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No. 9 of 2025

RODRIGUES

FIFTH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST 2025

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The Executive Council

(Formed by Mr Franceau Aubret Grandcourt)

Mr Franceau Aubret Grandcourt	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (Administration), Civil Status, Community Development, Customs and Excise (Administration), Environment, Judicial (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Services (Administration), Meteorological Services (Administration), Postal Services (Administration), Registration, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, State Lands, Town and Country Planning
Mr Johnson Roussety, G.O.S.K.	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Education (Administration), Industrial Development, Public Infrastructure including Highways and Roads and Public Buildings and Utilities, Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Transport, Vocational Training, Water Resources
Mr Louis Ange Perrine	Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Cooperatives, Fisheries, Food Production, Forestry, Marine Parks, Plant and Animal Quarantine
Mr Jean Nicolas Volbert	Commissioner responsible for Health (Administration), Housing, Social Security (Administration), 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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Chairperson - Leopold, Mr Joseph Christian, GOSK

Deputy Chairperson - Tolbize, Mr Justar

Clerk - Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick

Deputy Clerk - Clair, Miss Marie Chrismélanie

Serjeant-at-Arms - Perrine, Mr Joseph Laval

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RODRIGUES

Fifth Regional Assembly

Debate No. 9 of 2025

Sitting of Tuesday 19 August 2025

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

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Chairperson in the Chair)

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr Chairperson: Mr Tolbize.

SIKAMIFER HOTEL

(No. B/61) The Second Island Region Member (Mr J. Tolbize) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Sikamifer Hotel placed at the disposal of Rodriguan patients and the accompanying persons, he will state to the House (a) when and under what circumstances this service was opted for (b) provide a monthly breakdown of its cost over the past year, and (c) indicate the measures the Regional Government, through his Commission, is considering in light of the current unfavourable situation?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your humble permission I will answer questions B/61 and B/71 together as both questions refer to the same subject matter.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Sikamifer Hotel was put at the disposal of patients and their accompanying relatives who were referred to undergo further medical treatment in Mauritius during the COVID-19 pandemic period in 2021. The rationales behind this initiative were to ensure continuity in medical management for treatment not available in Rodrigues, prevent cross contamination and spreading of the disease to hosts in Mauritius and the difficulties to find appropriate hotel accommodation at that very time of crisis.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am also informed that prior to the provision of these accommodations facilities, patients and accompanying relatives were provided with a stipend of Rs300 per day while they were required to cater for their own accommodation in Mauritius and many were lodged by family members or acquaintances.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed that this facility was initially a temporary measure for the COVID-19 pandemic period. As such, no proper procurement procedures were followed to select the accommodation facility and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has requested that a proper Expression of Interest be launched to secure appropriate lodging facilities for Rodriguan patients referred for further treatment in Mauritius.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question B/61, the monthly breakdown for the past year with respect to payment made for accommodation of patients and relatives for further medical management in Mauritius read as follows:

Month Payment Effected	Amount Paid (Rs)	Remarks
July 2024	706,387.50	31.12.2023-15.01.2024
July 2024	1,354,872.50	15.01.2024-31.01.2024
July 2024	1,249,101.25	31.01.2024-15.02.2024
July 2024	115,212.50	15.02.2024-29.02.2024
July 2024	4,061,196.25	29.02.2024-15.05.2024
August 2024	4,386,588.75	15.05.2024-15.06.2024
September 2024	2,612,081.25	15.06.2024-15.07.2024
November 2024	4,094,603.75	15.07.2024-31.08.2024
November 2024	3,063,140.00	31.08.2024-30.09.2024
February 2025	2,959,525.00	30.09.2024-15.10.2024
January 2025	424,865.85	15.10.2024-30.11.2024
March 2025	3,687,590.00	30.11.2024-15.01.2024
June 2025	1,392,075.00	15.01.2025-31.01.2025
June 2025	1,507,650.00	31.01.2025-15.02.2025
June 2025	1,234,352.50	15.02.2025-28.02.2025

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is however to be noted that the above expenses exclude air tickets for patients, accompanying relatives and medical staff (as may be required).

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, as mentioned above, my Commission has the policy to provide accommodation and assistance to each patient and their accompanying relative at Sikamifer Hotel during their treatment period in Mauritius, and which has revealed to be very costly and impact heavily on my Commission's budget.

Consequently, following several complaints and information received at my office regarding some patients and accompanying relatives who are making abusive use of this accommodation facility, it has become imperative that a proper monitoring and management of Rodriguan patients be established in order to curb costs and address these unacceptable practices. It was, thus, decided with the concurrence of the Executive Council, that monitoring of patients should be done at Sikamifer Hotel by officers of my Commission once monthly for a period of four days, to:

- (a) Conduct verification of all appointment cards of all patients who are following treatment in Mauritius;
- (b) Initiate appropriate arrangement at the Ministry's level so that the concerned Regional Health Director's in Mauritius can issue fitness travel form in due time with respective treating specialists, and
- (c) Submit lists of patients to travel back to Rodrigues to the Commission to ensure that appropriate arrangement is made for booking.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question B/71, respectively, I wish to inform the House that, a delegation comprising one Administrative Officer from my Commission who is responsible for Health matters and the Social Worker posted at the Health Services proceeded on the first mission in Mauritius from 28 to 31 July, for the Administrative Officer and from 28 July to 06 August 2025 for the Social Worker, to monitor, control and update the accommodation of all patients who are following treatment and are accommodated with their accompanying relatives at Sikamifer Hotel.

Subsequently, Mr Chairperson, Sir, following the aforementioned mission, the following findings regarding patients and accompanying relatives have been noted with serious concerns.

Regarding patients, the following issues were noted:

- (a) Some treating Specialists are not willing to give Medical Certificate to patients who wish to proceed back to Rodrigues pending their next

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appointment. They are accommodated at Sikamifer Hotel waiting for their next appointment which sometimes has been scheduled for 21 days, one month, and/or three months;

- (b) Upon their arrival in Mauritius, some patients were informed that the CT-Scan of Dr Jeetoo Hospital is not in good working condition and they had to wait for the repairs of the CT-Scan which is taking very long time. These patients and their accompanying relatives should have been referred to another hospital to carry out the CT-Scan. In the meantime, they are residing at Sikamifer Hotel waiting for the repairs of the CT-Scan;
- (c) Several patients are doing chemotherapy once/twice monthly, while waiting for their next appointment for their chemotherapy session. They are accommodated at the Hotel on full board basis with their accompanying relatives;
- (d) Several patients, Mr Chairperson, Sir, have expressed their wish to return to Rodrigues, as they are attending treatment once monthly and they are far from their families and homes, and
- (e) Several patients have further informed that most of the time, they have nothing to do pending their next review/appointment. The major problem faced by the patients is the fact that some Specialists/Senior Specialists are not willing to give Medical Certificates (fitness for travel), therefore the patients cannot travel to Rodrigues.

On the other hand, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the issues raised in respect of relatives accompanying patients are as follows:

- (a) There are cases where the accompanying relatives returned to Rodrigues and left the patients unattended at Sikamifer Hotel while the health of the patients are deteriorating as, they have nobody to take good care of them and to accompany them for their appointment;
- (b) In some cases, while the patients are admitted in hospital, their accompanying relatives return to Rodrigues and keep the hotel key with them. The room is closed for several days until the initial accompanying relative return or until there is a change of relative;

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- (c) Some patients are left unattended while their accompanying relatives leave them during the day to go to work;
- (d) Some patients and their accompanying relatives are accommodated at Sikamifer Hotel for more than one year, and
- (e) Some accompanying relatives are seen at Sikamifer Hotel only on the date of arrival.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, Hence, with regard to part (c) of question B/61 and part (b) of question B/71, my Commission is contemplating to implement the following remedial measures as per recommendations made, for an effective and efficient management and monitoring of patients in view to curb the accommodation costs and other associated costs related to patients transferred to Mauritius for further treatment, as follows:

- (a) That all Regional Health Directors should request all Specialists/Senior Specialists treating referred patients from Rodrigues to ensure that all patients who have appointment/review for 15 days, one month, two or three months are issued their Medical Certificate to travel back to Rodrigues the earliest possible and they will be back to Mauritius on the eve of the next review. This solution will help the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to cut unnecessary accommodation cost;
- (b) That all patients who proceed to Mauritius for treatment be admitted in hospital and upon completion of their treatment, they are discharged only on the date of their return to Rodrigues, and
- (c) To carry out a thorough cost analysis of providing only a daily stipend to patients and their accompanying relatives as it was the case in the past, or providing them with a package fee for their own accommodation arrangement in view to gradually terminate this facility in the future.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c) of question B/71, in view of the sensitivity of information in the report on the accommodation of patients and their relatives at Sikamifer Hotel, it will not be appropriate to disseminate this information nor table the said report. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, le commissaire reconnaît aujourd'hui l'importance que nous avons dans le passé, donc le gouvernement sortant, contractait le service de Sikamifer pour loger les patients. Et, c'est vrai qu'il parle souvent que les

procédures n'ont pas été respectés, c'était que dans les situations urgentes, il y avait des décisions urgentes et c'est là que cette décision a été prise. Aujourd'hui, malgré le fait qu'en écoutant le commissaire on comprend que c'est un budget lourd pour accommoder les patients. Nous savons que c'est un projet inévitable, c'est un soutien inévitable à nos patients qui partent pour se soigner même si cela peut coûter cher parce que la vie d'une personne n'a pas de prix. Est-ce que le commissaire, il a parlé, j'ai l'impression à la fin de sa réponse, pour dans le futur probablement ne plus donner cette facilité. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous confirmer pour cette année budgétaire 2025-2026, est-ce que cette facilité, de loger les patients à Sikamifer, étant donné qu'on a vu dans ces dernières réponses en terme de prix, c'est le meilleur prix qu'on peut avoir pour le service, est-ce qu'il peut nous confirmer que ce service sera disponible à nos patients pour cette année financière 2025-2026 ?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, comme je disais dans ma réponse, nous travaillons sur la modalité idéale. Mais si ça va nous coûter beaucoup plus que nous avons eu dans le budget, on n'aurait pas de choix. Mais tout de même on va faire le nécessaire à ce que ces patients avant leurs départs ils reçoivent le *stipend* comme c'était auparavant pour leurs logements à Maurice.

The Minority Leader: Malheureusement, on vient de recevoir le budget aujourd'hui, quatre mois ! Donc, rapidement j'ai regardé la dotation budgétaire pour cet item « *Accommodation cost* » ou « *Assistance to patients needing specialised treatment* ». Je suppose que c'est dans un de ces budgets que ces facilités sont payées puisqu'on peut voir que le montant n'a pas changé, c'est-à-dire, que c'était Rs 34,700,000, c'est resté le même montant. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire par rapport à la tendance, des dépenses qu'il nous a dit là, est-ce que ce montant sera suffisant ou bien justement il va devoir revoir sa position ?

Mr Volbert: ce n'est pas suffisant, M. le président. Parce que quand on parle de *accommodation cost* ce n'est pas que pour les patients, il y a aussi les spécialistes qui viennent à Rodrigues, les délégations qui viennent à Rodrigues qu'on met dans les hôtels ici. Et donc, juste une idée pour l'année dernière, on a dû payer Rs 32,849,242.10 pour les patients à Maurice. Et ça, justement jusqu'à 28 février 2025. Donc, c'est sûr que le montant budgétaire n'est pas suffisant pour accommoder les patients à Maurice.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health of the Rs34 M also budgeted in the 2025-2026 budget for the current financial year, how much is still due to Sikamifer?

Mr Volbert: Je n'ai pas les chiffres exacts mais je pense que à peu près Rs 8 millions jusqu'à fin juin, à peu près, je n'ai pas les chiffres exacts. Mais donc, réduire Rs 8 millions de Rs 34.7 millions c'est sûre que ce ne sera pas suffisant pour l'année financière.

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, au vu des *findings* qui ont été fait par ces officiers qui ont été à Maurice, j'aimerais demande au commissaire s'il a, au niveau de sa commission, une unité de Social Workers qui fait le suivie de ces patients qui vont à Maurice ? Et si oui, combien d'officier il a ?

Mr Volbert: Auparavant, c'était les Social Worker de Maurice qui en prenait charge mais maintenant comme je vous ai dit il y a trop d'abus. Et c'est pour ça on a emmené un papier au Executive Council pour avoir leur permission afin que deux officiers, une Administrative Officer et la seule Social Worker que nous avons, et c'est eux qui vont partir à Maurice chaque mois pour voir s'il y a des moyens où on peut s'en servir pour faire retourner les patients. Et je peux assurer la Chambre que nous avons pu avec l'aide de ces deux officiers faire retourner 52 patients le mois dernier, c'est-à-dire, la fin du mois de juillet jusqu'à maintenant, 52 patients. Donc, ces patients auraient pu rester là-bas si nous n'avons pas eu l'idée d'envoyer ces deux officiers pour faire des suivies.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, a mainte reprise dans cette Assemblée on a parlé de l'importance d'avoir un protocole de prise en charge des transferts des patients, cela comprend bien entendu, la prise en charge médicale au niveau des hôpitaux mais cela comprend aussi cette question de logement. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire s'il y a un protocole clair en place pour l'accès à ces logements. Et surtout, je vois que par rapport à ces réponses il y a un sérieux, sérieux problème de suivi. Le commissaire vient de nous dire qu'il y a des gens, qui sont là-bas qui travaillent, il y a des gens qui sont partis comme patients. Donc, il y a un problème sérieux de suivi au niveau de sa commission. Quelles sont les décisions qu'il va prendre pour justement palier à ça ? Que les officiers partent une fois chaque mois, oui mais il y a un suivi qui doit se faire même de Rodrigues par rapport à ces patients. Comment ça va se faire ?

Mr Volbert: Elle veut faire des *statements* à ma place, c'est bon. Elle connaît la réponse. Oui, M. le président, comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse il y a suite à la recommandation on va initier des mesures pour remédier à tous ces problèmes. J'ai déjà dit dans ma réponse. Mais une chose que je dois dire aussi, c'est que depuis 2021, pour la COVID-19, vous étiez là, pourquoi vous n'avez pas mis le protocole, que vous jugez aujourd'hui bon, vous n'avez pas mis ça à l'époque ? Vous auriez dû le faire. Et moi je continue là-dessus à ce moment-là. Mais nous là, on a pris ça au sérieux parce que ces patients-là, c'est vrai, il y a certain parmi ces patients-là qui ont besoin de ce logement mais pas tout, il y a des gens qui abusent de ce service. On va remédier à ça.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is coming up with an issue which is very sensitive in the sense that he is saying why we did not put a protocol in 2021, he very well knows that at this very time we were in the pandemic and any patients who were moving to Mauritius at that time, we had to provide them with accommodation. I would like to ask him, on this very same line, why is it that when I looked at the Audit Report for the contract which started in March 2021 and which was for one year and which he so many times in this House referred as illegal, why is it that when the contract ended in March 2022, he did not end that contract at that time?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, je ne sais pas si je dois rire ou pleurer. Ces gens-là de l'autre côté, si j'avais fait ça, ces gens-là auraient fait avec le radio *pikan loulou*, allaient faire des *lives* pour dire voilà ils ont arrêté le logement qu'on a mis à la disposition... Mais pourquoi vous, tous ce que nous faisons ici dans cette Assemblée, dans ce gouvernement vous n'êtes pas d'accord.

(Interruptions)

Mr Volbert: C'est illégal, c'est vrai. Mais le problème c'est que... C'est illégal, moi je maintien que c'est illégal. Je maintien que c'est illégal. *Mo pa pou suiv twa pou al la polis pou fer nef dimun perdi travay*. C'est ça que j'ai dit que nous allons travailler pour remédier à la situation. Parce que ça a été le ministère des Finances nous a attiré l'attention, donc on va faire le nécessaire. Okay.

Mr Lisette: In this case, if he is taxing us as illegal, he also has been illegal for the last four years. You are illegal right now! The question is: being illegal right now, how long is he going to remedy the situation, Mr Chairperson, Sir?

Mr Volbert: Soon, very soon, Mr Chairperson.

The Minority Leader: Oui, M. le président, mais ce *soon, very soon*, le commissaire nous a parlé de ça, il y avait une réponse récemment, il allait mettre un comité en place pour *soon, very soon*, solutionner ce problème. Est-ce qu'on peut dire qu'aujourd'hui à l'heure où on est en train de débattre de cette question il n'y a pas de contrat renouveler depuis ce contrat illégal que vous dites depuis 2021 ? Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait depuis 2022 jusqu'à maintenant ?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, il n'y avait pas de contrat. Il n'y avait pas de contrat, c'est pourquoi il y a une Membre de l'autre côté chaque trois mois elle allait faire un tour là-bas et j'ai des photos.

(Interruptions)

Je ne sais pas pourquoi, qu'est-ce qu'elle fait là-bas. Mais elle connaît très bien la réponse.

Mr Lisette: On another line of questioning. ... know all the problem that surrounds that issue and one of the recommendations of the Audit Report was to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. I would like to know from the Commissioner for Health where matter stands as at now as regards to the MOU?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, on a que l'administration du service de la Santé. Je ne sais pas comment on va faire un MOU avec le *parent ministry*. MOU on peut faire pour admission des patients dans les hôpitaux mais pour MOU en ce qu'il s'agit de, je ne sais pas que ce que l'Audit a dit, ce que vous venez de mentionner, comment on va faire le MOU avec le ministère en ce qu'il s'agit – parce que c'est eux, le *parent ministry*. Nous avons déjà parlé de ça au ministère, avec le ministre, mais l'idée et revient c'est que, eux ils ont la charge de protocole, de tout, et nous on a que l'administration.

Mr Lisette: The question is pertinent, Mr Chairperson, Sir. There are two questions in one, 61 and 71. And, it is very important also for the patients going in Mauritius. Thank you, very much, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Commissioner has stated his weakness in the sense that he cannot...

(Interruptions)

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You have stated your weakness in the sense that you cannot write an MOU with the parent ministry while it is clearly stated in the Audit Report. It is written clearly...

(Interruptions)

Yes, in the Sikamifer and... There are two MOUs that were supposed to be written as per Audit Report on the aspect of specialist visit to Rodrigues, and second, as regards to the return back of patient to Rodrigues. It is clearly mentioned here. Let us give him that benefit of doubt... But in the Audit Report also there are issues that have to be adjusted by his Commission...

Mr Chairperson: I am sorry. Are you making a statement or asking the question? And you ask the question, you address the Chair, please.

Mr Lisette: The question to the Commissioner: Whether as per Audit Report, he has proceeded forward with the implementation of the e-filing system for data recording and monitoring of patients transferred to Mauritius? Whether this has been done at his Commission?

Mr Volbert: Je n'ai pas la réponse, M. le président.

Mr Ramdally: M. le président, une des raisons avançait par l'Auditeur concernant l'augmentation du coût de cet item, c'est il y a une augmentation du nombre de cas qui vont à Maurice pour les traitements spécialiser. Donc, est-ce que le commissaire à en ce moment les chiffres du nombre de patient qui sont allés à Maurice pour faire des imageries (des scans) ?

Mr Volbert: J'ai déjà répondu à la question dans une question précédente mais je n'ai pas la réponse.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, nous savons comme mon collègue le respecté Membre Ramdally vient de dire il y a une augmentation du nombre de patient qui part pour Maurice et c'est clair, par exemple, au niveau de l'Audit on nous dit qu'il y a une augmentation – en 2018, c'était 534 patients, en 2023 c'est passé à 838 et on est sûr qu'aujourd'hui c'est beaucoup plus. Il y a un travail à faire *at source*. Parce que ces patients vont à Maurice, avoir recours à Sikamifer parce qu'il y a beaucoup de difficulté ici. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous rassurer s'il est en train de prévoir que – parce

que le budget n'est pas suffisant il ne pourra pas probablement continuer avec ça. Qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire pour assurer qu'autant de patient n'a pas à partir au Sikamifer ?

Mr Volbert: M. le président, je ne suis qu'un commissaire, je ne suis pas docteur, je ne suis pas spécialiste. Donc, comment je vais demander à un spécialiste de ne pas envoyer un patient à Maurice. Je ne comprends pas. Je ne comprends pas ! comment je vais demander à un spécialiste – si le spécialiste croit bon d'envoyer un patient pour les traitements à Maurice, moi je vais dire non, on a un souci avec le Sikamifer, on n'a pas d'argent, on ne peut pas envoyer le patient à Maurice. Okay.

Mr Chairperson: The very last.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, nous savons que la question de transférer les patients, si c'est vrai que c'est la décision du spécialiste mais c'est avant tout une question de diagnostic, c'est-à-dire, qu'il y a beaucoup d'appareils en ce moment qui ne fonctionnent pas qui fait que les spécialistes non pas de solution que d'envoyer ces patients. Donc, est-ce que le commissaire a pris une décision par rapport à tout ça pour justement palier à ce problème d'envoyer autant de patient à Maurice ?

Mr Volbert: J'ai un *statement* à la fin de la session, je peux parler de ça, M. le président.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

YOUNG AGRICULTURAL LABOUR SCHEME

(No. B/62) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, with regard to the Young Agricultural Labour Scheme, he will state to the House (a) when the ongoing scheme started and its objectives (b) the number and names of young person's undergoing practical field training, and (c) the date of completion of the programme and any compensation payable to its beneficiaries?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I would like to answer the questions B/62 and B/70 simultaneously as they both relate to the same subject matter.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that following the Executive Council Meeting held on 04 September 2020, approval was conveyed for the Commission for Agriculture

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to launch the Staple Crop Production Scheme with the objective to increase production of local cash and staple crop.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, initially, the purpose of the scheme was: -

- (i) To allocate a subsidy/allowance for payment of labour cost to relieve staple crop planters from expensive labour cost and to increase production.
- (ii) To train young farmers (18–40 years old) intended to produce staples crops after acquiring sufficient hand-experience.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the details of the scheme were: -

- (1) To allocate a subsidy/allowance for payment of labour cost up to a maximum of Rs250 per day and up to a maximum of 12 man days per crop cycle per acre.
- (2) The beneficiaries were to be planters who are involved in staple crop production activities over an area of at least one acre (4200 m²) of land.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed that from 08 to 10 January 2021, a Communique was broadcasted on MBC for the enlistment of trainees under the staple crop production scheme. I table a copy of the communique for the information of the House.

Moreover, in June 2021, being given that the Commission was facing a severe lack of manual workers on crop propagation centre, a decision was taken to enlist 12 interns from the 32 applicants who had registered for Staple Crop Production Scheme from 13 to 22 January 2021. The purpose was to enable implementation of the cropping calendar of Oyster Bay, Citronelle and Grand La Fouche Mangues Seed Production Stations.

The selection criteria were: -

- (1) Age less than 40 years.
- (2) Date of application, that is, on a first come first serve basis.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, when I took office in March 2022, it was our intention to dismiss all trainees enlisted under the staple production scheme for the advertisement has

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not been made through established procedure (list not obtained through Employment Office). Moreover, the contract was badly, very badly drafted and failed to specify key terms.

However, on humanitarian ground, being given that the trainees had not yet terminated their training programme at that time, arrangements were made for the payment of their stipend under another scheme of the Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, during the attachment to the Commission, the young labourers were attached or placed on Seed Production Centres to build up their capacity and skills.

The description of works was as follows: -

- Crop production in open field and green/shade house;
- Irrigation/watering;
- Seedling production, grafting and layering;
- Clearing of field;
- Pruning and maintenance of green fence;
- Pasture management and establishment.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the date of completion of their training programme, that is, these trainees, is 31 August 2025.

A notice of termination has been issued on 30 July 2025. According to the Executive Council decision of 17 July 2025, these young trainees will be eligible for a one off-grant of Rs50,000 to allow their smooth transition from internship to their respective project. There is also provision that a piece of agricultural land will also be allocated to them and they will be followed by Technicians of my Commission for at least a further two years.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Commissioner, I do not know if he has tabled the information but he mentioned that in March 2022, he wanted to dismiss them because the contract was not properly drafted, was badly drafted, to use his words. Does this mean that you as the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture you enabled these labourers' workers to work for three additional years with a poorly drafted contract, is it what you mean?

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Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think the respected Member has not listened well to what I have said. Under the Staple and Crop Production, this scheme was no longer valid. They were recruited to work and be on placement to planters but they were staying in the Commission. That is why we have shifted the programme and they were attached under another scheme of the Commission.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mentioning the manual works associated with the contract given to these workers. These contracts as he said – badly drafted. May I know whether when he came into office, he shifted the workers to perform, to carry out other jobs, other than those specified in the contract that they signed with the Commission?

Mr Perrine: I was not the supervisor of these workers. I read what the supervisors submitted according to him and the report they have submitted, it was according to a training programme and they have to move from one station to another. It is not staying, doing specific work as specified in their contract. Anyway, this was not specified. They will place, attach to farmer doing labour work. Because there is a problem of labourer for agriculture.

Mr Baptiste: I think that the Commissioner maybe he is not aware, he does not master the file. I have with me a contract of one of these trainees where it is clearly specified that the party on one part or its representative shall be solely responsible to assign manual works to the party other than what is included in this. But is the Commissioner aware that apart from this contract which according to him is badly drafted, his Commission allowed rather imposed them to do other jobs which are not related to what they were supposed to do in the training programme?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will have to enquire. But I read what has been submitted and according to the report they have been assigned duties relating to their training programme which will end on the 31 August and they will be given a one off grant of Rs50,000 as they said, a kit to enable them to buy equipment and to start their project.

Mr Lisette: Base on that, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the enquiry that he is about to carry, I would like to know from the Commissioner what is the time frame that he is providing to himself so that a report on same be tabled in this Assembly?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I must say that the report will cover whether the decision of the Executive Council of 04 September 2020 has been abide or whether another decision was taken. I made it clear the decision of the Council was to recruit these young labourers to be placed to keep the farmers where they were facing labour problem and at the same time to have training. But what has been done is that these labourers as if they were employed as labourers in the government. And, they have to do job that they will request, they are government servant. This is the question. Many times when we organised a workshop, training programme, I speak to my Commission and my colleagues, you have job seekers that apply. But this is not for job seekers. People without job they apply and then when they are asked to follow training, they say no it is not in the contract. What is this? And, they may be happy that I have not ended their training the first day when I assumed office here.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, you have talked about a report because you are not aware whether they followed their contract, they did what were stipulated in the contract. I can confirm that these people did other jobs like painting of your bazar at Terre Rouge, your toilet block at Citronelle, fence work and all these which are not related to. So, you are going to conduct an enquiry, are you willing as a matter of transparency and fairness to take necessary measures so that these workers, labourers are being compensated for extra duties that they carried out, which are not related to the training programme all throughout these three years, from March 2022 to date?

Mr Perrine: You know I will conduct the enquiry not only for that, on deviation from objective that has been fixed by the Council. This is the point; this is the point. Secondly, the mode of recruitment by radio...

(Interruptions)

No, you used government money and only PSC is authorised to recruit officers and even training.

(Interruptions)

Read the law, madam, you will become Commissioner hopefully. You much know the law. Only PSC is authorised to recruit persons on permanent basis and training more than two years. So, you must know the law. I think that you have not sought the approval of the Legal Adviser before adapting this regulation. So, for me if they are not happy, they

can go to the Police and sue the Commission. I will do the work according to the law, in transparency, not in favour of any person, be it my supporter, my client, I will do the work in transparent, open book, anybody can come and see. What you have done by radio communiqué, you received 32 applicants and then you pick and choose and enlist 13. This is not legal; it is against the law. And, I will not accept it.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je ne sais pas de quelle formation le commissaire parle. Aujourd'hui c'est seulement le PSC peut faire des formations pour recruter des gens, ça c'est nouveau ça, M. le président. Ça je n'ai jamais entendu. Enfin venant du commissaire on n'est pas choqué. Cependant, M. le président, je voudrais savoir du commissaire étant donné qu'il a parlé d'une compensation de Rs 50,000 pour que ces jeunes puissent démarrer leurs projets, donc déjà à aucun moment c'était un contrat de deux ans, c'était une année justement pour la formation. Vous avez dévié, de 2022 à 2025 ces jeunes n'ont fait tout sauf ce qu'ils devraient faire. Aujourd'hui, vous venez avec une compensation de Rs 50,000 pour qu'ils démarrent leurs projets alors que...

Mr Chairperson: Sorry, this is your question?

(Interruptions)

No, this is a statement. Put your question directly.

The Minority Leader: I would like to know from the Commissioner whether he finds it fair to give these persons, these young people who are starting their project Rs50,000 while the RRA has been giving Rs500,000 to people in agriculture. They have been working for you for four years, you are giving them Rs50,000, do you not find this unfair?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as Member of this Assembly we must do our homework. Coming here and telling that they were in contract for one year, this is not true. It is false. *Vous-même vous avez dit c'est un contrat indéterminé.* That is why I am telling that the contract has been badly drafted. Because it is not mentioned. There is nowhere in this contract where it is said that they were on a one-year training. I will not answer to this floor question.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand that the Commissioner has not taken the scheme because the letter that has been given it talks about young scheme. So,

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that is why I talked about Young Agricultural Labour Scheme. He must be knowing what is about this scheme. But in the contract it was clearly mentioned it will be determined by the parties. So, you were there. It had to be taken by your Commissioner, under your supervision. Can I know why you did not do it during the course of the year, these three years, and now you are blaming, you are trying to find a scapegoat on a decision taken by the Council on 03 September 2020? Does it mean that you do not have the power to take decisions in your Executive Council?

Mr Perrine: Do your homework. They must do their homework. They come and say and *bla, bla, bla, nothing*. This contract was not signed under my supervision. Go and check your list.

(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner, in light of the information gathered so far in the House, knowingly that these young trainees are genuine, because they have been there in your Commission for three years, I would like to know whether you will somehow compensate them in a way by allowing them to have access to the agricultural scheme whose fund is already available in the budget?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the training was practical. These people they are jumping like puppets on the string over there and saying that...

Mr Baptiste: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson. The Commissioner mentioned that these people are jumping like puppet over there. I think that this is not parliamentary. I would request you to...

These people over there are jumping like puppets.

Mr Chairperson: Okay.

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is the wordings of a great song and I do not think that it is unparliamentary.

(Interruptions)

Mr Baptiste: ...your ruling upon my point of order. I made a point of order.

(Interruptions)

No, he never withdrawn it.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Mr Perrine, in my ruling I can ask you to withdraw the word properly, please.

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: I withdraw.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: As he said earlier this is his time. So, next question.

**SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHING VESSELS – FUNDED BY INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)**

(No. B/63) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, with regard to the five semi-industrial fishing vessels funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), he will state (a) the terms and conditions under which they were allocated to five Cooperative Societies (b) the date and reasons for their repossession by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and (c) the policy of his Commission concerning their repair and future reallocation?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I thank the respected Member for raising this question, particularly at a time when there is considerable disinformation circulating. I welcome this opportunity to share with Members of this Assembly factual information on the project, so that it is rationale can be better understood.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, Members will recall that it was under my leadership that I immediately requested the services of two consultants - one with an engineering background and another with expertise in economics to assess the condition of the five fishing vessels abandoned by the ancient government in the cooperative and to recommend measures to make them operational for fishing activities.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, these vessels were procured under the MARS Programme, following an agreement between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Mauritius. The objective of the MARS Programme was to support the design and implementation of the government's pro-poor reform agenda

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within the framework of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the then Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB).

The Financing Agreement for the MARS Programme was signed on 5 March 2009 between IFAD and the Government of Mauritius, and the loan became effective on 06 October 2009. The financing plan was as follows:

- IFAD loan under ordinary terms: USD 5.6 M
- IFAD grant: USD 0.4 M
- Co-financing: USD 1.1 M (Government of Western Australia and UNDP/GEF/SGP)
- Beneficiaries' contribution: USD 0.53 M
- Government contribution: USD 6.6 M (including USD 2.158 M drawn from an existing IFAD loan supporting the RDP).

The Programme, Mr Chairperson, Sir, comprised three components:

- (1) Support for Pro-Poor Reform and Institutional Change
- (2) Marine Resources Management
- (3) Diversification of Rural Incomes and Employment

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it was within this framework that five fishing vessels were procured to support five cooperative societies engaged in off-lagoon fishery development. The project, elaborated by IFAD consultants, was found to be technically and financially feasible, with a financial rate of return exceeding 30% for certain models. It was expected to significantly improve the livelihood of participating households, provided that government offered the necessary management, technical support, and close monitoring.

Given the limited experience of the cooperatives, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the consultants recommended priority be given on a specific business model, which justified special financial assistance from government in light of its environmental benefits, its contribution to poverty alleviation, and its potential to reduce pressure on lagoon fishing.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I would like to state that the conditions for allocating these vessel was as follows:

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Financing was provided through the IFAD Loan, with government assistance in the form of:

- Grant by governments: Rs7,924,650 (75%)
- Loan that is taken by this societies: Rs2,641,550 (25%) of the loan

Society were responsible for the vessels maintenance and insurance he reserves the right to repossess vessel where condition was not compile.

Mr Chairperson, Sir with regard to part (b) of the question, I must point out that there has been repeated instances of none-compliance with condition by the beneficiaries' cooperative. These includes irregular use of the vessel lack of proper maintenance and difficulties encounter by the co-operative and meeting their operational and financial obligation. I am informed that the executive council of the ancient government held on the 30 November 2018 approved the decision to repossess the five outer lagoon fishing vessels funded under the IFAD programme for non- performance and non-utilisation. I am further informed that a re-possession exercise was scheduled in September 2021 and the re-possession exercise was not completed as the beneficiaries informed that all the boat will be operational in December 2021.

Mr chairperson, Sir, when this present government took office in March 2022 the five lagoon outer lagoon fishing vessel handed by IFAD was still lying at Pointe Monnier unattended and as if abandoned for more than six years. Consequently, the Executive Council at a meeting held in August 2022 has resolved to take action to ensure its effective implementation.

I am now providing, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a chronometrically consequence of event regarding the repossession initiated by my office. It was not easy and I must say that these co-operative were badly advice by people not to allow the re-possession of their fishing vessel, there was manifestation people coming *manifeste* to obstruct the repossession exercise.

On September 2022, a repossession exercise was carried out in the presence of the representative from each of the five cooperatives concerned. Three cooperatives handed over their boats namely:

- (a) Northern Fishing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd

- (b) Angel Fishing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd
- (c) Dragon Fishing and Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd

Two representatives refused to hand over the boats to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and requested one week for their respective committees to take a decision.

On 17 October 2022, a follow up meeting was held and the outcome was as follows: -

- Only one out of the two representative agreed to handover the boat, namely Flying Fish Fishing
- The other cooperative did not comply namely, Fregate

Subsequently period, given that time was running out to enable a way forward regarding the five vessels, my office, acted upon the advice of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Legal Adviser, decided to initiate a legal proceeding for the repossession of the remaining boat.

In this context, I wish to inform the House that a repossession exercise was conducted by the Usher of the Court of Rodrigues on Tuesday 05 August 2025 following a Judge's Order made on 28 July 2025 under Article 806 and 826 to 831 of the Code of Civil Procedure. At last we have been able to repossess all the five fishing vessels now the way forward.

The policy of my Commission is to make an assessment update as it is now of these five vessels and thereafter reallocate them under structured framework the overall objective is to optimise the use of these semi-industrial fishing vessels for the benefit of the Rodriguan Fishing Sector, while ensuring accountability and transparency in management. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Dr. Agathe: Concernant la re-operationalisation de ces bateaux, vous avez mentionné qu'il y a eu deux experts qui ont travaillé sur des projets de faisabilité donc du point de vue technique et économique. Jusqu'ici pourquoi donc rien n'a été entrepris et les bateaux sont toujours à quai ?

Mr Perrine: Vous savez, M. le Membre, Dr. Agathe sait très bien quand un infrastructure, un ouvrage est financé par une organisation internationale, il faut faire bien attention, il faut suivre la loi et pas prendre des décisions à brique à braque. Pour ce que nous avons fait les deux, j'ai bien expliqué, les deux consultants qu'on a recrutés c'est pour faire un *assessment* comme l'état des bateaux pour qu'on puisse quand on va parler à

l'IFAD, ce n'est pas parlé dans l'air comme on fait ici, c'est venir avec les documents sérieux et puis on va prendre des décisions, mais sans rapport. Maintenant il y a des propriétés qui ne voulaient pas reprendre les bateaux. Vous savez il faudrait voir l'accord que la Rodrigues Regional Assembly a signé avec les coopératives concernant les bateaux. Et on ne peut pas reprendre ces bateaux, ni vendre sans l'accord de l'IFAD. Mais c'est pourquoi on a perdu beaucoup de temps, on a déjà le *way forward* mais seulement on ne peut pas aller de l'avant sans avoir un accord global sur les cinq bateaux et puis... D'ailleurs, peut être IFAD même qui va financer the *way forward* - réhabilitation et exploitation de bateau. Et alors, nous nous allons, ce que je vous dis, c'est que nous allons faire nous aurons un *donnor's meeting* à la fin du mois, on va présenter ce cas- là avec les donateurs qui vont venir pour trouver le financement. Il ne faut pas, vous savez vous même très bien il ne faut pas compter sur le budget du gouvernement. Vous avez vu dans la presse ce que j'ai dit, on a retiré Rs 105 millions sur mon budget. Enfin ce n'est pas le moment de parler mais je ne vais pas m'asseoir et crier mon « *Dieu venait m'aider !* ». Je suis en train de faire une démarche pour trouver l'argent pour faire avancer les choses à Rodrigues.

(Interruptions)

Mais non, il ne faut pas seulement sur le côté politique, il faut garder une bonne relation avec les organisations internationales qui vont nous aider à sortir là où nous sommes.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to raise one point because their history of events as mentioned by the Commissioner is contradictory of what is written in the audit report.

Mr Chairperson: Is it a point of order?

Mr Lisette: It is going to be the form of a question because the history...

Mr Chairperson: It is question time. Either you come with the point of order or you come with a question.

Mr Lisette: Sorry, I would like to ask the Commissioner as regards to the history of events that he has given in this House that is contradicting the audit report when he said that these boats were re-possessed in August 2022 by his Commission while in the

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audit report it is stated that, I just read it, following the non-operation of this vessels since year 2018 the RRA re-possessed all of them in January 2022, is he contradicting this?

Mr Perrine: Who gave this information? But actual as it is...

(Interruptions)

Last month District Court of Port Mathurin.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Allow the Commissioner to answer the question, please.

Mr Perrine: You ask the question and you do not want me to answer but then go ahead!

(Interruptions)

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, *je pense qu'il y un virage de 360⁰ par rapport au réponse qu'il avait donné* for the similar question B/7 of 19 July 2022 where he blamed the previous government for not taking necessary action to help the cooperatives and in a supplementary question when I ask him what he intends to do to revival these cooperatives, to make these boats functional, the reply was – “The Member had to wait and see the difference. Give me up to December.” Can we know the December which year you were talking about and what has been done, what is the difference between what you gave as answer *par rapport à ces bateaux et aujourd'hui ?*

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, they do not listen when I read. They come with the question that has been prepared, I do not know when, and then they ask the question. They do not listen. But in the chronology I gave, I gave the information from August 2022 - what we have been doing regarding these vessels - asking them to come and to give the key so that we can examine the boat etc. This take us up to now. Last month, we have to go to Court to have these boats returned to us. This is the question.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the same line, same question you mentioned the issue of *Maison de Pêcheur*, and of course, problems with the cooperative but you said that you will give the necessary support and you even mention that all the boats will be functional and will be at sea not at Pointe Monnier. Can we know for which

reason after three years now you have not been able to make these boats go away from Pointe Monnier to the sea?

Mr Perrine: You know these boats there is a contract with IFAD. I cannot just take the boats. I expected the cooperatives to be cooperative, to come and talk with us. But this was not the case.

(Interruptions)

You know, Mr chairperson, Sir, these people they think we are God and then we know what will have happened! *Si zot Bondie zot...*

Mr Chairperson: Last question.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, le commissaire répétitivement parle de IFAD. Donc, en effet il y a un contrat dûment signer entre ses coopératives/RRA et où s'est bien mentionné les *conditions of use of these boats* et c'est clair que dans le contrat, c'est bien explicite. Comment si on doit reprendre ses bateaux, il faut d'abord consulter IFAD.

Mr Chairperson: You know; it is that supplementary question are now way longer that the original question while the Standing Order 22 is very clear about this. It is said here: "*Supplementary question may only be put for the further elucidation of the information requested, [...]*". So, it should not be a pretext for speech. I have been very lenient to this. Time is moving. Put your question directly, please.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr Chairperson Sir, can I refer to the contract before putting the question?

Mr Chairperson: No, you put your question

The Minority leader: So, can I know from the Commissioner whether according what has been stipulated in the contract, he can confirm whether his Commission consulted the IFAD first after notification procedures before removing these boats from these cooperatives as per the contract, whether this has been done?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this exercise of repossessing was discussed by the ancient government since 2018. Then why did they trail to repossessed the boat like this" *Me ki fer?* What they have not been able to do in ten years they are supposed that we will do it in three years!

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(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: And yet on the same question there has been repossession as you stated in 2022, I maintain January 2022, you maintain August 2022 since then, has your Commission already prepared a clear action plan to know what exactly to do with these boats, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and if yes, can you give detail to this House?

Mr Perrine: I do not have the action plan with me, Mr Chairperson, Sir, but I can say *en grande ligne* what we are supposed to do with these boats. There are three possibilities:

- (i) We give it back to the cooperative, we organise a cooperative;
- (ii) We sell the boat with the permission of IFAD, or
- (iii) We look for a strategic partner. I think that we are going to go for a strategic partner with la ‘Maison des Pêcheurs’ and also with ...

Mr Chairperson: Now we move at, just as a matter of precision, you know or question PQ B/61, B/62 and B/63 - three PQs, almost 90 minutes to answer three PQs. Okay? Right. Five PQs - 90minutes. Should I limit the number of supplementary questions?

(Interruptions)

You have what? You tell me you have, you have what?

(Interruptions)

You are okay with that? If you are okay, okay we go on. We go on.

(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner on the same line. He has not been able to state thoroughly on the matter of action plan, but I would like to ask him whether Invest Rodrigues from the Commission has launched any Expression of Interest as regards to the use of these boats?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware and I have not seen any letter regarding the five boats, you were talking about the five boats by Invest Rodrigues. And if there is this Expression of Interest anyway, I will consider it.

(Interruptions)

No we do not know. I have not seen it.

The Minority Leader: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner whether there has been a Council decision to transfer these boats to Invest Rodrigues under the Commission for Entrepreneurship for Expression of Interest, whether he can confirm that?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, they are speaking of two things, I am speaking of five boats supported and finance by IFAD. Now they are talking about six boats which is financed by the DCP. The DCP of... Yes, these boats have been transferred to the Ministry of Industrial Development and they are, I do not know, me on my part, I was for selling of the boats but on their side they are willing to leased the boats and this is... I don't know may be you can ask the question to the commissioner...

Mr Chairperson: But the main question is about IFAD. So, you limit your answer to IFAD not to DCP.

Mr Perrine: There has been no paper from invest concerning that.

Mr Chairperson: Now we move to the next question.

**POLICY TO REOPEN – ST GABRIEL COOPERATIVE STORE
SOCIETY LIMITED**

(No. B/64) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Cooperatives and Others whether, with regard to his Commission's policy to reopen the St Gabriel Cooperative Store Society Limited, he will state (a) the details of the visit by a delegation from the Mauritius Cooperative Consumers Federation to Rodrigues from 06 to 09 August 2025, and (b) his Commission's policy regarding other dormant Cooperative Societies in Rodrigues?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, St Gabriel Cooperative Store Society Ltd was established in the early 1960's by a group of residents of St Gabriel, Rodrigues. Its primary objective was to provide a wide range of domestic commodities at competitive prices to its members and the public as well. The society performed well up to the year 2000.

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Owing to the non-performance of St Gabriel cooperative societies, I am informed that the Mauritius Consumers Cooperative Federation Ltd (MCCF) made a request to the Registrar of Cooperative to take over the Society.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will now give details on the taking over of the St Gabriel Cooperative Store Ltd by the Mauritius Consumers Cooperative Federation Ltd in chronological order: -

- (1) 31 July 2007 – the MCCF made a request to the Registrar of Cooperatives to take over the store.
- (2) 06 October 2007 – Following a special general meeting, the St Gabriel Cooperative Store Society Ltd accepted the request of the MCCF to take over the management of the Cooperative Society.
- (3) 14 November 2007 – The Registrar of Cooperatives appointed the MCCF as Caretaker Board of the St Gabriel Cooperative Store Ltd for a period of 10 years.
- (4) 19 October 2008 – The MCCF started its activities at the St Gabriel cooperative societies.

Mr Chairperson, Sir I am informed that the MCCF has invested about Rs1 M to renovate the building and replenish the stock of goods.

- (5) From 2008 to 2010, I am informed that the MCCF activities at St Gabriel Cooperative Store Society Ltd performed well and that in the following five years it sustained losses.
- (6) In 2013 and 2014 - The MCCF ceased its operation in Rodrigues.
- (7) 30 June 2016 – The land lease has expired.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the details of the visit of the MCCF to Rodrigues from 06 to 09 August 2025 are as follows: -

- (i) to evaluate the status of the premises of Baie Lascar, St Gabriel and Petite Butte store;
- (ii) to query on the renewal of lease agreement that are pending since 2018. I do not know why they do not approve the renewal of the lease to look for the new collaboration partnership with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to develop the cooperative sector for the benefit of the Rodriguan population;

(iii) to look for new opportunities for the MCCF.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that my Commission maintains an updated record of Cooperative Societies, categorising them as active, inactive, dormant and those to be liquidated. I have the pleasure to table a list of Registered Cooperative Societies as at 31 January 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the audit of the year 2023 (the audit this will please the opposition) the audit of the 2023-2024 financial statement of Cooperative Society in Rodrigues reveal significant and persistent deficits in governance, internal control and financial management. A vast majority of societies failed to meet statutory deadlines for financial reporting. Bad very bad. In this context, a delegation of officers from the ministry will be in Rodrigues soon to assist my Commission in the reorganisation and reengineering of the Cooperative Sector in Rodrigues. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Une seule question, M. le président, étant donné que le commissaire vient de nous dire que *the lease has been expired in 2018* et on sait que ce coopérative, St Gabriel Coopérative Store Society Limited est situer à un endroit très stratégique, est ce que ce la politique de sa commission, en tant que commissaire de coopérative, pour donner ces endroits bien stratégiques à des coopératives ou des personnes qui sont en dehors de de Rodrigues ?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are going, we like to revive this society because it is historical, even the locality has been named Cooperative. The policy of my Commission is to revise St Gabriel not only St Gabriel but also Corail and Port Mathurin. You know we are classified cooperative in sector of class. We have farmers, fishermen, business, consumers. For Credit Union it is okay. They are going on very well, much better than in Mauritius but we have to look after all the other sector. We want to... in the production sector, primary sector, we have to develop cooperative. So, we have a list and we are coming soon. We have started by starting a cooperative course, Cooperative Certificate Course in Rodrigues and we are starting the second module next week on Law and I am very pleased to see that we have a lot of participant, not job seekers, they attended the course to benefit, to gain managerial skill so that cooperative be managed like private company and with people who have formerly been trained and respect the cooperative principal.

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Mrs Allas: M. le président, est ce que le commissaire pourrait nous donner quelques détails sur le développement dans le secteur du transport par rapport à la coopérative ?

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: You want to answer, you answer.

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir,...

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order this supplementary question is completely out of order since it far from the main question.

Mr Chairperson: I have been lenient to everyone and she is talking of Bus Cooperative and it relate to cooperative in Rodrigues...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Unless the Commissioner want to answer.

(Interruptions)

Mr Perrine: M. le président, le secteur de transport à attirer notre attention, nous allons mettre beaucoup d'efforts dans cette section parce que le transport doit être moderniser. A Maurice on est en train de parler des bus électriques mais à Rodrigues on parle toujours avec le fuel etc., et les coopératives je suis en train de réorganiser les coopératives. D'ailleurs, très bientôt Coopérative Bus Owner, on va mettre un *caretaker gouvernement* et on va aller dans cette direction. Deuxièmement, je dois dire sincèrement que je voudrais aussi, parce que j'étais auditeur à cette époque, faire revivre OCTR mais malheureusement OCTR a été liquider. Si c'était sur la liste j'aurais pu relever. Merci beaucoup.

Mr Chairperson: Commissioner, I have been lenient but you should not go too far. You have the time to come with a statement at adjournment.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have another question on that main question. Being given that the lease of the cooperative has been expired, I would like to know from the Commissioner whether the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will proceed first with the

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renewal or the issuing on the new lease before giving it to any other cooperative for its operation

Mr Perrine: I was informed by MCCF that since 2018 they are fighting to have the lease renewed, this is, I do not know, natural ... I do not know why. We have to look into this issue and it is up to the Commissioner of Land to decide.

(Interruptions)

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the lease on its renewal or its reissuing will be given to MCCF and not to St Gabriel Store Cooperative, what is your point of that? Will it be given to MCCF? The lease at St Gabriel will be given to MCCF, a cooperative from Mauritius or from St Gabriel Cooperative?

Mr Perrine: No, no, no. The lease will be on St Gabriel Cooperative Store Ltd.

(Interruptions)

No, no, but they are going to revive it. The MCCF, respected Member, MCCF is the caretaker Board.

Mr Chairperson: Let us move to PQ... Next question, please.

OCTOPUS CLOSED SEASON

(No. B/65) Mrs M.A.L. Allas (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, with regard to the Octopus Closed Season, he will state (a) the dates of the Winter Closed Season 2024 and the number of Alternative Workers enlisted (b) if the extension of the 2025 Summer Closed Season impacted the quantity of octopus caught and exported to Mauritius, and (c) if any report has been submitted or is being prepared on the management of the octopus fishery in Rodrigues?

Mr Perrine: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the closing date for the Winter Octopus Fishery Closure was fixed on 08 August 2025. I am informed that 1,359 persons are involved in the alternative works.

As regards part (b) of the question, in the last summer closure of the octopus fishery 2025, the closing period was increased by 15 days.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am also informed that the summer closure started since 2017 and fishery was closed for a period of one month each year. For the year 2025, the octopus fishery summer closure lasted for a period of 45 days. At the opening of the closure, a significant harvest of 37.7 tons of octopus was recorded. When compared with the summer closure 2024, 19.4 tons of octopus was harvested. Therefore, there has been an increase of 94.3 % for the summer closure 2025 as compared to the summer closure 2024. This clearly demonstrates the positive impact of the closure on the octopus population dynamic. From 01 March to 07 August 2025, 185.5 tons of frozen octopus were exported to Mauritius.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the House is aware, the closure of the octopus fishery was first introduced in 2012. Since 2012 to 2022, no assessment of the impact of this measure has been carried out, despite the mobilisation of the considerable financial and human resources. Upon my taking of office in 2022, I took stock of the situation and decided to engage the services of a Consultant. Professor Warwick to provide consultancy services for an assessment of octopus fishery for the Fisheries Department.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that an Interim Report has been submitted. Presently, the concerned department of my Commission is collecting scientific data around Rodrigues as per recommendations and this exercise is expected to be completed in October 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to assure the House that the final recommendation from the Consultant will be submitted by November 2025 and I will ensure that concrete action is taken to ensure the sustainable management of this sector.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Dr. Agathe: M. le président, autour de ce projet très important de fermeture et de cette pêche qui est très importante, il est bien entendu que les études de suivi sont très important pour savoir comment les choses évoluent. Mais force de constater qu'il y a un certain nombre de problème. Donc, vous avez parlé des études de Professeur Warwick, malheureusement on n'a pas eu accès encore au contenu de cette étude mais ce qu'on trouve ce que d'année en année la quantité d'ourites pêcher est resté plus ou moins stable et en ce moment même on voit que...

Mr Chairperson: Respected Member what is your question?

Dr. Agathe: Donc, l'impact annonçait, est ce que vous allez mentionné qu'il y a une augmentation donc du fait de la fermeture en été mais est ce que globalement il y a réellement une augmentation sur la baie ?

Mr Perrine: M. le président, on attend le rapport final du Professeur Warrick. C'est un expert du renommé mondial et on attend son rapport. Mais il y a des problèmes comme le Membre a fait ressortir qu'il faut résoudre à l'intérieur. Il y a ce problème de *illegal fishing* qui on dit s'est fermer mais ce n'est jamais fermer. Il y a toujours quelque part quelqu'un est en train de pêcher les ourites illégalement. C'est pourquoi on a décidé avec l'aide de la FAO d'envoyer une équipe à Madagascar pour essayer de pratiquer cette surveillance communautaire comme s'est pratiqué à Madagascar et on va essayer d'améliorer. Et je dois dire qu'il y a des départements qui doivent prendre leurs responsabilités aussi. C'est pourquoi on dit que lorsqu'on est en train de travailler dans la commission, la terreur etc., mais si on ne travaille pas *you have to go* ! Si vous êtes payé vous avez un *scheme of service* pour faire un travail, vous ne le faites pas - que l'opposition soit contente ou pas content *you will be fired*.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, one of the recommendations for this closing of octopus campaign is to revisit the alternative livelihood scheme, I will like to know what has been revisited by the Commission for the ongoing campaign?

Mr Perrine: Vous savez, c'est à dire que les travailleurs alternatifs sont déployés dans l'île sur plusieurs secteur d'environnement surtout concernant marin, l'environnement aussi, nettoyer les côtes de Rodrigues. Ils sont basés un peu partout mais aussi les autres départements. Mais nous avons un projet avec IFAD et avec FAO qui va adresser ce problème *value change* et aussi possibilités d'emplois pour ces travailleurs alternatifs, à peu près 1,500. Mais ça va prendre un peu de temps. On va les déployés...

(Interruptions)

Non, non, non, on a essayé, mais moi mon plan - c'est que vous avez fait vous n'avez pas réussi, c'est que ces travailleurs s'ils ont un terrain agricole, on va leur dire de travailler sur le terrain et puis...

(Interruptions)

Non, mais légalement on peut le faire. Non, c'est volontaire. Ceux qui ont un terrain et qui veulent travailler, à ce moment-là, au lieu d'aller s'asseoir sur la côte de St

François, on va leur dire restez dans votre terrain on va faire *assess* le travail et puis on va visiter par les officiers. Quand on termine... Vous savez il y a quelqu'un, il faut être logique hein, vous savez je vais vous dire, écouter moi s'il vous plait. Je vais vous dire, M. le président, à Rodrigues les *key farmers* qui restent à Rodrigues, les *key farmers* vous savez sont qui ? Ce sont les gens qui ont suivi le cours ATF. Vous avez Samuel Larose, vous avez Roland, vous avez Sochon Carpenen. Ce sont les gens qui ont suivis ce cours de trois ans ATF. Les autres lorsqu'ils vont mourir ils n'auront pas de jeune qui vont reprendre. C'est pourquoi, il faut trouver un moyen pour que les jeunes s'intéressent à cultiver la terre et faire leurs travaux. Quand il voit qu'ils peuvent avoir de revenue dedans, ils vont le faire. Alors, si comme je vous dit, des alternatifs ont un terrain abandonné, en friche, si la personne veut travailler dedans, pendant la fermeture on va essayer d'*assess* le terrain et lui donner comme on dit *ene latas*, on va superviser on va le payer.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, donc au début de l'année pour la fermeture de mars à mai, le commissaire nous avez parlé de la mise en place d'un *temporary ID octopus card* ainsi qu'un suivit de trois mois des travailleurs alternatifs, est-ce qu'on peut savoir en quoi est-ce que ça a été bénéfique et qu'elle a été la finalité de ces présences, de ce rapport qui a été fait ?

Mr Chairperson: Je dois vous dire, *it has not worked*. Je dois vous dire franchement. It has not worked out. Parce que vous savez on n'a pas pu vérifier vraiment pendant l'ouverture de la pêche qui sont ceux qui pratiquent vraiment et qui sont employés comme travailleurs alternatifs. Alors, ils ont demandé une deuxième fermeture, c'est-à-dire, là. Mais quand on va fermer quand, il va ouvrir le 6 octobre, à ce moment-là on va être sévère, on va vérifier, *double check*, à ce moment-là ceux qui ne pratiquent pas la pêche ourite ne vont pas bénéficier travail alternatif. On va venir avec un *data base* sérieux et d'ailleurs le FAO nous aide dessus. Vous savez peut-être j'ai tort mais on ne peut pas prendre des actions si vous n'êtes pas sûre que le papier/résultat qui est devant vous ce n'est pas vrai. Je vous dis pourquoi, il y a une dame qui habite à St François, *sa madam laem ti gagne pli gro ourite en 2024* mais son nom n'est pas sur alternatif pour travailler. Mais ce n'est pas possible, à ce moment-là j'ai dit non il faut refaire !

(Interruptions)

On va voir, pas seulement à cause de cette dame. Vous savez il y a 500 lettres à la commission. Les gens qui protestent parce qu'ils travaillent mais ils sont *piqueuses* d'ourite mais ils ne sont pas engager pour travailler alternatif. C'est pourquoi on est en train de faire un *data base* pour qu'on puisse vérifier.

Mr Lisette: On the same line of thought. You are speaking about the recruitment of those involved in the Alternative Livelihood Scheme and one of the recommendation is for the check mechanism about the verification of business registration cards. I would like to know for those, because there are two types of persons who are involved in the Alternative Livelihood Scheme, those who are registered fishers, non- registered and those who are involved in octopus processing but there are also, it is also understood that some people want to get into the process just to get the Rs500 and we know that from one year to the other there has been an increase in the number of those who have been recruited. So, I would like to know from the Commissioner whether as per proposal and recommendation for this ongoing campaign there has been in fact verification of business registration card to know exactly what these cards are meant for?

Mr Perrine: Yes, je suis d'accord avec le Membre parce qu'il y a beaucoup de personne qui essaye de passer entre les mails avec la complicité des officiers, c'est pourquoi j'ai parlé sur les officiers. Parce que vous savez comment ils arrivent à être à l'intérieur ? Vous savez ce n'est pas le commissaire qui va *checker* tous les listes et c'est pourquoi on est en train de *double check*.

(Interruptions)

Non, mais le problème c'est que vous savez il y a un banian et un banian qui est - enfin les banians on leurs donnent travail alternatif mais il emmène tous ces travailleurs pour être embosser comme travailleur alternatif. Sur qu'elle droit ? Parce qu'il travaille avec un banian.

(Interruptions)

Non, non, non, non, non ! Ce n'est pas moi qui fait la liste. Je ne dis pas tous les officiers. He dis il y a certains officiers qui est un petit peu *lenient*. Okay.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

(Interruptions)

FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 – MEASURES/PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

(No. B/66) **Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the financial year 2024/2025, he will provide commission-wise details of (a) measures and projects implemented, indicating the percentage completion as at 30 June 2025, with related costs and item votes (b) projects started in 2024/2025 and continuing into 2025/2026, with associated costs, and (c) any *virements* or reallocations of funds, specifying the item votes concerned?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, at the presentation of the Budget Speech for Financial Year 2024-2025, the House will recall that I announced a series of measures and projects to be implemented with a Capital Budget allocation of Rs1.4 billion and an envelope of Rs5.056 billion for Recurrent Expenditures.

In fact, in the Budget Estimates of the RRA, there are more than 100 recurrent and capital measures amongst which several ongoing measures and other new ones devised in line with the policy of the Executive Council.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that for Financial Year 2024-2025, the following majors projects have been implemented amongst others: -

- Renovation of government buildings;
- Procurement of vehicles, machinery, equipment and launch;
- Computerisation of RRA;
- Infrastructure for Court services;
- Protection of the environment;
- Improvement, renewals, minor projects and infrastructural works in villages;
- Education Infrastructure Development Project;
- Construction of dams and reservoirs;
- Construction and rehabilitation of road and bridges;
- Construction and upgrading of agricultural infrastructure;
- Improvement of cultivated areas;

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- Rehabilitation of natural resources;
- Health Infrastructure Development Project;
- Equipment and furniture for hospital and others;
- Housing and Rehabilitation Programme;
- Infrastructure to Prison building;
- Promotion of women empowerment and gender equality;
- Infrastructure for child protection and parental empowerment;
- Tourism sector development;
- Upgrading of youth and sports infrastructures, and
- Extension and renovation of CLACS.

The respective item votes are found in the Estimates just handed to you early in the morning.

I also wish to inform the House that further to our request for carry-over of funds which was made to the Ministry of Finance to allow the payment of bills related to ongoing projects from Financial Year 2024-2025 up to September 2025, the Ministry of Finance has recommended projects for an amount of Rs51.3 M.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would also like to further point out that the effective expenditure is not necessarily a true and pertinent indicator of the implementation capacity of the different units, departments and other Commissions of the RRA.

In fact, the House would concur that a project may start during a specific financial year, and progress is on a good pace, but effective disbursement may not reflect the stage of advancement of a project. There are several factors that need to be considered when analysing the implementation capacity.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, for instance, during financial year 2024-2025, we have encountered several issues regarding the implementation of Capital Projects.

As we all know, the implementation of construction projects requires Consultancy for both project preparation and implementation.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, for several years, the then Executive Council initiated the system of proceeding with a Global Consultancy for all the constructions and other infrastructural projects of the RRA.

During the course of Financial 2024-2025, the Global Consultants working with the RRA stopped providing their services. My government had to step in and decided to proceed with the enlistment of Consultants Commission-wise to ensure having more transparency on implementation and closer monitoring and follow-up of the different projects of the RRA. This exercise itself is lengthy and there have been different procurement issues encountered during the exercises.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, another factor which impacted much on the project implementation is that for some major projects, like for example road projects, we have to go through the Central Procurement Board (CPB). And, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is beyond our control.

You will also recall, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that during Financial Year 2024-2025, there were the National Elections in our Republic, this required the operation machine to stop.

In fact, as a responsible government, we have limited or even stopped all procurement exercises for that period as we did not want to give the impression of using government funds for electoral campaigns.

Therefore, Mr Chairperson, Sir, despite our will to complete all our announced projects, we have not been able to do so. But, I wish to reassure the House that despite those not being completed, at least we initiated actions in view of their implementation.

On the other hand, over a budget of Rs5,056,000,000 for Recurrent items, an amount of Rs5,486,500,000 was spent implying a shortfall of Rs430.5 M.

In view of meeting this shortfall, Mr Chairperson, Sir, this amount of Rs430.5 M was reallocated from our capital budget to meet our recurrent obligations. Moreover, Mr Chairperson, Sir, an amount of Rs68.8 M was reallocated to the Special Holiday Package from the capital budget of RRA.

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Overall, a total expenditure of more than Rs6.1 billion was made during Financial Year 2024-2025, over the total budgeted amount of Rs6,456,000,000, that is, RRA spent 97% of its budget over Financial Year 2024-2025.

As regards to part (b), Mr Chairperson, Sir, as in every Financial Year, all Budget Estimates comprise ongoing projects such as the construction and upgrading of community centres, construction of roads, construction of track roads, construction of social houses, upgrading of classrooms at pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, construction of reservoirs, procurement of medical equipment, upgrading of hospital infrastructures, acquisition of equipment and furniture, upgrading of youth and sports infrastructure just to name a few.

Most Members of this House would agree that taking into account all the factors such as procurement process, availability of materials, other aspects linked to construction, shipment aspects, availability of certain goods/items on the market, most of the time, all projects roll-over the next financial year.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards the cost of those ongoing projects, I would invite all the Members of the House to consult the different sub-heads of their budget estimates. As the House is already aware, we are still applying the line budgeting system and the corresponding budget are provided under each line.

As regards part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that reallocation within capital items is a usual practice and same is done within allowable ceilings and limits as set out in the Financial Instructions No. 1 of 2015.

As regards to *Virement*, Mr Chairperson, Sir, Financial Instructions No. 1 of 2015 also stipulates, that the authority to approve *virement(s)* within a Vote of Expenditure (or Sub-Head of Expenditure) is delegated to an Accounting Officer as long as the cumulative *virements* do not exceed 2% of the total appropriation under his/her control and subject to the limitations and conditions specified at paragraphs 7 to 10 as per the Financial Instructions.

As clearly mentioned in the Financial Instructions, amongst those conditions whereby prior approval of the Ministry of Finance should be sought to a *virement*, we note those *virement* likely to exceed the limit of 2%; *virement* from one Vote of

Expenditure to another Vote of Expenditure; from a capital expenditure item to a recurrent expenditure item amongst others.

In this regard, Mr Chairperson, Sir, after a full scrutiny and close analysis of the recurrent budget in April 2025, an amount of Rs430.5 M was identified as being required to meet the recurrent obligations of RRA.

The shortfall was due to the implementation of national measures. The Ministry of Finance therefore conveyed its approval for RRA to proceed with a *virement* from the capital to the recurrent budget of RRA to meet costs such as assistance to professional fishers, pensions and allowances being the major ones. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, donc le Chef commissaire n'a pas répondu au question comme on attendait, on avait demandé *specifying item vote and so on*. Donc, est ce que je peux demander au Chef commissaire, il a parlé des chiffres qui a été dépenser donc Rs 5,044,855,000, est ce qu'on savoir du Chef commissaire concrètement par rapport aux mesures qu'il avait annoncé, *Capital Measures, Capital Budget*, qu'elle est le montant qui a été dépenser, c'est-à-dire, le montant annoncer, le montant dépenser et qu'elle est le pourcentage cela représente par rapport au *Capital Budget* donc spécifiquement ?

The Chief Commissionner: M. le président, je n'ai pas les chiffres exacts mais ce que je peux dire ce que dans le *package*, le budget total on a dépenser 97% du budget 2024-2025.

The Minority Leader: Le Chef commissaire peut nous dire si sur ce budget capital il y a pu dépenser au moins Rs 500 millions sur le Rs 1.4 milliard ?

The Chief Commissionner: M. le président, oui je n'ai pas les chiffres exacts comme j'ai dit mais on a dépensé beaucoup plus que ça, contrairement à ce qu'on a fait entendre, comprendre au publique.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, un moment donc il y avait une question au niveau national parlant de 37% de réalisation point de vue du budget, est ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire que ce chiffre n'est pas le bon ?

Chief Commissionner: Il faut comprendre une chose, à quel moment on a posé la question ? A quel moment on a posé la question ? Les chiffres je pense qu'on était à mi-

budget. Si on a donné les chiffres de mi- budget, c'est normal qu'on va donner ce chiffre-là. Et puis on vient, on dit : Voilà c'est le chiffre final. Ce n'était pas le chiffre final. Okay ? Ce n'était pas le chiffre final. Et nous on était un peu embêter par ça parce que par rapport à cette question-là, on nous a rien demander. Malheureusement, on n'a pas demandé à l'Administration an *updated figure*. On n'a pas donné notre *up-dated figure*. On a pris 37%, on a été dire ça là-bas. Ça c'est la responsabilité des officiers. Il faut qu'ils comprennent que nous franchement, ce n'était pas ça le chiffre. Si on nous avait demander on aurait donné le chiffre exacte, M. le président.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, le Chef commissaire a parlé de virement, quel est le montant exacte parce que virement ce de capital à *recurent*, quel est le montant du virement qui a été fait pendant cette année budgétaire dans ce Rs 1.4 milliards ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, le montant, j'ai dit dans ma réponse. J'ai dit, oui le virement concernant – j'ai répondu à la question, question virement c'est Rs 430 millions qui a été aussi avaliser par le Ministère des Finances. Pourquoi ? Parce que juste avant les élections il y eu des mesures, des mesures nationales qui a impacté sur notre budget. Alors par exemple, la hausse de pension, je ne sais pas, la hausse sur tous les *allowances*, *pensions*, *allowances*, etc., je reviens là-dessus dans ma réponse. *Assistance to Professional fishermen*, *pensions* et *allowances*. Donc, on a dû s'adapter et aussi prendre cette argent pour palier à cela.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has been two important exercises in this Assembly. First, the presentation of the budget in March/April and then, there has a question set by the opposition specifically on the utilisation and the expanding capacity of the government, I think in June. And, the Chief Commissioner is now coming to say that there have been figures used by the National Assembly not known to the Regional Assembly. Why is it that when question is asked here and at this point in time we are asking about capital budget, you are not able to provide the figures for capital budget right now! For 2024-2025, you are not able to produce this. How is it this that as a matter of transparency, you are not disclosing this figures into this House?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, on a été transparent. On a été transparent, M. le président. J'ai dit d'après la réponse que j'ai eue, 97% de notre budget a été utiliser. Où est le problème ?

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(Interruptions)

Justement ! Est-ce que vous avez pose la question ? *Ale nou get kestion !*

“With regard to the financial year 2024-2025, he will [...] measures and projects implemented, indicating the percentage completion [...]”

Put the question? Why have you not come here and put the question directly? Or you put the question Commission-wise to the Commissioners? You have not put the question. You should have put the question. Okay? You have not put the question and then you tell me... Yes, I do not have the figure and maybe next time I will come with the figure.

Mr Lisette: The Commissioner is mentioning in this House that, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that after two months that the budget of 2024-2025 is over, he is not able to provide any effective figure as to the amount of funds spend on capital budget, is this what he is telling this House?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, one thing that they have to bear in mind, there is also that question of carry over. Carry over...

(Interruptions)

Okay, carry over.

Qui c'est qui vous dit qu'on va pouvoir dépenser cette argent ? Le chiffre final, nous aurons le chiffre final après septembre. Le chiffre final de dépense de l'Assemblée Régionale concernant le *capital projects*, on aura ça en septembre parce qu'il y a *carry over*. *It is still on. Projects are still on*. Alors, il faut attendre, M. le président. Merci.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think that in the question it was clear because finance is with the Chief Commissioner. The question was “...*provide Commission-wise details of measures and projects implemented?*” I would like to know from the measures and projects implemented for the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office what are the projects and related items and cost items? You cannot ask us to go through this book because this are estimates but we do not have details about each project carried out. It was stated clearly to provide Commission-wise details as the Commissioner as the Commissioner for Finance.

(Interruptions)

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The Chief Commissioner: *Yes, ale. You want me to take the time of the House – penān problem!*

And, one thing is missing in your question. One thing is missing in your question and this shows amateurism.

(Interruptions)

You should put table in your question. There is no table. So, I will take my time to mention it. You want me to mention it? I am mentioning it. Do you allow me, Chair?

Project	Remarks
Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office Acquisition of Modern Equipment... Primary Schools	Ongoing

(Interruptions)

Project	Remarks
Capital Grand to RCEA	It has been disbursed

(Interruptions)

Wi grant sa, Rs2.5 million

Project	Remarks
Construction of Underground Concrete Water Tank and Refurbishment Works for Water Harvesting in 9 Primary Schools	Works have already been started and is still ongoing

(Interruptions)

Yes, you have to wait!

Project	Remarks
Upgrading of six toilets (Primary Schools)	Works ongoing. Is being completed soon
Repainting of six Primary Schools	Almost completed
Construction of new toilet blocks, renovation of existing building and embellishment works at	Completed

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Basile Allas Government School	
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(Interruptions)

Project	Remarks
Construction of Terre Rouge College	Completed
Construction of ... at Le Chou	Completed
Upgrading and reparation at Le Chou College	Ongoing
Refurbishment of schools for compliance with fire and safety Regulations	Completed
Grand to Marechal College	Already granted to REDCO (they have also to carry out infrastructural works and it is still ongoing)
Water Construction of 1,000 m ³ reservoir at Montagne Piquant	Works practically completed
Setting up of new public fountains	Works practically completed

(Interruptions)

You should have put it in your question. You should have put it!

Mr Chairperson: I have been sufficiently patient, I want no interruption, please. I am getting hungry.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, allow me to continue.

Project	Remarks
Procurement of HDPE pipes and fittings	Procurement ongoing (and it is on a as and when required basis)
Construction of bus shelter around the island	This is ongoing. We also constructed one at Papayes

(Interruptions)

Project	Remarks
Construction of concrete access roads in	Works are ongoing

villages	
Infrastructural works for setting up of a new cemetery	Works ongoing and it is almost completed

Infrastructure in view of setting up of...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Silent, please!

The Chief Commissioner: Construction of track roads (I have said), it is ongoing.

These are some of the capital projects, of the projects which are under the responsibility of the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office. Unless you want me to come further with another of the Commissioner, I can just outline it.

Mr Lisette: The Chief Commissioner is the Commissioner for Finance and he is responsible for budget monitoring. I would like to ask him whether there is a status of the budget in mechanism to know the status of the budget at a particular point in time and during what timeframe is this being done by his Commissioner, and if so, to provide the status, if available, as at June 2025?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we do have Budget Monitoring Committee. It is not only for capital budget; it is also for recurrent budget. We ask Commission to come at the Central Administration and we have regular meetings. But I can say that we have had more regular meetings at the end of each financial year. It is a usual practice to have a more regular meeting to monitor closely the standing capacity of Commissions. And, during the meeting also we take decisions whether to reallocate money and whether we can use the money elsewhere depending on the spending capacity of the Commissions. ... Accounting Officers, they also monitor their budget together with the Finance Officers with the collaboration of the Island Chief Executive and other staff of the EPMU. So, we have regular meetings. We have the figures, of course, but for at the end of this year, we have to wait to have the final figures.

Mr Lisette: Based on the answer given by the Chief Commissioner, I would like to know because he said that there has been continuous or regular monitoring at the end of the financial year for 2025, I would like to know what was the effective amount of fund used for capital budget out of the Rs1.4 M that was provided for that financial year?

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(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: They are coming back to the initial question said by the Minority Leader.

(Interruptions)

Yes, I told you, you have to wait. Because we have carry over.

(Interruptions)

We have to wait. Yes, but you have to wait. As at June, I do not have the exact figure. But one thing I can tell you, we have had difficulties as I have explained in my answer. We have had difficulties. There has been the Global Consultancy which has stopped, we have had the elections. Also the e-procurement coming into force. So, these have had negative impact on our budget, Mr Chairperson, Sir. But the trend, I would say, I was looking at the trend in the past financial years, the trend is about Rs700 or Rs750 M as far as capital project is concerned. It is a trend. I took the figures 2017, it was Rs700 M and we have reached it, Mr Chairperson, Sir. And, the Finance Officer told me - I do not have the exact figure but we reached that figure also.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I see that the Chief Commissioner has got a lot of information in front of him for all the Commissions. He has stated about the information for Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office. I would like to know if you can take note inform the House from the note that he has in front of him about the amount used for housing, in which Rs110 M were provided for financial year 2024-2025? Can he inform the House of the amount used for housing project of the Rs110 M?

The Chief Commissioner: Give me some time, please. Yes, I do not have the exact figures but what I know, works are ongoing.

(Interruptions)

Non, non, non, non.

M. le président, cette affaire de maison. Il y a quelqu'un, le respecté Membre François qui va au Parlement – *wey pran enn lacaz li ranze*. A chaque fois je vous dis ça. Il faut être honnête, M. le président. Le projet de *Housing*, on a tous les projets sur *self-help*. Il y a plus de 90%. Il y a des gens qui déjà habitent dans leurs maisons. Mais cet argent, M. le président – le budget qui a été *allocated* l'année dernière c'est pour *self-*

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help, tous ce qui est *improvement of trust fund type housing units* et aussi *casting of slab*. Alors, l'argent, M. le président, sur cet item, *Housing*, tout le temps il y a un manque de budget concernant l'item *Housing*. Donc, l'argent a été judicieusement utilisé au bénéfice de ceux qui ont eus leurs maisons.

(Interruptions)

If I do not have it, how can I provide it to you?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Before I ask you to withdraw this word but let us break for lunch.

One last question? Okay. One last question from the Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: *Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner was telling that every year the trend is Rs 700 millions, ainsi de suite. Rs 700 millions sur Rs 900 millions et Rs 700 millions sur Rs 1.4 milliard, ce n'est pas la même chose.*

M. le président, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire, il a énuméré les raisons pour lesquelles il n'a pas pu dépenser tout le budget ou la majeure partie du budget annonçait, peut-il nous dire si sa commission, donc lui et son gouvernement, ne souffre pas d'un sérieux problème de *poor planning* ? Parce que toutes ces questions élections, on savait qu'il y avait les élections et qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire pour remédier à ce problème de planning qu'il fait face aujourd'hui pour ne pas pouvoir dépenser ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, ça c'est l'opinion de la respecté *Minority Leader*. Okay. Et puis, en parlant ainsi elle blâme les officiers. Il faut comprendre. Ce n'est pas nous. Ce n'est pas nous, les politiciens...

(Interruptions)

Kapav repon la s'il vous plait ?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I know it is a very passionate question but please order. Allow the Commissioner to answer the question.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, *je redis*. I am answering the question. Let me have the time to answer my question, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Yes, c'est blâme les officiers. Oui, je maintiens. Vous êtes en train de blâmer les officiers pour dire que...

(Interruptions)

Pour monitoring.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

The Chief Commissioner: Can I answer, once again, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

C'est maltraité les officiers. Il rencontre des difficultés. A l'époque où vous étiez au pouvoir et maintenant, c'est différent, M. le président. Ce système de *e-procurement*, ce e-proc, c'était optionnel. Mais là c'est obligatoire, M. le président. C'est presque obligatoire. Vous savez comment c'est difficile. Vous savez l'année financière passe, vous savez combien de fois on a lancé des *tenders* pour acheter des items. A chaque fois *turned down, relaunched, relaunched*. Vous à époque c'était facile. Mais imaginez maintenant. Même pour la route, M. le président, c'est compliqué, ça devient compliqué. Et nous ce qu'on fait – et là, je dis au Island Chief Executive de venir de l'avant avec des *trainings* pour les Finance Officer, pour les Departmental Heads, pour les Administrative Officers et plus tard étendre ça à tout le monde. Parce qu'ils doivent être *updated* surtout les practices de tout ce qui concerne la finance etc., etc. Venir dire que ça... Non, M. le président. Pourquoi vous venez avec la question ? Pour dire soi-disant on a retourné de l'argent à Maurice. Mais vous, vous à l'époque du COVID, M. le président, ils ont retourné de l'argent à Maurice.

(Interruptions)

Même avant, M. le président. Même avant, M. le président.

(Interruptions)

Allez voir le *trend*. Pourquoi vous n'avez pas pose la question ? Posez-moi la question ! A chaque fois l'argent reste, M. le président. Le trend c'est à peu près Rs 700,000. La question que moi je me pose – *is it this figure around Rs700 M or Rs800 M, is it the spending capacity of the RRA*, et c'est là, la question que j'ai posée au Island Chief

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Executive, j'ai dit il faut voir. Et nous lorsque j'ai parlé au Premier ministre, lorsque j'ai parlé au Premier ministre il m'a dit on te donne Rs 785 M pour le budget capital mais si jamais, tu en as besoin et même en partant à Maurice là, l'Acting Island Chief Executive et son équipe, ils ont rencontré le Financial Secretary, ils ont tenu le même langage disant que si jamais, il aura des manquements au niveau de...

(Interruptions)

Mo pou al sipliye ankor impe !

(Interruptions)

Yes, M. le président, s'il y a un manque de budget concernant les projets capitaux, ils vont voir. Et laissez-moi vous dire une chose, c'est que tous les projets sont déjà on et bien sûr il y aura un manque d'argent concernant les projets capitaux à Rodrigues. Merci.

Mr Chairperson: Now let us break for one hour.

At 12.57 p.m., the sitting was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 2.11 p.m. with the Chairperson in the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Chairperson: Respected Members, at the last sitting, I have informed the House that the Deputy Chief Commissioner would be invited to present his formal apologies to the House. Deputy Chief Commissioner, you may proceed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, before I present my apologies, I would like to come on your statement which you made during the last of 23 April 2025 and confirm that we did meet and talk about what happened and maybe I regret certain things which have not been stated but I do not want to pursue this matter further and I apologies to the House for behaviour that may have caused disruption. Thank you.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

BUDGET MEASURES ANNOUNCED & VOTED – CAPITAL BUDGET

(No. B/67) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the budget measures announced and voted at the sitting of 10 April 2025 under the Capital Budget, he will (a) outline, commission-

wise, the measures that were removed or added in line with the budget approved by Central Government on 18 April 2025, together with the allocated amounts, and (b) table the list of measures and projects to be implemented during the current financial year, commission-wise?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act No.1 of 2001, Section 44 makes mention that the Chief Commissioner, should submit to the Regional Assembly in respect of its functions, draft estimates for the next financial year for approval and then submit to the minister the draft estimates approved by the Regional Assembly for consideration by Cabinet.

Further to usual budget consultations and other technical working sessions, on 19 March 2025, the Ministry of Finance issued a letter to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly mentioning that approval has been obtained for total expenditure of Rs5.605 billion for the year 2025-2026, of which R 4.820 billion for recurrent expenditure and Rs785 M for capital expenditure.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in line with Section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, Annual Estimates

“(1) - whereby mention is made that the Commissioner to whom responsibility for the subject of finance is assigned shall, not later than 31 March in every year, submit to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in respect of its functions, draft estimates of recurrent revenue, recurrent expenditure, capital revenue and capital expenditure for the next financial year; the Budget as prepared according to the correspondence of 19 March 2025 was presented to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.”

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to refer to that section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, amended by [Act No. 1 of 2009] (2) which quote:

“The Rodrigues Regional Assembly shall approve the draft estimates submitted in accordance with subsection (1), subject to such modifications as it thinks fit”.

This section sets out clearly that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is endowed with the responsibility and power as necessary to modify the estimates as it thinks fit.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, ceci est un acte courageux, voire historique où l'on a osé, oui, je dis bien on s'est accordé pour la première fois, de mettre en application cette section de la loi de l'Assemblée Régionale.

It is the first time, that a Chief Commissioner applies the Section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act fully, *dans son intégralité*, *M. le président*, and submits an estimates to the minister further to the vote of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, taking into consideration the opinion of the Parliament.

On nous a blâmé. Nous avons eu des attaques disant qu'on a induit l'Assemblée en erreur. Mais, *M. le président*, nous avons réfléchi et puis nous avons agi.

Cette acte historique est un signal fort que nous avons osé transcrire ce que signifie être 'autonome' en actions. Et oui, *M. le président*, nous avons réussi.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, allow me to reply to parts (a) of both questions B/67 and B/68, which refers to the measures added or removed under the Capital Budget and Recurrent Budget respectively, in line with the budget approved by the government on 18 April 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to enlighten the house as regards the budget measures under the Capital and the Recurrent Estimates:

As I mentioned, in March, a correspondence was sent regarding the approval of the Budget, and those quanta approved are the sums of a list of approved items and budgets which shall thereafter be reallocated under specific vote items and sub-heads accordingly.

The projects, prior to being included under Budget Estimates, need to have been appraised and approved by the Public Investment Management Unit (PIMU) at the Ministry of Finance, in line with the Financial Instructions No 1 of 2019, Capital Projects Process Manual (CPPM).

Therefore, for a project to be included in the Budget Estimates of a specific financial year, after having been appraised and favourably considered by the Ministry of Finance and Cabinet approval obtained, same is included in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) which is a database of public sector capital projects. This implies, *Mr*

Chairperson, Sir, that we do not have this right nor capacity to add any project without having sought the consent of these bodies in a first instance.

The proposed amendments to the Budget presented in March were only as regards to the quantum, that is the budget allocated to the different initially approved measures and projects, which I read at the presentation of the Budget Speech on 28 March 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to budget approved by the government on 18 April 2025, no modification has been made to any item and no new project has been added.

Concerning the amount of funds allocated to the different measures, these are highlighted under the corresponding Vote Items and Sub-Heads in the Budget Estimates as submitted earlier.

In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Capital Budget is the same as had been presented on 28 March 2025.

As regards to part (b), Mr Chairperson, Sir, of the question, that is, the list of measures and projects to be implemented during the current financial year, I will invite Members to refer to the Budget Estimates which has been tabled this morning itself.

The projects and measures are as per the Budget Speech I presented on 28 March 2025 and debated during the Budget Debate and Draft Estimates Committee of 10 April 2025. These projects and measures remain the same.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is no new project or measure which has been added and there is no project or measure which has been removed or modified. The only difference lies in the quantum allocated to each item. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, l'histoire retiendra que c'est la première fois après 23 d'autonomie qu'un budget est déposé aujourd'hui après presque cinq mois à l'Assemblée Régionale datant du 28 mars alors qu'on est aujourd'hui le 19 août.

M. le président, le Chef commissaire je pense se souviendra qu'on a voté ici un budget capital de Rs 990 millions. Il avait annoncé dans son discours 785, on a voté 990, maintenant on a, dans ce budget, on va implémenter un projet avec un montant de 785 millions. Donc, comment se fait-il, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire comment se fait-il de 990 à 785, il y a presque 125 de moins, comment peut-il expliquer qu'il n'y a pas eu de projet enlever ou bien ajouter ou bien modifier ?

The Chief Commissioner: J'ai simplement dit que on n'a pas ajouté d'autre projet, on n'a pas enlevé aussi mais ce n'est que les quantums. On a jonglé sur les quantums. Il faut comprendre aussi, M. le président, que nous, nous avons utilisé cette clause de la loi Section 44 pour modifier le budget, nous avons osé, comme j'ai dit. Mais le dernier mot c'est le Cabinet qui décidé. Et j'ai rencontré le Vice-premier ministre, nous avons discuté. J'ai même rencontré le Premier ministre après ça et bien sûr il m'a dit, ben voilà écoutez on va emmener au Cabinet pour voir, pour débattre de ça. Et bien sûr, contrairement au *reccurrent quantum* qu'on a eu dans le budget qu'on a approuvé ici, il y a eu une augmentation. Une augmentation et nous sommes très contents d'avoir eu en plus Rs 180 millions pour pouvoir mener à bien les autres projets.

(Interruptions)

Pardon? Dans le *recurrent*. Mais je dois dire une chose, M. le président. Concernant le capital, les projets, capital, le ministère des Finances nous a dit et nous a promis, si jamais, il y a un manque de budget concernant les projets, capital, ils vont revoir le budget. Donc, ils ont donné leurs paroles et bien sur vous savez avec toutes ces histoires de *moody's*, etc., etc., il fallait garder un seuil, pas trop dépasser, pas trop gonfler le budget et bien sûr nous nous sommes tenus à ça et nous attendons. Bien sûr, si jamais, il y aura manque de budget... je prends un exemple des voitures, on aurait dû payer les voitures et il y a eu un manque au niveau du ministère des Finances, ils ont tardé à réagir, ça a été *lapsed* mais ils ont dit prenez votre argent et puis on va rembourser. Donc, ce qui fait qu'il y a quand même une collaboration entre mon bureau et le ministère des Finances pour mener à bien les projets.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, ne serais-je que je vais prendre un seul exemple. Donc, quand on a eu ce budget ce matin dont rapidement j'ai pris le temps de voir les dotations pour les différentes commissions. Je peux voir que par exemple, *Vote 3.2 under the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office – Water*, donc cette dotation accuse une différence de plus de Rs 95 millions, c'est-à-dire, qu'on avait voté ici Rs 676,337,000, maintenant on voit que dans le budget qui sera utiliser, qui sera en application on a une dotation de Rs 579 millions. Donc, soit une différence de Rs 96 millions. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir quels sont les projets qui seront affectés par cette dotation ? Si vous n'avez pas enlevé, ça va prendre plus de temps.

The Chief Commissioner: Nous avons rien enlevé, M. le président. C'est juste que concernant les projets, j'ai une liste avec moi là. Du Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office, pour ne pas entrer dans les détails et aussi perdre le temps de l'Assemblée. Concernant *Water*. Donc, il y aura bien sur *Supply of Water Pumps* qui se fait tout le temps, *Procurement of HDPE Pipes*, ça c'est surtout concernant la colonne vertébrale de l'eau, si je ne me trompe pas, *Procurement of Pumps and Panels for Boreholes*, ça c'est aussi – *A Construction of Water Pipelines from Malabar Pumping Station to Ste Famille, Implementation of a Panel Water Distribution from Mte Goyaves to Baladirou, etc., etc.*, M. le président, ainsi que tous ce qui est projet de construction de réservoir circulaire 2,000 m³, etc., etc. Bien sûr, on va voir si jamais aussi il faut *reallocate the fund* ou bien aller demander. Mais n'oublier pas que nous avons le soutien du MIC. MIC, nous soutien dans ce projet et bien sûr s'il y a des manques, s'il y a de l'argent encore qu'on aura besoin ici, on fera la demande.

The Minority Leader: Donc, M. le président, sur un autre sujet. Je vois qu'il y a une baisse de plus de Rs 54 millions par rapport à la commission de Housing, est-ce que je peux savoir si c'est pour cette raison que désormais le gouvernement régional va maintenant faire des maisons en tôle au lieu en dure ?

The Chief Commissioner: Je ne vois pas, je ne comprends pas pourquoi moins Rs 54 millions, c'est capital ça ? Capital ? Oui, mais ça a été diminué. Vous savez le problème, vous savez on a fait notre exercice, on a été discuté avec le ministère des Finances mais ils ont coupé comme ils ont coupés à Maurice. Ils me disent que la situation est difficile. C'est *state of their economy*. Qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire, M. le président ? C'est *state of their economy* et il fallait voir. Mais nous à notre niveau j'ai parlé au commissaire et bien sûr il a ces doléances, on va voir après. Donc, on va utiliser l'argent et comme je vous ai dit, on va en redemander si le besoin se fait sentir.

La question de maison en tôle. Ça maison en tôle, M. le président, ça existait toujours justement. Et puis les autres types de maison, Type 1, 2, 3 et les autres types, l'agent dalle, ça va continuer. Par exemple, l'argent dalle là, le commissaire me disait, hier ou avant-hier, qu'on va donner plus d'une centaine de personne. Ben ça va continuer, M. le président. Mais lorsqu'on aura besoin d'autre fond, ben on ira voir le ministère des Finances.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, funds will be adjusted, meaning decrease, but number of projects is remaining the same. This is what the Commissioner is saying. There has been adjustment of funds with the same number of projects. May I know from the Chief Commissioner what will be the impact as regards to the implementation scheduled with respect to the projects as regards to the fund which has been provided?

The Chief Commissioner: Si un projet par exemple, on a mis mettant Rs 5 millions et on a eu qu'un million. Ben, on ira jusqu'à *preparation of tenders*. Et bien sûr, ça va *overlap* sur l'année prochaine. Comme j'ai dit dans des réponses précédentes, il y a *overlapping* et tout le temps il y a ça, M. le président. *Overlapping* des projets sur l'année prochaine. Bien sûr, ça va impacter ou bien dépendant bien sûr, de la priorité. Moi je dis, on a eu une réunion avec tous les commissaires et aussi le Deputy Chief Commissioner, nous avons dit il faut redéfinir un peu les priorités, voir ce qu'il faut faire. Parce qu'il faut faire avec ce qu'on a, M. le président. Le budget a été réduit et bien sûr, ça va impacter sur ça. Mais les projets prioritaires on va certainement donner priorité.

Mr Lisette: Still in line, Mr Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Chief Commissioner based on the answer that he has just given whether he has already discussed with his colleagues which are the projects which will be impacted, either put on hold or which he is going to proceed up to preparation of tender document before launching? Has this exercise already been done, and if yes, can he give us at least an idea of which of these projects are?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, bien sûr, on en a discuté comme j'ai dit dans ma réponse précédente, on a discuté. Et bien sûr, on va voir quel est les projets prioritaires. Bien sûr, il y a les projets de logement. Les projets populaires. Regardez, par exemple, M. le président, il y avait un manque d'argent concernant pour *top up*, concernant les *School Feeding Programme Project*. On a mis de l'argent à travers ces Rs 180 millions qu'on a eu. Il y a l'argent pour les pêcheurs, *Bad Weather Allowance*, on a mis de l'argent. Donc, les projets populaires et aussi... *Sorry?*

(Interruptions)

Capital projects ? Oui, bien sûr. Il y a des projets, capital. Il y a le *carry over*, on a fait. Mais il y a des projets, comme je vous ai dit, qui *overlap* sur l'année prochaine. La commissaire de la Femme a des projets. Un projet très important concernant la femme

pour justement exposer leurs produits. Il faut le faire. Vous avez le restaurant de Mont Limon. Qui ne connaît pas l'histoire de ce restaurant ? Que vous vous n'avez pas pu rénover jusqu'à maintenant. Mais nous, on va le faire. On le fait déjà. Et là, on le fait déjà. Donc, c'est un projet prioritaire.

Dans le sport, Roche Bon Dieu. Vous savez, M. le président, on a eu beaucoup d'héritage de l'ancien gouvernement. Le Techno Park aussi pareil.

Regardez le projet de Roche Bon Dieu, vous êtes partie, vous n'avez pas pu honorer votre engagement et là pour nous c'est prioritaire. Non seulement ça, M. le président, les affaires qui étaient en Cour, parce que l'ancien gouvernement ils ont mal géré les projets. Vous savez, M. le président, il y a quelqu'un qui nous poursuit là à plus de cent millions à cause des projets que l'ancien gouvernement ils ont mal géré. Là on a ça là. Et on a fait appel, espérons qu'on gagne le *case*, M. le président. Il y a plusieurs exemples, le projet de stade Daniel André, pareil, on a dû dépenser beaucoup d'argent et là, la personne vient encore nous dire avec un *claim*, etc., etc., M. le président. Donc, il y a tout ça a géré. Et en plus on a eu cette baisse dans le budget et là j'ai été voir ceux qui sont responsable pour leur dire bon, voilà on a un souci, il y a tout ça ben il faudra voir comment géré tous câbles et comment nous donner de l'argent pour aller de l'avant. Et c'est sûre, je rassure la Chambre que nous irons de l'avant avec bien sûr tout ce qui est projet capitale, les projets prioritaires, les projets populaires pardon. Merci.

Mr Lisette: The Commissioner is beating around the bush. My question was very clear. The question that I put was - with the reduce amount in the budget allocated by Cabinet he has had to made some adjustment as regards to the capital projects. Yes, my question was clear which are these capital projects which are going to be affected? You have the connection in any one of these.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will invite the Member, either to come with a substantive question or if you want, I will take my time and list some of the projects. Let me take my time.

M. le président, nous avons le projet de la Résidence, nous avons le projet de la Résidence bien sûr il faut donner prioritaire parce que c'est la vitrine de Rodrigues, c'est là où on reçoit beaucoup de personne, les dignitaires etc., etc. c'est un patrimoine bien sûr concernant ce...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Allow the Commissioner to answer the question please.

The Chief commissioner: *It has been affected.* Yes, M. le président est-ce que je peux répondre à la question ? Ils savent déjà. Ils n'ont pas de contrôle sur ce que je vais dire. Laissez-moi dire.

Yes, M. le président. Il y a le projet de *conversion of old store building into new administrative block*, on a justement, ça c'est un exemple. Si vous voulez un exemple concret d'un projet ou... Bien sûr, ça va impacter. On a un manque de bureau à l'administration, on a un manque de bureau et il faudra trouver de la place. Et pour construire un bâtiment pareil, M. le président, ça va coûter des centaines de millions de roupies. Oui bien sûr, mais là on travaille, on travaille bien sûr sur le *design* et bien sûr arriver jusqu'à *tendering stage*. Aller je vais dire juste quelques projets. Il y a le projet bassin, il y a les routes, il y a bien sûr projet *housing* qu'on va donner priorité, il y a les projets des *club house* qui va un peu impacter. Et tous les projets c'est il y a des items, tous les items il y a de l'argent mais le quantum comme je vous ai dit à diminuer, les projets scolaires la construction des écoles etc., *additional classroom*. Il y a aussi tout, M. le président.

Donc, bref il y a aussi des *infrastructural works* à faire dans à l'hôpital. L'hôpital qu'est-ce qu'on n'a pas fait, M. le président ? Combien d'argent on a pas mis dans cette hôpital-là. Donc, ça aussi quelque part ça va être impacter. Mais comme je vous ai dit, nous irons voir le, ministère des Finances à Maurice pour demander encore plus d'argent si jamais.... Alors qu'est-ce qu'on a fait nous au niveau des commissions, on a dit au Departmental Head de préparer les *tender documents*, de préparer les *designs at least* les designs. Donc, on va bien sûr avec tous les designs, tous les préparatifs, aller voir le ministère des Finances pour avoir de l'argent justement pour pouvoir lancer des tenders etc., etc. On ne va pas s'asseoir, on va travailler toutes les paperasseries afin de pouvoir *implement* les projets.

Mr Baptiste: M. le président, le Chef commissaire a parlé de l'héritage qu'ils ont eu depuis trois ans avec des projets mal ficeler ou mal géré de l'ancien gouvernement, est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire, nous donner deux, trois exemples des gros projets, stade ou bâtiments publics que son gouvernement a commencé ou qu'il va

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implemented, will be implemented during this financial year. New projects, capital projects, big projects already started or new project that will start in this financial year?

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: Buildings? Bien sûr, je n'ai pas tout en tête, M. le président. Oui, bien sûr. Il y a des constructions, il y a des constructions en cours et bien sûr ça va terminer au cours de cette année financière, bien sûr, M. le président, bien sûr.

Mr Baptiste: My question was clear; I have asked to give two/three examples of something which is concrete so that you can show the examples that what you have started will be implemented in a better way than the previous government. Give two/three specific projects?

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner : M. le président, on a les projets de... Vous savez on pose des questions mais il faut comprendre que nous aussi, nous avons fait le.... Allez à Manique - *be wi zot pa kon anba laba mem zot, zot bizin...* Allez à Manique, M. le président.

(Interruptions)

Allez à Manique, allez voir, M. le président. *Be ki zot problem ?* Pointe Coton, allez voir à Pointe Coton. Mais pourquoi est-ce que vous...

(Interruption)

Ki fer zot bizin exsite, ki fer zot bizin exsite?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: We move to...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: I have said order. I said order we move to next question. Next question, please.

BUDGET MEASURES ANNOUNCED AND VOTED – RECURRENT BUDGET

(No. B/68) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the budget measures announced and voted at the

sitting of 10 April 2025 under the Recurrent Budget, he will (a) outline, commission-wise, the measures removed or added in line with the budget approved by Central Government on 18 April 2025, together with the amounts allocated, and (b) table the list of measures and projects to be implemented during the current financial year, commission-wise?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir,

(Interruptions)

Eoula fer letour Rodrig al gete ki nou pe fer do. Eoula al Pointe Coton laba, al partou al gete. Eoula fer gro batiman apre pa fini.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, further to the correspondence of the Ministry of Finance in March mentioning that a grant of Rs4.820 billion had been approved by the government for the Recurrent Budget, the Members of this House will recall that on 10 April 2025 an amendment of an increase of Rs196 M was voted in this House.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with this voted amendment, the figure for Recurrent Budget as submitted to Cabinet stood at Rs5.096 billion for consideration, again in line with Section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. What we did, Mr Chairperson, Sir, no one ever dared to apply this section of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

We also knew that, by so doing, our proposed amendments could go through, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Mais comme le dit ce proverbe « *Qui ne tente rien, n'a rien* ». Quand même ça, M. le président, avant de venir, d'appliquer ce cette section de la loi j'avais parlé au Premier ministre pour lui dire qu'il y aura des changements dans le budget qu'on va proposer et qu'on va soumettre au cabinet.

This increase that we proposed, Mr Chairperson, Sir, did not comprise any new project or new measure being added over and above to what had been initially submitted for consideration by the concerned ministries to that budgetary exercise.

M. le président, ceci restera à jamais dans les annales que c'est la première fois qu'on a osé, comme je le dis juste avant, osé faire valoir la loi de l'autonomie en ce qui concerne l'allocation qui nous est attribuée pour le développement de notre île et le fonctionnement de tous nos services.

It is the first time over 23 years of our autonomy, that a Chief Commissioner has applied the Section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

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M. le président, et si nous nous étions tus et accepté le budget de Rs4 milliards et 820 millions, est-ce qu'aujourd'hui nous aurions eu le budget de Rs5 milliards ? Est-ce que nous avons eu tort d'avoir eu cette audace de remettre en question le budget attribué à Rodrigues comme le prévoit la loi, M. le président ?

M. le président, grâce à cette acte de courage et de bravoure, le budget qui avait été consenti par le Gouvernement Central est passé de Rs4,820,000,000, soit une hausse de Rs180 millions en comparaison avec le montant initial.

Cette hausse ainsi répartie, nous permettra entre autres de recruter davantage de personnes au sein de la fonction publique '*ban labourer*', qui d'ailleurs fait face à un manque de personnel pour un meilleur service à la population et réduire le chômage sur l'île.

Cette hausse nous permettra de donner des 'bassins' pour le captage de l'eau de pluie, à un plus grand nombre de bénéficiaires en comparaison avec ce qui était initialement approuvé par le ministère des Finances.

Cette hausse a également permis à ce que l'on revoit à la hausse des plans d'aides qui avaient été revus à la baisse dans le montant initialement approuvé par le ministère des Finances par exemple, nous avons pu remettre un budget pour le *Incentive for Livestock Production* et les autres *schemes* pour permettre aux planteurs et éleveurs d'accroître leurs productions.

Cette hausse permet également d'assurer le montant requis pour les allocations en cas de mauvais temps aux pêcheurs d'une carte et aussi de poursuivre le plan de travaux alternatifs (*travail alternatif*) au cours des campagnes de fermeture de pêche.

M. le président, les plans pour la jeunesse, le développement de la femme et de la famille ainsi que pour fournir un repas aux écoliers, ont également été augmenté par rapport à ce qui avait été initialement approuvé par le gouvernement central.

M. le président, nous voyons aujourd'hui que notre audace et notre requête n'ont pas été vaines. Tout ceci a été possible grâce à un dialogue ouvert avec nos partenaires à Maurice et une relation de confiance.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, the reply would be the same as for question B/67, that is the measures and projects are as per the speech I

presented in March and the recurrent measures/schemes are clearly listed in the Budget Estimates. I wish to reiterate, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that no new measure or project or any other activity has been added to this budget neither that any project or measure has been removed from the initial approved list, only the quantum allocated to each item differs. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, quand je regarde dans le *estimates* que le Chef commissaire a soumis ce matin donc je peux voir qu'en 2024/2025 sur le *funded position* on avait un *total* de 4,129 et dans l'année 2025/2026 on a un *total* de 3,411. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut nous dire s'il a discuté d'avantage pour que ces 718 postes qu'on avait en 2024/2025 qu'on a pas pu recruter, je ne sais pas pour qu'elle raison, je ne sais pas qu'est-ce qui va se passer pour ses 718 postes-là qui n'est pas *funded*, comment il a discuté de ses sujets-là ?

The Chief Commissioner : M. le président, justement une très bonne question. Alors, l'équipe qui est partie sur Maurice pour aller discuter du budget, nous a fait comprendre que tous qui est HR ils ont comme on dit 'tailler'. Donc nous sommes en discussion avec le ministre de la Fonction Publique bien sûr, là qui arrive au courant de la semaine pour plus ample discussion et bien sûr nous allons voir. C'est vrai, je suis d'accords qu'on comptait justement sur ce budget pour pouvoir remplir ces postes mais malheureusement faute, comme je vous ai dit, des situations difficiles à Maurice, et on n'a pas pu. Mais toujours est-il que, M. le président, nous avons été à Maurice. Moi-même j'ai été voir le ministre l'Honorable Pentiah qui bien sûr vient, je pense le 24, il arrive sur Rodrigues pour plus de discussion concernant justement les postes, etc.

The Minority leader: Je peux savoir du Chef commissaire donc sur, dans budget ce *recurrent budget*, il a parlé de *General Worker*, how many General Worker will be able to be recruited in this budget, in the coming one?

The Minority leader: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it will be around 268 General Workers and we have provided with the budget for only six months and they will be recruited as from January.

Mr Chairperson: Next question:

PROCUREMENT – VEHICLES – FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025

(No. B/69) Mrs R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis, C.S.K. (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the procurement of vehicles during the financial year 2024-2025, he will state and table the amount already paid as at date, together with the item votes from which payments were made?

The Chief commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, since several years, all Commissions, departments and units of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly have been suffering a lack of appropriate transport facilities for their day-to-day operation as well as to provide appropriate services to targeted beneficiaries.

During the course of the Financial Year 2024-2025, a decision was taken to proceed with the acquisition of vehicles for improved service delivery, which were budgeted under the Vote 2-1, sub-head 2-101, item 31121001: Vehicles, Machinery, Equipment and Launch. In the context of the procurement of 33 vehicles, a sum of Rs75,560,000 has been disbursed as at date.

The procurement of these vehicles has become essential to enable the different Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to discharge their respective services efficiently, including but not limited to the following: these are examples-

- (i) One bulldozer, one excavator and one dumper will enable the Environment Department to better maintain natural drains and the eradication of '*Piquant Loulou*' and the conversion of these sites into residential/commercial parcellings or pasture/crop production sites where appropriate;
- (ii) Six water lorries to enable the Commission for Water Resources of the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office to better cope with the forthcoming dry season for an adequate water supply and distribution to the population;
- (iii) Four minibuses will enable the Commission for Health, Commission for Youth and Sports and the Commission for Family Welfare to offer adequate transport services to their respective clients including patients, resident children at the shelter of Baladirou as well as athletes, thereby ensuring their security while reducing also rentals cost, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

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However, during the course of Financial Year 2024-2025, funds were not enough under the corresponding item to meet the expenditure related to this procurement. Consequently, appropriate procedures for *virement*/reallocation within the Capital Budget were initiated but unfortunately, same were not successful on time to enable payment.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I also wish to inform the House that during a recent mission of a delegation led by the Acting Island Chief Executive to Mauritius, this issue was raised during a meeting with the Acting Financial Secretary held on 24 July 2025. Consequently, the Ministry of Finance has confirmed that additional funding, if any, would be considered by the end of Financial Year 2025-2026 after all possible avenues of reallocation have been explored.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the requested information as per question B/69.

Mr Chairperson: So, we move to next question.

**PLACEMENT – “YOUNG AGRICULTURAL LABOURER SCHEME
PROGRAMME”**

(No. B/70) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the placement under the “Young Agricultural Labourer Scheme Programme,” he will state (a) the conditions attached to the recruitment of labourers and the nature of work performed (b) if any notice of termination has been issued, specifying reasons and details of any financial compensation or other benefits, and (c) to table a copy of the contract agreement signed between the parties?

(Vide Reply to PQ B/62)

**RECENT MISSION – DELEGATION TO MAURITIUS – MONITOR & UPDATE
- ACCOMMODATION/PATIENT AND RELATIVES**

(No. B/71) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the recent mission of a delegation to Mauritius to monitor and update the accommodation of all patients and their relatives, he will state (a) the number and capacity of officers involved, (b) the main recommendations made, and (c) if any related report has been prepared in relation thereto, and if so, to table a copy thereof?

(Vide Reply to PQ B/61)

MONT LUBIN AREA HEALTH CENTRE (ZITA JEAN LOUIS) - REOPENING

(No. B/72) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the Mont Lubin Area Health Centre (Zita Jean Louis), he will inform the House if he is contemplating its reopening and, in the affirmative, state the intended opening date and provide details of any upgrading works required, or if not, to state the reasons for not reopening the centre?

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson sir, I am informed that Zita Jean Louis Mont Lubin Area Health Centre has never been closed. The facility was converted into an Isolation Centre since 2021 and it still serves this purpose to date.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, keeping the Zita Jean Louis Mont Lubin Area Health Centre as an Isolation Centre, has been a valuable asset due to containing outbreaks of infectious diseases like COVID-19, Dengue Fever and Chikungunya where it has met its purpose, proving that my policy of maintaining as an Isolation Centre was right.

In this current financial year, my Commission is working on the design for the construction of an alley linking Marie Jacqueline Felicite Area Health Centre to Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre, in view of merging services that both each centres have to offer, notably the X-ray department.

In the same process, I wish to further inform the House that the scopes of works are also being worked out for the renovation of Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre.

In the next financial year, Mr Chairperson sir, my Commission will proceed with the implementation of a Psychiatric Unit in the right wing of the Zita Jean Louis Area Health Centre. It will comprise both a Male and Female Psychiatric Ward, which will be in line with current International Standards and Human rights recommendations.

This initiative, Mr Chairperson Sir, is meant to give these patients their dignity as a human being above all and to provide them with the adequate and safe healthy environment to enable them to undergo their treatment under special care and attention for better recovery. This unit will be annexed to the Tobacco Cessation and CRAC Anti-Drug Unit, which will fall under the aegis of a Psychiatrist. Thank you

Mr Chairperson: Next question

**FREQUENT DISRUPTIONS/SHORTAGES – SUPPLY OF LIQUEFIED
PETROLEUM GAS/RODRIGUES**

(No. B/73) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and Others whether, in regard to the frequent disruptions and shortages in the supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Rodrigues in recent months, she will inform the House if any assessment has been carried out to determine the main causes thereof, and if so, provide details; and further, to state the actions being envisaged to address the issue?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the well-being of our fellow citizens is of same importance for my office.

In this respect, to safeguard the continuous availability of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in Rodrigues, the relevant authorities conducted regular stock-taking exercises of petroleum products and the private company responsible for LPG importation and distribution was strongly advised to take urgent corrective measures to restore adequate supply levels.

The main causes are the supply disruption of LPG are the following reasons:

- Importation and distribution of LPG in Rodrigues is managed by a private company;
- A seasonal surge in demand occurred due to the winter period, leading to increased consumption;
- The company reported different challenges, including reduced importation volumes and delays in distribution;
- It was reported that LPG cylinders designated for domestic use were being diverted for commercial purposes, further straining supply.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, based on the assessment, the following remedial actions were undertaken:

- The company was strongly urged to implement necessary measures to stabilise supply and improve distribution efficiency.
- The company acquired additional logistics to improve distribution, injected 400 new 12 kg commercial cylinders on the market, increased imports of

12 kg cylinders by some 800 cylinders on consecutive shipments to flood the market since mid of July 2025.

- A sensitisation campaign was conducted to educate traders on the legal use of LPG cylinders, with emphasis on preventing the misuse of small domestic cylinders for commercial activities.
- Enforcement of the Consumer Protection (Use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Small Cylinders) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 was intensified to deter illegal practices.
- Following consultations with traders, the company was requested to increase the supply of 12 kg commercial cylinders, with the dual aim of:
 - Improving accessibility and affordability for small operators.
 - Reducing the diversion of domestic-use cylinders.

The situation is being monitored closely and strong commitment shall be required from the company to establish a buffer stock. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Baptiste: Mr Chairperson, Sir, among the causes, the Commissioner mentioned that because it is managed by a private company can we have more information about how will you reconciled the fact that because it is managed by private company that why you are facing with disruption and strategies?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is not the sole reason. I have enumerated different reasons. So, I do not think the Member can only stretch on this point.

Mr Baptiste: Because this was the first reason you mentioned that why we want to know it must be because the question was about the main causes so how far is this a cause that is why I want to know, Mr Chairperson, Sir?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the private company is responsible for the importation of these liquefied petroleum product in Rodrigues. It is responsible for the distribution of these products in all the different region and villages and also if the company has any logistic difficulties for instance, the number of lorry to distribute these products in the different region of the island so there will be a high impact on the consumers.

Mr Baptiste: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, at a certain point in time we also heard that there a monopoly situation in relation to the sole supplier of the LPG gas and fuel in Rodrigues, can we know what are the possible solution that the Commissioner, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in envisaging to break this monopoly because she mentioned it somewhere?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am only responsible for the protection of consumer protection so, I will limit my answer to this only. Thank you.

Mr Baptiste: Mr chairperson, Sir, but in the reply the Commissioner also mentioned that they give certain instructions to the private company then, how can she then give instruction to private company if the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is not taking any of those..., how can we give instruction? What are the kind of instruction that have been given to the company, Mr Chairperson, Sir?

Ms Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think the Members is wrongly interpreting what I have said. I have told that we for instance, the Consumer Protection Officers, the Consumer Affairs Unit, they do regular stock-taking exercises to ensure that we have the right amount of these products in the island. So, when they do their exercises the stock-taking, the amount of LPG is not at the right level we will advise the company to do additional importation to remediate the situation. So, these are not firm instruction to order to do something.

Mr Lisette: May I ask the Commissioner for Consumer Protection, whether she was aware of any recommendation...

Mr Chairperson: Put your mic on, please.

Mr Lisette: Whether she is aware of any recommendation made by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to the company which has cause more harm than good especially as regards to distribution of gases in the North.

Ms Agathe: No, Mr Chairperson, Sir

Mr Chairperson: Time is over.

**STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERSAMENDMENTS – RODRIGUES
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025**

The Chief commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, allowed me to make a statement regarding the amendment made to the Rodrigues Regional Act 2001.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, respected Members, it was with utmost urgency that the Executive Council was called upon to give its views on the Rodrigues Regional Amendment Bill. The request was made by the Ministry for Rodrigues on 18 of June 2025 and the views of the Regional Assembly had to be communicated to them by 08 July 2025. Even though much more delay had to be given to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly yet in light of the urgency of the substance of the proposed amendments as he had to take a quick decision.

After considering the intention of the new Cabinet as set out in the budget speech of the government and the proposed amendment to the definition section of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Executive Council took the decision to approve same and to send our concurrence.

I have to inform this Assembly that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has been requested for its use well before the submission of the Draft Amendment Bill. Prior to that, the Ministry for Rodrigues did send the proposed amendments in tabular form to the Island Chief Executive for the views of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The proposed amendments were examined by the Finance Section and the Legal Office of my Commission as well as the Acting Island Chief Executive.

After a thorough analysis the technical views were sent to the ministry through a letter sent by the latter on 25 June 2025. I need to highlight the fact that our views were taken on board and one of the sub section of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act which was proposed to be deleted was maintained.

I am referring to paragraph (b) of the definition of Estimates which reads – “(b) *includes any supplementary estimates [...] so approved;*”

I do understand that the insistence to maintain this definition was made by the Island Chief Executive upon the advice of the Manager of Financial Operations as a result of the remarks made by the Director of Audit.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act is a protected Act which has been unacted under the provision under chapter VIA of the Constitution. The

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latter provision is entrance provision as they require a qualified majority to be amended. Section 75E are under the chapter of the Constitution provide I quote:

“Subject to the provision of the Constitution, any law giving effect to this Chapter and to any matters incidental thereto shall not be altered without the concurrence of the Regional Assembly unless such alteration is supported at the final voting in the National Assembly by the vote of not less than two thirds of all members.”

It is important to understand that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is defined in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act as including the Executive Council.

Now allowed me to refer to the various amendments that have been brought to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly so far. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act was passed by the National Assembly on 10 of November 2001 and assented by the President of the Republic on 20 November 2001. There have been many amendments brought to that law so far but I do understand that only one amendment has been introduced to the Assembly for prior approval. I am here referring to the amendment to the electoral system in Rodrigues.

I have been appraised that there were amendments even before the constitution of the first Executive Council namely, Acts Nos. 20,28,29 of 2002. In brief Act No. 20 of 2002 is the Finance Act 2002, which brought amendment to section 50 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. It concerns the revenue to be paid to the Consolidated Fund.

Act No. 28 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act brought an amendment to section 64 and set up the Seventh Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Act No. 29 of 2002 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Amendment No. 2 Act 2002 which prescribed additional powers to the President of the Republic of Mauritius. As from 11 October 2002, date of the first Executive Council there have been many amendments, eight in all namely in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015 and 2016. As I mentioned above only one amendment was introduced in this Assembly for approval. The amendment brought by the Act 29 of 2016, there has been no criticism for these amendments that were referred to the Assembly as for the present amendment which has been tabled, it is essential that we adopt the same approach that will be applicable for

government statutory corporation and local authorities in Mauritius. The importance for this method is more explicated in the Budget Speech of the Prime Minister which I am pleased to quote for the benefit of the House:

“Good Public Financial Management, Accountability, Reporting, transparency and fiscal discipline is key to efficient use of resources and boosting economic growth. To this end the performance based budgeting system will also be re-introduced in stationary bodies, local authorities and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as from financial year 2026/2027 to systematically link funding with result and outcomes, help to reduce wastage and contribute towards increasing accountability, the Statutory Bodies, Accounts and Audit Act, the Local Government Act and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act will be amended accordingly.”, unquote.

I do understand that the OPR representatives at the National Assembly have tabled questions on financial transparency. There has not been any objection made by any other Rodriguan representatives at the National Assembly. The Executive Council has approved the contents of the Amendment Bills in the long title the explanatory memorandum of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Bill 2025, the object of the amendment is set out, I quote:

“The object of the bill is to amend the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act to provide for:

- (a) The introduction of the Performance Based Budgeting so as to first, link funds with result and outcomes and improve operational efficiency in the administration of Rodrigues, and secondly enforce greater fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency.*
- (b) The preparation of estimates of expenditure based on programmes and sub-programmes on a free fiscal year rolling basis specifying the resources to be allocated. the outcomes to be achieved and output to be delivered.*
- (c) The estimates of expenditure for the first year to be approved by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and*
- (d) The preparation of estimates of revenue on a free fiscal year rolling basis and the estimates for the first year to be approved by*

the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The bill makes further provision for matters connected and related thereto.”, unquote.

The Amendment Bill has already been passed in the National Assembly on 01 August 2025. All the representatives from Rodrigues have approve the amendments. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

DEVELOPMENTS & FINANCING – WATER SECTOR REFORM

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, allowed me to make a statement regarding some developments, finance in the water sector and also some issues we are having temporarily with the central region. As you are aware, Mr Chairperson, Sir, this regional government embarked on an ambitious reform of the water sector in Rodrigues and we are now more than 50% in the progress of this water reform.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to report on our progress regarding the major investments which we are making following the agreement between central government and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Commission for Water Resources to inject Rs1 billion into the water sector in Rodrigues.

As a responsible and visionary Commission forming part of this regional government we had from day one work on our policies and targets for the five years 2022-2027. We have more than 20 objectives including: -

- (i) infrastructure: water quality, training of personal, reform of the distribution networks at three levels, at central levels to promote a transfer network for Rodrigues;
- (ii) a secondary network which will ensure transfer of water between reservoir, and
- (iii) transfer network from reservoir to main distribution villages.

This is, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a major project, major policy, which no Regional Government before has done. We are proud of all the results being achieved in water and we are also conscious of all the challenges. Allowed me to explain and inform the House about what has been done with the MIC money to date.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as at to date we have received and paid Rs114.6 M on the MIC money on projects that I will detailed briefly. In terms of setting up of desalination

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plants, we have the construction of a 1,045 m² buildings for the desalination plant at Pointe Coton which project value allocated to a contracted of Rs44.5 M. As at date we have paid Rs14.1 M. we have to pay in this current financial year Rs30.4 M. There is also the design, supply, installation and commissioning of three times 350 m³ containerised sea water reverse osmosis plant which had a project value of Rs66 M of which Rs60 M have been paid and we have an outstanding balance of Rs6 M this year. As these 350 m³ have been installed as you are aware at Pointe Coton, at Caverne Bouteille and at Anse aux Anglais and are working to our satisfaction and are alleviating the water demand, the water supply in these regions.

As regards reservoir, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have constructed two times 1,000 m³ circular reservoir which you will see, I think you will like the colour blue, pale blue colour at Pointe Coton for the cost of Rs44 M and of which we have paid Rs26 M out of the MIC money remaining Rs18 M during this financial year. This is visible. Pointe Coton is a *chantier* today for our water project. We have purchase water meters for Crève Coeur to the tune of...

As regards borehole, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the result is mitigated, we had project value allocated of Rs14.2, we have paid as at 30 June 2025 Rs9.5 M and there is an outstanding balance of Rs4.7 M.

As regards the water sector, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am proud to announce that all contracts that will bring a 300 mm water pipe up to *Ti Brile* have been allocated, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The Pointe Coton to Petit Brûlé water network has been allocated to Chan Lee Company Limited by the RPUC following due process in terms of procurement for the sum of Rs114 M. We have not paid anything; we have to pay this year.

Electromechanical work for the primary network has been allocated to a company Aqua Science Limited for Rs33 M.

The extension of the CEB network to new desalination plant at Pointe Coton to the tune of Rs3.1 M will have to be paid.

We have consultancies for Luxconsult, Mecorot and Enduro Consult Rs20 M. We have paid Rs9 M, there is a balance of Rs11 M.

Pump and transformer room at Montagne Piquant 3.7. And, we have also under the Commission itself, we have funded the Montagne Piquant reservoir. A Member was

asking for projects, look at the Montagne Piquant reservoir, it is beautiful, look at the beautiful reservoir, the first one of its type. I am proud as Commissioner for Water Resources to bring to your attention the near construction of the first 2000 m³ water reservoir at Manique, Mr Chairperson, Sir. So we have started at Pointe Coton, the beginning - Alpha and we are reaching Manique - Omega where our major network will reach Manique, it will also go up to Baie Topaze, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Therefore, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have commitments payable in 2025/2026, that is, this year about 385 million and the money which has been allocated in the National Budget under 'Investment in Companies', not in our budget, I think it is in the Prime Minister's Office is Rs340 M, which means that already, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have a deficit of Rs45 M that we have to account for and these projects have already been allocated. With our friends from the SCP and other consultant, we are nearing completion of tender documents and finalisation of the *tracé* for the water network to keep moving to Montagne Patate and another branch to go to Malartic and Quatre Vent and finally, to papaya Montagne Cabris and Manique. Unfortunately, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we do not have financial provision for this year despite the fact that we have not yet spent the Rs1 billion, we have attempted to negotiate and to meet the people from the MIC. There is a bit of a confusion and we are still asking for appointment with the relevant authorities in Mauritius so that we can clear out the funding for the water sector in Rodrigues. Because at present we do not have the money to move ahead and to allocate additional contracts which are nearly ready for the progress of the works. We believe that in the next year, if we get the money this year and before the end of this mandate, water will flow every week to people house Mr Chairperson, Sir. So, they dream, we will realise, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Apart from this we have had last week a meeting of our water...

(Interruptions)

Pa pe realise la kin dir twa la.

(Interruptions)

Ah merci, merci, zot enãn zot pa kon explike. Zot enãn zot. Zot enãn zot pa pe explike. Lopital modern.

M. le président, on sait l'équipe de l'eau, la RPUC et les autres sections qui restent toujours sous la Water Unit, la section Est et la section Centrale, nous nous sommes rencontrées. Il n'y a pas de gros souci dans les autres secteurs. Comme je vous ai dit il y a l'accord des trois par 350 m³ sont significatifs pour ces régions et aussi je suis fière d'annoncer que sous l'égide d'un jeune ingénieur, un jeune l'auréat Rodriguais, Ravanne, garçon Ravanne, on a pu avec, son équipe bien sûre, et les autres de la RPUC, ils ont su selon moi en quelque sorte maîtriser l'outil du dessalement quand ils ont des pannes, ils sont même en train démonter, ils sont en train de réparer. Cela contraste avec l'image que j'avais eu quand j'étais parti pour la première fois en 2022 faire un constat a Pointe Coton où les panneaux électriques étaient pourris et rouillés. Donc, on a donc on a remis en place cela.

Nous avons seulement pour l'instant un problème dans la Région Centre et je voudrais annoncer cela que nous prenons des mesures. Nous allons rencontrer les travailleur, les officiers de cette région et nous demander aux autres régions d'aider. Donc la fréquence de distribution d'eau sera affectée significativement dans la Région Centre, Petit Gabriel, Malartic, etc., parce que nous avons des pompes dans le *borehole* de Lataniers, dans le *borehole* de Malabar qui sont en pannes. Malheureusement, ils n'ont pas prévu des pompes de remplacement et ses pompes doivent être importer du Danemark, doivent même être fabriquer et ça va prendre un moment, d'ici deux ou trois mois. Je déjà donner des instructions pour le *procurement*, les appels d'offres pour ces pompes qui on soit déjà était lancé ou qui vont être lancé incessamment.

J'ai aussi une bonne nouvelle à annoncer, nous allons recevoir six camions citernes qui va nous aider dans la période sèche.

M. le président, on continue sur la bonne voie dans le secteur de l'eau, nous espérons qu'avec les travaux du budget et les autres *issues* à Maurice, ils ont complété, on va pouvoir enfin avoir ceux concerner à Maurice pour leur montrer le bon travail qui a été fait dans l'eau à Rodrigues et la nécessité de débloquer le fond promis pour le développement de l'eau.

Merci.

**SURVEY – MEDICAL EQUIPMENT – TEAM FROM THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND WELLNESS – JUNE 2025**

/UNREVISED/

Mr Volbert: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make statement regarding the survey carried out on our medical equipment by a team from the Ministry of Health and Wellness in June this year.

First allowed me to clarified that in view of improving the quality of services in our health sector, I made a request to the Minister of Health and Wellness during to my mission to Mauritius in the beginning of the year to assist in a medical and clinical audit. The idea behind the audit was to assess our health system so as to identify our weaknesses with the aim of optimising our resources.

Later I was informed that Mauritius does not have the expertise for clinical audit but they will help with the medical audit. As a result, from the 09 to 14 June this year, a team from the Ministry of Health and Wellness was in Rodrigues for the matter with the main focus to analyse current status of all equipment in our departments. The team comprises of Doctor V T Mohabeer, Director Health Services, Mrs M Bhundoo, Bio-Medical Engineer, Mr A Peerbocus, Senior Health Care Technologist and Miss D Elapen Bissesur, Management Support Officer as Secretary. During their visit they were accompanied by Mr Lauberty Casimir, Hospital Administrator and Mr Christian Verte, Bio-Medical Engineer Technician. From the report the equipment that were marked as not functional are as follows:

- (1) operating microscope from operating theatre - faulty gasping;
- (2) video cystoscopy tower form operating theatre - faulty camera head;
- (3) gastroscope - control nob loose;
- (4) colonoscope - insulator issues, and
- (5) the city scan.

The report as I mentioned before, Mr Christian Verte, Bio-Medical Engineer accompanied the delegation during their visit. However, he never informed them of any defective equipment and on, 11, August he submitted a report in parallel to the report of Mauritius. So, Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I will table both the reports from Bio-Medical Technician, Mr Verte and the report from Mauritius. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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The Chief commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 28 of October 2025 at 10.30 hours.

Mr Volbert, rose and seconded.

On question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

**REVIEW/RRA ACT – SUPPORT/ASSEMBLY, THE PEOPLE
-RELEVANT REFERENDUM/FUTURE OF RODRIGUES.**

Mr Tolbize: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to raise a matter of pressing importance. In light of recent escalations and evident misunderstandings between the regional authorities and the Central Government, I strongly urge that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act be urgently reviewed. Since its adoption in 2001, apart from minor and mostly technical amendments - often linked to the Finance and Audit Act - the last substantial reform dates back to 2016, just before the regional elections. It is high time for a thorough and inclusive review process, one that calls upon all Rodriguans to share their expectations and aspirations for the future governance of our island. I trust that the Chief Commissioner, in line with his recent statement regarding a possible referendum, will seek the necessary expertise and the active support of the Assembly, the people, and the Central Government to ensure that such an exercise is conducted meaningfully before the end of this Assembly's mandate.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my mother, a great lady, usually quoted these words from the Old Testament: *“there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.”* Also, *“there is a time to tear down and a time to build. A time to tear up and a time to mend.”*

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are conscious that the process of transforming a country involves many obstacles to overcome.

In the past, Rodriguan men and women were able to combine strategic vision and inspiring leadership to drive systemic, deep and sustainable transformations to get us where we are today.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we may disagree on our respective political ideology. But I am sure that as Rodriguans each one of us in this House wishes for a better Rodrigues where we would be in a stronger position to make our own policies, where we would be

in a position to have and take what is needed for the real economic transformation of our island and not what is put in front of us.

There is a time to fight and a time to unite. Today is the time for us all, Rodriguans, to unite and stand together. Not just in words, but in our actions, in our behaviour for a common purpose, for our island and for the future generations. Because we all want what is best for our children. We all want our children and grandchildren to have a better future. Each and every one in this House needs to understand that we are not in a race to be better or do better than the other. But we all somehow want the same thing for our people and our island. We want each Rodriguan to be proud of who he/she is. We want each and every Rodriguan to be proud of his/her identity and culture. We want each and every Rodriguan to be at his/her rightful place on our island. We all agree that our people need better outcomes.

Today this Autonomy, *qui n'est pas une fin en soi*, acquired some 23 years ago has reached its limit and we must start to think forward. Our conscience is reaching out to each one of us to make the changes we expect. It is up to us and to our determination to listen to it and make things happen. Let us start by enabling the engagement of the people of Rodrigues to express themselves on their future and that of our beloved island.

M. le président, Serge Clair, le grand homme Rodriguais exemplaire et visionnaire disait souvent ceci : “ *Que sera Rodrigues dans cinq ans, 10 ans, 20 ans, 50 ans ? Mo pa pou la mwa, me ou zanfan pou la. Ou ti zanfan pou la.* ”

Let us be governed by the clarity of the vision and the unwavering commitment of our pioneers to guarantee us a resolute march towards a sovereign, just and prosperous Rodrigues. Whatever happens, this island will forever be transformed.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

Mr Chairperson: Chief Commissioner?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, c'est vrai que j'ai fait un *statement*, je crois j'ai expliqué en gros que Rodrigues a besoin justement un 'après autonomie'. Ce n'est pas pour dans un mois ou deux, c'est après. Il faut commencer à penser parce que nous, nous connaissons des lacunes. J'accueille la proposition du Deputy Chairperson, en

tant qu' élu de cette Assemblée et aussi de faire de façon à ce qu' on puisse venir donner la possibilité au Rodriguais de réfléchir sur leurs avenir. Bien sûr, la prochaine session, peut-être qu' on va venir avec une proposition, une motion sur un comité justement pour travailler là-dessus et pour déboucher sur ce qu' on puisse donner à la population le choix de choisir leurs futures, de choisir leurs avenir. Donc, c' est juste ça qu' on doit se concentrer pour le moment, et bien sûr les consultations vont suivre et pour plus de démocratie.

Merci.

ÉTAT DE COMPLEXE SPORTIVE

The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr Spéville): Merci, M. le président. M. le président, ma requête cette après-midi s' adresse à l' attention du commissaire des Sports sur l' état des complexes sportives qui restent plonger dans l' ombre faute d' un éclairage adapter. Nous constatons avec regret que des nombreux terrains de jeux demeurent insuffisamment éclairer ce qui limite leur utilisation en soirée et pose un problème de sécurité pour les usagers notamment, les enfants et les familles.

Je demanderais au commissaire que des actions urgentes soit entreprendre afin que ces espaces publiques soient pleinement accessibles, sécurisés et adapter au besoin de la population. Merci.

Mr Ravina: My learned friend, Mr Spéville, Mr Chairperson, I am fully aware of all these situation of lighting in different playground around the island and I will do the needful in due course to remediate *à tous ces situations, M. le president*. Je suis au courant très bien. Merci.

Mr Chairperson: Mrs Roussety.

The Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres (Ms Roussety): M. le président, je vous remercie de me donner la parole pour cette intervention. Par votre entremise je souhaite attirer l' attention du *Deputy Chief Commissioner* sur la dégradation préoccupante des routes d' accès à *comblage* Baie aux Huîtres et celle de Pointe Vingt Tours. Ces voies sont d' une importance capitale pour les habitants de la région notamment, en période de pluie où l' accès devient extrêmement difficile. Cette situation compromet directement plusieurs infrastructures essentielles notamment, le dispensaire de Baie Aux Huîtres, qui assure les soins de santé de proximité, le centre de jeunesse qui

accueille et encadre les jeunes de la localité, la zone industrielle, qui joue un rôle clé dans l'activité économique de la région. Mais au-delà de leur fonction utilitaire, ces routes sont également utilisées comme parcours de santé par les habitants du voisinage. Elles constituent un espace accessible pour la marche, le jogging et l'activité physique régulière, contribuant ainsi au bien-être et à la santé publique. Malheureusement, la poussière excessive et l'état dégradé de ses voies représentent une naissance constante, avec des impacts sur leur santé respiratoire et leur qualité de vie.

De plus, M. le président, la route d'accès de Pointe Vingt Tours, cette voie dans son état actuel, représente un véritable obstacle au quotidien pour les habitants et plus particulièrement pour les enfants qui doivent l'emprunter chaque jour pour se rendre à l'école. Des nids de poules, l'érosion et l'absence d'entretien régulier rendent les déplacements non seulement pénibles mais surtout dangereux. Face à cette situation, je vous invite respectueusement à envisager une intervention rapide pour la réhabilitation de ces routes, afin de garantir un environnement plus sûr et plus digne pour les résidents de Baie aux Huîtres et ceux de Pointe Vingt Tours.

Merci, M. le président.

**SECURITE ROUTIERE – MANQUE DE PLACES DE STATIONNEMENT –
PROBLEME DE VISIBILITE – BRULE/BEL AIR & RIVIERE BANANE**

The First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Dr Agathe): M. le président, je vous remercie de m'accorder la parole. Ma requête s'adresse à l'Adjoint au Chef commissaire. Il concerne le problème de sécurité routière sur la route de Rivière Banane. Notamment, sur la portion de Brûlé à Bel Air, il y a un cumule de trois facteurs qui créent des conditions accident aux jeunes. Beaucoup de personnes ont la peur au ventre lorsqu'ils ont à prendre le bus ou pour leurs enfants qui prennent le bus car la section de route en question la chaussée est très peu large, très en pente avec un ravin d'un côté. Il y a certain endroit il y a un problème de visibilité qui rend le croisement des véhicules potentiellement périlleux. En attendant la reprise des travaux d'agrandissement de la route, je suggère que des mesures temporaires tel que l'aménagement des *lay-bys* ou *passing places* soit aménagées afin d'améliorer les conditions de sécurité.

D'autre part, sur la section de la route, plus proche de la plage, il y a aussi des problèmes de sécurité liés au débordement des *piquant loulou* sur la route, qui pose déjà un

problème pour les piétons mais plus largement pour d'autres usagers de la route. Et je souhaite aussi signaler, qu'il y a énormément des pierres qui dévalent des hauteurs qui obstrue aussi les canalisations qui sont de nature à abimer cette route sur la longue durée.

Je vous remercie.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Oui, M. le président, nous sommes conscients du problème sur la route principale de Rivière Banane, Brûlé – Rivière Banane en fait et effectivement, nous avons suggéré de mettre même des feux de signalisation qui permettrait circulation dans un sens alterner malheureusement, cela n'a pas été recommandé par les techniciens de Rodrigues ou de Maurice.

Deuxièmement, nous avons rencontré, il y a un peu de temps, les villageois et les utilisateurs de la route et voulions faire un détournement de la route vers la partie Roche Bon Dieu mais il y a des soucis techniques aussi. Mais un des problèmes aussi qui existe, c'est la nature des terrains. Ce sont des terrains privés et malheureusement, les personnes qui sont propriétaires de ces terrains ne veulent que la commission des Infrastructures Publiques élargisse la route et donne une meilleure infrastructure de ce côté. Il nous faut envisager des *compulsory acquisitions*.

En ce qui concerne l'état de toutes les routes de Rodrigues malheureusement, quand nous sommes arrivés il n'y avait pas d'équipement de maintenance de route. Je viens tout juste d'acheter une pelleteuse, je viens tout juste d'acquérir deux *thwaites* et on va utiliser ces équipements et d'autres encore pour justement faire la maintenance des routes. Parce que non plus on n'a de travailleur manuel dans la commission pour faire la maintenance des routes à proprement parler. Heureusement, que nous avons Rodclean qui fait un travail formidable dans la maintenance des drains. Ce n'est pas nécessairement dans leur attribution mais qui nous aide quand même.

Pour répondre à la première Membre Roussety, nous n'avons pas actuellement de contrat de maintenance et de construction de route. Le CPB nous a refusé qu'on continue avec les mode d'appel d'offre d'actuelle et ils nous ont conseillé de refaire l'appel d'offre, ce n'est peut-être que vers janvier ou février qu'on pourra designer un contracteur pour la construction des routes. L'appel d'offre a été lancé et nous attendons les prochaines étapes. A partir de là, nous aurons un contracteur pour la route. Avec le recrutement de presque 300 travailleurs prévus pour janvier, nous allons constituer des équipes de maintenance pour les

routes. Bien sûr, il faut les équipements aussi pour que par exemple, des pierres, etc., ne se retrouvent pas sur la route. Les deux Membres peuvent être rassurer, nous avons à cœur la sécurité routière. En témoignage, la visite du ministre. Nous avons maintenant des équipements pour tester les échappements, le émissions de gaz, la fumer noire, nous avons des équipements pour tester les échappements motocyclettes qui font pas mal de dérangement et de bruit, y compris ici dans Port Mathurin et aussi une collaboration vitaliser avec le ministère des Transports Publics et la NTA. Merci.

APPREHENSIONS – OPERATEUR TOURISTIQUE

The First Local Region Member of Saint Gabriel (Mr Ramdally): Merci, M. le président. Donc, j'aimerais cette après-midi attirer l'attention du commissaire du Tourisme sur une préoccupation de certain operateur touristique que nous avons rencontré et donc nous portons la voix ici au sein de cette auguste Assemblée. Donc, s'il est vrai qu'appart pour la période de COVID, il y a eu une augmentation dans l'arrivée des visiteurs Rodrigues d'année en année. Donc, des opérateurs que nous avons rencontrés constatent que cette augmentation ne se reflète dans leurs activités. Donc, les bateliers, ce qui sont dans la location de voiture, les propriétaires de restaurant, gîtes et chambres d'hôtes, sont unanime pour dire que la situation actuelle est inquiétante. Donc, les statistiques dans le domaine pour l'année 2024 ne sont pas encore disponible dans les publications officielles pour faire une analyse sur une période significative pour tirer une conclusion fiable tant à la tendance réelle. Donc, il y a que les *bazariers* qui nous avons rencontres qui projettent une image positive du secteur en ce moment. Donc, la qualité du touriste, la prolifération d'opérateurs illégaux dans tous les secteurs, la qualité et efficacité des enquêtes mener par l'Office du Tourisme sont autant des raisons qu'ils évoquent pour expliquer la situation. Donc, d'autre raison évoquait qui vont encore impacter le secteur dans un proche avenir sont comme suit :

- La taxe de 3 € par personne annonçait dans le budget national ;
- L'augmentation du prix du billet d'avion récemment, et
- Les problèmes avec les avions actuellement.

Donc, avec tous cela les opérateurs entrevoient de réelle période difficile dans un proche avenir et c'est dans cette perspective que je demande au commissaire de regarder cette situation en profondeur pour rassurer surtout ces opérateurs qui sont en ligne avec les règlements en vigueur à Rodrigues et dans la République. Je vous remercie, M. le président.

Mr Wong So: M. le président, merci d'avoir soulevé ce point qui me permet quand même de pouvoir répondre sur ce sujet qu'est le touriste parce qu'il n'y a pas beaucoup de question qui se pose dans cette Assemblée.

La question de *respected Member*, Ramdally qu'il y a des opérateurs mécontents dans le sens que j'imagine que c'est tout à fait normal qu'il y est des gens. Mais il y a aussi bien des gens contents. Parce que pour votre information 213,000 visiteurs qu'on a, rapporte Rs 2.5 milliards à l'ensemble des Rodriguais. M. Ramdally ? Dans le sens que les Rs 2.5 milliards que ça rapporte à l'ensemble de la population, ils doivent y avoir des gens contents mais il y a aussi des gens mécontents. Mais la question que vous êtes en train de soulever, moi je le pose différemment. Pourquoi il y a des gens mécontents ? C'est parce qu'il y a des gens dont la tarification ou le produit n'est pas adapté au marché actuelle. Je vais expliquer, ça va prendre beaucoup de temps mais je vais vous dire que s'il y a des gens mécontents – je constate qu'au sein de ma commission il y a des remontées d'information où il y a des gens, je dirai le lieu mais pas l'établissement. Il y a quelqu'un qui habite à Fond La Digue, il me dit, ben écoute, je n'ai pas des gens pour venir chez moi. Mais la question qui se pose à cette personne – mais pourquoi est-ce que les gens ne viennent pas chez lui ou chez elle ? Pour ne pas être spécifique. Donc, la question qui se pose vraiment, il y a des gens mécontents et je suis tout à fait d'accord avec ça et qu'on ne peut rien. C'est que dans ce secteur-là, c'est un peu le *survival the fittest*, celui qui gère mieux son entreprise va pouvoir quand même se défendre sur ce plan-là. C'est tout à fait normal. Parce que justement il y a des gens en 2025 se croient en 2010, il y a des chambres qui sont séparées par des rideaux. Vous vous imaginez, qu'il fait de la *topo*. Je ne vous donne pas les noms ou les endroits, je vous dis qu'il y a des gens qui sont en train de donner des prestations...

(Interruptions)

Voilà, c'est la question qui se pose et qu'on verra par la suite quand je vous dis.

Nous avons en ce moment-ci en processus de *survey* qui dure sur une année et on le fait étroitement avec Central Statistics Office (CSO) de Maurice. Ce *survey* a pour but justement de pouvoir quand même donner la chance à tout un chacun parmi le public voyageur de donner son appréciation ou son mécontentement à la fin de son séjour à l'aéroport et on va le faire sur une année. On a déjà fait une réunion d'évaluation pour le premier trimestre et on va le faire pour le deuxième trimestre. Et il y a quelqu'un de CSO qui va venir pour justement nous apporter tout son soutien à ce niveau. Qu'est-ce que le *survey*

est en train de démontrer ? Que les gens qui sont en train de démonter beaucoup plus valeur du jour. Maintenant, c'est à vous de voir que s'il y a de l'argent qui rente et qu'il y a des gens mécontents et qu'il faudra quand même faire le nécessaire.

Concernant la taxe, c'est une question qu'on en a posé nous au ministère, ils sont dans l'incapacité de pouvoir nous diriger vers quoi que ce soit parce que ça n'a pas été débattu au sein du Conseil des Ministres par rapport à cette fameuse taxe de 3 € par personne par nuit. Par contre, ce qui est intéressant, que ça va être effectif à partir d'octobre si possible.

Donc, les arrivées touristiques, on attend. Moi, j'attends avec impatience les chiffres du mois de juillet. Pour la bonne et simple raison que juillet c'est effectivement le mois où il y a eu une augmentation du prix du billet et on verra la tendance. Mais simplement pour vous dire, à la Chambre que de janvier à mai, on n'a pas eu les chiffres de juin, je pense que d'ici mardi ou mercredi on aura les chiffres de juin. On est toujours à la hausse et la hausse et de 15%.

Merci, M. le président.

DIFFICULTE-PLANTEUR/ELEVEURS – REGION EST

The Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Mr Baptiste): Merci, M. le président, je souhaite attirer l'attention du commissaire de l'Agriculture. Il n'est malheureusement pas là mais je sais qu'il aura le message sur les difficultés rencontrées par les planteurs et éleveurs de la région Est depuis la fermeture du bureau d'extension agricole basé à Trèfles, il y a environ trois ans. Donc, ce bureau était utilisé par les planteurs/éleveurs pour faire leurs demandes d'application pour les permis agricoles, service de mécanisation, service vétérinaire et surtout aussi c'était un moyen pour eux d'avoir plus de proximité avec les techniciens agricoles, là où ils ont des difficultés sur leurs champs. Donc, c'était beaucoup plus facile d'avoir contact avec les officiers. Malheureusement, aujourd'hui ça présente beaucoup d'inconvénient à ces planteurs et éleveurs qui doivent se diriger – tous est centralisé maintenant à Citronelle et ça coûte beaucoup plus, que ce soit en terme d'argent mais en terme aussi de temps qu'ils doivent prendre pour aller là-bas. Mais surtout s'ils n'arrivent plus à identifier le technicien responsable de leur région. Donc, ça devient quand même difficile. Donc, je fais une demande pressante au commissaire responsable de l'Agriculture pour apporter une solution rapide à ce problème afin de soulager ces planteurs parce que nous

savons que la région Est quand même est très important en terme d'approvisionnement en légume, onion, etc., pour Rodrigues et Maurice.

Merci pour votre attention.

RAMPANT PROPAGATION – SMALL BLACK FLIES

The First Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres (Mr Lisette): Mr Chairperson, my intervention is also directed towards the Commissioner for Agriculture and it relates to an issue that I think are experiencing. It is with respect to the black flies (*ti mous nwar*) which we have seen a rampant propagation in Rodrigues. I think it has come all of a sudden and nobody knows exactly where it comes from. So, as far as I know, there has been no communication made to the public as at now and we all know – because I am a living witness of the issue, there is also a health nuisance which is being caused by these black flies because whenever it gets into the yet it causes a soaring and as witness when I attended the hospital, I was administered with antibiotic and there were so many persons who were suffering of same.

So, I will invite the Commissioner for Agriculture to direct the entomology department, if any there is, to enquire into the matter and to communicate the information to the population for any action they must ...

Thank you.

PRODUCTION ABONDANTE DE LIMON

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je voudrais aussi attirer l'attention du commissaire de l'Agriculture par rapport au sujet qu'est la production abondante de limon depuis quelque temps. Donc, comme nous le savons le limon est un de nos produits phare et dont le commissaire de l'Agriculture a beaucoup parlé. Je me souviens en décembre 2022 dans une de ces interventions, il avait mentionné qu'il *that we will not be rushing into anything*. Mais on est aujourd'hui en 2025, après presque plus de trois ans, on voit que la situation concernant la production de limon reste le même. Donc, c'est un fait que cette année on a des très jolis limons en abondance et malheureusement, plus que la moitié tombe sous le limonier. Donc, on a appris qu'il y a très peu de personne qui ont pu vendre quelques kilos avec RTMC ou d'autre opérateur privé mais la grosse majorité de nos limons reste sous l'arbre. Donc, ça devient préoccupant pour les planteurs parce que ça coûte beaucoup aujourd'hui pour maintenir les vergers et malheureusement, on ne voit pas grand-chose venir

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du côté de la commission. Donc, j'espère que dans pas longtemps il viendra nous parler de cet expert qu'il avait mentionné, qu'il allait faire venir aussi pour le limon dans une de ces réponses à des questions. Entretemps, les planteurs de limon souffrent parce qu'ils n'arrivent pas à trouver un marché durable, stable, un marché qui leurs permet d'avoir des revenus convenables avec leurs productions.

Donc, j'espère que le commissaire de l'Agriculture va dans quelque temps venir nous dire quelle est sa politique par rapport à cette production.

Mr Chairperson: The House stands adjourn.

At 3.52 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**WORKS REQUIRED/OPERATIONALISATION – SLAUGHTER HOUSE/BAIE
DIAMANT**

(No. B/74) **Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the works required to operationalise the Slaughter House at Baie Diamant, he will state (a) the detailed scope of works undertaken since March 2022, with related costs and item votes from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) budget (b) any further works or equipment still needed, and (c) the management system that the RRA intends to implement to operate the facility?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Slaughter House at Baie Diamant was in an abandoned state at time of my taking of office. It is deplorable that the previous government failed to operationalise same despite their long tenure in office.

As such, Mr Chairperson, when I took office in March 2022, this was amongst my priority files. Hence, immediate actions were undertaken to reactivate the file with the appointment of a Consultant to assist the Commission for Agriculture in the various steps.

I wish to inform the House that upon the recruitment of Consultant in September 2022, a complete survey of the infrastructure was carried out and the scope of works was finalised.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the scope of works for the refurbishment of existing infrastructure is as follows: -

- Refurbishment of Gate Post;
- Refurbishment works in Administrative Office
- Refurbishment works – pigs slaughter hall
- Refurbishment works – sheep/cattle hall

The contract was awarded in February 2024 for a duration of 90 days and the contractual value was Rs7,951,000 (excluding VAT).

At completion of project in July 2024, a total cost of Rs9,753,168.80 excluding VAT was paid through Vote Item 4106 – 31113020 – Improvement of Livestock.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that line equipment for the different slaughter halls, namely cattle, pig and small ruminants are still

outstanding. My office is finalising all the technical specifications to be launched during the next financial year.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that once the slaughter house is operational, my office intends to launch an Expression of Interest for local and national private companies/individuals who are experienced in this field and who wish to come forward for this project.

A detailed selection criteria and conditions will be worked out in due course.

GRANTING – AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & LEASES – RRA FARMERS

(No. B/75) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the granting of agricultural permits and leases by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to farmers, he will state to the House the current procedures in place and specify all institutions involved in the process?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the granting of agricultural permits and leases by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, I wish to inform the House that at the start of my tenure of office in March 2022, there was no proper established process in place for the granting of agricultural permits.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I took note of the matter at that time and there was backlog of six thousand and ninety-nine (6099) outstanding applications for Agricultural Permit at the Commission for Agriculture. People were very not satisfied with the way Agricultural Permits were being delivered and they even complained to the then Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC). In a report published by ICAC in April 2017 on the issue of Agricultural Permits at the Commission for Agriculture, the institution recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Land Committee.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that between 2017 and 2022 no action has been taken to implement the recommendation from the ICAC.

In order to maintain transparency in the process, the approval of the Executive Council was sought in April 2022 for the adoption of a formal procedure and the setting up of an Agricultural Land Committee. The Committee comprises representatives of my

Commission, as well as key stakeholders, namely the Cadastral Office, the Town and Country Planning Unit and the Departments of Environment and Forest.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in addition to individual applications for agricultural permits, my Commission also receives applications of Agricultural Projects from farmers or prospective farmers. In this context, a collaborative arrangement has been established with the Commission for Industrial Development (Invest Rodrigues), whereby applications for Agricultural Projects are in the first instance, assessed for financial feasibility by Invest Rodrigues and subsequently referred to my Commission for technical analysis and the issue of Agricultural Permits for project implementation.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would also clarify that the granting of Agricultural Leases falls under the purview of the Chief Commissioner's Office (State Lands).

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to apprise the House of the procedures in place for granting Agricultural Permits

- (i) Application stage— Submission of an application on the Prescribed Form, duly completed by the applicant.
- (ii) Processing stage – Site visits by Extension Officers and reporting.
- (iii) Recommendation – Stage review by the Agricultural Land Committee.
- (iv) Approval stage – Consideration and decision on the application in accordance with established process.
- (v) Issuance of Agricultural Permit – Formal issue of the agricultural permit to the applicant.

2025 ONION PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN

(No. B/76) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, with regard to the 2025 onion production campaign, he will state to the House (a) the total expected output (b) any problems encountered or reported by farmers, and (c) the measures taken by his Commission to address these issues?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, climate change is a global phenomenon whereby our island is not being spared. This present calendar year has been atypical and significantly marked by the challenges encountered in the agricultural sector.

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The House will concur that summer months were drastically dry compared to the rainy winter season, particularly starting from during the month of May. The winter season is the known to be the onion plantation period. This situation has impacted heavily on the crop production pattern resulting a peak in production of creepers during winter.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, based on field observation and records, by end of July 2025, the total area under onion cultivation in Rodrigues was estimated to 11.025 hectares and the total expected output for the 2025 onion campaign is estimated to 184 tonnes.

With respect to part (b) of the question, based on field visits conducted by Extension Officers of my Commission, it was observed that onion fields of some planters were not developing as expected. These planters were advised to report officially to the Public Relations Unit of my Commission and remedial measures were imparted by the Extension Officers accordingly.

Additionally, it was observed that the incidence of fungal disease affecting crop growth was due to the fact that this year, exceptionally, winter was moist and cool above normal trends. These conditions were favourable for the development and propagation of diseases mainly caused by fungus.

As such Mr Chairperson, Sir, in order to address the issues observed on the field, my Commission has: -

- (i) Strengthened field monitoring and provided technical guidance to farmers through Extension Officers
- (ii) Undertaken quick field appraisal in Electoral Regions 3 and 6 respectively since those areas are known for onion cultivation.

Based on the findings, 18 fields were reported to be affected in Region 3 and 34 in Region 6 respectively. The evaluation revealed that 50% loss was encountered in Region 3 whereas 30% loss registered in Region 6.

Concurrently, a market survey was conducted and it was noted that very systematic fungicide was available. Hence, the officers from my Commission have recommended application of preventive measures by using the copper based fungicide in a first instance coupled with controlled irrigation schedule.

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Moreover, the status of onion production was reported to FAREI in Mauritius and technical support was sought to address the situation. I am pleased to inform the House that our counterpart has responded promptly and has proposed to conduct an on-site visit to the main onion production areas Rodrigues early next week. As such, two Pathologists from Plant Pathology Division of Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) are scheduled to proceed to Rodrigues by early next week.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since it has been raining continuously during the month of May, the majority of planters in Region 3 namely, Port Sud Est and Mourouk, have opted not to sow their onions seedlings this year. Moreover, it has been noted that planters in these two valleys are moving towards specialisation in mixed vegetable production and creepers.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission remains committed to supporting onion growers to ensure the 2025 campaign achieves its projected output and to enhancing resilience against future production challenges.

BOREHOLD - ARAUCARIA

(No. B/77) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the borehole at Araucaria, he will inform the House on (a) how the site was identified (b) the cost of drilling the borehole (c) the specifications of the pump installed, and (d) if the borehole is in operation and, if so, the actual volume of water produced per day?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with respect to the borehole at Araucaria, Geophysical investigations were performed by the company Geotechnical Services Ltd in order to identify the most favourable location for drilling. The report of the sounding dated 13 of June 2024 has demonstrated the specific favourable spots along a continuous line of 253 m.

The cost of drilling the borehole is Rs700,000 excluding VAT.

I am informed that the pump installed at Araucaria has the following technical specifications:

- (i) Rated flow: 46 m³/h
- (ii) Rated Head: 105
- (iii) Rated Power: 18.5 kW
- (iv) Rated Voltage: 3 x 415 V

(v) Rated Current: 42.0 A

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the borehole at Araucaria is currently in operation under the monitoring of the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) Plant and Equipment Operator. The daily production is 250 m³.

POINTE COTON DESALINATION PLANT

(No. B/78) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Pointe Coton Desalination Plant, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if it is operating at full capacity, and if not, to state (a) the reason thereof, and (b) the actual volume being currently produced?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Pointe Coton desalination comprises of two Reverse Osmosis plants with a normal daily production of 460 m³ each and a containerised plant of 350 m³/day representing a total of 1270 m³/day installed capacity.

As regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that presently, the desalination plant at Pointe Coton is not operating at its full capacity. There is a breakdown of the one Reverse Osmosis (RO) due to damage of the booster pump and faulty high pressure.

Consequently, only one Reverse Osmosis is working with a normal daily production of 460 m³/day along with the containerised plant bringing the total actual production to 810 m³/day.

I am further informed that order has been placed by the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation and delivery to Rodrigues is expected in four weeks.

**RELOCATION/LESSEES – LAND AT MONTAGNE CROUPIER &/OR
RIVIERE BANANE**

(No. B/79) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether his Commission intends to relocate lessees of land at Montagne Croupier and/or Rivière Banane, and if so, to state (a) the reasons for such relocation (b) the number of leases affected at each site (c) if any meetings have been held with the lessees, and the outcomes, and (d) if any promoters have applied to undertake activities on these sites, and if so, the nature thereof?

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Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the house that the Executive Council has on 13 June 2025 decided to approve that my Commission proceeds with the relocation of undeveloped residential leases at Rivière Banane and Montagne Croupier.

As regard to Rivière Banane, the chronology of events concerning the complaints received are as follows:

- Some lessees attended my office complaining that they are encountering various issues affecting their daily life at Rivière Banane and requested for a site visit to be conducted thereat.
- I effected a site visit at Rivière Banane on Tuesday 13 May 2025, accompanied by the now Island Chief Executive, Officers of the Cadastral Unit and the Commission for Environment.
- On site, the inhabitants complained that they are affected on a daily basis by air pollution, noise pollution and vibrations emanating from the neighboring stone quarry and are occasionally affected by smoke from the dumping site of Roche Bon Dieu. This has an impact of their health.
- In view of the situation, it was considered that possibility for relocation may be presented to unbuilt leases as their plot of land have not yet been pledged.
- In this respect, a meeting was organized on 05 June 2025 with lessees of unbuilt parcels of the locality. Lessees were informed of the reasons of the proposed relocation and were given the opportunity to raise concerns and proposals. The majority of lessees in attendance expressed their willingness to be relocated.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, out of the 33 lessees who have not yet developed their residential leases, as at date 14 lessees have voluntarily accepted to be relocated. They were informed that their relocation will be effected on a fast track basis.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the parcelling of Mt. Croupier, I must inform the House that in December 2024, the Executive Council has decided to approve the reservation of a plot of land in this locality for the relocation of the stone crushing activities of Welcome Industries. As such, it is expected that heavy vehicles will pass

through the parcelling site and may lead to environmental pollution, traffic and road safety issues. A meeting was convened on 07 July 2025 with the lessees who have not yet developed their respective residential leases within the said parcelling. 22 lessees concerned were invited for the meeting. They were also informed that should they voluntarily accept to be relocated to other sites due to inconvenience that may be caused by traffic in relation to Welcome industries activities, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will proceed to their relocations on a fast track basis.

Out of 22 lessees, as at date, four lessees have formally requested for relocation, Mr Chairperson, Sir, for both Rivière Banane and Mt Croupier, lessees who have voluntarily accept to be relocated have expressed conditional support, fair relocation terms, and clear timelines. Lessees at Rivière Banane have applied for a lot within the new parcelling already approved by the Executive Council at Baladirou and Pointe Coton. Once the site is cleared from *Acacia Nilotica* trees, they will be granted their new leases respectively. As regards to lessees at Mt. Croupier, those who have accepted to be relocated have applied for sites in the region.

I wish to reassure the house that my Commission remains committed to a fair and transparent relocation process.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (d) of the question, I am informed that there are no records of any application from promotor(s) having applied to undertake activities on these two sites at Rivière Banane and Montagne Croupier respectively.

CONSTRUCTION – ROCHE BON DIEU STADIUM

(No. B/80) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports and Others whether, in regard to the construction of Roche Bon Dieu Stadium, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) the contractual value of the project (b) the duration of contract, and (c) where matters stand regarding completion of the project?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), the contractual value of the project is Rs66 M, Vat exclusive.

With regard to part (b), the duration of the contract was 364 calendar days from the start date.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), I have to inform the House that when I took office in 2022, works at Roche Bon Dieu stadium had reached only 20%, consisting mainly of excavation and levelling works and French drain. As at date, the contractor has completed 70% of the works.

Following the unilateral decision of Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd to terminate its global consultancy services contract with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in November 2024, a new Consultant, namely Vyass Consulting Engineering Ltd was appointed in June 2025 for supervision of the construction of Roche Bon Dieu stadium project. The consultant has issued an Interim Payment Certificate, which is under process at the level of my Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Contactor will proceed with full remobilisation on site to perform the remaining works within the possible ‘marge de manoeuvre’ upon receipt of payment for Interim Payment Certificate No. 22. If things go according to plan, the works will resume in September 2025 and are scheduled for completion by February 2026 as per programme of works submitted by the contractor.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

**PARTICIPATION – ORANGE CLUB SPORTIF D’AMITIER
– AFRICAN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP/LIBYA**

(No. B/81) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports and Others whether, in regard to the participation of Orange Club Sportif D’Amitié in the African Volleyball Championship in Libya, he will state for the benefit of the House (a) any support provided to the team prior to the competition (b) if the delegation encountered any unforeseen circumstances, and if so, provide details, and (c) the support provided to them by any authority or institution?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), the strategy of my Commission to promote and develop volleyball in Rodrigues is showing excellent results. For the second time in two years, a volleyball club from Rodrigues participated in the African Volleyball Championship. I wish to congratulate Oranges Club for its good performance, representing the Republic of Mauritius honourably this year.

Indeed, Mr Chairperson, Sir, this Regional Government is committed to providing the maximum assistance to regional committees and clubs to sustain their participation in high level competitions.

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This explains why further to the request of the Rodrigues Regional Volleyball Committee, the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has at its meeting of Thursday 27th March approved the provision of a financial grant of Rs2,377,522 to the Rodrigues Regional Volleyball Committee for the participation of Orange Club Sportif D'Amitié (men) in the 2025 Men's African Volleyball Championship held from 17 to 30 April 2025 in Mitsurata, Libya. I have to inform the House that this amount was not budgeted.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, given financial constraints, my Commission approved the participation of a delegation of 12 players and two coaches for the following budget:

(i)	14 air tickets x Rs127,373	=	1,783,222
(ii)	Accommodation for 14 person x 39,200	=	548,800
(iii)	Participation fees for 14 persons	=	45,500
Total		=	<u>Rs2,377,522</u>

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in view of its preparation for the competition, my Commission also provided technical assistance, physiotherapy and massage therapy and also volleyball coach to support the team to set appropriate tactics required at this level of competition. The Gymnasium of Malabar was also put at their disposal at odd hours to ensure that the team had enough training time.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, I have to inform the house that the delegation encountered certain circumstances during their trip to Lybia and back as per their requests to my Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, allow me to take a few minutes of the time of the House to summarise the details of these circumstances:

1. On 15 April 2025, after the delegation reached Mauritius, the head of delegation, Mr C. Casimir via phone conversation informed the Commissioner, the Departmental Head and Head of Sports that they were having VISA problems and could not travel on their scheduled flight which was to leave Mauritius on that same day.
2. It was agreed, that pending their obtaining the correct VISA, that my Commission will issue new tickets for the delegation on route

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Mauritius to Bombay, India, as they did not had enough funds to buy new tickets. It was understood that the Club will refund same after obtaining refund of unused tickets. On this basis, my Commission decided to issue tickets on the route Mauritius to Bombay, via Air Mauritius.

3. On 16 April 2025, the delegation solicited the help of my Commission again to cancel tickets issued the day before and to issue new tickets on route Mauritius to Paris (still on Air Mauritius).
4. After the competition in Libya, on their way back home (01 May 2025) the delegation encountered another problem. In fact, the head of delegation informed that because of unrest in the region of India, their return flight was cancelled as the Airport was closed, and they requested that my Commission issue new tickets on the Route Paris to Mauritius. They said that they have sought the assistance of the Ministry for Youth and Sports to cater for the airfares from Egypt to Paris.
5. The condition of issue of new tickets was that the tickets have to be refunded as it did not form part of approved budget for their participation.
6. The delegation of Oranges Club Sportif D'Amitié accepted to refund, first through a letter dated 01 May 2025, whereby they informed that they are prepared to cover all associated costs.

We also had a meeting with them on 03 June and 25 June 2025 whereby they said that the Travel Agency Indigo has informed by email that it will refund the amount paid. It makes sense that they refund that amount to the RRA and cannot keep it for themselves.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), following the request of my Commission, the Ministry for Youth and Sports agreed to assist the delegation by providing 20 one-way ticket from Cairo to Paris for an amount of Rs674 000.

The Embassy of Cairo was also contacted by the Ministry to provide necessary assistance for accommodation, food and transport during the team's one night stay in Cairo amounting to Rs30, 253.53.

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In addition, board lodging and transport were provided to the team in Mauritius from 04 to 06 May 2025 for an amount of Rs71 000.

This makes a total of Rs775,253.53.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

**CONSTRUCTION – PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS & COASTAL
PROTECTION PROJECT- BAIE LASCAR**

(No. B/82) Mr N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the “Construction of Parking Areas, Walkways and Coastal Protection” project at Baie Lascar, he will state (a) if the project was announced in any Budget Speech and/or included in any master plan (b) the scope of works (c) the cost thereof and the successful bidder (d) the time frame for completion, and (e) if his Commission applied for a Preliminary Environmental Report and/or Environment Impact Assessment to the relevant authorities prior to its commencement?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Construction of Parking Area, Walkways and Coastal Protection” project at Baie Lascars, I wish to inform the house that the existing revetment of the coastal structure at Baie Lascars requires urgent upgrading due to a combination of natural degradation and increase exposure to coastal erosion. Over the years, the existing structure has shown pronounced signs of deterioration, including displacement of the retaining wall.

Furthermore, with the increasing impact of climate change, including rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events, it is crucial to enhance the resilience of our coastal defences in order also to protect the immediate inland infrastructures.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform that despite it was not announced in the Budget Speech 2024/2025, the project has been prioritised at level of my Commission and necessary steps have been taken during the Financial Year 2024/2025 to mobilise resources to start its implementation in line with environmental and coastal protection strategies.

The approval of the Executive Council and the Central Procurement Board were obtained to start the implementation of the project and there is a voted budgeted provision for

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this Financial Year 2025/2026 for the construction of the Parking area, walkways and coastal protection project.

The scope of works comprises:

- (1) Demolition and removal of existing damaged revetment wall;
- (2) Construction of new revetment wall of length 200 m;
- (3) Construction of alleys and footpaths;
- (4) Construction of additional lane and parking facilities.

With respect to part (c) and (d) of the question, the project was awarded to Transinvest Construction Ltd for the sum of Rs41,989,564.12 excluding of VAT. The duration of the project is 197 days and the contractual completion date is 23 September 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, concerning the Preliminary Environment Report and/or Environment Impact Assessment, I am informed that the clearance of the Chief Commissioner's Office, Commission for Environment has been sought and they have conveyed their "no objection" since the rehabilitation work will involve revamping of the existing breakwater only without modification of the coastline.

**BUSINESS PROCESSING OUTSOURCING/CALL CENTRES –
OPERATING/RODRIGUES**

(No. B/83) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Information, Telecommunications and Technology and Others whether, in regard to Business Processing Outsourcing/call centres operating in Rodrigues, he will state for the benefit of the House (a) the number of such centres (b) the types of permits, licenses, and authorisations under which they operate, and (c) table a list of all operators, including their addresses/locations and the number of employees?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that there are five ICT Businesses specialised in the field of Business Processing Outsourcing/ Call Centres operating in Rodrigues.

As regards to part (b) of the question, I would like to inform the House that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Licences) Regulations of 2003 does not make provision for these types of activities. In that respect, a letter of authorisation is being issued to an operator in the ICT business who are registered at the Trade and Licensing Unit to enable

the latter to operate pending the implementation of a new regulation or amendment made to the existing regulations.

I am tabling the list of operators for the information of the House.

MANAGEMENT – RODRIGUES SPORTS COMPANY LIMITED

(No. B/84) Mr J. P. Spéville (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports and Others whether, in regard to the management of the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited, he will state for the benefit of the House and table (a) the name of the current manager (b) the terms and conditions of his employment (c) if any recruitment procedures have been initiated for a new manager, and if so, provide details, including the date the vacancy was advertised and any selection exercise conducted?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), since its start of its operations in October 2022, the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited is manned by Acting Manager, Mr J. Antonio Volbert, Head Sports.

With regard to part (b), he is offering his services free of charge on a part time basis for the smooth running of the operations of the company.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), the Board of the company has already initiated recruitment procedures for a full-fledged manager. The vacancy was launched on 07 May 2024 and the closing date for submission of applications was 31 May 2024 at Marechal Swimming Pool. Nine candidates applied for the post and three were retained for interview.

Interviews were conducted on Saturday 15 June 2024 at the seat of the company at Marechal Swimming Pool.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the selection process has been completed at the level of the Rodrigues Sports Company limited. The Company is awaiting the financial clearance of my Commission in order to proceed with the recruitment.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

**PROPOSED “LES ASSISES DU TRAVAIL ET DE L’EMPLOI” –
MINISTRY/SEPTEMBER 2025**

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(No. B/85) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Labour, Industrial Relations and Others whether, in regard to the proposed “*Les Assises du Travail et de l’Emploi*” to be organised by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations in September 2025, he will state, for the benefit of the House, if his Commission has submitted any proposals or suggestions, as per the Ministry’s communiqué dated 28 July 2025 or any other relevant correspondence, and if so, provide details thereof?

Reply: In this context, a Technical Committee has been set up at the level of the Ministry to examine proposals/inputs submitted by stakeholders.

In an email dated 16 July 2025, my Commission was requested to submit challenges/issues pertaining to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on matter falling under our purview, which may be discussed during “*Les Assises*”.

On 12 August 2025 the Commission has submitted its inputs/suggestions/proposals and same are being examined by the Technical Committee and will be further discussed during “*Les Assises*” in September 2025.

Consultation is ongoing between the Ministry and the Commission.

FOOTBALL GROUND/GRANDE MONTAGNE

(No. B/86) Mr L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Sports and Others whether, in regard to the football ground at Grande Montagne, he will inform the House on any upgrading or maintenance works carried out thereat from March 2023 to date, including details of their nature, the names of contractors or service providers, and the associated costs; and further, to state if the ground will be operational for the forthcoming football league season?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the house that the last major upgrading effected on Grande Montagne playground dates back to more than 25 years ago. We are aware that the playground was in a very bad condition because of wear and tear and adverse climatic conditions. The condition of the playground does not allow for organisation of football competitions as there was a high risk of injury for users.

Prompt maintenance of fencing and drains have been carried out on a regular basis since 2022. Given the advance deterioration of the playing surface, at the end of October

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2024, the Executive Council approved that the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited proceed with urgent upgrading works on the playground at the end of October 2024 so that it can safely be used for football training and competitions, and other sports activities.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the project was implemented under the supervision of a technician of the Rodrigues Sports Company, with the following scope of works;

- (i) Filling with top soil;
- (ii) Levelling of football ground using grader and roller, and
- (iii) Upgrading of defective boundary fence.

The service providers associated with the above works are as follows:

Filling with top soil

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Joceley Transport for: | |
| | Excavator and rental of lorry | Rs 672 000 |
| 2. | Transinvest Construction Ltd for: | |
| | Levelling of football ground using Grader | Rs 284,305 |
| 3. | Rodrigues Sports Company (in house) for: | |
| | Upgrading of defective Boundary Fence | <u>Rs 50,000</u> |

TOTAL Rs1,000,305

As at date, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the football ground is operational for training. However, during heavy rainfall, there is accumulated water on one side of the field. This has to be addressed through a proper drainage system.

The playground can be used for the forthcoming football league season provided that there are favourable weather conditions. The decision as to whether to use it or not rests with the Rodrigues Football Association.

**PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION/KITCHEN
– LA FERME AREA HEALTH CENTRE**

(No. B/87) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the project for the construction of a kitchen at La Ferme Area Health Centre, he will state (a) the scope of

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works, the name of any consultant involved and of the successful bidder, respectively (b) the total cost of the project (c) if the facility is fully operational, and if not, the reasons, and (d) table any reports from the Health and Safety Unit and the Head Caterer related thereto?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as you may be aware, while patients were being admitted at La Ferme Area Health Centre, prior to 2021, the Catering Department of such institution was situated in the Government Quarters which was 30 metres away from the La Ferme Area Health Centre. The kitchen of the quarters was designed for domestic use and this was prejudice to the catering staff. Upon taking Office I was faced with such dilemma. With the commitment to improve the Health Sector in Rodrigues, the need for a proper kitchen was necessary in order to allow patients admission in the Area Health Centre. Consequently, instruction was given to start the appropriate procedures for the construction of a new kitchen.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the project at the Dr. Christopher Prudence Area Health Centre (formerly La Ferme Area Health Centre) provided for the Upgrading and Construction of New Kitchen at La Ferme Area Health Centre.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that under the Particular Conditions of Contract and as per the General Conditions of Contract (GCC 1.1 (h)), the approved scope of works of the new kitchen at the Dr. Christopher Prudence Area Health Centre, comprised the following:

- Removing of iron sheets;
- Extension of building for additional store, office, cooking area etc.;
- Painting of new building: internal and external;
- New electrical work and plumbing works, and
- Any other civil works.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed that the works were under the supervision of officers from the Public Infrastructure Division of Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office and that the contract was awarded to the successful bidder, Mr J. R. R.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (b) of the question, I am also informed that the total cost of the project amounted to Rs8,868,800.00.

Concerning part (c) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the Catering Unit of the Dr. Christopher Prudence Area Health Centre has been

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inaugurated on the 01 of August 2025 and upon its operationalization, equipment requested by the Catering Department has already been procured.

In this regards, facilities such as inox table as well as gas reticulation system has been installed by professionals and registered contractors to ensure the Health and safety of the personnel working thereat.

Other items with cold storage facilities, office equipment for the Catering Supervisor, burners, exhaust fans, fire extinguishers, cooking equipment and wares have also been procured and installed in the kitchen.

A Catering Supervisor has also been assigned to the department at the Area Health Centre and has already taken stock of all equipment delivered and the facility for its operation.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is indeed important to highlight that the previous catering unit was accommodated in a government quarters where staff has had to adapt to the environment and facilities given to them to prepare meals for working staff and patients. Subsequently, this new facility represents a major upgrade while providing a proper and spacious working environment for the catering staff.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the last part of the question, the House is informed that the Health and Safety report which is being mentioned in the question, was received on the eve of the operationalization of the Unit and being sensitive to the welfare of all staff to ensure provision of quality meals to patients, I wish to ensure the House that my Commission (Health) has already initiated actions to identify gaps and remedy to same the earliest possible.

However, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in view of the confidentiality and sensitivity of the recommendations provided therein and which, as stated above, my Commission is still under the process of addressing the gaps identified, it will not at this stage, be ethical and appropriate to disseminate these information nor table the said report.

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

WORKS REQUIRED – OPERATIONALISATION

“LA MAISON DES PECHEURS”

(No. B/88) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the works required to operationalise “*La Maison des Pêcheurs*”, he will state (a) the detailed scope of works undertaken since March 2022, with related costs and item votes from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly budget (b) any work envisaged or completed, specifying the dates, and (c) if the facility is operational, and if not, the reasons why?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the operationalisation of “La Maison des Pêcheurs” was yet another one of my priority projects since my taking of office in March 2022.

As such, in March 2022, a Consultant was recruited by my office to assess the existing infrastructure at “La Maison des Pêcheurs” and prepare the related scopes of work for infrastructural as well as electrical upgrade of the premises.

With regard to part (a) of the question, Mr Chairperson, I am informed that the scope of works for the renovation of “La Maison des Pêcheurs” was as follows: -

- Renovation of fish procession unit which includes replacement of sheeting and openings and tiles, electrical and plumbing works, rainwater harvesting, etc.
- Renovation of generator and toilet block which includes replacement of sheeting and openings and tiles, sanitary wares, electrical and plumbing works, rainwater harvesting, etc.
- Renovation of fish shop which includes replacement of sheeting and openings and tiles, electrical and plumbing works, rainwater harvesting, etc.
- Cleaning of yard, removal of unwanted shrubs, garbage and debris
- Replacement of damaged fence and poles
- Cleaning and painting of boundary walls including repairs to decorative sections
- Replacement of gate
- Construction of drain for storm water drainage

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I am informed, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the contract for the renovation of “La Maison des Pêcheurs” was awarded in July 2022 for the duration of 119 days for a contract value of Rs3,925,906 (excluding VAT). At completion of project in May 2023, a total sum of Rs3,851,466.96 (excluding VAT) was paid from the Vote Item 4103–3111–306 – Sustainable Fisheries Development.

As such, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the facility as at date is not yet operational since the repair/replacement of the cold rooms have not been executed yet.

I am informed, Mr Chairperson, Sir that my office has initiated procurement procedures for the repair/replacement of the three cold rooms as follows: -

- In October 2022 and August 2024 respectively, and both exercises were not responsive.
- A third exercise was launched in February 2025, unfortunately same could not be executed due to budget constraints during this current Financial Year.

Hence my office is revising all the technical specifications and related documents to be completed under next Financial Year.

LIVESTOCK SECTOR/RODRIGUES

(No. B/89) Dr. H. AGATHE (First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture and Others whether, in regard to the livestock sector in Rodrigues, he will state to the House the policy and measures in place concerning (a) farming land and the production of fodder, and (b) the management of livestock stocks to ensure the sustainability of the sector?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Livestock Sector in Rodrigues, I wish to inform the House that on a small island like Rodrigues, land resources are very limited and competition for other land uses, particularly for residential and commercial purposes is high. Moreover, land which were previously used for grazing purposes have been degraded and invaded by *Accacia Nilotica*. Consequently, it clear that communal pasture for ruminant livestock production is shrinking.

Hence, in order to sustain livestock production and the livelihood of the arming community, my Commission has put in place policies to ensure that sufficient land is allocated for livestock farming and the production of fodder specific measures including: -

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- (a) Rehabilitation the 13 silvo-pastoral areas around the island to act as fodder reserves where farmers will have controlled access to practice cut and carry system of production.

My Commission has already kick started the rehabilitation of the Mont Kali silvo-pastoral which has an area of 75 Ha and a perimeter of 4000 m. The main works to be undertaken are as follows:

- Construction of perimeter fence of 4000 M
- Construction of two watchman posts
- Coppicing of invasive plants
- Plantation of fodder grasses and fodder trees
- Plantation of endemic plants

- (b) Proposal to resume training in Pasture Production and Conservation in collaboration with Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). The training is expected by end August 2025.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to Livestock Sector in Rodrigues, I wish to further inform the House that, in alignment with the Cabinet Decision of 09 May 2025, a revised protocol on the movement of livestock from Rodrigues to Mauritius has been adopted.

In this regard: -

- A new protocol came into effect as from 01 July 2025 to facilitate safe and regulated livestock trade between Rodrigues and Mauritius.
- The protocol aims to ensure animal health and bio-security standards are maintained and enables my Commission to systematically monitor trade activities, including the identification of trading entities and the classification and volume of livestock being exported.
- Measures under the protocol include proper documentation, health certification and scheduling of livestock shipments to avoid disruption of Veterinary Services and disease surveillance activities.
- For the first quarter, covering 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, the total quota is 1,250 heads for all categories of livestock excluding pigs. This includes: -

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- (i) Bulls
- (ii) Cows
- (iii) Ewes
- (iv) Rams
- (v) Does
- (vi) Bucks
- (vii) Juvenile Small Ruminants

Mr Chairperson, Sir, these measures reflect my Commission's commitment to modernising livestock management, safeguarding animal health and supporting the sustainable development of the sector in Rodrigues.

**NATIONAL PROJECT – STUDENT UNDER THE 9+ EXTENDED
PROGRAMME**

(No. B/90) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the national project catering for students under the 9+ Extended Programme, he will inform the House of the (a) current status of its implementation in Rodrigues (b) number of students involved in the 2025 academic year, broken down by college, and (c) budget, staffing, facilities, support measures and timeline for its full implementation in Rodrigues?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the House is aware, the policy of education rests with the Ministry of Education whereas the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through the Commission for Education is responsible for the administration of the sector. In that regard, Rodrigues shares the same education system as the Republic.

I am informed that the Ministry of Education and Human Resource in a letter dated 31 December 2024 informed the Director of the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) that with the phasing out of the Extended Programme (EP), Government will be implementing the Foundational Programme in Literacy, Numeracy and Skills (FPLNS) as from January 2025.

The FPLNS is a 3-year programme which consists of three clusters namely Functional Literacy and Numeracy, Life Skills and Values and Trade and Livelihood Skills.

The transitional arrangements for 2025 will be as follows:

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- a) Pupils not meeting the minimum requirements of NQF level 1 at PSAC level at the end of primary schooling, will join the FPLNS in Grade 7;
- b) Students who were in Grade 7 in the ex-Extended Programme in 2024 will continue their lower secondary education journey by joining the FPLNS at Grade 8 in 2025;
- c) Students who were in Grade 8 in the ex-Extended Programme in 2024 will continue their lower secondary education journey by joining the FPLNS in Grade 9 in 2025;
- d) Students who were in Grade 9 in the ex-Extended Programme in 2024 will, in 2025, complete their lower secondary education journey by sitting for the National Certificate of Education (NCE) Assessments with School Based Assessments or moving to a Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) centre to enrol for a course leading to a National Certificate Level 2. More communication will be made as to the modalities for the two options; and
- e) During the first term of 2025, coverage in Grades 7 to 9 of the FPLNS will concentrate on remediating and strengthening Functional Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills and Values. As from the second term of 2025, there will be a gradual phasing in of the aspects of Trade and Livelihood Skills within the curriculum and the timetable.

Subsequently, I am further informed that my Commission in a letter dated 03 January 2025 requested the Ministry of Education and Human Resource to organise a workshop for Heads of Schools, Departments and Facilitators in Rodrigues so as to facilitate the implementation of the new Programme in Rodrigues.

As such, two workshops targeting the management team, Educators and facilitators have been run in Rodrigues from 13 to 15 January 2025 and 20 to 23 May 2025 respectively. A third workshop pertaining to Electives is being run as from today the 19 up to 22 August 2025.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed of the following:

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- i) A Circular was issued by the PSEA on 10 February 2025 to all Managers of Private Secondary Schools to invite Responsible Parties/parents whose wards are in Grade 9 + and who are willing that their wards move to the MITD to carry out the registration procedures on Friday 14 February at one of the designated place. As regards Rodrigues, they were kindly requested to call in person with their ward at the MITD Le Chou Multipurpose Training Centre, Le Chou;
- ii) Some sixty (60) students of Grade 9+ of Year 2025 called at the MITD Le Chou Multipurpose Training Centre in Rodrigues. However, the Centre could not enrol the students due to lack of space and resources;
- iii) At present, Grade 9+ students are continuing their schooling in the grade at their respective secondary school; and
- iv) The MITD has informed that it is expected in Year 2026 that students who are in Grade 9 and Grade 9+ in Year 2025 will be able to apply for the NC3 courses at the institution.

As regards to part (b), I am informed that a total of 76 students out of 159 Grade 9+ students are involved in the 2025 Academic Year as detailed per college as follows:

- Ananias Andre Le Chou College -17 out of 23 students opted for MITD;
- Andre Lelio Roussety Songes College -None out of 14 students opted for MITD
- Grande Montagne College -04 out of 15 students opted for MITD;
- La Ferme College -01 out of 12 students opted for MITD;
- Marechal College -20 out of 27 students opted for MITD
- Mont Lubin College -13 out of 18 students opted for MITD;
- Rodrigues College -08 out of 19 students opted for MITD
- Terre Rouge College -13 out of 31 students opted for MITD;

With regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed that the implementation of this national policy/measure regarding the option offered to Grade 9+ students to move to a MITD Centre rests with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource.

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Subsequently, my Office does not have any information regarding the budget for same.

However, I would like to inform the House that following request from the MITD for the setting up of a modern MITD Training Centre in Rodrigues and since the RRA is laying much emphasis on the development of the (TVET) sector in Rodrigues, the Executive Council at its meeting held on 12 July 2024 has decided to approve the signature of a lease agreement with the MITD to facilitate the setting up of a new Training Centre at Ex-Citron Donis College. The lease agreement is being finalised.

The operationalisation of the new Centre including staffing, facilities and all costs related thereof will be borne by the MITD.

As such, I am informed that necessary arrangements are being made by the MITD to kick-start the upgrading of part of the building at Ex Citron Donis College to accommodate more entrants as from Year 2026.

BREEDERS & PLANTERS/RELOCATION – BAIE DIAMANT CEMETERY

(No. B/91) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Agriculture whether, in regard to the breeders and planters to be relocated following the setting up of a cemetery at Baie Diamant, he will inform the House (a) of the number of breeders and planters involved (b) if the survey for their compensation has been completed, and (c) of the current status of their relocation?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, further to the decision of the Executive Council to construct a Cemetery at Baie Diamant, joint site visits have been organised between my Office and the Commission for State Land as we were well aware of some land earmarked was used for farming purposes.

During the site visits, it was noted that a block of Agricultural Land at Baie Diamant, of a total area of 2, 87 hectares had been earmarked by the Commission for Public Infrastructure for the proposed Cemetery Project. According to official records from my Office, part of the earmarked plots was being occupied by five (05) farmers, of whom three (03) are holders of the permission to occupy the land from my Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, Following the observations made on the field, in February 2025, a meeting was held with the three eligible breeders under the Chairmanship of the Chief

Commissioner. During the meeting, the breeders informed that they had identified new sites for their relocation, and it was decided that the Commission for State Land and my Commission would assess the proposed relocated sites by the farmers prior to proceeding with the relocation.

Of the three sites identified, the first Site was currently in the process of issuance of an Agricultural Permit; the second Site has not obtained clearance from the Commission for Prison, as the land is reserved as a buffer for prison facilities; a new site has been identified and is under consideration; and third Site is subject to a conflict among breeders in the region, and the matter is being dealt by my Commission so as to sort out the issue at the earliest.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is fully aware of the complexity which arises when relocation is being undertaken. There is the social factor which has to be dealt with a very humane approach.

My Commission will continue to provide the necessary support to facilitate the relocation of affected breeders in the shortest possible time.

“RODRIGUES ILE VERTE’ PROJECT

(No. B/92) Mr J. R. Ramdally (First Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the “Rodrigues Ile Verte” project, he will inform the House of the current status, stating (a) the main objectives thereof (b) the way forward from this point, and (c) table any related report, providing details on how the project has been or will be financed?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Ile Verte project is a roadmap/ energy transition plan designed to help Rodrigues achieve a complete transition to renewable energy by 2050.

The project was initiated in March 2018. It is funded to the tune of 750,000 Euros by the *Agence Francaise de Développement* and provides a framework for the transition of Rodrigues into a green, energy-efficient island.

This energy transition plan was elaborated under the FEXTE (Fonds d’Expertise Technique et d’Echanges d’Experience) which is a technical instrument managed by the AFD that provides expertise and support for project preparation and development in partner countries.

The main objectives of the energy transition plan are:

- (1) To identify the various potential sources of renewable energy on Rodrigues Island with the aim of achieving a target of 100% renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2050.
- (2) To identify energy efficiency and demand management activities in Rodrigues.
- (3) To identify the actions needed to strengthen the electricity grid in Rodrigues, including technical solutions to achieve 100% renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2050.
- (4) To assist in the establishment of a local energy governance structure to plan and manage the energy transition in Rodrigues.
- (5) To take into account the development of electric mobility in Rodrigues with regard to the electricity system.
- (6) To support the Mauritian authorities in implementing the energy transition plan by contributing to the drafting of an investment prioritization strategy and proposing recommendations regarding the functionality of the equipment to be installed.
- (7) To also provide an estimate of the required investments.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Energy Transition Plan (Roadmap) has been finalized in July 2024.

As regards to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson Sir, it should be noted that the Agence Française de Développement has provided additional support for the Operationalization of the Rodrigues Ile Verte roadmap and elaboration of the feasibility study for the first investment phase of the Rodrigues Ile Verte program.

The consortium ARTELIA–NODALIS–MAUTOPIA–LEGIS has been recruited by the AFD in this respect with two main objectives, namely: -

- (1) To Support the RRA and the MEPU in operationalizing the Rodrigues Ile Verte roadmap, and
- (2) To Support the CEB in the completion of a feasibility study for the first investment phase of the Rodrigues Ile Verte program.

The additional technical support provided by AFD under the Rodrigues Ile Verte program started in March 2025 and will run for a period of 12 months.

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Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the House that the energy transition plan under the roadmap can be summarised under three main themes, namely:

- (1) Energy Efficiency and management actions;
- (2) Renewable Energy Production and Integration actions;
- (3) Mobility Transition strategy.

As regards to theme Energy Efficiency and management actions, my Commission is actually working on (i) the Establishment of institutional mechanisms to accompany the energy transition and (ii) the Completion of modelling and scenarios for energy demand and supply. It should be further noted that: -

- (a) An initial mission by AFD, ARTELIA, and MAUTOPIA took place from 17 to 19 March 2025, during which launch meetings with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (ARR), the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (MEPU), and the Central Electricity Board (CEB) were held, as well as site visits;
- (b) The first Steering Committee was held on 22 May 2025;
- (c) Three technical coordination meetings have been conducted to refine the technical objectives of the mission;
- (d) A mission by MAUTOPIA and LEGIS took place on 6–7 August 2025 to deliver training for a pool of trainers constituted by my Commission and includes representatives, from the RCSS, educational institutions (primary and secondary), youth clubs and councils, related technical staffs of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, CEB and members from NGOs.

As regards to the second theme Renewable Energy Production and Integration actions, my Commission is continuing to provide subsidy on solar heaters and is heavily investing in solar lights for the streets and beaches. I would like to bring to the attention of the House that from financial year 2022/2023 to Financial year 2024/2025, Rs4.8 M has been disbursed for the Subsidy on Solar Water Heater Scheme.

In the context of the celebration of World Environment Day 2025, my Commission has carried out a sale exhibition “*La Foire Ecolozil*” of which one of the focus themes was renewable energy.

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The main objective was to sensitise the public on renewable energy initiatives and also to promote its use.

Under the Indian Grant, a photovoltaic farm of capacity 100 kW has been set up at Terre Rouge.

Also under the Indian Grant, funds to the tune of Rs3 M have also been provided for the procurement of solar street light.

To note that Renewable Energy Schemes developed at the national level are applied to Rodrigues as well and as at to date a total amount of 440 kW has been deployed through the Central Electricity Board.

Site visits are also being carried out by the recruited consortium to undertake feasibility studies of the identified sites for solar PV farms, wind farms, and storage systems.

An ARTELIA mission, in this respect, took place from the 11 to 16 August 2025 to inspect sites identified for the installation of renewable energy production and storage units.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is also working in close collaboration with the Central Electricity Board to identify actions for (i) Energy production and grid strengthening, (ii) Energy efficiency and demand-side management, and (iii) Institutional coordination and governance.

A strategic committee to be chaired by myself will soon be set up to consider all recommendations regarding renewable energy deployment and governance. Representative from the Ministry for Energy will also form part thereof.

As regards to theme 3, Mobility Transition strategy, Mr Chairperson Sir, the House will note that my Office has already heavily invested in the purchase of electric cars to set the tone. Electric chargers have also been installed accordingly. A technical Committee will soon be set up to discuss and make recommendations on Electric Mobility.

The local energy governance structure to plan and manage the energy transition in Rodrigues also comprises two other technical committees, one on Renewable Energy and Storage and the other one on Energy Demand Management.

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As regards to part (c) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the reports related to the Rodrigues Ile Verte project, namely the report on “FEXTE Rodrigues Ile Verte-Rodrigues Energy Transition Plan” and the report on “Opérationnalisation de la feuille de route Rodrigues Ile Verte et élaboration de l’étude de faisabilité pour la première phase d’investissement du programme Rodrigues Ile Verte”.

I am also tabling the table providing details on how the project has been or will be financed.

To note also that the roadmap is conceived not only as a technical plan but also as a strategic vision aimed at attracting both private investment and support from international partners.

The Central Electricity Board (CEB) is responsible for part of the investments required for the Renewable Energy transition. On the margins of the last visit of the Minister for Energy, Hon. Patrick. ASIRVADEN, it was announced that an amount of Rs200 M will be invested in battery storage system to the capacity of 2 megawatt (MWh) that will bring the total energy storage system to 3.5 MWh.

This is in line with the reinforcement of the grid capacity and increase potential for renewable energy deployment.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) remains a key partner as well as the MARENA and Energy Efficiency Management Office (EMM0). Other international partners will be approached for the financing of priority needs.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/RODRIGUES

(No. B/93) Ms K. Roussety (Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huîtres) asked the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Others whether, in regard to domestic violence in Rodrigues, she will state (a) the number of reported cases from January 2023 to date, broken down by month (b) the number of persons under protection or occupation orders during the same period (c) the number of cases prosecuted or under prosecution, and (d) if the Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS) is being used for recording and monitoring such cases, and if so, since when and which institutions have access thereto?

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Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to state the number of reported cases at the Family Protection Unit of my Commission from January 2023 to date, broken down by month as follows:

A. Statistic cases reported at the FWPU for the year 2023

MONTH	No of cases reported at Family Welfare		Total
	Male	Female	
January	3	8	11
February	1	4	05
March	0	1	01
April	2	4	05
May	3	12	15
June	2	5	07
July	1	6	07
August	1	8	09
September	3	5	07
October	1	4	05
November	2	5	06
December	3	3	06
	22	65	87

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B. Statistic cases reported at the FWPU for the year 2024

MONTH	No of cases reported at Family Welfare		Total
	Male	Female	
January	0	9	9
February	3	8	11
March	2	7	09
April	1	15	16
May	3	4	07
June	1	8	09
July	0	10	10
August	0	4	04
September	0	3	03
October	0	9	09
November	2	4	06
December	1	5	06
	12	86	98

C. Statistic year 2025 (from January 2025 to date)

MONTH	No of cases reported at Family Welfare		Total
	Male	Female	
January	5	9	14

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February	6	11	17
March	4	6	10
April	2	4	6
May	1	2	3
June	0	5	5
July	4	5	9
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
	22	42	64

Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is to be noted that the number of cases reported has increased from 87 cases in 2023 to 98 cases in 2024 and this can be explained by the sensitisation campaigns being done at the level of my Commission to encourage the public to report cases of domestic violence.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, from information received from Mauritius Police Force – Rodrigues Divisional Headquarters, the number of reported cases from January 2023 to date is as below:

Month	Year		
	2023	2024	2025
January	18	14	10

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February	4	5	13
March	10	17	9
April	12	9	8
May	15	11	6
June	6	8	9
July	13	12	12
August	16	14	-
September	14	12	-
October	6	10	-
November	10	11	-
December	14	8	-
TOTAL	138	131	67

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to state the number of persons under protection order or occupation orders from January 2023 to date, as per information received from Rodrigues Court, are as follows:

Year	2023	2024	2025 (as at date)
No. protection order granted	115	106	56
No. of occupation order granted	-	1	1

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding the number of cases prosecuted or under prosecution for period January 2023 to date, based on information received from Rodrigues Court, are as follows:

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Year	2023	2024	2025 (as at date)
No. of cases prosecuted	96	120	78
No. of cases under prosecution	-	-	15

Furthermore, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as per information received from the Mauritius Police Force – Rodrigues Divisional Headquarters, all cases reported from 2023 to 2024 have been prosecuted and data below details cases reported in 2025:

	Year 2025						
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
No. of cases reported	10	13	9	8	6	9	12
No. of cases prosecuted	10	8	4	8	6	8	7
No. of cases under prosecution	-	5	5	-	-	1	5

The Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS), Mr Chairperson, Sir, is a computerized platform developed for the registration and monitoring of reported cases of domestic violence, with the aim of harmonizing data collection across relevant agencies.

DOVIS was scheduled to become fully operational in Rodrigues since April 2024. Training sessions were conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality in February 2024 to Family Welfare and Protection Officers, Family Counselling Officers, and Officers from the Brigade pour la Protection des Familles (BPF), granting them access to the database.

However, Mr Chairperson Sir, the effective use of DOVIS has been delayed because of operational challenges. Due to constant reshuffling of police officers within the BPF and new staff recruitment, a number of officers have not yet received the necessary training.

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Consequently, based on the above constraints, the system is not being fully utilised.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that domestic violence is not just a private issue, it is a societal crisis that affects individuals, families, and the entire community. Ending it requires collective responsibility and active participation from all sectors of society.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

**DEFECTIVE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT
– HEALTH INSTITUTIONS/RODRIGUES**

(No. A/12) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to the defective sensitive equipment in health institutions across Rodrigues, he will state the number of such equipment per institution and table a breakdown, providing details of the name of each item, the period it has been out of use per ward, where applicable, within a given institution or per institution?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that a team from the Ministry of Health and Wellness from Mauritius upon my request, was in Rodrigues from 09 June to 14 June 2025 to conduct a Medical Auditing with main focus as to analyse current status of equipment in various departments.

The team comprised Dr. V.T. Mohabeer (Director Health Services) Mrs M. Bunhoo (Biomedical Engineer), Mr A. Peerbocus (Senior Health Care Technologist) and Mrs D. Ellapen Bissessur (Management Support Officer).

From the report the equipment that were marked as not functional are: -

- (i) Operating microscope (Operating Theatre) (Faulty Gas Spring);
- (ii) Video Cystoscopy Tower (OT) (Faulty camera head);
- (iii) Gastroscope (Control knob loose), and
- (iv) Colonoscope (Insulator issues).

OPERATING THEATRE ROOM(S) - QEH

(No. A/13) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Others whether, in regard to Operating Theatre Room(s) in

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Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), he will inform the House of the number of such rooms and provide details on the sensitive equipment present in each room?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Acting Health Director that Queen Elizabeth Hospital has a total of two Operating Theatre Rooms, comprising one Major Operating used for Surgical Operations such as Orthopaedics, Surgical and Gynaecological and one Minor Surgical Operation Theatre Room, respectively.

I am also informed that both are operational and in an Operating Theatre setting, all equipment in both rooms are considered sensitive as a matter of fact, it will take quite some time to give full details of each and every equipment. Consequently, the information is still being compiled.

SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEMES

(No. A/14) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Housing and Others whether, in regard to the Social Housing schemes, he will provide for the benefit of the House the (a) total number of applications received to date, indicating the number of approved, pending, and rejected cases, respectively, and (b) budget earmarked for the current financial year, specifying the different housing schemes to be implemented and the number and types of housing units to be constructed under each scheme?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to first part of the question, I am informed that 4,222 applications have been recorded at the Housing Department of my Commission for the Social Housing Scheme for the period 2016 to 2025, among which, 948 were approved, with 3,036 pending cases and 237 cases were rejected as detailed below.

Sn.	No. of Application Received	No. of Approved Cases	No. of Pending Cases	No. of Rejected Cases	Period (Year)
1.	2890	361	249	114	2016
2.		86	236	29	2017
3.		49	234	27	2018
4.		35	221	17	2019
5.		41	257	9	2020
6.		56	354	12	2021
7.	872	18	287	6	2022
8.		85	456	5	2023
9.		117	178	4	2024
10.		22	196	-	2025

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Extension Trust Fund Scheme					
11.	460	78	368	14	2016 - 2025
	4,222	948	3036	237	-

Table 1: No. of Cases of the New Social Housing Scheme including Extension to Trust Fund Houses

Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that a provision of Rs70 M has been voted for the Financial Year 2025-2026. I have already outlined my priorities for the current financial year in the different schemes, which however are subjected to the existing budget constraint.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in this regards, I am hereby presenting the major priorities in respect of the different Housing Schemes that have been decided and are currently being implemented by my Commission:

- Construction materials will be provided to 85 beneficiaries under the New Social Housing Scheme to complete item Housing Unit and the beneficiaries will provide labour cost;
- Tender procedures for the construction of 20 housing units with Service of Contractors under the same scheme is in the process of relaunching; same was not successful in the last.
- Under the Upgrading of Trust Fund Scheme, bids have reached the evaluation stage for the extension of housing unit in favour of 33 beneficiaries;
- Bids for 15 beneficiaries under the Basic Sanitary Scheme is presently under evaluation;
- As regards Hardship Cases, including fire victims, 36 cases have been approved and construction have started in nine cases, while tender have been launched in 16 cases and tender have been prepared for launching in respect of the remaining 11 cases;
- Seven cases under the Elderly Housing Scheme have been approved and tender is under preparation; and
- Distribution of construction materials in favour 100 beneficiaries under the Infrastructure to Needy Families Scheme will be started shortly.

RECRUITMENT – SPORTS AND FITNESS ANIMATORS

(No. A/15) Ms M. N. Raffaut (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner Youth and Sports and Others whether, in regard to the recruitment of sports and fitness animators, he will state for the benefit of the House and table (a) the number of animators recruited since 2022 to date (b) the criteria applied for recruitment, and (c) if any training in Mauritius is planned for newly recruited animators?

Reply: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), I wish to inform the House that the recruitment of sports and fitness animators ranks high on our strategies to enhance the development of grassroots sports and talent identification across all sports disciplines.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, after a long period of 15 years without recruitment, my Commission, has since 2022 to date, taken the initiative to recruit 20 Sports and fitness animators across ten sports disciplines, namely Football, Volleyball, handball, karate, basketball, weight lifting, kite surfing, wrestling, athletics and boxing.

The recruitment exercise was conducted by the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited under the Rodrigues Sports Academy project.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), the criteria applied for the recruitment of Sports and fitness animators as per the vacancy circular, stipulated that candidates should possess:

- (i) A basic coaching certificate in the specific sport, obtained from a recognised body;
- (ii) A recommendation from the appropriate Regional Sports Coach and/ regional Sports Committee attesting the practical experience of the applicant in the specific sport; and
- (iii) have reached a minimum education level of Form 3.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c) of the question, as per the conditions of service of the sports animators, the company has no obligation to offer any training to newly recruited Sports and fitness animators.

However, in line with the policy of my Commission for continuous learning and capacity building for sports cadres and technicians, sports animators are encouraged to follow refresher courses organised by my Commission and their respective Sports

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federations to ensure that they remain updated with the rules and developments specific to their sports.

As at date, we have no training courses scheduled for newly recruited animators in Mauritius or abroad. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.