

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MBC – *MOUVEMENT RODRIGUAIS* - COMMUNIQUÉ

(No. B/566) Mr J. R. Speville (Second Member for Rodrigues) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the last election for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 10 December 2006, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if the Corporation broadcast a communiqué from the *Mouvement Rodriguais* regarding the candidature of Louis Ange Perrine and William Auguste and, if so, the reasons therefor.

Reply: I am informed by the Director, Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that a paid communiqué from the *Mouvement Rodriguais* was broadcast on MBC Radio, Rodrigues, in the morning of 10 December 2006.

Through the Communiqué, the *Mouvement Rodriguais* wished to confirm that Mr Louis Ange Perrine and Mr William Auguste were still candidates in Regions 5 and 3 respectively.

POLICE - POLICING CHARTER

(No. B/567) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the steps taken in regard to the adoption of a Policing Charter for commitments from the Police to the public.

Reply: The Government Programme 2005-2010 provides that -

“Government will amend the Police Act and adopt a Policing Charter, which will lay the foundation for customer-based policing. The Charter will provide for commitments from the Police to the public at large, and to suspects and detainees in particular”.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that a Draft Policing Charter has been prepared in consultation with the ICAC. The new Draft Charter is under active consideration.

TROMELIN – MAURITIUS SOVEREIGNTY

(No. B/568) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether in regard to the status of dialogue between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of France on the issue of sovereignty on Tromelin, he will state where matters stand.

(Withdrawn)

CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO – JUDGMENT - 23 May 2007

(No. B/569) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether in regard to the Chagos Archipelago, he will state if Government proposes to initiate any action in relation thereto, following the judgment delivered on Wednesday 23 May 2007 in London.

(Withdrawn)

FOREIGNERS – OCCUPATION PERMIT

(No. B/570) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the facilities offered to foreigners as announced in the 2006-2007 Budget Speech, he will state the number of foreigners who have –

- (a) availed themselves of these facilities and who have
- (b) started a business in Mauritius with an initial investment of Rs3 m., and
- (c) obtained a residence permit within three days of their application.

(Vide reply to PQ No. B/561)

SUBUTEX/METHADONE – DRUG ADDICTS - THERAPY

(No. B/571) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will state if he has received any request from community doctors for the use of Subutex, along with Methadone, in the drug replacement therapy used for the treatment of addicts and, if so, whether any decision has been taken.

Reply (The Minister of Health & Quality of Life): So far, the Ministry has not received any request from community doctors for the use of Subutex, along with Methadone, in the drug replacement therapy used for the treatment of addicts.

“ASSEMBLEE DE DIEU (ILE MAURICE)” – ESTABLISHMENT, INCORPORATION & MANAGEMENT

(No. B/572) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will state if he has received representations from the *Assemblée de Dieu (Ile Maurice)* for the incorporation of the Assembly and, if so, will he state where matters stand.

Reply: I am informed by the Clerk of the National Assembly that a Bill to provide for the establishment, incorporation and management of the *“Assemblée de Dieu (Ile Maurice)”* was deposited in the National Assembly by the hon. Member on 19 March 2007.

Moreover, the President of the *“Assemblée de Dieu (Ile Maurice)”* has, in a letter dated 09 May 2007, appealed to the hon. Prime Minister for an early enactment of the Bill.

Consultations are being held at different levels and a decision will be taken in due course.

PERSONS MISSING JULY 2005 TO DATE - NUMBER

(No. B/573) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to reported cases of missing persons since July 2005 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating the number of cases which have been elucidated.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, since July 2005 to 31 May 2007, 1,902 cases of persons missing have been reported to the Police, out of which 1,791 persons have been found safe and sound, 38 persons have been found dead and 73 cases are still outstanding.

As regards the outstanding cases, Police inquiry is still ongoing.

FOREIGNERS – DRUGS OFFENCE - APRIL 2006 TO JUNE 2007

(No. B/574) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to foreigners who have been arrested for possession of drugs since April 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since 01 April 2006 to 31 May 2007, a total 25 cases of “Possession of Drugs” involving 30 foreigners have been established by Police.

MBC - MR N. P., SENIOR NEWS EDITOR - MISSIONS OVERSEAS

(No. B/575) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the official missions overseas undertaken by Mr N. P., Senior News Editor at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, since July 2005 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Corporation a list thereof, indicating –

- (a) the countries visited;
- (b) the purpose of each visit, and
- (c) the total amount spent in terms of air tickets and *per diem* allowances.

Reply: I am tabling a statement giving the information requested by the hon. Member.

RIVIÈRE DES GALETS - SEA SWELLS

(No. B/576) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the sea swells which have again struck Rivière des Galets on 30 May 2007, he will state if Government has now taken a decision to relocate the inhabitants living thereat.

Reply (The Minister of Housing and Lands): I am informed that a site inspection carried out on Friday 01 June 2007 has revealed that no flooding or damage has been caused to any of the houses following the sea swells of Wednesday 30 May 2007.

My Ministry is presently carrying out a survey which is expected to be completed by next week. In the light of the findings of the survey and, in consultations with the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit and the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, the relocation of the families living on the coast at Rivière des Galets will be considered.

CASE NOYALE – SQUATTERS - RELOCATION

(No. B/582) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the plot of land at Case Noyale initially earmarked to relocate the squatters of Case Noyale, he will state if he has received any request from private promoters for the lease of that land for the development of a touristic project and, if so, will he state if a decision has been taken.

Reply: I am advised that, according to my Ministry's records, no application for the lease of the plot initially earmarked to relocate the squatters at Case Noyale has been received from private promoters for the development of a tourism project.

INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE - *PAS GÉOMÉTRIQUES*

(No. B/622) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the inter-ministerial committee chaired by his Ministry to review industrial leases on *pas géométriques*, in line with the new policy on *campement* site leases, he will state –

- (a) where matters stand, and
- (b) if its terms and reference will be extended to other types of leases, including agricultural, landscaping, building sites, building *cum* commercial, socio cultural and commercial on *pas géométriques* and, if not, why not.

Reply: In the wake of the new policy on *campement* site lease, Government decided in March 2007 to set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising representatives of various Ministries and the Board of Investment to review the policy on industrial site lease especially its terms and conditions.

In regard to part (a) of the question, to ensure that the Inter-Ministerial Committee is in presence of all facts and figures relevant to industrial leases, my Ministry, prior to that Committee starting its work, undertook an internal exercise to examine the terms and conditions including rental, attached to industrial leases. This exercise has now been completed and the first

meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee is scheduled to be held during the second week of June 2007.

In regard to part (b) of the question, the terms of reference of the Inter-Ministerial Committee have not been extended to cover other types of leases, as its mandate is to look specifically into industrial leases which are important income-generating leases.

However, other types of leases will also be scrutinized at the appropriate time.

PAS GEOMETRIQUES - SPECIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

(No. B/623) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, he will state if a Special Technical Committee on Pas Géométriques has been set up to review the findings of the first technical committee and, if so, will he state -

- (a) its terms of reference;
- (b) the number of times the committee has met todate, and
- (c) if the committee has so far submitted any recommendations.

Reply: It is pertinent to remind that, following the Budget Speech 2006/2007, and the Finance Act 2006 which makes provision for the implementation of the new Campement Site Lease policy, the Association of Campement Owners and Users (ACOU) made a number of representations and sought clarifications on some aspects of the new policy.

A Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Financial Secretary and comprising representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the State Law Office, and my Ministry was set up to look into the matter. I understand that the Committee had several meetings with representatives of ACOU and had considered representations made and clarified issues.

However, following further representations made to my Ministry, I exceptionally agreed to a Special Technical Committee being set up under the Chairmanship of my Ministry, to give another hearing to ACOU, with a view to ascertaining whether there were any new elements brought forward by ACOU that would warrant the continuation of that Committee to study

them and make recommendations. In regard to part (a) of this Question, the Special Technical Committee had thus no specific Terms of Reference.

In regard to part (b) of the question, the Special Technical Committee held an exploratory and consultative meeting on Wednesday 25 April 2007, during which meeting Mr T. Koenig, Legal Counsel of ACOU, and the hon. Member himself proposed Terms of Reference which were subsequently examined by my Ministry and found to bring in no new elements. I decided that there was thus no justification for that Committee to continue.

In regard to part (c) of the question, I decided that there were indeed no new grounds to proceed any further with the Special Technical Committee, since it was noted that most of the points raised, especially those concerning the terms and conditions of the new Campement Site Leases, had already been taken up in the Committee under the chairmanship of the Financial Secretary, and had been given due consideration in the drafting of the option forms. The question of submissions of recommendations by the Special Technical Committee does not therefore arise.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY – BANK DEPOSITS INTEREST - TAX REVENUE

(No. B/624) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Revenue Authority, information as to the amount of tax revenue collected, following Government decision to tax interest on bank deposits at source.

Reply: I will advise the hon. Member to wait for the forthcoming Budget.

PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATORS – LICENCE FEES

(No. B/625) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether, in regard to the new fees, prescribed by way of regulations under the new Tourism Authority Act, he will state –

- (a) if he has received any complaint from owners of pleasure boats in regard thereto, and
- (b) the measures he proposes to take, including the advisability of reviewing the prescribed fees.

Reply: With the introduction of the new Tourism Authority Act 2006, opportunity was taken to review all the licence fees payable by Tourist Enterprises, Private and Commercial Pleasure Craft Operators and Skippers and the introduction of a new paid permit for canvassers.

However, the Federation of the Pleasure Craft Operators has made representations to the effect that the increase in the commercial pleasure craft licence fees is excessive. On Tuesday 29 May I met a delegation from the Federation to take cognizance of their representations.

In working out the new licence fees consideration was given to various factors such as:

- a. substantial cost is involved in the processing of the applications and enforcement of the provisions of the Tourism Authority Act 2006;
- b. the need for additional human and financial resources to ensure more inspections, surveys, surveillance, patrol and regular monitoring by the Tourism Authority, National Coast Guard, and Police du Tourisme;

- c. the need to control the increasing demand for licences as the pleasure craft sector is becoming saturated, especially in certain regions. The increase in licence fees will have the added benefit of helping to control the excessive number of applications for commercial pleasure craft licences being received at the Tourism Authority.
- d. several stakeholders, including fishermen have complained of the increasing density of pleasure craft activities in our lagoons leading to –
 - (i) congestion, over speeding, pollution, thus decreasing yield in fish catch;
 - (ii) crowding out of other individual nautical activities such as swimming, diving, snorkelling, and kite and wind surfing;

In the light of the above, it is considered that the new licence fees are fair and reasonable. However, in a spirit of goodwill and solidarity towards the less privileged among the pleasure craft operators, I am considering sympathetically the representations made by the Federation of the Pleasure Craft Operators especially regarding the case of small pleasure craft operators who mostly fall into the category of craft not exceeding more than 12 metres in length.

**CONSTITUENCY NO.14 – NDU PROJECTS -
JULY 2005-MAY 2007**

(No. B/626) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Environment & National Development Unit whether, in regard to the projects undertaken and completed by the National Development Unit since July 2005 to date, in Constituency No. 14, he will give a list thereof, indicating the estimated costs in each case.

Reply: The list of projects undertaken in Constituency No. 14 since July 2005 to date together with their estimated costs is being placed in the Library of the National Assembly.