



SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2015

CONTENTS

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

Members

Members

THE CABINET**(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC)**

Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC	Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit
Hon. Charles Gaëtan Xavier-Luc Duval, GCSK	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications
Hon. Showkutally Soodhun, GCSK	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands
Hon. Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo, GCSK	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo, GCSK	Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth	Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden	Minister of Youth and Sports
Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha	Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport
Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun	Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
Hon. Anil Kumarsingh Gayan	Minister of Health and Quality of Life
Dr. the Hon. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo	Minister of Local Government
Hon. Prithvirajsing Roopun	Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment
Hon. Marie Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain Sinatambou	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Ravi Yerrigadoo	Attorney General
Hon. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun	Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security
Hon. Santaram Baboo	Minister of Arts and Culture
Hon. Ashit Kumar Gungah	Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hon. Mrs Marie-Aurore Marie-Joyce Perraud	Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
Hon. Sudarshan Bhadain	Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms
Hon. Soomilduth Bholah	Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives
Hon. Mrs Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo	Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform

Institutions

Hon. Premdut Koonjoo

Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries,
Shipping and Outer Islands

Hon. Jayeshwur Raj Dayal, CSK, PDSM,
QPM

Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and
Disaster and Beach Management

Hon. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen
Cheong, MSK

Minister of Civil Service and Administrative
Reforms

Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn

Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations,
Employment and Training

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Madam Speaker	Hanoomanjee, Hon. Mrs Santi Bai, GCSK
Deputy Speaker	Duval, Hon. Adrien Charles
Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Hurreeram, Hon. Mahendranuth Sharma
Clerk of the National Assembly	Lotun, Mrs Bibi Safeena
Deputy Clerk	Ramchurn, Ms Urmeelah Devi
Clerk Assistant	Gopall, Mr Navin (Temporary Transfer to RRA)
Hansard Editor	Jankee, Mrs Chitra
Serjeant-at-Arms	Badal, Mr Ramesh

MAURITIUS

Sixth National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 10 of 2015

Sitting of 13 March 2015

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis at 2.00 p.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

MOTION

STANDING ORDERS – PROGRAMME-BASED BUDGETING - AMENDMENT

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I move for the following motion standing in my name –

“This Assembly is of opinion that in view of the enactment of the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Act 2015 which provides for simplified estimates to be laid before this Assembly for the appropriation, by vote of expenditure, of the sums necessary to meet the financial requirements on all the services of the Government, it is necessary and expedient that the Standing Orders Committee be empowered, and it is hereby empowered, to look into the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995) presently in force, more specifically Standing Orders 52 and 73, with a view to making recommendations for the necessary changes to be brought to the provisions relating to the procedure in connection with the Appropriation Bill”.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun) rose and seconded.

Mr S. Mohamed (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East): Madam Speaker, I join the Rt. hon. Prime Minister in supporting this motion which calls for amendments to be brought to the Standing Orders and the Rules of the National Assembly following the enactment of the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Act of last week which has already done away with the Programme-Based Budgeting.

Through this motion, we will, therefore, empower the Standing Orders Committee to look into and consider the draft proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly which have been circulated with this motion.

You will recall, Madam Speaker, that the Programme-Based Budgeting was introduced in 2008 and we all remember the particular context at the time which necessitated the amendments. In addition, we remember the remarks that were made by the then and now hon. Leader of the Opposition on this particular issue.

Today, we are being called upon to align our Standing Orders mainly in regard to the procedure and connection with the forthcoming Appropriation Bill which, I believe, is the

only logical suit to follow, following the amendments that have been brought, as I explained earlier to the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Act.

The difference with what happened in 2008, the amendments which were brought only to Standing Orders 2 and 73 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, we know this time that an amendment has also been proposed to Standing Order 52 following a ruling dated 21 July 2009. That ruling, Madam Speaker, was given in response to the Point of Order taken by the hon. Leader of the Opposition regarding the contents of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to the effect that the Bill contained, *inter-alia*, issues that had nothing to do with the Ministry of Finance.

Since there is no specific provision in our Standing Orders governing the contents of the Finance Bill, the Chair ruled in favour of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I understand, therefore, that the proposed amendment to Standing Order 52 stands to correct that particular issue.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I join the Rt. hon. Prime Minister and also recommend that the Standing Orders Committee be empowered to look into proposed amendments and any amendments incidental thereto; and to recall the words used by then the Leader of the Opposition back in 2008, may I also say I wish them *bon travail*.

Thank you very much.

The motion was, on question put, agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Saturday 14 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

MATTER RAISED

FLASH FLOODS – VICTIMS – ASSISTANCE

Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River): Madam Speaker, thank you for having granted me the permission to raise a matter at Adjournment Time.

The issue I am going to raise concerns the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions and probably the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It is an issue which deals with the recent floods that the country has been having recently, Madam Speaker. I wish to make a plea to the hon. Prime Minister so that Government can come to the assistance of those floods' victims.

In the region of Bel Ombre, Chamarel, Baie du Cap, St. Martin, even in other constituencies La Flora and other areas, we have seen on the electronic media what damage has been caused by the recent floods in the course of past years.

Madam Speaker, when hon. Pravind Jugnauth was a Member of the Opposition, I put a PQ to the then Prime Minister concerning the flash floods which assailed our country in March 2013. We were given certain answers concerning a scheme that was put up at that time by the then Government, a scheme of distributing purchasing coupons for the victims of floods. This was a support for those who have sustained material losses because we know, Madam Speaker, that, according to the Social Aid Regulations, an allowance of Rs133 per day only is payable to each member of a household for a maximum number of three days in case torrential rain persists. In addition, this allowance is, of course, not meant as a compensation for loss of property, but it is a subsistence allowance in cases where damage or loss of foodstuff has been sustained.

Therefore, my plea, today, is to ask the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to consider the possibility. We are not bound by previous schemes. Government does not necessarily have to do the same thing that we have done in the past in terms of scheme because I can inform the House that, at that time, money was collected from the private sector; the Prime Minister's Relief Fund also contributed to assist these flood victims. Rs29 m. was also collected from private donors and the Prime Minister's Relief Fund spent about Rs30 m. in those days.

Of course, the scale is different today. I am not talking of such amount of money that has to be distributed, but my plea is to ask the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to be good enough to consider the possibility of coming up with the scheme because many people in Bel Ombre have lost their furniture and, in other areas, in Chamarel a whole house has been struck by the waters; in La Flora a bridge has crumbled down. We know what has happened during these past days.

Therefore, my humble plea to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister is if he can, with the other Ministers concerned, see to it that a scheme is designed so that these people can be given some assistance. Of course, we know what the risks of abuse in such cases are, but I am sure the Police Stations have already recorded the names of the victims; this has already been done in other areas. I am sure Government can see to it that no abuse is made of the system and can come to the assistance of these people. So, I am very grateful to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, I am sure he will come up and think about some scheme.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, we will look into the matter and come with a statement in due course.

At 2.17 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Saturday 14 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.