishments, two or three. We want to encourage maybe one or two more but our main policy is to encourage tourism *chez l'habitant* like we already have and which is very successful. Encourage Rodriguans to have 1000/2000 m2 of land and to develop it, have four, six, 10 up to 15 rooms according to the tourism regulations and we have seen a number of Rodriguans themselves

have invested in it and they are earning good cash, good money despite the crisis of the COVID and the water problem. And, also, there is staff issues. It is not easy at times to find good staff who are prepared to work in the specific conditions of the tourism industry. We have to encourage the development of the tourism industry in an inclusive manner. This week, we will have the finalisation, review of the Tourism Development Plan and this goes in line.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

ROAD SAFETY – PORT MATHURIN – RUE DE LA SOLIDARITE

(No. B/105) The First Local Region Member of Oyster Bay (Mr N. Lisette) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to road safety in Port Mathurin, more specifically, in Rue de la Solidarité, he will:

- (a) enlighten the House as to the reason of the change in the opening hours thereof, and
- (b) state the measures he is contemplating to increase safety overall especially with the coming of the end of year festivities?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that on Tuesday 08 March of this year, I chaired the Road Safety Committee and the change in the opening of the “Rue de la Solidarité” was thoroughly discussed amongst one of the items on agenda. Consequently, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in order to ease the traffic flow in Port Mathurin, especially Kennel Bégué Street, it has been proposed to reopen the vehicular traffic with respect to the junction of Père Gandy Street to Hajibay Fatehmamode. However, for the safety of all road users, the abovementioned junctions will remain closed during the peak hours on weekdays, that is, from 08.00 hours – 09.00 hours and in the afternoon, 14.00 hours to 15.00 hours.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Port Mathurin is a port-town and the economic/commercial activities are concentrated around this location. Consequently, the rationale behind this change has been motivated by striking the right balance between safety of all road users and the economic and commercial activities of Port Mathurin.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has also been discussed and proposed that parking will remain prohibited along the street from 09.00 hours to 16.00 hours during weekdays and Saturdays.

The above proposal was further discussed at the level of the Executive Council and approved accordingly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I also wish to inform the House that my office has constantly monitored the traffic flow along Solidarité Street and so far, no complaint has been received following this change.

As regards to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, roads in Port Mathurin will be temporarily closed during the end of year activities at specific times to enable pedestrians to have access to shops safely. This aspect will be on agenda of the next Road Safety Committee and the details of the decision comprising the different streets to be closed and the effective date shall be communicated to the population through the media.

Thank you.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the issue of parking that has been mentioned by the Deputy Chief Commissioner, I would like to ask him if he has noted that even during the closing time of the road, there are still vehicles which are being parked there.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I will take note of his observation, Mr Chairperson, Sir, but this is a question of enforcement. The Police has to do his part of the job and I will take the matter to the Road Safety Committee to see to it that there is no parking during the closing period of these roads at Port Mathurin.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner about the new sense being caused during the opening hours meaning from 09.00 to 15.00 hours when during that time, there are a lot of consumers who come for shopping and view the size of the road, it is causing a safety hazard during that time between 09.00, especially at peak time when consumers are coming for shopping at Solidarité Street.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, peak time, it all depends what is considered as peak time. As I have just mentioned, peak time for us, is between 08.00 and 09.00 hours and in afternoon, 14.00 to 15.00 hours. But so far, as I have said, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have not received any complaint regarding the issue of opening of the Solidarité Street. And I would also to mention, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that we are following, there is a follow-up of the traffic flow around the different streets of Port Mathurin. That is why I have just mentioned that we are going to take this in the next Road Safety Committee so that we can take actions accordingly.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, whenever there is a change in policy as regard to opening of street in Port Mathurin, the Road Safety Committee used to make some observations, especially, the members as regard to the technical. The technical members of the

Committee, they used to go and observe how this, whether the matter is working or is causing *inconfort* to the public. And, as I have mentioned, in fact, there is some miscomfort that is being caused during that. Whereas in peak time, it is the peak time when there are most consumers which are doing the shopping in the Solidarité Street. I would like to ask him whether there has been a technical observation by the technical members of the Road Safety Committee and in a report which has been made thereon.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to this part of the question.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS/FOOTPATHS (LOT 6)

(No. B/106) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of track roads/footpaths (Lot 6), he will state and table:

- (a) when tender was launched and the closing date thereof;
- (b) the list of bidders, indicating the respective bids, and the name of the successful bidder;
- (c) the length constructed, and
- (d) the lists thereof under construction and earmarked to be constructed indicating their respective length, exact location and electoral region?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding the construction of track roads/footpaths around the Island, the construction of about 30 Km Track Roads including Footpaths and other civil works in Rodrigues for the Year 2021-2023 was launched on 02 August 2021 with closing date 14 September 2021.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that a lot is defined in the tender as composed of different sites spread over the island and shall be about 5km. This is the definition for lot and the completion date of a lot shall be eight months after the start of the first Works Order.

As regards part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the list of bidders is as follows:

- i. Trivan & Co. Ltd – Lot 1, 4, 5 & 6;
- ii. Transinvest Construction Ltd – Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; and

iii. Laxmanbhai & Co. (Mauritius) Ltd – Lot 2, 4 & 5.

and the successful bidders were:

i. Laxmanbhai & Co. (Mauritius) Ltd - Lot 2, 4 & 5; and

ii. Trivan & Co. Ltd - Lot 6

Regarding part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the lengths constructed are as follows:

i. Lengths constructed in Lots 2 & 4 by Laxmanbhai & Co. (Mauritius) Ltd is of about 3.1km.

ii. Surveys and necessary drawings are presently ongoing by Trivan & Co. Ltd and works orders for track roads under Lot 6 will be issued shortly.

As regards to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the list is still being compiled.

Mr Baptiste: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he is contemplating to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of track roads in the different regions all around the Island, given that he has mentioned that sites spread over the Island for Lot 6 itself, I would like to know whether, the measurements are being done for different regions of the Island, for this Lot 6.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Je comprends la question du respecté membre mais nous, nous avons d'autres *policies*. Lorsqu'on va, par exemple, M. le président, visiter les gens dans les morcellements, on a donné des baux aux gens dans des morcellements sans construire une route. Il n'y a pas d'*amenities* et ça, depuis 10 ans. Alors, nous, on s'est dit c'est vrai il y a la question d'équité mais aussi, il y a une réalité qu'il faut prendre en considération. Par exemple, les gens de Mourouk, ils ont des difficultés dans les morcellements. Les gens de Cascade Jean Louis, ils ont des difficultés, Baladirou etcetera. Donc, nous, ce qu'on est en train de faire, bien sûr, on est en train de voir tout ça. Mais s'assurer que dans toutes les régions de l'île, on construit des *track roads*. Il y a aussi des gens, des centaines. Il faut que j'ajoute cela. Il y a des centaines auxquels on a promis des *track roads*. Ces gens-là, ils ont maintenant 102 ans, 103 ans. Donc, ils n'ont pas de *track roads*. Donc là, on doit aussi aller construire les *track roads* pour eux, bien sûr donnant priorité à des gens qui sont autrement capables et des personnes âgées. Donc, nous allons bien sûr nous assurer que dans les différentes régions de l'île, on va construire des *track roads* mais nous aussi, on a nos priorités et nos propres *policy* sur la construction de *track road*.

Mr Baptiste: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner in relation to *clivant* he has mentioned, can we know when the contract was awarded and when handing over of site was done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, for information I have, is that surveys and nature drawings are presently ongoing by Trivan & Co. Ltd and Works Orders for track roads will be issued shortly. So, I do not have the exact dates where they have been awarded etcetera. So, I will invite the Member to come with a substantive question for more precision. Thank you.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS – WORKS ORDER

(No. B/107) Dr H. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of roads, he will state:

- (a) the number of Works Order issued since March 2022 and to table the list and related costs thereof, and
- (b) where matters stand with respect to projects for the construction of roads from Brûlé to Rivière Banane and Rivière Coco to Songes?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that since March 2022, that is, the past eight months, seven Works Orders have been issued for a total amount of Rs 81,610,875. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the requested information.

As regards to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the overall length of road from Brûlé to Rivière Banane is approximately 3.5 km and the implementation of the project is being done in phases.

Phase 1 from Bel Air to Rivière Banane of length 2 km and has already been completed.

As for phase 2, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from Bel Air to Brûlé, part of the proposed road alignment falls within private land. Therefore, what we are doing, the alignment is being revised to minimise cost on acquisition of private land and procedures thereto are ongoing.

As a safety measure for road users, patching works have been done to upgrade that section of the road.

As regards to the road Rivière Coco to Songes, I am informed that the total length of the road is about 4.2 km of which 1.5 km have already been constructed starting from Rivière Coco.

A Works Order for the construction of the road and box culvert at Anse Raffin near Football Ground amounting to Rs 18.5 m. is presently being implemented and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is envisaged to continue with further upgrading of the existing works towards Songes in the near future. Thank you.

Dr Agathe: M. le président, je voudrais être le relai des habitants de Rivière Bananes qui font part d'une grande inquiétude qu'ils ont du fait des dangers qu'il y a sur une portion de la route Bel Air à Brûlé. Il y a une section où notamment, il n'y a pas de visibilité. La route est très étroite où lorsqu'il y a des bus remplis de monde qui montent, des fois, il y a des voitures qui doivent se croiser, c'est le bus qui doit faire la marche arrière et que là, il y a vraiment des dangers d'accidents et qu'il y aurait matière pour je pense accélérer les choses. Et je voudrais savoir qu'est-ce que vous envisagez de faire pour que ce problème de risque soit considéré....

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, c'est vrai que c'est un danger qui a toujours été là depuis 10 ans. Donc, ils n'ont pas considéré comme étant une priorité mais quand même, nous, on s'est dit il faut continuer le projet. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai parlé de réalignement. Il faudrait réaligner cette route-là parce que c'est vrai que c'est dangereux avec un nombre grandissant de véhicule qu'il y a sur Rodrigues en ce moment. Il faudra voir. Donc, je rassure le membre qu'on va continuer le projet. Il faut à travers lui, rassurer aussi les habitants de la région, qu'on va... c'est une question de sécurité et qu'on ira de l'avant avec ce projet-là et après, l'acquisition des terrains privés, des terrains privés, des terrains en toutes propriétés. Merci.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that there was already an alignment which has already been worked out by the Consultant as regard to the Rivière Banane/Brûlé Road.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, peut-être ça a été approuvé par son bureau. Maintenant, il y a un autre bureau. Donc, il faut comprendre. Il faut que vous compreniez une fois pour toute qu'il y a un autre gouvernement, il y a un autre commissaire, nous avons nos priorités, nous avons notre politique à nous. Bien sûr, il peut y avoir des réalignements mais nous, on a retravaillé. Sous ma direction, on a retravaillé la route

parce qu'on a, c'est vrai, les consultants. Oui, il y a les consultants qui ont travaillé. Mais ces consultants viennent d'où ? Les consultants, ils viennent d'ailleurs. Nous, on connaît. Et moi, je fais confiance à mes ingénieurs. C'est eux les vrais consultants. C'est eux qui connaissent la réalité de Rodrigues et nous avons discuté ensemble. Nous avons travaillé et on va bien sûr, s'il faut reconsidérer, je peux reconsidérer mais on en a discuté. On a vu qu'il faut réaligner cette route parce qu'il y a danger, il y aura danger dans le futur et on prendra les décisions qu'il faut et on prendra des décisions courageuses. S'il faut prendre beaucoup plus de terrains, on va certainement le faire.

Dr Agathe: Je voudrais quand même attirer l'attention de cette Assemblée, de cette Chambre sur les difficultés qu'on a parfois avec la manière de programmer les routes lorsqu'on a une affaire à faire l'acquisition des terrains privés et que très souvent, ça traîne. Alors, j'aimerais donc souligner encore une fois, l'importance donc, d'adresser ce risque parce que d'accord, il peut y avoir des changements d'orientation mais il y a aussi un risque à considérer. Donc, c'est pour cela je voudrais demander à ce que ce problème de risque soit entretenu dans le meilleur délai parce qu'il y a un risque.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je prends note de la demande du respecté membre.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the option that we opted for was to go for the same alignment with respect to the existing track. That was what we opted for. So, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner to give a general outline if any as regard to the new alignment that his Commission is proposing.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is being worked out and if the Member wants to come with a substantive question, I will be glad to answer in the near future.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

MISSION – REUNION ISLAND/OCTOBER 2022

(No. B/108) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to the mission in Reunion Island in October 2022, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the composition of the delegation and their respective capacity for participation therein;

- (b) the total expenses incurred by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly per item therefor, and
- (c) how many tourists' enterprises participated in the mission therefor?

Mr Wong So: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' which is a B2B and B2C annual event is being organised by the Rodrigues Tourism Office since 2006 in market regions such as Mauritius, Reunion Island and France. Consequently, the most recent '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' in Reunion Island was held in June 2019.

With the reopening of borders as well as the resumption of commercial flights between Rodrigues and Mauritius, the destination can now welcome national and international visitors. There was a decrease in the number of visitors from Reunion Island in 2019. Subsequently, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in view to maximising the Return of Investment (ROI) of our marketing activities in this specific region, the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' in Reunion Island has been scheduled to start a few days prior to the official launch of '*Les Florilèges*' which was held from the 07 to 16 October 2022.

This 2022 edition was thus aimed at gathering meaningful data from stakeholders in Reunion Island through a workshop and networking cocktail in St Gilles. The major activities of the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' has been focused in the town of Tampon to reach a greater number of potential visitors. Hence, in the context of this 2022 edition of the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' which was held in Reunion Island from 07 to 16 October 2022, the official delegation from Rodrigues headed by the Chief Commissioner was composed of the following members:

- Mr Johnson Roussety, Chief Commissioner;
- Mr Jean Alain Wong So, Commissioner for Tourism;
- Mr Jean Pierre Claudarel Botshare, Director Discovery Rodrigues;
- Ms Issana Agathe, Manager of Rodrigues Tourism Office;
- Mr Jean Ferdinand Yeung Yin Shin, Tourism Promotion Officer (RTO);
- Ms Marie Caroline Remy, Tourism Promotion Officer (RRA) from the Commission for Tourism;
- Mr Jean François Collet, Media/Reporter;
- Ms Marie Aline Fong Kye, Representative of ATR;
- Mr Jean Cledino Edouard, Singer;
- Mr Mackenzy Gentil, Keyboardist, and

- The Traditional Dance Group, '*Union Tradisyonel Rodrigues*', comprising of 10 artists.

In relation to part (b), Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to emphasise that the event's expenses were shared by the Commission for Tourism and Rodrigues Tourism Office/Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd. As a result, an overall amount of Rs 398,284 has been met under the Commission for Tourism's budget for expenses incurred pertaining to air tickets, Per Diem and Entertainment Allowances, Insurance Cover, airport and inland transfers, dinner hosted by the Chief Commissioner, and bouquets for wreath laying ceremony in favor of Rodrigues Regional Assembly official, the Chief Commissioner, Commissioner for Tourism and the Tourism Promotion Officer.

As regards, expenses incurred by Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd/Rodrigues Tourism Office in favour of the other members of the delegation pertaining to costs of air tickets, stipend, accommodation, insurance cover, transport as well as logistics for workshops, Rodriguan cocktail, roadshow, promotional materials and others amounted to Rs 2,110,533.40.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the last part of the question, I would like to inform that some 22 tourism operators participated in the mission/event on their own costs. I thank you for your kind attention, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que je peux demander au Commissaire du Tourisme, y-a-t-il eu un soucis/problème par rapport dans le cadre des protocoles normalement établies pour l'approbation des missions payer par l'Assemblée Régionale pour le déplacement lors de cette délégation ?

Mr Wong So: M. le président, ici dans cette même Assemblée, il y avait une question qui avait été posé pendant le mois de juin pour le renvoi justement de cette tournée à La Réunion et on avait promis à cette Chambre qu'on allait avoir justement cette tournée. Cette fois-ci on a voulu dans un premier temps avoir d'une pierre deux coups, c'est-à-dire, faire en sorte à ce que vienne coïncider la Tournée Rodriguaise avec 'Les Florilèges' justement pour créer un meilleur impact. Ceci dit nous restons toujours à l'écoute pour d'autre proposition mais c'était le but principal, c'est de pouvoir *cut cost* et en même temps joindre les deux à la fois. C'est-à-dire, faire la Tournée Réunionnaise et en même temps être présent dans 'Les Florilèges' parce que cette activité date depuis 2006, comme vous le savez déjà.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, monsieur le Commissaire n'a pas répondu à la question. J'ai demandé, dans le cadre de ce déplacement, il y a un protocole habituellement

qu'on met en place, qui est déjà établi, quand le gouvernement finance le déplacement d'une équipe, d'une délégation surtout quand il y a des membres officiels. Je connais la 'Tournée Rodriguaise' à la Réunion. J'ai demandé y-a-t-il eu un souci particulier dans le cadre de ce projet de promotion à La Réunion en lien avec les procédures habituelles suivies ?

Mr Wong So: M. le président, pas à ma connaissance. Je sais que tous a été fait d'après les normes et les procédures qui sont établis par le Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je cherche une précision auprès du Commissaire du Tourisme. Est-ce que c'est vrai qu'il y a eu une lettre émanant du Prime Minister's Office (PMO) mentionnant que l'Assemblée Régionale ne doit pas prendre en charge les déplacements des artistes ?

Mr Wong So: A l'heure où je vous parle, je ne suis pas au courant de cette lettre, madame. Nous avons la chance dans cette Assemblée, au niveau du *Rodrigues Regional Assembly* de pouvoir développer les *policies* concernant le tourisme propre à nous.

**OFFICE SPACES – EMPLOYMENT/LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS –
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING/MONT LUBIN**

(No. B/109) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Employment and Others whether, in regard to the outfits for office spaces relating to employment, labour and industrial relations, in the administrative building of Mont Lubin, he will state if any tender procedure was initiated by his Commission, and if so, to give details thereof, indicating: -

- (a) the name of the successful bidder;
- (b) the contract value;
- (c) the scope of works, and
- (d) an update on the status thereof?

Mr Wong So: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that following the completion of the New Administrative Block at Mont Lubin, one of the buildings, Block H, has been allocated to my Commission to house the Employment and Labour and Industrial Offices on the ground and first floor, respectively.

As such, in regard to the outfits for office spaces relating to Employment, Labour, and Industrial Relations in the administrative building of Mont Lubin, my Commission has

effectively launched a tender through Restricted Bidding Procurement Method for partitioning works in Block H at the New Administrative Block at Mont Lubin on 09 June 2022, with nine potential bidders shortlisted and invited to bid. The bid submission deadline was thus set for 23 June 2022, at 1.30 p.m.

However, only five bids were received at the opening of bids, and after a technical and financial evaluation of the bids by a Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC), the contract for partitioning works in Block H at the New Administrative Block at Mont Lubin was awarded to the successful bidder, Mr Jean Claude Clair, on 16 August 2022 for the total amount of Rs 1,667,188 exclusive of VAT, as the lowest responsive bidder.

The scope of works of the project consisted mainly of the following:

- (i) Supply, manufacture and fixing of aluminum partitions at different blocks of the building;
- (ii) Supply and fixing/installation of aluminum support, and
- (iii) Installation of additional sockets.

Following that, in response to part (d) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that the contract/tender has been terminated and cancelled because the project is no longer required.

You may recall, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that on 06 September 2022, during the session of this august Assembly, my Colleague, the Commissioner for Health and Others, made an announcement regarding his Commission's acquisition of all buildings located within the Administrative Block at Mont Lubin to be entirely converted into a new Hospital Area. As a result, Block H was not given to the Commission for Tourism and Others as originally intended to house the Employment Office and Labour and Industrial Relations Office.

The contractor has thus been given immediate instructions to stop works on 06 September 2022 as the project is no longer necessary. Consequently, a meeting under the chairmanship of the Departmental Head of my Commission with the contractor and the Project Manager was held on 07 September 2022 to discuss the matter. Two options were put forth, as follows:

- (i) To cancel the tender and pay the contractor for all materials already acquired, which will remain the property of the Commission after payment of the compensation, and secondly,

- (ii) To transfer the contract to the Commission for Health and Others because partitioning works will be needed in the building.

It is however to be noted, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the site was handed over to the contractor on 31 August 2022 and works were due to start on 07 September 2022. Hence, following the submission of a survey report conducted by the Project Manager with the Commission for Health, which stated that the scope of works proposed by the latter consisted of only 104 m² of partitioning works as opposed to 200 m² for the initial contract, representing only 57.5 % of the initial extent of works. The Departmental Board Committee (DBC) at its meeting held on 20 September 2022 decided to cancel the said contract/tender and appropriate procedures as per the Public Procurement Act for the cancellation of the contract/tender were initiated with the Office of the Island Chief Executive, who is the Responsible Officer for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Subsequently, Mr Chairperson Sir, the cancellation of the bid was approved by the Island Chief Executive on 31 October 2022. As a result, thereof, the Project Manager has been requested to evaluate the work begun at Block H and the materials purchased by the contractor before considering payment of the appropriate compensation to the latter. I thank you Mr Chairperson, Sir for your attention.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, does this mean that there was no communication/discussion between the Commissioner for Labour and his colleague Commissioner. Because I understand that Block H was initially allocated to the Commission for Tourism and Labour and tender procedures were initiated/awarded and then later on he learned that this will not be the property of the Commission for Tourism. Is it not that there is a problem of communication and management?

Mr Wong So: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I said in my answer, there was really a consultation for the Commission for Health before going ahead with the project but on the 06 September 2022, the decision was taken by the Commissioner for Health to go ahead with the all the buildings in this complex to be converted into a Hospital Area. That is why. This is the answer.

Mr Baptiste: I do not want to comment more on this. But is it not a misuse of public fund to award a contract and then cancel it, no work being done and then to compensate for things that have not been done easy. Is it not a waste of government, of public money? And, this is not in line with...

/UNREVISED/

Mr Wong So: Respected Member, I do respect your opinion but at times we should have priorities also and for the time being health is having our priority.

**ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN - DISCOVERY RODRIGUES CO LTD
– FROM AUGUST 2022**

(No. B/110) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to activities undertaken by the Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd from August 2022 to date, he will obtain information to state on the financial status thereof as at date?

Mr Wong So: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd is a private company owned by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and which operates under the aegis of the Commission for Tourism. The company was incorporated on 15 November 2006 and consequently, this year marks its 16 years of operation.

It is however to be noted that the company is segmented into two (2) different sections, namely, the Rodrigues Tourism Office which officiates as the body responsible for the marketing and promotional activities pertaining to the Rodrigues Destination. On the other hand, the Discovery Site Management is the second part of the company which manages the two main tourist sites, namely Caverne Patate and Ile aux Cocos.

The Rodrigues Tourism Office is financed partly by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority. As such, the main objectives of the Company are:

- To develop, operate and manage tourist sites vested in the company by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly; and
- To ensure efficient and environment-friendly development of tourist's attraction sites, respecting all ecological and environmental norms.

In this regard, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that the Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd has carried out the following major activities since August 2022 to date:

- (a) Participation in the International-French-Travel Market-Top Resa (IFTM) held in France from 20 to 22 September 2022;
- (b) Organisation of the '*Tournée Rodriguaise*' in Reunion Island from 04 to 07 October 2022. Some 22 Tourism entrepreneurs participated in the event;
- (c) Les Florilèges – Exhibition in Reunion Island from the 07 to 16 October 2022;

/UNREVISED/

- (d) Participation in the Voyage de Pêche – Press Trip from France (Magazine) from 05 to 20 October 2022;
- (e) Eductour in Rodrigues by Travel Counsellor from 08 to 12 October 2022;
- (f) Participated in the '*Salon du Prêt-à-Partir*', a Regional Fair in Mauritius which was held at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre (SVICC), Pailles from 21 to 23 October 2022;
- (g) Production of an underwater video and several teasers of the island by French professional cinematographer headed by Mr Kevin Sempe in Rodrigues from 20 October to 02 November 2022, and
- (h) Participation at the World Travel Market (WTM), an International Fair held in the UK from 07 to 09 November 2022.

Concerning the company's financial situation in terms of expenses incurred in connection with these activities and operating/running costs of the company and the Rodrigues Tourism Office as of today. I would like to inform the House, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the current expenses are Rs 4,403,785.17, out of which Rs 3.1 m. is for the item Promotion and Rs 1.3 m. is for the company's operation/running costs from July to October 2022.

Furthermore, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the total revenue collected by the company from August 2022 to date in respect of the Caverne Patate and Iles aux Cocos sites is Rs 370,475, comprising Rs 275,875 from the Caverne Patate and Rs 94,600 from the Iles aux Cocos sites, respectively.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in relation to the financial status of Discovery Rodrigues Co Ltd, may I take this opportunity to inform the House that when I took office in March 2022, one of my top priorities was to give clear instructions to follow a good governance approach to activities pertaining to my Commission, but to my great surprise, I have been informed that financial statements have not been filled for many previous years and that the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has not been informed. Following negotiations in which we were charged more than Rs 5 m., we eventually paid nearly Rs 1.4 m., and the company was able to save more than Rs 3.8 m. as the company hired the services of AUDITAX Associates, a Professional Auditor to assist the Assessment Review Committee panel so as to get it sorted out. Consequently, strict instructions have been given to all parties concerned to henceforth, to ensure that Financial Statement are duly prepared and submitted on time after each

corresponding closing of financial year as no late submission or omission thereof will be tolerated. I thank you Mr Chairperson, Sir for your kind attention.

STAFFING - CARDIAC DEDICATED UNIT/RODRIGUES

(No. B/111) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel)

Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to staffing to operate the Cardiac Dedicated Unit in Rodrigues, he will inform the House:

- (a) if a selection exercise has been carried out therefor and, in the affirmative, to give details thereof, and
- (b) of the conditions attached therewith together with the facilities that will be made available to selected candidates?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, the selection of the candidates was approved amongst those with prior experience in the field of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Operation Theatre (OT) by the Executive Council at its meeting of 18 July 2022.

As regards to part (b) of the question, the candidates following training at Cardiac Centre are provided with air ticket, accommodation and refund of transport as well as allowances as prescribed in the PRB Report 2021.

Mr Ramdally: Can I confirm with the Commissioner if this selection exercise was done by the Executive Council?

Mr Volbert: The answer for you, respected Member Ramdally. As regards, to part (a) of the question, the selection of candidates were approved amongst those with prior experience in the field of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Operation Theatre (OP) by the Executive Council at its meeting of 18 July 2022.

Mr Ramdally: So, prior to this approval by the Executive Council, was there a board that was put in place for this selection exercise?

Mr Volbert: Taking consideration of confidentiality, I am not allowed to disclose same.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, whether there was a board of selection for this exercise?

Mr Volbert: I have answered thrice for Mrs Minority Leader. The selection of the candidate was approved amongst those with prior experience in the field of Intensive Care Unit and Operation Theatre. I have already answered to the question.

The Minority Leader: Can we know then from the Commissioner, how many applications we received and how many were rejected?

Mr Volbert: I do not have the information right now.

The Minority Leader: Can we know from the Commission for Health, how many staffs will be trained for the service?

Mr Volbert: Nine Nursing Officers, both male and female. They are actually following on job-training at the Cardiac Centre, Trust Fund in Mauritius. Two Charge Nurse, one male and one female. And, seven Nursing Officers, both male and female.

Mr Randally: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner, whether at any point in time, in this exercise was the Health Director involved in this exercise?

Mr Volbert: I am not aware. You may come with a substantive question next time.

Mr Chairperson: Time is over.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER

MISSIONS TO MAURITIUS – COMMISSION FOR HEALTH

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr Volbert): Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that as at date I have affected six missions in Mauritius and all my missions have been fruitful as detailed below:

First Mission

A delegation of seven persons from my Commission of myself, the Acting Departmental Head, the Acting Nursing Administrator (Female), the Hospital Administrator, the Chairperson and two members of the Rodrigues Health Advisory Committee proceeded to Mauritius from 18 to 24 April 2022 for the first mission.

The objectives of the mission were:

- (i) to meet and strengthen the relationship between the different parent Ministries working with the Commission for Health, Fire and Rescue and Social Security so as to ensure uniformity in the delivery of public services, and

/UNREVISED/

- (ii) to enable better communication and provision of quality services between the parent Ministry and my Commission.

The delegation attended several fruitful meetings with different stakeholders:

- (a) the Minister of Health and Wellness;
- (b) the Director of the Global Rainbow foundation;
- (c) the Director of the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund, and
- (d) the Breast Cancer Care Association.

Concerning health issues, the following important decisions were taken:

- (1) It was agreed that a Mechanical Engineer and other officers from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Mechanical Workshop proceeded to Rodrigues urgently to assess of ambulances which were awaiting repairs at the Rodrigues' Mechanical Workshops for more than two years and the assessment has already been effected;
- (2) It was agreed that the Ministry will provide technical support for the evaluation and control of sexually transmitted diseases in Rodrigues, and will make provision for sending officers for training in epidemiology;
- (3) It was agreed that the Rodrigues NCD Survey 2022 will be funded partly by the Ministry and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in October/November 2022 and same has already been done from 25 October to 08 November 2022, and
- (4) It was also agreed that the Rodrigues Nutrition Survey will be held in April 2023 and officers of my Commission are already working on it in collaboration with officers of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The delegation visited the Trainee Nurses and Trainee Midwives who were at the School of Nursing in Mauritius.

Meeting with the Global Rainbow Foundation

Concerning the meeting with the Global Rainbow Foundation, the delegation had the opportunity to meet Prof. Armoogum Parsooramen concerning the upgrading of the Global Rainbow Foundation Office in Rodrigues for better service improvement, such as, TELE-Medicine, collection of damaged wheelchair in Rodrigues to be repaired by technician sent by Global Rainbow Foundation and on the signature of and Memorandum of Understanding in September 2022.

The meeting with the Director of the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund

During the meeting, it was agreed that we have to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission for Health and the Cardiac Centre for the following reasons:

- (i) for a better management of Rodriguan Cardiac patients;
- (ii) to enable the setting-up of a Cardiac Dedicated Unit in Rodrigues where minor operations can be done, and
- (iii) to have a pool of trained Nursing Officers in Cardiology in Mauritius.

I wish to inform the House that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission for Health and the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund has already been signed on 15 May 2022 and we have actually nine Nursing Officers who are following on-the-job training at the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund in Mauritius since 04 November 2022.

Meeting with Breast Cancer Care

The delegation visited “*Lakaz Warrior*” which is a centre for woman suffering of breast cancer. They have accommodation and also a follow-up with psychologist and oncologist.

More patients will be sent there as the cost for the accommodation is only Rs 100 with which they have their breakfast and lunch. These women also do pickles that are sent to Australia and England.

It is important to point-out that discussion was also held concerning the visit of the Association to Rodrigues to carry out a mega sensitisation awareness and care on breast cancer and as promised a delegation consisting of members of the Association, Oncologist, Doctors and other members were in Rodrigues from 19 to 23 October 2022 and the mega sensitization was held on 20 October 2022 where a total of 275 women participated in the breast cancer mega screening and many others participated in talks organised by the Breast Cancer Care during their visit in Rodrigues.

Second Mission

For the second mission, the delegation consisted of two persons (myself and the Hospital Administrator) and was from 09 to 12 June 2022.

The first meeting held was with Mrs Hon. Fazila Jeewa–Daureeawoo, GCSK, the Minister for Social Security and Others to discuss on:

/UNREVISED/

- the training on the WEPPU (Welfare and Elderly People Protection Unit) to all staff;
- the development of an Application to be installed on smartphones for elderly;
- the organization of a refresher courses for all staffs on social aid and benefits, and also on the emergency measures during calamities, and
- training to the officers Social Security Medical Unit and also to the Finance staff.
- Social Security Officers, Mr Hugues Grandcourt and Mrs Esther Félicité and Mrs Nathalie Ithier had already attend such training from 27 July to 03 August 2022.

We also had a meeting with the Minister of Health and Wellness and matters discussed were:

- recruitment of one additional Dental Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeon for Rodrigues as there is a shortage of Dental Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeon in Mauritius. It was agreed that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has to launch for an Expression of Interest from private practitioner since the posting of a Dentist Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeon on tour of service to Rodrigues is important to provide a decentralized service to patients;
- Proposal was made for the Dental Caravan for Oral Health to be sent to Rodrigues and the Minister agreed, and necessary action was initiated for the shipment of the caravan to Rodrigues. The Mobile Dental Caravan was launched in Rodrigues on 22 August 2022 in the presence of the Minister and the Chief Commissioner at Anse Quittor Community School and as at date it is still moving around different villages in Rodrigues. The Ministry has agreed for the posting of a Dental Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeon in the Caravan on a monthly roster basis until we get one here.
- Decision was also taken to extend the YEPAD (Youth Empowerment Programme Against Drugs projects to be launched in Rodrigues and same was done on 22 August 2022 in the presence of the Minister at the Cultural and Leisure Centre at Mon Plaisir.

Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Husnoo, Minister for Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management

The delegation also had a meeting with Dr. Husnoo, Minister for Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management and issues listed below have been discussed:

- the forthcoming inauguration of the new Mon- Plaisir, Fire and Rescue Station.
- The possibility of transferring 13 Fire and Rescue Officers from the Mauritius to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly establishment.
- The training of 31 newly recruit Fire and Rescue Officers.

The Deputy Prime Minister has already visited Rodrigues.

Meeting with local Representative of the World Health Organization concerning the forthcoming inauguration of the Flu Clinic at Mont-Lubin

Another meeting was held with the Local Representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) concerning the inauguration of Mont Lubin Flu Clinic in Rodrigues. During the meeting, we had the support of the WHO in terms of an Architect, Planner or Engineer specialised in the design of hospitals and who could set the blueprint of the New Modern Hospital project

Third Mission

My third mission was held from 27 July to 01 August 2022 (five days), the delegation consisted of three officers, myself, the Acting Departmental Head, Mr Chang Siow and the Hospital Administrator, Mr Casimir.

The delegation also had a meeting with the Minister of Health and Wellness to discuss the following issues:

- Revision of fast track of transfer of patients to Mauritius.
- The forthcoming visit of the Minister for Health and Wellness to Rodrigues for the inauguration of the New Mont Lubin Area Health Centre, Flu Clinic, Cascade Jean-Louis Community Health Centre, Launching of Workshop on Hepatitis C and launching of mobile Dental Caravan.
- Launching of three days Training YEPAD in Rodrigues

The delegation was invited to also assists to the launching of a department on Hepatitis C in Dr. Jeetoo Hospital.

/UNREVISED/

The delegation had meeting at National Emergency Operation Command HQ in Port Louis to determine new protocol for Rodrigues and assessment of actual structure set-up for monitoring of disaster.

The delegation also had meeting with the Commission of Prisons and during the meeting we received one dog and one vehicle for the Rodrigues Prison Dog's Unit and the following issues were also discussed:

- the implementation of E-Prison in Rodrigues and same is already operational since 20 October 2022;
- site visit of prison and rehabilitation centre to determine/benchmark of project in view of rehabilitation of detainees in fields like bakery and agriculture;
- the delegation carried a site visit at the Beau Bassin Prison to see the following Units:
 - Camera and prison E-System unit
 - Bakery
 - Lunch service system
 - Female Prison Centre

Fourth Mission

My fourth mission was a brief mission of two days, it was affected from 05 to 07 August and I proceeded to Mauritius alone.

I accompanied the Minister for Social security and Others at the 'Ganding Show' as she was officially invited during the last meeting to assist the show presented by Rodriguan artists at Le Caudan.

Fifth Mission

The mission was effected by me and the Acting Departmental Head from 22 to 24 September 2022 to attend the following:

- Meeting with the Minister for Health and Wellness on several health issues.
- Signing of MOU with Global Rainbow Foundation.
- Meeting with 'Association Ti Diams', concerning updated activities organised for Diabetes Type 1 Patients.

- Meeting in connection with Albrawk Hearing Aid, to seek for help concerning advanced technologies which are available in Mauritius for patients suffering from hearing problems and how can these same facilities be extended to patients in Rodrigues.
- Visit at Odette Leal, Child Friendly Dental Clinic, to discuss on the opening of a branch in Rodrigues.

Sixth Mission

The sixth mission was effected from 29 October to 04 November 2022 by myself, Mrs. Willina Larose, Acting Nursing Administrator (Female) and Mrs Rose Danie Larcher, Acting Principal Midwife

During a meeting with Minister of Health and Wellness, it was agreed that the two important undermentioned facilities be extended to Rodrigues:

- (i) finalization of discussions on the opening of a Child Friendly Dental Clinic in Rodrigues (same will be launched on 20 December 2022 at La Ferme);
- (ii) finalisation of discussions on the decentralization of the School of Nursing in Rodrigues.

Meeting with Dr Guiness at the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund concerning the posting of the nine Nursing Officers from Rodrigues who are following on-the-job training at the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund.

The delegation also assisted the launching ceremony of the on-the job training for the nine Nursing Officers at the Cardiac Centre for Trust Fund at the Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam National (SSRN) Hospital.

The delegation had two meetings with Trainee Midwives at Candos and at Dr Jeetoo Hospital as complaints have been received that some are absenting from work/training.

Meeting with the Nero Surgeon at Candos Hospital concerning patients with severe neuro problems in Rodrigues.

The issues discussed:

- Concerning the setting-up of a School of Nursing in Rodrigues shortly.
- A delegation comprising of Director of Nursing, Principal Nursing Educator, Mr. Kaunhye will field a mission to Rodrigues to finalise the list of equipment

/UNREVISED/

to be procured and there will be a Training for Trainers course for Rodriguan Nursing Officers holding a Bachelor in Nursing as they will be included in the pool of Trainers who will deliver training course with the Trainee Nurse, Health Care Assistants. The Training will be done at three intervals, that is at the Short term, Midterm and Long term.

- It has also been agreed that the following training will be done in Rodrigues:
 - (i) For Health Care Assistant: eight months in Rodrigues and four months in Mauritius.
 - (ii) For Trainee nurses: two years in Rodrigues and one year in Mauritius.
 - (iii) Clinical management course to be done in Rodrigues as soon as possible.
 - (iv) and will be run on a regular basis (each two months) as we have about 50 senior officers eligible to follow the said course.
 - (v) National diploma in Midwifery and obstetric nursing to be run by Polytechnics Mauritius in early 2023.

Further issued discussed with the Minister for Health and Wellness, in the presence of the consultant in charge of Training Ministry of Health and the Permanent Secretary and of the Director of Nursing are:

- (i) To recruit on a contract basis, Registered Nursing Officers who have followed their training with Polytechnics Mauritius as it is the case in Mauritius.
- (ii) To revise and be made applicable the two required Criteria for appointment of Charge Nurse (Female) as it is in Mauritius so that eligible Nursing Officers (Female) can choose the option and the post basic course of Midwifery is not compulsory as it is still the case in Rodrigues.
- (iii) The Diploma in Midwifery to be dispensed by Polytechnics Mauritius for all Midwives/Senior Midwives.
- (iv) The posting on tour of service of female Senior Medical Imaging Technologist to Rodrigues so that the Mammography Unit can be made fully operational and mammography to be schedule for at least two patients weekly or 10 monthly depending on the number of patients awaiting to undergo the test.
- (v) One Medical and Health Officer/Senior Medical and Health Officer will undergo three weeks on-the-job training in Sexually Transmissible Diseases

/UNREVISED/

namely, Syphilis Mauritius and he will also act as Coordinator to carry Rapid Test in Rodrigues.

- (vi) Specialist/Senior Specialists in the field of Ophthalmology will visit Rodrigues monthly instead of their quarterly visit. Their duration of stay has also been extended from one week to two weeks, to enable proper follow-up of patients.
- (vii) Neonatology: to set up a unit in Rodrigues but in the first instance an Expression of Interest will be launched for interested Nursing Officers willing to undergo, three years on-the-job training in Mauritius in Neonatal ICU.
- (viii) It has been agreed that the posting of a Gynaecologist should be done on a full-time basis and same should be done on a contract basis through international advertisement as Gynaecologist from the Ministry of Health and Wellness are no longer willing to be posted on tour of service.
- (ix) Radiology: Training of one Medical Imaging Technologist from Rodrigues will be done in Bordeaux same will be applicable for Orthopaedic surgeon.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am proud to inform the House that more than 80% of the issues discussed so far during my various missions in Mauritius have been implemented in Rodrigues and my Commission is still working on the remaining issues to provide a better service delivery to the population. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that the House be now adjourned to Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 10.30 a.m. Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner, rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 3.13 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising adjourned to Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 10.30 a.m.

(Applause)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SIDPR)

(No. B/112) Dr H. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the updating of the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR), he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) where matters stand in relation thereto;
- (b) the system of governance set up for the implementation thereof, and
- (c) the number of public consultation meetings held therefor to date and to table the date and venue therefor?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Phase I of the consultancy for the review and updating exercise of the 2009 Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR), comprising the submission of the draft Diagnosis and Capacity Assessment, SWOT Analysis report, has been completed. The official launching of the updating exercise of the 2009 Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) was held in June 2022 in Rodrigues in the presence of Head of Cooperation from the European Union Delegation and local stakeholders. On the same occasion there was the dissemination of the SWOT analysis report elaborated following different consultations and meetings held with relevant stakeholders.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since then, there have been further sectoral consultations and meetings by the enlisted Consultancy Firm in view of finalizing the SWOT report so as to elaborate the development of a first draft of the revised and updated SIDPR. Consequently, in October 2022, there was the dissemination and consultative workshop in connection with the first draft of the updated SIDPR. Consultations and meetings are done on a continuous and regular basis between the consultants and the concerned parties.

Actually, the Phase II of the exercise which relates to the finalizing of the review and updating of the SIDPR, development of the Action Plans, Revision of the Tourism Development Plan for Rodrigues and revision of the Rodrigues Development Strategy and Land Use Plan is ongoing.

Regarding the other expected deliverables in the course of this revamping exercise, I wish to inform the House that further sectoral workshops and consultations will be carried out

during this month and the submission of the final SIDPR report and all related deliverables is expected by the end of this year.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (b) of the question, the SIDPR being an integrated Development Plan implies that it will be fully integrated in all policies of the Regional Government for the next ten years. Besides, for the revamping exercise, the consultant is being tasked to review the present arrangement whereby the SIDPR was to be implemented through the EPMU and to recommend accordingly.

Once the reports would have been finalised, I shall come with a detailed statement to the House on the final findings.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (c), I am informed that the no provision was made for public consultations in the Terms of Reference for the exercise, elaborated jointly by the then Office of the Chief Commissioner and the European Union and approved by all concerned parties.

However, the Consultant is expected to organise a total of four dissemination and consultative workshops and to involve representatives of the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Civil Society in all these consultations.

- (i) Regarding Phase I of the Consultancy services related to the submission of the draft Diagnosis and Capacity Assessment, SWOT Analysis report, sectoral stock-taking consultations and meetings were held at English Bay Youth Centre on 05 and 06 May 2022 followed by the dissemination and consultative workshop regarding the SWOT analysis Report on 14 June 2022.

Other sectoral consultation workshops were held on 15 June 2022.

- (ii) As regards the Phase II – concerning the finalizing of the review and updating of the SIDPR, development of the Action Plans, Revision of the Tourism Development Plan for Rodrigues and revision of the Rodrigues Development Strategy and Land Use Plan – a one full-day Workshop has been held to present and discuss the first draft of the SIDPR on 25 October 2022.

Following this, sectoral consultations have been held on 26 and 27 October 2022 at English Bay Youth Centre.

/UNREVISED/

I wish to inform the House that the responsibility of organizing those consultations and the choice of venues rests with of the consultants and the number of participants to each workshop is predefined as per the then approved Scope of services of the consultants.

RENOVATION – EX LABORATORY BUILDING

(No. B/113) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the renovation of the ex-laboratory building, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) when this building was first constructed;
- (b) if a technical report has been made prior to the renovation works being carried out thereat, and if so, to table a copy thereof, and
- (c) the objectives of the project together with the scope and the duration of works, the name of the successful bidder and the cost implication?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, the construction date of the building is unknown despite extensive search.

As regards to part (b), the Consultant who worked on the project submitted his technical report prior to the preparation of the tender documents for bidding exercise. I am therefore tabling the reports.

As regards to part (c), the objectives of the project were to convert the unused building into a Haemodialysis Centre and a Mess Room for Drivers.

The scope of works are demolition works; removal of iron, timber, openings, tiles and electrical accessories, and granite finish and rainwater harvesting.

The successful bidder is SDR Construction Ltd for an amount Rs 5,528,000 exclusive of VAT.

The completion period of works is 119 calendar days after acceptance and issue of purchase order that is 28 November 2022.

- Site Possession - 25 July 2022
- Commencement date - 01 August 2022
- Contract duration - 119 calendar days
- Completion date - 28 November 2022

**TRAINING – RODRIGUAN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
– SPECIALISATION FIELDS**

(No. B/114) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, with regard to the training of Rodriguan medical practitioners leading to specialisation in different fields, he will inform the House on:

- (a) the procedure and criteria put in place for selection thereof;
- (b) the number of doctors expected to proceed on training yearly;
- (c) the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Malaysian universities, and
- (d) the sum earmarked therefor in the current budget?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the procedure is through an Expression of Interest and the most senior Medical Health Officer who signifies his or her intention is given priority. Please note that the University of Bordeaux will conduct its own selection exercises to assess/ascertain the capacity of the best candidate proposed to follow the training. The final decision will be taken by the University of Bordeaux.

It is expected that five Medical Health Officers will follow specialisation soon in the following fields:

- (a) Gynaecology;
- (b) Paediatric;
- (c) Radiography;
- (d) Orthopaedics, and
- (e) Anaesthetic.

The question of training yearly does not arise as once the five Medical Health Officers went on training, we will wait for other opportunities to send other Medical and Health Officers for training.

Officers of my Commission are not aware of any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Malaysia Universities.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, s distinction has to be made here between training offered by the Commission for Training and specialisation of doctors.

/UNREVISED/

The issue of specialisation of doctors is one which concern the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Commission for Health.

In this respect, no past Commissioner for Health nor the present Commissioner for Health has signed any MOU with Malaysia Universities.

As regards to part (c), the five seats reserved for Rodriguan candidates on the quota for Mauritius have been made available by the Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Hon. Jugutpal during my mission in Mauritius. The personal relation that I have with the Honourable Minister has rendered this possible.

There is no sum earmarked under current budget as same is on the quota of the Ministry.

MISSIONS – EXPEERS/CONSULTANTS – COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE

(No. B/115) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the missions carried out by various experts or consultants relating to the Commission for Agriculture, he will state and table:

- (a) the dates of each mission;
- (b) the outcome thereof together with their respective costs therefor, and
- (c) the mode of selection used therefor?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, following my tenure of office, I made a quick assessment of the situations of the three areas falling under my responsibility namely: -

- (i) Agriculture;
- (ii) Fisheries, and
- (iii) Forestry.

I noted with grieved concern that all the above three areas have undergone serious decline as follows: -

(i) Agriculture

Agricultural Production which stood at 506 hectares cultivated in 2011 has declined to 142 hectares in 2021

(ii) Fisheries

The Fisheries sector has passed through a decade of stagnation during these past years. We have inherited a sector with abandoned fishing vessels, an over-

exploited lagoon and a bankrupt '*Maison des Pecheurs*' that was purportedly set up to support the fishers.

(iii) Forestry Services

Forestry Services are almost dormant with stray animals causing damages to plantations and forested areas and worst, there were no planning for the development of the sector.

In order to remedy the situation, I have decided to immediately seek assistance from national, regional and international Agencies and Institutions with a view to initiate action to stop these declines.

My Commission hosted missions in the following main sectors: -

Agriculture

- (i) March 2022
 - Crop Production and Livestock Production
 - Dr Dameshwar Dumur - Consultant
 - Mr Jean Antoine Tonta - Agricultural Economist
- (ii) April 2022
 - Principal Veterinary Officer, Dr Beeharry
 - Acting Assistant Director Agricultural Services, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Dr Sookar
 - Acting Chief Executive Officer, Food Agricultural Research Extension Institute, Mrs Micheline Pillay
 - Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mr Gunpath
- (iii) June 2022
 - Director, MSAW, Mr Julien Georges
- (iv) July 2022
 - Coffee Expert, Mr Patrice De Berge
- (v) July 2022
 - Foot and Mouth Disease Consultant, Professor Peter L. Roeder
- (vi) August 2022
 - Trainer in Pork Processing, Mr J. Rene Gamel
- (vii) August/September 2022
 - Trainer Beekeeping, Mr Francois Payer
- (ix) September 2022
 - Consultant, Mr L. Bernard Perrine

/UNREVISED/

Water for Irrigation

- (i) March 2022 - 'Chef Ingénieur pour la retenue Collinaire',
M. Louis Boyer
- (ii) October 2022 - Mr Stephene Demongeon

Fisheries

- (i) July 2022 - Mr Moostoopha Jeetoo
- (ii) August/September 2022 - Mr A. Sharmeen Jeehoo

As regards to part (b), the outcome and costs are being compiled and would come in due course.

As regards to part (c), the Direct Procurement Method was used in accordance with Section 25 (a) of the Procurement Act 2006 and according to the Competencies of the Consultants in their related field as well as their knowledge of the Rodriguan context.

Some of the Consultant/Experts who were on mission in Rodrigues provided their Consultancy Fee free of charge, following good collaboration between my Commission and the respective Institution/Agencies.

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF – RODRIGUES SPORTS CO LTD

(No. B/116) **Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports and Others whether, in regard to the recruitment of staff for operation of the Rodrigues Sports Co. Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the:

- (a) organisation structure of the company;
- (b) number of application per post, and
- (c) recruitment criteria or method, giving details thereon?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the organisation Structure of the Rodrigues Sports Co. Ltd which comprise of one Acting Manager, one Secretary, one Supervisor and 14 Handy Workers.

As regards to part (b), the number of applications received per post is as follows:

- (i) for the Post of Supervisor - 48 applications
- (ii) for the Post of Secretary - 30 applications; and
- (iii) for the Post of Handy Workers - 71 applications

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in response to part (c) of the question, I have to inform the house that the Rodrigues Sports Company Ltd informed the public of the vacancies through a radio communiqué which was broadcasted from 27 July to 03 August 2022.

Candidates had to meet the following criteria, that is:

Recruitment Criteria

I. Post of Supervisor

- a) Candidates should be a retired sportsperson who hold a national sports performance;
- b) Candidates should possess at least the Certificate of Primary Education or Certificates in Sports issued by a recognized institution; and
- c) Candidates should have the ability to supervise and guide workers and maintain discipline among them.

II. Post of Secretary

- a) Candidates should have reached form Five level
- b) Be computer literate
- c) Have the following competencies:
 - Possess good interpersonal, communication skills,
 - Be able to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines

III. Post of Handy Workers

- a) Candidates should be a retired sportsperson who hold a national sports performance and,
- b) Candidates should possess at least the Certificate of Primary Education or
- c) Certificates in Sports issued by a recognized institution.

A recruitment committee was set up for the selection exercise. Qualified candidates were called for a face to face interview which assessed their skills, work experiences, and academic /vocational qualification. The recruitment criteria are being tabled accordingly.

/UNREVISED/

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in response to the question B/116, I am tabling: -

- (a) the organisation structure of the company;
- (b) number of application per post; and
- (c) recruitment criteria or method, giving details thereon?

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

FENCING – AREA OF LAND – VALLEY SIDE/MOUROUK

(No. B/117) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the fencing of an area of land of the valley side of Mourouk, he will enlighten the House on the:

- (a) objective thereof;
- (b) scope of work and duration of the project, and
- (c) the cost therefor?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through the then Commission responsible for Agriculture, Environment, Forestry and Fisheries agreed in March 2018 with the UNDP to co-finance the Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management.

The expected outputs of the project relevant to Rodrigues include the restoration of Mourouk Valley and the conservation of its biodiversity.

It is in the context of the implementation of this project that a total area of 77 hectares have been identified to be fenced to enable better protection of the endemic tree species and the execution of restoration works.

As regards to part (b), the Scope of the work consists of the construction of Boundary Fencing on a perimeter of 2500 meters in the valley.

As regards to part (c), a contract to the tune of Rs 3,450,150 has been allocated on 10 October 2022 to Mr J. R. E following tender exercise, to execute the fencing work over a period of 60 days as from handing over of site. Works are expected to be completed on 16 December 2022.

**ONGOING CONSTRUCTIONS – NEW/ADDITIONAL FACILITIES
– PRE-PRIMARY & PRIMARY SCHOOLS/RODRIGUES**

(No. B/118) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the ongoing constructions of new/additional facilities in the different pre-primary and primary schools in Rodrigues, he will state and table:

- (a) to whom and when the respective contracts were launched and awarded therefor, and
- (b) the schools concerned and the scope of works for the respective facilities under construction thereof?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards question B/118, I am informed that presently the following projects are ongoing at the pre-primary and primary schools:

- (i) Construction of one additional classroom in four Pre-primary Schools: Les Abeilles Pre-primary School at Malartic, La Colombe Pre-primary School at La Ferme, Paille en Queue Pre-Primary School at Montagne Goyaves and Les Hirondelles Pre-Primary School at Lataniers
 - Bids were launched through the Open National Bidding Method on 18 August 2021 with closing date set for 27 September 2021.
 - Contract was awarded on 07 February 2022 to the lowest substantially evaluated responsive bidder Abdoolah Soobratee & Co Ltd for the sum of Rs 7,396,786 excluding VAT.
 - The scope of works comprises the following:
 - (a) Construction of one additional classroom of approximately 24 m² at ground floor along existing building, existing wall to be removed and Mechanical & Electrical (M & E) installation at Les Abeilles Pre-primary School at Malartic;
 - (b) Construction of one additional classroom of approximate area of 16 m² at Ground Floor along existing building, covered verandah and M & E installation at La Colombe Pre-primary School at la Ferme;
 - (c) Construction of one additional classroom of approximately 48 m² at ground floor along existing building, toilets of approximate area of

/UNREVISED/

10 m² for teachers and M & E installation at Paille en Queue Pre-primary School at Montagne Goyaves; and

- (d) Construction of one additional classroom of approximate area of 22 m² at ground floor along existing building and M & E installation at Les Hirondelles Pre-primary School at Lataniers.

(ii) Construction of Additional Classroom at Grand La Fouche Corail Pre-primary School and New Mess Room at Grand La Fouche Corail Primary School

- Bids were launched through Restricted Bidding Method for Works on 19 October 2021 with closing date set for 18 November 2021.
- Contract was awarded to the lowest substantially evaluated responsive bidder South Pole Enterprise Ltd on 17 December 2021 for the sum of Rs 3,035,147.54 excluding VAT.
- The scope of works are as follows:
 - Demolition works;
 - Excavation works;
 - Concrete works;
 - Plumbing works;
 - Aluminium works;
 - Tiling works;
 - Electrical works, and
 - Waterproofing works.

(iii) Upgrading of Playground at Anse Quitor and Montagne Goyaves Community Schools, Terre Rouge and Marc Etienne Roche Bon Dieu Government Schools

- Bids were launched through the Open National Bidding Method on 15 July 2021 and the closing date was fixed for 23 August 2021.
- Contract was awarded to B. Hurreeram & Son Co Ltd on 28 January 2022 for the contract amount of Rs 15,110,284.15 excluding VAT.
- The scope of works consists of the following:

/UNREVISED/

- (a) Construction of gate post, cloakroom and new playfield at Anse Quitor Community School;
- (b) Construction of gate post, new retaining wall with fencing, new fencing to existing masonry wall and playfield at Montagne Goyaves Community School;
- (c) Upgrading of existing retaining wall, new storm water drain and resurfacing works at Terre Rouge Government School; and
- (d) Resurfacing works and storm water drainage at Roche Bon Dieu Government school and service installation.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am hereby tabling the list of on-going projects at pre-primary and primary schools with details regarding the launching of bids, the award of contracts and the scope of works.

REHABILITATION YOUTH CENTRE – BAIE AUX HUITRES

(No. B/119) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre of Baie Aux Huîtres, he will state the:

- (a) number of inmates actually thereat;
- (b) different facilities offered to them;
- (c) status of the upgrading works for the operationalisation of Rehabilitation Youth Centre (Girls), and
- (d) expected date of operationalisation of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre (Girls) together with details on the staffing and the gazetting of the institution thereof?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Officer in Charge, Prison, Rodrigues that there presently no inmates whether boys or girls at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre of Baie Aux Huîtres.

The different facilities offered to them are as per regulations governing rehabilitation centre and prison protocol and standing order.

Kindly note here that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has no policy on Prisons and Probation Services as per RRA Act 2000.

/UNREVISED/

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as per existing contract awarded on 16 November 2021 for the sum of Rs 3,346,450 to RABCO with 150 calendar days. The completion date was set to be on 04 October 2022. However, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the enlistment/collaboration of Rodrigues Prison management and Fire Services was not involved at the design stage of the project.

It is only on 21 September 2022 the Fire Services made serious observations as to the Fire safety requirement.

Pending the clearance of all observations/ recommendations, the Rehabilitation centre will not be put into operation as the following recommendations are missing for the issue of the fire certificate:

RODRIGUES PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION (RPUC)

– BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(No. B/120) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation the detailed composition of the board of directors thereof, indicating in each case:

- (a) the terms and conditions of appointment;
- (b) the respective monthly package, and
- (c) any other benefits drawn thereof?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the detailed composition of the Board of the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) is as follows:-

- (1) Mr Claude Wong So, OSK, Consultant, Civil Engineer(Chairman);
- (2) Mrs Zeenat Kaushar Guness-Goolbar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, Director
- (3) Mrs Bimla Gunnuck-Jeetun, Assistant Permanent Secretary from the Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues, Outer Island and Territorial Integrity), Director
- (4) The Departmental Head, Commission for Water Resources, Director
- (5) Mr Pritham Kumar Bennee, Lead Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Director
- (6) Mr Amarnath Jagannath, Representative of the Central Water Authority(CWA), Director
- (7) Mr Joseph Robertson, Office Management Executive, Director
- (8) Mr Antonio Leong Lone, Representative of Civil Society, Director

With regard to part (a), the conditions of their appointment are to observe obligations as Director with respect to: -

- (1) The second edition of the National Code of Corporate Governance the “code” issued by the National Committee on Corporate Governance in accordance with Section 65 (c) of the Financial Reporting Act and which was published in the Government Gazette (General Notice No. 1804 of 2016) on 3 December 2016, and
- (2) The Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Regulations 2008.

With regard to part (b), the monthly package is as follows: -

Chairman : - Rs 40,000 per month as monthly fee

- (i) Rs 5,000 per month as travelling allowance to meet transport expenses to and from the airport to attend Board meeting
- (ii) Air tickets and hotel accommodation or per diem at approved rates and as per his choice

Board Directors : All except the Departmental Head, Commission for Water Resources are paid each a monthly fee of Rs 5,000.

Mr Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (c), the other benefits derived by the Directors include air tickets, accommodation and per diem at the approved rate to attend Board meetings either in Mauritius or Rodrigues as determined. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

BAIE MALGACHE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

(No. B/121) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Baie Malgache Community school, he will state:

- (a) if construction thereof has been completed;
- (b) if there has been delays and, to state, if any, the amount of liquidated damage to be paid thereto, and
- (c) when the primary students will be admitted thereat?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that the contract for the Construction of a Community School at Baie Malgache was awarded on

/UNREVISED/

12 July 2017 to the lowest substantially evaluated responsive bidder for the sum of Mauritian Rs 84,758,629.33 inclusive of Vat.

The scope of works of the project comprised the construction of:

- Classroom block of eight classrooms;
- Administration block of seven rooms and six specialist rooms;
- Multipurpose and toilet block, and
- Services installation and associated infrastructural works.

The works started on 14 August 2017 and was for a duration of 360 calendar days. The contractual completion date which was 09 August 2018 was revised to 27 October 2018.

Upon practical completion of the construction works, the taking over was done on 17 May 2022.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (b), the project was due to be completed by 27 October 2018 but as at that date the project was completed by only some 30%. Although the contractual completion period was 360 days, there had been delays in the implementation of the project by 1,118 additional days.

I am further informed that according to clause 8.7 of the General Conditions of Contract, the total liquidated damage was Rs 25,000 per day to a maximum of Rs 2,250,000, representing ninety days. Full amount of liquidated damages has already been recouped in Interim Payment Certificates No. 30 and 31 in January and July 2022 respectively.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c), it is regrettable to inform the House that to date the school is not sound and safe for operation as there are still important works that have to be completed so as to ensure a conducive and safe environment for pupils and staff.

This is corroborated by the Director of Audit remarks in his management letter dated 23 May 2022 who has drawn the attention of my Commission that some important works had been omitted during the design and execution of the project as follows:

- i) Erection of handrails on both sides of the bridge as well as the area adjacent to the Administrative Block. The lack of handrails is considered as a hazard as pupils may fall down in the drain which is around three metres high;
- ii) Fixing of additional gates and handrails on both sides of the main gate at the middle of the entrance to prevent unauthorised access to the school;

- iii) Construction of drain to prevent water from the back side to enter the school as drains were constructed at the back of the school on one side and after a gap, another one was constructed.;
- iv) Construction of a retaining wall to prohibit rocks and mud coming from the slope at the back side of the school to enter the school area;
- v) Tarring of access or fixing of concrete slabs to facilitate the halfway unfinished access from the school towards the Multipurpose hall;
- vi) Construction of a boundary wall on one side of the building facing the road leading to Mt. du Sable; and
- vii) Provision of access for pupils with Special Needs.

I am further informed that the Global Consultancy Services for selected development projects in Rodrigues has submitted on 19 October 2022 the scope of additional works that need to be undertaken prior to the operationalisation of the school to the tune of about Mauritian Rs 21 m.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the House will agree that as a caring and responsible government, we cannot run the risk to open a school without ensuring that all security aspects are given due regard for the safety and well-being of our children.

Subsequently, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in view of reasons stated previously, it is considered that the opening of the Community school at Baie Malgache will have to be deferred the more so that I am informed that:

- (i) Necessary procedures for the admission to Grade 1 for Academic Year 2023 were already initiated as from May 2022 following guidelines and Circular received from the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology on 23 May 2022. At that point in time, the taking over of the works at Baie Malgache has just been effected but unfortunately the readiness of the school to welcome entrants was naught;
- (ii) At present, there is an acute shortage of Primary Educators in all Government schools. As such, 30 Supply Teachers were required for Academic Year 2021/2022 and some 43 Supply Teachers will be needed for the Academic Year 2023 in view to palliate the shortage of staff;

/UNREVISED/

- (iii) The fifty-one (51) Trainee Primary Educators who have been enlisted as from July 2022 will have to undergo training at the Mauritius Institute of Education in Mauritius for a period of two years as from next year and are expected to be back in Rodrigues for Academic Year 2025, and
- (iv) It is essential for the operationalisation of a new school to have full fledged qualified Primary School Educators to lay the foundation for quality learning and give the children the best start.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that pending the completion of upgrading works at Citron Donis and owing to the several constraints being faced by Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML) to deliver courses at Antoinette Prudence Human Resource Development Centre, the Executive Council at its meeting held on Friday 03 June 2022 has approved that, pending its opening, the Community School at Baie Malgache will be temporarily put at the disposal of PML to deliver courses in a more conducive environment with adequate infrastructure to the students.