

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### TEC - QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION OFFICER - RECRUITMENT

(No. B/104) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to one Mrs K. P. R. recruited as Quality Assurance and Accreditation Officer of the Tertiary Education Commission, he will state if he has been informed of the false representations made in relation to her experience and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Independent Commission Against Corruption, information as to if an inquiry has been carried out in relation thereto.

**Reply (Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research):** I am informed by the Tertiary Education Commission that Mrs K. P. R. was appointed as Quality Assurance and Accreditation Officer on 12 May 2009 following an advertisement and a selection exercise undertaken by Tertiary Education Commission. She is still serving as Quality Assurance and Accreditation Officer at Tertiary Education Commission.

The main requirement for the post of QAAO as per the scheme of service are -

- (i) A post graduate degree preferably at doctoral level from a recognised university;
- (ii) at least three years' teaching and research experience at tertiary level in any area, and
- (iii) commitment to the enhancement of the quality of teaching and possess good communication and report writing skills.

As per records at the Tertiary Education Commission a complaint was received on 05 June 2014 making serious allegations on a number of issues including experience of the Officer. On 17 June 2014, the then Executive Director had sought explanation from the officer concerned. However, there is no record at the Tertiary Education Commission as to whether a reply was received and any action taken thereon.

In regard to the part related to enquiry by ICAC, I understand that a complaint by way of an anonymous letter had been received at the level of the ICAC and is being investigated.

In view of the serious nature of the matter contained in the letter dated 05 June 2014, I propose that a full-fledged enquiry be conducted by the TEC Board once it is newly

constituted to look into the allegations and to make recommendations for any action as may be deemed appropriate by TEC.

## **ADDIS ABABA - AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT – MAURITIUS**

### **REPRESENTATION**

**(No. B/107) Mr S. Mohamed (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the 24th African Union Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 23 and 31 January 2015, he will state -

(a) who represented Mauritius thereat, and

(b) the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** The 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union was held in Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 January 2015. It was preceded by the following meetings -

- Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held on 26 and 27 January 2015; and
- Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) held on 24 and 25 January 2015.

The theme of the Summit was “Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agenda 2063”.

The Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of our Embassy in Addis Ababa represented Mauritius at the AU Summit. He was accompanied by the Second Secretary from our Mission.

In addition to the above meetings, the Mauritius delegation also attended the following:

- Meeting of Sherpas on Post 2015-Development Agenda held in the margins of the African Union Summit on 24 and 25 January 2015;
- African Union Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System on 26 January 2015;
- Twenty Second Summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015; and
- Launch of the African Union Foundation and Ebola Fund.

Various decisions, declarations and resolutions were adopted by the Assembly, amongst others: the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak and cancellation of debt of those countries affected by it, Alternative Sources of Financing of the African Union, the Development of

the Agenda 2063, Africa's engagement at the various international Climate Summits and on Illicit Financial Flows.

I wish to inform the House that the decisions and resolutions have already been circulated to the various Ministries concerned for an effective implementation and follow up action.

I also wish to inform the House that the next Summit of the African Union will be held in June 2015 in South Africa and Mauritius looks forward to an active participation therein.

### **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT - AMENDMENTS**

**(No. B/121) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Public Procurement Act and related legislation, he will state the amendments he proposes to bring thereto.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, in its Programme 2015-2019, Government has already expressed its commitment to review the Public Procurement Act in order to -

- (i) make it more transparent with regard to the call for bids for all types of procurement; and
- (ii) Increase accountability of both public bodies and suppliers participating in tender exercises.

The proposed amendments to the Act are currently being worked out and these may form part of Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the context of the forthcoming Budget.

### **PORT LOUIS MARITIME & PORT LOUIS EAST - ROADS**

**(No. B/138) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the classified roads in Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Road Development Authority, information as to if consideration will be given for the urgent –

- (a) cleaning/removal of wastes/soils from the covered blocked drains/canals at
- (i) Saint François Xavier Street, from its junction with Madras Street up to Delhi Street, and
  - (ii) Magon Street, towards the Khadafi Square, near the children playground after the Dr I. Goomany Municipal Centre, to prevent water accumulation during heavy rainfalls, and
- (b) replacement of the covered cross slabs by heavy duty slabs, at Saint François Xavier Street, at its junction with Bombay Street.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) (i) of the question, I am informed by the Road Development Authority as follows -

- (i) the cleaning of drains and removal of wastes at Saint Francois Xavier Street has already been completed; and
- (ii) the cleaning of drains along Magon Street is scheduled to be completed on 09 March 2015.

In relation to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Road Development Authority has started to cast off-site new heavy duty slabs. The slabs will be replaced by the end of March.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE  
COMMITTEE – CHAIRPERSON - APPOINTMENT**

**(No. B/139) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the appointment of Mr V. M. as Chairperson of the National Institute for Co-operative Enterprise Committee, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Committee, information as to –

- (a) his qualifications;
- (b) his address, and
- (c) the allowances and benefits, if any, to which he is entitled.

*(Withdrawn)*

**REGISTRATION DUTY – FIRST-TIME BUYERS - EXEMPTION**

**(No. B/140) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the exemption of registration duty in respect of the first-time buyers, he will state if he will consider the advisability of introducing amendments to the law in relation thereto so as not to restrict the exemption to any price threshold.

**Reply:** Registration Duty exemption is currently granted to a qualifying first-time buyer provided that the value of the house purchased does not exceed four million rupees. In the case of acquisition of bare land by a first-time buyer, the exemption threshold is set at one million rupees.

The question of reviewing those thresholds, Madam Speaker, is a matter of fiscal policy decision and this is best considered in the context of the current budget exercise. I will therefore invite the hon. Member to be patient.

#### **DIABETES – CHILDREN - TREATMENT**

**(No. B/141) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to diabetes, he will state the number of children presently under treatment in relation thereto, indicating if Government is envisaging a permanent sponsorship of medical treatment for such patients.

**Reply:** In reply to the first part of the question, I wish to inform the House that according to the National Diabetes Register, there are presently 520 Type 1 diabetic patients, of whom 180 are below the age of 18. As regards Type 2 diabetes, the number of children below 18 years is 36.

In regard to the second part of the question, I wish to emphasise that in Mauritius, health services, at all levels, from primary to tertiary is free of user cost.

I wish to elaborate on the services that are presently provided to diabetic patients. These are namely –

- comprehensive paediatric diabetic management programmes for such patients in all Regional Hospitals;
- support of all activities related to diabetes care by Diabetes Specialist Nurses;
- provision of glucose meters, testing strips as well as latest insulin analogues to all children with Type 1 diabetes aiming at achieving excellent control of blood sugar;

- conduct of open day activities whereby such patients are screened for eye, kidney and cardiac complications. In addition their blood glucose level and oral health are assessed;
- screening of students of Form III, that is between 13 to 14 years and Lower VI, that is between 17 to 18 years for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors. Those who are obese with a family history of diabetes are referred for further investigations and follow up, and
- conduct of sensitisation and health education programme on diabetes on a regular basis to both patients and parents.

### **KENSINGTON, POINTE AUX-SABLES – HOUSING UNITS – TREATMENT PLANT**

**(No. B/142) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the housing units at Kensington in Pointe aux-Sables, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Waste Water Management Authority, information as to when they will be connected to the treatment plant.

**Reply:** The hon. Member may refer to the reply made to past Parliamentary Question A/19 on 25 March 2014.

In my reply to PQ B/79 of last Tuesday, I informed the House that the Wastewater Management Authority has completed a detailed topographical survey and a preliminary design in the regions of Terasson, Verger Mangué, Pointe aux Sables, Petit Verger and Kensington Place. Based on prevailing rates, the cost for the project is estimated at 2.4 billion.

Given its location, the region of Kensington Place can be connected directly to the Montagne Jacquot Waste Water Treatment Plant under a separate project at an estimated cost of Rs 80 M. The project duration is some 18 months.

The Wastewater Management Authority will submit the project to the Project Plan Committee for approval and funding.

### **TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR – QUALITY AUDIT - COMMITTEE**

**(No. B/143) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science

Research whether, in regard to the tertiary education sector, she will state if a committee was set up to inquire into the quality audit thereof and, if so, when, indicating –

- (a) the composition thereof, and
- (b) if the committee has completed its inquiry and, if so, will she table copy of the report in relation thereto and, if not, why not.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **TEC – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - POST**

**(No. B/144) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science Research whether, in regard to the Tertiary Education Commission, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if the Executive Director thereof has been dismissed and, if so, indicate if the post will be advertised internationally and, if so, when.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/117)*

### **NHDC – SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS**

**(No. B/145) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the social housing projects, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., information as to the number of -

- (a) housing units built by the Company island wide, since 2006 to 2014, and
- (b) house seekers presently enlisted at the Company, indicating the categorisation of the applicants in terms of monthly earnings.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the NHDC that during the period 2006 to 2014, 1,923 housing units have been constructed on 27 sites across the island; and these houses have already been allocated.

As for part (b) of the question, 39,573 households have registered themselves at the NHDC for a housing unit. The breakdown of their monthly household income is as follows -

- i. 11,992 draw a monthly household income of less than Rs 6,199;
- ii. 14,123 draw a monthly household income between Rs 6,200 and Rs 10,000;
- iii. 8,157 have a monthly household income between Rs 10,001 and Rs 14,999;

- iv. 3,043 households have a monthly income between Rs 15,000 and Rs 19,999;
- v. 1,179 have a monthly income between Rs 20,000 and Rs 24,999;
- vi. 492 draw a monthly income between Rs 25,000 and Rs 29,999, and
- vii. the remaining 587 households are families with monthly household income of Rs 30,000 and above.

### **SAVANNE & BLACK RIVER - HOUSING UNITS**

**(No. B/146) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the housing problem in Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., information as to -

(a) the number of -

(i) housing units built by the Company thereat, since 2006 to 2014, and

(ii) applicants living thereat seeking a housing unit from the Company, and

(b) if the Company has any project for the construction of housing units and, if so, indicate in which region/s.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) (i) of the question, I am informed by the NHDC that during the 8 year period from 2006 to 2014, the Company has constructed 120 housing units on 2 sites in Constituency No. 14; namely in Bambous (78 units) and Camp La Colle (42 units).

As regard part (a) (ii) of the question, 1,681 families living in that Constituency have applied to the NHDC for a housing unit.

With regard to part (b) of the question, about future housing projects in Constituency No. 14, three sites; namely Bassin-Quatre Bornes, Cascavelle and La Gaulette have been identified. The NHDC is presently working on a project proposal for the construction of some 200 housing units on those sites. In consultation with the MSPA and Medine Sugar Estate, other suitable sites are being prospected for future housing development in that Constituency.

### **PAILLES TREATMENT PLANT - REHABILITATION**

**(No. B/147) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Rehabilitation and Modernisation of the Pailles Treatment Plant Project, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to where matters stand, indicating the

improvement expected thereof that will be brought to the distribution of potable water in the region of Port Louis as a result thereof.

**Reply:** The works at the Pailles Water Treatment Plant consist of the upgrading of the existing 30,000m<sup>3</sup>/day slow sand filters and the construction of a new Rapid Gravity Filter of capacity 80,000m<sup>3</sup>/day. Works started in July 2013 and the contractual completion date is 14 March 2015.

I am, however, informed by the Central Water Authority that the plant will now be commissioned by end April 2015.

I am further informed that according to the contractor, the delay is due to -

- (i) the late delivery of the Mechanical and Electrical equipment as a result of cyclone Bansi, and
- (ii) the procurement of the filtration sand following a ban on the export of sand by the Saudi Authorities. The sand is now being procured from India and will be delivered by end March 2015.

The new plant will treat 80,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day at a higher turbidity condition of 400 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) as compared to 15 NTU presently. It will ensure an uninterrupted water supply in the region Port Louis, more importantly during and after periods of heavy rain when the turbidity of water in the Grand River North West is excessively high.