

**Debate No. 26 of 25.07.2006****WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****CRIME PREVENTION UNIT – POLICE OFFICERS**

**(No. B/1086) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** 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 number of Police Officers attached to the Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Force.

**Reply:** A Police Crime Prevention Unit was set up on 11 September 1989 to sensitise the population on crime prevention issues and to promote a sense of awareness around the island. The Unit was initially manned by 15 Police Officers comprising one inspector, six Police Sergeants and eight Police Constables.

In view of the ever-increasing demands from the public for sensitisation programmes island-wide on issues essentially pertaining to crimes, after a proper selection exercise, on 01 October 2005, the Unit was reinforced and is currently staffed by 22 Police Officers.

Since its inception, the Crime Prevention Unit, has, among others, carried vast sensitisation campaigns for the benefit of persons in the community, students at pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary level, as well as the youth have been sensitised on Crime Prevention. Several TV and radio programmes have been carried out. A great number of employees has been dispensed courses on Workers Education.

**MAHEBOURG – NEW COMMCEIAL PORT**

**(No. B/1092) Mr S. Mohamed (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac)** 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 it is proposed to open a port in Mahebourg and, if not, why not.

**Reply: (The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure & External Communications)** I wish to inform the House that as far back as 1999, the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) had commissioned Messrs Posford Duvivier, consultants, from the United Kingdom, to carry out a study on the possibility of developing port facilities at Vieux Grand Port. In their report, the consultants had *inter-alia* concluded that –

- (a) it was technically feasible to construct a port at Vieux Grand Port but there was ample capacity at Port-Louis harbour to cater for the traffic development in the foreseeable future;
- (b) the construction and operation of a new port would result in substantial extra costs to Government with no increase in revenue;
- (c) building a port in the Grand Port lagoon would do considerable damage to a valuable environment, and
- (d) there was a possible opportunity for the creation of a leisure harbour at Vieux Grand Port with a modest investment and minimum local environmental impact.

I am informed that as of 30 June 2006, Port-Louis harbour handled total container traffic of over 300,000 TEU's. With the development projects being undertaken by the Port Authorities, particularly, the dredging of the English Channel, the procurement of two additional ship-to-shore cranes, and the proposal for the construction of a Fishing Port at Bain Des Dames, container capacity will be enhanced by another 200,000 TEU's by end 2007. Once these projects are completed, Port-Louis harbour will be able to cater for increased container traffic up to the year 2012.

There are furthermore, several other issues to be taken into consideration, as follows –

- Mahebourg is directly exposed to South East Trade Winds.
- The construction of a port at Mahebourg may involve duplication of facilities such as navigational aids, tugs, quays as well as the cost of dredging, thus entailing high additional costs of investment.

- Adverse ecological impact to the neighbouring lagoons, stretching from Pointe D'Esny to Ile aux Cerfs.

In view of the above and taking into consideration the financial implications and environmental issues there is at present no plan to invest in a new commercial port in Mahebourg at this stage.

However, Vieux Grand Port presents an opportunity for a leisure harbour offering sailing, sport fishing and eco-tourism boat trips all from one location, supplemented by restaurants and other facilities.

The idea of a leisure harbour may be therefore contemplated.

### **ATHLETES – PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

**(No. B/1131) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Youth & Sports whether he will state the measures that have been or will be taken by his Ministry to inform athletes about the pharmaceutical products which have been banned by the International Olympic Committee.

**Reply:** My Ministry works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, the Mauritius National Olympic Committee and Sports Federations in order to create and maintain the necessary awareness in the sporting community, including athletes, on the issue of doping in sports and prohibited substances used to enhance performance.

In fact, Mauritius is guided by the code established by the World Anti-Doping Agency which is the international authority on matters relating to doping in sports.

The following anti-doping initiatives have been undertaken –

- (i) the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of prohibited substances have been circulated by the Mauritius National Olympic Committee to Sports Federations concerned. Any change brought to the list is communicated to the Federations concerned at the earliest. The Federations and the coaches are responsible to educate and inform athletes on the risks of

doping and on the types of substance to be avoided or to be taken under strict medical advice;

- (ii) the Sports Medical Unit of my Ministry provides the necessary advice to the sporting community on anti-doping and on those substances that should be avoided;
- (iii) my Ministry, in collaboration with stakeholders concerned, often organizes seminars and talks on the subject of doping in sports;
- (iv) all athletes participating in major international sporting events are always briefed on doping issues before the events;
- (v) in all courses organised by the Mauritius National Olympic Committee, in collaboration with my Ministry, one session deals specifically with the theme of doping;
- (vi) my Ministry has an active cooperation with the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life in view of controlling the food supplements which are on sale in the country so as to prevent accidental doping. I am informed that the nature and composition of all such supplements are vetted by the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life before being allowed into the country.

Last week, I had informed the House that Mauritius had ratified the International Convention Against Doping in Sports on 29 June 2006. My Ministry intends to organise a seminar shortly to inform and familiarise all the stakeholders regarding the contents of the Convention. Moreover, it is also planned to prepare a booklet containing the updated list of prohibited substances as well as basic information for athletes on the safe ways of managing common ailments and illnesses.