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No. 1 of 2025

RODRIGUES

FIFTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025

/UNREVISED DRAFT/

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

ADJOURNMENT

MATTERS RAISED

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

/UNREVISED DRAFT/

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), Fire Services, 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
Mr Joseph Varok Ravina	Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports, Arts and Culture, Museums, Archives, Historical Sites and Buildings, Library Services

/UNREVISED DRAFT/

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. 1 of 2025

Sitting of Tuesday 18 February 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)

/UNREVISED DRAFT/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Technical difficulties – Digital Recording System
- Ruling - Privilege Complaint lodged by Minority Leader – 10 December 2024

OBITUARY

- Late Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien – Former Member of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

/UNREVISED/

ANNOUNCEMENT

TECHINICAL DIFFICULTIES – DIGITAL RECORDING SYSTEM

Mr Chairperson: Respected Members, I wish to inform the House that we are currently experiencing technical difficulties with our digital recording system. As a result, Members may occasionally need to be reminded to switch on their microphone during proceedings to ensure accurate recording and documentation. We sincerely seek your indulgence and patience as we work to resolve this issue. The matter is beyond our control at present but every effort is being made to restore normal functionality as soon as possible. Thank you for understand and cooperation.

May I kindly request respected Members, to stand up to observe one minute of silence as tribute to the memory of late Mr Joseph Alan Ladd Emilien, former Member of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

(Members stood up and observed one-minute silence)

Thank you.

Now I invite the Chief Commissioner for his intervention.

OBITUARY

**LATE JOSEPH ALLAN LADD EMILIEN – FORMER MEMBER OF THE
RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it was with great sorrow that we took note of the death of Mr Allan Ladd Emilien on 10 January 2025 at the age of 67 years old.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, late Mr Emilien has served as member of the First Regional Assembly from 12 October 2002 to 23 October 2006. During that period, Mr Emilien has also served on Committees of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. At the sitting of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly of 05 November 2002, he was appointed as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. Thereafter, Mr Chairperson, Sir, he was elected Deputy Chairperson of the Regional Assembly on 04 August 2006.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, for the Second Regional Assembly, Mr Emilien was appointed Commissioner for health and Others by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Mauritius on 16 December 2006, and he remained Commissioner up till 07 January 2012. He

/UNREVISED/

was vested, as Commissioner, with the areas of responsibilities pertaining to Community Development, Co-operatives, Fire Services, Health, Prisons and Reform Institutions.

For the Third Regional Assembly, Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Emilien was elected to sit as Member from 11 February 2012 and was elected by the Regional Assembly to sit on the House Committee.

Prior to the above, Mr Chairperson, Sir, he has been working as Primary School Teacher at the R.C.E.A. and part-time animator on the MBC radio. He was also actively involved in social works and has been the President of Ile Michele Village Committee.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Emilien has also been member of the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation Mediation.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, may I request you to kindly direct the Clerk to convey the deep condolences of the Regional Assembly to the bereaved family, in particular to his wife, Marie Lourdes Emilien and to his children.

Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, allow me to add a few words on what has been said by the Chief Commissioner with regard to this homage being made to our dear friend, Mr Allan Ladd Emilien.

C'est avec une profonde émotion et un sentiment de perte immense que nous avons appris le décès de Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien, ancien Membre et Commissaire de cette Assemblée, né le 12 octobre 1957 à l'île Michel, époux aimant et père dévoué de quatre enfants. Il nous a quittés le 9 janvier 2025 à l'âge de 67 ans, laissant derrière lui un héritage de dévouement, de service et d'engagement envers sa communauté.

Allan Ladd Emilien fit ses études secondaires au Rodrigues College, où il posa les fondations d'une vie consacrée à l'éducation, à la justice sociale et au bien-être de Rodrigues. Dès 1976, il entama sa carrière en tant qu'enseignant au sein de la Roman Catholic Education Authority (RCEA), où il transmet son savoir et son humanité à plusieurs générations d'élèves. Ses compétences pédagogiques et son souci constant du bien-être de ses élèves en firent un éducateur respecté et apprécié de tous.

Il se distingua également par son rôle d'animateur à la radio MBC, devenant l'un des visages familiers de la station à Rodrigues. Ses émissions, et plus particulièrement émission consommateur. On se souvient "*Camarade Consommateur, Bonjour !*", sont restées gravées

dans la mémoire collective de la population rodriguaise. Ces instants de radio matinale, marqués par sa bienveillance et son esprit critique, ont fait de lui un défenseur inlassable des droits des consommateurs et une voix forte pour ceux qui en avaient besoin.

Engagé dans la vie publique, Allan entra en politique en 2002, lorsqu'il fut élu Membre de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues lors des premières élections régionales. Dès le début de son parcours politique, il choisit de servir son île et sa communauté avec conviction et indépendance. En 2006, à la suite de la cassure du premier gouvernement régional, il fut désigné Vice-président de l'Assemblée de Rodrigues, un poste qu'il occupa de manière exemplaire de août à décembre de la même année. Réélu en décembre 2006, il devint Commissaire à la Santé, un domaine dans lequel il apporta des réformes notables. Parmi ses actions marquantes, on compte l'acquisition de bus destinés à transporter les malades, une mesure qui offrit à la population un meilleur confort et des économies substantielles.

C'est en 2011 qu'Allan Ladd fit le choix de se joindre à moi pour fonder le Front Patriotique Rodriguais (FPR), un acte symbolique et significatif de son désir de promouvoir l'unité et la solidarité au sein de la classe politique de Rodrigues. Ensemble, nous avons traversé des moments difficiles, confrontés à des attaques politiques injustes, mais notre engagement commun pour Rodrigues et ses habitants n'a jamais vacillé.

Allan a aussi joué un rôle important dans la commission 'Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation' (RCCM), où il fut un membre précieux. Lorsque feu John Milazar, un autre grand camarade, nous quitta, la présidence de cette instance lui fut proposée. Cependant, sa santé, déjà fragilisée, ne lui permit pas d'assumer ce rôle.

Au-delà de ses engagements professionnels et politiques, Allan Ladd Emilien était un homme de cœur et d'esprit, toujours prêt à tendre la main à ceux dans le besoin. Il s'illustra également comme président du Village de l'Ile Michel, et Président du Groupe des 3^{ème} Age de l'Ile Michel, un rôle qu'il occupait jusqu'à son dernier souffle.

En tant que père, Allan Ladd fut un éducateur hors pair. Tous ses enfants ont brillamment réussi leur parcours académique, reflet de l'amour et de la rigueur qu'il leur a inculqué. Sa fille cadette, lauréate HSC, exerce aujourd'hui comme médecin en Angleterre, son fils, Larry a également été lauréat, et Artley, désormais ingénieur au Canada, poursuit l'œuvre de son père dans le monde.

Passionné de pêche, Allan partagea avec ses amis et ses proches de nombreux moments précieux, que ce soit lors de sessions de pêche à 'la traine carangue' dans le lagon

d'Ile Michel ou encore lors de pique-niques sur les îles de Gombrani et Ile aux Chat. En 2007, il m'accompagna lors d'un voyage au Sri Lanka, où nous avons découvert les secrets de leur industrie de la pêche, une expérience qui marqua profondément notre relation et notre vision commune de l'avenir de la pêche à Rodrigues.

Allan vivait sa vie avec un sens aigu de l'aventure, de la solidarité et du respect pour autrui. Même lorsque la maladie la frappait, il n'a jamais cessé d'afficher sa détermination et son amour pour Rodrigues et ses habitants.

En ce moment de séparation, nous nous inclinons devant la mémoire de cet homme exceptionnel, dévoué à sa famille, à sa communauté et à son île. Nous exprimons nos plus sincères condoléances à son épouse, à ses enfants, et à tous ses proches. Son héritage demeurera vivant dans les cœurs de ceux qui l'ont connu et respecté.

J'invite le Président à donner les instructions au Clerk de transmettre les plus sincères condoléances de cette Assemblée à l'épouse et aux enfants de notre ex-Membre Allan Ladd Emilien.

"La vie est éternelle et l'amour est immortel. La mort n'est qu'un horizon, et un horizon n'est rien d'autre que la limite de notre vue."

(Kahlil Gibran, Le Prophète)

Adieu, camarade Allan Ladd Emilien.

Merci, M. le président.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, merci de me permettre de me joindre au Chef commissaire et à l'Adjoint au Chef commissaire en tant que Minority Leader présenter mes sympathies et celle de l'équipe, celle du Leader et la grande famille de l'OPR à toute la famille de feu Allan Ladd Emilien, que nous avons eu l'occasion aussi de connaître au sein de la Chambre.

En effet, j'ai personnellement eu l'occasion l'ors de sa longue maladie de le croisait régulièrement à Port Mathurin, à l'Eglise de La Ferme et justement, je voyais que feu Allan Ladd Emilien était toujours animé de persévérance et il avait une foi fervente. Avant cela, bien entendu, nous avons eu l'occasion de collaborer, de travailler ici ensemble avec feu Allan Ladd Emilien et en 2025 cela faisait 19 ans depuis que moi j'ai eu l'occasion de le connaître ici. Je suis entre en 2006, fraîchement élue et feu Allan Ladd Emilien était commissaire à la Santé. En effet ce qui m'a touché de par ces prestations, ça a été son calme,

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la manière dont il s'adresse, dont il parle, jamais agressif, jamais dans la vulgarité, un homme simple et un homme au grand cœur. J'ose même dire, un homme qui a toujours fait preuve de bonne éducation.

On l'a connu comme Membre du MR au sein du gouvernement. On l'a connu comme du FPR et on l'a connu aussi parce qu'il a collaboré avec le gouvernement de l'OPR après nombreuses rencontres avec le Chef commissaire d'alors, Louis Serge Clair, qui lui aussi était marqué par son calme. Feu Allan Ladd Emilien faisait partie du Board du Discovery Rodrigues, alors que nous étions au pouvoir. Donc, c'est un homme qui a voulu tout le temps s'engager et croire justement dans l'avancement de Rodrigues.

Ce que je souhaite dire aujourd'hui, c'est que nous gardons tous de très bon souvenir de lui et nous lui remercions de sa grande contribution, que ce soit au niveau sociale, au niveau du développement économique et sa dévotion pour aider à construire et à bâtir cette autonomie de Rodrigues.

Une fois de plus, nous présentons nos sympathies à son épouse, à ces enfants et à tous ceux que son départ afflige.

Merci.

Mr Chairperson: Respected Members, I associate myself to the tribute pay to the memory of Late Mr Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien, former Member of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, by the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader, and I direct the Clerk to convey the deep condolences of the Assembly to the bereaved family.

**RULING - PRIVILEGE COMPLAINT LODGED BY MINORITY LEADER
– 10 DECEMBER 2024**

Respected Members, I have an important announcement to make this morning. I wish to inform the House that following a written privilege complaint lodged by the Minority Leader on 10 December 2024 in which she expressed the view that the response to question B/119, given at the sitting on 05 November 2024, misled the House by contradicting information published in the communiqué of the Executive Council Main Decisions dated 18 October 2024.

I have carefully considered the matter and I am now presenting my ruling. I have thoroughly reviewed the complaint taking into account the relevant rules and legal provisions

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in order to determine whether this constitute an offence of contempt or breach of privilege. I referred to section 6 of the National Assembly – Privileges, Immunities and Powers Act – which outlines a list of offences. This Act is extended to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under section 65 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. After examining the aforementioned Act, the Standing Orders and the Rules and Regulations of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, I am of the opinion that the circumstances reported do not constitute an offence. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Standing Order 69, the privilege complaint raised by the Minority Leader will therefore lapse. Consequently, this matter is considered close. This is my ruling on the matter.

Thank you for your attention.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CURRENT SHORTAGE – ANIMAL FEED/RODRIGUES

(No. B/1) **Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the current shortage of animal feed in Rodrigues, he will state (a) the actions his Commission proposes to take to alleviate the difficulties faced by local breeders, and (b) if his Commission will provide financial support to the *Fédération des Agriculteurs et Eleveurs de Rodrigues* (FACER) to step in as a wholesaler in the supply chain?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, first allow me to thank my colleague, the respected Fifth Island Region Member for this interesting question. I know that she is championing for the farmers' right in her region and I can assure her of the total support of my Commission in her good work. I wish also, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to thank staff of my Commission who have worked the weekend to provide genuine, truthful information, so that I can answer to queries from Members of the Assembly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues had faced an acute shortage of Animal feed in December 2024 caused by supply chain disruptions. Fortunately, the situation is slowly returning to normal. Mr Chairperson, Sir, animal feed is a strategic commodity and Rodrigues imports some 1000 tons each month from Mauritius from two manufacturer companies. There are four wholesaler's licensees in Rodrigues. However, I am informed that unlike in Mauritius, none of these licensees have a warehouse and no buffer stock is kept. Actually, animal feed is distributed to retailers in the container park after the departure of the Peros

Bhanos. This will give you an information as the situation is and why we are having a lot of problem.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that in order to alleviate the difficulties of farmers due to shortage of animal feed, my Commission started earlier the distribution of free animal feed under the Free Animal Feed Scheme to 260 pig breeders, and 241 farmers (cattle, sheep, goat). My Commission has already procured 400 tons of animal feed from Mauritius and will soon order another consignment of animal feed if need be.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Caretaker Board of the Federation des Associations Cooperatives des Eleveurs de Rodrigues (FACER) has been set up and the following actions are envisaged: -

- (a) A complete audit of the federation before its operationalisation;
- (b) La Maison des Eleveurs and its warehouse will be rehabilitated by my Commission;
- (c) FACER will contract out the Management of its activity of buying and selling of animal feed to a manufacture company in conformity to Section 47(10) (a)(iii) of the Cooperative Act 2016;
- (d) Provision will be made in the Budget 2025/2026 for a substantial increase in the financial grant to FACER.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire par rapport à cette longue période où il n'y a pas eu d'aliment pour les animaux, c'est sans précédent, presque 10 semaines consécutives, il n'y a pas eu d'approvisionnement comme il se doit. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire s'il y a eu des plaintes – on sait, on a rencontré des éleveurs qui ont fait des plaintes par rapport à la perte d'animaux (poulet, porc), est-ce qu'il compte prendre une décision pour les compenser par rapport à leur perte ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, à la commission nous avons jusqu'à maintenant pas reçu de plainte en écrit. Mais je voyage à travers l'île, je sais qu'il y a eu beaucoup de difficulté. Alors, on attend l'opération des FACER, à ce moment-là ça va être peut-être directement à travers FACER qu'on puisse aider ces éleveurs.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, I understand from the answer of the Commissioner for Agriculture that Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) is about to inject money from RRA to the caretaker board. I would like to know when the caretaker board came into operation and

whether as he stated in his answer to B/62 of June 2023, there has been a report which has been made as regards to the former board where he stated that there was *dilapidation des fonds*.

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the case for FACER is very complicated and I know that this federation was set up in early 80's by Mr Michel Thibault and also friends that I know fully well, Mr Jean Louis, etc. And this is a bit the culture of Rodrigues. That is why instead of liquidating the society we have recommended that we set up a caretaker board and we are going to reorganise the farmers into cooperative so that the new FACER will be injected with new blood and also be able to go forwards instead of not respecting cooperative principles and way of doing business. There is a problem in cooperatives in Rodrigues, which have been abandoned for many years. So, later I will answer with a statement on that but we are banking on FACER to regress its situation to help farmers, to empower the farmers so that they take over their own federation as far as management and administration is concerned. It is not the duty of government to manage cooperative society or put in the committee representative *petit copain*, etc. This we will get rid of that and the federation, fishermen, farmers and planters will be professional and we will make sure that they adhere to the cooperative principle.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand that the actual, the root cause of the problem is that the importers have no warehouses. So, there is an issue of storage capacity. Pending of the coming into operation of your policy relating to FACER, can we know what is the actual storage capacity of the importers in Rodrigues. They can hold a stock up to how many weeks or days and what do you intend to do for the time being to avoid and prevent this situation from happening again?

Mr Perrine: Thank you for the question. I do not know, maybe my colleague, Commissioner for Consumer Protection will look into the issue. I cannot believe how someone is doing wholesaling, importing animal feeds from Mauritius – 30/40 containers and they do not have warehouse to stock the products and the product is being delivered in the port, in the container park, which is **not** against regulation. So, I think we will look into that and also henceforth, I think that delivering wholesales licences we should make sure that the applicant has the necessary qualification to be granted a licence. This is the main cause ... for me, and also, we have a problem with shipping. According to my information there was not enough containers to transport the commodity to Rodrigues. But the main issue is that those who have licence, who do wholesaling, they do not have the necessary capacity to store their

equipment. Moreover, I am also informed that they also asked for advance payment, which is also against the law and at the end they were not in a position to deliver. Recently, I have been informed that one of the wholesaler is on vacation and he is not operating since three months. Thank you.

Mr Chairperson: We move to next question.

SUMMER OCTOPUS FISHING CLOSED SEASON

(No. B/2) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the Summer Octopus Fishing Closed Season, he will inform the House of the (a) number of octopus fishers engaged in alternative work, along with their respective work sites, and (b) policy of his Commission regarding this sector and the way forward?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in response to part (a), I am informed that 1,393 octopus fishers are employed in the Alternative Livelihood Programme at 64 sites around Rodrigues.

As regards the policy of my Commission thereof, we are implementing the recommendation (data on length, weight and sex of octopus) of the report of monitoring and sustainable management of Octopus Fishers in Rodrigues, a multi-year analysis by expert Christopher Bova and Warren Potts (both experts in fisheries), and Professor Warwick Sauer and Sylvio Perrine (student Phd of the Marine Academy and Research). Data collection started in November 2023 for length, weight and sex and will be completed in October 2025.

In the meantime, Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is monitoring the Octopus fisher fishing activities through the Marine Academy and Research Centre (MARC). Two monitoring have already been completed and one final monitoring will be carried out on the opening of the Octopus Closure on 01 March 2025. All data obtained from the monitoring exercises will be used to identify active fishers in the next Winter Closure scheduled for August-October 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, moreover, the FAO is supporting my Commission through the project entitled “Technical Assistance on Fisheries Management in Rodrigues”. The project has the following objectives: -

- (i) Evaluate the Octopus Fisheries Management in view to identify the needs and action to improve the fishery management plan and improve the socio-

economic aspects of the fishers' communities and at the end of the project, a frame work will be set up to identify lead from Rodrigues.

- (ii) A study is being conducted in order to assess fisheries value chain (for octopus) and diversification of activities of other sources of income for the octopus fisherman during the fishing closures.
- (iii) The officers of the Fisheries Department will be trained in eco-system base approach in order to develop capacity in adaptive fisheries management.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, moreover, a mission will encompass a two half-days' stakeholder workshop from 19 to 20 February 2025 focused on the Octopus Fishery, addressing its challenges and potential interventions, and examining the current data collection system and related interventions.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the answer of the Commissioner relates to the technical assistance that is being provided by FAO. I would like to know whether this assistance is being provided only in terms of technicalities or whether there is any funding, and if yes, how much is being provided to Rodrigues?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is a project of technical assistance for the management fisheries but we have been focusing on octopus because for us this is the main issue. Regarding the other sector, that is, outer lagoon, we have other organisation, namely UNDP, Union Européenne, etc. That is why we are focusing on the octopus fisheries. This is important, the technical aspects, first we have to have a data, that we have all information on fisheries. We are introducing the Octopus Fisheries Identify Card as from 01 March so we will know exactly how many persons we have in Rodrigues who are engaged in this type of fisheries. And then we are going to use this information, as I have said, to adapt the eco-system approach with this type of fisheries, that is, to look the full aspect. Secondly also, looking into the value change, the marketing. And, thirdly this project will also help us to make a study for the alternative people that are doing alternative way that we are going to channel them not only in government but to make them have the possibility in engaging toward agriculture, farming, etc., and not always depending on the Commission, that we have to provide them assistance. Because you know this budget is important, we are injecting Rs46 M for that. And, I do not know if the government will continue on eternally with this. So, this is why we will like these persons, with alternative job in Rodrigues.

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Mr Lisette: ...related to the level of funding, if any? Yes, the level of funding by FAO, if any?

Mr Perrine: You know this is training to technician, to person that will be engaged in the work. For instance, tomorrow we have a workshop at Les Cocotiers, where supervisors working with the octopus fishers will be formed on collecting of data and also to manage, how to do the work another way, not like they are doing using paper work and also recording attendance of fishers how it is recorded and how it is processed. We are going to innovate.

(Interruptions)

The amount? Sorry. The amount is 197,000 \$, that is, less than Rs200 M.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we can see that number of fishers working in the Alternative Livelihood Project is constantly on the rise. Each year we see that we are adding, it is contrary to the policy to alleviate, to remove pressure on the lagoon. And, we have been informed that there are actually among these workers, for Alternative Livelihood, there are different types of contract for these people. I have met some people who said they are working everyday and they are being paid for only 25 days while there are other persons on the same project and they are being paid everyday. Can we know from the Commissioner, how this distinction is being made, how is it that some people are being paid everyday and they are working everyday and others are working everyday and paid only for half the number of days?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, quand nous sommes arrivés en 2022, l'ancien gouvernement employait seulement 800 personnes pour les travaux alternatifs. Et nous savons très bien qu'il y avait beaucoup de pêcheurs qui ont été exclus dans cette liste. Ce que nous avons fait, nous avons fait sortir un communiqué pour dire à tous ceux qui sont *part-time* ou *full-time* engager dans cette type de pêche de se faire enregistrer. A partir de là, nous avons eu 1,500 et nous n'allons pas faire des discriminations, nous avons embauché tout le monde. C'est pourquoi nous venons avec ces informations on est en train de collecter pour savoir exactement quelles sont les personnes qui sont engagés dans cette type de pêche. Et je dois vous dire aussi, M. le président, que nous avons aidé ces travailleurs-là. Au lieu de Rs250, nous avons doublé. Rs500 on va donner par jour. Maintenant ces personnes étaient pour s'asseoir auprès des Centres Communautaires et faire n'importe quoi. Non. D'ailleurs, Maurice aussi va venir avec le Bad Weather Allowance qu'on paye-là. On ne peut pas payer les gens pour venir s'asseoir. Et on leur a dit de s'engager dans le travail communautaire,

embellissement et tel affaire. Mais seulement leur rôle principal était, il faudrait surveiller aussi le terrain, là où vous allez à la pêche. Mais seulement ce sont des personnes qui n'ont pas la capacité et sont âgées, qui sont malade des fois et qui ne peuvent pas faire ce travail. Alors, c'est pourquoi il y a une équipe, l'expérience sérieux qu'on va vu pour faire la surveillance. Je vous dis, la fraude à Rodrigues est endémique, c'est devenu pire que la drogue. Tous les jours on arrêtent des gens. Alors, c'est pourquoi il y a cette équipe ... émerveiller de voir cette dame qui surveille comme ils dissent leur paroisse. Vous savez à Madagascar, c'est la communauté qui surveille, ce n'est pas les gens du gouvernement. Vous dites aux pêcheurs – *lamer pou ou. Mais seulement ils n'ont pas le droit d'aller, ils n'ont rien.* C'est pourquoi nous nous voulons introduire une dose de surveillance au garde pêche à la communauté. C'est pourquoi la stratégie c'est que la communauté puisse prendre en charge. Maintenant on demande à quelqu'un de travailler une demie journée, une autre personne qui fiat 24 heures, on ne peut pas payer pareil. Merci.

The Minority Leader: Je maintiens qu'il y a des gens qui sont payes alors qu'ils travaillent et d'autre non. Enfin, moi j'inviterais le commissaire à faire le tour quand ces personnes-là travaillent. Ce n'est pas leurs fautes mais on les voit s'asseoir et attendre l'heure de partir parce que justement il y a une faiblesse dans l'organisation et moi je vous inviterai à aller voir comment améliorer cela. Donc, on est en train de les payer, donc c'est les fonds de l'état. Les gens veulent travailler mais s'est mal organise.

Donc, ma dernière question serait par rapport au commissaire, il a parlé de Octopus Fishery Card. C'est ce que j'ai compris il a mentionné ? Octopus Fishery ID Card, donc je suppose que s'est comme une carte provisoire parce que vous avez dit que vous allez vous baser dessus pour après savoir exactement qu'elles sont ceux qui travaille, qui pêche. Je lisais justement ce matin dans une allocution, dans le cadre du débat du budget en 2022. Je crois que c'est le 5 mai 2022. Le commissaire de la pêche était *adamant* du fait que la carte provisoire des pêches qu'on donnait été *illegal*. *I would like to know from the Commissioner, the Octopus Fishery ID Card that he is about to give how far it is legal? So, I would like to have his enlighten on this.*

Mr Perrine: M. le président, je voudrais faire ressortir qu'il y a eu le Fisheries Act 2023 qui a apporté beaucoup de changement. Je vais recommander au Minority Leader de voir cette loi et puis d'avoir toutes ces réponses ...

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais demander au commissaire de la Pêche. Donc, au vue des derniers résultats de ce projet comment il entrevoit l'avenir ? Est-ce que sa commission va pouvoir sécuriser les fonds nécessaires pour le financement, pour la pérennité de ce projet ?

Mr Perrine: Nous allons recommandé, M. le président. Nous allons faire beaucoup d'effort. Comme vous savez le budget, vous étiez au gouvernement c'est à Maurice qui décide. Mais nous savons que le gouvernement est en train d'accorder beaucoup d'importance. J'ai eu l'occasion de discuter avec les deux ministres, le ministre Boolell et le ministre David et ils sont pour injecter de l'argent mais seulement il faudrait des résultats. C'est-à-dire, on ne va pas donner n'importe comment, n'importe quoi. *We have to give result. They are speaking value for money.* Merci.

REORGANISATION – COOPERATIVE SECTOR/RODRIGUES

(No. B/3) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Co-operatives and Others whether, in regard to the reorganisation of the cooperative sector in Rodrigues, he will (a) make a statement thereon, and (b) outline the actions he is considering to enhance the managerial capabilities of Rodriguan cooperative enterprises?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the cooperative movement has long been a pillar of economic and social development in Rodrigues, providing a platform for small producers, farmers, fishers and entrepreneurs to pool together the resources and have access to markets, and improve their livelihoods. However, over time, challenges such as financial constraints, market limitations and this is very important, good governance, lack of good governance have hindered this sector full potential. Today, out of 72 societies less than half is still active I will table a list of the cooperative society that we have in Rodrigues that are operating.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, before reflecting on the reorganisation of the cooperative sector in Rodrigues, allow me to say a few words on cooperative identity, values and principles. This will enable respected members to compare and understand more fully the reason of the complete decline of the sector in Rodrigues.

1. Definition of a Cooperative

What is a cooperative. A Cooperative is an autonomous associations of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural

needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

2. Values of Cooperatives

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founder members (that is, persons that founded the cooperative movement in England in 1844), cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

3. Cooperative principles

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice. There are seven principles and are self-explanatory:-

- (a) Voluntary and open membership;
- (b) Democratic control;
- (c) Member economic participation (they have to participate);
- (d) Autonomy and independence (not being influenced by politician, by businessmen but they themselves they take their destiny in their hands);
- (e) Education, training and information;
- (f) Cooperation among Cooperatives (this is also important education, long life training and information);
- (g) Concern for community.

I am coming to an end; I am not going to delay on that but it is important to take note of it.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is sad to compare with what we see in Rodrigues. Facilities for the professional development of Rodrigues to enhance their managerial capabilities so as to contribute to the growth of cooperative enterprises has been lacking.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the re-organisation of the Cooperative Sector in Rodrigues was the focus of discussions during a meeting I had with the minister, Mr Ameer Mea in Mauritius. Discussions centered on boosting activities of Cooperative Societies in three Sectors, namely Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

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As regards part (b), I will now give the key areas of re-organisation to enhance the managerial capabilities of Rodriguan Cooperative enterprises: -

- (i) Stronger oversight and monitoring by the re-engineering the Cooperative Division in Rodrigues into a dedicated office aims at providing ongoing support, monitor performance and ensure compliance with best practices and innovations.
- (ii) Request has been made to the Ministry of Cooperatives to provide the services of Technicians to carry out Forensic Audit of all registered Cooperatives Societies in Rodrigues and submit recommendations. *(Tous les brebis galeuses vont être liquidé. Only active societies will continue).*
- (iii) To enable favourable eco-systems for cooperative, a national workshop will be held in Rodrigues to increase the capacity of Cooperatives developers.
- (iv) Improve the capacity of Cooperative Societies through training in collaboration with the National Cooperative College to design courses for a Certificate in Cooperative Management, which is MQA approved, with possibility to upgrade for a diploma courses.
- (v) Several proposals have made for consideration in the budget exercise to consolidate and improve the Cooperative Sector in Rodrigues. *(I will leave it to the Chief Commissioner to announce these measures.)*

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission firmly believes that a well-organised sector is key to inclusive economic growth, job creation and community empowerment in Rodrigues. Through these reforms, we aim to transform the Cooperative movement into a modern, resilient, and self-sustaining sector that contributes meaningfully to the island's development.

Moreover, we are encouraging all the Farmers Associations in Rodrigues to change their current status into cooperatives so that they enjoy benefits being offered by the Commission and also to improve their knowhow and management.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will continue to work closely with cooperative Societies, authorities and stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition and long-term success.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

**CHAIRMAIR & BOARD – RODRIGUES PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION
(RPUC)**

(No. B/4) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Chairman and the board of the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC), he will state if they have infringed the policy decisions of his Commission as approved by the Executive Council and, if yes, to inform the House of (a) the nature of such infringement/s, and (b) the measures he intends to take?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there are major issues regarding the RPUC presently. A report has been compiled and completed by my Commission and will be submitted to the Executive Council next Friday. Until then I prefer not to reveal any other matter on the issue. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, so we can understand that the Deputy Chief Commissioner wants his report, I think, to be presented to the Executive Council. This is what will come, what will be, will be. But can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner regarding his public allocution on 07 February, where he said he is revoking the Board, or at some point in time he was inviting the Chairman and the members to resign. I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner as at now whether the Chairman and the Board is still in place?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, question should not be addressed regarding matters reported in the press or whether in Facebook lives, etc. As I have said, there are major issues regarding the RPUC, including the Chairman and other issues. I will present a full report to the Executive Council to seek advice and the way forward and until then I will not comment on the internal matters going on in the RPUC.

The Minority Leader: In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think and I firmly believe that the press conference was carried on in the Office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner. So, which is official, more than official. And, may I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether following his official press conference in his office, he had an official meeting or he addressed any formal correspondences to the Chairman or the members of the Board in regard to this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Under Regulations, Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Management Regulations 2008, there are powers vested in the Commissioner to whom the responsibility of a Rodrigues Regional Assembly company is assigned. I think, it is under Regulation 17 – Powers of a Commissioner. Following information, I had, I have written to the Chairman and members of Board to invite

them to stop performing the duties as Directors pending the determination of the way forwards by the Executive Council.

The Minority Leader: The Deputy Chief Commissioner will then confirm that this letter he addressed has got no value then. Because the report will have to go in the Executive Council for decision. So, the letter you wrote has got no value.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am a person of action. I do not know whether the invitation to resign to the Chairman of the RPUC has got no value but as a Commissioner I am responsible to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and to the integrity of the management of my Commission. I have also directed the Departmental Head to take over the responsibilities of the day-to-day caretaker management of the RPUC pending the decision of the Executive Council to what will be submitted to them.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we understand the position of the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards to the pending decision of the Executive Council which is to come this Friday. But nevertheless, if there has been infringement as he has publicly declared, infringement has not come all at once, it has been with time. May I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whenever there has been infringement by the Board of Directors, he has informed the Council accordingly, with time?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am afraid that a former Commissioner is inviting me diverge the proceedings and matters discussed at the Executive...

(Interruptions)

This is what was being asked. You are asking me whether I have informed the Executive Council. I cannot reveal here what has been informed, what has been going on in the Executive Council. You know very well it seems, there... as if we are going in the Executive Council, we gather the impression that some people are listening at times. Maybe you can listen if you...

Mr Lisette: On another stand point, the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned clause 17 of the Investment Management as regards to powers vested to the Commissioner. But we know very well for clause 10, the board is appointed upon recommendation of the Commissioner by the Executive Council. Is it right for the Deputy Chief Commissioner to revoke beforehand the board without having prior the approval of the Executive Council?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I do not know whether he has seen the letter. The letter does not speak of revocation; the letter speaks of an invitation for tender your resignation. So, you studied LLB, you know that if it is on the recommendation of the Commissioner to the Council, so in an urgent matter where the Council does not have the opportunity to deliberate and to consider the matter, it is the ultimate duty of the Commissioner to take measures. I cannot reveal here all the details but I have deemed it necessary to ask the Chairman to stop, to invite him to stop performing the duties because there were major issues at stake. The Executive Council will consider the matter and then we will make a decision. And, as I have said, I cannot reveal what are the issues. I have had the opportunity to brief the Executive Council and the Chief Commissioner himself on the issues concerned. We do have a committee of Advisors and officials following, helping the RRA companies. As you are aware, we do not have a lot of skill managers in Rodrigues. In other companies also there are issues, issues of procurement, issues of use of funds, issues of ethics, it is all a challenge.

This Assembly is a young assembly. We have had the idea, the courage to set up these RRA companies. They have provided number of services to Rodrigues. For example, Rodrigues is clean and cited as an example by visitors because of Rodclean. Imagine we do not have Rodclean but we have to ensure for example that there are transparent procurement procedures at Rodclean in line with the principles of good governance. This is what I personally as Deputy Chief Commissioner and Commissioner want to ensure within the companies falling under responsibility.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, maybe he is right in not disclosing matters of the Executive Council. But he is the first culprit to leave the Executive Council and come out to disclose matters of the Executive Council by making a public statement. He is the first one to disclose matters by press conference, Mr Chairperson. Now, as regards to the question of invitation to vacate the office of the board, does it mean that as at now the board is not in operation, and how could it be that if it not so, why is it that he has directed the Departmental Head to take over that board duties?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: *M. le président, au situation exceptionnelle, mesure exceptionnelle.* I have estimated that being given it is the Commissioner who recommends the Chairman of the Board of Directors, being given the situation, I will not reveal certain aspect of things, a report has been compiled, will be submitted to the Executive Council. It was necessary to ask the Chairman to no longer take part in the decisions in the

day-to-day management. He is chairman and manager. And, as a Commissioner responsible for Water Resources under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, it also says that where a department of the Regional Assembly is assigned... Are you listening to me? I will not repeat my reply, my answer.

(Interruptions)

Yeah, you are like me. You can talk to someone and at the same time listen. This is a great quality. So, I was saying that under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act you are aware where a department of the Regional Assembly is assigned to a Commissioner, he shall exercise general direction. So, what will you do as a Commissioner if you are aware that something is going on in a company for which you are responsible? So, I have taken things in hand and as it is me who recommends to the Council, I have invited those concerned to tender their resignations.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, on a vu dans cette conférence de presse officielle, ultimatum aussi, alors que les gens mourraient de soif et heureusement, qu'il y a eu la pluie. Le Chef commissaire adjoint parlait des membres du board, est-ce qu'il peut éclairer la Chambre si tous les membres qui font partie du board sont nomines par le Conseil Exécutif ? Dans le cas échéant, quels sont d'autre bodies who nominated members of the board ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: *M. le président*, this company belongs to the Regional Assembly, the only body which can nominate a director, is the Executive Council. I think the Member is mature enough to know this.

The Minority Leader: I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there are members representing ministries and other bodies in Mauritius who are sitting on the board?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: It is the Executive Council which decided that it is desirable that certain bodies like, the CWA, the Ministry for Public Utilities be represented on the board. This is not statutory, it is not mandatory, it is not in the constitution of the Rodrigues Public Utilities. Okay? It can be changed if we deem that we do not need such and such body to be represented.

Mr Lisette: The Deputy Chief Commissioner is right as regards to the nomination because it is a company owned 100% by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. But we know the gist around the setting of the RPUC and, there are the coming into power, how it works and

why there has been proposals from ministries to come onto this board? I would like to know from him as a matter of decency, would it not have been better that before invitation to revoke that he should have at least contacted the ministries in Mauritius? I mean, there is the representative of Finance, CWA, Prime Minister's Office, would it not be better or in a sense of decency to contact these ministries before inviting these representatives on the board to vacate.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know Rodrigues is autonomous in water and in the management of its companies. I refuse to be the puppet of any ministry or body in Mauritius. I have to take decision to revoke a board to recommend such and such director, we do it. We do not have to consult whomsoever in Mauritius. This is not provided under board, under the constitution of the RPUC and of course, we want people in Rodrigues to take control of things regarding Rodrigues as far as possible. I am of the view that there are too many Mauritian representatives on the board of the RPUC.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

HELICOPTER-BORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY - 2024

(No. B/5) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the helicopter-borne geophysical survey carried out in 2024, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) the objective thereof; (b) the total cost incurred and the source of funding; (c) if any report has been submitted to date and, if so, to table a copy thereof, and (d) when the final report is expected to be submitted to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, following discussions held with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in January 2023 and the Assise de l'Eau held subsequently in Rodrigues in February 2023, my Commission requested the AFD to finance a study on the underground water potential of Rodrigues.

With regard to part (a) of the question, the objectives of the survey are as follows:

- To gain an innovative understanding of the subsurface in terms of geometry of aquifers (depth, extent) and mineralisation (issue of salt water intrusion);
- To explain reductions in groundwater production
 - Methods of exploitation
 - Characteristics of existing structures;

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- To analyse the relationship between surface and groundwater (infiltration zones), pollution, vulnerability)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as per BRLi Report (2023), there is little hydrological knowledge up to date unavailable in Rodrigues and acquiring data is of paramount importance in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Strategy of Rodrigues. The report mentions that there is significant potential to tap groundwater resources exploitation to optimise water production and distribution. This is precisely why the BRGM study is important so as to help us determine the best places for drilling of boreholes.

As regards to part (b), the total cost of the project is 1.3 million Euros. It is fully financed by the AFD.

In regard to part (c), no report has been submitted yet.

In regard to part (d), the final report which was due in May 2025 will now be obtained in October 2025.

Thank you.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, just for a matter of transparency or further information rather, I would like to know as regards to the modus-operandi regarding the funding itself, is RRA engaged in the bid process or is it AFD who has decided to nominate the contractor for that purpose?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I believe it a government to government agreement and as such, being given they funded their study and being given the nature of the study. I do not know any helicopter scanning company in Mauritius. They chose their own provider, which is BRGM and not the helicopter.

Mr Lisette: Okay, good. Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is it right to say or may we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there was to be a report to be given, *un rapport de démarrage plus un compte rendu d'acquisition de la géologie à la fin d'une lever*. I think that forms part of the agreement also. Why is it that as per his answer these reports have not been provided to the Commissioner so far?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have said that no report has been submitted yet. The final report which will include everything, in fact this report will not say where there is water. This report will give a detailed of the underground geology of

Rodrigues. And, from this they will make inferences about where there are possible water tables below Rodrigues. So, all what he is saying will be included in the report.

Mr Lisette: But I consider that as per agreement, AFD and the government, there was supposed to be intermediate reports to be given. Like I have said *un rapport de démarrage, un compte rendu d'acquisition de la géophysique à la fin du...* and there was supposed also to be *cinq rapports techniques* before the final report. Has it been eliminated, if yes, why so?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Member should have been more precise in his question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, about these intermediate reports. I believe there has been one or two communications, I do not know whether there are reports, but I repeat the survey is being analysed, is being decrypted, everything from the scanning is being put together. And then, we will have all the data presented to us, we will have an idea of whether the underground water resources of Rodrigues are being under exploited where they are or whether they are being over exploited.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, Mr Lisette.

**DRILLING/BOREHOLES – SITES INITIALLY IDENTIFIED/APPROVED BY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – 2024/2025**

(No. B/6) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to drilling of new boreholes in Rodrigues at sites initially identified and approved by the Executive Council during the year 2024/2025, he will state the list thereof, indicating (a) if any changes were made thereto after approval by the Executive Council and, if so, the reasons therefor; (b) the number drilled to date, including their locations and the expected production yields therefrom, respectively, and (c) if any preliminary assessments of potential environmental risks have been conducted, and if so, to table a copy of the findings and the total costs involved?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the drilling, testing and construction of boreholes rest with the Commission for Water Resources which has entrusted the operation of parts to the RPUC under MIC funding to increase water production in Rodrigues.

With regard to part (a), no change has been done to the locations of the eight boreholes for potable water identified in the RPUC project documents. Prior geophysical surveys were conducted by professionals from Water Research Co Ltd and the sites identified accordingly.

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The locations of boreholes were also based on the report of Mr Pokhun Rajeshwar, Principal Hydrological Officer of the Water Resources Unit, Mauritius, who was on mission to Rodrigues in November 2022.

With regard to part (b), four boreholes for potable water have been drilled at Araucaria, Papayes, Montagne Cabris Corail and Le Chou MITD. The RPUC expects to exploit a yield of 1,000 m³/day from the two boreholes at Araucaria and Le Chou. The two boreholes at Papayes and Montagne Cabris Corail were not conclusive and will thus not be exploited.

With regard to part (c), I am informed that there are no environmental risks associated to the drilling of these potable water boreholes and the RPUC is looking for water present in aquifer deep below ground. Drilling was done as follows:

- 74 m at Araucaria;
- 68 m at Le Chou MITD;
- 68 m at Papayes;
- 80 m at Montagnes Cabris Corail.

Drilling of boreholes is not an undertaking necessitating an EIA or preliminary Environmental Report as per the Environment Act 2024.

No consultancy was contracted for any environmental risks. The benefit for these boreholes in time of dire lack of potable water guided the RPUC to go for a water mix of on land water: desalination water at 50%.

The Member will recall, observe in the press that even in Mauritius the authorities are rushing to exploit boreholes in view of increasing water supply.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, when I refer to the official press release of the Executive Council on 01 November 2023, the Council made mention of five boreholes at Mte Piton, Araucaria, Champs, Mon Plaisir and Nassola. That was the official press release of the Executive Council on 01 **September** 2023, and now, of course, based on the mission in Rodrigues of the Hydrological Officer from 07 to 10 November 2022. Now the Deputy Chief Commissioner is speaking about three additional boreholes meaning we have come to eight. I would like to know from him how come that there has been a change as regards to that number officially identified and approved by the Executive Council?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The question must be asked to the RPUC, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, does it mean from the answer of the Commissioner that the answer has to be asked from the RPUC that he has not given his approval as Commissioner for Water on that level.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I will not say so, Mr Chairperson, Sir. As I said there is a report which is going to be made to the Executive Council. Let the report go forward.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner, then confirm whether on 14 June 2024, the Executive Council decided to vest all boreholes into the RPUC?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is the policy of the Executive Council to transfer the operation of all water networks and associated facilities. Operation of desalination plants have been transferred and we have seen the stabilisation of the operation - no break-down, quick repair of break-downs, full operation of desalination plants. So, one source of water in Rodrigues is desalination. Second, is boreholes. Yes, the RPUC has taken over but there is still a blending of RPUC and electromechanical team who are working together, sharing knowledge and of course, aiming at an optimal exploitation of our boreholes to prevent over exploitations and of course, optimise all our water resources.

Mr Lisette: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in this very House, the Chief Commissioner himself criticised about the setting up of boreholes in 1998 and 20, meaning that it has impacted on the ecology of Rodrigues and there should have been proper study made therewith. I would like to ask him and, of course, based on the question which I formerly asked as regards to the helicopter survey that was carried out, why is it that we did not wait for the report of the helicopter borne for a geological survey before proceeding with the drilling of the boreholes where we could have known exactly what is the status of the underground water in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I share this view, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as people who believes in science. The RPUC has already contracted to the tune of Rs14,233,700 for the drilling of the boreholes. And, I must say, I am not here to cover any person, that instructions were given in writing to the RPUC to wait for the BRGM report before proceeding. Unfortunate, this has not been followed.

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Mr Lisette: But the thing, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I see two persons in front of me.

(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: I do not recognise what you are saying when I correlate this with your public announcement. Because on 23 January, we went to Le Chou, to in fact say let us wait for the report before proceeding and you vehemently decided the RPUC on the matter. And now, you are coming in this Assembly to say that it is the ... Where does matter stand exactly, Mr Chairperson? I do not understand.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the principle of collective responsibility dictates...

(Interruptions)

I have not flouted the possible... During my last press conference, I wanted to resign as Deputy Chief Commissioner, and even maybe as a Member of this House, because there is disagreement on the policy.

(Interruptions)

It is not internal matter; it is public matter. Because I have threatened to resign. And, I do not know whether I will resign or not. I can resign anytime. But the fact that I did not resign is because some people asked me not to do it. Because if you people come into power, it will be a tragedy for this island.

(Interruptions)

So, we must have to think about all this. You have not been elected. I have been elected. And, you know how people think here. The principle of collective responsibility dictates that you must support, you must support. Okay?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: You must support the collective decisions of your government. And, if you do not agree...

(Interruptions)

If you do not agree you can go. Examples are full. Ministers resign. When the United Kingdom join the coalition...

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(Interruptions)

Let me speak, please. Do not be overexcited, you are not yet Chief Commissioner.

(Interruptions)

And, I do not think you will ever. I do not think you will ever.

(Interruptions)

Maybe some people there.

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

(Interruptions)

I have said order! I have said order. He has got the floor.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. To close the answer to the question. Yes, there has been major discussions and divergence of point of view between the board of the RPUC and the policy of the Commission on this issue. And, now you will understand if you are a Commissioner whether the board should follow your directions, validated by scientific reasoning or they can do whatever they think fit. The Council will decide. It is in the hands of the Executive Council.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will follow with my question regarding the decision of the Executive Council of 14 June 2024 regarding the vesting of boreholes into the RPUC. Does this mean that the coming boreholes or only existing boreholes who are in the hand of the RPUC? Because we can see that though the Commissioner instruct to stop, the works continued. Does this mean that boreholes to come also are the concerned of the RPUC and not under the decision of Commissioner?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The RPUC is an RRA company. We have Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Management Regulations 2008, that myself introduced and was voted in this House. I invite Members who do not know it, to read it, to understand it and also there is an MOU between the Commission and the RPUC to perform certain jobs. If you have somebody to perform a job for you, it does not mean that that agent owns the job, owns the property. The policy of water rests with the Commission. The policy for environment for example, the Commission for Environment has decided to remove bins from beaches around Rodrigues. Rodclean cannot say we disagree with this because it is a policy. So, all companies must follow the policies and if they do follow the policy for

question of opinion, beliefs, normally we sit together and fix things. But at time, you know some people think we should do this and this, and they do it.

Mr Lisette: On this point, I do agree with the Deputy Chief Commissioner that board members, Chairman should follow the political guidance of the Commission. I have no problem on this, Mr Chairperson. It is clearly stated in the Investment Regulations of 2008. But nevertheless, there is an issue at stake as regards to the RPUC because there has been a business plan which has been given MIC for the Rs540 M or so, detailing clearly the projects that have to be implemented with such money. I would like to know that after the provision of that business plan by the RPUC to obtain the Rs54 M, whether the Commissioner for Water has proposed any amendments especially as regards to that volume of water that were to be produced at Pointe Coton where I heard him mentioning there should have been 6,000 m³ instead of 3,000 m³, what was in the business plan and whether there has been any proposal for change as regards to that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, a business plan is for funding. So, there was money for desalination and there was funding for boreholes. MIC will not poke its nose into where we are going to dig the boreholes. For example, we have a contract with the contractor Water Research. They have not objected. I have met the new boss of the Bank of Mauritius and of the MIC, he has not raised any particularly issue regarding use of funds of the MIC. And, may I ask the Member whether for his housing loan he has a board and then a member of his bank on the board? I did not agree with this.

(Interruptions)

If you lend money to an institution why should you be on the board?

(Interruptions)

The MIC asked to be a member of the board being given that. We agreed to it.

(Interruptions)

But you said 'vey larzan', vey zot larzan! We are not stealing money. I am not aware of people stealing money at the RPUC. Okay. And, I must say we have reached 50% even more of the water reforms in Rodrigues. We have already allocated the contract for a 3,000 m³. Analysis of water demand and supply shows that we will still be in deficit. If we want to provide for 150 litres, 40 litres of water per day to each Rodriguan, provide for livestock, provide for tourism, there is today a pragmatic scientific and global approach and people are

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saying, we are being congratulated by their supporters because now they are getting their water. Some people remain silent because they are getting water full, good water. They remain silent in some regions.

(Interruptions)

Have we heard people complaining in the usual regions where people used to complain? No. We have repaired the Caverne Bouteille desalination plant, which he left to 'pouri' to rot. We have installed a new 350 m³ there. We have put people who want to work. And today there are still issues. But the bigger thing is coming and this is why we need to have people at RPUC who follow the vision. The vision is myself under the Executive Council. They are fully aware...

(Interruptions)

It is myself, yes. I am the Commissioner; I design the vision under the Executive Council.

(Interruptions)

What is the problem? The big boss is my partner. We are alter-ego.

(Interruptions)

He is not my boss; I am not his boss. We are partners.

(Interruptions)

He is not the Serge Clair of this team. I am not the Serge Clair of this team. This is what you have never understood. It is a *bicéphale* operation and things must be done together and the challenge of water I need support. So, there must be as we say in Creole 'latet trakter divan, keson deryer' pas le contraire.

Mr Chairperson: I think that this question has been sufficient cleared...

Mr Lisette: One last question.

Mr Chairperson: I give you one last question.

Mr Lisette: Just to remind the Deputy Chief Commissioner that initially as regards to the setting of the RPUC, it was convened for the production of 10,000 m³ of water. Surely, you are going to have it in your brief and you opted for 3,000 and now you are telling people it should have been 6,000. This is a reduction as regards to our focus of the OPR government. This is one thing that you have to keep in mind.

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The second thing, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the whole matter of environmental issues is not yet over. Now he is denying some matters, escaping the reality of things...

Mr Chairperson: Put the question, please.

Mr Lisette: I do know that there is no need for an EIA or PER but morally, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and in terms of knowing the fragile ecology of Rodrigues, does the Chief Commissioner not aware of the impact of the borehole which is to be used to pump water as deep as 80 metres at Le Chou and Araucaria? Personally, has he assessed this, Mr Chairperson, Sir?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, when I was coming to this Assembly on my way today, I had a look at Pte Diable, the Commissioner is the least person who can come and give *mille* lessons on ecology in water projects. And, I was thinking, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that I have now a new JCB at my Commission and must ask the team to remove all these concrete blocks and all these pipes that is an eyesore there. This is the failure of his desalination policy. Up to now, Mr Chairperson, Sir, he has as legacy a dangerous site at Mourouk with a big chlorine depot. And, we do not know how to clean it. The only company which can clean it, a South African, is asking for Rs19 M. This is what he left to me. He did not read the Croda Report. Okay? He failed all the water sector in Rodrigues – promising. What can we do?

(Interruptions)

Nobody is telling that all these boreholes – we have boreholes all around Rodrigues. Even the government officials they ignored some boreholes. The boreholes which is at Deux Goyaves is not on the list. People tell us there is a borehole here. Somebody is using it for his personal use. It is not on our list. It is not saying that if we dig boreholes we need to use them. Okay? This is why I ask the RPUC to wait. But they had contractual obligations. So, the least person who can give us lesson on environment and water is the ex-Commissioner.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Okay, next question.

MEASURES ANNOUNCED – BUDGET SPEECH 2022/2023

(No. B/7) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the measures announced in the Budget Speech 2022/2023, he will state and table the (a) list of measures implemented or completed, along

with their respective costs; (b) budget allocated for each measure and the amounts disbursed, and (c) amounts reallocated or unspent, specifying the corresponding item votes?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to remind the House that part of the information sought in the question were provided in my reply to B/38. I am tabling additional details which have been compiled to date whereas the compilation of the outstanding information is being compiled for submission to the House. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is the third times I come with the same question. This question was put on 30 June 2023 and the then Chief Commissioner said that being given the voluminous nature of the information which is being requested same is being compiled and will be tabled as soon as available. In August 2024, the same question was put, we are today in 2025, how can you think we can agree with type of working? There is no transparency, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We cannot agree and we cannot go like that. How can we work? We are...

(Interruptions)

2022/2023, the very first budget, they have been working. Today we are in 2025, they cannot give. Three years! They cannot give an account of what they have been doing. They are playing with us, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président,...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I said order.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, la réaction du Minority Leader me fait rappeler, moi à l'époque lorsque j'étais là-bas, lorsque j'étais...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Allow the Chief Commissioner to answer the question, please! No-cross talking.

The Chief Commissioner: Oui, M. le président, ça me fait rappeler moi lorsque j'ai été de l'autre côté de la Chambre. A combien de fois on a eu cette réaction. C'est vrai, j'ai posé la question ce matin. D'ailleurs, on a... si jamais je n'avais rien déposé, on a déposé une partie. Et là, c'est vrai que c'est comme elle a dit. C'est vrai j'avais dit dans la précédente

réponse que c'était vraiment volumineux. Volumineux, tous les *data*, etc., etc. Donc, j'ai remis quelques informations supplémentaires mais on toujours en train de travailler, M. le président. Il faut noter aussi que les officiers maintenant ils travaillent sur le budget, ils sont très pris. Peut-être le timing de la question aussi, elle aurait dû bien pensé à poser la question. Donc, j'ai donné la réponse et bien sûr si elle n'est pas satisfaite. Mais je tiens à souligné que je vais faire le mieux pour déposer les réponses supplémentaires. Merci.

The Minority Leader: Est-ce que je peux demander au Chef commissaire par rapport au montant annonçait dans le cadre de ce budget 2022/2023. Il y avait Rs1,25,000,000 dédié pour le budget capital. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir du Chef commissaire quel est le pourcentage qui a été réalloué et quel est le pourcentage dépensé par rapport à ce budget ?

The Chief Commissioner: Justement, moi aussi j'ai pas eu cette réponse-là. Il faut attendre. C'est ce que j'ai dit, M. le président. Donc,...

(Interruptions)

Dès que j'aurais la réponse, bien sûr je vais soumettre à l'Assemblée.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire par rapport à ce même budget 2022/2023, combien de poste vacant il y avait, il avait annoncé et combien ont été *filled* ? Je pense ça il doit avoir.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, c'est tellement vague. On n'est pas en examen de comité. La Minority doit venir avec une autre question directe afin qu'on puisse vraiment répondre. Le Chef commissaire d'alors avait dit, je ne sais quel chiffre, et combien on a pu recruter. Ben, écoutez, M. le président, il faut être sérieux. Il faut qu'elle vienne avec une réponse et un *substantive question* afin que je puisse donner des réponses exactes. Merci.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES – PUBLIC SECTOR – ASSIGNMENT TO HIGHER POSITIONS

(No. B/8) **Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether he will seek information to inform the House on the established procedures in the public sector concerning the assignment to higher positions or promotions, including details of the authorities involved, indicating (a) recourse available to public officers with grievances related to such exercises,

specifying the responsible institutions, and (b) relevant details and outcomes of any cases where public officers have sought recourse since 2022, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that in accordance with section 89(1) of the Constitution, the power to appoint persons to hold or act in any offices in the public service is vested in the Public Service Commission (PSC). The established procedures for assignment of duties and promotion to higher posts in the public service are carried out on the basis of the qualifications' requirements laid down in the respective Scheme of Service prescribed for the post, which also specifies the mode of appointment, either by promotion or by selection.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Responsible Officer has delegation of power from the PSC for appointment in minor grade and to make acting appointment/assignment of duties for period not exceeding one year, subject to conditions specified in PSC Circular No. 1 of 2023 in the case of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Island Chief Executive is the Responsible Officer.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, any officer who is aggrieved by any promotion or assignment of duties may appeal to either to:

- (i) the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal (PBAT) in accordance with section 91(a) of the constitution and section 3 of the PBAT Act;
- (ii) he/she can also make an appeal to the Island Chief Executive who is the Responsible Officer, or
- (iii) the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms with respect to representations regarding conditions of service and such representation should be channelled through his Supervising Officer, and
- (iv) the Court in accordance with section 119 of the Constitution.

Mr Chairperson Sir, in regard to part (b) of the Question, I have been informed that according to records available, since the year 2022 to date, there are 10 cases of appeal/representation namely:

- (i) an officer applied for leave for a Judicial Review before the Supreme Court to quash the appointment at the level of Departmental Head;
- (ii) three cases of appeals have been lodged at the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal;

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- (iii) three cases of representation have been lodged before the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation;
- (iv) one officer has made complaint to the Ombudsman;
- (v) an officer has made complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission, Ombudsman, Public Service Commission and Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms;
- (vi) one complaint has been made to the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms regarding assignment of duties at the level of Departmental Head.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, on 17 June 2024, a group of Administrative Officers made a representation to the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms against the assignment of duties of Departmental Head (DH) at the Commission for Health and Others to Miss S. E, the second most senior officer on the establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly from 20 May 2024, on ground of administrative convenience, vice a temporary vacancy. They contended that assignment of duties at the level of DH should continue to be given to officers of the Administrative Cadre based on seniority.

On 05 July 2024, the PSC had requested the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to draw the attention of the Administrative Officers to the provision of Section 2.9.1 (2) of the Human Resource Management Manual regarding the correct procedures to be followed when addressing correspondence to the Public Service Commission. The attention of the Administrative Officers has been drawn accordingly on 26 September 2024.

On 09 July 2024, the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms had sought the views and comments of the RRA on the representation. Subsequent to the reply of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms has, on 07 February 2025, informed, *inter alia*, that since no mention has been made in the scheme of service for the post of Departmental Head, for selection to be made from the Administrative Officer Cadre it is in order to assign such duties, to senior officers on the establishment of the RRA. In that specific case, Miss S. E. is also most senior to the Administrative Officers.

Mr Chairperson Sir, I am tabling a copy of the memorandum dated 07 February 2025 from the Ministry.

The Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms has further requested the RRA to draw the attention of the Administrative officers to the Paragraph 2.9.1 (1) of the Human Resource Management Manual. The attention of the Administrative Officers will be drawn accordingly.

Mr Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the details of these complaints and the outcome thereon. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has given details about several cases. I would like to from him whether there have been any representations relating to the promotion of Principle Fisheries Protection Officers, to anybody and the outcome?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Give me some time to... In my answer, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I do not have it. I do not have it, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I do not know why the answer is incomplete. According to what I have here, there is the document where there was an appeal to the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal against the PSC. And, the ruling was given on the 27 January 2025. Could the Chief Commissioner confirm whether this has taken place and the outcome?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that it is in the document. But I do not see it. But anyway, as I have said, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the person can go to make an appeal to the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal, to the Island Chief Executive, to the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms and also to Court. So, you have been provided with the documents which have been tabled and all the representations are in the document.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we can see that since the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, this is the very first time that we have so many cases whereby officers are having grievances/complaints to the various bodies and as per the document here, we see that the officer, the complainant *a obtenu gain de cause* against the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Maybe, that is why he is not giving the information here. But there is a general perception that there are officers who are being victimised by the Rodrigues Administration for different reasons. Some believe that it might be for political reasons, for their political affiliation. Would the Chief Commissioner see to it that corrective measures be taken to enhance the image of the Rodrigues Administration because things are not so well as regards to what we have seen here?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, such complaints have always existed. It has always existed. I know people have been to Court.

(Interruptions)

There are so many who have had recourse to the Ombudsperson and so on. It is only ten for three years. Only ten cases.

(Interruptions)

Yes, only ten cases for a period of three years only, Mr Chairperson, Sir. And, all these cases are being settled and it is also the responsibility of the Island Chief Executive to see to it that we do not have such cases. But we are coming with reforms. We have been talking about reforms in the public sector and we have been working on it. There has been the Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) also, and we are also working with the actual government to come forward with other reforms in the Public Sector.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, reforms will come but in the case of the Principal Fisheries Protection Officer, I understand that different procedures were applied for different officers, why is it so? Why is it that some officers are treatment on another ground, they are not treated in the same way as other officers who have been promoted? That is the issue. We can come with reform but this is something which are administrative existing procedural administrative issues that should have been dealt with correctly. So, will the Chief Commissioner see to it that all the public officers are treated on the same foot?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is the duty of the Island Chief Executive. Regarding this specific case, there has been issues and fortunately, the matter has been settled. The Fisheries Officer, he has been promoted and *il a eu gain de cause. Et maintenant l'affaire est resolu.*

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

Mr Lisette: I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether he considered it right that the promotion of an officer jeopardised because he has a case standing before a Court of Justice?

Mr Chairperson: Sorry, I...

Mr Lisette: Whether the promotion of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly may be jeopardised because he has a case which is standing yet to go for judgment? We do not allow any promotion because officers are having cases which are standing before a Court of Law.

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The Chief Commissioner: No, no, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is at the discretion of the PSC. So, we cannot interfere in such issues.

(Interruptions)

So, it is the PSC who decides. It has to be made clear. I do not know if before they decided for the PSC but we have to respect the PSC.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Allow the Commissioner to answer, please. You have got time to ask your question.

(Interruptions)

The Minority Leader: Sur le même point je demande au Chef commissaire...

(Interruptions)

Par rapport au même cas. Je pense que c'est clair que pour la même situation pour certaine personne, le bureau de l'Island Chief Executive écrive à la Police répétitivement mais pour d'autres personnes ça ne se fait pas. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir dans quelle circonstance le bureau cherche les informations près de la Police, *how is it done* ?

The Chief Commissioner: Justement, M. le président, vous voulez qu'on résout tous ces cas-là. Justement, si le ICE, dont je lui fais confiance, il a écrit à la Police pour demander des *status*, etc., je ne sais pas ce qu'il a demandé, c'est justement pour résoudre les problèmes. Donc, il a écrit pour savoir si jamais il y a un souci. Mais une fois encore, M. le président, il faut comprendre que, vous vous avez dans le passé, nous n'avons pas de leçon de prendre de vous. Parce que regardez le cas de General Worker par exemple, qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait vous ?

(Interruptions)

Nous on est en train justement de voir comment aider. Comment prendre les gens. Combien des jeunes Rodriguais ont pris dans la fonction publique, qui ont eus de l'emploi ? Il y en a plusieurs. Il y en a même qui choisisse maintenant, M. le président. Il avait annoncé qu'on allait prendre plus de 800 et là on est arrivé je ne sais pas combien. Mais là on va prendre aussi 300. 300 en phase.

(Interruptions)

Bien sûr, il faut comprendre, M. le président, aussi que la PSC, le Board de la PSC n'a pas encore été institué. Donc, il faudra attendre un petit peu et ça nous agace un petit peu nous aussi mais en temps et lieu on va le faire et on va le faire mieux que vous.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

SITUATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING & DRUG USE - RODRIGUES

(No. B/9) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the situation of drug trafficking and drug use in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information and state (a) the reported number of cases thereof per year from 2021 to 2024, and for the period January 2025 to date, indicating the age group and sex of the individuals concerned; and (b) the measures being implemented by the relevant authorities to prevent and control drug trafficking and drug use in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, for a number of years, the only type of drug on the Rodriguan market was Cannabis, but new types of illicit drugs are appearing on the market during the recent few years. Based on the 2021 Digest of Rodrigues from Statistics Mauritius, drug indicators are pointing out that drug offenders are on the increase in Rodrigues.

With regard to part (a) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the number of cases reported since 2021 to 2024 and for the year 2025 as at 13 February 2025 is being tabled.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am also tabling the details on drug cases by gender and age group.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that a Rodrigues High Level Drug committee has been set up under my chairmanship in May 2024. The last meeting of the committee was held in January 2025 and the committee took cognizance of the Action plan on substance abuse formulated by the National Drug Secretariat.

The committee also identified that key priority action should be the prevention of entry of illicit substances in Rodrigues. A provision of Rs3 M has been made in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Budget for Financial Year 2024/2025 to meet the cost of drug prevention activities.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, a formal request was made to the Prime Minister's Office in May 2024 following a meeting I have with the then Prime Minister, and I informed that there is no scanner for containers at the port area of Port Mathurin or even Port Louis. Request was made for consideration to be given to have containers screened by Police dogs so that suspicious ones could be scanned prior to their shipment to Rodrigues to prevent the entry of illicit substances in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that a Substance Abuse Committee has been set up under the Commission for Health. The aim of the Substance Abuse Committee is to analyse the actual situation and to work out on possible solution on to how to reduce/discourage drugs consumption in the Community. Moreover, a Senior Medical and Health Officer has been sent on training in Mauritius on addictology and on his return he will be able to attend to cases of additions.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, a National Drug Prevention Campaign "*Unis contre la drogue*" was organised on Tuesday 09 July 2024 at the Karl Allas Cultural and Leisure Centre at Mon Plaisir, in collaboration with the Mauritius Sports Council. Thereafter, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the National Drug Secretariat conducted a three-day training workshop for the *Agent de Santé Communautaire* in August 2024 in Rodrigues for the Implementation of the Community Welfare Taskforce Project in the different regions of the island. The Community Welfare Taskforce project in the different regions of the island. The Community Welfare Taskforce Project aims at sustaining drug prevention activities at community level in the different regions of the island with the main objective to empower the youth and community against substance abuse.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Mauritius Police Force (Rodrigues Division) which is represented on the Rodrigues High Level Drug committee are taking the following measures to prevent and control drug trafficking and drug use in Rodrigues:

- (i) Intelligence Operation;
- (ii) Law Enforcement Operations;
- (iv) Border and Control Detection.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we agree to combat the social ills, the Commission for Youth and Sports has organised the following activities:

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- (a) Substance abuse prevention for in-and-out of school youths by an experienced Social Worker from Dr. Idrice Goomany Centre (Mauritius) as resource person for the awareness sessions for SC and HSC leavers and in colleges;
- (b) Talks in villages;
- (c) Six-day peer education training for 20 young persons in substance abuse prevention;
- (d) One-day seminar for young girls and young women on substance abuse prevention in regions;
- (e) Outreach programme of Youth Caravan in villages;
- (f) Sensitisation through arts social media, etc., and
- (g) Youth Exchange Programme.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, for the year 2025/2026, the following activities are expected to be organised by the Commission for Youth and Sports:

- (a) Sensitisation among the youth;
- (b) Exchange and visits for members of the Rodrigues Youth CADs with NGOs and other partners fighting drugs abuse in Mauritius;
- (c) Cultural and leisure activities;
- (d) Distribution of flyers, stickers and pamphlets to the community;
- (e) Awareness campaign against drugs through social media and other communication channels;
- (f) Training and refresher course for members of the Rodrigues Youth Council Against Drugs, etc.

In addition to the above, Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has been the setting up of a Rodrigues Youth Council against Drugs in November 2024 which comprise 14 members aged from 16 to 30 years old (6 Male and 8 female). That is all, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Thank you.

Ms Raffaut: yes, Mr Chairperson, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House if there are any increase patrol or check point in specific region in Rodrigues aims at enhancing the effectiveness of drug prevention?

Chief Commissioner: yes, Mr Chairperson Sir, I've already answered to that point of the question, yes which has follows if you want I can elaborate on your supplementary question:

- (1) There are crack down operation which are being regularly figured at different level regarding the SMF, police dog unit, regular police, l'ADSU, CID and NCG whenever operation are carried out on island. There is also constant monitoring, stop and research operation and there are also maintain constant watch on known dealers and cannabis cultivators as well as monitoring their movement, there is also Mr chairperson as I have mention border and control detection at the Airport, at the port and at there is also a scanner which will be installed at the Port Mathurin post office and which will be operational soon.

Minority leader: Monsieur Le président le Chef Commissaire a parler d'un comité qu'il préside sur la drogue, un sujet a politique et un sujet très préoccupant pour toute la population et puis je demander au Chef commissaire meme si on sait que un moment quand on voulait, on avait commencé du travail par rapport à ce sujet il y avait des retissant de sa part personnellement et de à l'époque qu'il était dans l'opposition, ne pense-t-il pas qu'il aurait était une bonne décision de son gouvernement si nous de ce coter de la Chambre nous représentons quand meme plus de 51% de cette population on faisait partie de ce comité, on a eu l'occasion dans le passer, nous on était au pouvoir, il y avait de comite de l'opposition sur le sujet tel que violence domestique, il y avait Reidy Augustin, il y avait Marie Thérèse Agathe, donc ne pense-t-il pas s'il veut vraiment mener un combat acharner pour le *working committee* pas pour les activité seulement parce que nous avons des idées nous aussi ça aurait pas bien de nous d'invites

Chief Commissioner : oui justement Monsieur le Président le 27 Janvier 2025, j'appelle la Minority Leader justement je suis d'accord avec elle, je l'ai appelé en tant qu'amis je l'appelle 27 Janvier et elle m'envoyé un message i'll will get back to you and i'm still waiting !

Interruption

I'm still waiting and then you want me to invite you that I even sent a message to your leader, seen but no reaction. Voilà il faut mètre ça sur le Hansard Monsieur Le Président. Je fais ce qu'il fallait, ce vraie je suis d'accord, je suis d'accord qu'il faut c'est une affaire de tout le monde du pays, maintenant là je vous invite comme vous êtes tous-là, je vous invite sur le prochain comité mais je voulais vous parler d'abord *dir be Francette be ki to pense si interes toi* parce que *au lieu* d'écrire une lettre d'envoyer un mail de prendre le temps des officiers de le faire, et moi j'attendais cette question Monsieur le Président et là vous avez la

preuve que je appeler, justement je vous ai appeler Madame la respecter Minority Leader pour faire partie de ce comité mais vous n'avez pas cru bon de revenir vers moi merci

The Chairperson: i think that this is a quite serious matters that should not jog with right

The Minority Leader : ce pour ça que Monsieur Le Président j'ose demander au Chef commissaire quand est ce qu'il a constitué ce comité et quand est-ce que ça première réunion a eu lieux ?

The Chief Commissionner : Monsieur Le président je dis dans la réponse Monsieur Le président que la première réunion que je bien sûr présidé c'était en Mai bien sûr mais en 2025 nous avons décidé parce que nous sommes au pouvoir, nous avons décidé de vous inviter, alors qu'elle mal il y a ça Monsieur Le Président mais si jamais vous étiez un magistrat Monsieur Le Président, je appeler la personne et elle n'a pas répondu. Merci

The Chairperson: next question

Mr Lisette: to the chairman of the high level comity., I would like to know base on the answer that he made to my colleague whether there are targeted location we don't want to stigmatise any location, is there any specific location in Rodrigues where that selling or use of hard drug is complaint ...

The Chief commissioner : Monsieur le Président ça c'est à la discrétion de la police ce tous qu'on discute dans le comité est confidentiel, bien sur tout le monde sais à peu près ou il y bien sûr ou il y a de la drogue qui circule. Donc ces renseignements sont confidentiels, sont gérer par la police bien sûr il faut que ça reste afin qu'il puisse mener des opérations comme il faut. Donc oui il y a des endroits un peu plus chauds que d'autre mais la police fait son travail

The Minority Leader : Monsieur le Président on a vu qu'il y a eu de sorti publique répétitif par rapport à la drogue, et le Membre du Conseil Exécutif par rapport à la police tout ça qui donne une impression que le Gouvernement Régional a de reproche à faire par rapport à ce que la police le travail de la police dans le cadre du combat pour éliminer la drogue à Rodrigues. Est-ce que le Chef Commissaire peut nous dire si y va-t-il de reproche par rapport au travail de la police je parle récemment il y a un Membre du Conseil qui à parler par rapport à la police et le combat contre la drogue et si oui qu'elles sont ce reproche ?

The Chief Commissionner : Monsieur le Président, on doit travailler ensemble avec la police et si jamais il y a un souci ça se fait dans mon bureau mais il n'y a pas de reproche as such mais ce qu'on a dit à la police il faut être plus vigilant et il faut comprendre aussi que dans n'importe quel pays on dit le trafiquant ils sont en avance sur la police et aussi en terme d'arrangement. Meme a Maurice ce pareil, la police ils font de leur mieux je sais qu'ils sont

très *committed* que parce que dit vous bien on ne veut pas que la drogue prolifère à Rodrigues et tous les problèmes associer à cela va être enclencher donc nous on ne veut pas de ça. C'est un combat de tout le monde, la police fait son travail, nous aussi nous faisons notre travail justement j'invite les Membres de l'opposition aussi à se joindre à nous, je vais être bien sûr inviter la respecter, la Minority Leader la prochaine fois pour faire partie de ce comité c'est une affaire de tous et bien sûr nous comptons sur la collaboration de tout le monde.

The Chairperson: next question

Mr Speville: Mr Chairperson B/10

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson Sir I wish to inform the House that the

Mr Speville: Mr Chairperson Sir, ca I know from the Commissioner of sport when he received the invitation for the at least to participate in the National Championship?

Mr Ravina: Mr chairperson Sir my Commission was receive the invitation on the 29th of November

Mr Lisette: the answer of the Commissioner is clear given that he approves that our athletes are somehow being how to say yes, they are being penalised. May I know what is the cost of action that he has taken so far so that such matter does not arise? Because I remember, I raised the matter here in this Assembly as regard to the e-mail that should be sent at least three weeks or invitation has to be sent three weeks prior to competition in Mauritius and I told him in this very House that this is going to have an effect as regard to the participation of our athletes and this is actually what is occurring. I would like to know how he thinks of solving that problems so that this does not arise in the future?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson I has mentioned in my answered, needful has been done and all the proceeding has been established in time but this was caused due to as I mentioned to the availability of seat on the Air Mauritius this was happened.

Mr Lisette: the things Mr Chairperson Sir he also mentioned in his answer that the regional comity was not made aware that the national championship was to be used as a levy for the participation in the United Wrestling in India, this means somehow there has been miss information which has not been given to Rodrigues, I would like to know as regard to Commissioner for sport what is he going to do about this?

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson Sir: I already contacted the president of the wrestling comity in Mauritius, and he told me that it's too late to review arrangement for our athletes to be present in Mauritius. I informed him that we have a problem of availability of seat in Air Mauritius but he told me that it is impossible to delay the competition to allowed our athlete to participate.

Mr Lisette: you contacted the culprit itself, the one who is responsible for the matter that is going, it is the one that you phone? Ok, did you alert at least the Ministry or the Minister that is your counterpart with respect to what is happening this question of penalisation with respect to our athlete in Rodrigues, have you at least written an official letter on the matter to inform of what is happening?

Mr Ravina: Mr chairperson Sir to be frank I've just only contacted the president of the wrestling comity not the Minister

The Chairperson: respected Members in line with the provision of section 63 of the RRA Act, I have made a disclosure to the Clerk. I am therefore going to invite the Deputy Chairperson to take the Chair now. thank you

At this stage the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

The Deputy Chairperson: next question

Ms Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson B/11

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson sir with respect to the question I'm tabling the following.

- 1.The list of caterers eligible to supply meals, the criteria applied in the selection process
2. the list of caterers that are present et supplying meals to each school, including the number of pupils serve and the corresponding cost applications
3. complaints received concerning the quality of meals provided. thank you

Ms Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, on a appris qu'il y a des écoles qui ont eu des souci avec les repas et il y a des complainte comme le Commissaire de l'éducation la mentionner, on a aussi constater que ce caterers still provide lunch a ces écoles. De ce fait il y des parents qui sont meme parti voire le responsable de ces establishment scolaire mais a notre grand étonnement ils ne sont pas au courant. Alors en Juin 2024 il y avait une question B/7 de Mme Pierre-Louis sur le projet de *hotmeal*. Le Commissaire lui-même l'avait mentionné et à informer la Chambre que le *hot meal Project comittee project* has been set up. Monsieur le Deputy Chairperson je voudrais savoir du Commissaire de l'éducation s'il pouvait informer la Chambre si le protocole fonction réellement et comment ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I read question carefully before coming to this Assembly and of course myself and my officers we've prepare our question already, I have been asked to table and I have table. As regards supplementary questions of course, we can provide some information that I will invite Members to put this information they want to see, information on in their questions. I am together with Members of the regional Government,

very proud of the school feeding project which has brought many advantages and benefit to the majority of the school primary and pre-primary school children. Of course when you have bulk preparation of food and being given this is new in Rodrigues, transporting, cooking, preparing and transporting food and serving them in bulk has a number of challenges. This is why we do have a full fledged, management team at the level of the Commission under the supervision of the Departmental Head assisted by all the necessary caterer of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly public health inspectors, sanitaire, nutritionist, and of course everything is control, we know that most of the caterers performed well and there is a democratisation of the economy where by these caterers are being paid good money for their services. We have had a couple of as in the information which has been table, a couple of issues with the complaints, to date we have had six complaints. One of the complainers has been suspended until further notice, one has been excluded because it was deemed that her food was not satisfactory and another one with a warning. In this period of very hot temperature, it is normal that when people prepare food especially crudité salads and they transport it to the schools, may happen that it deteriorates a bit or a lot until it is served. Je sympathise avec ses gens parce que ils n'ont peut-être pas l'encadrement l'équipement nécessaire. Ce pour ça que je demandais à la Départemental Head, ça devait être cette semaine mais je n'étais pas là et certain s'apprêtais à revenir.

(Interruption)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: we will improve Mr Deputy Chairperson Sir, as from now we will assist all school and see the possibility to procure food transport containers which are refrigerated. I have, I am involving in at home in tourism in serving food, we know that if we put into ice containers containing ice bottle for example frozen ice bottle this helps to preserve the food. It is not a question of cooking, it is not a question of serving, it is a question of food transport and insuring that the food does not deteriorate. So we are going to improve the infrastructure within schools may be refrigerators, chilled apparatuses to keep the food between the period at the school and the periods it is served, because it is a question of food hygiene that unfortunately we are not very thus here because you know Rodriguan eats mostly fresh food, we do not prepare large volume of food, so we are going to help schools get this equipment's and we are going also to buy see the possibility to buy necessary to buy food transport containers and then give it to the schools so that these caterers can have these to serve the food and of course it will preserve the food also keep food hot because it is *repas chaud* as announced by the Chief Commissioner. Whatever *dipain chaud* better you get *dipain chaud* that get nothing. I went to school most many people here when they were kids

so we are going to improve. We are going also to assist the caterers to acquire equipment under our technology acquisition scheme we are going to target these caterers and we are also extending the scope of contract to all people who can supply food including hotels, including restaurants who were not previously in the list. So an hotel they can also serve food in schools and will be good our kids eats hotel grades food, all this with this regional government which we should, what is

(interruption)

dipain soya, dipain soya is healthy for you, have you ever eaten soya? what is your general knowledge? Making a *mockery of dipain soya* it is a healthy thing for the kids! What are you saying? You don't know anything about food, you don't know anything

(interruption)

to come here and make a mockery of *di pain soya* indicate that you don't know nothing about food and healthy food, you know nothing about healthy food

Mr Baptiste: Mr Deputy Chairperson we can see that for the criteria apply the selection process there are side visit effected by public health and food safety inspector but I see nothing relating to what are the expectation at the place of these caterers, their kitchen of the norms, can we know whether all these are also included in this, because only site visit but nothing relating to the norms expected from the caterers. It is not here but source of problems that some caterers are facing while I see that their business activities mobile victualler for example they have necessary equipment to provide food for so many students

The Deputy Chief commissioner: it means that they should be, they should have a norm, because to get a licence for victualler there are the criteria again, I have accepted to reply to the question despite the fact that these specific question I'm not been ask, I do not expect now you go into the table matter and then ask anything specific question on the read technical details you know very well I'm not sanitaire they know what to look at, they know to look at hygiene, space, necessary equipment.

Ms Roussety: Mr The deputy Chairperson Sir, alors je voudrais savoir si le Commissaire de l'éducation peut nous dire à la Chambre comment est-ce que le comité procède la procédure quand il y une suspension d'un caterer ? après combien de temps, le personne, le caterer peut réintégrer le Project ?

The Deputy Chief commissioner: yes, Mr Chairperson Sir, I have asked this question to the officials, normally when we suspense a person it's too allowed time to improve, once the person has improved they may write to the commission and the food inspectors etc., the technical team will visit and if they found that they have satisfactorily improve we want to

take everybody into the process. One thing that I must say is that the first financial report indicates that some caterers for third term of 2024 have been paid certain of them sums reaching or exceeding Rs2M for one term ½ month for work, that's good I like it when people money. I like it when money goes into the hands of Rodriguan unfortunately those who are the big ones earning over Rs2M there are no complaints on them, it means that they are good at their job it is certain people who have smaller amounts and we have to understand them, they are women entrepreneurs. They have had some issue we are not here to condemned people, we should not say ah! Food coming from x was not good, so we through them away, no we must be able to give them a second chance after improvement. But what we are going to do, I have a paper which should be sent to the Executive Council, we will limit the amount the amount of pupil so that we democratise this work and every caterer can get up to Rs800,000 1M and not the big jackpot. But if they are working they are good

The Minority Leader : je dois d'abord dire à la Chambre redire combien nous aussi nous croyons dans ce Project ce pour cela qu'on avait investi

Interruption

On avait investi dans le 5 écoles de cuisines Baie aux Huitre on a pas pu faire, tout le monde sais pourquoi et parce que nous croyons parce que nous croyons dans la qualité et la Santer des enfants. D'ailleurs on avait commencé à faire le repas chaud préparer dans les écoles et s'était vraiment du repas chaud pas de problème de

(Interruption)

Monsieur le Vice-Président je vais demander au Chef Commissaire adjoint justement par rapport à ce comité qu'il avait parlé avant en liens avec le PQ dont ma collègue la Membre Roussety a fait référence, ou il parlait par rapport au protocole que chaque jour les écoles avaient à faire un report fans l'après-midi a school feeding comity pour un bon suivit. Je voudrais savoir du Deputy Chief Commissionner est ce que cela se fait tous le jour parce que il y a eu beaucoup de plainte, on sait que les parents ont des plaintes au niveau des écoles et surtout ce parce que le Chef Commissaire Adjoint âpres à parler par a ceux qui ont dû quitter le programme. Aujourd'hui l'impression qui est dégager ce qu'il y a une discrimination dans certain cas les gens quitte le programme dans d'autre cas meme s'il y a de rapport, des écoles dans différents endroits ces personne continue, et je pense que tout le monde sait de quoi je parle. Et al j'ai un cas, et le cas j'ai un cas bien spécifique, je rencontrais une personne qui n'a prouver dans le monde, dans toute l'activité de production de repas, une personne qui a de l'expérience qui fait de chose de qualité qui a tout l'environnement qu'il faut et qui il y a eu un soucit et non la surprise ce

The Deputy Chairperson : vous êtes en train d'introduire le nouveau matière qui ne sont pas dans la question, vous voulez vous s'il vous plaît get the point please, get to the question

The Minority Leader: I will Mr the Deputy Chairperson, the deputy Chief commissioner was talking about those who have quitting the project, and this is what I'm doing actually

The Deputy Chairperson: I'm asking you to get to the point

The Minority leader: the question is that this person she is a caterer, she serves the food in school, at the time she serves the food there was no problem all the children ate with no problem after one hour, those having their food in their small containers they saw that there is problem and the report was that it is the caution of heat, the deputy chief Commissioner talk about that so this person is responsible for the problem that arrive after one hour and unfortunately she has been quit

The Deputy chairperson: Madame they are waiting for your question

The Minority leader: yes, I'm coming Mr Deputy Chair Person Sir, the question is that do you think is it fair today that these people who the report who've report being given proven that there is no problem at the food at the source at the time of distribution they are quite off the programme de manière humiliante en plus, le lendemain quand elle va à l'école elle sert le repas on lui dit que you are not allowed to serve alors que d'autre continue, est ce que vous penser que ce fair and just regarding to these people?

interruption

The Deputy Chief commissioner: Mr chairperson Sir allowed me to I know what, who she is speaking about, she is a professional in food and I agree with her may be a question of temperature, the food she has prepared was I supposed good. Ce question of food transport and storage, when you carry food in bulk and wait, it will become stale. So what happen on this date on 3 February 2025, is that the acting HM inform the acting head of education that the food serve to some pupil was found to be stale. Subsequently the caterer was informed by the HM of the same issue and the latter replaced. The suspected un fit meal by another one. In the afternoon parent complaint that unsafe was serve at schools. Upon request additional reports was submitted on 4th February. The project meal comity decided that the caterer be suspended until further notice. As I have said we do not want to exclude any person, especially women, women entrepreneur. So we have a case may two or three women entrepreneurs, we don't want to exclude them we will speak to them and we will re instate them ensuring that I have spoken about food, you should put a chill freezer just a chill freezer, big chill freezer in a school. When the food arrives and then it is serve. It will ok. It can be a palliative measure

until we get the necessary equipment, but she will be reinstated, we are not here to penalised people especially that she was a good living from this.

The Minority Leader : je vais demander Mr Deputy Chairperson le Chef Commissaire Adjoint, il y va-t-il eu des cas ou des parents dans les écoles ont rapporté des problèmes avec la qualité du repas et que au lieu de rapporter à l'école au niveau de l'école on s'arranger et la personne n'a pas était quitte off alors que dans autre cas justement certain sont

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I'm not aware of these internal matters relating to school and of course we encourage caterers school management to speak to their caterers and of course to select caterers that they know, they know their kitchen, they know their hygiene and they know that their food that will be serve will of good quality. So this is why we are trying to democratise further to redistribute the money which is spent among more caterers limiting the amount of money for which they can supply food so that they have better control on their quality

The Deputy Chairperson: I suspend the House for lunch

The Chairperson: you may be seated. Mr Ramdally your question

Mr Ramdally: Mr Chairperson B/12

The Chief commissioner: Mr Chairperson Mr chairperson I would like to inform the house that the quarry at Mt Plat is being exploited by private company that is Welcome Company as an international practice exploited rockeries are being often backfill with inert materials. With regard to part A of the question I will like to inform the House the rock quarry et Mt Plat is the only disposal site for inert waste such as excavated and construction materials as well as demolition waste. There has been no change in its status since December 2023. Mr Chairperson Sir regard to part B of the question since December 2023 I am informed that the environment unit of my Commission has issued 81 authorisations for the disposal of inert waste. This includes 9 authorisations for rusted metals, 27 authorisations for disposal of excavated materials, 36 authorisations for construction and demolition waste and 9 authorisations for use tires. Mr chairperson Sir it has been noted that there are some cases of illegal dumping of other types of waste on the sites. Consequently, in order to hen sense control and monitoring of the site the following measures has been implemented:

1. A gate has been Install at the site by commission and same is being manage by welcome industry to prevent unauthorised access to the site
2. Regular patrol is being conducted by the police de l'environnement and officers from the environment division to deter illegal dumping.

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The public are informed during sensitize campaign on the status of Mt Plat as an official site for inert waste disposal and how to obtain the necessary permit and control exerted there to. Mr Chairperson I would like to inform the House that we are proceeding with the implementation of the civic immunity centres in different region of Rodrigues where the population would have the opportunity to deposit their bulky waste including green waste, used tires and construction waste. It is expected that this measure will reduce considerably the amount of waste to be deposited at the rock quarry site.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson Sir

Mr Ramdally: Monsieur le Président est ce que je pourrais demander au Chef Commissaire si autorisation a étai donner pour déposer des déchets comme ordinateurs, téléviseur, machine à laver

The Chief Commissioner : donc nous faisons des campagnes de ramassage de ces types de *wastes* de souvent ok, et bien sûr parmi les autorisations, je n'ai pas tous parce qu'on a donné 91 autorisation pour justement déposer les *waste* là-bas bien sûr parmi il se pourrait que on a donné des autorisations pour ces types de *waste* là-bas *these are inert waste*

Mr Lisette: can i ask the Chief Commissioner whether there has been any fire outbreak lately at that sites?

The Chief Commissioner : Monsieur Le Président il y a eu un *fire outbreak* sur le site et ça a été Contrôler par les officiers du pompier et etc.

Mr Lisette: is the Chief Commissioner aware of the status that such dumping is being at that site is being done being given that the site has no fence at all, is he aware of that?

The Chief Commissioner : Monsieur Le Président il y a c'est un Il y a une dérive assez conséquente c'est-à-dire ce sur un plateau je dirais une montagne mt Plat ! donc bien sûr il n'y a pas de fence autour mais on mit comme je dis la réponse, on a mis un gâte, c'est le seul accès se à travers ce gâte la pour aller vers le, ce site. Oui il y eu on cause de ce problème ; la de gens qui jette un peu partout, ils ont meme jeter devant l'entrée, la route qui mène sur la montagne Plat de la grande route la route principale, donc ils ont jeté et moi-même je dû intervenir une fois pour dire à ces gens parce que on put retracer ces gens-là à travers les déchets qu'ils ont déposé sur le site et la police de l'environnement les invites à retirer justement à tous nettoyer donc ce la raisons pour laquelle ils sont venu avec ce gâte pour justement Contrôler le site c'est-à-dire l'entrée de véhicules sur le site

Mr Lisette: have been on the site two weeks back the entry site is applying for drivers of vehicles but there are a lot of animals who roam other there and there are a lot of breeders who take their animals to breed other there, is he aware of the danger that such

situation may cause specially that there is no fencing and these animals are able to roam anywhere among the litters that have been displace other there?

The Chief Commissioner : ça a était toujours était le cas le Commissaire aussi il a été au pouvoir pendant 10 ans il n'a pas mis le fencing donc ça a été toujours été le cas

(Interruption)

Ça a toujours été les éleveurs ont toujours amener leur animal sur le site, ils passent par là c'est une route pour descendre à Anse Nicolas donc ils empreinte la route pour aller là-bas serte il y a danger bien sûr mais toujours est-il qu'on est sur un rock quarry et vous savez comment ce à Rodrigues mais pour ; le moment jus qu'a maintenant on n'a pas eu recenser aucun cas d'accident ou perte d'animaux etc. donc ces gens qui se trouve alentour ils savent comment vivre dans leur environnement mais toujours est-il ce vraie il faudra faire un Accessment pour voir si jamais il y a lieu de mettre en 2025 un fencing ou pas, donc ça je vais voir avec les officiers.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson Sir, there is the rock quarry and there is the site next to the quarry also I means leading to the tower yes the Galileo lets like this ok, the Galileo I forget the exact name of the whatever it is, la tour de pige yes ok Galileo carried out is a survey. I would like to know from the Chief commissioner, has he been on side lately to see really the status of what is happening there, specially we are speaking of a site which is not in a valley but on the top of the hill, you can imagine the consequence of those how to say, leaders who can be displace towards Anse Guoelan or towards the Anse Nicolas. Has he been on site to access ready the potential danger that this represent?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir I think it only now that the respected member a few two weeks back he went there, I think in his all life time. It's the first time he is being there

(Interruption)

This is a dumping site; this is a dumping site who talk you this illegal? This is a dumping site where we dump inert materials ok and they are push at time in the holes where they extract the rocks. So this is quite normal, the status yes we how it is there are at times we hire the service of a dais's just to push the and clean the space ok, and if you talk about the watch tower, this has, it is no longer been used by officer of the fisheries department, because of you, this is no longer being used. We have wasted money as if you have put our money in the dumping site itself so we don't know how to used it and what are we going to do with this structure. Well we are going to see Mr Chairperson Sir and to please the member I will go on

the site myself, I used to go there, I will go there and then see how, this is a dumping site yes of course it is a dumping site where we put inert we dispose of inert materials

Mr Ramdally: donc ce présent gouvernement avait choisi un site spécifique pour mettre le déchets électronique, est ce que maintenant ce démocratiser, on peut mettre le déchets partout dans l'île surtout les ?

The Chief commissioner : non justement, on ne peut pas mettre ça n'importe où

Mr Ramdally : avant c'était à Baie Aux Huitre maintenant ce a

The Chief Commissioner : justement parce que Baie Aux Huitre Monsieur le Président il faudra pas que baie Aux Huitre devienne un dumping site, ok, on va développer cette endroit, d'ailleurs avec la respecte membre Madame Roussety on était sur le site et là on est en train de revoir justement ce site de Baie Aux Huitre Acacia est important de retirer tout ça, meme Rod clean est train de relocaliser Rod clean pour faire un espace verte pour les villageois et en meme temps donner ce terrain-là à être développer par ce qui veulent avoir un bout de terrain sur le comblage de Baie Aux huitre. Ce sûr que bien sûr on va arrêter les dépôts de *electronic waste* sur Baie Aux huitre on doit arrêter parce que ça encourage les autre a en cas de jeter n'importe quoi sur le comblage, donc on mettre de l'ordre là-dessus, bien sûr pour le moment ce vraie on a pu être mis là-bas mais on va revenir avec la *civic aminity centres*. C'est un centre ou si vous avait des centaines des bouteilles en verre chez vous, ou est-ce que vous allez déposer ça ? donc vous aller justement déposer ça au *civic amunity centre*, vous avez un vieux téléviseur vieux télévision, vous déposer ça là-bas et puis nous on va ramasser on va disposer. Il faut noter aussi Monsieur le Président que nous allons encourager l'économie circulaire et cette année si ça va une année ou on va vraiment recycler les matières ou le produit va être procéder.

The Chairperson: next question

Mr Ramdally: Mr Chairperson Sir B/13

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir I'm inform that there has been no health impact assessment as such conducted on the neighbouring villages following fire outbreaks since the opening of the actual dumping site at Roche Bon Die. However, to limit any associated health or environment impact prompt medication measures are being taken. The following preparedness measures are being undertaken in order to minimise fire outbreak:

1. Levelling and compaction of waste to reduce volume and also air accumulation that father fire outbreaks. Two excavators namely a cruller on change and a bull dodger D6 vehicle are permanently posted at the dumping site.
2. Fire breaks are created to prevent fire from spreading over the hole dumping site

3. Permanent provision of water in the site through the two water tanks installed there at
4. And finally generated soil from excavation and construction work are stack at the dumping site instead at Mt Plat for firefighting purposes.

Furthermore, Mr chairperson Sir at each fire outbreak related staff of Rod clean and the environment unit are immediately mobilising on site with objectives to subdue the fire. The services of fire and rescue services are also solicited depending on the intensity of the fire. Mr Chairperson Sir, it should be noted that occurrence of fire outbreaks at the dumping site ate mostly due to production of flammable gas from decomposition of waste the prevailing disposal method at the dumping site where by different types of waste are dump further such activities. The policy of my government is to closed the dumping site at Roche Bon Die and integrated solid waste management centre is being set up at grenade. The centre will host several activities including recovery of recyclables further, segregation of waste, processing of the recyclables and temporary storage. As per the last waste characterisation exercise carried out by my commission in December last it is noted that more than 85% of the waste are recyclable. In that respect a new cell will be set up for disposal of the remaining none recyclable waste. That's all Mr chairperson Thank you

The Chairperson: the table has been advised that PQ B/14,15,16 and 17 have been withdrawn, Mr speville

Mr Speville: Mr Chairperson Sir B/18

Mr Ravina: Mr Chairperson Sir, this is the seven time that Volley team from Rodrigues are participating in this competition. The performance of our different team until now has been frequent of the club has been indeed reached an international level because they are competing with the different nation of the Indian Ocean comprising Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mayotte, Reunion and Comoros. The 29th championnat de club de la confederation African de volley ball zone 7, will held from 26 February to 8 March 2025 in Mauritius. The two champion of the league season 2023/2024 namely Orange Club d'Amitie will present Rodrigues both for men and women. Mr Chairperson Sir I usual my Commission is already providing maximum facilities to the two team so that they can perform to the optimum level in the competition. In addition, this year we are also providing physio and massage session to our players at Malabar Gymnasium, where they are undergoing intensive training daily. My Commission is earmarking an estimate budget of Rs1,250000 to the delegation for the championship comprising air ticket, board and lodging, participation fees for the team, provision for transport. With the regard to part B of the question, I wish to inform the House that the delegation of 42 persons will be headed by the sports officer, miss

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Potiron, 2 coaches of my Commission, 4 representative of the Rodrigues Regional volleyball committee who will integrate the organisation team. And 35 other members including players, technical para medical, and administrative staffs of the Orange Club D'Amitie.

Mr chairperson Sir, I am tabling the follow documents

Thank you Mr Chairperson Sir

Mr Speville: can I ask the Commissioner if the commission will also cater for the transport of athletes in Mauritius?

Mr Ravina: yes of course! Mr Chairperson, transport will be provided to them yes

The Chairperson: next question

Mr Lisette: B/19

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr chairperson Sir, regards to part A of the question, the MIC loan obtain and disbursed to date is Rs120,00000. RPUC has paid contractors some Rs128,00000 has used its own funds the refund and fund provided by the RRA to pay the additional Rs8M to contractors and a receipt of a third instalment of Rs60M from the MIC for which application as already been made in December 2024. I'm tabling the list of the project as requested.

With regards to part (b), the conditions in the agreement including the repayment time frame annual repayment amount and applicable interest rate and committed amount is Rs540M interest rate chargeable as per to 5% per annum maturity date 10 years as from 2024. Annual repayment amount capital plus interest is 78.3M from vote item under Ministry for Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson Sir with regard to Part (c), the expected timeline to disbursed the remaining fund from the Rs550m loan is up to end 2026. Under the Rs540M, the last 2 construction project will be supply laying of main transfer pipe from Pte Cotton desalination plant to Petit Brulee reservoir. Electro mechanical work at pumping station at Pte Cotton and Mt Piquant reservoir. Tenders for both project are on the way and deadline to submit bids will be Monday 4th March 2025.

the estimate cost of these projects cannot be communicated due to tender progress. Discussion are being held with MOFED regarding disbursement of the remaining Rs460M following the change in government and at the level of the MIC. The commission for water resources is also finalising an ambitious programme of capital investment which will comprise bringing the colon vertebral de l'eau up to Manique and then with an extension possibly to camp Pintade to Baie Topaz reservoir and also taking advantage of gravity other the different rages of Rodrigues to bring the water through secondary mains to reservoir like Jardin

Mamzell and Hauteur Acacia. We have fourth coming about 4 to 5000m³ reservoir about in total 75km of what we call level one *colon vertebrae de l'eau*, level two in the reservoir and also level three from reservoir to main distribution areas all these projects will be finalised soon. When we meet with our technical partner's SCP reunion and also our consultant to finalised all these estimated cost. what do we want to do and will be proposed in the next budget? Is one hence of define all the capital investment to be made and chart making them as from this year. In fact, we have already started them with the 3000m³. We are thinking of our 4500m³ capacity all this is subject technical confirmation.

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief commissioner: as regard to the agreement whether it was a compulsory condition or whether it was a condition that there should be a compulsory appointment of the MIC representative on the RPUC, while signing that agreement whether it was a, it was a compulsory, a condition compulsory for the appointment of the MIC representative on the RPUC within the agreement?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner? I don't think it was compulsory, but being given that MIC is a government NTT, it was discussing and agreed by the executive council that there would be an MIC representative on the Board. You will note that this MIC representative following the change in government is no longer in the MIC and there has been no request to replace him.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson Sir I know that the Deputy Chief Commissioner met with the government the governor of the Bank of Mauritius to which the MIC is a filial of, I would to know whether upon discussion if it can be dispose of course whether the 460, 000 that remains to be disbursed is on the right track or there could be some macadam who can get into it? what is his position as regard to that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: yes, the MIC is itself in a storm as you are aware and the Bank of Mauritius, the governor of Mauritius of the Bank of Mauritius has made it clear that the present government and the Bank of Mauritius which is independent from Government does not has the role to run the institution like the MIC. So we have a financial agreement for the Rs540M that of course should be as far as desirable honoured ok, in any case we have Eu30M Eu10M per year that government is bond to provide to Rodrigues through the agreement with the AFD and one of the argument is that this money represents what the MIC is giving so either they give it through the MIC or we will have to negotiate with them, I'm aware that the Minister of Finance is coming for negotiation the Commission for finance but in any case we also have the budget of Rodrigues for which we have to discuss so that we priorities funds for investment in the water sector, so the major investment which

remain to be made are about 3 to 4 2000m³ reservoir, one at petit Brule, one at Quatre Vent, one at Petit Gabriel, one at Citronel and possibly another one at Malartic together with a couple of 1000m³ reservoir such as at Mt Ursil may be in this unity where there are issues and then the pipeline work to connects these reservoir. So the idea is to leave the small desalination to supply regional consumers but to have the main Pointe Cotton desalination where we start having 3000m³ additional at the end of this year pump it up Petit Bruller which is about 340m altitude and then from there by gravity we have to audit the existing transfer arrangement from Petit Brulle to Malabar other it is sound, it can support this volume of water together with other pipe that we have but the main job is also to connect the lateral for examples when the water arrives at Malartic it will go to L'Union, we cannot transfer water from Malartic to l'Union with a 90m pipe. We will never fill the reservoir over one day, so 3000m³ to start being transferred regionally overnight and this will greatly improve. I invite the member to carefully takes of all the reforms which is on the way and also all members of this house not to politicise water issues. We will hold shortly the coming weeks consultation with, information cession with all social partners and we will present to them what we are doing and what is coming. Unfortunately visit to Seychelles and to Cyprus have shown that we have no other option, if we want to leave a comfortable life with water than to desalinate and then to transfer water around the island.

Mr Lisette: yes, Mr Chairperson I do understand the position of the Deputy Chief Commissioner and in fact my underline fear in the way I asking the question is in the fact that his project is as an intercalate hole like there is projection for the investment of Rs1B in addition to the Eu30M that that to be provided by the AFD which I consider as I have read the Rs30B will be principally focussed for investment in the colon vertebral, my fear and I think it is now his fear rather what would be his position if as we see matter what is going on In Mauritius with the MIC which is quite reluctant now to disbursed money. This means we are going to be short of Rs460M. how is he dealing with government and to ensure that what has been projected and this the blame I put on them because when they proposed for the business plan, they should have projected for one billion rupees instead of 540M now they are having problem to have the 460, this is the problem we never know what may happen and it has happened! How are you going to deal with that if either the MIC is not able to provide you with that Rs460M? how are you going to proceed then?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson sir it's time for people to work together may be I will invite the Respected Member to accompany me next time I will go in Mauritius to meet the MIC and the other people. In fact, what Mr Sithanen the new Governor

of the Bank of Mauritius has advice to me is that the Regional Assembly, the Executive Council meets with the Prime Minister and discuss this with him because he is the Minister for Rodrigues also. However, I take it that you said you negotiated the one billion rupees from Government but whatever the means MIC or not, the one billion rupees must come to Rodrigues ok, yes, in any case if they don't give us the money we will approach the Government and tell them, they have a commitment with the AFD Eu10m which is Rs500m 500m over three years, I don't know what they will tell us for the last year but they are bound to provide this money to Rodrigues. And I hope I see Honourable Members of the National Assembly in this house assisting, this is very good that what is going on in the Regional Assembly that they support these request. These need for fund because if we do not invest in water, we are never going to see the end of the tunnel. So we have an investment programme which I will make public soon I have already or we already spoken about it in some press conference and the budget which is coming also I think will have to support the water sector for example it is us who are financing the 2000m³ at Manique and we will see we will make proposal in the budget and the Executive Council will decide how much money you know government has said they have different economic situation in Mauritius. How much money they will give to Rodrigues, how much we will decide to put in the water sector, I think that even if we don't get more money over above the hundred five hundred and forty thousand million Rs540m we have to manage. Definitely we have to invest if we don't invest now problems are going to increase.

The Chairperson: let's go to next question

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson B/20

Mr Wong So: I regard to part A of the question the previous board of the RCCM was constituted in November 2023 up to October 2024 under the Chairmanship of Mr Bernadin

Mootien and the board was as follows:

Mr Bernadin Mootien as the President

Mr Fock keng Ho Tu Nam Member representing the employers section

Mr Jean Hedley Casimir Member of the employee's representative

And Mr Lean Liaude Remy with an independent Member nominated by the Commissioner.

Same the determination of contract of the in October 2024. The Board of the RCCM had been reconstituted under Chairmanship of Miss Marie Benjamina Marcusline Peermamode felicte. Mr Chairperson Sir I am tabling the requested information.

Mr Chairperson Sir as regard to Part B since March 2022 to date 15 cases have been reported the finding are as follows:

1. 6 cases settle
2. 3 cases withdrawn and
3. And finally 6 cases pending

Mr Chairperson Sir as regard to Part C no application has been receive since September 2024 to date and no hearing have been headed. thank you Mr Chairperson Sir

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson Sir can the Commissioner inform the House about the date when the new board has been constituted. Monsieur le Président suite à la décision du Conseil ce ne que la semaine dernière que la nouvelle Présidente a eu sa lettre de nomination.

Mr Baptiste: I would like to know whether this is the reason why we receive no application rights from the time of the president rising from his post? That's why there is no application up to now? Because there was no board

Mr Wong So : Monsieur le Président le Président l'ancien Président a était ne révoquer non pas retirement. Ceci dit je me vois mal placer pour parle au nom d'une commission pour votre gouverne Monsieur le président c'est une Commission ce pas un comité right, ce pas un comité c'est une commission qui est gérée en toute indépendance, je vous ai donner les informations que j'ai eu no cases has been reported since September 2024 up to now nothing i can say, if you need additional information then i will look for it and tell you in the next session. It's a commission

Mr Baptiste: that's the issue it is a stationary commission and it is legally binding I would like to know why it has taken so much time for the Commissioner to constitute the new commission which is so important because so many workers having labour disputes should have records to this as further employment relation acts, why it has taken so much time? Have you not penalised workers who have had grievances all throughout these period/

Mr Wong SO : Monsieur le Président dois-je comprendre que au moment où l'ancien a était révoque et maintenant qu'on a mis en place le nouveau comité ce a pris beaucoup du temps c'était la période de festivité de Décembre et voilà ce que bon maintenant en février on a

Interruption

Oui pour vous ce facile de dire qu'on a pris du temps nais je vous dis en sincérité on n'a pas pris du temps ce tous. Ce aussi simple que ça Monsieur Le Président

The Chairperson: time is over

Statement by Commissioner

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson Sir I have two statement to make. First of all, I would like to make a statement regarding the cancer situation in Rodrigues. Since the disease in the rise in Rodrigues, my commission has decided to take the following measures:

- (1) We have amplified our sensitisation and screening campaigns, we have partnered with link to life and since last year, we have done several screening, campaign for breast cancer, prostate cancer and cervical cancer in different regions of Rodrigues namely Roche Bon Die, Port Sud Est, Petit Gabriel and Cascade Jean Louis and Pointe vintour, with around 1200 people screened. Such campaigns have been very successful as several; patients have been referred to oncologist for further treatment. It should also note that the NCD and health promotion unit continuously does the screening and sensitisation campaign throughout the year. The purpose of such is to make early detection so that the patient can have early treatment. My commission is working with Link to: Life as partner as they offer a full package where they bring oncologist and echography with latest technology and PSA test, all are done free of charge and they also offer counselling to patient. Furthermore, with the help Alain Fong and professor Frosard from Swaziland we are going to introduce test for colon cancer, a team of six doctors will be in Rodrigues by the end of March 2025 to help prepare the patient who will undertake such test which will impact around 8300 Rodriguan aged 50⁺ and around 80 colonoscopies are also schedule. Last but not least Mr the Chairperson
- (2) Expression of interest has been launch to send staffs in Mauritius to be train at the new cancer hospital so that we improve the level of care provided to our cancer patient locally.

Mr the Chairperson, it has been reported through social media through live broadcast by an ex- parliamentary politician that there was disruption in the dialysis services in January 2025. I have to bring some clarification that there was no disruption during January 2025 to the dialysis service provided to patient at Queen Elisabeth Hospital but however on the 23rd of January 2025 the schedule morning haemodialysis session could not be started at time due to insufficient of water in the reservoir as the hospital water tanker was out of service. The first haemodialysis session started at 9hrs45 instead of 8hrs45. On that day and the 2 dialysis session schedule for that day to patient were successfully completed. I would like to point out Mr the Chairperson Sir that we could have started the dialysis on time but we did not want to take any risk and prefer to wait till the tank was full as a measured to ensured patient safety. The hospital administrator was informed of the situation and needful was done to fill the reservoir and instead the service of spare at tank. Thank you

Motion

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 28 March at 15hrs

The Chairperson: the question is that the House be adjourn to Friday 28 March at 15hours, those in favour say I those against say NO

So the I have it

The Minority Leader : Monsieur le Président, merci de me donner la parole donc je voudrais cette après-midi après avoir reçu quelque information pendant la journée, intervenir sur une ressource très importante que le bois de santal à Rodrigues. Comme la Chambre le sait nous avons en 2022 après reçu des informations nous avons était porter plaint, la police parce que au niveau de équipes de l'opposition puisqu'il y avait un début d'exploitation illégal de cette précieuse ressource que le bois de santal à Rodrigues. On a mis des questions ici au Parlement, entre temps il y eu des changements, des amendements dans le règlement qui régis l'abattage et l'exportation de ce précieux bois, nous savons que au niveau de partenaire le Chef Commissaire adjoint disait qu'il y a des Chef, il y a de partenaire, les partenaires ont des avis divergent sur le sujet. Il y en a veulent que ce bois qui a déjà était abattu soit exporter a plus vite pour en finir, il y d'autre qui pense que c'est une ressource qu'il faut préserver et nous somme de ceux qui croyons que cette ressource il faut la protéger. Il y aujourd'hui in pillage il faut que cela s'arrête et surtout il faut que dans le cadre de l'autonomie nous avons *full autonomie in Forest reserve and so on*. Donc nous demandons à ce que les autorités le Chef Commissaire, le Commissaire qui s'occupe des bois et foret intervient immédiatement pour empêcher l'exploitation de cette ressource et surtout c'est un pillage, on peut venir nous dire que c'est légal oui ce n'est pas normal qu'aujourd'hui cette ressource qui se trouve à Rodrigues c'est à Maurice que toute les permissions sont données pour l'exportation. Nous pensons que Rodrigues doit avoir sont mots à dire dans l'exploitation et l'exportation de bois de santal au lieu que seulement le conservateur à Maurice donne tous les papiers et nos officiers ici sont des spectateurs. Donc nous demandons à ce que au niveau l'Assembler Régional nous venons avec règlement comme il se doit, comme la loi nous le permet pour réguler l'exploitation et l'exportation de cette ressource. Donc les informations qu'on a eu ce matin ce qu'il y eu cette semaine, hier soir, avant-hier soir des vols, beaucoup des vols de bois de santal sur le terrain de l'états. Heureusement qu'il y eu des gens courageux qui ont étaient à la police, ils ont porté plaint parce que sur le terrain de l'états ils ont leur permis agricole, ils ont vu que leur bois a disparu. Plus d'une vingtaine de plante et il se pourrait que ça se passe à travers Rodrigues. On nous dit qu'il Ya meme des gens dans la région de La ferme, on dit qu'il y a meme de gens aujourd'hui qui sont appeler madame santal tellement il promené avec les gens qui acheté et qui veulent exporter donc Dieu sait s'il n'y a

pas eu beaucoup de bois parti donc dans des containers ou je ne sais pas donc nous demandons, nous condamnons avec force cette exploitation que nous considérons pas normal ce pillage et nous demandons au Chef Commissaire dans le cadre du respect de notre autonomie d'intervenir tous de suite et d'assure que ce Rodrigues qui prend la responsabilité et pas à Maurice qu'on décide d'ailleurs j'avais lu je lit beaucoup les intervention du Commissaire de l'agriculture en ce moment et j'avais lu que dans son allocution en 2022 toujours, il avait dit que *nou capave nek asizer laiise dimoune prend nous ressource aller* donc que c'est une raison pour tenir sa parole pour ne pas sa langue et pour agir en conséquence s'assurer que ce bois ne soit pas parti comme sa e que Rodrigues tous comme le limon, on aurait l'occasion d'en parler et puis après on a pinneuse donc Merci monsieur Le Président.

Mr Perrine ; Monsieur le Président permettre moi de dire quelque mot sur ce problème parce que ça concerne les bois et foret qui tombe sur ma responsabilité. Monsieur Le Président quand on parle d'argent quand un produit a de la valeur, quand on parle d'argent tout le monde perd la tête. Alors tout le monde pense ce de l'ors et c'est-à-dire il faut tout faire pour gagner par tous n'importe qu'elle moyen pour exporter. Je dois rassurer la Chambre que tous ce qui se fait à Rodrigues et qui tombe sous mon contrôle, ça doit être fait légalement. Si ce pas légal nous allons prendre les actions, mais si ce légal la Commission, l'Assemble Régional ne pourrait pas prendre aucune décision. Je dois dire que depuis que je suis là en 2022 il y a eu seulement un cas d'abattage de bois de santal, dont le cas est devant la cour jusqu'à maintenant on a ps eu encore, le verdict on dit que le dossier est chez le DPP. Tos ce tapage qu'on est en train de faire on fait croire que on est en train d'abattre les arbres est exporter vers Maurice ce du bidon c'est du pipeau. Jusqu'à maintenant je vous dis il y pas eu d'abattage, je suis d'accord qu'il y les gens qui ont déjà abattu qui ont stocker qui exact, on peut voir mais ce que vous voyez ne pas la vérité madame ça non, mais seulement comme je vous dit, je bien compris, vous avez dit ça a était rapportée à la police, ce pas par de live ou bien sur Facebook, rapporter à la police, rapporter à un FCC c'est à partir de là que je vais intervenir, mais seulement sur les palabre les histoires je vais rien dire

Mr Lisette: point of order

Interruption

Et tant que je suis à la commission je vais dire ça pour tout le monde, les Commissaires sont au courant, quelque chose d'illégal ne va jamais se passer et croyais moi, croyais moi mais je vais pas déclarer trop fort, je suis Commissaire je peux tous faire ce pas ça du tous. J'agis à partir de l'égal disposition l'égal qu'on dispose, que le Commissaire peux disposer prendre des actions mais je ne vais pas dire je suis Commissaire je peux faire tel affaire mais

d'après la loi, je suis qu'est ce je suis ? j'ai la commission mais comme dite avec raison et ça ne date pas hier, il y a beaucoup de décision technique qui sont prise à Maurice qu'est qu'on peut faire ? mais vous vous savez, vous êtes au courant que matière ce le conservateur de forêt qui décide tous. Qu'est que je fais ? je démissionne ? mais d'autre coter pour exportation vous savez qu'il y a ce MPPO qui décide tous, eux qui donne de directive, alors ils donnent les directives moi je dis non, non ! ce que je rassure

la Chambre

Interruption

The Chairperson: allowed the Commissioner to finish please

Mr Perrine : mais vous voyez il y a des gens qui ne peuvent pas qui ne peut pas attendre écouter la vérité

Interruption

Laisse-moi expliquer ! vous posez la question, ne posez pas des questions ! mais pourquoi vous posez des questions ! vous ne pouvais contrôler ce que j'ai à dire ! *i am in charge* je peux dire tous ce que je vais ! non ! je terminer

The Chairperson: next

Mr Lisette: first of all, i would like to put on records as regard to my region, the almost completion of the Pave La Bonte road which has almost being completed, almost completion and I note also that this has solve the problem of muddy water issue at Pave La Bonte Dam nevertheless I wanted also to raise an issue of what it has become accustom to me, a question to road safety that road uses are experiencing these days in Rodrigues. We are seeing roads which are full of pot holes or to use a term that is dear to you *nid de dinde, nid de poule* I'm referring here in my intervention Mr Chairperson Sir to the Commission for public infrastructure, we have road safety problems as regard to pot holes at the following road which require an urgent intervention:

- (1) We have Cigant roads from Mt Lubin to Cigant.
- (2) We have St francois at Tekoma which has become a major issue and you would have seen that after the heavy rainfall of last week, there is part of the road of Soupir which were asphalted in 2021 which has started to get wash away, so if we don't take urgent action or if there is further rain fall in the week to come there as a great risk that the all part of the asphalted, it is going to be carried away by the water so I'm urging the Deputy Chief commissioner is not here unfortunately and to take urgent immediate action with respect to the respect to them.

(3) And then Mr Chairperson on the basis of road safety itself on road safety itself, we have seen that there are some inhabitants or members of the publics who are taking action by themselves in good faith but which can lead to additional problem. I have seen that case at Le Chou where there is pot hole that has been feel with cement concrete, *en beton* just at the uphill when we leave college towards yes *la boutik rouge* this is one issue, and there is a bigger still bigger issue Mr Chairperson Sir at the junction of Ti Reserve, il y a un fleshement of the road at two level and in a matter of good faith one of the, I think one person has come up and fill that yes with concrete, so we do understand the action the good action but while doing so it is producing even more risk to the road uses. So I leave it to the Regional government or so that you can pass the information to the Commissioner concern so that it takes urgent necessary action as regard to that. Thank you Mr chairperson Sir

Mr Baptiste : Merci Monsieur Le Président donc ma requête s'adresse normalement à l'Adjoint au Chef commissaire mais au tant donner qu'il ne pas peut être que le Chef Commissaire aura encore plus de pouvoir de prendre en considération ce que je vais dire et comme vous le savez tous le mois de Janvier 2025 vient d'être répertorié comme le mois le plus chaud jamais enregistré à l'échelle mondiale selon l'observatoire Européen Copernicus, donc Rodrigues ne pas épargner par ce phénomène du changement climatique et des épisodes de forte chaleur s'installe de plus en plus dans l'île et la moi je voudrais attirer l'attention du Chef Commissaire et de l'Adjoint aussi et du problème que font face nos étudiants dans pratiquement tous les établissements de l'île. Donc il y a une atmosphère vraiment chaude et inconfortable avec la hausse de température, des températures au-delà de 30° et ça affecte grandement la concentration des élèves ainsi que la Santé aussi surtout ceux qui sont les plus vulnérables. Ça on peut vérifier ça dans les écoles, collèges et ; les écoles primaires. Et on note que dans beaucoup de ces établissements là il y a de sérieux problème de ventilation le système de l'aération ne fonctionne pas ou n'existe tout simplement pas, on note également des ventilateurs d'effectuer, hors service, des fenêtres endommagées qui ne s'ouvrent plus, et encore ses écoles, ses collèges qui se trouvent dans des endroits où il fait particulièrement chaud. Donc je demanderai au Chef Commissaire de penser sérieusement sur cette question et de voir comment faire peut-être avec le budget qui arrive aussi pour venir avec des mesures rapides et efficaces en collaboration évidemment avec les chefs d'établissement afin d'atténuer ce gros problème de forte chaleur qui dans les salles de classe qui pourrait avoir des conséquences aussi malheureusement néfastes sur la performance de nos élèves. Peut-être que vous allez venir de l'avant avec un projet de climatiseur avec le budget qui arrive donc je demanderai au Chef commissaire de prendre ça au sérieux parce que c'est un vrai problème

et nous espérons que nous n'allons pas arriver jusqu'à cette pointe ou on a vu à la Réunion des élèves refusant de travailler dans des salles des classes, merci pour votre attention

Mr Ramdally : Monsieur Le Président, merci de me donner la parole. J'aimerais interpellier le Chef Commissaire, donc en l'absence de son adjoint, ainsi que le Commissaire de sport sur un problème d'insécurité autour de certaine infrastructure publique à Petit Gabriel. Monsieur Le Président il y a un réel danger qui guet nos petit qui fréquente l'école primaire de Father Ronal Gandy ce dernier temps plus particulièrement après les heures des classes. Monsieur le Président je parle ici du tronçon de route depuis la boutique de Monsieur Raboude jusqu'à l'entrée du collège de Citron Donis ou l'espace dédié pour que les enfants puissent circuler est occupé presque entièrement par deux bus quatre van des véhicules appartenant au parents venu récupérer leurs enfants ainsi que les véhicule des enseignants qui des institutions scolaire a voisinant. La situation devient de plus en plus préoccupante pour la sécurité des enfants qui fréquente ces institutions et je fais part de cette situation qui préoccupe des usagers de ce tronçon des routes au commissaire des infrastructures publiques au nom de ces mêmes usagers Monsieur le Président pour qu'il regarde ce qu'il peut être fait pour prévenir toute accident impliquant surtout nos petit.

Donc autre problème dans les alentour concernant l'insécurité et le manque de lumière sur le terrain de foot, donc le footballeur qui utilise cette faciliter nous a demandé de faire part de leur difficulté au sein de cette Chambre donc je vous remercie Monsieur Le Président pour votre

Mr Ravina: Chairperson of course I will look into the matter Mr Ramdally

Ms Roussety: Monsieur Le président permettre moi de commencer par exprimer mes sympathies a la famille éprouver par le décès tragique de la jeune demoiselle Bègue une fille de ma région ce matin dans de circonstance troublante, nous somme choqué et nous prions pour sa famille.

Monsieur le Président a cette effet mon intervention se porte sur le secteur touristique et j'attire l'attention du Commissaire du touriste en ce qui concerne le site de Caverne patate. Monsieur le Président j'ai étai informer qu'il y a plusieurs problèmes sur ce site qui est très fréquenté par les touristes chaque jour. Permettez-moi Monsieur le président d'élaborer sur ce problème qui a mon humble avis doit être pris en considération au plus vite possible par les autorités concerner :

- (1) Il y a une poussière provenant de la rénovation du site qui dérange les touristes et qui est néfaste pour les personnes qui travaillent tous le jours là-bas. La rénovation est une bonne chose oui certes ! mais ne-t-il plus convenable Monsieur le Président que ces travaux se fasse

au heures de la clôture de le Caverne Patate ? ainsi cela permettra le bon déroulement de visiteurs dans les meilleures conditions au cours de la journée.

- (2) Monsieur le Président on constate qu'il y a un manque d'Equipment tel que le casque, les lampes qui sont primordial pour la sécurité et la bonne marche de visite. De plus les toilettes sont dans un états vraiment déplorable Monsieur Le Président d'ailleurs il y a un problème agit de manque d'eau pour approvisionner la toilette pour le besoin de touriste. N'oublions pas que nous sommes en été et en cette période de forte chaleur des touristes ont besoin d'un lieu pour se soulager et pour se rafraichir. Monsieur le Président donne-moi encore une minute, il y a tant de problème a Caverne Patate malheureusement mais il est grand temps aussi d'aménager une espace approprier pour le bien être de guide. Mais qui est plus malheureux Monsieur Le Président se sont, ce qui ne pas normale que ce ces personnes soient ceux qui doit nettoyer les toilettes sur ce site tous les jours. Monsieur le Président je réitère ma démarche auprès du Commissaire du touriste afin qu'il puisse trouver des solutions à ce problème que je viens de mentionner sur le site de Caverne patate. Je vous remercie pour votre attention Monsieur le Président

Mr Wong So : Monsieur le Président merci pour l'attention porter par la Membre de l'opposition concernant Caverne Patate. Vous avez on est dans une phase de réforme, de refaire quand meme tous le site ce qui appelle l'aspect extérieur parce que le projet et diviser en deux phase, il faudrait dans un premier temps avoir la vie d'experte pour l'aménagement de l'intérieur donc on préfère quand meme se cantonner à l'aspect extérieur dans un premier temps. Il n'y a pas de choix il va de choix de choix je crois que sur tos sentiers de construction qu'il y aura une peut de poussière mais à ce que le Membre de l'opposition vient nous dire que d' dorénavant le sentier doit travailler après les heures de visite ais ce inadmissible dans la chance qu'il y aura un cout additionnel en terme de over time parce que je m'imagine que valeur du jour il y a quelque poussière éventuellement pour le coulage de la fondation

Interruption

Mais bien sûr, vous été en train de me contredire, mais je vais dire par là que la poussière il y en aura surement éventuellement lorsqu'il y un sentier de construction tout le monde le sait à la maison, parce quand en fait une rénovation il y a toujours quand meme de poussière occasionner par ce revu ménage. Donc ce qui me fait dire qu'effectivement si vous me dite qu'il y a des lampes défectueuses lors de visite ça on va voir éventuellement mais il est de la responsabilité des guides de venir dire s'il y a de lampes défectueuse, non mais je vous le dits mais permettez-moi de vous le dire dans la chance que bon ce pour leur propre

sécurité et la sécurité quand meme des gens qui visite ce site. Mais par contre moi je profite de l'occasion Monsieur le Président je vais vous inviter pour l'inauguration quand meme de ce bâtiment, le bâtiment flambant neuf qui va être construit sur ce site permettra au visiteur d'avoir un espace adéquat approprier avec tous le confort voulu avec le toilettes nécessaires et l'espace convenue pour que le staff soit bien aménagé. Pour votre information en guise de conclusion je dirais qu'il aura meme un espace ou va vendre le gift se sera u gare de gift shop et probablement un coffee shop. Ceci dit ce gouvernement Régional a cœur le développement de Rodrigues et pour moi le site de Caverne Patate nous tient à cœur. Marci Monsieur Le President

Ms Raffaut: Mr Chairperson I would like to draw the attention of the Commissioner for environment on a serious issue regarding the dumping wastes, which is an eye shore around Rodrigues island. So in December 2024 there was a communicate from the concern commission in the radio that to inform the population of Rodrigues that their electronics wastes will be collected. So due to this communicate there has been massive cleaning campaigns in houses, however we have notice that since December till today electronic waste can be seen, electronic waste such as electronic appliances, washing machine, ovens, computers can be seen all along the road. So mostly in western region, in region one. So with regard to the Commissioner for environments, he is reply to my colleague member Ramdally today B/12, he mentioned that the campaign is ongoing so I will be grateful if he could look into the matter so that we can remedy to this thank you.

Mr Speville: Mr chairperson Sir I refer to the communicate of the Mauritius national Assembly proposing to young people of our republic to participate in the first edition of the *Parlement Regional de jeunes de Indian Oceanic* from countries of the association of Parliament of the member state of the Indian Ocean Commission APCOI in particular the Union of Comoro, Madagascar, Mauritius Seychelles and Reunion. Mr Chairperson Sir as you are aware the aims of this initiative are to promote the civic engagement of the young people through the simulation of a Parliamentary functioning of young people from the member countries of the APCOI and to enable them to improve their public speaking skills, leadership, decision making skills and deepen their knowledge of regional youth networks and commons interest in the Indian Ocean Regions. The youth will certainly play a vital role in the strengthening of our democratic institutions to meet the social economic technological and political challenges of our future. Inline of the above, I will humbly make a request that the Regional Assembly to liaise with the National Assembly to secure at least one or two

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participants from Rodrigues as part of the National Team so that the young people from Rodrigues could be represented and heard. Thank you

The Chairperson: The House stands adjourned