WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKERS (FOREIGN) - NATIONALITY

(No. B/692) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the foreign workers, he will state the number thereof currently working in Mauritius, category-wise and sector-wise, indicating their respective nationality, since 2010 to date.

(Withdrawn)

SCHOOLS (PUBLIC) - EXPENDITURE

(No. B/694) Mr J.F. François (Third Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the public schools, he will state the average expenditure incurred for the education of a student thereof, respectively at pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels, giving a breakdown thereof.

Reply: The average expenditure for the education of a student in a public school in the Island of Mauritius, per year, is as follows -

(a) Pre-primary : Rs 17,352
(b) Primary : Rs 28,000
(c) Secondary : Rs 42,000

A copy each of the breakdowns in pre-primary, primary and secondary levels in respect of the Island of Mauritius is being laid in the Library of the National Assembly.

The expenditure figures for Rodrigues are being compiled.

With regard to information for the tertiary level, I have referred the matter to the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science Research & Technology.

SCHOOLS – ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION - INTRODUCTION

(No. B/695) Mr J.F. François (Third Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of the new
subject *entrepreneurship* in the schools by the year 2013, he will state where matters stand, giving details thereof.

**Reply:** Entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning process. Its initiation in schools would help lay students’ foundations for self employment and further education in academic or vocational streams.

As announced in the Government Programme 2012-2015, my Ministry is introducing Entrepreneurship studies as part of the secondary school curriculum.

As an immediate measure, Entrepreneurship Education will be introduced as a compulsory core component of Social Studies as from Term II in Form I on a pilot basis and a compulsory module in Lower VI as from next year.

In Lower 6, it will be of 15 hour duration over 2 terms and will be sanctioned by an Award Certificate.

I wish to add that Social Studies are presently being taught during 4 periods per week in Form 1. However, as from next year 5 periods will be devoted to it, of which 2 of them will be reserved for the teaching of Entrepreneurship Education.

Some 17 schools, 4 in each zone, comprising state and private schools including 1 in Rodrigues, namely Le Chou College, will pilot the Entrepreneurship Education in 2013. It is envisaged to extend the project to all schools in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega, after the pilot stage.

In a near future, my Ministry is envisaging to have Entrepreneurship Education as an optional subject in Forms IV and V also. Modalities will be worked out in consultation with the Mauritius Examination Syndicate and the Cambridge International Examinations so that Entrepreneurship Education will be an optional examinable subject at School Certificate level.

The overall aim is to enhance the life skills and entrepreneurship skills of our young students and prepare them for the world of work, especially for those who will not be able to go for further studies, and will enter ‘de plain-pied’ the world of work. This will be an excellent opportunity to link school with the world of work.
CWA - CHAIRPERSON - CAR PURCHASE

(No. B/696) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to Mr P. S., Chairperson of the Central Water Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the year of purchase of the car presently put at his disposal and the mileage thereof as at date, indicating if an order has been placed for the replacement thereof and, if so, indicate the price thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Central Water Authority that the car presently put at the disposal of the Chairperson of the Central Water Board was purchased on 26 October 2012 for the sum of Rs2,282,086.96 excluding VAT. The mileage as at 07 December 2012 was 1375 km.

The previous car used by the Chairman was purchased in January 2006 and the mileage thereof as at end of August 2012 was 176,426 km.

CUREPIPE - FORUM BUILDING - RENOVATION

(No. B/697) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the building housing the Forum in Curepipe, he will state if he has been informed of the new initiatives taken for the -

(a) pulling down and the reconstruction thereof, and
(b) leasing out of the land on which stands the building and vested in the Municipal Council of Curepipe and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Council, in each case, information as to the -

(i) reasons therefor;
(ii) expected expenditure to be incurred/revenue to be accrued, and
(iii) timing thereof.

Reply: I am informed that the Municipal Council of Curepipe has decided that the building should not be pulled down, but renovated instead.

In this context, a team of professionals from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping comprising Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers has recommended that the Council should
appoint a consulting team to assess the extent and nature of the renovation works required and to make an estimate of the costs involved. I am informed that the tender documents for the appointment of the consulting team have already been prepared and the Council will call for public tender in due course.

As soon as the details of the renovation works are known, an appropriate formula will be worked out for their funding.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Council has no intention to lease out the land on which stands Le Forum and which is vested in it as the building will be renovated for use as a market fair.

PETIT CAMP, PHOENIX - FOOTBALL GROUND

(No. B/700) Mr S. Soodhun (Second Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the construction of a football ground at Petit Camp, Phoenix, he will state where matters stand.

(Withdrawn)

PRE- VOCATIONAL EDUCATION – EXTENSION PROGRAMME

(No. B/701) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the prevocational streams in secondary schools, he will state if the promotion to Form IV will be effected in January 2013.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that in the context of the implementation of the educational policy reform agenda encapsulated in the Education and Human Resource Strategy Plan 2008-2020, Government approved a new strategy for the prevocational education sector on 16 December 2011 with a view to making it an integral part of the secondary schooling.

The objective is to give Prevocational Education a new strategic orientation such that it addresses the current challenges and becomes responsive to the needs of an economy which is becoming more and more skills and technology driven.
This new strategy is being implemented as from January 2012 in a phased manner.

One of the pillars of the new strategy is the extension of the programme duration from 3 to 4 years with a new curriculum aligned on the New Curriculum Framework for the secondary and implementation will be done in collaboration with the MITD.

During the transition phase, those students who have been attending Prevocational Year 3 in 2012 and who have not been exposed to the new curriculum will be enrolled in 2013 for the National Certificate Foundation Course at the MITD, as it has always been the case.

This Foundation course will now be delivered over 3 full days at the MITD Training Centres. The remaining 2 days would be held at the secondary schools and would be utilised to run a special remedial programme focusing more on literacy and numeracy.

I would like to highlight that this new programme will lead to a formal certification pitched on the National Qualifications Framework recognized by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, thereby allowing the Pre Voc students for pathways for lifelong learning.

CENTRAL FLACQ - NEW MARKET - STALLS

(No. B/705) Mr P. Roopun (Third Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the new market at Central Flacq, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the District Council of Moka Flacq, information as to -

(a) the number of stalls available, indicating the -

(i) terms and conditions of lease thereof, and

(ii) criteria and procedure followed for the allocation thereof

(b) if it was informed of an incident involving stall holders and members of the public requiring police intervention, indicating the nature thereof, and
(c) if it has received representations in relation to the allocation of the stalls thereat and if so, the actions taken in relation thereto.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Moka-Flacq District Council that there is a total number of 1,338 stalls available as follows -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair: Haberdashery Section</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable &amp; Fruits Section</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Days Market</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat/Poultry/Fish: Beef</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venison</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodcourt</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft Market</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With regard to part (a) (i) of the question, I am informed that the lease is for a period not exceeding 3 years in accordance with of the Local Government Act 2011 Section 57 and may expressly be renewed for a further period not exceeding 3 years.

With regard to part (a) (ii) of the question, I am informed that the following criteria were followed for the allocation of stalls –

- to existing stall holders in ex-market, ex-fair, temporary fair in ex-Fire Station;
- illegal operators and holders of hawkers licence operating regularly in an illegal manner within 1 km of the fair on a daily basis and who earn a living out of this activity;
- the sellers should be resident of Moka and Flacq Districts;
- the stall holders have no arrears due to the Council, and
- their products category falls in the following zones –
The following procedures were followed –

• stalls were allocated to sellers falling in these criteria through drawing of lots, and
• before signature of contract – stallholders were required to settle all arrears and pay for their rental up to 31 December 2012.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that there was an incident on Wednesday 24 October 2012 regarding disturbance caused by two stallholders and members of the public in the fair where police intervention was required. I am further informed that two persons were arrested and released on bail.

As regard part (c) of the question, I am informed that the following representations have been received after allocation of stalls –

• complaint regarding shifting of stalls from one category to another which has already been entertained where possible;
ST JEAN ROAD, QUATRE-BORNES - TRAFFIC CONGESTION

(No. B/707) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the St Jean Road, in Quatre-Bornes, he will state if Government proposes to come up with a Master Plan to alleviate the hazards linked with the traffic congestion occurring thereat and in the vicinity thereof and if so, when and if not, why not.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that as the traffic on the existing road system in cities grows, congestion becomes a serious problem. St. Jean Road is a major arterial road in Quatre Bornes where capacity is not enough to cater for the peak demands.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit has already implemented a clearway along the paid parking zone from the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes up to Poivre Avenue with a view to increasing the capacity of St. Jean Road to moving traffic in the direction of Motorway M1 during morning peak.

Additionally, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit is coming up with a new traffic management plan in Quatre Bornes with a view to altering the pattern of traffic movement to make the most efficient use of the road system. The main objective is to convert most of the two way roads joining St. Jean Road with Sodnac Avenue into one-way roads in combination with other traffic management measures such as banned turning movements at major road junctions, and installation of traffic signals at the cross-junction [Draper Avenue/St. Jean road/Glaieuls Avenue]. Thus, there will be a better canalisation of the vehicular traffic on to the St Jean Road. It will also provide a clearway from Tulipes Avenue up to Glaieuls Avenue with a
view to increasing the capacity of St. Jean Road to moving traffic in the direction of La Louise both during morning and afternoon peak hours. The TMRSU is presently consulting relevant stakeholders, namely the Police Traffic Branch, the CAB of Quatre Bornes and the National Transport Authority on the proposals before a final decision is taken.

Moreover, contract for the upgrading of Avenue Tulipes has already been awarded to the tune of Rs82 m. The enlargement of the road will provide some relief to the users. Hillcrest Avenue will also be linked to the motorway by means of a roundabout.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit is also investigating into the possibility of providing a co-ordinated control of traffic signals along St. Jean Road with a view to reducing delays and avoiding the main traffic stream from having to stop at every road junction. This new system will also prevent the queue of vehicles at one intersection from extending to and reaching the next intersection.

TERRE ROUGE-VERDUN ROAD PROJECT

(No. B/708) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the construction of the Terre Rouge-Verdun road, he will state the contractual date of completion thereof, indicating if there is variation works, and if so, the amount claimed and paid as at to date.

(Withdrawn)

CWA – WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/710) Mr S. Soodhun (Second Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to water, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the measures taken for an adequate supply thereof during the coming months when rainfall is reportedly low.

(Withdrawn)
CHEMIN GRENIER - MARKET FAIR - CONSTRUCTION

(No. A/285) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a new market fair at Chemin Grenier, near the village hall, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: From information received from the Grand Port-Savanne District Council a plot of private land of about four acres has been identified near the Chemin Grenier village hall for the construction of a new market fair.

The Grand Port-Savanne District Council has submitted the Project Request Form and feasibility study of the project through the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands for approval.

The project will be considered once all clearances including finance would have been obtained.

CITÉ LOYSEAU – FOOTBALL GROUND

(No. A/291) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and Floreal) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the leveling, upgrading and lighting of the football ground at Cité Loyseau, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: Financial clearances have already been issued to the Municipal Council of Curepipe for fencing works and lighting of the football ground at Cité Loyseau.

From information received from the Municipal Council of Curepipe, contracts for both projects have been awarded on 23 October 2012 and will be for the duration of 120 days.

Works are in progress.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – TEACHERS - ASSAULT

(No. A/292) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the teachers of the primary and secondary schools, he will state the number of reported cases in which they have been
victims of assault at their workplace, over the past five years, giving a breakdown thereof and indicating the measures his Ministry proposes to take to reinforce the security thereof thereat.

**Reply:** The answer to the first part of the question is being compiled and will be tabled shortly.

Regarding the second part of the question, I wish to inform the House that my Ministry has established a close collaborative networking and partnership with a number of institutions and stakeholders to address the issue of violence at schools and in particular the security of school personnel.

Focussed meetings on Indiscipline and Violence at Schools are regularly held at my Ministry, with relevant stakeholders, including the Police Authorities, the *Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs*, the Trade Unions, the Child Development Unit, the probation and After Care Service. The Committee recommended the implementation of the following measures as a preventive measure to guard against assault and violence at schools -

(i) access to school compound is strictly controlled;

(ii) regular Police patrolling is being carried in the vicinity of State and private Schools to enhance surveillance and vigilance. This measure acts as a deterrent to defaulters and minimise risks. The Police Authorities have already been provided with a list of high risk schools;

(iii) Police are also having recourse to Intelligence-led policing and Community Participation so as to circumscribe cases of Violence/Assault. Community support is essential in this endeavour and is instrumental in helping the Police to act promptly;

(iv) sanctions are taken against students who are involved in cases of violence, which may also lead to their rustication from school for a period of time;

(v) active campaigns are carried out by respective Heads of Schools, with the participation of the school community at large (PTAs, students Councils, teachers, Pastoral Care and Disciplinary Committees) for the creation of a fully disciplined school environment, and

(vi) CCTV cameras have already been installed in some high risk schools
My Ministry had meetings with trade unions on this issue of security with a view to beef up security measures at schools. The possibility of providing security services during the day to risky schools is also being considered.

LA TOUR KOENIG – ROAD CONSTRUCTION

(No. A/293) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if his Ministry has received representations from the inhabitants of Pointe aux Sables to connect Le Peuplier Street to the newly constructed road access to La Tour Koenig to ease traffic from La Pointe to the City Centre and to the Plaines Wilhems, and if so, indicate the actions taken, if any, in relation thereto.

Reply: The new road at La Tour Koenig has been constructed to provide improved and efficient access to the Industrial Zone of La Tour Koenig, which is being expanded to accommodate new industries. The road has been planned, designed and constructed to serve exclusively the Industrial Zone and for industrial traffic. As such no connection has been planned with the existing road known as Peuplier Avenue (which is essentially a residential road) or to other roads in the region of La Tour Koenig/Pointe aux Sables.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit and the Road Development Authority have been requested to examine the proposal of the inhabitants of Pointe aux Sables.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY - EXPENSES

(No. A/294) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to the Information and Communication Technology Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, since 2005 to date -

(a) a breakdown of the travel and related expenses incurred in respect of
(i) Executive Director thereof;
(ii) Chairperson thereof;
(iii) each Board Director thereof;
(iv) Permanent Secretary and any other officer of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, and

(b) total expenses incurred in sponsorship of various events, indicating the benefits derived therefrom, in each case.

Reply: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) has provided the details with respect to part (a) of the question in documents placed in the Library.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology acts as the Administration of Mauritius viz international organisations in the ICT sector such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), and has been contributing to the annual membership fees in respect thereof. The ICTA, as the technical arm of the Administration of Mauritius, benefits from the membership to these international organisations. The Ministry as well as the ICTA participate in the international conferences organised by the latter.

As regards part (b) of the question, the ICTA has provided the expenses incurred for the sponsorship of events in documents placed in the Library, and has informed that the benefits derived from the ICT-BPO International Conferences are as follows –

(i) Mauritius has been featured in the World Economic Forum Report in April 2012, thus giving visibility to the ICT sector of Mauritius.

(ii) Mauritius has established strong links with the Broadband Commission established under the International Telecommunication Union, which has, in September 2012, also reported in a case study the experience of Mauritius in the broadband plan formulation.

(iii) Mauritius was featured, on 24 October 2012, in a report in the Outsourcing Magazine of Australia under the title ‘Mauritius: the thinking person’s ICT-BPO island’, written by Martin Conboy, President of Australian Process Outsourcing Association. This again has given visibility to the ICT sector of the country.
(iv) BPO operators such as Infosys, Ceridian, Euro-CRM, amongst others, have diversified their activities in Mauritius thus leading to more job creation in the ICT-BPO sector.

(v) World renowned companies in ICT, such as Hewlett Packard (HP) have signed with companies in Mauritius for the purpose of skill development and training in ICT.

PORT LOUIS MARITIME & PORT LOUIS EAST – RESERVOIRS

(No. A/297) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to if consideration will be given for the upgrading of the service reservoirs supplying water in the regions thereof, having regard to the increasing population thereof and, if not, why not.

Reply: I am informed by the CWA that the regions in Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, are supplied from two service reservoirs, namely

(i) Diego Garcia reservoir with a capacity of 3,600 m³, and
(ii) Priest Peak reservoir with a capacity of 6,600 m³

The normal hours of supply are as follows -

4.00 am – 9.00 am

4.00 pm – 9.00 pm

These service reservoirs are of adequate capacity and there is no urgent need for the time being for their upgrading to provide for additional capacity. The main constraint is lack of water resources and this will be addressed upon the completion of the Bagatelle Dam project by the end of 2014 following which an additional volume of 30,000 m³ of water will be diverted on a regular basis to the Port Louis Water Supply System.

Furthermore, the Bagatelle Dam will regulate the flow in Grand River North West to sustain requirement at Pailles Water Treatment Plant which supplies Port Louis.
CWA – SERVICE RESERVOIRS

(No. A/298) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the service reservoirs, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, a list thereof, indicating the location thereof and the regions being supplied by each of them.

Reply: A list of all the service reservoirs together with their location and the regions supplied by each of them is being placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

MORCELLEMENT GUIBIES, PAILLES - CRECERELLE 3 AVENUE – STREET LANTERNS

(No. A/299) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Crecerelle 3 Avenue, in Morcellement Guibies, Pailles, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Black River District Council, information as to if it has been informed of the –

(a) bad state thereof and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for the
   (i) reinstatement and tarring thereof, and
   (ii) realignment of the street lanterns found thereat, and
(b) the abandoned state of the plot of land situated next to the house of one Mr B. and of the presence of wastes thereat and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken.

Reply: I am informed by the Black River District Council that no complaint whatsoever has been received regarding the state of the road at Avenue Crecerelle No.3 in Morcellement Guibies, Pailles. However, an inspection carried out by the officers of the Council has revealed that –

(a) the road surface is relatively in good condition with no major potholes warranting reinstatement or tarring, and
(b) the street lanterns found thereat have been attended to.

As regards part (b) of the question pertaining to the abandoned state of the plot of land situated next to the house of Mr Bheekareea, I am informed that the owner of the land in question is unknown. Nevertheless, the Council is conducting searches with a view to identifying the owner and thereafter a notice will be served upon him to abate the nuisance caused thereat.
COROMANDEL – POLICE QUARTERS – WATER SUPPLY

(No. A/300) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Police Quarters, in Coromandel, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to if –

(a) additional measures will be taken for a regular supply of water thereat, and

(b) the defective water pumps have now been repaired and, if not, why not.

Reply: I refer the hon. Member to the reply to Parliamentary Question A/215 of 10 July 2012.

The onus is on the Police Department to have the defective pump replaced.

PORT LOUIS FIRE STATION - HAZARDS

(No. A/301) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Port Louis Fire Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to if it is in a derelict state and if so, of the inherent hazards thereof, indicating -

(a) when officers of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure last carried out a survey thereat to assess the infrastructural and electrical conditions thereof, indicating the outcome thereof, and

(b) the additional measures that are being envisaged in the –

(i) short term, and

(ii) long term.

Reply: I am informed by the Fire Services Department that –

(a) on 22 November 2006, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping submitted a Structural Investigation Report on the Port Louis Fire Station which states that the building suffers from visible structural defects in particular the first floor and roof;

(b) a survey was conducted on 18 July 2007 by the Energy Services Division of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities with a view to assessing the overall
condition of the electrical installations in the building. The Energy Services Division had highlighted that the electrical installations in the building was in a very poor state and represented a serious hazard for its occupants. It had recommended that a complete electrical rewiring be carried out, and

(c) the Occupational Safety and Health Unit has in its last report of January 2012, requested management to take necessary action to urgently relocate the Fire Station.

I am informed that as a short term measure, the roof has already been repaired and minor electrical rewiring works have been undertaken by the City Council of Port Louis. In the long term, a request has been made to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to reconsider the site at Colline Monneron for the construction of a new Fire Station for Port Louis.