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No. 10 of 2025

RODRIGUES

FIFTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

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The Executive Council

(Formed by Mr Franceau Aubret Grandcourt)

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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Chairperson - Leopold, Mr Joseph Christian, GOSK

Deputy Chairperson - Tolbize, Mr Justar

Clerk - Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick

Deputy Clerk - Clair, Miss Marie Chrismélanie

Serjeant-at-Arms - Perrine, Mr Joseph Laval

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RODRIGUES

Fifth Regional Assembly

Debate No. 10 of 2025

Sitting of Tuesday 28 October 2025

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

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Chairperson in the Chair)

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Mr Chairperson: Good morning, everyone. I have several announcements this morning.

Respected Members, first I wish to inform the House that we have been experiencing some technical difficulties with the digital recording systems. The technicians have managed to get the system running again but with certain limitations. As such, I would ask all Respected Members to ensure that their microphones are switched on when they are given the floor so that their interventions may be properly recorded.

Second, there are also ongoing technical issues with the standby generator of the Assembly. Despite the sustain efforts of the technical team over the past few days, the problem has unfortunately not yet been resolved. We are therefore operating solely on power from the main electricity network. Should there be, I repeat, should there be a power interruption, proceedings may have to be momentarily suspended. I thank, Respected Members, for their understanding and cooperation.

Third, I have a ruling to deliver. This relates to a Privilege Complaint made by the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee regarding the non-attendance of the Departmental Head, Commission for Agriculture at the Committee Hearing held on 16 September 2025 at 13.30 hours. The matter was referred to my office for consideration under the Provision relating to privilege in respect of the authority of the Assembly of its committees. The Department Head was accordingly invited to submit her written explanation.

In her correspondence dated 23 October 2025, she stated that her absence was unintentional and resulted from a breakdown in the internal communication system of the rragov.mu network through which official correspondence are normally transmitted. She

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explained that due to this technical malfunctions, she did not receive the committee's summons in time and was therefore unaware of this scheduled sitting.

Upon explanation of her explanation and after verification with the Office of the Clerk, it appeared that there was indeed a disruption in the internal mail systems during the relevant period.

I am therefore satisfied that her non-attendance was not due to any wilful disregard of the authority of Public Accounts Committee or of this Assembly. In this circumstances, I accept the explanation tendered by the Departmental Head, Commission for Agriculture and rule that no further action be taken in this matter. I so rule.

Finally, Respected Members, I wish to address the matter of the supplementary questions. Over the past few sittings, I have observed that more and more questions are not receiving an oral answer within the allotted time. I therefore, wish to remind Members of the provision of Standing Order 22 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Regional Assembly which set out the parameters for supplementary questions. I wish to quote the first paragraph thereof:

“Supplementary questions may only be put for the further elucidation of the information requested, and shall be subject to the ruling of the Chairperson, both as to relevance and number.”

I call on Members to be mindful of these provisions so as to allow sufficient time for oral replies to be given.

Every Members who has requested an oral answer is entitled to receive one, and it is my duty as Chairperson to ensure that the rights of all Members are duly respected.

Thank you.

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B. Commission for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Archives, Museum, Historical Buildings and Sites and Library Services

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr Chairperson: Yes, Respected Member.

PRODUCTION OF MAIZE/RODRIGUES

(No. B/94) **Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the production of maize in Rodrigues, he will (a) submit the figures of the yearly production of this agricultural crop for the last ten (10) years (b) state the root cause of the decrease in production and (c) indicate measures that his Commission proposes to take to reverse the trend?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the House may be aware, maize was Rodriguan's most important crop food, produced through a traditional, low-input subsistence farming system. Unfortunately, the production of this most crucial staple food crop has constantly declined year after year to reach only 160 tons in 2024.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question I have to state that several causes may be attributed to the decrease in the production of maize in Rodrigues: -

- (a) As from 2012, the effort of the Commission to boost up the production of maize in Rodrigues was not sustained and abandoned;
- (b) Planters had to face socio-economic constraints and numerous problems associated with the climate, soils and susceptibility of variety of diseases and pests namely, Fall Army Worm (2019).

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c) of the question I would like to assure the House of the commitment of my Commission to revitalise maize production in Rodrigues and to ensure long-term sustainability of the crop as part of the island's food security strategy. I would like to table the paper on maize production in Rodrigues over the last ten years.

In the context of the organisation of maize production in Rodrigues, we have a meeting with the planters of Terre Rouge and the surrounding location which was declared Maize Village in 2008 and we have agreed to support the planters in terms of agricultural

land, provision of seeds and other facilities. The project at Terre Rouge will be replicated in other regions of the island subsequently.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner mentioned that there have been no efforts since 2012, he has ... to confirm whether he is aware that in 2019 we had the '*chenilles légionnaires*' qui a ravagé complètement toute la production de maïs. *Est-il au courant qu'il y a eu cela ?*

Mr Perrine: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. This is one of the causes. But the main issue with that support, the Commission was giving – big effort that we have been giving when we were in office have been abandoned. It shows that the policy of the Commission after 2012 was not to focus on maize production in Rodrigues. In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a maize soil machine was bought in 2010 under the Food Security Fund to compensate scarcity of labour and manual workers in farms and thus to stop the decline in maize production pattern. Unfortunately, Mr Chairperson, Sir, upon the change of government in 2012, the machine has been put aside at the Commission of Agriculture. It is now that we are trying to repair and to put into operation this machine. It has cost a lot of money and we are very, very careful for planters especially, in maize production.

Mr Lisette: The Commissioner refers to the supposedly done follow-up after 2012 as regards to production but I would like to ask him how does he explains the fact that when we left office the production was 345 tons in 2021, he came in 2022, and now the production is only 160 tons, how does he explain to this House, the drastic change of 345 to 160 under his tenure of office?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the change cannot happen...

(Interruptions)

No, the next year, non, non, non...

Mr Chairperson: Allow the Commissioner to answer, please.

Mr Perrine: If you know the answer then I do not have to reply. You know – change – you should look over period of time. You are a student in law you know, you must understand that. You judge from one year to another year and this goes down. Oh no! So, be serious. Let us wait to see – at least five years when we will leave we will see what will be the result. You must accept. Maybe you had other priorities. Each government has

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priority but maize which is the main crop for Rodrigues. Now imagines we are importing maize from Brazil and Argentina... – you can laugh, you will always laugh.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the reply, the Commissioner for Agriculture mentioned that there has been a constant declined. I do not know from where he has got his statistic. But according to official statistics - from 2019 it was 241; 2020 – 305; 2021 – 345; which means that it was under increasing trend. But then it is only in 2022 that we noticed that it came back to 160 when he took office. Can we know whether this is related to the fact that he has abolished the schemes that the previous government set up in 2020, the Basic Staple Food Scheme whereby planters were given mechanisations, subsidised seeds and also subsidised labour cost, whether this is because of that measure that you abolished that this trend is now on a decreasing, since 2022?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is make plain gimmicks. You know in 2010...

(Interruptions)

Listen, I have listened to you, be polite and listen to me.

(Interruptions)

So, in 2010 and 2011, the Minister of Finance in Mauritius was talking about banker crop. You know what is meant by banker crop? It was a then planning to export maize from Rodrigues. This is the increase, not from 200 to 300. This is not an increase. Learn your lesson, do your homework before coming here. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: Then can the Commissioner confirm whether there has been an increase from 2019 to 2021 as from the figures he has laid, as from the figures given, whether there has been an increase at least from 2019 till 2021? Whether the trend was on the increasing side?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have to look for the place of time, we cannot just jump to conclusion one day to the other day. What I am telling you is that when we left office in 2012, the production was above 800 tons per year. Now it is 160. There has been a complete declined. Whether it is 160, 200, it is not an increase. *Une hirondelle ne fait pas le printemps, M. le président !*

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Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, now that the Commissioner is stating that ... policy [...] ... in production, is he aware that for this year in 2025, there has been no seed available at RTMC to be given to planters for production? Is he aware of that?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, when we left office, the demonstration plot was producing seeds. We have the ARES, the section dealing with conservation, education – we have production of seeds. But unfortunately – I am not blaming anybody but it is like this. As from 2012 up to when we arrived in 2022, all the demonstration plots had been given to cooperatives. There has been no seeds production. You know, the species that we had, that is, M1, OM3, M31 from Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) has disappeared. You know where we have had to go to have seeds for Rodrigues? We have had to contact ‘Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement’ (CIRAD) and they had the seeds for maize in Rodrigues which have been kept in France. Now we are setting up a seed bank developing – *li ti don korporativ, la femme joyeuse* – and we have to start the project at zero and hopefully within two or three years we will have our own seed bank in Rodrigues, we will keep all the seeds that we need for crops in Rodrigues, that is, maize and other vegetables crops that we have to keep. We do not have seeds. I agree with you but who is responsible for all the demonstration plots which are not working and all have been given. Maybe it was a good idea and the cooperatives were supposed to produce seeds and to buy back by the Commission. But it did not work, it was not what was expected. And, we have to start anew. That is why we want to start at Terre Rouge because this village was declared Maize Village in 2008 and this also, you have stopped, the Commission has stopped. It is not because we like Terre Rouge, because the soil, the climate is favourable for maize production. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner whether he can confirm whether when he took office in 2022, he had at least 500 kgs of maize seeds at Baie aux Huîtres Seeds Bank which existed before he came into office? More than 500 kgs of maize seeds available, whether he can confirm that?

Mr Perrine: I have not seen. Maybe it has been eaten by rats, I do not know. I must check.

(Interruptions)

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Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson. I would like to ask him, he has been speaking about demonstration plot for production of seeds and ultimate distribution concerning to planters. Is he aware that there existed also a contract agreement with planters so that their produced seeds are sold to RTMC and if yes, why is it that this has stopped?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware, I have not seen the contract but I must inform the House that production of seeds must be done on a professional basis, anybody cannot do it.

(Interruptions)

Yes, and under the supervision of the Commission and with Technicians from my Commission visiting this. Because production of seeds we called it ‘sovereignty’. We cannot leave it in the hand of anybody.

(Interruptions)

No, no, no. we have to have a contract and they have to be followed day to day on this project, doing this job because seeds are very important. We talk about food security; we talk also of seed sovereignty.

Mr Chairperson: Let us move to next question.

OCTOPUS SECOND OPENING SEASONS 2025

(No. B/95) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, with regard to the Octopus Second Opening Season 2025, he will indicate (a) the quantity of octopus caught during the first three days as compared to 2024 (b) the quantity of octopus exported to Mauritius and (c) when the report of the Professor Warwick Sauer will be submitted?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Octopus Second Opening Season 2025, I wish to inform the House as follows: -

(a) Quantity of octopus caught during the first three days:

During the first three days of the 2025 Second Octopus Fishing Season, a total of 35,634 kg of octopus was landed. This represents an increase of 35% compared to the corresponding period of the 2024 Second Season, when 21,723 kg were caught. The slight variation observed is attributable to factors such as sea conditions, improved surveillance and fishing efforts.

(b) Quantity of octopus exported to Mauritius

According to information gathered from Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd, for the 2025 Second Season, a total of 19.134 tons of octopus has so far been exported to Mauritius.

(c) Submission of report the Professor Warwick

With regard to the study being carried out by Professor Warwick, I wish to inform the House that the final report is expected to be submitted by April 2026.

The report will provide recommendations on the sustainable management and upgrading of the octopus value chain, in line with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) - Supported Project currently being implemented in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission remains committed by ensuring the sustainable management of the octopus fishery and long term livelihood of the fisher community.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, je voudrais savoir quelle est l'objectif de l'étude qui sera mener ou est en train d'être mené par le Professeur Warwick Sauer parce que depuis 2012 on sait que la fermeture marche, que ça a permis d'améliorer le *stock* donc, quelle serait l'objectif de la nouvelle étude ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, l'étude s'est pour confirmer le nombre de fermeture qu'il faut avoir pendant l'année à Rodrigues. Est-ce que deux fermeture s'est suffisant ou bien il faudrait trois, il faudrait peut-être identifier, comme on dit, dans le lagon, les espaces, les sanctuaires ou en permanence ou la pêche à l'ourite sera défendu. Et puis il y a aussi l'aspect transformation parce qu'en ce moment c'est simplement à base primaire qu'on est en train d'opérer, c'est-à-dire, les transformations, il n'y a pas de transformation et exporte à Maurice. Et c'est ça aussi qui va nous guider quelle transformation. D'ailleurs, je dois dire qu'il y a une équipe qui arrive aujourd'hui et qu'on va développer d'autre stratégie concernant *value change* qu'on va faire concernant l'ourite. Et aussi comme on explique, c'est que la façon de gérer, *manage* ce système, c'est-à-dire la pêche à l'ourite, il faudrait planifier à long terme et aussi voir qu'on va dans la bonne direction concernant l'écosystème que nous avons à Rodrigues. Voilà, un petit peu - je pense qu'aussitôt nous avons le rapport, le rapport va être publier et une copie va être déposé à l'Assemblée ici

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pour que tous les Membres souhaitent être au courant de cette implémentation. C'est-à-dire, on va débattre ici.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, je voudrais quand même attirer l'attention du commissaire sur deux problèmes qui existent en ce moment concernant le secteur de l'ourite. Premièrement, l'ourite se vend à un prix prohibitif sur le marché local. Et deuxièmement, il y a pas mal de transformateur – dont si on veut parler de *value change*, dont ils font de la transformation qui n'arrivent pas à avoir de l'ourite pour mener à bien leur activité. Donc, est-ce qu'il est au courant de ces problèmes et comment sa commission pense prendre en charge ces problèmes ?

Mr Perrine: [...] la production de l'ourite à Rodrigues pour que les Membres puissent être au courant. Concernant le prix, c'est un petit peu l'offre et la demande, c'est-à-dire, la commission ne peut pas intervenir directement. Mais ce qu'on va faire, je pense introduire, revoir les règlements concernant l'exportation de l'ourite à Maurice. Je suis d'abord avec le Membre parce qu'en ce moment-ci il y a des importateurs qui arrivent de Maurice et qui achètent l'ourite à Rs 170 la livre par contre les banyans de Rodrigues ne peut plus opérer, c'est-à-dire, nous allons venir avec un règlement pour introduire *an import and export permit* que doit être approuver par la commission. On ne peut pas ouvrir la porte – tout le monde devient banyans pour l'ourite. Je suis d'accord avec vous, ça créer beaucoup de désordre et on va régler ce problème avec les règlements qui sera introduit à l'Assemblée.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

**SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025 – ARRIVING PASSENGER/FLIGHT MK 120 –
UNDECLARED AGRICULTURAL GOODS SEIZED**

(No. B/96) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether on Sunday 28 September 2025, an arriving passenger on flight MK 120 was searched and a quantity of undeclared agricultural goods seized; and, if so, to table the list of goods and state what measures the Commission proposes to strengthen biosecurity controls at the airport and other entry points of the island?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please.

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Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that on 28 September 2025 two arriving passengers on Flight MK 120 was subjected to a random search by Customs Officers posted at Plaine Corail Airport. The search revealed a quantity of undeclared agricultural products in the latter's luggage and same was immediately seized in accordance with the provisions of Plant Protection Act.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, however, I wish to inform the House that the goods consisted mainly of undeclared agricultural items of which include processed meat, crops and dairy products. I am tabling a copy of products seized.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to assure the House that my Commission is working closely with relevant authorities to further strengthen biosecurity controls at the airport and other points of entry, through staff training at the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) in Mauritius.

The House may wish to note that since 2018, border control at all entry points are being carried out by staff of my Commission. After a successful training in Mauritius, officers are authorised by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry to act as National Plant Protection Officers as defined by the National Plant Protection Office.

In accordance with the established procedures, the seized goods were immediately confiscated and put in safe custody for destruction to prevent the possible introduction of pets and diseases in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards measures to strengthen biosecurity controls at the airport and other entry points on the island, my Commission has initiated necessary action as follows: -

- (i) a correspondence has been addressed to the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security requesting the assistance of a team from the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) Section of his Ministry to assess and validate actions being taken at Plaine Corail Airport for biosecurity control.

Accordingly, terms of reference of the proposed mission will also include: -

- (a) Advising my Commission on urgent and current biosecurity issues;
- (b) Reviewing and updating existing protocols and procedures with a view to streamlining and adhering to recent changes in legislations and international conventions;

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- (c) Discuss with officers of the Commission the implementation of the updated protocol/procedures being proposed and train them accordingly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in accordance with the proposed mission, arrangements are being made for the Technicians from Mauritius to work closely with the Legal Adviser of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to ensure that the revised protocol conforms all applicable legal requirements.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, these measures aim to ensure effective prevention against the introduction of pests and diseases, that could threaten local agriculture.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je vois que le commissaire a été un peu contradictoire dans sa réponse, en voulant au départ dire que ces officiers étaient bien formés en 2018 et ils ont mis en place tous ce service à l'aéroport pour ensuite venir dire qu'il a écrit au ministère pour demander, pour qu'il revienne, pour former davantage, pour *strengthen the process*. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire qu'il n'a pas été satisfait dans l'action de ces officiers lors de cette *seizure* ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, c'est pour faire voir que nous avons agi dans la légalité et dans la transparence. Parce que dans la presse – je ne sais pas comment s'est arrivé dans la presse – on a raconté des histoires. C'est pourquoi j'ai parlé au ministre, je lui ai dit qu'il faut envoyer un officier *to assess and validate*. Parce qu'on mettait en doute, on parlait de pression des officiers, des commissaires. Quelle pression ? Ça il faut cesser ! Parce qu'avec nous, moi je parle de ma commission, il n'y a pas de pression. Je vous donne l'exemple pour les perroquets. Quelle pression ? Je vous donne une petite information qu'il faut confirmer. Les perroquets – *in fer retourn a Maurice, enn par enn pe mor*. Ils étaient contaminés. Si on avait laissé ces perroquets à Rodrigues *zot kone ki ti pou arive* ?

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que le commissaire peut – après de ce qu'il nous a parlé par rapport à ces introductions de ces produits de viandes et viandes transformer le 28 septembre, c'est-à-dire, peut-il nous dire que l'introduction, donc importation par des voyageurs c'est un acte illégal ?

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Mr Perrine: S'ils arrivent avec un permis, pays d'origine – vétérinaire - pour dire que ce produit a été examiné, *okay* il n'y a pas de problème, on va accepter. Mais sans permis, sans papier vétérinaire, vous arrivez avec un produit, n'importe quel produit de viande ça va être saisi.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, was the passenger contravened for non ... does he/she been contravened for that ...?

Mr Perrine: Non. Ce n'est pas la commission qui décide, c'est NPPO office, ils ont leurs règlements, leurs procédures qu'il faut suivre s'il y a poursuite, il y a saisie, d'instruction, ça c'est à eux. Nous nous n'avons pas à intervenir dedans. Ce que nous voulons faire la commission, il faut contrôler les *entry point* de Rodrigues, sous contrôle par Rodrigues, non pas par Maurice. C'est nous qui allons décider. Parce que c'est dans le *Fact Finding Commission*, qui après FMD à Rodrigues, c'est écrit blanc sur noir que *entry point* à Rodrigues doit être contrôlé par Rodrigues et non pas de Maurice. C'est ce qu'on veut mettre en place. Quand j'ai demandé à l'officier du ministère de venir, on va travailler avec le Legal Adviser de Rodrigues pour savoir que les officiers ne peuvent pas être sous contrôle du Permanent Secretary à Maurice. Il faudrait qu'on décide nous à Rodrigues comment on veut faire. C'est pourquoi comme je vous dit en tant que politicien on ne peut pas intervenir dans des questions légales, etc., on attend que le ministère décide avec nous sans en faire un MOU, je ne sais pas comment ça va être procéder pour qu'on puisse... Si vous voyez la loi, c'est un PPO qui doit poursuivre comme vous demandez, ce n'est pas la commission. Ce point doit être éclairci avec le ministère pour savoir qui poursuit ? NPPO de Maurice, le ministère, la commission, c'est ça qu'on va voir/travailler. C'est pourquoi, la formation c'est ça aussi Madame, c'est pour que nous soyons au courant des conventions que Maurice a signées et aussi les lois qu'on intervienne à Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je me souviens très bien de la formation de ces personnes qui ont été à Maurice et qui ont eus de la part de *higher authorities in Mauritius* les passes qu'il faut. Donc, ils ont toutes la largesse nécessaire pour pouvoir faire le travail comme il se doit et ils n'ont pas besoin d'avoir d'autre formation, à mon avis, par rapport à cette partie-là. Est-ce que le commissaire est au courant que ces officiers sont *full-fledged* et ils sont mandatés par la NPPO pour faire ce travail comme il se doit ?

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Mr Perrine: M. le président, je suis en train de parler de NPPO Act, ce n'est pas un pass qui nous donne l'autorisation d'agir. Je suis en train de parler qui va poursuivre, NPPO Maurice, l'officier avec le pass ou bien la commission ? La loi doit être claire dessus. Si c'est à Rodrigues, c'est *the RRA* qui doit poursuivre mais si c'est à Maurice, il n'y a pas de problème. Et aussi, il ne faudrait pas que Maurice donne l'Import Permit de Maurice et puis nous nous avons donné ici nous allons checker *the entry*, c'est contradictoire. Ce point, un peu légal, d'ailleurs j'ai parlé au Legal Adviser, parce que là le petit papier on me dit c'est – NPPO qui doit *enforce* les règlements, s'il a à prendre contravention, etc. NPPO ici avec le passe ou bien le ministère qui doit comme-ci prendre les actions légales. C'est pourquoi, Madame, je vais informer l'Assemblée très bientôt, après la visite, peut-être je vais donner même une copie de leur rapport comment on va régler ce *issue*.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, j'aimerais demander au commissaire, y-a-t-il un protocole établi déjà par rapport à l'introduction de ces produits et est-ce que ce protocole s'applique pour tout le monde ou bien il peut y avoir des dérogations, dépendant pour qui ce produit est ?

Mr Perrine: En tout cas, je vous dis que la commission n'est pas sujet à des pressions ou bien des dictées, etc. L'officier est au courant – lui il fait son travail, il écrit son rapport. Il n'y a aucune intervention et il n'a pas à téléphoner au commissaire pour dire – « *ou kone enan tel pe rantré ki nou pou fer ?* » *Ditou !* Il prend son... il met mais seulement il doit le faire dans la légalité, dans la transparence suivant le protocole. *Rest assure*, les Membres de l'opposition, aussi longtemps que je suis là, il n'a pas de corruption.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if I refer to the answer of the Commissioner for Agriculture, there is no contravention ... that goods have been seized. And what I note is that the seizure took place on 28 September and now we are on the 28 of October and one month has lapsed and you are not in a position to tell this Assembly what is the course of action as regards to this seizure of goods. Is this right? One month has elapsed, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and your Commission, you are not able to come this House and say – yes, there is an issue on the matter, this is an urgent issue as regards to bio-security that need to be taken care as quick as possible. One month has elapsed and your Commission has taken no action as regards to that. Why not?

Mr Perrine: Oui, on ne garde pas ça éternellement...

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(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr Perrine: Non... Ce que je suis en train de dire, ce n'est pas à moi de prendre des contraventions, ce n'est pas à moi. Je vous dis c'est la procédure, il y a la confiscation, destruction et puis *we will follow*. Tout a été détruit, il n'y a rien. Mais moi je ne peux pas répondre côté légale. J'ai fait le travail, les officiers ont fait leurs travaux, c'est-à-dire, ils ont saisi avec l'aide de Customs, ils ont détruit. *Now we want to validate this*. Et pour savoir peut-être, il fallait... I do not know they are questioning everything. Pardon?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: I cannot take the case to Court myself, *vous autres! Ça vous ne comprenez pas*. I am a policy maker. This is legal. If you are a student of LLB, I am not a student of LLB.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, il y a quand même une préoccupation chez les planteurs puisqu'on est en train d'évoquer la biosécurité concernant les animaux mais il y a aussi un souci quand même assez préoccupant concernant les pathologies dans des plantes. Est-ce que forcément ces maladies rentent dans l'île donc il y a quand même un problème de biosécurité, il y a une présence accrue quand même de maladie aussi dans des cultures. Est-ce que le commissaire est au courant de cela et il peut nous en dire quelque chose et quelle est la politique en tout cas de sa commission pour freiner cette présence accrue de maladie dans l'agriculture ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, il y a une liste des plantes, légumes, etc., qu'on ne peut pas, c'est *banned* comme on dit, qu'on ne peut pas importer à Rodrigues, vous allez voir dans la liste. Mais nous avons des équipes *at entry point*, c'est-à-dire, au port et l'aéroport, ces personnes-là savent que par exemple, tomate on ne peut pas importer. Ils ont la responsabilité de saisir et aussi tous les autres légumes qu'on importe, si ce n'est pas muni d'un certificat vétérinaire que Maurice est satisfait, qu'il y a eu quarantaine, etc., s'il faut quarantaine, à ce moment-là ils acceptent. Tous ces produits doivent avoir un certificat

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et doivent être déclarer à la douane. C'est là qu'on intervient. Je suis d'accord avec vous, si c'est un *open door*, n'importe qui peut importer n'importe quoi il y aura beaucoup de problème concernant notre agriculture. C'est pourquoi on est vigilant dessus. C'est pourquoi on est en train de voir les protocoles, procédures, les conventions pour qu'on peut *update* et qu'on soit efficace.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

**RECENT MISSION - DELEGATION HEADED BY THE MINISTER FOR
GENDER EQUALITY & FAMILY WELFARE**

(No. B/97) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others whether, in regard to the recent mission of a delegation headed by the Minister for Gender Equality and Family Welfare, she will, for the benefit of the House, give details of the activities proposed by the Ministry, those agreed upon and conducted, and the outcome of the said mission?

Ms. Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the activities proposed by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare for the following mission on 21 to 24 September 2025 are as follows:

Monday 22 September 2025

- (a) Courtesy call – Chief Commissioner;
- (b) Consultative meeting with Child Day Care Managers and caregivers on the Child Day Care Centre Regulations 2022;
- (c) Site visit to two registered Child Day Care Centres with the Commission;
and
- (d) Site visit to registered Residential Care Institutions (RCI).

Tuesday 23 September 2025

- (a) Official ceremony for the handing over of the Gender Policy for Rodrigues.
- (b) Virtual presentation on the Gender Policy by Ms. Lichuma, EU Consultant/Gender Expert.
- (c) Consultative session/Focus Group Discussions on the draft Domestic Abuse Bill and draft Adoption Bill with local stakeholders.

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- (d) Meeting with Women Entrepreneur with reference to Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Rodrigues.

Wednesday 24 September 2025

- (a) Virtual Presentation on “Linking the Gender Policy document to Gender Mainstreaming Strategies”.
- (d) Awareness session on CEDAW Maputo Protocol.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to activities agreed upon and conducted on:

Monday 22 September 2025

- (a) Courtesy call – Chief Commissioner
- (b) Courtesy call – Commissioner for Women’s Affairs
- (c) Working session with staff of the Commission responsible for Child Day Centres (CDCC)
- (d) Site visit to registered Residential Care Institutions (RCI)

Tuesday 23 September 2025

- (a) Official ceremony for the handing over of the Gender Policy for Rodrigues.
- (b) Virtual presentation on the Gender Policy by Ms. Lichuma, EU Consultant/Gender Expert.
- (c) Meeting with Women Entrepreneur.
- (d) Working session on Adoption Bill with staff of the Commission for Child Development and Brigade pour la Protection des Familles.

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The outcome of the mission, Mr Chairperson, Sir, has been well elaborated on by the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare at the Cabinet Meeting held on Friday 03 October 2025 and is reproduced hereunder:

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to Rodrigues in the context of the handing over of the Gender Policy for Rodrigues to the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others.

The Gender Policy for Rodrigues, which was developed by a Consultant from the European Union in 2024, marks a significant milestone in promoting gender equality and guiding policy formulation in Rodrigues. In her address during the handing over ceremony, the Minister emphasised that the Policy will be instrumental in, inter alia, shaping future actions to improve women's socio-economic empowerment and in the combat against gender-based violence. The Minister further highlighted that accelerating efforts towards gender equality will ultimately enhance family welfare and benefit the community at large.

In the margins of the ceremony, the Minister paid courtesy visits on the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others, where they engaged in fruitful discussions on strategic actions to promote gender equality, children's rights and family welfare in the local Rodrigues context. They also shared experiences on reporting and monitoring of gender-based violence cases and discussed areas of collaboration to improve service delivery.

The Minister attended a consultative meeting with representatives of the Commission for Women's Affairs and Others and the Police Department on Child Day Care Centres in Rodrigues. Moreover, a working session on the draft Domestic Abuse Bill and draft Adoption Bill was held with representatives of the Commission for Women's Affairs and Others and the Police Department. The Minister participated in an interactive session organised by the National Women Entrepreneur Council with women entrepreneurs in Rodrigues.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, dans sa réponse Madame la commissaire a mentionné les activités proposées par le ministère, tel que la rencontre avec les Child Day Caregivers, les gérantes des garderies et les visites au niveau des garderies. Nous savons combien ce sujet a été évoqué ici et je vois que dans les activités mener ces deux activités n'ont pas été retenus. Est-ce que la commissaire peut nous dire pourquoi est-ce que la ministre n'a pas pu faire les visites des garderies et pourquoi est-ce qu'elle n'a pas pu rencontrer les Child Day Caregivers ? Pour quelle raison ?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have no control on the programme of the minister.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, la commissaire a été clair que le ministère a proposé ces visites-là, c'est-à-dire, le ministère la proposée donc c'est à elle s'organiser pour cela. Donc, comment peut-elle nous dire aujourd'hui qu'elle n'a pas le contrôle, est-ce que ce n'est pas un manque de sérieux ?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is two things, proposed and final. So, the final has been said here in the House. So, we stick the question to the final programme. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je disais au début comment ce sujet de garderie a été une préoccupation. Hier même à midi j'ai appris qu'il y a des policiers qui font des descentes toujours chez ces Child Day Caregivers, est-ce que ce sujet a été pris avec Madame la ministre parce que c'est elle qui doit travailler en collaboration avec la commission pour élaborer les règlements nécessaires, est-ce que ce sujet a été pris au sérieux, si oui, quelles sont les avenues donc par rapport à ce projet dans les jours qui viennent et dans l'immédiat.

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think there are two persons having the policy decision on child day care centres in Rodrigues here. I think the Minority Leader has already discussed all about the things for child day care centre with the minister. So, I cannot reply for her. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: C'est marrant cette réponse. Je suis élue comme vous et j'ai la responsabilité de partager, je suis payé des deniers de l'état, vous dites ce que vous voulez. Par rapport, oui j'ai parlé de garderie, je vais continuer parce que vous ne faites pas le travail. Vous avez dans le cadre de sa visite annonçait pour le mois d'octobre, donc dans une déclaration publique - le Foster Care Regulations qui est aussi une préoccupation pour l'accueille des enfants qui sont dans le *shelter*, est-ce qu'on peut savoir où est-ce qu'on en est avec ce Foster Care Regulations qui devrait être sur la Table comme vous avez annoncé en octobre 2025 ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Supplementary question must be in relation to the main question.

The Minority Leader: Yes, mission, the activities.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Activities, yes, with regard to the recent mission of the delegation headed by the Minister and the... but she is asking question on regulations, this is far away from the main question.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The supplementary question should be a new question. You asked about the visit and then you asked about the regulations. How would she get the information? She has not prepared to answer on regulations.

The Minority Leader: No, no, it is related.

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(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I will ask the Minority Leader to rephrase the question and to stick to the main question, please.

The Minority Leader: Dans le cadre de sa visite, Madame la commissaire a bien annoncé là comment la ministre a visité le Shelter à Baladirou et dans le cadre de cette visite au Shelter, c'est très lié au Foster Care Parents, c'est là où la commissaire dans le cadre de cette activité a annoncé ces règlements pour le mois d'octobre. Je voudrais juste savoir par rapport à cette annonce dans le cadre de cette activité où est-ce qu'elle en est avec ?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think everyone here will know when the Regulations will pass in this Assembly. So, I request Members to wait and to see when it will be passed. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, par rapport au Women Entrepreneurs, Madame...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Okay, this is why at the very beginning I asked all Members to stick to the question concerning supplementary questions. And now, I remind...

(Interruptions)

When I am on my feet, can I speak or do I need permission? Do I need permission to speak in this House?

(Interruptions)

Do I need permission, the Minority Leader? So, I will ask all Members...

(Interruptions)

Order, please! Order, please!

I will ask all...

(Interruptions)

Order, please! I am on...

(Interruptions)

Okay, I suspend the House for ten minutes.

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At 11.42 a.m., the Sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 12.02 p.m. with Mr Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr Chairperson: Mr Lisette.

(Interruptions)

On B/97? Okay, I will allow two supplementary questions.

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: J'étais calme hein. Je pose ma question, je fais mon travail pour que...

Mr Chairperson: Ask you question, please.

The Minority Leader: Donc, par rapport à la rencontre que la commissaire a parlé d'une rencontre avec les entrepreneurs, je voudrais savoir si cette rencontre a été organisé par la commission de la Femme ou bien c'est le National Women Entrepreneur Council qui a fait l'invitation et a convié les entrepreneurs ? Si oui, pourquoi est-ce que la commission n'a pas voulu organiser cette rencontre elle-même avec tous ces entrepreneurs ?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think that the technical staff of my Commission have done all the invitation to invite the women entrepreneurs and we have worked together in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, that is, the National Women Entrepreneurs Council to invite the women to come for this working session.

Ms. Raffaut: Mr Chairperson, the Commissioner mentioned in her answer that there have been discussions with regard to the strategic actions to promote gender equality in Rodrigues. Can we know from the Commissioner what are the strategic actions that have been discussed?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have talked about all the things about gender equality, about family welfare in Rodrigues, that is, with the Rodrigues new gender policy we are going to do all capacity buildings for our officers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and to help all Commissions to engage with the Rodrigues Gender Policy and also to include gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting in the process of budgeting for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. So, we are still doing all the things, all the capacity building to help all officers.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

**RODRIGUES PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION (RPUC) – SUSPECTED
MALINGERING, FRAUD/BAD GOVERNANCE CASES**

(No. B/98) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC), he will, for the benefit of the House, state if there are any cases of suspected malingering, fraud, or bad governance within the Corporation and, if so, to indicate (a) the nature thereof (b) if the Executive Council has been informed and (c) if the case has been referred to any relevant authority for investigation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, anybody can make representations on such cases through the competent bodies and this is not always brought to my attention. The bodies of investigations concerned do not always notify neither the RPUC nor the Commission. It is only when there are further investigations that we are consulted or brought to give statements.

As regards to part (b) and (c) of the questions, the Executive Council has been informed of certain matters relating to a case and relevant aspects of the matter have been referred to the appropriate authorities for investigations which are presently under way. Members will understand that I cannot comment on an ongoing investigation where the Commission is a party. Thank you.

Mr Lisette: *(mic switch off)*

Mr Chairperson: Put your mic on, please.

Mr Lisette: I was saying that we do understand the subjudice status of the issue yet I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards to the report sent to the Executive Council - who conducted that report on the RPUC?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The report was compiled by the Commission, officers of the Commission and it is a confidential report which has been sent to the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) in line with the provisions of mandatory reporting under the Financial Crimes Commission Act.

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner *(mic switch off)* ... canvassed so many times in this Assembly, I would like to ask him whether as

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Commissioner responsible for that corporation, for this company, and in line with the Investment Management Regulations whether he is satisfied with whatever is happening in RPUC as regards to procedures regarding procurement and others?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will not give my opinion here because as I have said we have done our duty at the Commission in line with the Financial Crimes Commission Act, in line with Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Management Regulations 2008 and we cannot be party and judge. So, we have since the date suspected irregularities, which may or may not be to action by the relevant authorities, it is up to them to look into the matter. They have started looking into the matter so that to ensure that there is no bad practice, no misappropriation of funds and that only the money allocated by the Commission is used for the purposes of public interest.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, what the Deputy Chief Commissioner has said may be right but I will consider this as a second level step in the sense that, if there is a suspected case of malingering or whatever would it not be better, Mr Deputy Chief Commissioner that he as Commissioner responsible for that corporation and company that he requested beforehand a forensic audit of the RPUC before going for further with any other authority? Would it not be better?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The RPUC already have *(mic switch off)* ... Management Regulations and the Commission already has oversight, if there is need for audit - the problem is not a problem of accounts at the RPUC. If we have to go for a forensic audit, the accounts of the RPUC are okay – payment/income. It is related to maybe offences which may fall under the FCC which are concerned and this is why we have made a complaint in these matters. For example, at the RPUC there was a procurement and then there was addenda's which were sent. Unfortunately, unfortunately some of the bidders who quote the initial bidding documents did not receive these amendments. So, this is a bit bizarre. So, this is why we have requested an inquiry on this matter for...

Mr Lisette: *(mic switch off)* ... that the Deputy Chief Commissioner himself has requested or invited the Members of the Board to vacate office – invitation to vacate. Yes, it is still there. I would like to ask him in line with this, and I know that he is a student in law, he is graduated in law, does he consider that the Board of Directors have failed in their fiduciary duties as Board of Directors to request them to vacate office?

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The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The judiciary duties of the Director are that they must be loyal to the company and they must act in the best interest ... I am not a member of the Board of the RPUC. I am aware that some Directors of the RPUC have travelled to Rodrigues to attend Board meetings, have been lodged at Cotton Bay Hotel at the expense of the RPUC but have not sought for example, authority from the Commissioner, myself, and the Chief Commissioner. We have a line of authority, an authorisation process before we travel and use either Rodrigues Regional Assembly money or government money for this. So, if ever if there is a Director who has breached his fiduciary duties, it will be up to this inquiry to find this out and to act upon it.

Mr Lisette: *(mic switch off)* Does that mean, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the Chief Commissioner suspects ... possibilities of malingering or whatever, which is not as per the law – which is why it has been sent to the FCC. I would like to ask him if at the first instance did he apply what Investment Regulations RRA, provide him as regards to quarterly report to know exactly what is going on? Has there been any report submitted to his office which is as per Investment Regulations to know exactly what is happening in the company?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The RPUC complies to all the mandatory reports *(mic switch off)* but the report will not indicate the type of suspected malpractices that may have occurred at the RPUC. For example, the fact that one supplier or two did not receive the amendments to tenders may be due to technical problems/issues, they did not ensure – it is a negligence – they did not ensure that all suppliers get the email. We just had a case this morning where the Public Accounts Committee has convened an officer for a hearing and that officer is stating that she had issues with her email. Could be the same thing. Okay? So, this is an example. But this is why we are having... we have requested, they may do or may not do. They may say that this is not something important. This is why we have requested the authorities to investigate. And, as regards to the Investment Management Regulations, yes, the financial reports everything is being submitted as requested. But that is not the issue.

Mr Lisette: Will the Commissioner agree that there are possibilities that there is clearly a protagonistic approach between him and other members of the Executive Council? Public statement that he has made on the matter.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is not correct for a Commissioner to give opinion on what is going on or what are the relationships between

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members of the Executive Council. So, the Member as a former Commissioner – I think he was Deputy Chief Commissioner – he should know this.

Mr Lisette: *(mic switch off)* the Executive Council, but at least the question may be raised with respect to his relationships with the Chairman of the RPUC which, of course, is directly linked with the productivity of the... I would like to know what is the relationship of the Deputy Chief Commissioner, right now, with the Chairman of the RPUC?

Mr Chairperson: I think that the Deputy Chief Commissioner said that there is an...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: That there is an enquiry going on. Okay? I think that at this stage it is better to wait for the conclusion of the inquiry then the questions can be answered. This is why I am proposing that we go to the next question.

(Interruptions)

Okay, I give you one last question. But stick to the main question, please.

(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this question warrants interest in the sense that whenever there is conflict and there is no trust between a Commissioner and Chairman or Board Members of a company that is not conducive for proper running of the... And, here we have a case.

Mr Chairperson: And, your question is?

Mr Lisette: Yes, we have a case where there has a breach of trust between the Commissioner and the company which he is supposed to be responsible. My question is clear – with respect to that conflict and that lack of trust between the Commissioner and the Board Members with whom he is supposed to be working, is this not impeding on the workingship of the company?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, you will read, if you read a recent article that they have placed on a Facebook post I put on my Facebook page in ‘Defimedia’, in relation to the resignation of Mr Beegoo as Chairman of Air Mauritius, where he said that he will not receive instructions from *‘politiciens’*. This is a very good

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example of misconception of the role of Chairman and Directors of state owned companies.
Okay?

A company is owned as you are aware by its shareholders. Here in our case, the company has as shareholder only the Regional Assembly represented by the Commission. I am one of the architects, the persons together with the Chief Commissioner, we were in office in 2006 and we made reflections, we made a thought about how better used public money. We started with Rodclean. And, Rodclean is a perfect example of success. When we did Rodclean, up to now, every year we have comments in the Audit Reports, criticising us, stating that Rodclean is not making profits. Whereas the aim of Rodclean is not to make profit. It is just the status which a private company. Because we cannot do otherwise, the law does not allow us to do otherwise or even if we can do otherwise, those who can do it will not help us on it in Mauritius. To make a corporation you need to go through an Act of Parliament.

So, an RRA company, as we have defined it under the RRA Investment Management Regulations is a company which is, of course, by status, a company guided by the Companies Act but which has some aims, some missions to be performed in relation to the functions of RRA, not policy functions but executive functions, implementation functions such as, Rodclean to keep Rodrigues clean, to deal with sewage collection, etc. And, we had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them where we give them money in exchange of those services. This is the philosophy of an RRA company. And, of course, we have a Commissioner, just like for any state owned enterprise, we have a Commissioner who is politically accountable in front of the Executive Council and in front of the Regional Assembly. For example, I am answering questions here for the RPUC and therefore, as Commissioner, as representative of the shareholder and the objectives described in the MoU, we have to follow the policy of the Commission.

I have had many issues with the Chairperson of the RPUC on policy issues. For example, I told him since the beginning, to make projects and to ensure that the Rs1 billion projects are submitted to the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC). He, maybe he has some reasons, told me that – okay we will do it but let us put for Rs540 millions. So, today we have completed these Rs540 millions, we had the budget for it – I will have a statement later today on it, I will share the last technical report from the SCP. And, what I mean to say is that, as we say in creole – “*dilo swiv kanal*”. So, we cannot have a board or a

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Chairman of RPUC like, Mr Kishore Beegoo think, I think he said - should follow his own policies. If government does for example, some type of airplane on such and such line for example for Rodrigues, government says okay we want Air Mauritius to go for A320, the Board cannot say no, we want to keep going with the ATR 72. Because it is the Ministers, the Cabinet who decides and you as Chairman you implement. This is the issue that we are having. No other thing.

Mr Lisette: *(mic switch off)* ...clearly there is a problem with he, as Commissioner and the Chairman and the Board Members. In his opinion will he opt for the sacking - if he did have the power, will he opt for the sacking of the Chairman and its Board Members?

Mr Chairperson: This is quite; I would say...

(Interruptions)

I agree with you. This is a question of opinion and this is quite a sensitive issue which is not in line with the main question. And therefore, this question is not allowed.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned many times authorities regarding the enquiry or [...] who are those authorities. He mentioned FCC but whether there are other authorities concerned with this matter?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, by authorities we mean all those involve in fighting crime, corruption and those authorities promoting good practices in the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, so we move to the next question.

**PROCUREMENT – CONSTRUCTION/UPGRADING/EXTENSION
– HOUSING UNITS – UNDER VARIOUS HOUSING SCHEMES
– VULNERABLE FAMILIES**

(No. B/99) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the procurement for the construction, upgrading, or extension of housing units under various housing schemes for vulnerable families, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the number of contracts awarded since January 2025 to date, indicating for each (a)

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the contractual value (b) the procurement method used and (c) the names of the successful bidders?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I would like to answer questions B/99, B/111 and B/113 together as they all refer to the same subject matter.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), (b) and (c) of question B/99, I wish to inform the House that my Commission (Housing) has awarded eight contracts from January 2025 to date and is read as follows:

SN	Project	Procurement Method Used	Contract Value (MUR)	Names of Successful Bidders
1	Construction of new concrete house of 50 m ² at Cité Patate	Restricted Bidding	1,025,000	Mr J. M. R.
2	Construction of new concrete house of 50 m ² at Piments	Restricted Bidding	1,020,000	Mr J. R. A
3	Construction of basic sanitary facilities around the island	Restricted Bidding	975,000	Mr R. L. (construction of five sanitary)
		Restricted Bidding	985,000	E. B. C. Ltd
		Restricted Bidding	1,051,125	Mr J. M. P.
4	Supply and delivery of construction materials around the island (Meranti Batten and Others)	Restricted Bidding	931,906.78	W.K.S.W.S.W. Ltd
5	Supply and delivery of construction materials around the island (Aggregates & Others)	Restricted Bidding	5,587,370	Welcome Industries Ltd

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SN	Project	Procurement Method Used	Contract Value (MUR)	Names of Successful Bidders
6	Upgrading/extension of existing housing unit of 60 m ² for beneficiaries around the island – Scheme 1	Open National Bidding	5,753,500	P. E. P. L. Company Ltd (5 units)
			5,560,000	E. C. and W. Ltd (5 units)
			5,975,000	Mr J. R. E. (5 units)
7	Supply and delivery of zinc aluminum sheets for beneficiaries around the island	Restricted Bidding	3,907,309	W.K.S.W.S.W. Ltd
8	Construction of concrete single bedroom house of 33.5 m ² with C.I.S roof at Rivière Cocos	Restricted Bidding	578,000	E. B. C. Ltd

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (a) of question B/111, I am informed that some 211 contractors have been awarded for the construction of new concrete housing unit and extension of Trust Fund houses respectively, since March 2022 to date.

- (1) Construction of new concrete houses under the new Social Housing Scheme of 50 m² stand at 148, and
- (2) 71 contracts under the extension of Trust Fund Scheme.

Concerning part (b) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed, that as at date the current status on stages reached in each of the contract awarded under the two aforementioned Housing Scheme respectively, are as follows:

Under the New Housing Scheme 50 m²	No. of Beneficiaries	Extension to Trust Fund Scheme
Phase 1	4	Nil

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Phase 2	1	2
Phase 3	10	2
Finishing	36	30

Regarding part (c) of the question, I would like to assure the House that despite the large volume of application received at my Commission, Housing Department and the limited logistic and resources available, my Commission is making every effort to expedite all processes involved in the construction of housing units and the ease implementing the following measures to shorten the delay for the completion of housing units.

- (1) Contracts for construction materials to be awarded to more than one supplier for delivery of lagoonal sand, aluminium openings and other construction materials to beneficiaries around the island;
- (2) The delivery of construction materials for Phase 2 and 3 is done simultaneously in order to reduce the waiting time between casting beam and slab;
- (3) Proposal to supply of a fibre glass water tank instead of a concrete water tank thus reducing completion period is under consideration;
- (4) Offering contractor services to build the 105 housing units awarded in 2024. Contract will be awarded in lots, new social housing scheme, aluminium opening, and
- (5) Requesting additional staff in office for fields works.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in regard to question B/113, I would like to inform the House that the infrastructure to Needy Families Housing Scheme comprises three distinct categories namely, the Basic Sanitary, the Elderly Housing Scheme and the infrastructure to Needy Families Housing Scheme. As such, the eligibility criteria and any modifications made since January 2024 in respect of each of the above mentioned schemes are as follows:-

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	Eligibility Criteria
Basic Sanitary	<p>(i) Applicants should be recipient of a carer allowance, a severely handicapped allowance, his/her monthly household income should not exceed Rs25,000.</p> <p>(ii) Applicant should submit a proof of address example, a lease, a bill, etc.</p>
Elderly Housing Scheme	<p>(i) Applicant should be at least 60 years.</p> <p>(ii) Applicant should be a resident of Rodrigues.</p> <p>(iii) The monthly household income should not exceed Rs25,000.</p> <p>(iv) Applicant must be holder of a land lease or should show proof of the possession of the relative's land lease through a bank statement based on his/her category.</p> <p>(v) Applicant can also possess a house which is in a deteriorating stage. There is no modification since 2024.</p>
Infrastructure for Needy Families Development Schemes	<p>(i) Applicant should be a resident of Rodrigues.</p> <p>(ii) Monthly household income should not exceed Rs25,000.</p> <p>(iii) Applicant must not possess a land lease.</p> <p>(iv) Applicant must submit proof of land lease from his/her relative.</p> <p>(v) Applicant must be living in a precarious condition which affects his/her standard of living in terms of exposure and proneness to climatic and social adversities.</p> <p>(vi) No or poor access to basic amenities, support and services.</p> <p>(vii) Lodging condition are prone to promiscuity.</p>

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has been modification in terms of CIS awarded which is 19.5 m² CIS two rooms instead of 35 m² CIS three rooms. This measure has been put in place in order to reduce waste as CIS is a temporary measure and eventually those beneficiaries will apply for new social housing scheme once they are granted a land lease.

As from 2024, CIS house two rooms have been upgraded by replacing timber, 100 x 100 mm by galvanised tubes 50 x 50 mm and 75 x 75 mm. This has greatly extended the lifespan of the house structure and also timeframe for erection of same.

However, new CIS house two rooms with zinc aluminium sheetings will be covered with pitched roof instead of inclined roof providing for enhanced ventilation and airflow for the house in addition to a statical view of the house. Applicant must be a parent with at least one child, applicant must be at least 25 years' old.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Commission of Housing is no longer awarding contract for CIS three rooms of 35.0 m², beneficiaries are now awarded CIS two rooms of 19.5 m² housing unit.

Concerning part (c), from January 2025 to date, 70 families have been awarded housing facilities and signed agreement under the scheme as follows:

- 35 families under Infrastructure for Needy Family Scheme
- 8 families approved by the Executive Council
- 15 families under the Basic Sanitary Scheme
- 8 families under Elderly Housing Scheme
- 1 family approved by the Executive Council

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards the contract agreement signed between Commission and the beneficiaries such document contains sensitive information about beneficiaries and would not be ethical for same to be disclosed. Thank you.

Ms Raffaut: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether all procurement exercise carried out in relation to these housing projects were conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I explained in my reply, all procurement is in line with Procurement Act.

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Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, these could be in line and in order – I have no problem about it – but I would like to ask the Commissioner especially when he has talked about the 15 housing units whether the best procurement methods have been used to ensure value for money for the construction of housing units. I see that houses of 50 m² has been given at different prices – so, the same project, same size but at different project value. Is it value for money?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, il y a des officiers qui supervisent ces maisons et il y a les ingénieurs aussi et il y a les officiers qui préparent les *tendering procedures*, il y a le DBC, il y a le BEC (Bid Evaluation Committee) et je pense que la réponse est oui. Toutes ces maisons sont aux normes et *stand for value for money*.

Mr Baptiste: My question is more about the procurement, the contract that has been awarded, I mean, five housing units, as you mentioned in your answer, Rs5,560,000. For another five housing units of the same size now you pay another contractor Rs5,753,500. So, if we add all these – supposed that the contract was awarded to the most lowest successful bidder, they would have requested Rs16,680,000 while with the method that you used it has reached the sum of Rs17,288,700. So, Rs608 M lost which could have been used to help other people in this particular needy conditions. We know there are many in Rodrigues. That is why I am asking, I am not saying that it is illegal but I am asking whether this is value for money and these are best practices adopted to ensure that contract is awarded to lowest bidder for the benefit of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as well as additional beneficiaries who could have obtained a housing unit.

Mr Volbert: [*mic switch off*] the public body is authorising customized methodology for award of contract in line with the objective and nature [...], that is why. And, I will also add to say that these officers they are responsible for bidding exercise and as a former Commissioner he knows very well that we Commissioners has not the right to interfere in the bidding process. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: I understand that we Commissioners we do not have the right to interfere with the bidding process, this is for sure. But we have also to consider that as policy makers we want value for money, we want to have the most. So, we have seen so many procurements for houses of 50 m² at different prices for example, at Piments as you mentioned, Rs1,020,000. So, as a Commissioner, you believe that it is not your duty to find out how to work out as a general guideline with officers to ensure that this value for money

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because this fragmented approach it seems – not that it seems – this fragmented approach is causing much of confusion and you know, it is raising serious concerns among officers, among the members of the public relating to transparency, to value for money and even for the implementation of the project is concerned. You are making procurement for one house at a time, sometimes two housing units and then 15 housing units. So, this fragmented approach do you not think as a Commissioner that this should be revised, reviewed to ensure more efficiency?

Mr Volbert: *M. le président, il y a des cas il y a des gens qui sont vraiment dans le besoin*, the neediest families. We have launched a bidding exercise in March last and this was not responsive and so we cannot stay there doing nothing. And, we have just launched for 20 units of new social housing, it is on the EProc, we are moving and as I know, the people over there each and every time they are saying not a single house is being built. And now when we are building houses, they come here and say you should do like this or like that. The importance is that these neediest families they are obtaining what they deserved.

Mr Lisette: [*mic switch off*] Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, 5 m² from 35 to 19, a reduction in the surface area that is being given to the house and the objective of the Commissioner is to reduce waste in the sense that the beneficiary will benefit a 19.5 and then when he gets a lease then he is going to apply for a new housing scheme. I think I am right on the matter. My question is - why is it that in order to reduce waste, to reduce money further, loss of money further, why is it that these persons who do not have a lease why are they not considered under hardship case, discussed with the Commissioner responsible for Land Affairs and provided directly with a lease so that they can apply for a new housing scheme. Why are you going for a two-step decision giving a house which is costing, I do not know the price maybe Rs100,000 or even more and then we do not know how long they are going to stay there, they are going to apply then on getting their lease. Why is there not a direct step considered as hardship giving them their lease and at the same time ensuring being hardship cases that they are awarded their houses cases. Why is it not so?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, c'est une très bonne suggestion mais malheureusement ils étaient là – tout-à-l'heure on a une question pour Mme M de Parc Tortue, je vais répondre – ils étaient là, ils connaissaient très bien comment on doit faire pour les *hardships cases* mais malheureusement Mme M a pris trois ans sous leur mandat et n'a pas eu ce privilège. Donc, je vais prendre en considération ce que vous dites mais

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dites-vous bien que nous avons plus de 600 cas de demande pour des personnes qui n'ont pas des baux, qui n'a pas de bail. Donc, ce ne sera pas toujours facile de procéder, donner à 600 personnes, 600 maisons, de travailler avec le Chief Commissioner's Office. Mais pour les 19.5 m² que nous donnons c'est parce que ces gens-là ils vont avoir une maison après, c'est temporaire, parce qu'il y a des cas il y a trois, quatre, cinq familles dans une maison sous un même toit, une maison de deux chambres donc on fait quelque chose en attendant que ces personnes aient leurs maisons en dure.

Mr Lisette: *[mic switch off]* ... we should stand by experience and I think that this House, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has had enough experience in the sense that if we looked at the Trust Fund houses with an area of 35 m² it was given with the idea of improving the structures with time. But there has been much time passed and we see yet as we stand that these people have not been able to improve them or they have not been able to get into a scheme to improve their housing facilities.

My question is - is it not a drawback? When I listened to your answer that there are 600, Mr Chairperson, hardships cases...

(Interruptions)

Yes, whom? They are about to give 19.5 m², can you see what will be the effect I will say ecological system of Rodrigues itself. Have you assessed that?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, dans la plupart des cas ces personnes qui demandent une maison sous le 'Needy Family Scheme', ce sont des filles mères avec un enfant ou deux enfants. Donc, comme je vous ai dit ils n'ont pas de bail, ces mamans n'ont pas de bail et ils doivent avoir la permission d'un parent, d'un *relative* pour pouvoir construire cette maison, c'est temporaire. Et puis ils vont quand ils auront leur bail... Et puis l'idée derrière tout ça c'est que nous devons faire notre effort aussi nous aussi. Tout le monde doit faire son effort aussi. Il n'y pas que le gouvernement qui doit faire de l'effort. Donc, si on donne 19.5 m², la personne doucement, doucement comme on dit peut faire quelque chose pour améliorer ces maisons-là.

(Interruptions)

J'ai dit la suggestion est bonne. Nous allons travailler là-dessus. D'ailleurs, le Chef commissaire est là, il a entendu la suggestion et nous allons travailler ensemble pour essayer de voir comment on va améliorer les cas de ces personnes-là.

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Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, when I look at the reply given to question B/111, it is a fact that the method, the policy that you adopted to...

(Interruptions)

B/111. Yes, in accordance to the reply given. So, out of 211 contracts awarded since March 2022 to date, only 66 have reached the final stage. Which means that there is a big problem with this scheme. And, we can also, for example, for the new social housing scheme of 3 m², you have given information only about 51 out of 148 beneficiaries. So, would the Commissioner... Yes, 36 plus 10 plus 1 plus 4. So, 51 out of 148, which means that all the others have not been able to reach at least the first stage. So, would the Commissioner give his remedial measures in order to ensure that these people are able to construct their housing unit because all these people they have their lease, if I understand the criteria, as you have given. So, if they have a lease, it means that either they do not have a housing unit or they have one which is in a precarious state. So, what is the Commission envisaging to do in order to enable and to increase the rapidity of implementation of this project for these 211 beneficiaries?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, j'ai dit dans ma réponse que le problème de *self-help* ce n'est pas un problème de donner les matériaux de construction à des bénéficiaires. Le problème c'est que les contracteurs, on a des problèmes de contracteur et on avait qu'un seul *supplier* pour *lagoonal sand*. Et là, on a travaillé, on a pu avoir la liste des *sand removal* de la commission de l'Environnement. On va relancer. On a déjà fait les *steps to launch*. Et, en ce qui concerne les ouverture, *openings*, là aussi il y avait qu'un seul *supplier* pour toutes ces maisons. Et on a vu que c'est un problème. Donc, on a déjà travaillé. Le contrat a été lancé et je pense que d'ici décembre il y aura encore des maisons qui vont être ajouté à cette liste et moi je crois fermement qu'à la fin de notre mandat, en 2027, nous aurons un bilan dans le *housing*, un bilan dans le logement. Et je suis convaincu. Vous aussi la dernière fois j'ai entendu, Madame la Minorité dans son '*live*' dire qu'après dix ans, ils ont fait 700 maisons. Mais pourtant dans leurs programme, paragraphe 86 - « *Nous voulons atteindre l'objectif de construire 1,500 maisons durant ces cinq ans.* » Ils n'ont pas pu eux aussi. C'est-à-dire, il y a un problème avec ceux que vous donniez vous aussi. On doit accepter mais on améliore de temps en temps, on améliore, on fait de notre mieux. Vous aussi comme politicien, je crois que vous avez fait de votre mieux pour donner un toit décent à toutes ces personnes qui cherchent, qui doit avoir une maison. Et, je vais un petit peu plus

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loin, dans le Annual Report de 2017, 2018, 2019, à la page 37 – le Housing Unit – vous avez donné 228. Vous me dites 148, lettres que nous avons données, lettres d'intentions, vous aussi vous avez donné 228 lettres d'intentions pour le New Social Scheme et à la fin de l'année financière vous n'avez construit que 83 sur 228. Vous voyez ? C'est votre Annual Report, c'est vous qui avez écrit ça. Donc, il y a un problème comme je vous dis, nous tous nous voulons faire mieux mais malheureusement il y a des problèmes. Donc que nous tous nous voulons améliorer pour donner des résultats à la fin de notre mandat.

The Minority Leader: Dans la réponse du commissaire du *Housing*, il a énuméré les différents *schemes*, Elderly Scheme, Basic Sanitary, Infrastructure for Needy Families et puis de manière séparer il donne un nombre, il parle de huit, que le Conseil Exécutive a approuvé sur *humanitarian ground*. Un moment il parle de *hardship cases for those in precarious situation and then he talked about humanitarian ground. What is the difference between those hardship cases and those cases approved on humanitarian ground?*

Mr Volbert: M. le président, le huit que la Minority Leader fait la référence, c'est le *Elderly Housing Scheme*. Ce n'est pas pareil que le *Needy Families Scheme*. Donc, il y avait huit sous le *Elderly Housing Scheme*. C'est différent, c'est deux *scheme* différents. Et donc, il y a aussi le *Needy Family Scheme*. C'est pour ça qu'il y avait deux réponses. Il y avait deux paragraphes. J'ai répondu à deux reprises dans ma réponse que j'ai fourni à l'Assemblée.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the issue of self-help, you talked about contractors but self-help there is no need for contractors. The beneficiaries do not need contractors as such. But the problem is not only contractors. I can see that there is a problem also with the Commission. For example, I have here a contract, it might be confidential, but the beneficiaries do have one. On 22 February 2024, there are some beneficiaries, many, more than 20 who obtained this contract and most of them up to now have not received at least one item of the construction materials. Can we know why there is a such a problem in the delivery of materials from the Commission since 22 February 2024?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, il y a 105, je crois, bénéficiaires qui tombent sous ce *Scheme*. Donc, quand on a amené les nouveaux règlements, nous avons amendé le *Scheme* et ces personnes devraient avoir des contracteurs pour construire leurs maisons. C'est pour ça on a déjà lancé... c'est-à-dire les 105 je pense il y avait le Trust Fund aussi parmi et le

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New Social Scheme, la demande pour le *New Social Housing*. Donc, quand nous avons lancé l'année dernière comme je vous ai dit, ça n'a pas été *responsive*, malheureusement. Et là, il y avait des erreurs, je pense que le Departmental Head avec son équipe, dans le *Departmental Bid Committee* et ils ont corrigés, et je pense, croisons les doigts pour qu'on puisse continuer avec ce *scheme*. Et on construit des maisons pour ces familles pauvres, qui sera bénéfique pour tout le monde même pour mon amie Karine aussi. Donc, on parle souvent, il y a des gens qui vont l'avoir, on parle et on ne fait pas de discrimination, on donne à ces gens-là la priorité quand on a des personnes qui sont vraiment dans le besoin, qui ont besoin d'une maison pour sa famille, pour abriter sa famille, une petite maison. Et on fait tout ce qu'on pourra et tout ce qu'on peut pour donner mais malheureusement on a 1,604 demandes. 800 depuis 2014 jusqu'à 2021. Et donc, on travaille là-dessus. On va essayer de voir comment aider ces familles.

Mr Chairperson: A very last.

Mr Baptiste: Can the Commissioner inform the House why some beneficiaries of this contract dated 22 February 2024 who were supposed to be awarded material grant for upgrading, extension of existing Trust Fund housing up to 60 m², they have now been given another contract under the new project that was just awarded under the new social housing scheme to be implemented by contractors. Why is this swapping of contract?

Mr Volbert: Ce sont ces bénéficiaires qui ont optées, M. le président. Ils ont opté parce que avec le new social housing scheme qu'on vient de mettre en place ils n'ont rien à payer appart l'installation de l'électricité et *plumbing*. Donc, ces personnes-là, ils ont opté pour le *new contract*. Pour eux c'est mieux que d'aller chercher, d'aller faire des emprunts à la banque ou aller chercher un contracteur pour payer Rs300,00/Rs400,000 pour construire leurs maisons.

Mr Chairperson: Respected Members, I have an announcement for lunch. So, lunch for respected Members, will be served in the Conference Room of the Commission for the Environment at the Mutual Aid Building. As for other officials the usual arrangements remain in place. So, we suspend for one hour for lunch.

At 1.01 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.24 p.m. with Mr Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr Chairperson: Let us proceed with questions

ONION PRODUCTION – 2025

(No. B/100) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to onion production for 2025, he will provide (a) the total area cultivated, indicating the percentage increase or decrease from the previous year (b) any investigations undertaken into the unusual problems encountered by planters, and the findings and (c) the measures his Commission intends to adopt to compensate planters for their losses?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to onion production for Year 2025, I wish to inform the House as follows: -

With regard to part (a) of the question, the total area cultivated for onions for the cropping year 2025 amounts to 11 hectares representing an estimated production of 55 tons with a decrease of 44% in area planted and 78% in volume produced due to a disease which has severely impacted onion plantation in Rodrigues during the past few months.

With regard to part (b), I wish to inform the House that investigations into problems encountered by planters have revealed the following:

- Following reports of unusual challenges faced by onion planters this year, including moist, rainy and cool winter which was favourable for the development and propagation of diseases caused by fungi and loss of seedlings, my Commission undertook preliminary investigations in June 2025 which indicated a damping of common disease affecting onion seedlings more specifically during period of high rainfall or when there is over-irrigation, dense sowing and not well drained soil.
- Subsequently, a leaflet on the disease was also circulated to the Extension Officers for dissemination to planters.
- Awareness campaign was initiated in June 2025 through local and TV programs on the issue to provide technical advice to onion planters and also as a means of prevention to contain the propagation of the disease, mainly during period of heavy and continuous rainfall.
- A quick appraisal was done in the last week of July 2025 in the two main onion growing regions and the outcome were as follows:
 - a) In electoral Region 3, a number of 42 planters were affected at nursery stage and the average loss is estimated at 50%;

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- b) In electoral Region 6, a number of 36 planters were affected over an area of 6 arpent and which recorded an average of 30% loss;
- (c) Owing to the high incidence on field, collaboration from FAREI was sought as from the beginning of August 2025. Consequently, two Pathologists of the Institute proceeded on mission to Rodrigues from 30 August to 06 September 2025.

During their mission, the following actions were undertaken: -

- (i) Field surveys in the main onion growing areas as well as meetings and discussions with planters.
 - (ii) Collection of symptomatic samples and preliminary analysis and observation in the laboratory of the Commission at Citronelle.
 - (iii) Capacity building of officers of my Commission.
 - field and laboratory diagnosis
 - integrated management strategies of the disease
 - (iv) Development of management strategies for the next cropping season.
 - (v) Recommendations made on the way forward.
- Following field symptomology, microscopy and morphological examination, the disease was identified as Onion Anthracnose-twister Disease (*champignon*) which is identified for the first time in Rodrigues
 - As at end October 2025, the total number of complaints received at the Public Relation Unit of my Commission is 78.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in respect to these challenges, my Commission is implementing the following measures to support planters: -

- (i) Technical assistance through field visits, provisions of guidance on pest and disease management, and recommendations on improved cultivation practices are ongoing. The dissemination of the technical report of the disease to all Extension Officers have been initiated for the information of all planters. I would like to table the report submitted by the pathology from AREU for your correct information for the Members of the House.

Mr Chairperson, Sir,

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1. Provision of inputs such as: -
 - (i) Recommended pesticides, procurement exercise has already started in September 2025 and same is being awaited as the appropriate pesticides are not available on the local market.
2. Procurement exercise started in October 2025 for a hot water bath for treatment of onion seed before sowing and same is expected to be delivered by end of February 2026.
3. Procurement for the purchase of onion seeds for next year onion cropping season has already started.
 - (ii) In line with technical advice from FAREI, a fact sheet on the disease is being prepared by the aforesaid institution and once available will be distributed to all onion planters over the island.
 - (iii) A technical review meeting on the disease scheduled in the month of February/March next year for all onion planters to their respective representatives before the start of the next planting season.
 - (iv) Seed Subsidy Scheme already launched by my Commission for reimbursement of 50% to planters for the cost of seed as well as the mechanisation scheme whereby the sum of Rs3,000 per acre of land mechanised will be refunded.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to assure the House that my Commission remains fully committed to supporting onion growers and ensuring the sustainability and resilience of onion production in Rodrigues. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has talked about the diseases but I would like to ask him first of all, whether he has analysed the figures since he took office in 2022, the hectares' surface area of land cultivated for onion has drastically decreased from 24 hectares in 2024 to only 11. Can we know why this has happened? This is the lowest ever surface area cultivated.

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the cause – there are several for that but mainly I think it is a question of seeds that have not been provided because Rodrigues they prefer Bellarose and then in Mauritius we do not have Bellarose. So, they have only Francia but Rodriguan are not keen to by Francia. There is a big problem that is why my Commission

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is addressing this issue so that we start growing of Francia seeds so that the planters will be able to have their seeds.

Secondly, last year we had a problem of irrigation and water especially in the regions of Mourouk and Port Sud Est. This issue also we are looking at it and I think that with the help of FAREI we will be able to tackle this problem for the next cropping season that will start from February or March next year.

Mr Baptiste: [*mic switch off*] how many planters are concerned if the survey has already been completed and whether any financial compensation is envisaged as you have said it is really a substantial loss. It is a very high percentage more than 70%, if I understand. So, what compensation in terms of financial assistance would you give to these concerned planters?

Mr Perrine: My Commission has decided, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to provide an assistance of 50% on seeds that these planters affected have purchased for plantation during crop season 2024-2025. So, we are going to sell Bellarose seeds with them with 50% reduction.

Secondly, we are going to provide mechanization and a scheme of Rs3,000 per acre, will be paid to them. And, we are also requesting the Small Planters Welfare Fund because these planters they have their cards, whether they would be eligible to have assistance from Small Planters because they have their cards and we will ask the Small Planters Welfare Fund to consider this issue. Because it is the first time planters are affected by this disease in Rodrigues and then in Mauritius they have the same problem they are looking what the policy will be for Mauritius ... the same policy will apply for Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Je vois que le commissaire de l'Agriculture est venu avec une chapelet de mesure comme qui dirait 'après la mort la tisane', après qu'il y a eu tant de difficulté. Je peux voir dans le Estimates que l'année budgétaire 2024-2025 a été l'année où le commissaire a eu le plus gros budget. Nous sortons de Rs 5 millions à Rs 35 millions pour '*incentive for agricultural production*'. Est-ce que je peux savoir du commissaire qu'est-ce qu'il a fait avant – donc cette année financière là – pour aider les planteurs pour les encourager à cultiver et à planter des onions ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, la question n'est pas directement liée à la production d'onion parce que ces Rs 35 millions ce n'était pas simplement pour... Je vais me

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renseigner et soumettre la réponse. Parce que l'argent n'a pas été volatiliser, surement il a été utilisé. Mais seulement ce n'est pas pour les planteurs d'oignons ça a été utilisé – je viendrai avec un *statement* ou bien un papier pour expliquer qu'est-ce qu'on a fait avec ces Rs 35 millions.

The Minority Leader: La question de plantation d'union c'est une question de suivi des planteurs sur le terrain et on a constaté qu'en général sur le terrain que ce soit St François, à Mourouk, à Port Sud Est, il y a une absence totale de suivi sur le terrain. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire pourquoi il n'y a plus autant de suivi sur le terrain par rapport aux planteurs ?

Mr Perrine: Mais vous savez Rodrigues est divisé en quatre régions agricoles. Nous avons des *fields workers*, des personnes, des officiers qui sont postés dans ces sections mais pourquoi il n'y a pas de suivi sur le terrain ça on va vérifier parce que le programme qu'ils soumettent pour payer leurs *overtime*, il y a des *fields visits*, ce qu'on va faire on va vérifier. C'est pourquoi des fois on me dit que je terrorise les fonctionnaires. Parce que s'il y a des *fields visits* et vous dites qu'ils ne sont pas sur le terrain, on va essayer de voir quels sont ces *fields visits*. D'ailleurs, je vais *scrutinised* ces *bills* pour *overtime* pour qu'ils fassent leurs travaux qu'ils sont supposés de faire. Ils sont des *field worker* pas pour s'asseoir au bureau avec leurs portables.

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire s'il est satisfait du nombre d'officiers postés à sa commission - les Technical Officers, des Fields Officers - pour pouvoir faire ce gros travail qui est demandé sur le terrain ? Est-ce que le nombre d'officiers est suffisant ?

Mr Perrine: Bien sûr, M. le président, ce n'est pas suffisant mais on doit travailler avec ce qu'on a. Il y a beaucoup de postes qui ne sont pas remplis, qui ne sont pas *funded*. Mais je ne peux pas me plaindre tous les jours. Il faut que je fasse le travail avec le nombre d'officiers qu'il y a. Mais moi je ne suis pas d'accord comme on dit il y a un manque d'officiers. Il y a, on peut faire un travail. On doit travailler. Moi, ce que je constate et je vais le dire c'est que les officiers sont satisfaits ou sont non satisfait, on n'est pas satisfait du tout de leurs *deliveries*. Et d'ailleurs, on va insister là-dessus. *They have to work; they are being paid, they have to work. If they do not want to work, they resigned.*

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Mr Chairperson: Sorry, I think you are departing too much from the main question. So, return back to the main question, please.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that the places where onions are planted are in the region 6 and region 3. So, is he aware that since the closure of the office of Trèfles this has become more difficult for planters to interact, to meet and to discuss about their issues, their problems with officers of the Commission who were initially posted there was quite easy for them to have access to while now with the centralisation it has become very, very difficult to have these officers – which could have been very helpful to avoid this drastic situation right from the beginning of the planters noticing the issue of onion?

Mr Perrine: I do not think so, Mr Chairperson. The officers are supposed to be field officer, even if they are at Port Mathurin, they have to go in the fields, it is not the planters that have to come to the office. They are field officer, they have to go there and they are being paid travelling. And, I do not agree that because that this office has been closed for reparation work that they do not go in the field. They are field officer; they are not supposed to be in the office. I will see to it that they submit their programme of work every week so that we verify, we check what they are doing.

Mr Chairperson: I will allow one last supplementary question on this.

Mr Baptiste: But the fact on the field is not the same because planters as I have said used to have a better idea of who is responsible for which extension office but now at Citronelle it is more difficult for them to identify – especially because we know also that some officers have taken their retirement. I would like to ask the Commissioner what he intends to do as an urgent matter because it is felt that only with ten officers for 3,000 planters, it is not only of onions, it will be almost impossible for the Commission to continue to survive. So, what he intends to do as an urgent matter to solve this problem of lack of officers?

Mr Perrine: *As I have said, we have to work with what we have.* Nous avons taillé notre habit avec la toile que nous avons. Et nous allons faire des demandes, bien sûr, à travers le bureau de l'Administration pour que nous recrutons des staffs additionnels pour qu'on puisse *deliver*. Mais comme je vous dis avec l'équipe que nous avons surtout technique sur le terrain et nous allons faire avec. Et chaque officier doit faire ce qui est

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indiqué dans son *Scheme of Service*, faire son travail et suivre le programme. Ce n'est pas du tout mon intention de pleurnicher toute la journée pour dire qu'on a pas de staff, on n'a pas de budget, on ne va pas travailler. Merci.

Mr Chairperson: Mr Ramdally.

SURPLUS IN THE PRODUCTION OF PIGS AND PIGLETS - RODRIGUES

(No. B/101) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the surplus in the production of pigs and piglets in Rodrigues, he will inform the House of the measures his Commission is contemplating to take to assist producers currently in hardship and, if so, to give details thereof?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the surplus in the production of pigs and piglets in Rodrigues, I wish to inform the House that my Commission is fully aware of the difficulties currently faced by pig breeders as a result of reduced market demand and processing capacity on the island.

In this respect, a series of measures are being contemplated to support the sector and assist producers in order to overcome the current hardship. These include: -

- (i) Encouragement of value addition, such as processing of pork into sausages, smoked and cured products to reduce wastage and improve producers' income. In this respect training in pork processing are regularly organised by my Commission for existing and or prospective pork processing entrepreneurs. The possibility to export pork processing to Mauritius is also being contemplated;
- (ii) Technical and advisory support, to assist producers in herd management and feeding practices are provided by the Extension Service Officers;
- (iii) Assessing the possibility of exporting live pigs to Mauritius subject to applicable sanitary and veterinary requirements;
- (iv) Boost local pork consumption through Meat Subsidy Scheme, and
- (v) Operate the pig section of the slaughter house at Baie Diamant to enable exportation of carcasses to Mauritius.

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I wish to assure the House that my Commission remains committed to supporting pig producers in Rodrigues and ensuring the long term sustainability of the pig farming sector.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, le problème est quand même assez pressant puisqu'il y a des jeunes excès sur le marché. On aimerait savoir sur quoi il voudrait insister dans le court terme pour pouvoir attaquer le problème dans le court terme puisqu'il y a des producteurs qui font déjà face à des problèmes de manque de revenu et de gestion de *cash flow* qu'il en manque pour faire face à la situation ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, il y a quelque temps de cela il y a un problème de manque de porcelet sur le marché. La commission a pris la décision de faire un *Feed Subsidy* pour les truies et aussi encourager les producteurs qui sont dans le domaine de reproduction - faire des petits porcelets. Ça a produit des résultats. Mais le problème c'est que le prix que les producteurs, les éleveurs offrent est resté pareil, c'est-à-dire, Rs 3,000. Il faut que les éleveurs comprennent qu'il y a l'offre et la demande, il faut qu'ils jouent le jeu. Ils ne peuvent pas garder le prix Rs 3,000 et puis il ne peut pas *comply to market forces*. S'il arrive à comprendre qu'il faut baisser le prix à ce moment-là pour satisfaire le marché, je pense que ça peut aller.

Deuxièmement, on aurait voulu exporter carcasse de porc à Maurice. Mais est-ce que vous savez qu'à Maurice le prix de vente dans les marchés est Rs 150, à Rodrigues c'est à Rs 250. Comment est-ce qu'on peut exporter ça à Maurice. Le problème c'est qu'il faut trouver *the cost of production* et arriver à un prix qui satisfait le marché. Tant que les éleveurs veulent avoir Rs 3,000 avec leurs porcelets et que les gens qui voudraient acheter pensent qu'il faut les 1,500, alors nous aurons un problème. Nous allons voir comment nous allons régler ce problème.

Ce qu'on peut faire, pour dire au Dr Agathe, c'est que nous allons faire un *meat subsidy* d'ici la fin du mois et on pense retirer au moins 700/1000 porcs sur le marché. Je pense à ce moment-là, ça va soulager les producteurs en attendant que nous trouvons une solution plus *long term* concernant la production de porc. C'est éventuellement l'exportation, soit la carcasse, soit l'arrêt sur Maurice. Il y a la demande mais il y a une question de prix.

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The Minority Leader: M. le président, nous parlons de surplus de production de porc et de porcelet et l'année dernière, le 24, 25, le commissaire dans son allocution de budget avait annonçait pour la commission de l'Agriculture la mise en place de dix firmes de cochons à Mte Plate. Donc, comment le commissaire concilie cette annonce et la situation que nous faisons face actuellement par rapport au surplus ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, cette annonce a été fait bien sûr avec consultation avec ma commission mais seulement comme je vous dis, c'est comme ça. On ne peut pas. Si quelqu'un veut faire un *business*, on ne peut pas tout donner. Les producteurs doivent comprendre c'est une *business*, ça doit être fait sur une base professionnelle, ce n'est pas la sécurité sociale, excusez-moi mon ami, mais qu'on donne tout et puis ils veulent avoir bon prix. Et puis, *pan res six mois, rien*. C'est pourquoi on est en train de voir. Vous savez c'est un problème, ce n'est pas pour nous, c'est tout le monde. Vous aussi quand vous étiez là, si vous voyez combien de parc comme on l'appelle, ce n'est pas occupé. Vous prenez depuis Baladirou, vous faites le tour. Parce qu'il faut que les Rodriguais et les éleveurs comprennent que c'est un *business*, il faut qu'ils investissent et qu'ils réinvestissent. Il ne peut pas consumer la semence et puis pour redemander encore. Il y en a qui vont percer mais il y en a beaucoup... Vous savez même à Mte Du Sable, vous savez combien d'emplacement de porc il y a ? Écoutez, dans le passé l'élevage de porc, c'était un porc à la maison, on vendait à la fin de l'année, etc. c'est tout. Mais ce n'est plus maintenant. C'est un *business*, il y a la compétition, il y a tout. Je pense qu'il y a possibilité de *improve* mais ça va prendre du temps. Quand on parle de site à Mte Plate, ce sont des sites professionnels, des gens qui ont un plan, qui ont un *cash-flow*, qui ont la possibilité d'investir. Ce n'est pas quelqu'un qui n'a rien du tout et à chaque fois il a un problème il va venir à Citronelle, *don sa, don sa, don sa, don sa hein*. Non, Rodrigues ne peut pas progresser comme ça. Je suis désolé mais seulement il faut leur dire la vérité. Vous n'avez pas le moyen, vous n'avez pas la technique professionnelle pour le faire, vous pouvez faire autre chose.

Mr Randally: M. le président, en même temps l'origine de ce problème d'augmentation de porcelet sur le marché c'est le *scheme 'don manze kado'*. C'est ça qui a engendré ce problème. Qu'est-ce que la commission va faire avec ce projet de *'don manze kado'* ?

Mr Perrine: [*mic switch off*] ...les porcelets pour les éleveurs. Maintenant ce qu'on a fait on a fait ce *scheme* pour ceux qui est avait quatre, c'est-à-dire, produire des porcelets

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chez vous-même au lieu de dépendre sur l'agriculture. Seulement le problème c'est que, à l'époque le prix comme je vous ai dit était Rs 3,000 un porcelet. Mais maintenant on ne peut pas aller de l'avant avec le nombre de porcelet qu'il y a sur le marché. Ils ne vont pas respecter la loi du marché, ils veulent avoir Rs 3,000. Mais comment on peut avoir ! Je vous dis si demain c'est à Rs 1,500/Rs 1,700, il n'y aura plus de porcelet à Rodrigues. C'est ça que les éleveurs doivent comprendre. Ce n'est pas seulement pour ça, pour le haricot, le miel, les saucisses, tous c'est comme ça. Merci.

The Minority Leader: Le commissaire a parlé de *encourage value addition*, il a parlé de *meat subsidy, local market and so on*. Nous savons que quand on parle de surplus de porc, chaque année dans le cadre du *World Food Day* vous avez une foire où les entrepreneurs, les producteurs viennent vendre leurs produits. Et là, moi j'ai rencontré sur le terrain des personnes qui ont investis plus de Rs 150,000 l'achat de porc pour transformer et on n'entend rien par rapport à cette foire qui se tiennent normalement mi-octobre dans le cadre du *World Food Day*. Est-ce que vous pouvez donner la garantie que cette foire va avoir lieu pour que ces personnes-là peuvent écouler leurs produits ?

Mr Perrine: Vous savez je vais vous dire on voudrait pas faire une foire comme on a l'habitude de faire avec quelques arbustes qu'on va vendre, etc., etc., on va le faire comme un salon de l'agriculture, vous allez être invité vous allez voir. Mais il ne perd rien à attendre. Merci.

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, le commissaire n'a pas répondu à ma question concernant le *scheme manze kado*. Est-ce qu'il va continuer avec ce *scheme* ou pas ?

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: C'est ça, on va discuter au niveau du Council, parce que les autres commissaires aussi ont leurs mots à dire. On va discuter ensemble. Parce que vous savez cette *subsidy* qu'on a donné sur aliment pour pauvre, ça a été très bien accueilli dans les villages, les gens pauvres. Et maintenant on va savoir comment on peut l'améliorer. S'il y a un petit problème, je suis à l'écoute. Si vous avez d'autres propositions vous aussi l'opposition...

Mr Chairperson: We move to the next question. Minority Leader?

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**ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES/SEIZURES – IMPORTATION OF
MEAT/ARTISANAL PROCESSED MEAT/DERIVED PRODUCTS – BY
TRAVELLERS**

(No. B/102) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether he will inform the House on (a) the established procedures for the importation of meat, artisanal processed meat, and derived meat products by travellers and (b) any seizures of such products over the last three months, including dates, quantities, and details of the case involving a traveller from Reunion Island on or around 28 September 2025?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think part of this question has been answered this morning regarding importation of meat. Anyway, I will read some more information.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the established procedures for the importation of meat, artisanal processed meat and derived meat products by travellers are governed by the Animal Health Act, the Plant Protection Act and the Biosecurity (Importation of Animal and Animal Products) Regulations 2022, which are currently in force in the Republic of Mauritius. Consequently, all meat and meat derived products are subject to strict Import Permit requirements and biosecurity inspection at the points of entry over the island, that is at the airport and port.

I wish to inform the House that only products accompanied by the appropriate sanitary certification from the competent authority of the exporting country are allowed entry, subject to verification by the Biosecurity Services. Any undeclared or non-compliant products are seized and disposed of in accordance with established biosecurity protocols.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, during the period July to September, I am informed that a total of eight cases of seizure of undeclared or prohibited crop and animal products were recorded at the port of entry by the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) (Rodrigues). These comprised mainly small quantities of meat, processed meat products and crops brought by individual travellers. I Table a list of case of seizure of undeclared products.

As regards to part (b) of the question, relating to the seizure of undeclared products on or about 28 September 2025, I am informed that no such incident happened to any traveller from Reunion Island.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is however working in close collaboration with the relevant enforcement authorities to strengthen biosecurity controls at the airport and port through enhanced passenger screening, inter department coordination. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Donc, par rapport au *seizure* qu'il y a eu récemment donc le commissaire nous dit qu'il n'y a pas eu d'arriver de La Réunion et on sait qu'il y a eu... Ce matin par ailleurs il a mentionné le 28 septembre. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire s'il y a eu *pressure or negotiation to reinstate any seized products recently by some people* ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, comme je viens de dire il n'y a pas eu de *seizure* sur des passagers arrivant de La Réunion, cette période. Par contre, j'ai expliqué ce matin le 28 septembre 2025 sur le vol MK 120 de Maurice, il y a eu *seizure* des produits qui ont été détruit d'après le protocole. C'est pour ça que j'ai dit qu'on va essayer avec l'équipe de Maurice, qui arrive bientôt, on va essayer de revoir ce protocole pour renforcer le contrôle. Et aussi je dois assurer le Minority Leader que sur moi, sur RRA, je ne sais pas il n'y a pas eu aucune pression. Sur moi personnellement. Ni dans les autres commissaires. Parce qu'ils n'ont pas osés me téléphoner pour me dire quelque chose, personne.

(Interruptions)

Non, non, j'ai dit les commissaires, je n'ai pas dit ... Merci, M. le président.

Mr Baptiste: Can we know what are the possible penalties/sanctions against those people who do not abide to the laws, to the rules relating to this issue of illegal importation of... without the necessary bio security certificate, and so on?

Mr Perrine: Comme j'ai expliqué, M. le président, ce matin, le MPPO office tombe sous le contrôle du ministère. C'est-à-dire, nous nous faisons simplement – nous avons les représentants comme le Minority Leader avait bien dit, mes officiers ont des badges qui leurs permettent de faire des saisies et prendre l'action suivant, c'est-à-dire, destruction et autres. Mais pour la Cour c'est le ministère qui est responsable. C'est pourquoi j'ai voulu *clear* cette issue avec le ministre, la délégation qui va venir pour que nous à Rodrigues on peut appliquer la loi et non pas avoir recours à Maurice pour faire l'appliquer. Merci, M. le président.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, we move to next question.

**TRANSFER OF FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE MAURITIAN ESTABLISHMENT
TO THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

(No. B/103) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Fire Services and Others whether, in regard to the transfer of firefighters from the Mauritian establishment to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will inform the House where matters currently stand?

Mr Wong So: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that 13 Firefighters (Rodriguan) appointed on the Establishment of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services (MFRS) has since the year 2022 applied for permanent transfer to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Establishment. Their requests were submitted to the Disciplined Forces Service Commission known as the DFSC as there is no provisions in the DFSC Regulations for the transfer of officers of the Disciplinary Forces between the two Establishments, the DFSC advised that the views of the Prime Minister's Office be sought thereon, accordingly. On 10 June 2022, the matter was referred to the Secretary for Home Affairs and a meeting held by video conference on 26 July 2022 with inter alia representative of the Prime Minister's Office. The latter indicated that the matter will be looked into. A reply from the Prime Minister's Office is still being awaited.

During my mission in Mauritius in July 2025, further discussion was held with the Hon. Minister of Local Government, the Permanent Secretary and the Acting Head Fire Services and the Manager Human Resources. A formal request has been submitted and a reply is being awaited. I thank you for your attention, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if I refer to the reply given by the then Commissioner on 02 March 2023, he said, I quote: *"Il y a des discussions qui sont allé jusqu'à loin et soon, very soon these officers, these posts will be filled in Mauritius, will be recruited here."* And, he even asked Members of this side of the House to wait and see. Can we know then what has happened between March 2023 and what has happened during all these lapsed of time. There has been no follow-up or something else?

Mr Wong So: M. le président, je dois informer les Membres de cette Assemblée de ce qui a été dit. La réponse a été claire et nette. De ce côté de la Chambre on a fait le nécessaire pour demander à ce que les Rodriguais, les 13 frères et sœurs Rodriguais à Maurice d'être transférer à Rodrigues. Ce souhait émane de cette partie de la Chambre. On

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l'a fait, avec mon collègue Volbert à l'époque où il avait la responsabilité et moi-même à partir de juillet, c'est qu'on a fait la demande. Je le redis à la Chambre, c'est à la DFSC de pouvoir donner le *green light under the advice of the Prime Minister Office*. So, we just have to wait. We cannot do otherwise. Est-ce qu'on peut aller de l'avant pour dire on fait retourner ? Savez-vous quand j'ai négocié avec le ministre actuel, il m'avait dit c'est vrai ce n'est pas difficile commissaire parce que nous en avons 13 Fire Stations à Maurice et comme ils sont 13 Rodriguais, c'est comme-ci on est en train dans leur *strength* de retirer une personne pendant le shift et de venir travailler à Rodrigues, *on a temporary basis*. Ce qui a été dit et mentionné. Mais malheureusement, à ce jour rien n'a été concrétisé pour la bonne et simple raison pour que nous en tant que *policy maker*, on ne peut pas s'immiscer dans les travaux de la DFSC, qui est une Commission suprême et que c'est à eux, de leur bon vouloir de pouvoir laisser partir ces frères et sœurs Rodriguais à Rodrigues pour le besoin de leurs travaux. Donc, ce qui me fait dire pour résumer, qu'on a beau dire qu'ils vont venir, moi aussi je peux le dire aujourd'hui le 28 octobre qu'ils vont venir très prochainement, ne vous inquiétez pas, on est en train de tout faire pour qu'ils viennent mais ils ne vont pas venir aussi longtemps que la DFSC ne prenne pas la décision et de donner le *green light*.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je me souviens que dans le passé, 2013-14, il y a eu quatre ou cinq officiers du même département qui ont été transférés sous l'establishment à Rodrigues. Est-ce que je peux savoir du commissaire *what is the main hurdle*, quel est le problème aujourd'hui, pourquoi est-ce qu'on ne peut pas faire ça alors que ça a été promis par votre gouvernement ?

Mr Wong So: Merci, Madame de la minorité de poser la question pour que je vais pouvoir répondre. Je vais me référer à une réponse que le ministre, Pentiah, qui est le ministre de Public Service and Administrative Reforms a été fait au Parlement le mardi 8 avril 2025 – il y a tout juste cinq mois de cela suite à une question de l'Honorable Francisco François. Donc, ce qui me fait dire – je vais dire inter alia ce qui a été dit, je ne vais pas lire complètement la réponse qui a été donnée par le ministre. Pour votre information il y en a 36 personnes qui ont fait la demande d'être transférer sur le *establishment* de Rodrigues. Parmi dedans, ce qui a été dit dans ma réponse –

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« Mr, Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am informed that there is a total of 36 Rodriguan public officers who have requested for their transfer to the Establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and they are as follows (entre autres):

- (a) there are 10 Prison Officers;*
- (b) 13 Firefighters in the Mauritius Fire*
- (c) and Rescue Services, and*
- (d) 2 Nursing Officers.”*

Ce qui me ramène le nombre à 25 – je ne sais les 11 autres, c’est quoi – mais en moins il y a quand même d’autre personne. Ce n’est pas ... qu’on est en train de mentionner pour faire le transfert sur l’establishment de Rodrigues. Donc, il est dit dans cette réponse:

“Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, following the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in 2001, distinct establishments were set up in respect of posts under the Mauritian Establishment and that of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the Civil Establishment Order, the Mauritius Civil Establishment Order and Rodrigues, respectively.”

[...] As regards to request for the permanent transfer to the RRA from the Rodriguan officers of the Mauritius Prisons Services and Mauritius Firefighters Services, discussion has been held between these two Commissions and departments and advice has been sought from the Accountant General on the matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the light of the legal advice obtained and in view of the complexity and sensitivity of the issue, which requires more in-depth discussions with all stakeholders and subsequent amendments, which need to be brought to existing legislations, including amending the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, which is in accordance with section 75E of the Constitution, the matter is still under consideration.”

Finally, pour terminer.

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“Finally, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, pending a policy decision on the matter, Rodriguan public officers in the Mauritian establishment who are willing to serve in Rodrigues have the option to apply for and undergo the selection service appointment as Prisons Officer/Senior Prisons Officer, Woman Prisons Officer or Woman Prisons Officer for the firefighter establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as and when vacancies are advertised.:

This is the answer that Mr Pentiah gave to the Parliament in Mauritius.

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, se référant à cette réponse du ministre Pentiah [...]. Dans cette réponse qu’il a lu devant l’Assemblée, le ministre dit : *“Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the light of the legal advice obtained [...] amendments need to be brought to legislations.”* Et dans ces amendements ça inclus aussi le RRA Act. Est-ce que c’est à Maurice d’amender le RRA Act ou c’est à ... Dans ce cas quels sont les amendements qui ont été proposé par le commissaire concernant le RRA Act ?

Mr Wong So: [...] je pense que le Chef commissaire est mieux placé avec son Island Chief Executive et leur *legal advise* pour bien vouloir formuler la demande concernant l’amendement nécessaire qui sera fait en temps et lieu pour ... Parce que je vous ai dit il n’y a pas qu’éventuellement les *Firefighters cases that are being dealt with*. Il y a aussi bien les Prison Officers et aussi bien les Nursing Officers. Donc, tout ça, c’est un plan global [...] des amendements dans le RRA Act. *This is au niveau* du Chef commissaire.

The Minority Leader: *Le commissaire dans sa réponse a parlé de vacancy, policy decision. When vacancy is available this can be ... We know that actually there were recruitment of Firefighters Officers, that is they are vacancies. We would like to know whether with regard to these vacancies you are considering the transfer of these officers so that they can fill these vacancies?*

Mr Wong So: Madame la Minorité, je crois que vous êtes mieux placé pour pouvoir répondre à cette question que vous avez posée. Mais je vais vous dire une chose. Le 3 février 2025, the RRA made a recommendation to the DFSC to make provision for the post of Firefighter for the filling of 12 vacancies from among qualified Rodriguan candidates. And secondly, to reserve 13 existing vacancies for their absorption on permanent transfer of 13 Firefighters from the Mauritius Firefighter and Rescue Services to the Rodriguan Establishment. Cette demande a été formulé en février 2025. On ne peut pas dire qu’on a

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rien fait à notre niveau. La seule chose c'est que la question finale incombe justement au DFSC et Prime Minister's Office de pouvoir prendre la décision finale qui s'impose parce que nous on est incapable de pouvoir dicter à une Commission la décision à prendre.

Maintenant revenons à la question de la minorité en ce qu'il s'agit des derniers recrutements ... Je peux vous dire que nous on ... dedans pour dire ... de bien vouloir venir *apply*. Mais la question est bien simple – *there is an age limit*. Ce qui veut dire que tous ceux qui sont déjà à Maurice n'arrivent pas à postuler pour ces postes, parce qu'il y a un *age limit*, comme vous le savez mieux que moi.

(Interruptions)

No, you are talking about the actual recruitment process.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: We move to next question.

**PROJECTS SUPERVISED/IMPLEMENTED BY RODRIGUES SPORTS
COMPANY**

(No. B/104) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for the Commissioner for Youth and Sports and Others whether, in regard to projects supervised or implemented by the Rodrigues Sports Company since its inception, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table (a) the procurement mechanism established therefor (b) the list of tenders launched and allocated (c) the methods of procurement applied together with contract values and successful bidders and (d) the current status of each project?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that since the operationalisation of the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited, there have been remarkable improvements in the maintenance and upgrading of sports infrastructure around the Island, despite the limited staff and the limited resources. The responsibility entrusted to the company for upgrading and maintenance works has made it possible to achieve good results within small budgets for the welfare of the sports community.

Mr Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a), the procurement mechanism for the implementation of the projects of the company is as follows:

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1. A request is submitted by the respective supervisors to the Acting Manager of the company;
2. If the request refers to simple operational items, the manager seeks informal quotations immediately and seeks the approval of the Board of Directors for procurement;
3. If the request requires formal procurement methods, the clearance of the Board of Directors is sought prior to the preparation of the appropriate tender documents;
4. The preparation of tenders and evaluation exercise is entrusted to the Company Bid Committee, which also chooses the list of potential bidders to be invited to submit their offers.
5. The Company's Bid Committee examines the bids received and recommends the award of the respective contract to the Board of Directors for approval.

In case of bids with technical aspects, independent Bid evaluation committees consisting of people with the right expertise, are set up for evaluation purposes. The Bid Evaluation Committee reports are approved by the Board prior to award of contracts.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, the list of tenders launched and allocated since the inception of the company is as follows:

1. Supply and delivery of construction materials and others.
2. Supply and delivery of white emulsion paint.
3. Painting of Sports Infrastructure - Daflarence Edouard Gymnasium.
4. Painting of Sports Infrastructure – Malabar Gymnasium.
5. Supply and delivery of floodlights (400 Watt).
6. Upgrading of lighting system at Manique Sports Complex.
7. Upgrading of lighting system at Daflarence Edouard Gymnasium.
8. Extension of weight lifting Room at Camp du Roi Stadium.
9. Upgrading of Baie Lascar Sports Complex (labour contract for welding).
10. Painting works to external surface of Boxing Centre.
11. Upgrading of Boxing Ring at Malabar Boxing Centre.
12. Upgrading of Rivière Coco Football Ground phase II- rendering works.

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13. Upgrading of Anse Goeland Football Ground.
14. Upgrading of Citron Donis Football Ground (masonry works).
15. Labour contract for welding - Citron Donis.
16. Supply and delivery of Gym equipment and others.
17. Supply and delivery of galvanised pipes and others
18. Hiring services of excavator.
19. Hiring of Lorry transport services.
20. Hiring of equipment for levelling of playgrounds.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c) and (d) of the question, I am informed that the methods of procurement used for procurement of goods, works and services range from Low Value Procurement that is Informal Quotations for procurement up to Rs500,000 VAT exclusive and Restricted bidding for Goods for those above that threshold.

The corresponding list of successful bidders, project value and project status are indicated in the information that I hereby table.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Mr Spéville: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner list down the names of the members of the Bid Evaluation Committee that he mentioned and give details how these persons have...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Sorry, this is not in order.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the Investment Regulations 25 which talked about the general policies and procurement - ... policy of ... transparency and good governance. Being given that up to now we know that ... did not have a proper ... manager or other administrative ... Can we know who are the grades of officers who formed part of the Bid Committee?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson, Sir, for this question I need notice for that question.

Mr Chairperson: We move to next question. Dr. Agathe.

**INDUSTRIAL LAND LEASES – TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS/STATE LAND – MOUROUK TO ANSE FEMI**

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(No. B/105) Dr H. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to industrial land leases for tourism development projects on state land in the area from Mourouk to Anse Femi, he will state to the House (a) the number of lease applications approved by his Commission from 2022 to date and (b) the stage attained in processing each lease, and table the list of beneficiaries with the extent of land concerned?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, as from 2022 to date, four industrial land leases for tourism projects have been approved in the area of Mourouk to Anse Femie:-

- (i) Splendour Investment (Rodrigues) at Paté Reynieux, Mourouk;
- (ii) Sumeru Ltd at Gravier;
- (iii) VAR Investment Ltd at Var Brulé;
- (iv) La Belle Rodriguaise CIE LTEE at Gravier.

Mr Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am hereby tabling the information requested. Thank you.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous indiquer comment ces baux qui vont être octroyer s'accorde avec le type de tourisme que l'Assemblée ambitionne de développer ?

The Chief Commissioner: A la commission – toutes les questions relatives aux baux sont sur ce documents que j'ai *Tabled*.

Dr. Agathe: Oui, il y a la question de procédure, les procédures doivent être respecter. Mais comment les projets s'accordent au type de développement touristique que vous souhaitez mettre en œuvre, je crois que vous voulez que Rodrigues soit une île créole écologique donc il y a les règles environnementales, les règles culturelles, etc.

The Chief Commissioner: Nous voulons que Rodrigues soit une île créole écologique. Dans ces projets qui ont été soumis au gouvernement ... les promoteurs ne voulaient un tourisme de masse. Surtout pour ... Autre chose c'est qu'ils doivent avoir – juste pour mentionner quelques points importants avant ou l'ors de la concrétisation de ces projets, c'est justement ... dessalement ... un projet de cette envergure sauf peut-être La Belle Rodriguaise doivent avoir leur propre unité de dessalement, leur propre unité de

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traitement d'eau usé. Et aussi en ce qui concerne l'occupation du terrain. Très important lorsqu'on parle de créole on parle d'espace. Donc, ils auront à mettre les bâtiments – si je ne me trompe pas – à un tiers de la superficie du terrain. Donc, il faut de l'espace et bien sûr que ce côté créole et ce côté écologique puisse primer.

M. le président, j'aimerais aussi dire concernant La Belle Rodriguaise. Vous savez ce sont des Rodriguais mais malheureusement, M. le président, l'ancien gouvernement a trouvé bon de *cancelled* une partie de leur bail. Et là nous sommes venus...

(Interruptions)

La Belle Rodriguaise à un certain moment il voulait *cancelled* les cinq arpents et là nous sommes revenus, peut-être vous ne le saviez pas, c'est dans le dossier, et nous sommes venus – et ils ont fait une demande à la commission et j'ai été au Conseil Exécutif pour justement leur redonner leurs ... relatifs à ces cinq arpents pour que les Rodriguais puissent aussi développer leurs terrains. Merci.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, is it the policy of this government to extend leases for hotels even in the area of high water marks? Should government accede to request for extension of leases within even high water marks?

The Chief Commissioner: *Mr Chairperson, Sir, there are parameters which needs to be respected.* Concernant les *high water marks* c'est déjà établi. Okay? Les plages à Rodrigues resteront publiques comparer à Maurice. Enfin, dans certaines régions. Quoique normalement ça doit-être publique. Oui, on donne jusqu'à un certain *extent* mais pas jusqu'à la plage. Donc, il y a des réserves à être respecter bien sûr nous veillons à ce que ça soit pris en considération par les promoteurs.

The Minority Leader: Je vois ici donc les compagnies qui ont eus des terrains c'est plus des *lease renewal*. Est-ce que dans cette même région nous avons des compagnies, des entreprises qui ont eus des *letter of reservation* par rapport à certains projets d'hôtels ?

The Chief Commissioner: Bon la question parle bien *in regard to 'industrial land leases'*. Mais certainement il y a des demandes surtout par les Rodriguais pour faire des *guest house, etc.* Nous examinons leurs projets. Il y a des projets qui ont déjà été approuvés par le Conseil Exécutif. On attend. Donc, ça suit son cours. Normal, la procédure normale. Mais je ne me rappelle pas si on a déjà donné des *letter of reservations ou letter of intent* mais c'est un cours.

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Dr. Agathe: M. le président, j'aimerais simplement attirer l'attention que la question ... quelles sont les stades franchis par les différentes demandes ? Parce qu'une lettre de réservation engage quand même l'Assemblée et engage l'intention d'octroyer en rapport avec les objectifs de développement du secteur touristique que l'Assemblée a...

The Chief Commissioner: Dans la réponse que j'ai *Tabled*, il y a déjà les différents stages. Mais comme je vous ai dit, il se pourrait qu'il y a des Rodriguais – il y a certainement des Rodriguais qui ont demandés mais si jamais je n'ai pas la réponse peut-être qu'ils n'ont même pas ... qu'ils ont reçus leurs lettres de réservation. Donc, il faudra attendre parce qu'il y a d'autre facteur aussi qu'il faut prendre en considération avant qu'on puisse octroyer un bail à quelqu'un. Donc, il y a aussi tout ce qui est *planning*, il faut voir de côté, leur planification ... tout ce qui est la délimitation des zones, où il faut construire ou bien ... Donc, tout ça nous prenons ça en considération.

M. le président, nous faisons très attention certainement ... respecté Membre de l'autre côté de la Chambre ... nous voulons que ce soit un développement soutenu dans le secteur touristique ... et ça va affecter directement notre écosystème et aussi impacter sur la vie des Rodriguais.

Mr Chairperson: We move to next question.

**PROCUREMENT – SERVICES FOR REPATRIATION OF CORPSES FROM
MAURITIUS TO RODRIGUES**

(No. B/106) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the procurement of services for the repatriation of corpses from Mauritius to Rodrigues, he will inform the House on (a) the procurement arrangement through which the Rodrigues Regional Assembly obtains these services (b) the company concerned together with the criteria used for its selection and (c) the total expenditure incurred, including a breakdown of the cost for each repatriation, tabling the information thereof?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as stated in my reply to a similar question PQ B/58 at the sitting of this August Assembly on Tuesday 04 June 2024, repatriation of corpses is catered for by my Commission in the following two circumstances, as follows:

- For any person who has proceeded to Mauritius at the cost of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, be it for treatment or any other official mission; in such

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case of demise the repatriation is being catered for by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and

- For those persons who have proceeded to Mauritius on their own for treatment, part of the cost of repatriation is borne by the Commission on the basis of humanitarian ground, upon decision of the Executive Council.

I wish to inform the House that repatriation is being done either by Air Mauritius Ltd or Dornier aircraft depending on the size of the corpse.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question about the procurement arrangement through which the Rodrigues Regional Assembly obtains the services of repatriation of corpses from Mauritius to Rodrigues, I would like to inform the House that from the period 2012 to 2023, services for repatriation were done by Moura Operations Co. Ltd.

However, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to point out to the House that there has never been any contract with the said company for the provision of these services.

Consequently, as from end of July 2023, following lots of complaints received at my office against Moura Undertaker on how corpses were being handled, the services of Elie & Sons Funerals Directors have been requested in view of the repatriation of corpse. Moreover, Moura Undertaker has no office in Rodrigues and is not registered to operate in Rodrigues.

Hence, as at date, I wish to inform the House that the prevailing procedures required regarding the repatriation, are similar to those established by the previous government since 2012. However, my Commission is finalising the Bidding Document for the launching of tender for the services of repatriation of corpses from Mauritius to Rodrigues.

In the meantime, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I further wish to inform the House that my Commission is monitoring closely the provision of repatriation services in view to ensuring that the procedures thereto are being followed accordingly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c) of the question regarding the expenditure incurred for repatriation, I wish to inform the House that the cost of repatriation depends on the weight, length and the mode of repatriation, that is, either via Dornier aircraft or regular Air Mauritius aircrafts.

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Hence, I further wish to inform the House that a total amount of Rs30,436,732.62 has been disbursed for payment of repatriation of corpse from period 2012 to date are as follows:

- Moura Undertaker – from 2012 to 2023 - Rs10,364,814.62
- Elie & Sons Funerals Directors – from 2023 to date – Rs5,846,978
- Dornier – from 2012 to date – Rs14,102,940
- Refund – from 2022 to date – Rs122,000

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner mentioned complaints received from the previous company, can we know from him what are the type of complaints received regarding to this service?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on the repatriation of corpse of R.B. of Oyster Bay, the body was in a state of decomposition and the body of R.B ... Oyster Bay to – no embalming was done.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as a matter of fairness I would like to know whether the company formerly ... complaints and they had the opportunity to show cause of what was...

(Interruptions)

Yes, of course.

Mr Volbert: M. le président, je pense que pour pouvoir rapatrier les corps il y des documents qu'on doit inclure pendant que le corps est transféré et aussi il y a d'autre ... *embalmmnt of the corpse and also the removal of ... and in several documents issued by Moura, these conditions were not respected.*

And, as I said some corpses was in a state of decomposition and soon when the bid will be launched everybody can ... in line ... all respected conditions they can bid for. This will be soon; I think very soon.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, ... they were informed about the complaints received and whether they had the opportunity to give a reply, whether any investigation because we know that any person can write complaints letters but I would like to which body investigated into these allegations and whether the company had the opportunity to come and explain or to give information about what was the alleged complaints?

Mr Volbert: I know, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the late ... was a very good friend of Mr Baptiste.

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Mr Baptiste: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir, unless the Commissioner can substantiate his answer...

Mr Chairperson: Mr Commissioner, we are one minute from the end of question time, please remove this.

Mr Volbert: I remove.

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: Le commissaire peut-il...

(Interruptions)

Le commissaire peut-il nous dire...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I have said order, please!

The Minority Leader: Le commissaire peut-il nous confirmer que le coût moyen du rapatriement d'un corps même si on parle de *weight and so on*, de 2023 – de l'ancien compagnie et le nouveau – est-ce qu'il peut nous confirmer que le prix à plus que doubler et pourquoi ?

Mr Volbert: *M. le président*, the service included transfer of corpse from mortuary to Elie & Sons – Rs4,900; preparation of the corpse/disinfection - Rs2,500; arterial embalming as per sanitary standard - Rs7,700; transfer case zinc lining as per IATA standard - Rs3,900; corpse wrapping threats sealed air tight as per IATA requirements - Rs2,500; transfer of corpse from Elie & Sons mortuary to SSR International Airport – Rs5,000; administrative charges including certificate of embalmment ... Elie & Sons mortuary by registered embalmment – Rs3,900; transfer of corpse ... the airport to mortuary or the place of relative – Rs4,000, and average rate of flight from Air Mauritius varies depending on weight of corpse, that is, from Rs25,000 to Rs35,000.

SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEMES

(No. B/111) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether, in regard to the social housing schemes, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) the number of contracts awarded for the construction of a new concrete housing unit and extension of Trust Fund houses, respectively, since March 2022 to date (b) the current status on stages reached in each category and (c) any remedial measures he envisages to take to shorten the delay for the completion of the housing units?

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(Vide Reply to PQ B/99)

INFRASTRUCTURE TO NEEDY FAMILIES – HOUSING SCHEME

(No. B/113) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether, in regard to the “Infrastructure to Needy Families” housing scheme, he will state (a) the eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom, indicating any modifications since January 2024 (b) the surface area of the housing units and construction materials provided to beneficiaries (c) the number of families who have signed agreements from January 2025 to date and (d) table a copy of the contract agreement signed between the parties?

(Vide Reply to PQ B/99)

Mr Chairperson: Question time is finished.

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Can I peacefully listen to the Chief Commissioner, please.

COURT OF RODRIGUES JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je débute cette intervention en attirant votre attention sur une avancée ... d’une grande importance pour le peuple de Rodrigues. Le Court of Rodrigues Jurisdiction (Amendment) Bill qui a été circulé le 21 octobre 2025 pour examen et débat. Ce projet de loi constitue une étape décisive vers l’alignement de Rodrigues sur le cadre national en matière de justice et de protection de l’enfance.

Permettez-moi d’en présenter l’objet ... L’objectif de ce projet de loi et de modifier le Court of Rodrigues Jurisdiction Act afin d’étendre l’application de la Children Court Act 2025 à Rodrigues. Dans le cadre du juridique actuel le Magistrat de Rodrigues n’a pas la compétence pour entendre et statuer sur les affaires relevant de la division ... code pénal pour enfant tel ... Cette limitation ... une inégalité d’accès à la justice et des contraintes logistiques pour des familles et les enfants de Rodrigues. La modification vise à premièrement ... République de Rodrigues afin que les enfants de Rodrigues bénéficient des mêmes garanties juridique et procédurales que ceux de Maurice.

M. le président, mettre en œuvre les engagements ... de Maurice au titre ... droit de l’enfant et de la Charte Africaine des Droits et du Bien-être de l’Enfants ... M. le président, ce projet de loi s’inscrit dans ... à renforcer la protection de l’enfance, à promouvoir un

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accès équitable au ... juridique et affaires, prévaloir l'intérêt supérieure de l'enfant rodriguais au sein de la République de Maurice.

M. le président, jusqu'à présent Rodrigues ne disposait pas d'infrastructure juridique et procédural nécessaire pour appliquer pleinement la Children Act 2020. Notre Cour de Magistrat n'avait pas les compétences pour traiter les affaires relevant dans les cadres de la Cour pour Enfant. Par conséquent, les enfants de Rodrigues étaient privés d'un accès ... à une justice spécialisée et adapter à leurs situations. [...]

M. le président, il ne s'agissait pas seulement d'un vide juridique c'était un vide d'équité, de dignité ... En prévision de cette réforme législative, j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que nous en 2025, nous avons investi Rs 7 millions dans la rénovation et la modernisation du bâtiment de la Cour à Port Mathurin. C'est nous, M. le président [...]. Cette investissement reflète notre engagement in effectif à premièrement, créer un environnement judiciaire adapter aux enfants la Children Court. Vous avez parlé de Children Court. Oui, vous avez demandé (comment on dit ça – toi tu rêves moi je réalise). Nous avons réalisé en 2025 alors que vous êtes dans l'opposition, M. le président. Et cet engagement...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I am sorry. Is it statement time or is it time of debate? Is this a new Standing Order? Let me listen to the Chief Commissioner peacefully, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, M. le président, cet engagement premièrement créer un environnement adapter aux enfants. Deuxièmement, ... donnera aux Magistrats des moyens nécessaires pour instruire des affaires relevant de la Cour pour Enfant et aussi garantir à chaque enfant de Rodrigues un accès à une justice rapide, équitable et sensible à ces besoins. Il ne s'agit [...] c'est une transformation ... de l'Alliance qu'on a pu réaliser ce ... dans l'intérêt de l'enfant à Rodrigues. Il est important de souligner que la nouvelle Cour ... commission de la Femme et autres ... qui joue un rôle essentiel dans la protection de l'enfance et de bien-être familiale. Grace à un appui judiciaire ... la commission pourra premièrement, référer rapidement les cas pour décision judiciaire. Deuxièmement, coordonner les interventions de protection avec la Cour. Troisièmement, veillez à ce que les enfants en situation de crise reçoivent des recours approprier en temps utile, M. le président. Cette synergie entre le mécanisme administrative et judiciaire renforcera l'efficacité globale de la protection de l'enfance à Rodrigues.

M. le président, la Children Act 2020 est l'expression législative de ces engagements. Avec cette modification de la Court of Rodrigues Jurisdiction Act, Rodrigues

ne sera plus une exception, elle deviendra un acteur à part entière dans le cadre national de justice pour enfant.

M. le président, je tiens avant de terminer d'exprimer mes sincères reconnaissances à, premièrement, l'Honorable Premier ministre pour son leadership et sa vision et aussi tous ceux qui prennent la parole aujourd'hui lors de ces débats. L'Honorable l'Attorney General pour avoir présenté cette loi et reconnu les besoins spécifiques de Rodrigues. Et, j'aimerais aussi, M. le président, remercier tous ceux qui ont œuvré à ce que ce projet devienne une réalité. Il y a aussi la magistrature ... le Chef Juge dont la présence à Rodrigues confirme notre place dans l'architecture juridique régional, leur soutien a été déterminant pour que Rodrigues ne soit pas laisser en marge de cette marche vers la justice. Je vous remercie, M. le président.

**UN JOURNAL/CRITIQUER UN PRETRE – MESSAGE DU CHEF
COMMISSAIRE – RODRIGUES DAY**

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, *I put this on record.* Dans un journal en ligne nous avons vu que la Rédacteur en Chef a ouvertement critiqué un prêtre qui le 10 est allé lire le message du Chef commissaire devant des étudiants.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Can we respect the statement time, please?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, c'est grave. C'est grave, M. le président. Le message aux enfants n'était pas un message politique.

(Interruptions)

Et lorsque ça vous arrange vous applaudissez. Lorsque ça ne vous arrange pas, vous partez. Mais allez-y ! C'est honteux de la part de cette personne qui a ouvertement critiqué un prêtre. C'est dangereux, M. le président, pour tout ce qui est l'harmonie sociale. De l'a a attaqué un prêtre, M. le président, qui a volontairement en toute bonne foi, allez lire un message. ... Il n'y a pas eu ... Un prêtre ou Mon Seigneur à l'époque qui a été l'invité d'honneur dans une école, M. le président. Je sais aussi qu'il y a des écoles RCA dès fois ils invitent les prêtres. Pourquoi critiquer un prêtre, M. le président ?

I wanted to put this on record because this is, very, very serious, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Et en même temps, inacceptable, M. le président.

**FELICITATION SON EXCELLENCE
DR. MATHEW ANTONIO PATRICK HERMINIE
– PRESIDENT/REPUBLIQUE DES SEYCHELLES**

The Chief Commissioner: Mon dernier *statement*, M. le président. Suite aux élections qu'il y a eu aux Seychelles, M. le président, et vu aussi la proximité du peuple Seychellois et le peuple Rodriguais et aussi en tant qu'île créole, nous partageons les mêmes valeurs et aussi mêmes cultures créole, je tiens à féliciter pour son élection, son Excellence, Dr. Mathew Antonio Patrick Herminie qui est aujourd'hui le sixième Président de la République des Seychelles et nous tenons en tant que majorité et aussi au nom du peuple de Rodrigues félicité son Excellence et bien sûr je l'ai écouté lors de son discours, il prône l'unité, qui est très important, l'unité dans son pays et aussi l'unité au sein de la région. Donc, l'Honorable Premier ministre est allé, bien sûr, de par sa présence témoigner aussi la fraternité entre nos deux îles. Donc, nous aussi à Rodrigues au sein de l'Assemblée Régionale nous tenons à présenter et à féliciter l'équipe qui a été élue et en l'occurrence son Excellence et tout son équipe. Merci.

**FELICITATION/DR PATRICK HERMINIE – RAPPORT COLONNE
VERTEBRALE**

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Félicitation au Dr. Patrick Herminie ... et à tous ceux qui ont été élus lors des élections législatives aux Seychelles et aussi dire merci au Président sortant, M. Ramkalawan, qui comme vous le savez est un ami de Rodrigues. Encore une fois nous souhaitons bonne chance au Seychellois avec leur nouveau dirigeant.

M. le président, je voudrais faire un... malheureusement, l'opposition toujours la politique de la chaise vide, je vais faire un rapport, un *statement* par rapport au projet de la colonne vertébrale de l'eau que nous avons complété les études d'orientations techniques et aujourd'hui je suis fier de présenter à cette Assemblée le programme intégrer de la colonne vertébrale de l'eau qui est la triangulaire de la réforme hydraulique que conduit notre gouvernement régionale depuis 2022 sous l'autorité de la commission de l'Eau.

Conçue et exécuté par la commission de l'Eau et transmis à la Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation avec la participation ... d'ingénierie ... et de Luxconsult Limité, ce programme incarne notre volonté productive d'assurer à Rodrigues une sécurité hydrique durable, équitable et résilient. Le dernier rapport marque la conclusion de la Phase 2 du projet et nous offre pour la première fois une vision consolider de l'ensemble des travaux engager entre 2023 et 2028 pour faire de l'eau non plus une contrainte mais une garantie

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de développement. Nous allons avoir l'eau au bout du tunnel. J'ai produit des copies pour les Membres et je demanderais à la Clerk si elle peut bien faire circuler une copie à chaque Membre. Peut-être on peut envoyer les copies aux Membres de l'opposition, si c'est possible, et les Membres pendant que je parle pourront feuilleter et constater d'eux-mêmes la haute technicité et le degré professionnalisme dont ce rapport a fait preuve. Comme vous le savez nous sommes toujours dans une situation désorganiser et c'est pour cela quand nous sommes venus en 2022, nous avons, premièrement reprimé toutes les études et nous avons constaté que nous sommes en déficit par rapport à la demande d'environ 13,000 m³, la production moyenne ne dépasse pas 5,500 m³ par jour et il nous a fallu réfléchir. Face à ce constat nous avons pris nos responsabilités et c'est pour ça que nous sommes venu, c'est une partie de nos réformes. Avec ce projet de colonne vertébrale de l'eau en réseau structural moderne et interconnecter reliant Pointe Coton à Baie Topaze est capable de transporter, stocker et distribuer durablement 7,000 m³ d'eau par jour vers les réservoirs de distribution de l'île.

Nous avons alloué comme vous le savez tous les contrats de la première phase dont les travaux sont en cours actuellement. Elle a permis la construction en cours de la nouvelle usine de dessalement de Pointe Coton qui sera doter d'une unité de 4,000 m³ extensible à 6,000 m³. Les principaux ouvrages réalisés en voie d'achèvement sont trois installations de pompage à Pointe Coton, Montagne Piquant et Petit Brûlé. Le réservoir principal de Montagne Piquant - 2,000 m³, la pose de 15 kms de produit conduit principal - le diamètre DN300 ..., en fonte ductile, ferraille et PHED. L'intégration d'un système de gestion. C'est un budget qui a déjà comme je vous ai dit, été alloué pour Rs 540 millions dont les détails sont comme suit :

- L'usine de dessalement de 4,000 m³ qui coutera Rs 235 millions ;
- Le réservoir de Montagne Piquant – Rs 38 millions ;
- Le réservoir secondaire et ouvrage associé - Rs 24 millions ;
- Station de pompage – Rs 58 millions ;
- ... principal qui est en cours de construction par la compagnie Chan Lee – Rs 112 millions ;
- Génie Civil et accès techniques, terracement, etc. - Rs 31 millions ;
- Etude de supervision – Rs 22 millions ;
- Prévision et imprévu technique – Rs 20 millions.

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Ce qui nous fait un total de Rs 540 millions. Avec ça l'eau les 4,000 m³ qui sera produit à Pointe Coton arriveront à Petit Brûlé. Cette première phase permettra à stabiliser la production et d'assurer l'alimentation régulière des zones centrales.

La Phase 2 de Petit Brûlé à Manique qu'on va commencer en 2025 encore, c'est l'objet du rapport qui a été circulé aux Membres – il est important que les Membres soient au courant – elle relie à Petit Brûlé à Montagne Patate (Montagne Patate, c'est le réservoir qui se trouve à Citronelle à l'entrée de Mont Lubin, là où il y a des antennes de télécommunication, à Marlartic où on prévoit de construire un réservoir de 2,000 m³, à Quatre Vents où on prévoit un 2,000 m³, à Papayes où il y a déjà un réservoir et à Manique où nous complétons comme vous le savez notre réservoir de 2,000 m³. Cela consolidera la distribution sur la crête centrale.

Les principaux ouvrages se sera 13,6 km de conduite DN150 à DN300 mm, deux stations de pompage jumelle à Petit Brûlé, deux réservoirs principaux, Montagne Patate, Marlartic et à Quatre Vents – trois, système électro mécanique télécommander pour un control intégrer de tous les réseaux. Donc, une phase qui nous coûtera environ Rs 424 millions comme indiquer à la fin du rapport de SCP.

M. le président, se sera en tout près de Rs 1 milliard si on compte les investissements qui seront associer aussi par l'Assemblée Régionale – le budget de la commission de l'Eau et on va compléter ces réformes structurelles. Donc, on veut réduire les pertes, séparation des réseaux, d'eau potable et d'irrigation, clarification qui va venir par la suite, la modernisation de la RPUC. Et au niveau du financement de ce Rs 1 milliard, nous avons le financement de la MIC. On va bientôt soumettre au gouvernement les propositions pour la deuxième phase du projet sur la base de ce rapport d'aujourd'hui. Les partenaires internationaux notamment l'AFD et le gouvernement central ainsi que l'Union Européen, ces partenariats traduisent la reconnaissance internationale de Rodrigues comme territoire pilote en adaptant ... climatique et gestion insulaire de l'eau.

Ce programme est historique, il représente un investissement s'un milliard à ce jour et symbolise une conviction que la prospérité de Rodrigues dépend de la maîtrise, de sa ressource la plus vitale. Sous la direction de la commission de l'Eau et la RPUC ... avec rigueur et la détermination la mise en œuvre de ce programme stratégique garantissant à chaque Rodriguais/e un accès régulier, équitable et digne à l'eau. Déjà dans les régions ouest, nous avons vu des améliorations substantielles avec la nouvelle gestion sous la

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RPUC. Nous avons pratiquement plus de plainte en tant que tel sur l'eau ou encore moins de manifestation et dromes sur les chemins dans ces régions.

J'ai l'honneur de soumettre une copie du rapport final de la SCP sur la Table de cette Assemblée ici et aussi je donne une copie pour l'information des Membres.

On va aller maintenant dans le camp de la commission qui sous l'égide du Conseil Exécutif doit continuer à mobiliser les moyens surtout financier et technique pour assurer la continuité des travaux. Mon bureau travaille actuellement sur un Progress Report de tout ce qui a été accompli ou est en cours et ce qui doit être compléter comme indiquer dans le dernier rapport de la SCP. Ce Progress Report sera par la suite transmis à tous nos partenaires surtout le gouvernement central pour la mise à la disposition des fonds qui ont été par exemple, promis par la MIC, qui ont été obtenu sous un *loan* de 200 millions d'Euros de l'AFD et possiblement d'autre source de financement. Ce que nous faisons dans l'eau c'est une modernisation. Les choses ne sont pas tout le temps facile. Il n'y a pas assez de cadre d'ingénieur ou de cadre technique compétent. Nous faisons face à tous ces défis et dans l'esprit de l'autonomie de Rodrigues et des moyens qui sont mis à nos disposition et surtout des initiatives que nous pouvons prendre, nous mettons toute en œuvre pour activer et faire avancer cette réforme dans le domaine de l'eau.

Je suis fier que nous avons pu définir nos options comme vous verrez quand vous feuillèterez le rapport et qui ont été étudié et valider par nos consultants compétent et professionnel. Les prochaines phases seront la conception technique détailler de la deuxième phase et l'exécution des travaux. Je vais m'assurer que tous ces appels d'offres se fasse au plus vite et comme tous les projets. Comme le projet de l'aéroport qui sera le plus grand chantier de Rodrigues d'ici peu. Les grands et derniers travaux de l'eau se matérialise. Je souhaite en même temps un renforcement des capacités et nous sommes pour cela accompagner par l'Union Européen, l'Agence Française de développement, la banque mondiale et le gouvernement Espagnol à travers les consultants actionnant. La RPUC elle-même doit se moderniser et se professionnaliser davantage. Nous allons désigner un Manager d'ici peu. L'eau est la colonne vertébrale de notre île, le lien entre le présent et l'avenir, en la maitrisant Rodrigues se relèvera et nous allons renforcer la fourniture de l'eau dans toute l'île.

**INTERNATION DAY OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE CREOLE LANGUAGE
& CREOLE CULTURE**

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Ainsi, M. le président, en deuxième *statement* aujourd'hui. On the occasion of the Day of the Celebration of the Creole language and Creole Culture on this 28 October 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it gives me great honour to rise today even though my speech is in English and not in Creole on the occasion of the International Day of the Celebration of Creole Language and Creole Culture to speak on a matter that touches the very heart of our people, the importance of Creole language and culture within the education system of Mauritius and Rodrigues. Language is not merely a mean of communication it is a vessel of identity, memory and dignity. Through our language we transmit values, history and ways of things, the world that are uniquely ours. The Creole language in all its forms stand as a living symbol of our people's resilience, creativity and unity across the Republic of Mauritius. Here in Rodrigues, Kreol Rodrige (KR) carries a distinct voice, a voice born from our soil, our sea and our history. It is a language that reflects who we are and how we relate to our environment and to one another. To value Kreol Rodrige in education is the ... to value the Rodriguan child, Rodriguan family and the Rodriguan heritage.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have as Commissioner responsible for Education recently received numerous representations from parents and educators regarding the teaching of Kreol Rodrige in the secondary level in Rodrigues. Their message is clear, our children who learnt Kreol Rodrige at primary level should be given the opportunity to continue their learning at secondary level just as students' in mainland Mauritius can pursue Kreol Morisien. A lots of our esteemed PSAC kids are being examined in the subject tomorrow morning. This request is legitimate, fair and consistent with the spirit of equality and shine our constitution and in the very philosophy of our autonomy. The right to learn in once own language is not only a matter of educational access but also a cultural justice and equal opportunity within the Republic.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as you know the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is only responsible for the administration only on our island while the Ministry of Education in Mauritius retains authority over national education policy. This dual structure requires cooperation not competition partnership nor parallelism. I am therefore, pleased to inform this Assembly that my Commission is currently initiating formals discussions with the Ministry of Education to explore the pedagogical, technical and administrative arrangements necessary for the future introduction of Kreol Rodrige at the secondary level in Rodrigues. Discussions are being conducted in a spirit of collaboration and mutual

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respect with the shared objective of ensuring that every Rodriguans student enjoys the same education rights and opportunities as any other child in the Republic.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, our vision is clear to see Kreol Rodrige integrated in the secondary curriculum alongside other national languages. To ensure that teachers are trained and equipped, to deliver high quality instructions in this subject, to encourage academic research, creative writing and cultural expression in Kreol Rodrige.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, language policy is not built overnight, it requires planning, investment and conviction but it also requires listening to the voice of the people. People of Rodrigues has spoken through letters, through voices and we as the representatives must respond with action and vision. Let us remember when a child learns in his or her mother tongue that child learns with confidence, joy and pride. And, when a nation embraces its language its strengthen its soul. Let us then move forward united in our purpose to give our children the right to learn, to dream and to succeed in the language of their heart.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and happy Creole Language and Creole Culture Day on this 28 October. Thank you.

(Applause)

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS – TRAINING/PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a statement that following discussions which I had with the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms, Hon. Lutchmanah Raj Pentiah, during a recent mission in Mauritius, a delegation of 21 healthcare professionals from various departments in Rodrigues has departed for the People’s Republic of China to participate in a three-week training programme offered under full scholarship. This initiative represents a mile stone for Rodrigues as it is the first time that such a large group of professionals from the health sector is travelling to China at the same time and for the same purpose.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would also like to point out that it is after ten long years that is after I took office as Commissioner for Health that two healthcare professionals were sent to China for training in 2023 and one Midwife proceeded for same in 2024. The aim of such training are to enhance the technical knowledge, professional skills and management capacity of our healthcare personnel. It is expected that the participants that will upon their return contribute meaningfully to the strengthening and improvement of health service across the island. This opportunity also bears testimony to be continued

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cooperation and friendship between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the government of Mauritius and the People's Republic of China and to our shared commitment towards building a more resilient and capable health sector for the benefits of the people of Rodrigues. Thank you.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (CHILD MENTORING) REGULATIONS 2025

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to present my sincere apologies to the house and all respected Members for the withdrawal of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Child Mentoring) Regulations 2025 which was scheduled for today's sitting.

Following the recent introduction of the Court of Rodrigues Jurisdiction (Amendment Bill), it has become necessary to review and re-align the provision of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Child Mentoring) Regulations 2025 to ensure full consistency with the new legislative framework. Proceeding with the Regulations in their current status may lead to legal and administrative inconsistencies in implementation.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I regret any inconvenience caused to respected Members and to the staff of your office. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

LA CÉLÉBRATION DES 23 ANS DE L'AUTONOMIE DE RODRIGUES

Mr Ravina: M. le président, nous venons une fois encore de vivre un moment fort de notre histoire collective à travers la célébration du 23^e Anniversaire de l'Autonomie de Rodrigues, marquée par une série d'activités organisées du 8 au 19 octobre 2025 sous le thème "*Ansanm Nou Al Pli Lwin*".

Cet anniversaire fut une occasion solennelle où le peuple rodriguais a exprimé, avec fierté et émotion, son profond attachement à son île. La présence de Son Excellence M. Dharambeer Gokhool, G.C.S.K., Président de la République de Maurice, en tant qu'invité d'honneur à la cérémonie officielle du 12 octobre au Stade Jean Daniel André à Camp du Roi, a rehaussé l'éclat de cet événement empreint de civisme et de patriotisme.

M. le président, permettez-moi de rappeler que le 12 octobre 2002 a marqué la première réunion de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues, à la suite des premières élections

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du 29 septembre 2002. Depuis, cette date est célébrée comme la Journée de Rodrigues, symbole de notre autonomie, autour du chant patriotique “Se Pou Sa”, surnomme l’Hymne aux Bâisseurs, et de notre armoirie régionale portant fièrement la devise “Travail, Solidarité, Fierté”.

Pour commémorer cette date historique, ma commission a mis en œuvre un programme riche et diversifié, qui a largement dépassé nos attentes, tant par la qualité des activités que par la mobilisation populaire.

L’enthousiasme et la participation massive de nos compatriotes témoignent de l’attachement indéfectible du peuple rodriguais à son autonomie.

M. le président, la fête de l’autonomie a toujours été une occasion privilégiée pour mettre en lumière les richesses, les spécificités et surtout les talents du peuple rodriguais. C’est dans cet esprit que nous avons choisi d’ouvrir les célébrations du 23^e Anniversaire de l’Autonomie par un moment de reconnaissance et d’émotion : l’inscription de cinq artistes sur la « Miray Rekonesans » à Port Mathurin, en hommage à ceux qui ont marqué de leur empreinte l’histoire musicale de notre île.

Les festivités ont ainsi débuté, le mercredi 8 octobre 2025 avec la mise à l’honneur de cinq figures emblématiques, issues aussi bien du monde traditionnel que moderne, qui nous ont quittés récemment mais dont le souvenir demeure vivant dans nos cœurs :

Feu Laval Legentil (Ton Dwaod) et Feu Florance Augustin (Ton Yom), deux maîtres accordéonistes, véritables gardiens de la musique traditionnelle rodriguaise ;

Feu Oreno Perrine (Kitang), Feu Jean Stephenson Marla (Ras Rino) et Feu Jean Rilo Legentil (Rilo Legentil), trois chanteurs aux styles variés – séga, reggae et musique de variétés – qui ont su faire rayonner Rodrigues bien au-delà de nos rivages.

Une cérémonie de dévoilement de plaques commémoratives a réuni leurs familles, amis et proches, dans une atmosphère à la fois solennelle et profondément émotive. Des artistes et compagnons de scène ont animé ce moment de souvenir et de gratitude, offrant un vibrant hommage musical à ces bâtisseurs de notre culture.

Ce fut un instant de mémoire et de fierté collective, où toute la population a pu mesurer combien ces artistes ont contribué à forger l’identité culturelle de Rodrigues et à transmettre à travers leurs notes et leurs voix l’âme même de notre île.

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M. le président, les établissements scolaires et vocationnels ont également pris une part active dans cette belle célébration, car l'autonomie de Rodrigues appartient avant tout à notre jeunesse. Le vendredi 10 octobre, le message du Chef commissaire a été lu dans toutes les écoles primaires et centres vocationnels par des invités d'honneur spécialement désignés. Ce moment symbolique visait à rappeler à nos enfants la valeur de notre autonomie et le sens de notre identité collective.

Dans cet esprit, un voucher d'un montant de Rs 10,000 a été attribué à chaque établissement afin d'encourager la réalisation de projets patriotiques, culturels et artistiques au sein des écoles ; un geste fort pour nourrir la créativité et l'engagement citoyen dès le plus jeune âge.

M. le président, cette période de célébration fut également un moment de reconnaissance spirituelle, une occasion de rendre grâce à Dieu pour le don précieux de l'autonomie et pour les bénédictions accordées à notre île. C'est tout naturellement que ma Commission a collaboré avec la Paroisse de Saint-Gabriel, sous la direction du Père Jean Rex Casimir, pour l'organisation d'une messe d'action de grâce à la Cathédrale de Saint-Gabriel, le dimanche 12 octobre à 9 heures.

Cette messe, empreinte de ferveur et de recueillement, a réuni une foule nombreuse dans une atmosphère de grande spiritualité et d'émotion partagée. Parmi les fidèles présents, nous avons eu l'honneur d'accueillir Son Excellence M. Dharambeer Gokhool, G.C.S.K., Président de la République de Maurice, et son épouse, ainsi que le Chef commissaire, M. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt, G.O.S.K., accompagné de son épouse. L'église, magnifiquement animée, s'est transformée en un véritable tableau de couleurs et de tradition : les fidèles, vêtus de leurs vêtements fleuris et du célèbre *sapo lapay*, ont répondu à l'appel avec un élan de foi, de fierté et d'unité. Ce fut un moment de profonde communion, où la reconnaissance envers le Créateur s'est mêlée à la gratitude du peuple rodriguais pour les bénédictions de son autonomie et la richesse de son héritage spirituel.

M. le président, dans l'après-midi du dimanche 12 octobre, le peuple de Rodrigues était rassemblé en masse au Stade Jean Daniel André à Camp du Roi pour la grande cérémonie officielle, un moment de solennité et de fierté locale. Le programme comprenait :

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- la parade de la Garde d'Honneur et des forces disciplinaires, symbole de respect et de discipline ;
- les allocutions du Président de la République, Son Excellence M. Dharambeer Gokhool, G.C.S.K., et du Chef Commissaire, M. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt, G.O.S.K.;
- ainsi que la remise de la Médaille de la Reconnaissance Rodriguaise à plus d'une vingtaine de citoyens méritants, dont les parcours et l'engagement ont contribué à l'avancement social, économique et culturel de notre île Rodrigues.

A l'issue de cette cérémonie, le public a été transporté par une performance culturelle exceptionnelle, intitulée « Viv Nou Tradision ». Pendant une vingtaine de minutes, nos artistes, danseurs et musiciens ont fait vibrer le stade au rythme de nos musiques et danses traditionnelles, tout en y intégrant des touches modernes. Cette prestation haute en couleur, réunissant une centaine d'artistes issus de divers groupes à travers l'île, fut un véritable hommage à la richesse et à la vitalité de notre culture.

M. le président, au-delà du spectacle, cette représentation visait à valoriser nos "romans" et nos danses traditionnelles, tout en encourageant la jeunesse rodriguaise à s'approprier et à perpétuer ce patrimoine vivant. Elle a aussi rappelé avec fierté que notre Séga Tambour, symbole de notre identité Culturelle, a été inscrit au Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel de l'Humanité par l'UNESCO en 2017.

Ce fut, sans nul doute, un moment de communion entre les générations, une célébration de l'âme rodriguaise dans toute sa beauté et sa diversité.

M. le président, comme vous avez pu le constater, les manifestations sportives occupent une place particulière dans le cœur des Rodriguais. Le sport, véritable vecteur de cohésion et d'unité, de fierté insulaire, était naturellement au rendez-vous pour la célébration du 23^e Anniversaire de l'Autonomie de Rodrigues. A cette occasion, plusieurs tournois ont été organisés dans le cadre de la Coupe de l'Autonomie 2025, marquant ainsi une belle rencontre entre esprit de compétition, fraternité et passion. La finale masculine de football, la finale féminine de football, enfin les finales féminine et masculine de volleyball suivies par des remises des prix, ont eu lieu le dimanche 19 octobre 2025 au Gymnase de Malabar, clôturant ainsi en beauté les compétitions sportives de cette édition.

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Ces événements ont permis non seulement de mettre en avant les talents de nos athlètes, mais aussi de rassembler la population autour des valeurs de discipline, de respect et de dépassement de soi - des valeurs qui traduisent pleinement l'esprit de notre autonomie.

M. le président, je tiens également à souligner que ma Commission a veillé à privilégier les prestataires des services rodriguais pour l'ensemble des besoins liés à l'organisation de ces festivités. Des acteurs locaux ont été engagés dans des domaines aussi variés que la restauration, la confection de costumes, la décoration, le design, la création d'œuvres artistiques, la location de sonorisation, d'éclairage, d'écrans géants et de podiums, entre autres.

Cette approche s'inscrit dans notre volonté ferme de valoriser le savoir-faire rodriguais, de stimuler l'économie locale et de faire de chaque célébration un levier concret de développement pour notre île.

M. le président, cette belle organisation n'aurait jamais pu atteindre un tel niveau de réussite sans la collaboration exemplaire de l'ensemble des Commissions de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues. C'est grâce à un travail collectif, rigoureux et coordonné que nous avons pu offrir à la population des célébrations à la hauteur de cet anniversaire historique.

Nos sincères remerciements vont d'abord au Conseil Exécutif, pour avoir donné son aval et accompagné la mise en œuvre de ces activités, ainsi qu'au Bureau du Chef commissaire et au Bureau de l'Adjoint au Chef commissaire, qui ont assuré avec efficacité la logistique à travers la commission des Infrastructures Publiques. Leur soutien indéfectible a été déterminant pour la réussite de chaque étape de cette célébration.

Nous exprimons également notre profonde gratitude à nos sponsors, dont la générosité et l'engagement ont grandement contribué à la tenue des activités. En tout, ce sont environ Rs 500,000, en espèces et en nature, qui ont été apportés pour soutenir cette noble initiative.

C'est avec un profond sentiment du devoir accompli que je constate combien le peuple de Rodrigues a massivement adhéré et participé à la célébration de la fête de l'autonomie. Partout sur l'île, les symboles de notre autonomie ont brillé avec force et fierté: notre hymne aux bâtisseurs "Se Pou Sa" a résonné dans les cœurs et sur les lèvres, tandis que les Armoiries de Rodrigues flottaient fièrement dans toutes nos écoles, institutions

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publiques et lors de la cérémonie officielle, où la population, unie et enthousiaste, a répondu présente en grand nombre.

Cette célébration a été une occasion de réunifier le peuple autour d'une même cause, célébré notre autonomie. Poursuivons notre mission de préserver l'âme rodriguaise en s'engageant d'avantage pour faire briller le sigle et moto de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues : Travail, Solidarité, Fierté !

M. le président, Vive l'Autonomie de Rodrigues ! Vive l'Île Rodrigues autonome !
Vive la République de Maurice !

Merci pour votre attention

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 19 December 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner, rose and seconded.

On question put and agreed to.

Mr Chairperson: The House stands adjourn.

At 4.24 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 19 December 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**FINALISATION/PROTOCOL/TRANSFER OF PATIENTS TO
MAURITIUS/FURTHER TREATMENT**

(No. B/107) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the finalisation of the protocol for the transfer of patients to Mauritius for further treatment, he will inform the House where matters currently stand, provide details thereof, and table a summary of the protocol?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is common practice according to the current protocol that whenever there is a patient whose treatment cannot be delivered in Rodrigues or

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requiring any diagnostic procedure that is not readily available in Rodrigues, the concerned Specialist advise for the transfer of the patient to Mauritius for further management.

Following his advice, approval of the Health Director is sought for the transfer. Upon approval of the transfer, a Medical Certificate of Fitness for Air Travel (MEDIF) is sent to Air Mauritius for booking of air ticket(s) for the patient, either sitting or lying (stretcher case), intended escort either a relative and/or Nursing officer and/or Medical and Health Officer or retrieval team or SAMU Team.

If place is not available on Air Mauritius, request for Dornier Aircraft for transfer of patients from Rodrigues to Mauritius is made according to established protocol.

If it happens that the relative or patient has no accommodation in Mauritius a booking for accommodation at Sikamifer Hotel depending on availability of place in the hotel is done by the Social Worker's Office.

Rodriguan patients travelling to Mauritius for treatment have to be admitted to the relevant hospital in Mauritius e.g. specialised services, or in regional hospitals found in the area where the patient has relatives. In all such cases, the Regional Health Director/Medical Superintendent of the hospital concerned arrange for transport facilities to the patient from the SSR International Airport to the hospital and vice versa.

Upon confirmation of air ticket and date of transfer, the treating Specialist in Rodrigues hands over the patient's case to the concerned Specialist on Call in the transferred Regional/Specialised Hospital in Mauritius.

Review of Rodriguan patients following discharge who have undergone surgical interventions/medical treatment in Mauritius is done by the Specialists in the respective field posted in Rodrigues. For that purpose, a comprehensive discharge summary with recommendations for follow-up is addressed to the Specialist concerned in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the latest protocol with regard to the transfer of patients from Rodrigues to Mauritius dates back to 03 December 2012 and has never been amended to date.

Subsequently, following my recent missions in Mauritius, discussions were held with the Honourable Minister for Health and Wellness with senior officers of his Ministry, it was agreed to reinforce the protocol and instructions have been issued to all Regional

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Health Directors and treating Specialist in Mauritius to comply with the established protocol pertaining to patients referred to Mauritius for further medical treatment so as to curtail the costs of accommodation and abusive use of this facility at Sikamifer Hotel by some patients and relatives.

EDUCATIONAL TOURS – PRIMARY & SECONDARY STUDENTS - 2025

(No. B/108) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to educational tours of primary and secondary students for the year 2025, he will inform the House of the contribution of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, detailing (a) the number of applications received and approved, including the names of the institutions involved (b) if any approved requests were subsequently reduced and (c) the dates, nature of such requests, and any other relevant information?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the house that it is a common practice for primary schools to organise educational tours in Mauritius for Grade 5 pupils to reinforce concepts taught in History and Geography, particularly those related to physical, historical and cultural aspects of Mauritius.

The financial assistance provided to the primary schools participating in educational tours includes payment of air tickets and a grant to the school as follows:

- (i) Payment of return air tickets for SRM pupils and pupils with family income up to Rs15,000;
- (ii) Half payment of return air tickets for pupils whose family income is above Rs15,001 up to Rs30,000;
- (iii) Payment of return air tickets for accompanying staff (Head of group and one (01) educator for each participating class), and
- (iv) A grant of Rs30,000 per participating school.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, following the Executive Council's decision at its meeting held on 31 March 2023, study tours for secondary schools in Mauritius or abroad were introduced in view to promote students' exposure as well as enhance their knowledge and skills. The study tour is open to all students of a secondary institution and the assistance provided covers for air tickets and costs of living expenses.

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However, in view of the current financial constraints, the Executive Council at its meeting held on 22 August 2025 has decided to review the modalities of the study tours for secondary schools so as to enable a greater number of schools to participate in study tours during one Financial Year as follows:

- (i) To bear the costs of return air tickets to Mauritius and up to Rs15,000 instead of Rs20,000 for overseas travel;
- (ii) To meet costs related to living expenses at the rate of Rs1,000 in Mauritius and Rs2,000 abroad up to a maximum of 10 days;
- (iii) To approve only one study tour (Mauritius or abroad) instead of two per secondary school per financial year, and
- (iv) To limit participation to 40 instead of 50 students and four instead of five accompanying staff per Financial Year at the ratio of 10 students to 1 staff.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that for the Financial Year 2025/2026, seven requests for educational tours in Mauritius have been received from seven primary schools and have been approved as follows:

SN	Name of School	Date of Application	Period
1	Saint Esprit RCA School	25 August 2025	08 to 23 November 2025
2	Ste Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus RCA School	27 August 2025	09 to 21 November 2025
3	Father Ronald Gandy RCA School	10 September 2025	28 November to 14 December 2025
4	Oyster Bay Government School	17 September 2025	25 November to 08 December 2025
5	Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School	18 September 2025	16 to 30 November 2025
6	Antoinette Prudence Sainte Famille RCA School	22 September 2025	23 November to 07 December 2025

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SN	Name of School	No. of Study Tour	Country/Period	Date of application
			Reunion Island by the Agriculture Department for the same period	
4.	Grande Montagne College	01	Reunion Island by the Sports and Art and Culture Departments for period 10 to 29 November 2025.	02 September 2025

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that:

- (i) All Educational Tours from the seven primary schools have been approved and the total assistance provided to the primary schools is Rs1,046,125; and
- (ii) In line with the revised modality whereby only one study tour per secondary school will be funded per financial year, one request each from Marechal College, Mont Lubin College, Ananias André Le Chou College and Grande Montagne College has been approved during this Financial Year.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (b) and (c), based on the set criteria foreducational tours of primary schools and study tours for secondary schools, I am informed that:

- (i) No requests have been reduced for educational Tours;
- (ii) Out of the seven requests for study tours from secondary schools, three requests have been postponed for consideration during the next Financial Year 2026/2027, and
- (iii) As such, the financial assistance pertaining to the four approved requests which have been provided based on the final number of students participating in the study tour and eligible number of accompanying staff as per the agreed teacher/students ratio of 1 to 10 is as follows:

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SN	Name of School	Amount Requested from School	Amount approved by the RRA	Final Amount disbursed
1.	Marechal College	Rs1,710,000 for 40 students and 05 staff	Rs1,540,000 for 40 students and 04 staff	Rs1,353,000 for 37 students and 04 Staff
2.	Mont Lubin College	Rs1,584,445 for 36 students and 05 staff	Rs1,400,000 for 36 students and 04 staff	Rs1,015,000 for 26 students and 03 staff
3.	Ananias André Le Chou College	Rs1,240,000 for 28 students and 03 staff	Rs1,285,000 for 30 students and 03 staff	Rs1,155,000 for 30 students and 03 staff
4.	Grande Montagne College	Rs1,409,940 for 31 students and 03 staff	Rs1,190,000 for 31 students and 03 staff	Rs1,190,000 for 31 students and 03 staff

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to highlight that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through the Commission for Education is fully committed to facilitate the mobility of our youth as it is essential to expose them to new environments and ways of thinking so as to broaden their horizon through travel and participation in exchanges or study tours which cannot be acquired in classrooms.

However, given the prevailing financial constraints and the need to exercise strict budgetary discipline over the funds provided during this Financial Year, our capacity to approve other requests for assistance during this Financial Year remains limited.

As such, we count on the continued support and engagement of all stakeholders namely the Parent Teacher Association which by its very role has the responsibility to mobilise resources and support initiatives that directly benefit our students.

Ultimately, the success of our educational initiatives depends on each partner playing its role fully so that together we may continue to provide enriching opportunities for our learners.

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**SUSTAINABLE AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR RODRIGUES
(SIDPR)**

(No. B/109) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Sustainable and Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR), a body has been set up to facilitate its implementation and, if so, to inform the House on (a) the status and composition of the body and (b) the frequency of its meetings and the number of meetings held to date?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the 2023 – 2032 Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) recommends the setting up of the following structures in view of ensuring the successful and effective implementation measures and actions as set out in the 10 year SIDPR, the Five Year Costed Action Plan and the other development Plans:

- (i) a Central Task Force (CTF); and
- (ii) a Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring Framework (CIMF)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Central Task Force (CTF) has been set up in July 2024 to ensure monitoring and evaluation of work progress. It comprises:

- All Commissioners,
- The Island Chief Executive,
- All Departmental Heads,
- The Clerk of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly,
- The Lead Analyst and an Analyst/Senior Analyst of the EPMU,
- The Manager, Financial Operations,
- The Manager, Human Resources,
- The Manager, Procurement,
- The ICT Manager,
- The Principal Surveyor,
- The Town and Country Planner,
- The Tourism Promotion Officer,

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- Relevant Heads of Division,
- The statistician,
- Manager SEMPA,
- OIC, Fisheries Research and Training Unit.

The first meeting of the Central Task Force was held on 30 July 2024.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, given that the creation of the Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring Framework (CIMF) as a corporate body would be a lengthy procedure, it has been proposed to entrust this responsibility to the Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit which is at the level of my Office.

In fact, as per the SIDPR, it is expected that there would be a Project Manager at the level of the Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring Framework (CIMF) who would be responsible of each Commission of the RRA.

The duties of the Project Manager as set out in the SIDPR are to technically monitor projects' implementation and follow up on Budget aspects.

Mr Chairperson Sir, those are the duties which are already being performed by the staff of the Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit (EPMU).

In fact, the Scheme of Service of the personnel of the EPMU has been finalized and is already at the level of relevant institutions in Mauritius so that as from next year the EPMU may be further strengthened with additional staff. It is also expected that Service to Mauritius interns would be enlisted at the earliest to provide support to the EPMU in the delivery of monitoring and follow-up activities.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the SIDPR is considered as the 'document de base' for devising major policies and strategies in view of the sustainable development of the Island by this present Government.

Unlike previously whereby this document was just like one of the many reports which sit unused, non-consulted and idle in the drawers in the offices of several Commissions.

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In fact, while devising the different strategies, policies and proposals to be considered in our Budget, all Commissions were advised to ensure that same were in line with the recommendations of the 2023-2032 SIDPR.

Furthermore, Mr Chairperson Sir, it is to be highlighted that the Components 3 and 4 under the Rodrigues Airport project, (whereby an envelope of 10Million USD has been earmarked for each) have been devised based on the recommendations of the SIDPR.

Mr Chairperson Sir, we have the appropriate mechanisms set up to ensure follow-up of all measures, be it those included in the Budget of the RRA, those under the components 3 and 4 of the Rodrigues Airport Project and all those being undertaken with the financial and technical assistance of our development partners.

For instance, the EPMU is ensuring follow-up with the different Commissions on progress of implementation of actions and measures in line with the different Annual Work Plans each Commission submitted at the beginning of the Financial Year.

Furthermore, my Office is closely monitoring the implementation of the different projects through the monthly management meetings under the chairmanship of the Island Chief Executive.

As regards the Rodrigues Airport Project, follow up on implementation of Components 3 and 4 is done through a local Project Steering Committee, under my Chairmanship. This local Steering Committee comprising different Commissions, representatives of Airport of Rodrigues Ltd (ARL) and representatives of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) meets on a regular basis whereby reports on progress on the activities aiming the sustainable development of the Agricultural, Fisheries, Water and Tourism sectors are being presented and discussed.

M. le président, toutes ces structures, tous ces arrangements institutionnels, sont là autant de façons que mon gouvernement assure le bon suivi de l'implémentation des recommandations du SIDPR, que je le répète sont la base des actions préconisées dans le budget, des projets que nous avons avec nos partenaires de développement, et des Composantes 3 et 4 du projet de l'aéroport de Rodrigues.

M. le président, « Les moyens importent peu, ce sont les résultats qui comptent. » En effet, mon gouvernement déploie tous les dispositifs et moyens possibles afin de nous assurer à l'atteinte de nos objectifs comme préconisés dans le SIDPR.

**FINANCING OF WATER PROJECTS – AGENCE FRANCAISE DE
DEVELOPPEMENT (AFD) – WATER SECTOR/RODRIGUES**

(No. B/110) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the financing of water projects by the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) in the water sector in Rodrigues, he will (a) give details of the projects currently underway, including their financing value and status as at date and (b) inform the House whether any missions or meetings with the AFD were scheduled and cancelled, and, if so, provide the reasons thereof?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the support from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) for the water sector in Rodrigues is structured as follows:

FEXTE: Budget Support Program for the Water Sector

This is a financial agreement with an overall value of €200 million for the Republic of Mauritius, including Rodrigues.

It was signed on 26 February 2024.

Its purpose is to finance a priority action plan for the modernisation of our water sector.

Specific projects under this program in Rodrigues include:

- (i) The BRGM Groundwater Project: "Quantification and optimisation of the use of groundwater" at a cost of €1.3 million. The project is active; the aerial survey was completed in October 2024, and a mission to present preliminary findings took place in March 2025. The next mission is scheduled for December 2025.
- (ii) Elaboration of a Water Quality Control System: With a budget of €80,000. The procurement process was launched in December 2024, bids to recruit consultant are currently under evaluation.
- (iii) AdaptAction: Technical Assistance Grant

Project: "Elaboration of strategies for rainwater management and flood prevention in Rodrigues Island from a climate change perspective".

The objective is to reinforce the resilience of Rodrigues Island in the face of climate change.

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It kicked off on 13 March 2025.

The project is active and advanced; a progress meeting was held on 09 October 2025.

(iv) FASEP: Technical Assistance Grant

Project: “Water & Sanitation Project in Rodrigues”

It kicked off on 10 March 2025.

The project is active and focuses on developing Master Plans for water and sanitation. The preliminary report is expected by beginning of November.

Cost for both Fasep and AdaptAction amount to Euros 490,000.

In summary, the AFD's support is active and multi-layered, combining budget support for infrastructure with grants for crucial strategic studies.

As regards to part (b) No AFD mission has been cancelled outright — one field mission was rescheduled. Collaboration continues actively through virtual meetings. The latest virtual meeting was held with the Ministry of Finance and AFD on Monday 27 October 2025 to which my Commission actively participated.

EXTREME LIVING CONDITIONS – MRS M.L.M./PARC TORTUE/SONGES

(No. B/112) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether he is aware of the extreme living conditions of Mrs M.L.M of Parc Tortue/Songes, and to indicate any support provided to the family; and to state the current status regarding the letter of award handed to her in 2021 for the construction of a new concrete housing unit fully financed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under the New Social Housing Scheme?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to question B/112, despite what is being reported on the social media recently, I am informing the House that I was not aware of the hardship case of Mrs M.L.M residing at Parc Tortue/Songes since the portfolio for Housing has been transferred to my Commission in 2024. However, according to database available at the Social Security Department, one, M.L.M, of Parc Tortue, has been drawing Social Aid on ground of abandoned woman up to August 2023. As at date, she still benefits from

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the subsistence provided by the National Empowerment Foundation. (*Rate of Rs9772 monthly).

Mr Chairperson, Sir, concerning the construction of a new concrete housing unit fully financed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under the Social Housing Scheme, I am informed that as per records available at the Housing Unit, there is one M.L.M., residing at Parc Tortue who have made an application for housing assistance on 26 January 2018.

On 17 July 2020, the then Executive Council approved that the Cadastral Office proceeds with immediate processing of a residential land lease in favour of Mrs M.L.M. of Parc Tortue, to enable the construction of a housing unit on humanitarian grounds; and that a new site be allocated to her, as there is no access to her current place of residence.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, on 24 June 2021, a Letter of Award was handed over to Mrs M.L.M., and in the same month she was granted her land lease by the Cadastral Office. In August 2021, Mrs M.L.M. informed the Housing Unit that the land allocated to her was on a steep slope, requiring levelling and removal of loose soil before construction could begin. As such, environmental clearance was sought for excavation and levelling works at the site, and quotation was sought from a contractor for execution of the works. It was thereafter concluded that the topography of the land was found unsuitable for construction. Therefore, it was advised to relocate the beneficiary to a transition house while her existing house would be demolished and rebuilt.

On 15 December 2022, following a site visit carried out under the leadership of the then Deputy Chief Commissioner, it was proposed to obtain a new land lease near her existing residence, so that Mrs M.L.M could remain in her current house during the construction of the new one.

In this line, a request was made to the Cadastral Office for the grant of a residential lease to her in her vicinity. Unfortunately, the request could not be acceded to since all surrounding residential leases were already taken. In fact, based on the situation of Mrs M.L.M., the Cadastral Office was reiterated to fast track the relocation of the latter in December 2022.

In 2023, Mrs M.L.M. was finally granted her Letter of Intent from the Cadastral Office and the Housing Unit re-initiated the procedures for the services of excavator from the Commission for Environment. However, it was informed that the excavator was not operational at that time.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed that during another site visit held on 11 October 2023 with environmental officers and housing unit representatives, a new access road was proposed, and the needful was initiated for delivery of construction material. Consequently, only a few items were delivered since the supplier could not access the site due to impractical access conditions.

A new request has been made to the Commission for Environment for the services of excavator for creation of an access road leading to the new residential lease allocated to Mrs M.L.M. and my office still await a response from the concerned Commission, despite a reminder sent on 24 June 2025 followed by a second one submitted recently.

Nevertheless, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to assure the House that if Mrs. M.L.M. whose life was under extreme conditions as mentioned in the question, has called at my office to follow up on her application as the case for other applicants or any Member of this House who was aware of the case has advised her to call at the Commission and/or has reported same to my office, she would have been considered under the fast track for neediest hardship families for the construction of her housing unit with services of contractor with the approval of the Executive Council.

Hence, Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission will expedite matters to initiate procedures for the construction of the housing unit of Mrs M.L.M. under the New Social Housing Scheme on a priority basis through the neediest hardship families.

**APPLICATIONS – LAND LEASES/RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES/HARDSHIP
CASES**

(No. B/114) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner for whether, in regard to applications for land leases for residential purposes considered as hardship cases, he will inform the House (a) of the number of applications received by his Commission from 2022 to date and (b) the status of processing for each application per year?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the existing policy provides that applicants classified as hardship cases are to be given priority. These may include fire, cyclone, other disaster victims and may also concern social aspects. The Chief Commissioner or the Executive Council may on case to case basis determine that a particular case be considered as hardship and direct same for immediate processing.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that as from 2022 to date, a total of 290 applications as hardship cases have been received.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, it would be unethical to expose the hardship condition of applicant.

The status of processing of applications per year is being tabled for the information of the House.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that overtime will be granted to the Cadastral Office to speed up the processing of pending ascertain hardship cases and that actions have been initiated at the level of my Commission for the clearing of sites identified for the setting up of Morcellement which are actually covered by *Pikan Loulou* by means of D6 crawler tractor of the Commission for Environment. These measures will accelerate the grant of residential leases to ascertain hardship cases.

**PRODUCTION OF WATER – POINTE COTON DESALINATION
PLANT/DISTRIBUTION**

(No. B/115) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the production of water at the Pointe Coton Desalination Plant and its distribution, he will inform the House of (a) the total water produced (b) the volume supplied to the tourism sector and (c) if any issues occurred concerning the quality of water distributed to consumers during September/October 2025, and, if so, provide the cause of the problem?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, The Pointe Coton Desalination Plant has an installed capacity of 1,350 cubic metres per day. However, the current actual production is approximately 350 cubic metres per day. This reduced output is because only the containerised unit is operational. One reverse osmosis unit has been non-operational since 09 October 2025 due to a water quality issue, and the other is out of service due to a broken booster pump, for which a replacement has been ordered.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the volume supplied to the tourism sector, the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) distributes water daily from the Pointe Coton desalination plant to approximately eight to ten water tankers. The capacity of each tanker varies between six and eight cubic metres. On average, the RPUC supplies between 60 and 70 cubic metres of water per day to the tourism industry.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c), repair works were carried out on a damaged booster pump of the ROT Unit at Pointe Coton desalination plant on 09 October 2025. Following the repair, standard operational checks were undertaken to ensure the proper functioning of the plant, including water quality testing. During the test, it was observed that the conductivity of the potable water was not within the acceptable range. Consequently, the operation of the desalination unit was immediately suspended, and it has remained non-operational since then. Assessments have indicated that the issue is linked to the condition of the membrane vessels. Needful are being done at the level of RPUC for procurement of new membranes. It is also pertinent to note that stringent quality control measures are implemented for potable water production at all desalination plants in Rodrigues, jointly monitored by the RPUC staff and representatives of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The water quality test report for the Pointe Coton Desalination plant sampled on 07 October 2025 indicated a problem with the desalination process. The key parameters that exceeded the acceptable limits are:

- (i) Conductivity: 3550 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (Limit: 1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)
- (ii) Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): 1984 ppm (Limit: 1000 ppm)

Interpretation: High conductivity and TDS are strong indicators that the desalinated water still contains a high concentration of dissolved salts and minerals, meaning the desalination process was not effectively removing these contaminants to the required standard for drinking water.

CEMETERY – BAIE DIAMANT

(No. B/116) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the cemetery at Baie Diamant, he will, for the benefit of the House, inform on the current status of the cemetery and crematorium project?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that Bids for the 2nd phase of the project for cemetery at Baie Diamant have been opened on 30 September 2025 and are currently under evaluation. The first phase of constructing an access road and associated parking spaces has been practically completed. Both cemeteries in the north that is

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Baie Lascars and Anse Aux Anglais are full and there is an acute lack of new tombs spaces. The Departmental Head of the Commission has been requested to speed up the start of the second phase of the new Baie Diamant cemetery. Also progress has been noted at the extension of the Saint Gabriel cemetery which falls under the purview of the Roman Catholic church.

I understand the question of the Member and can assure her that necessary is being done urgently.

RODRIGUES SPORTS COMPANY LIMITED

(No. B/117) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Sports and Others whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain and table (a) details of the terms and conditions of employment together with the duties and responsibilities of the employees, and (b) the number of reports of the company prepared and submitted to the relevant authority since its establishment?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), I wish to inform the House that the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited actually employs on full-time and permanent basis 26 handy workers, two supervisors and one secretary. They work on staggered hours, and their official hours of work start from 07.00 hours and end at 15.00 hours on week days and from 7.00 hours to 11.00 hours on Saturdays.

The Head Sports is the acting Manager of the Company. His role is to oversee the day to day operation of the company. He is doing so on a pro-bono basis, that is without remuneration.

The company also employs a Technician on a part time basis to provide technical assistance such as scope of works and to certify works done.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will table the duties and responsibilities of the employees at the end of my reply.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited submits financial and narrative reports to my Commission on a regular basis, that is: -

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- (i) Quarterly reports every three months, and
- (ii) Copy of the Annual Reports on activities and audited financial statements yearly as prescribed by law and in accordance with the accounting period of the Company that is, January to December for financial years 2023 and 2024.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the requested information.

PORT MATHURIN MARKET

(No. B/118) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Port Mathurin Market, he will inform the House of any upgrading works carried out thereat since January 2023 to date, indicating the associated costs and the names of the successful bidders; and if there are any upgrading or renovation works planned for the current financial year and, if so, to give details thereof?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to any upgrading works carried out at the Port Mathurin Market since January 2023 to date, I have been informed that the following upgrading works have been carried out thereat by a contractor, Montagne du Sable Contracting Ltd:

- (i) Renovation works at toilet block of Port Mathurin Market for the total amount of Rs595,000, including VAT; and
- (ii) Partitioning works at Public Health Office, First Floor Port Mathurin Market to the tune of Rs2,877,500 excluding VAT

Mr Chairperson, Sir, concerning the upgrading or renovation works planned for this current financial year, I wish to inform the House that same has been submitted to the Commission for Public Infrastructure who is responsible for maintenance and upgrading of all public buildings for implementation.

**CLEANING & MAINTENANCE/DESILTING OF BRIDGES – CONTRACT
AWARDED**

(No. B/119) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the cleaning and maintenance/desilting of bridges and other infrastructure at Pont des Soupis and around

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Anse aux Anglais, any contract has been awarded by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly since January 2025; and, if so, to provide details including the procurement procedures, contract amount, scope of work, selected bidder, and date of payment?

Reply: Mr Chairperson Sir, the Pont de Soupir Bridge at Anse Aux Anglais has a very low clearance (less than 1 Metre) from the riverbed level to the soffit of the deck of the Bridge.

Due to ocean currents and waves actions, there are sand accumulations at the Seaward side and also behind the bridge and there is need for regular desilting operation in order to restore the hydraulic section of the bridge as well as desilting of the river upstream to prevent flooding in case of heavy rainfall.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, on the Saturday 01 February 2025 as the meteorological station was forecasting heavy rainfall, urgent action was taken by my Commission to desilt upstream of Pont des Soupirs Bridge in order to avoid flooding and the consequential damages associated thereto.

The desilting operations were carried out by the backhoe loader of my Commission and the services of a lorry which was not available at the level of my Commission was hired to cart away the silted materials.

The hiring of the lorry was done by way of direct procurement. I am informed that oral quotations as permitted by Regulations 44(2) of the Public Procurement Regulations were sought and following that two lorry owners declined while a third one Mr N.R.A.K. responded. His lorry performed a total of 14 trips to transport soil to Oyster Bay reclaimed land.

An amount of Rs47,530 was paid to the latter on 02 October 2025 representing the amount due for satisfactory completion of the works.

It is to be noted that the Commission has successfully procured lorry services for longer periods and amount thereafter.

**ONGOING PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS – AROUND
RODRIGUES**

(No. B/120) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the ongoing project for the

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construction of track roads around Rodrigues, he will (a) table the list of track roads by region and village, including their respective lengths and costs and (b) state the criteria used for allocating them to beneficiaries?

Reply: Mr Chairperson Sir, within the current contract for construction of track roads around the Island, my Commission has up to now issued some 14 work orders totalling Rs134,017,185.48.

I will not table the list of track roads by region and village including their respective lengths and costs for the sake that they contain individual's names and I don't want controversy on this matter being publicised.

As regards to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that my Commission receives numerous requests for the construction of track roads around the Island but in view of the budget constraints all the demand cannot be met.

Consideration are given to elderly persons, persons with disabilities and densely populated areas such as morcellement.

I am tabling the list of works order per region and amount.

**STATE LAND FENCED WITHOUT AUTHORISATION – ROD FARM LTD AT
MARECHAL/DEUX MONTAGNES**

(No. B/121) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to State Land fenced without authorisation by Rod Farm Ltd at Maréchal/Deux Montagnes, he will update the House on the actions already undertaken and those not yet initiated?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, according to information available on file and data from Agricultural Research and Extension Services, no application has been submitted, nor any permit issued, to Rod Farm Ltd in respect of the land situated at Maréchal/Deux Montagnes.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I also wish to inform the House that officers of the Extension Services are not aware of any Rod Farm Ltd being involved in farming and planting activities in Rodrigues. Hence, Rod Farm Ltd is unknown to my Commission, it can be concluded that Rod Farm Ltd is not involved in any agricultural activities.

(i) Mr J.M.B.

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The abovenamed applied for an Agricultural Permit on 07 June 2021 for a plot of land located at Marechal for crop production. Being given that his applications is meant for crop production, therefore information requested for livestock activity is not relevant.

According to available records, there is an application for electricity in the name of Mr J.M.B. dated 18 January 2023 for a plot of land located at Marechal, Rodrigues and same was not recommended as the applicant has no Agricultural Permit.

It has been reported in the Agricultural Land Committee on Friday 14 June 2024 that Mr B. has illegally fenced a plot of land at Deux Montagnes, Rodrigues.

It is to be noted that the application for Mr J.M.B. is to grow crops not for livestock activities.

(ii) Mr M.M.F.

As per records of this office, Mr M.M.F. is not registered as a planter or breeder at the Agricultural Services.

In addition, there is no application in the name of Mr M.M.F. for Agricultural Land Permit nor for supply of electricity.

As a non-resident in Rodrigues, Mr M.M.F. is not eligible for the grant of Agricultural Permit for agricultural purposes nor any facilities offered by the Agricultural services.

(iii) The Agricultural Land Committee at its meeting held on Friday 14 June 2024, took notice of a complaint that about 90,969.86 m² of land has been fenced without appropriate permit.

As neither Rod Farm Ltd, Mr J.M.B. nor Mr M.M.F. have obtained the necessary permission to fence the said land, the Principal Surveyor together with the Land Squad should take necessary steps for an Eviction Order and to have these fencing removed without further delay

(iv) Deux Montagnes/Rivière Coco valley forms part of 13 Sylvo Pastoral Areas set up under the former 2nd EDF Programme (The list is tabled).

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The area of Rivière Coco/Deux Montagnes comprises of an extent of about 160 hectares of land which have been fenced by the Anti-Erosion Programme in the Year 2000-2002 and also by the Commission for Agriculture in the Year 2017-2018.

Unfortunately, on both occasions all fencing have been vandalised and the land been subject to free grazing of animals.

Unfortunately, in front of such state of affair, it has been judged that allocating the Sylvo Pastoral Area to different planters/breeders would be a more feasible solution.

- (v) In Rodrigues, Agricultural Permits are granted as per the procedures and the specificity for Rodrigues as follows:-
- (1) Applications are made at the Commission for Agriculture.
 - (2) Applications are examined by the Agricultural Services to ascertain availability of Agricultural Land and whether all the criteria for an Agricultural Permit are met.
 - (3) An Agricultural Permit is normally issued to an applicant for an approximate extent to be determined by the Agricultural Services as follows:-
 - (i) Food Crop Production – 4000 m²
 - (ii) Livestock Production – 1000 m²
 - (4) The Agricultural Permit is for a duration of at least one year, the time for the applicant to proceed with land preparation, which may involve land clearing, derocking, terracing, ploughing, harrowing and levelling in accordance with the conditions set out in the permit.
 - (5) Within the period of the Agricultural Permit no rent is claimed from the applicant who may also fence the land and start the running of the Agricultural Project pending the approval of an Agricultural Lease over the land.

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(6) At the satisfaction of the Commission for Agriculture, the request for a formal grant of lease is then referred to the Commission for State Land for necessary action.

There are some 40 applications of land for agricultural breeding purposes at the region Rivière Coco/Deux Montagnes (The list is tabled).

(vi) Mr J.M.B. is among those applicants and his application dates as far back as 07 June 2012. My Commission has a backlog of some 7000 applications to consider.

The Agricultural Land Committee at its meeting of Friday 14 June 2024 has processed the application of Mr B. whereby the Committee was apprised that the land had already been fenced by Mr B to an extend of 90,969.86 m² of State Land.

The Agricultural Land Committee effected a site visit on the said location and confirmed the land is fenced. The Committee consequently recommended that prior to the case of Mr B. be approved, he should be requested to remove all fencing over the said 90,969.86 m² of State Land.

The case of Mr B. will be treated according to existing policy and procedure subject that he complies with the law. I have been informed that he has started to removed part of the fencing.

There was a precedent case where one Mr H.T.M. applied for an Agricultural Permit at Deux Montagnes and pending the issue of the permit, he fenced the land and started cultivation.

In accordance with Section 22 of the State Land Act, a Notice to squatter dated 17 December 2013 was served upon him and he was evicted for the land.

In a query from the Equal Opportunity Commission in this matter it was made clear that I quote:

“An application for an Agricultural Permit is not per se an authority to the applicant to occupy the state land and carry

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any developments on the land prior to the approval of the permit.”

end of quote.

As regards to the request of Mr B. dated 18 April 2023 to transfer the said Agricultural Permit (the letter is tabled) to Rod Farm, he has been advised to submit a project through Invest Rodrigues.

**RECRUITMENT OF STAFF – RODRIGUES PUBLIC UTILITIES
CORPORATION (RPUC)**

(No. B/122) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recruitment of staff at the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) since its establishment, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information and (a) state and table the number recruited per category, including their terms and conditions of service (b) indicate the number of recruits who have resigned or been dismissed and those still in post per category and (c) provide details of the monthly operating costs associated and the source of funding?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, since the establishment of the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC), 107 employees comprising 1 Manager, 4 Administrative/Finance Officers, 4 Administrative Clerks, 11 Trainee Engineers, 11 Heavy Vehicles Drivers (on roster) 72 Plant and Equipment Operators (on roster), 2 Project Supervisor, 1 Supervisor and 1 Security Guard have been recruited for the smooth running of the Company.

They were all on 12 months' probation, and on satisfactory appraisal were recommended to Board for appointment on permanent establishment where the Workers Right Act have applied.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the number of employees recruited per category including their terms and conditions of service.

As per information gathered, with regard to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are 96 recruits who are still in post, namely: 4 Administrative/ Finance Officers, 4 Administrative Clerks, 6 Trainee Engineers, 9 Heavy Vehicles Drivers

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(on roster), 69 Plant and Equipment Operators (on roster), 1 Project Supervisor, 1 Supervisor who is acting as Assistant Manager and 1 Security Guard.

The then Manager, 5 Trainee Engineers, 2 Heavy Vehicles Drivers (on roster) and 3 Plant and Equipment Operators (on roster) have resigned and one has been dismissed from the Company.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the monthly operating cost associated to the staff of the company is approximately Rs3.7 M and funds are being provided from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly's Budget.

Thank you, Chairperson, Sir.

RECENT ENACTMENT – ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

(No. B/123) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the recent enactment of the Animal Welfare Act, which makes microchipping compulsory for all dogs, he will inform the House whether steps are being taken to enforce this requirement in Rodrigues?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the recent enactment of the Animal Welfare Act, which makes microchipping compulsory for all dogs, I wish to inform the House that my Commission fully supports the implementation of this requirement in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that, on 26 September 2025, the Cabinet agreed to the proclamation of Section 31(1) and Section (3) of the Animal Welfare Act 2013 which relates to the following:-

Section 31 (1)

- a. Every person who becomes the owner of a dog shall, not later than 60 days, and in the case of a dangerous dog, within 15 days after the date on which he becomes the owner, cause it to be registered with the Society and pay such registration fee as may be prescribed;*
- b. Every owner of a dog shall cause the dog to be microchipped before registration;*

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c. Every owner of a dog shall on registering a dog under sub section (1), make a declaration in writing, in such form as the Council may approve, specifying whether the dog shall be kept for breeding purposes

d. Where the owner of a dog declares that the dog shall not be kept for breeding purposes, the dog shall, with the consent of the owner, be sterilised at such time and in such manner as the Council may determine.

Section 31 (3)

Any person who contravenes this section shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in this connection, my Commission is working in close collaboration with the Mauritius Society of Animal Welfare (MSAW), which is the competent authority for animal welfare in Mauritius, to ensure that enforcement of the Act be effectively extended to Rodrigues.

I am informed that the effective date for the proclamation of Section 31 (1) and Section (3) of the Animal Welfare Act 2013 was 01 October 2025.

Concerning the implementation and monitoring for Rodrigues, I wish to inform the House that an MoU was signed with the MSAW and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, represented by the Commission for Agriculture in 2022 for the implementation of the National Sustainable Project for Dog Population Control in Rodrigues.

During the last mission of MSAW to Rodrigues in November 2023 regarding the mass sterilisation campaign over the island, officers of the Veterinary Services of Rodrigues were trained on dog registration procedures.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the endeavour of my Commission to strengthen the control of stray dogs in Rodrigues, and following a request made to the Ministry of Agro Industry, I have been informed that approval has been granted for the Director of Mauritius Society of Animal Welfare (MSAW) and his Administrative Manager to conduct a mission in Rodrigues from 04 to 08 November, focusing on the dog population situation and ensuring the effective implementation of Section 31 (1) the Animal Welfare Act 2013.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, for effective monitoring, my Commission will collaborate closely with Mauritius Society of Animal Welfare (MSAW) to collect relevant data, while enforcement officers from MSAW will carry out site visits during their missions to Rodrigues to ensure proper implementation and compliance with the applicable legal framework.

**CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL - CENTRE FOR ELDERLY/BAIE DU
NORD**

(No. B/124) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the construction of the Recreational Centre for the Elderly at Baie Du Nord, as announced in the Budget Speech 2024-2025, he will inform the House on the current status of the project?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the Construction of the Recreational Centre for the Elderly was initially planned for implementation at Baie Lascar, Camp Pintade. Tender was launched on 02 August 2021 through the Open National Bidding method and closing date was initially fixed on 02 September 2021, and then postponed for 13 September 2021. The sealed bids envelopes were deposited at the Central Procurement Board (CPB).

However, during the evaluation stage, the Central Procurement Board (CPB) noted several flaws and discrepancies in the bidding documents, and subsequent to advice of the Attorney General's Office, the CPB decided to stop the evaluation process and the Commission was informed accordingly.

Therefore, the bidding exercise for the Construction of a Recreation Centre to Elderly at Baie Lascar (Camp Pintade) was cancelled on 26 October 2021.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, when we took Office in 2022, we have re-considered and reviewed the project whereby a new site has been identified at Baie du Nord for the Construction of the Recreational Centre. Subsequently, as announced in the Budget Speech 2024/2025, the Consultant has already prepared and submitted the Bidding Document but due to unavailability of funds in the budget for fiscal year 2024/2025 in respect of the project, we have not been able to proceed with the launching of tender.

Consequently, Mr Chairperson, Sir, even for this current Financial Year, no funding has been allocated for the implementation of the project due to budgetary restriction policy

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of the Central Government and as at date, the project has been put in abeyance for implementation in the forthcoming budget 2026/2027.

**PATIENTS TRANSFERRED TO MAURITIUS/MEDICAL TREATMENT/SINCE
2022**

(No. B/125) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to patients transferred to Mauritius for medical treatment since 2022, he will provide (a) the number of patients transferred each calendar year, including the current year to date (b) the number of patients who passed away in Mauritius, indicating those repatriated and those buried there and (c) the number of patients who returned to Rodrigues on a stretcher?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that the total number of patients transferred to Mauritius for medical treatment each calendar year since 2022, including the current year to date stands at 3818, as follows:

1. Year 2022 – 711 patients;
2. Year 2023 – 935 patients;
3. Year 2024 – 1170 patients; and
4. Current Year 2025 as at date – 1002 patients.

MONTH	YEAR			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
JANUARY	24	75	81	110
FEBRUARY	22	65	76	70
MARCH	49	82	101	96
APRIL	56	80	102	102
MAY	75	107	118	112
JUNE	71	81	110	105
JULY	63	79	104	119
AUGUST	83	86	115	101
SEPTEMBER	68	70	112	95
OCTOBER	55	81	83	92
NOVEMBER	90	88	85	
DECEMBER	55	41	83	

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MONTH	YEAR			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL	711	935	1170	1002

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as for part (b) of the question, the data is still being compiled as well as for those repatriated and buried in Mauritius.

However, regarding part (c) of the question, I was also informed that a total of 112 patients returned to Rodrigues on stretcher, as follows:

- Year 2024 – 59, and
- From January 2025 to date – 53.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards period 2023 and prior to it, no records are available since the register book for patient has unfortunately been destroyed in the fire outbreak in the Electoral Commissioner’s Sub Office building near the Central Administration Building.

DEUX MONTAGNES ROAD

(No. B/126) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the Deux Montagnes Road, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) the present condition thereof and (b) if he intends to undertake improvement works thereon and, if so, to provide details as to the length, timeframe, and nature of works to be carried out?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the total length of road at Deux Montagnes is about 1,230 m out of which the first 600 m is of asphaltic concrete. The other 630 m is untarred. Due to erosion, the untarred section is in a poor state and is difficult for vehicular access.

As a temporary measure, my Commission is presently proceeding with the levelling of the untarred section to ease traffic flow. Following that award of the Framework Agreement procurement exercise presently being undertaken for road construction, consideration will be given to the Deux Montagnes Road and others according to priorities. Otherwise a track road may also be envisaged.

PATIENTS ON DIALYSIS/RODRIGUES – OVER LAST THREE YEARS

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(No. B/127) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to patients on dialysis in Rodrigues over the last three years, he will inform the House of the number of patients who passed away each year, providing details on when each patient commenced treatment?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to patients on dialysis in Rodrigues over the last three years, I am informed that since 2022, a total of 45 patients on Hemodialysis have passed away as follows:

For the year 2022 – 13 patients passed away.

	Date started Treatment
Patient No. 1	19 November 2020
Patient No. 2	18 December 2021
Patient No,3	02 May 2019
Patient No. 4	04 May 2022
Patient No. 5	25 October2019
Patient No. 6	17 July 2019
Patient No. 7	11 October 2014
Patient No. 8	25 October 2021
Patient No. 9	19 September 2020
Patient No. 10	07 June 2022
Patient No. 11	05 July 2021
Patient No. 12	21 April 2021
Patient No. 13	02 May 2019

For the year 2023 – 16 patients passed away.

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	Date started Treatment
Patient No. 1	20 December 2023
Patient No. 2	20 December 2015
Patient No,3	21 February 2023
Patient No. 4	07 March 2023
Patient No. 5	15 May 2021
Patient No. 6	13 August 2022
Patient No. 7	01 April 2021
Patient No. 8	19 April 2023
Patient No. 9	10 August 2020
Patient No. 10	09 October 2022
Patient No. 11	22 June 2023
Patient No. 12	19 August 2022
Patient No. 13	30 September 2023
Patient No. 14	04 October 2023
Patient No. 15	20 November 2023
Patient No. 16	04 January 2020

And for year 2024, Mr Chairperson, Sir - 12 patients passed away.

	Date Started Treatment
Patient No. 1	18 October 2021
Patient No. 2	02 May 2024
Patient No.3	06 May 2024

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	Date Started Treatment
Patient No. 4	29 April 2024
Patient No. 5	18 July 2024
Patient No. 6	25 July 2023
Patient No. 7	14 August 2019
Patient No. 8	03 March 2018
Patient No. 9	13 October 2019
Patient No. 10	05 November 2020
Patient No. 11	11 October 2024
Patient No. 12	23 November 2023

Mr Chairperson, Sir, consequently, in regards to dialysis patients and those who passed away therefrom, I wish to inform the House of the following facts:

- (i) The cause of death of dialysis patient are not necessarily related to their hemodialysis per se;
- (ii) It depends on the comorbidities e.g. diabetes, hyper tension, heart failure etc., that are associated with the renal failure;
- (iii) The compliance of the patient to dietary and fluid restriction which also form part of the main stay of the treatment;
- (iv) In which stage of renal failure the patient commenced dialysis, that is, the earlier a patient with chronic renal failure starts his or her hemodialysis, is better than someone who starts dialysis in end stage of renal failure; and
- (v) The age of patient, as the prognosis is better for younger patients.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, hence, as a quantitative analysis of patients who passed away in the same year of commencing dialysis, the figures are as follows:

2019 – 07 out of 09 amounting to 77%;

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- 2020 – Nil;
- 2021 – 05 out of 06 amounting to 83%;
- 2022 – 02 out of 13 amounting to 15%;
- 2023 – 07 out of 16 amounting to 43%; and
- 2024 - 05 out of 12 which represents 41.6%.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, along the same lines, I would like to further inform the House that since 2023, the conditions under which hemodialysis is performed have improved exponentially. The new setting has a larger, more spacious building with additional hemodialysis machines, as well as a more conducive environment that complies with and meets all essential norms.

I thank you for your kind attention, Mr Chairperson, Sir.