



EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

FIRST SESSION

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

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(Formed by Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam)

Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP	Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands
Hon. Paul Raymond Bérenger, GCSK	Deputy Prime Minister
Hon. Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed	Minister of Housing and Lands,
Hon. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan	Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, GOSK	Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
Hon. Govindranath Gunness	Minister of National Infrastructure
Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo, GOSK	Minister of Health and Wellness
Hon. Christian Harold Richard Duval	Minister of Tourism
Hon. Ashok Kumar Subron	Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity
Hon. Gavin Patrick Cyril Glover, SC	Attorney-General
Dr. the Hon. Mrs Jyoti Jeetun	Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning
Hon. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden	Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Dhananjay Ramful	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Darmarajen Nagalingum	Minister of Youth and Sports
Hon. Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem	Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations

Hon. Mahomed Osman Cassam Mahomed	Minister of Land Transport
Hon. Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie	Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
Hon. John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen	Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection
Dr. the Hon. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon	Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research
Hon. Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea	Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives
Dr. the Hon. Mahend Gungapersad, PDSM	Minister of Education and Human Resource
Dr. the Hon. Avinash Ramtohl	Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Lutchmanah Pentiah	Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms
Hon. Ranjiv Woochit, OSK	Minister of Local Government
Hon. Mahendra Gondeea, OSK	Minister of Arts and Culture

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Deputy Speaker	Hon. Vedasingam Vasudevachariar Baloomoody
Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Hon. Mohamed Ehsan Juman
Clerk of the National Assembly	Lotun, Mrs Bibi Safeena, CSK
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MAURITIUS

Eighth National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 36 of 2025

Sitting of Tuesday 11 November 2025

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis, at 11.30 a.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Members, please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OBITUARY

MR M. C. EDDY BOISSÉZON – FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT OF MAURITIUS

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Prime Minister!

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that we learnt of the demise of Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, former Vice-President of the Republic, Minister, and Member of Parliament, who passed away on 01 November of this year at the age 73.

Mr Boissézon was born on 28 March 1952 in Bel Ombre. He did his primary schooling at the Visitation RCA School and his secondary education at the St-Joseph College in Curepipe. He earned three diplomas in Purchasing and Supply, Management and Business Practice and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Leeds in England.

Mr Boissézon had a distinguished professional career in the private sector, holding numerous positions. He served as an Accounts teacher at St-Joseph College, a bank officer at Barclays Bank International Ltd., and later as Purchasing and Supply Manager at Scott & Co. Ltd, and then Human Resource Manager at Rogers Food Cluster. He was also an Executive Director of Attics & Co. Ltd., and a Logistic Consultant at the Rogers Group Pension Scheme.

Madam Speaker, Mr Boissézon's political career started in 1991 when he was elected as Municipal Councillor and subsequently became Deputy Mayor of the town of Vacoas-Phoenix, a position he held until 1993.

In 1995, he stood for the National Assembly Elections for Constituency No. 12 under the banner of the Alliance PTr-MMM, and he was returned as Second Member.

He then contested the 2005 National Assembly Elections in the same constituency, that is, Mahebourg-Plaine Magnien under the banner of the Alliance MSM-MMM, but he was not returned.

In December 2014, Mr Boissézon ran for the National Assembly Elections for Constituency No. 15, La Caverne-Phoenix, under the banner of l'Alliance Lepep. He was elected as Third Member of the said constituency. He was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary in December

2014, and in January 2017, he was appointed Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, a position which he held until 2019.

In 2019, Mr Boissézon stood as a candidate of the l'Alliance Morisien at the National Assembly Elections in Constituency No. 17, Curepipe-Midlands, but he was not elected.

On 02 December 2019, he was elected Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius by the National Assembly. He was also elevated to the rank of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean on the same day.

In 2022, he was conferred the Visionary Award for the Chinatown Foundation.

Madam Speaker, Mr Boissézon will be remembered as a highly-respected gentleman with a profound sense of humility. He entertained a very close relationship with friends, regardless of their political affiliation.

May I request you, Madam Speaker, to kindly direct the Clerk of the National Assembly to convey the deep condolences of the Assembly to his wife, his children and all those afflicted by the passing away.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Deputy Prime Minister!

The Deputy Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I join with the hon. Prime Minister. We have all lost a very, very nice human being, and it is with real grief that we wish the best courage that they can find to his widowed wife and his children.

Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Lesjongard: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of the Opposition, Madam Speaker, I wish to associate myself to the tribute paid by Dr. the hon. Prime Minister to late Mr Eddy Boissézon, former Vice-President of our Republic, whom I have known personally when he was a Member of this National Assembly and serving the country as PPS and then Minister. He was a committed person and he served our country with dignity and honour. Despite his stature, he never lost the common touch. He had a gift to connect to people and he had a way to make people feel special, Madam Speaker. He left us with the same dignity and honour.

Madam Speaker, may I request you to direct the Clerk of the National Assembly to convey our deep condolences to the bereaved family.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Members, I associate myself with the tribute paid to the memory of the late Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, former Vice-President of the Republic, and former Member of Parliament by the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the hon. Leader of the Opposition. And, I direct the Clerk to convey the deep condolences of the Assembly to the bereaved family.

PAPERS LAID

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, the Papers have been laid on the Table –

A. Prime Minister's Office

Ministry of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications

Ministry of Finance

Ministry for Rodrigues and Outer Islands

- (i) Certificate of Urgency in respect of the following Bills (In Original):
 - I. The Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025); and
 - II. The Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII of 2025).
- (ii) The Financial Statements and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Resilience Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024.
- (iii) The Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2024-2025 of the Prime Minister's Office (External Communications Division).

B. Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

The Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2024-2025 of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

C. Ministry of Health and Wellness

The Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2024-2025 of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

D. Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

The National Pensions (Continuation of Benefits) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 110 of 2025)

E. Attorney-General

The Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 for the Attorney-General's Office.

F. Ministry of Land Transport

The Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2024-2025 of the Ministry of Land and Transport.

G. Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection

- (i) The Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Petroleum Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 106 of 2025)
- (ii) The Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 6) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 107 of 2025)
- (iii) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 108 of 2025)
- (iv) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 109 of 2025)

H. Ministry of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives

The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) for the Year ended 30 June 2024.

I. Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms

- (i) The Civil Establishment Order 2025. (Government Notice No. 104 of 2025)
- (ii) The Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) Order 2025. (Government Notice No. 105 of 2025)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRANS OCEAN AIRWAYS – PRIVATE FLIGHT LANDING – INQUIRY DETAILS – JET PRIME LTD BOARD COMPOSITION

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Leader of the Opposition, your Private Notice Question.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr G. Lesjongard) (*by Private Notice*) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the charter flight of Trans Ocean Airways from Madagascar which landed at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport on 12 October 2025, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from –

- (a) the Commissioner of Police and the Financial Crimes Commission, information as to whether any inquiry has been initiated therein and, if so, indicate the outcome thereof and who has been interrogated as at to date, and
- (b) Airport Holdings Ltd., the names of the Chairperson and members of the board of Jet Prime Ltd., indicating in each case the allowances and benefits drawn.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I wish to refer the hon. Leader of the Opposition to my reply to Private Notice Question on 28 October 2025, wherein I informed the House of the circumstances in which the unscheduled private flight, not a charter flight as mentioned by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, of Trans Ocean Airways from Madagascar had been authorised to land in Mauritius on 12 October 2025. A copy of the Report of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, dated 14 October 2025, was tabled during that Private Notice Question.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (a) of the question, the Police started an inquiry into the circumstances that led to the landing of the private jet immediately after the publication of the Report of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service. I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that so far, 37 persons from all parties and institutions concerned, have been interrogated and 52 statements were taken from them. These include –

- (i) Jet Prime Ltd;
- (ii) the Department of Civil Aviation;
- (iii) the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority;
- (iv) the Passport and Immigration Office;

- (v) the Police;
- (vi) the Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd, and
- (vii) the staff of the Prime Minister's Office.

The inquiry has reached a critical stage and the hon. Member would appreciate that it would not be in the interest of the efficient and proper conduct of the investigation for the names of each person interviewed, to be divulged. These statements have been taken over a period of less than one month under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Crime.

Without prejudice to the eventual outcome of the inquiry, as I have stated before, it is clear that this was a pre-planned operation involving several people both at the level of Jet Prime Ltd and some private operators.

I am informed that, on 13 October 2025, the Financial Crimes Commission initiated an investigation on the arrival of the private jet, belonging to SODIAT Group, on 12 October 2025 at the SSR International Airport.

Between 13 October 2025 to 19 October 2025, the statements of three Malagasy nationals were recorded wherein they explained the existence of state capture for the past ten years which benefitted a few persons from the previous Malagasy Government, including Mr Mamy Ravatomanga. The issues that are also being investigated relate to –

- (i) Rose wood;
- (ii) Wheat and Milling;
- (iii) Litchi;
- (iv) Acquisition of five Boeing aircrafts which were sent to Iran, and also
- (v) *Traffic d'Influence* and breach of confidentiality which surfaced during the current investigation.

I am further informed that the FCC has interviewed 25 witnesses and suspects so far, and four persons have been arrested and provisionally charged, namely –

- (i) Mr M. Ravatomanga;
- (ii) Mr D. J. C. Thomas;
- (iii) Mr N. Bheeky, and

(iv) Mr J. H. Fakim.

The FCC is also collaborating with other countries, namely Madagascar, United States of America, and France, which are also conducting related investigations.

With regard to part (b) of the question, it would be opportune to inform the House of the circumstances in which Jet Prime Ltd had been created.

The previous government had systematically attempted to undermine the functioning of YU Lounge ran by Mr Nirvan Veerasamy, incorporated as Business Jet Services Ltd in August 2004 and having, as nature of business, the setting up of an Aircraft Maintenance Organisation.

In July 2021, the then government redefined the points of entry into Mauritius and excluded YU Lounge as a point of entry, hence destroying the economic value of the business, resulting in important losses to the company.

Finally, YU Lounge was sold to Airport Holdings Ltd (AHL) in April 2022. A few months later, in August 2022, Jet Prime Ltd was designated as point of entry. In April 2022, AHL acquired 100% shareholding in YU Lounge (Mauritius) Ltd and renamed it as Jet Prime Ltd on 18 May 2022 with continuity in its functioning being maintained.

I should mention that the current Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dewananda Chellen, was appointed by the previous government in June 2024 for a contractual period of three years, despite the fact that his employment as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd, a subsidiary of AHL, was terminated on the grounds of breach of trust.

Madam Speaker, I am informed by AHL that, on 04 September 2025, its shareholders decided to fill in the existing vacancies in the Board Membership of Jet Prime Ltd on a purely temporary basis and without any remuneration. This was intended to be for an approximate period of two months, pending the restructuring of AHL, and to attend to matters that had remained unattended due to the absence of a fully constituted Board.

The temporary Board of Jet Prime Ltd was composed of as follows –

- Chairperson: Mr Appalsamy Thomas;
- Directors:
 - (i) Mr Dheerendra Kumar Dabee;
 - (ii) Mrs Kantabye Babajee;

(iii)Mr Marie Gérard Gilbert Noël, and

(iv)Mr Keshave Reetoo.

I am further informed that Mr Noël resigned on 24 October 2025.

Madam Speaker, at its meeting of 17 October 2025, Cabinet decided that the procedures for the operation of private jets by the Department of Civil Aviation are being reviewed in view of the new non-routine challenges that the Civil Aviation is encountering. The operations of Jet Prime Ltd are also being reviewed. Such review will be carried out at the level of the holding company.

Madam Speaker, I wish to reassure the House that under no circumstances, will there be any cover-up, either in this or any other investigation since this Government came to power.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary question, hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Lesjongard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With regard to the reply that the hon. Prime Minister has given to the House concerning Jet Prime Ltd, can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House on what basis Mr Gilbert Noël has been nominated as Board member of Airports Holding Ltd, Jet Prime Ltd and Mauritius Helicopter Ltd?

The Prime Minister: He was nominated as a member looking at his qualifications. And you know, what his qualifications are! I think he had applied for the job, and he was appointed. But as I said, he resigned after this issue.

Madam Speaker: Yes, second question.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes.

Mr Etwareea: *Si pena kestion, assize!*

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, can you put some order in this House so that I can put my questions quietly?

Madam Speaker: Will you allow the hon. Leader of the Opposition to put his question, please? It is best for everyone.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: No! Hon. A. Duval, don't do that.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: I am the one leading!

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, the ...

Madam Speaker: I am the Speaker today.

Mr A. Duval: But I did not do anything.

Madam Speaker: Yes, of course, you did!

Mr A. Duval: What did I do?

Madam Speaker: I saw you.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Ki li koze assize sanla la? Malelve!*

Mr A. Duval: What did I do?

Madam Speaker: Can we get on with the PNQ, please? Hon. Leader of the Opposition, you have the floor. You have the floor.

(Interruptions)

Chut!

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister stated that Mr Noël has submitted his resignation; will he inform the House why up to now, the rest of the Board is still in place while there is an enquiry on them? Madam Speaker, has there been any legal action taken against members of Jet Prime Ltd until now?

The Prime Minister: I explained that this is a temporary Board which was set up.

(Interruptions)

Yes! But what? You want to have no Board there? You need to have a Board. You cannot run the company without a Board!

(Interruptions)

No! This is a temporary board. You have seen the names which I have given and they are not being paid any cent, any money. Also, they are just there temporarily...

Mr Jhummun: *Pa pe dakor!*

The Prime Minister: ... to make sure that things go on.

Madam Speaker: Let the hon. Prime Minister speak, hon. Jhummun!

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, it is not a question that they are not being paid any money.

Madam Speaker, Annex 1 of the report, tabled by the hon. Prime Minister two weeks ago, that is, on 28 October, mentioned the departure of the aircraft, that is, the private jet, on 11 November, which is today. Is this still the case? And in the same vein, can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether the pilot has already left the country?

The Prime Minister: I had explained all this last time, Madam Speaker. I do not know; you asked the question yourself! The captain of the aircraft was allowed to leave just after and then, the second pilot, the officer, was allowed to leave.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, but the hon. Prime Minister stated also that there will be an enquiry.

Mr Jhummun: *Li* ongoing.

Mr Lesjongard: When he has already left the country!

Mr Jhummun: It is ongoing.

The Prime Minister: There is an enquiry. He has already been questioned, and there is nothing.

Mr Lesjongard: Enquiry is going on and somebody has already left the country!

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Enn pov pilot matlo!*

The Prime Minister: You should realise that it is the captain of the aircraft who is in charge of the aircraft. The second pilot just does his job.

An hon. Member: *Parey kouma Adrien ek twa!*

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, one of the passengers of that private jet was Mr Mamy Ravatomanga and we all know that there is an ongoing investigation at the FCC against that person. Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm to the House if there was a meeting between an Adviser to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and one Mr Bheeky?

The Prime Minister: I must say, you know, these days, people, to get out of their positions, they say anything! We have to go by evidence and proof. Anybody can say anything.

Mr Jhummun: Any nonsense!

The Prime Minister: Any nonsense! So, we have to look... An enquiry is going on. Let it do its job.

Mr Lesjongard: Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister – this, he must be knowing – whether there was a meeting between a Minister of his Cabinet with Mr Bheeky?

The Prime Minister: It is an absolutely false statement that is being propagated by people who think they will get a chance tomorrow to come back into government. They will not!

Many false statements have been made – many false statements – on Facebook, on this and that. And we are looking into that. I am getting the help from India. I mentioned it, I think, the other day. We will reach to the bottom of all this.

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, the statement was made in court yesterday by that Mr Bheeky. He made reference to a sum of 350 million in this particular scandal. Is the hon. Prime Minister aware of that?

The Prime Minister: I, again, say it to the hon. Leader of the Opposition: any person says anything. So, I have to go and check?

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, you are the Prime Minister!

The Prime Minister: There is inquiry going on, let the enquiry find out. All this is untrue! Let the enquiry find out!

Madam Speaker: Another question or whether...?

Mr Lesjongard: There are a lot of questions today, Madam Speaker. Will the hon. Prime Minister give the assurance to this House that no Member of this Government and, especially, no Junior Minister, was involved in the preplanned mission to bring Mr M. R. to safety to Mauritius?

The Prime Minister: I have said it before and I say it again, Madam Speaker, anybody who is involved in any way will have to pay the consequences. I am not sparing anyone. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. You mentioned all these money, that is transaction. Look, the proof of the pudding is in the eating! What has happened to him? If the MSM was in power, he would have left the country already.

(Interruptions)

Mr Jhummun: *FCC mem pe ale...*

The Prime Minister: We are also looking for your information. We are also looking how he invested billions of rupees. Which government was in power? Who did not do their ...? Did you see the MSM criticizing him? Never!

They are trying to find people on our side but they never criticized this gentleman. Look at how much money he invested during their tenure! Who did the due diligence – we obviously will find out.

Mr Bhagwan: *Alalila!*

Mr Mohamed: *Aster Mama.*

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, it all started in 2009.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, one of the main figures in the saga is the officer in charge of the FCC. Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House if he recommended the renewal of the actingship of Mr Dawoodarry for a further period of nine-months and, if so, when was that done?

The Prime Minister: Well, Madam Speaker, I cannot say exactly when, but I did recommend, yes.

Mr Lesjongard: You did recommend! And my second question related to the same issue. When that was done, the hon. Prime Minister was not in the country. Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether hon. Deputy Prime Minister, who was the Acting Prime Minister at that time, was informed of the renewal of the contract of Mr Dawoodarry?

The Prime Minister: We work as a government; I am sure everybody knows what we are doing.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Enn baylouke sa!*

Mr Jhummun: *Louk bien ankora!*

An hon. Member: *Samem dife la sa.*

The Deputy Prime Minister: *To pa onte!*

Mr Lesjongard: Can the hon. Prime Minister state to the House whether there was a Public Notice issued by the State House when that contract was renewed?

The Prime Minister: I will have to ask the State House whether they published this but they have to approve of the nomination. They have to approve of the nomination.

Mr Mohamed: Who is going to know? What are you saying?

An hon. Member: *To koleg...*

Mr Mohamed: Do not ask the question; make an affirmation!

Mr Lesjongard: Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm to this House if the officer in charge of the FCC has been interrogated by the Central CID, and if yes, why?

The Prime Minister: I am not going to go into who interrogates whom, but there must be a reason to interrogate somebody. There must be a reason.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Enfin, pa onte!*

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, can I ask the hon. Prime Minister to confirm to this House whether, with regard to the Commissioner who resigned from his position at the FCC, that is, Mr J.F., whether he is in presence of an information on a suspicious transaction on the personal bank account of that person?

Mr Mohamed: *Ey pe zet labou kouma nanyen sa !*

The Prime Minister: This is throwing mud.

The Deputy Prime Minister: Shame!

The Prime Minister: There is an enquiry. So, anybody says anything, that is the truth? That is the Bible? No, let the enquiry find out.

Mr Mohamed: *Be si to ena kitsoz, depoz papier la.*

Mr Lesjongard: If there is an enquiry ongoing, can the hon. Prime Minister tell the House... because I put that question last time, the Chairperson of the CEB was allegedly present in that infamous meeting. Can he inform the House whether that person has been asked to resign pending the outcome of the enquiry, and also, why he has not been questioned by the FCC until today?

The Prime Minister: I believe he has been questioned, Madam Speaker.

Mr Lesjongard: And, if he has been questioned, why has he not resigned from his position as Chairperson?

The Prime Minister: Now it is a new, novel system. If I ask you questions, you have to resign? So, if I ask you a question or tomorrow, they ask you, you have to resign?

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Bann Morisien ... eh!*

Mr Jhummun: FCC indépendant.

(Interruptions)

An hon. Member: *Pa koumsa sa!*

(Interruptions)

Mr Lesjongard: C'est un complot, Madame la présidente !

Madam Speaker, two of the lawyers of Mr M.R. are close to the Government, one of whom is a Member of this House and the other one has recently been appointed as Chairperson of SIL. Does the hon. Prime Minister find this ethical?

The Prime Minister: I did not hear the last part of the question.

Madam Speaker: Whether you find it ethical for two of the lawyers who are close to Government ...

Mr Lesjongard: One is a Member of Parliament.

Mr Mohamed: Stupid question...

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Can you decide on the ethics? Maybe, I can help.

Mr Mohamed: Présomption d'innocence, *to 'nn bliye.*

Mr Lesjongard: This is not a stupid question.

(Interruptions)

Mr Mohamed: *Explik li twa, to kamarad sa!*

Madam Speaker: Maybe I can help. You have the ethics for the Members of the Bar. So, are you asking the hon. Prime Minister to decide?

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, my question is simple: does he find this ethical? Yes or no?

Madam Speaker: Yes, that is it. There is an ethics of the Bar which is applicable.

The Prime Minister: Probably the hon. Leader of the Opposition – I do not blame him – does not know what is the Cab rule; that a barrister cannot refuse to represent somebody.

Mr Mohamed: At least *to pe apran!*

Mr Lesjongard: Let me come back, Madam Speaker, to the report which was tabled on 28 October. The approval of AML was obtained almost immediately according to the report. May we know who gave the clearance at the level of AML? Is it the senior of that company?

The Prime Minister: No, no, he is getting confused now. I think he should go and read the report back.

The Deputy Prime Minister: As usual!

The Prime Minister: It is the Civil Aviation Department which eventually gives that go ahead.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, that I know.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Mr Lesjongard: But they need also the approval of AML.

Madam Speaker : On se perd là ! Moi-même, je suis perdue là.

The Prime Minister: It does not work like this. Eventually, they do the enquiry, they look at parking, and then eventually, in fact, it is the Deputy of the Civil Aviation which... But he did not do it on his own. He checked with all the departments; they looked at whether these people were in any way being looked for in any country. They did all these checks; there was nothing, and then he allowed.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, that I do understand, Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Au moins!*

Mr Lesjongard: My question is: who, at the level of the AML, gave that clearance? Is it the CEO or somebody else?

The Prime Minister: I have just explained. It is not the AML who gives the clearance. It is the Director or the Assistant Director of the Civil Aviation who eventually does.

The Deputy Prime Minister: AML, *c'est pour* parking purposes. Read the law!

(Interruptions)

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, that I know for parking purposes. Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm if AML currently has a Board of Directors, and if not, why not?

The Prime Minister: It has a Board at the moment but we are re-looking at everything, the whole area.

Mr Lesjongard: C'est pourquoi le DPM est en colère ! Une année que AML n'a pas de board. Madam Speaker....

The Deputy Prime Minister: *10 banane zot'nn touy sa pei la!*

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, the report mentions that the Secretary for Home Affairs gave the clearance at 00.13 hrs. However, the same report mentions that an MRA official was apprised of the landing of the jet verbally by a representative of Jet Prime Ltd 23.50 hrs., that is, 25 minutes before obtaining the clearance from the Secretary for Home Affairs.

How is it possible for them to know that the clearance would be granted?

The Prime Minister: I cannot understand what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is saying. In fact, I find it very confusing what he is saying.

Mr Lesjongard: I am not confusing. It is...

The Prime Minister: The Secretary for Home Affairs deals with the PIO and they look at the list of passengers, they check whether they are being sought in any other country, whether there is anything against them. This is her role. She has nothing to do with the other roles that you are suggesting. And then the plane was allowed to land.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, but my question is: officers from the MRA knew 25 minutes before that permission would be granted for that plane to land.

Madam Speaker: That is public knowledge...

Mr Mohamed: That is not even ...

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: One moment! One moment!

(Interruptions)

Mr Mohamed: You have got a dangerous imagination then.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Well, even I cannot speak.

The Prime Minister: As the hon. Minister is saying, I do not know where he is getting all these. Imagining?

Mr Lesjongard: It is in your report! Read your report!

Madam Speaker: That's what I am... Honourable...

The Prime Minister: No. Once they knew that the aircraft was coming, the MRA was advised to go and have a look. That is what happened.

Mr Mohamed: Exactly!

Madam Speaker: Hon. Prime Minister, you are getting some information.

Mr Lesjongard: I have put this question for the second time, Madam Speaker. Now, the hon. Prime Minister confirmed that the Secretary for Home Affairs took the decision to authorise the landing of that private jet.

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr Lesjongard: Has it been established why the Secretary for Home Affairs did not inform the Acting Prime Minister?

Madam Speaker: Stand up, hon. Prime Minister. Stand up.

The Prime Minister: First of all, I did not say that. Again, he is saying something which is...

(Interruptions)

...I do not know. I am just saying it...

Madam Speaker: We cannot hear the hon. Prime Minister!

The Prime Minister: She does not give the authorisation. It is not her job to give authorisation. Yes, it is unfortunate that the Acting Prime Minister at the time was not told at that time. The other day you asked a question; I get the chance to correct it. I said the guy was lying. In fact, the question was wrongly put. He was told the next day but not at the time.

Mr Lesjongard: Yes, but then, may we know why he was not informed? He was the Acting Prime Minister...

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Zot tro respekte mo somey! Le sommeil du juste...*

The Prime Minister: There is an enquiry going on. But from what I understand, when they checked, everything was in order. They did not find the reason. I think he should have been informed, personally.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Pa kone ki mo pe fer.* We will see.

Mr Lesjongard: Now, the hon. Prime Minister keeps mentioning that everything was preplanned. Is he now in a position to inform the House who was the mastermind?

(Interruptions)

Mr Mohamed: You!

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Manman!*

The Prime Minister: Yes!

Madam Speaker: That is a very tall order!

The Prime Minister: It is obvious...

Mr Lesjongard: We want to know, Madam Speaker...

Mr Mohamed: *Pe fer lanket dan parlman la!*

The Prime Minister: It is obvious that it is preplanned. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition seems to...

Madam Speaker: Know?

The Prime Minister: Yes, he seems to know more than I do. But you must remember – I did say it – first of all, they asked the permission to come to Mauritius for medical reasons.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

The Prime Minister: Then it was for tourism...

Madam Speaker: Petrol! Petrol! Lack of petrol!

The Prime Minister: There was something else. I cannot remember what it was.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Li pena lesans.*

The Prime Minister: Yes, finally, they said there was no fuel. So, it was obviously preplanned and the jet left before any permission was given.

Mr Lesjongard: It was not them who gave those reasons for landing; it was Jet Prime Ltd which gave those reasons.

The Prime Minister: But Jet Prime Ltd was working together with them!

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, it is now established that the private jet left Madagascar without prior authorisation from Mauritian authorities.

(Interruptions)

Therefore, will the hon. Prime Minister agree that those who conspired to allow the jet to come to Mauritius put our airspace in danger?

The Prime Minister: The stretch of your imagination is unbelievable. When eventually the jet said it was running out of fuel, it was allowed to land.

The Deputy Prime Minister: There was never any danger. *Antipatriotique !*

Mr Mohamed: *To ti krwar Wakashio sa?*

Mr Lesjongard: My last question. Madam Speaker, one of the passengers was the former Prime Minister of Madagascar. Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House, given the circumstances of the landing of the jet, why was he allowed to leave the country the day after landing? Was he interrogated by relevant authorities before leaving?

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Pa ti ena nanyen kont li sa boug la.*

The Prime Minister: He is talking about the former Prime Minister who was ambassador here. Is he the one he is talking about?

Madam Speaker: No, no.

The Prime Minister: No?

Madam Speaker: No, no! The passenger.

The Prime Minister: The passenger?

Madam Speaker: The passenger.

The Prime Minister: Nothing was found against him.

Mr Mohamed: *Demand Soodesh.*

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Nou respekte lalwa nou.*

Madam Speaker: You are done? Okay, time is almost up anyway. Thank you very much! Now, questions!

Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that PQ B/1004 will be replied by hon. Dr. Prime Minister, time permitting.

So, I now call on the hon. Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes, hon. Ms Anquetil!

CYBER CRIME UNIT – COMPOSITION – RECORDED STATEMENTS

(No. B/960) Ms S. Anquetil (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Cyber Crime Unit, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the –

- (a) composition thereof, and
- (b) number of statements recorded thereat over the past two years, including complaints received under the Mauritian Cybercrime Online Reporting System, indicating the number of –
 - (i) cases prosecuted, and
 - (ii) convictions secured.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, the Government remains deeply committed to protecting our citizens against emerging forms of crime, including those committed in the digital space. As information and communication technologies continue to evolve at an exponential pace, cyber threats have become increasingly complex, sophisticated and transnational. In this context, the Mauritius Police Force has set up in 2006 a Cybercrime Unit under the Central Criminal Investigation Department to detect, investigate, and prosecute cyber-related criminal offences.

As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, as at 07 November 2025, the Cybercrime Unit is headed by an Assistant Superintendent of Police and comprises 14 other Police Officers of different ranks namely –

- (a) another Assistant Superintendent of Police;
- (b) 1 Woman Chief Inspector;
- (c) 1 Police Inspector;
- (d) 6 Police Sergeants;
- (e) 1 Woman Police Sergeant, and
- (f) 4 Police Constables.

I am further informed, Madam Speaker, that Cybercrime-related cases are reported either at Police Stations or directly at the Central CID. They are meant to refer the cases which are complex in nature and which require specialised technical expertise to the Cybercrime Unit for in-depth investigation.

Furthermore, the Police collaborates closely with the CERT-MU which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation. The CERT-MU manages

the Mauritian Cybercrime Online Reporting System (MAUCORS) which is a national centralised cyber incident reporting system that allows citizens and organisations to report cyber incidents/ cybercrime online. Complaints made through MAUCORS and which disclose any criminal offence, are also referred to the Cybercrime Unit for investigation. The complainants of such cases are advised to make formal declarations to the Police, and enquiries are then initiated on the basis of the declaration. Notwithstanding reported cases, the Cybercrime Unit may also initiate an investigation *proprio motu* into cases detected during cyber patrols effected by the unit.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that from January 2023 to 07 November 2025, a total of 837 cases including those from MAUCORS have been referred to the Cybercrime Unit for investigation. During the course of the enquiries 1,038 statements have been recorded from complainants, witnesses, as well as suspects and 120 persons have been arrested. Out of the 837 cases –

- (i) 167 of them have been filed for various reasons including insufficient evidence for prosecution and accused being untraceable;
- (ii) 4 cases have been filed following advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (iii) 640 cases are still under enquiry, and
- (iv) 21 cases are awaiting advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (v) 5 cases have been lodged before the Court.

So far, Madam Speaker, it is telling that no conviction has been secured.

This is why, Madam Speaker, during my recent state visit to the Republic of India, I solicited the assistance of India. Further to this, a team from the Maharashtra Cyber Department of the Government of Maharashtra came to Mauritius and participated in a workshop organised by the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation from 30 October to 05 November 2025 on strengthening our national capabilities in cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention. I had a meeting with them together with the Minister for Information Technology, Communication and Innovation. We are moving forward for full collaboration with local experts to ensure that those people who post unwarranted posts are detected and brought to justice.

This collaboration between Mauritius and Maharashtra, will enhance knowledge exchange, capacity building of our law enforcement agencies and development of sustainable solutions

tailored to the Mauritian context for restructuring of the existing processes. These are concrete examples of the Government's will to constantly improve. That is another example and we are grateful to India for again helping Mauritius in this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Yes, supplementary question.

Ms Anquetil: Choquant ! Aucune condamnation ! D'un côté, on incite les victimes à parler mais de l'autre côté, on laisse les agresseurs impunis. Grave dysfonctionnement !

Le Premier ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre, s'il trouve acceptable que la *Cybercrime Unit* refuse d'enregistrer une deuxième déclaration d'une victime sous prétexte qu'une première a déjà été déposée ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

The Prime Minister: I did not know if it says a first has been deposited. If there was something additional – I do not know if there was something additional – then, they should have had.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Ms Anquetil: Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. À 17 ans, une élève de *SC* s'est donnée la mort – paix à son âme – après la diffusion de photos intimes d'elle sur les réseaux.

Le Premier ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre s'il envisage la mise en place d'un *Cyber Patrol Unit* opérationnel 24 heures sur 24, capable de bloquer immédiatement toutes diffusions de photos ou de propos diffamatoires sur les réseaux afin de protéger efficacement les victimes de cyberviolence ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

The Prime Minister: In fact, I should also add that there were two other persons – I do not want to mention names or give details – who were exactly in that position; and fortunately, the Police managed to act before anybody else committed suicide or whatever. They are getting psychological support as well.

However, as I said earlier on, this is why I said it, that it is telling that no conviction has been secured because it is not working as it should. This is why I have asked for the Indian Government to help. They have a very, very able team. They suggested Maharashtra, and this is what we are doing.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Anquetil: Une dernière.

Madam Speaker: Last question, yes. We have to move on.

Ms Anquetil: S'il vous plaît, le sujet est trop pressant.

Madam Speaker: Of course!

Ms Anquetil: J'ai confiance. J'ai confiance que l'actuel Premier ministre prendra les mesures nécessaires pour mettre fin à l'impunité et protéger les victimes de cyberviolence. D'ailleurs, vous êtes le seul à pouvoir le faire.

Will the hon. Prime Minister inform the House what concrete measures are currently in place to support victims of cybercrime during the investigation process? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Prime Minister: I have been told that there are measures that are taken by the Police first. Then, they have a team which goes to the family and gives support, including psychological support, to make sure that nobody else goes into that situation.

Madam Speaker: The team from the Cybercrime Unit?

The Prime Minister: Yes. And also, psychologists.

Madam Speaker: Very interesting!

Hon. Fourth Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue, Mr A. Duval!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – REPORTED CASES & ORDERS ISSUED (NOV 2024-NOV 2025)

(No. B/961) Mr A. Duval (Fourth Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to domestic violence, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof since November 2024 to date, indicating the number of –

- (a) cases in which physical violence was reported;
- (b) persons charged;

- (c) Protection Orders, Occupation Orders, Tenancy Orders and Ancillary Orders for Household Effects, respectively, issued.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, protection from domestic violence is governed under the Protection from Domestic Violence Act which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Cases of domestic violence may be reported to the Police directly or to the Family Support Services of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, which thereafter refers the cases to the Police.

In regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since November 2024 to 05 November 2025, a total of 4,127 cases of domestic violence have been reported to the Police for enquiry, out of which, 3,042 cases involved physical violence. Following enquiry into these cases, 2,103 persons have been charged with offences in breach of the Protection from Domestic Violence Act.

In regard to part (c) of the question, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act makes provisions for different types of restraining orders, namely Protection Orders, Occupation Orders, Tenancy Orders and Ancillary Orders. These orders are issued by the relevant District Courts upon application made by the victims after a hearing is held.

Madam Speaker, since November 2024 to 05 November 2025, a total of 970 Interim Protection Orders have been issued by the relevant District Courts to 131 males and 839 females. An Interim Protection Order is issued by the Court where there is a serious risk of harm being caused to the aggrieved spouse even before the respondent spouse is heard. An Interim Protection Order, unless the Court directs otherwise, remains in force until such time as the Court makes a final pronouncement on the application of the Protection Order.

After hearing the aggrieved spouse and the respondent spouse, the Court may convert the Interim Protection Order into a final Protection Order which shall remain in force for such period, not exceeding 24 months, as the Court may specify. Upon application, the District Court may also issue a Protection Order after hearing the parties.

For the period November 2024 to 05 November 2025, I am informed that a total of 454 Protection Orders has been issued by the relevant District Courts under the Protection from

Domestic Violence Act, out of which, 54 Protection Orders have been granted to male victims and 400 to female victims.

As regards Occupation, Tenancy and Ancillary Orders, I am informed that no applications for such orders have been received by the Police.

Madam Speaker, I wish to reassure the House that this Government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy and a victim-oriented approach to domestic abuse. To this effect, with a view to deterring domestic violence, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is presently working on a new Domestic Abuse Bill to replace the existing Protection from Domestic Violence Act to strengthen the support for victims.

Furthermore, the *Brigade pour la Protection de la Famille* of the Mauritius Police Force provides assistance to children and women, victims of violence and abuse who solicit Police help. The Brigade also works together with the Family Support Services of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to deal with cases related to Gender-Based Violence.

Furthermore, the *Brigade pour la Protection de la Famille* and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare jointly carry out regular sensitisation campaigns throughout the island to raise public awareness and understanding on domestic violence. These awareness campaigns are being delivered in workplaces in the private and public sectors, schools as well as community centres, and in Non-Governmental Organisations, amongst others. Talks are also held on TV and radio programmes. These are essential components of what we are doing.

Madam Speaker: Yes, supplementary!

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, the figures are alarming. In fact, the official figures with regard to domestic violence, physical violence on woman, show that there has been an increase in the trend. This is confirmed now. 73% of the cases reported, according to your figures given, concern physical violence. I would like to know how many out of these were committed/perpetrated against women, if the Prime Minister has the answer?

Madam Speaker: The data.

The Prime Minister: I thought I had given the figures.

Madam Speaker: Yes, he has given?

The Prime Minister: I will look for it. I had given the figures, but you want to know exactly the number against women?

Mr A. Duval: It does not matter.

The Prime Minister: Okay.

Mr A. Duval: It does not matter. The point being, the hon. Prime Minister will realise that there is an issue – an alarming, increasing trend. Since 2022 to date, the trend is increasing. From the figures he has given us, only 15% of the domestic physical violence cases result in a Protection Order. So, from 3,042, only 454 for this year have resulted in a Protection Order. And these are *les lacunes de la loi*. It is too timely, too complicated, and people are dissuaded at the level of the police station itself from going forward.

The new law, which was prepared since 2003, is still being awaited. Will the Prime Minister now, having heard those figures, make it his mission to have that new law passed and enacted as soon as possible? Time is being wasted on this.

The Prime Minister: I just said that the hon. Minister for Gender is looking at it as a whole. They are going to bring new corrections to that. That is what I said earlier.

Mr A. Duval: May I ask a question?

Madam Speaker: Okay, carry on. Then, I will say a word.

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if he will see to it, at the level of the police stations, that there is –

- (1) the proper staffing as is required: female officers being present to help put those complainants at ease, and
- (2) that they are given the proper training and incentives, the police officers, so that they take care of those victims, even when there are repeated complainants, who are too often turned away?

So, will he see to it that this is a priority, given the alarming trend?

The Prime Minister: I should remind the hon. Member – I do not want to do political scoring –, but for ten years, everything was allowed like this. Everything! We have taken a country *un peu en décomposition*.

Mr A. Duval: It is getting worse!

The Prime Minister: Yes, but for ten years, this is the result. This is what we have inherited.

Mr A. Duval: It has been one year; it is getting worse.

The Prime Minister: The hon. Minister is doing her best, believe me. But we have inherited this situation.

Mr A. Duval: The law was...

The Prime Minister: So, we are... Yes, 2023, you just said.

I did say that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is presently working on a new Domestic Abuse bill. Precisely because they want to strengthen the support for victims. This is what is being done.

An hon. Member: *Ancien minis gender...*

Madam Speaker: Privilege of Speaker, please! May I just say a few words? Because both Members, who have spoken today, have spoken about violence. And in this first case, was violence against that young girl, and both Members are member of the Gender Caucus. I just want to tell everybody that you will be receiving very soon the programme of what the Gender Caucus itself, which means the National Assembly – the Prime Minister knows a bit about it and the Minister as well – we are organising, with the United Nations and the UNDP, a big event between 25 November, which is the date of the elimination of gender-based violence and 10 December, which is Human Rights Day. We are having a big event where I would like all of you to come with your friends because it is going to touch on all these issues of sensitisation because we have to keep on sensitising on the issue of violence, unfortunately. So, I am telling you now. I am very proud that two members of the Gender Caucus have spoken this morning. Thank you.

Next, I am calling on hon. Lukeeram!

FORMER PRIME MINISTER – ADVISERS – NAMES & PAY PACKAGES – PERIOD 2015-NOVEMBER 2024

(No. B/962) **Mr C. Lukeeram (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Advisers whose

services were retained by the former Prime Minister, he will state the names and pay packages thereof, including the boards on which they equally served over the period 2015 to November 2024.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed that 31 Advisers were employed by the Prime Minister's Office over the period 2015 to November 2024. These include 4 Special Advisers, 11 Senior Advisers and 16 Advisers.

I wish to point out that under the former Government, there was actually a carefully crafted ploy to boost up the income of Advisers by allowing them to sit on numerous Boards. Very often, these Advisers were earning revenues from these Boards, which were higher than their initial salary.

Madam Speaker, let me make it clear, my Government is committed to ending this discretionary and arbitrary practice of the past, where public funds were allocated based on personal wishes or political convenience. We believe that the remuneration of advisers should not be left to the whims of whoever comes into power. Instead, it should be governed by clear, transparent and fair principles.

In this endeavour, my Government has decided, I mentioned it last time, to rationalise the categories of Advisers.

In regard to the information requested by the hon. Member, I am tabling a list of former Advisers, which includes their salary packages and the boards and committees on which they equally served during period 2015 to November 2024.

I wish also to say... the list is very long. But I can tell you, for example –

- Mr Ramprakash Maunthrooa, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister. He got a salary of Rs8.1 million as Special Adviser. But he sat on 14 boards and 7 committees, additionally and for that he got Rs15 million from January 2015 to November 2024, which makes you a total of Rs23.1 million.

(Interruptions)

And, these people want to come back to power. Guess why?

(Interruptions)

- Another one, Mr Nayan Koomar Ballah, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Rs3.5 million from November 2023 to November 2024. But he sat on 9 boards and he received Rs7.5 million from February 2023 to November 2024, which makes you a total of the Rs11 million. *To ena rezon fami sa!*
- Mr Kreedeo Beekharry, Senior Adviser, Rs7.6 million and then he sat on 6 boards and 3 committees, which makes you a total of Rs23.6 million. He got even more than Mr Maunthrooa who got Rs23.1million.
- Mrs Sarah Rawat Currimjee, Senior Adviser, Rs8.3 million, plus 6 boards and 2 committees and she received Rs9 million, total Rs17.3 million.

Mr Mohamed: *Adrien em pe gagn sok!*

Mr Jhummun: *Koze Adrien !*

Mr Mohamed: *...twa to pli...*

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: Are you sure that instead of being him Deputy Speaker ...

Madam Speaker: Chut!

The Prime Minister: ... he should have gone for that job.

Mr Ken Arian, Senior Adviser...

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Members, I can't hear the Prime Minister.

Mr Bhagwan: *Tane sa nom la Ken Arian!*

The Prime Minister: Rs3.8 million as Senior Adviser plus he sat on 7 boards and 4 committees. For this, he got Rs11.3 million. In other words, Rs15.1 million.

(Interruptions)

This is the kind of abuse the MSM did, this is the kind of abuse.

Ms Anquetil: Shame!

The Prime Minister: And they want to ... come back into government. They have already destroyed this country. They want to redestroy what we are trying to build now.

I must inform the House that the list of Advisers includes a particular Adviser whose specialty, you know what was it? “*Ojha*”, Mr Bachoo knows what does mean “*ojha*”. He was an “*ojha*”.

(Interruptions)

... prayers, supposedly prayers and he got a monthly salary of Rs32,350. But I will circulate the rest.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Yes, you are done? You are okay?

Alright! Second Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or!

**MR. K. P. – CONTRACT – REMUNERATION & OVERSEAS MISSIONS –
PERIOD 2015 TO 2024**

(No. B/963) Mr N. Beejan (Second Member for Grand' Baie & Poudre d'Or) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to Mr. K. P., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the Ministries, Government and Parastatal Bodies in which he held remunerated positions since 2015 to 2024, indicating in each case, the –

- (a) capacity thereof;
- (b) terms and conditions of contract, including remuneration, allowances and benefits drawn, and
- (c) overseas missions undertaken, indicating costs incurred, countries visited, duration and names of accompanying persons, if any.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Director General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that in 2015, Mr Kavish Pultoo was employed as *Journaliste Reporteur D'Images*, on a permanent and pensionable basis, at the MBC and the post was restyled to that of News Editor/Senior News Editor in 2017. Mr Pultoo was then drawing a monthly salary of Rs53,200 along with a monthly allowance amounting to Rs13,960.

In his capacity as News Editor/Senior News Editor, Mr Pultoo accompanied the then Prime Minister on two overseas missions to New York and India in 2017 and 2019, respectively. The total costs of these two missions, including air tickets and *per diem*, amounting to Rs309,376.84. These were met by the MBC.

On 18 February 2020, Mr Pultoo was offered employment, on a contractual basis for a period of one year, as Adviser on Information Matters by the Prime Minister's Office and was posted at the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Subsequently, he was granted leave without pay by the MBC. His contract as Adviser on Information Matters was renewed on 20 February 2021 for a further period of one year, under the same terms and conditions. During his tenure as Adviser on Information Matters, Mr Pultoo was drawing a monthly salary of Rs59,700 and allowances to the tune of Rs15,365.

However, on 23 April 2021, Mr Pultoo was offered employment as Senior Adviser on Policy and Communication Matters by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The House may wish to note that his contract of employment was backdated to 20 February 2021 and he was offered a salary, including allowances of Rs109,630. On renewal of his contract, that is on 20 February 2022, his salary inclusive of allowances were then capped to Rs119,065, which was almost twice his initial salary as Adviser on Information Matters.

I am further informed, Madam Speaker, that on 01 July 2022, Mr Pultoo was appointed as Director, Information Services on a contractual basis for a period of one year. In this capacity, he was drawing a monthly salary of Rs100,750 along with allowances of Rs44,930, that is, a total of Rs145,630 on a monthly basis.

His contract as Director of Information Services was renewed for a further period of one year with effect from 01 July 2023.

Further, in his capacity as Director of Information Services, and by virtue of section 6(1)(c) of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Act, Mr Pultoo was appointed as Member of the MBC Board from 07 July 2022 to March 2024.

During his tenure on the MBC Board, Mr Pultoo also served on the following three sub-committees. You see the ploy of appointing them and then putting them on different committees onboard. He was also on three sub-committees –

- (i) Programmes Committee;
- (ii) Audit and Risk Management Committee, and
- (iii) Corporate Governance Committee.

He was paid a total of Rs312,000 for serving on these three sub-committees.

I am also informed that on 12 February 2024, Mr Pultoo resigned as Director of Information Services following his appointment as Senior Adviser on Communication and Strategic Matters in the Prime Minister's Office. In this capacity, he drew a monthly salary of Rs128,875 and allowances amounting to Rs22,470.

The contract of Mr Pultoo as Senior Adviser on Communication and Strategic Matters was terminated on 15 November 2024.

I am informed, Madam Speaker, that on 18 November 2024, Mr Pultoo resumed duty at the MBC and proceeded on leave as from 19 November 2024. He subsequently submitted his resignation to the MBC with effect from 21 January 2025.

Concerning missions attended by Mr Pultoo from 2015 to 2024, the latter proceeded on 10 overseas missions, out of which, he accompanied the former Prime Minister on eight occasions. The 10 missions were at the cost of Rs1,359,997.57. It is worth highlighting that one of the missions, which was undertaken in May 2024, was purportedly an urgent security mission whereby Mr Pultoo accompanied the former Acting Director of the Counter Terrorism Unit, Mr Lilram Deal.

I am tabling the additional information sought by the hon. Member and I remind them that inquiries are ongoing.

Madam Speaker: Yes, do you have a supplementary? That would be one minute left.

Mr Beejan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the staggering amount revealed in the reply, will the hon. Prime Minister inform the House, whether all these appointments and every rupee spent were in strict compliance with government policies at the time they were made and incurred, and if not, will there be inquiry on it?

Thank you.

The Prime Minister: The then government decided what they would do. If they liked your face, they would give you anything.

Madam Speaker: Okay, time is up! Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that the following PQs have been withdrawn: B/968, B/970, B/973, B/976, B/977, B/983, B/1004.

Now, questions to hon. Ministers. We got less than half an hour to go before lunch.

Hon. First Member for Rodrigues, Ms Collet.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY BOARD, RODRIGUES – POWER SUPPLY AND DEMAND – RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

(No. B/978) Ms M. R. Collet (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to whether it currently has the capacity to meet the energy demands of residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial customers, indicating the plans, if any, in place to –

- (a) enhance energy infrastructure and ensure supply reliability across all sectors, and
- (b) collaborate with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to implement renewable energy initiatives or otherwise, giving details of the targets and timelines established for the transition.

Mr Assirvaden: Madame la présidente, la CEB m'informe que la capacité de production d'électricité de Rodrigues est suffisante pour répondre aux besoins énergétiques des clients résidentiels, commerciaux, agricoles et industriels. La demande de puissance maximale jamais enregistrée à Rodrigues est de 9,53 MW, atteinte le 17 mars 2025 à 18h30. La capacité effective des centrales thermiques de Rodrigues s'élève à 11,4 MW et la capacité effective totale de toutes les unités de production, y compris les parcs photovoltaïques et éoliens, atteint 13,7 MW. Il convient de noter qu'un système de stockage d'énergie batterie (BESS) d'une capacité de 1,5 MW peut également être utilisé pour répondre à la demande lors des pics de consommation.

En ce qui concerne la partie (a) de la question, je souhaite informer la Chambre que, pour améliorer l'infrastructure énergétique et assurer la fiabilité de l'approvisionnement dans tous les secteurs à Rodrigues, plusieurs projets clés ont été identifiés par le CEB et sont en cours de réalisation –

- (i) Installation de deux systèmes de stockage des batteries pour répondre à la des pointes de consommation, d'une puissance nominale de 1 MW/2 MW chacun, à Pointe Monnier et Grenade d'ici fin 2026. Ces batteries, BESS, outre la satisfaction de la demande lors des pics de consommation, amélioreront également la stabilité du réseau et permettront une intégration accrue des énergies renouvelables. L'appel d'offres a déjà été lancé en août 2025 et la date de clôture est prévue pour le 12 novembre 2025, donc demain ;
- (ii) une nouvelle centrale thermique d'une capacité de 1,9 à 2,5 MW sera installée à Pointe Monnier d'ici le dernier trimestre 2027. L'appel d'offres pour ce projet est actuellement en cours d'examen au CPB ;
- (iii) extension de la centrale photovoltaïque de Grenade avec une centrale photovoltaïque supplémentaire de 1 MW d'ici fin 2027 ;
- (iv) la reconversion du parc éolien de Trèfles, dont les éoliennes sont obsolètes et coûteuses à exploiter, en une centrale photovoltaïque de 500 kW couplée à un système de stockage d'énergie par batterie d'au moins 1 MWh. Donc, tous les projets que nous avons jusqu'ici, que ce soit à l'île Maurice ou à Rodrigues, seront couplés des batteries dorénavant ;
- (v) encourager et soutenir le déploiement des énergies renouvelables pour les particuliers bénéficiant de différents programmes SSDG, pour les petits et MSDG, moyens, dont certains sont entièrement financés par le CEB. Les programmes SSDG et MSDG seront modernisés grâce,

encore une fois, à l'intégration de systèmes de stockage d'énergie par batterie (BESS) afin de leur permettre de réduire leur consommation d'énergie sur le réseau pendant les périodes de pointe ;
- (vi) évaluation des demandes reçues dans le cadre du programme agrivoltaïque, donc ici à Maurice agrivoltaïque et aussi à Rodrigues.

Madame la présidente, en ce qui concernant le point (b) de la question, je tiens à informer l'Assemblée que, s'agissant des énergies renouvelables, l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues (ARR) a collaboré avec mon ministère, le CEB, MARENA et EEMO à l'élaboration de la feuille

de route Rodrigues Île Verte. Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de cette feuille de route, j'ai été informé que le CEB, avec le soutien financier d'organismes de financement internationaux, a achevé l'installation de quelque 260 kits photovoltaïques, représentant une puissance produite de 382 kW.

En outre, le CEB a fourni une assistance technique à la RRA pour la mise en place de deux mini-fermes solaires à Rodrigues. J'ai été voir ces mini fermes. Donc –

- i une Mini centrale solaire de 100 kW au village de Rivière Coco, et
- ii. une Mini-centrale solaire de 100 kW au village de Terre Rouge.

Les deux centrales photovoltaïques sont exploitées et entretenues par le CEB dans le cadre des accords de raccordement conclus avec l'Assemblée régionale.

Madam Speaker: Ms Collet, are you okay?

Next question, hon. First Member for Piton and Rivière du Rempart, Dr. Prayag.

NLTA – ISLAND-WIDE SURVEY – TAXI-BASED OPERATIONS AT HOTELS

(No. B/979) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Land Transport whether, in regard to hotels in Mauritius opting not to have a specified base of operation for taxi services, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Land Transport Authority, information as to whether a survey has been carried out on the alternative means of transport to which the said hotels are resorting to and of the impact thereof on the local taxi owners.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the NLTA that an island wide survey was carried out in 2022 in hotels in order to assess the adequacy of existing taxi licence services where licences have been already granted and also the need for taxis at hotels where licences have not yet been granted. According to that survey, 1079 taxis have been licensed to operate from 67 hotels while 23 hotels do not have taxis specifically licensed thereat.

Madam Speaker, I am given to understand that some of these hotels opted not to have taxis licensed for their hotels on the premises of limited space near their compounds to accommodate taxis or allegedly as they perceive that there was a lack of need for taxi services. Taxi drivers were therefore deprived of a source of income.

In spite of that perception, it would appear that these hotels are availing, on the other hand, of alternative mode of transport means such as contract cars, contract buses and outside based taxis to meet the daily needs of their clients for transfer services and excursions.

Transport is an important support service to the tourist industry, and no hotel management can possibly claim that there is no need for taxis at their hotel space.

The underlying reason for not showing interest in having taxi license for their hotels is an easy guess. All-inclusive packages are an important aspect of marketing strategy in the tourism sector. Destination management companies and inbound tourist operators resort to that strategy and transfers as well as excursions are included as part of their holiday package offers.

It is, therefore, perceived that taxis do not fit in those formulas, thereby leading to some sort of vertical integration of the system that many stakeholders have been complaining about over many years. I have spoken to my colleague, the hon. Minister of Tourism, hon. Richard Duval, and he told me that he will look into the matter.

Madam Speaker, the number of tourists visiting our island is on the rise. Over one million tourists' arrival have been recorded between January and September this year, and the tourist peak period is yet to come. Against this backdrop, my Ministry has requested the NLTA to carry out a fresh survey of the 23 hotels sites I referred to earlier for the purpose of determining the need to issue taxi licenses at these hotels.

The NLTA has also been instructed in case where lack of space on hotel premises is put forward as an argument for not having specifically licensed taxis to consider the availability of alternative sites outside the hotels concerned for use as taxi stand is already common at many hotels. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister.

Next question to Dr. Ms Thannoo, the Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka!

CONSTITUENCY NO. 8 – ENHANCING WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/980) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to water supply for domestic purposes in villages of Constituency No. 8, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the

Central Water Authority, information as to whether water is currently being drawn from Valetta Lake to ensure improved water supply and adequate pressure thereof.

Mr Assirvaden: Madame la présidente, je remercie l'honorable députée pour sa question et sa proposition d'amélioration de l'approvisionnement en eau de la circonscription numéro 8. J'ai, d'ailleurs, Madame la présidente, présidé une réunion avec les députés de la circonscription, le porte-parole des habitants et les représentants de la CWA, le 21 octobre, au cours de laquelle nous avons discuté de certains points précis.

Concernant le lac de Valetta, la CWA m'informe que cette source d'eau avait été identifiée comme source d'approvisionnement supplémentaire dans la région. Dans ce contexte, une étude de faisabilité a été menée au cours de laquelle des échantillons d'eau brute ont été analysés par le laboratoire de la qualité de l'eau de la CWA le 06 novembre 2025.

Madame la présidente, malheureusement, les résultats de l'analyse ont indiqué que même après filtration et traitement, la coloration et la présence de micro-organismes dans l'eau brute dépassaient largement les limites acceptables.

De plus, les résultats des analyses chimiques et biologiques n'ont pas été concluants. Il a donc été conclu que le lac de Valetta n'est pas adapté à l'approvisionnement en eau potable et aucun projet n'a été entrepris à cet égard. Madame la présidente, il convient d'ajouter que la *Central Water Authority* prélève déjà l'eau de la rivière Valetta située en amont du lac de Valetta. Un filtre de pression CPF d'une capacité de 1500 m³ par jour a été installé.

Comme je l'ai indiqué dans ma réponse au *PQ B/880* de l'honorable membre, des sites potentiels pour le forage des puits ont été identifiés à Dagotière, L'Espérance, Quartier Militaire et Alma pour augmenter la production d'eau dans ces régions. Une étude géophysique sera réalisée en premier lieu. Merci.

Madam Speaker: Yes, *vous êtes satisfaite?*

Dr. Ms Thannoo: I have one more supplementary.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Dr. Ms Thannoo: May I kindly request that we have water at least four hours per day at adequate pressure to ensure that we uphold the access to water as a human right? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Yes, *Monsieur le ministre*!

Mr Assirvaden: Oui, je partage l'avis de l'honorable membre. Je dois expliquer aux membres de l'Assemblée nationale quel est le souci que nous avons en ce qui concerne l'heure à laquelle on donne de l'eau et la pression. Vous savez, nous avons des tuyaux, des *pipelines* à l'île Maurice qui datent de plus de 50 ans. Ce sont des tuyaux qui sont en amiante, et qui sont remplis de fuites. Des vieux tuyaux !

Ceci dit, bien souvent, je reçois pas mal de questions des membres de l'Assemblée nationale concernant la pression. Il faut augmenter la pression pour que certaines personnes puissent avoir de l'eau. Notre problème à nous, c'est que quand je demande à la CWA d'essayer de voir comment on peut augmenter la pression, les tuyaux éclatent parce que ce sont des vieux tuyaux. Il nous faut commencer peut-être par là : changer des tuyaux. Malheureusement, 700 millions ont été utilisés dans le temps pour changer les tuyaux, mais absolument rien n'a été fait ! Ceci dit, si nous fermons la pression – que je peux comprendre –, nous baissons la pression pour éviter les fuites un peu partout dans le pays, certaines personnes en hauteur ne vont pas recevoir l'eau.

Nous donnons l'eau par gravité. Nous attendons que les réservoirs de services se remplissent pour pouvoir alimenter la région. Quand nous alimentons la région, ceux qui sont le plus proche de nos réservoirs reçoivent l'eau, mais ceux qui sont en hauteur – comme nous avons longuement discuté de cela pour la circonscription no. 8, et cela s'applique un peu partout –, c'est que ceux qui sont un peu plus retirés, un peu plus loin, ceux qui habitent un peu en hauteur, ils sont dans la difficulté.

Donc, voilà, un peu notre souci à nous. Merci, Madame la présidente.

Madam Speaker: Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le ministre.

Hon. Beehook!

CONSTITUENCY NO. 9 – SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/981) **Mr R. Beehook (Second Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the social housing units under construction in Constituency No. 9, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., and the New Social Living Development Ltd., information as to

where matters stand, indicating the expected completion dates and delivery to the beneficiaries thereof.

Mr Mohamed: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am informed that the construction of 507 social housing units is currently being undertaken in Constituency No. 9. The NHDC is constructing 45 housing at Quatre Cocos and 72 housing units at Camp Ithier. The project, including onsite and offsite works at Quatre Cocos, is expected to be completed by the end of this year while the project at Camp Ithier would be completed in January 2026.

Conversely, the NSLD is constructing 178 housing units at Camp Ithier and 212 housing units at Quatre Cocos. The expected completion dates are 30 November 2025 and 31 July 2026. However, ...

Madam Speaker: Take your breath. Take your breath!

Mr Mohamed: It is a private matter that we shared with the DPM.

However, the offsite works at Camp Ithier comprising mainly road and drain works would be completed in January 2026 while offsite drain works at Quatre Coco are expected to be completed in December 2026. I would like to add here, with regard to this date of December 2026, that the NSLD had asked that geotechnical investigations be carried out at Quatre Cocos by Water Research Co Ltd in July 2022 in order to determine its suitability for construction prior to acquisition of the plot of land.

Core holes, undertaken at depths of 7 metres to 15 metres, did not indicate the presence of cavities. The project management consultant, a company called Vyvaass Consulting Engineer Ltd confirmed the suitability of the site for the construction of housing units through a letter dated 18 November 2022. I just wanted to explain this is how they worked.

However, the project is encountering serious delays due to the presence of extensive cavities that certain people thought did not exist! Even though there were geotechnical reports and the reports said there were no cavities, cavities exist *bel et bien*! So, depending on the outcome of the investigations now and the redesigning of the masterplan – a redesign may be required –, construction of all housing units and associated onsite infrastructure, including offsite drainage works, which are essential to render the site flood resilient, I expect it to be completed, as I said, on 31 December 2026.

So, Madam Speaker, I hope that the hon. Member does realise that we are here to correct the mess of the previous government. And literally, when we say they put us in a hole, cavities are there! Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Monsieur Beehook, ça va?

Maybe we can do one more question before lunch. Hon. Third Member for Port Louis North, hon. Caserne!

VALLÉE DES PRÊTRES – MORCELLEMENT RAMLAGUN – FLOOD MITIGATION MEASURES

(No. B/982) Mr L. Caserne (Third Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of National Infrastructure whether, in regard to flood mitigation measures within the region of Vallée des Prêtres, particularly in Morcellement Ramlagun, including the placing of rock bunds at critical locations as per the report issued on 16 September 2025, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Land Drainage Authority, information as to where matters stand.

Mr Guinness: Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Land Drainage Authority entrusted this project to the Drain Infrastructure Construction Ltd on 06 January 2025 for implementation.

The proposed project was initially designed by NDU's consultant, Benchmark Consulting Engineers Ltd. A sum of Rs120 million has been earmarked under the previous National Flood Management Programme. Tenders were thereafter launched by the DICL on 21 February 2025 for the construction of flood wall and rock revetment at Morcellement Ramlagun, Vallée des Prêtres. However, the bidding exercise proved unsuccessful as the bids received were not responsive.

Madam Speaker, in parallel, based on the recommendation of the project consultant and in order to provide the necessary technical foundation for the project, DICL awarded a contract for a geotechnical investigation of the region. The geotechnical investigation was completed in May 2025 following which it was reviewed by the supervising consultant Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd. Madam Speaker, based on the advice of the consultant, the DICL is now pursuing the project in a phased manner.

The first phase will consist of the construction of the reinforced concrete flood wall along the residential boundary of Morcellement Ramlagun instead of the simultaneous construction of both the flood wall and rock revetment as originally envisaged.

The revised design and cost estimates are expected to be finalised in one month. The DICL will then submit the updated project proposal for financial clearance. Bid is expected to be launched by December 2025.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that that the DCL has also embarked on the procedures for land acquisition required for the project. 19 plots of land are concerned of which 18 belong to private owners and one is State land.

Today, 12 private landowners have already conveyed their agreement and them memoranda of survey are being prepared. Discussions are ongoing with the seven land orders to secure their consent.

Madam Speaker, regarding the issue of rock bunds, I wish to inform the House that this proposal has recently been put forward by the Land Drainage Authority in a letter dated 16 September 2025 as a palliative measure pending the construction of the flood walls.

This proposal was not part of the original project design and no detailed drawings or designed parameters are yet available. I am informed that properly engineered rock bunds entail significant time and financial implications. As such this proposal is being examined for possible integration in the permanent works to be implemented by the DICL.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that on 01 September 2025, the LDA has recommended to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre to formulate an evacuation plan, prepare safety protocols and consider the relocation of two houses situated in the flood plain in case of *force majeure*.

Madam Speaker, I am also informed that the Municipal City Council of Port Louis awarded a contract on 10 June 2025 for the cleaning and desilting of River Latanier over a stretch of some 8.7 kilometres extending from upper Vallée des Prêtres near Ally Lane to its outlet at Roche Bois.

These works which included the region of Morcellement Ramlagun were undertaken between 02 July and 15 September 2025 and have already been completed.

Madam Speaker, I wish to reassure the hon. Member and the House that government remains fully committed to addressing the flooding risk at Morcellement Ramlagun. While immediate relief has already been provided for the cleaning and desilting works undertaken by the Municipal Council, the permanent solution is being actively pursued through DICL with the close support of the National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and the Land Drainage Authority.

Madam Speaker: Are you happy hon. L. Caserne? Yes. We will do a last question, Hon. Dr. Prayag, please. There is one which has been withdrawn.

CORAL BLEACHING – IMPACT – DOMESTIC ECONOMY, FISHING & TOURISM SECTORS

(No. B/983) Mr F. François (Second Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change whether, in regard to coral bleaching in the Republic of Mauritius, he will give details of coral bleaching events and state the –

- (a) actions and marine breakthroughs, if any, addressing same, and
- (b) assessment, if any, of the impact thereof on the domestic economy, namely, the fishing and tourism sectors.

(Withdrawn)

NORTHERN REGION – WATER SUPPLY – WATER TANKER TRUCKS – WATER PIPES LAYING PROJECT – COST

(No. B/984) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Northern part of the country, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the number of water tanker trucks serving same during the prevailing water shortage periods, indicating the expected date of connection and coming into operation of already laid water pipes extending from the Grande Retraite Water Pumping Station and the Plaines des Roches Reservoir, indicating the costs incurred as at to date.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Minister!

Mr Assirvaden: Je pensais qu'on allait déjeuner et après j'allais reprendre mais, comme vous voulez.

Madam Speaker : Mais non, nous prenons de l'eau avant de déjeuner.

Mr Assirvaden: Oui, ok, on prendra un verre d'eau. Madame la présidente, la CWA m'informe que 6 camions-citernes sont normalement affectés à la zone d'approvisionnement en eau au nord afin d'assurer la distribution quotidienne et régulière.

Cette distribution concerne notamment les établissements scolaires, la santé, les autres infrastructures publiques et les traitements des plaintes reçues via la ligne d'assistance téléphonique de la CWA.

Lorsque la CWA entreprend d'important travail de réparation surtout comme cela s'est passé dans le nord, dans une région donnée susceptible de perturber l'approvisionnement en eau, des camions-citernes supplémentaires sont déployés depuis d'autres zones.

De plus pendant la saison de stress, la CWA fait appel à des compagnies de transport d'eau privé pour compléter sa propre flotte répondre aux demandes des usagers.

Madame la présidente, j'étais informé que la CWA avait mis en service un forage supplémentaire à la station de pompage de Petite Retraite et poser une conduite, un tuyau pour alimenter les parties supplémentaires d'Amaury et le réservoir de la Plaine des Roches.

Actuellement ce forage fonctionne grâce à un groupe électrogène, générateur tandis que la salle de transformateur existante est en cours de rénovation par la CWA afin d'augmenter la capacité électrique nécessaire à un fonctionnement continu 24/24 heures.

Suite au renouvellement dans la région d'Amaury, l'année dernière ce forage désormais exclusivement dédié à l'alimentation du réservoir de la Plaine des Roches. De plus, afin de minimiser les pertes d'eau et d'améliorer la fiabilité de l'approvisionnement en eau, la CWA a entrepris le remplacement de l'ancien pipeline en fonte ductile de 250 mm par un pipeline PEHD entre la station de pompage de Petite Retraite et les réservoirs de Plaine des Roches sur une distance de 3km.

L'Assemblée pourrait souhaiter noter que le tuyau posé en surface – vous l'avez vu je suppose un peu partout – les tuyaux posés en surface par l'ancienne direction de la CWA et par l'ancien Directeur Général, Prakash Maunthrooa – 23 millions, le hon. Premier Ministre avait dit,

je crois 23 millions pour quelques années. Malheureusement ces tuyaux, il faut bien le dire, ne sont pas fournis localement aux raccords. Les pièces ne sont pas fournies en raccord. On ne peut pas avoir sur le marché local ; il nous faudra importer. Pour mener à bien les travaux, il sera nécessaire d'obtenir l'autorisation de passage de la RDA, des autorités locales, des propriétaires fonciers privés. La fin des travaux est prévue pour mars de l'année prochaine 2026.

Madame la présidente, La CWA m'informe que le coût total encouru à ce jour pour les travaux de pose de tuyaux s'élève à seulement R 10,5 millions. Vous savez pourquoi c'est R 10,5 millions ? On a coupé un projet de R 700 millions en des petits projets de R 10 millions pour pouvoir donner des contrats aux copains et copines aussi simple que ça. C'est pour cela ! Et parmi il y a le fameux Dewdane, effectivement – R 10,5 millions représentant à l'acquisition des tuyaux et des raccords et des travaux de forges de transport des tuyaux. Merci, Madame la présidente.

Madam Speaker : Yes, hon. Dr. Prayag !

Dr. Prayag: Thank you, hon. Minister. Meanwhile, we understand that we have only 9 trucks that are serving water in the North. Meanwhile, given that these trucks serve water to schools, public infrastructures and health infrastructures, can we have them to serve household also during the day instead of only in the evenings as it is the case actually?

Madam Speaker: Short and sweet hon. Minister.

Mr Assirvaden : Allez d'accord. Je dois rassurer l'honorable membre que nous avons lancé un appel d'offres pour recruter des compagnies privées. Donc, nous avons neuf compagnies privées pour fournir les camions-citernes donc cela sera fait d'ici la semaine prochaine et nous allons allouer trois à quatre camions-citernes pour desservir la région du Nord expressément. Merci

Madam Speaker: Thank you everybody, we are now going to raise for lunch. One and a half hour, we are back at 2.30 p.m. Thank you.

At 13.02 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.34 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.

Madam Speaker: Please be seated! Yes, hon. Fourth Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue!

Mr A. Duval: B/986.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Babajee had already spoken. You want...

(Interruptions)

Mr Babajee: No!

Madam Speaker: Oh, no? Okay! I am so sorry, hon. Babajee. Normally I should see you. Okay, please go ahead!

DOLPHIN & WHALE WATCHING – PLEASURE CRAFT OWNERS – PROTECTIVE MEASURES – REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

(No. B/985) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Tourism whether, in regard to issues being raised regarding dolphin and whale watching, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) the measures being envisaged for the protection of the –
 - (i) sea animals, and
 - (ii) pleasure craft owners making their living out of the said activities and
- (b) whether consideration will be given to making of these activities a new pillar of the tourism industry and establishing the relevant regulatory framework therefor.

Mr R. Duval: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Dolphin and whale watching are regulated by the Tourism Authority (Dolphin and Whale Watching) Regulations which was promulgated in 2012 to ensure that –

- (a) such activities take place in responsible, orderly and sustainable manner;
- (b) the safety of all persons involved in the activity is not jeopardised at any moment;
- (c) the sea animals are adequately protected, especially when persons enter the sea to swim with dolphins.

And in a nutshell, Madam Speaker, the 2012 regulations make it mandatory for –

- (a) an operator to hold a licence from the Tourism Authority to undertake dolphin and whale watching or dolphin and whale watching together with swimming with dolphins;

- (b) dolphin and whale watching is to be allowed only in prohibited zones which should be within a radius of 50 metres and 100 metres respectively from the pleasure craft undertaking that activity, and
- (c) dolphin and whale watching to take place only in a regulated zone with a radius of 50 to 150 metres from the closest dolphin and a radius of 100 metres to 200 metres from the closest whale.

It is to be noted that currently dolphin and whale watching or dolphin and whale watching together with swimming with dolphins is being carried out by 278 pleasure crafts on the western coast of the island.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what is provided in the 2012 regulations, the Tourism Authority has never issued any of these 278 pleasure crafts with a licence to carry out dolphin and whale watching or dolphin and whale watching together with swimming with dolphins. These pleasure crafts have been conducting these activities with a licence of *excursion*, the reason being that the 2012 regulations, though duly promulgated, could not be enforced following the representations received from the Federation of Pleasure Crafts Operators (FOPCO) on ground that –

- (a) no insurance cover could be taken for swimming with dolphins as same is not provided by the Association of Insurers, and
- (b) equipment such as propeller guard was not available on the local market.

On the other hand, the cost of oxygen kit was too high. To note that propeller guards are installed on pleasure crafts to reduce injury to marine animals. The National Coast Guard, on its part, informed that enforcement of the regulations could not be made as their own vessels were fitted with a propeller guard and they did not have the appropriate equipment to ascertain distance in the prohibited and regulated zones.

Madam Speaker, in view of these inabilities to enforce the regulations, several complaints have been received concerning the harassment of sea animals during the activity. Abuses have also been reported on the social medias about the disorganised and dangerous manner operators carry out this activity. It is understood that some operators even offer swimming with whales against high, expensive packages, which is illegal as per section 8(1)(b) of the regulations and other conducts, risky manoeuvres with clients at sea, resulting in harassment and safety concerns of those mammals.

In view of the above, Madam Speaker, when the Government took power, an interministerial committee under the chair of the Deputy Prime Minister, was set to look into and remedy these matters. I must say that the committee includes among others, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the National Coast Guard. In the following discussions held, it was agreed that a fresh Tourism Authority (Dolphin and Whale Watching) and Swimming with Dolphins Regulations be worked out only to prohibit abuses in such activities which constitute a new pillar of our tourism industry.

Madam Speaker, a first draft of the Regulations has been worked out by my Ministry and it provides among others, for a pleasure craft conducting this activity – it is mandatory to –

- (a) possess a licence from the Tourism Authority for that purpose;
- (b) be equipped with propeller guard;
- (c) have a lookout and certified lifesaver onboard, and
- (d) be manned by duly trained skippers.

Madam Speaker, the draft regulations have been submitted to all concerned stakeholders for validation prior to being promulgated. On the other hand, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for instance, Eco-Sud, Marine Megafauna Conservation Organisation (MMCO) have informed that they have no objections to dolphin and whale watching activities and request that swimming with dolphins be banned. The FOPCO on the other hand, asked for dolphin and whale watching together with swimming with dolphins be maintained with reduced regulatory constraints, for example, the requirement of lifesaver and propeller guard be removed.

Mr R. Duval: Madam Speaker, with a view to striking the right balance between the protection of the sea animals and our marine ecosystem, and the fact that the livelihood of the 278 operators and their personnel is concerned, I have called a meeting this Thursday with the concerned party to reach a *modus operandi*. Once same is agreed upon, the proposed regulation will be finalised.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. Now, hon. Fourth Member for Port Louis North!

GRADE 7-9 TEXTBOOKS – ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 – PROCUREMENT EXERCISE

(No. B/986) Mr A. Duval (Fourth Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resource whether, in regard to the procurement exercise for the provision of textbooks to secondary students for pupils' core subjects in Grades 7 to 9 for Academic Year 2026, he will state –

- (a) whether he will table copy of the bid document, indicating the conditions relating to delivery time and any requirement for the submission of maquettes for the prior approval of the Ministry;
- (b) the number of responsive bidders, and
- (c) the conditions of the contract awarded, name of the successful bidder, contract price, delivery time and specifications of the maquettes, if any.

Dr. Gungapersad: Madam Speaker, at the very outset, let me inform the House that our students of Grade 1 to Grade 9 have unjustly suffered a lot year in and year out because they used to receive a few of their prescribed textbooks very late during the academic year. Sometimes, even during the second semester.

When I assumed office as Minister, I looked into the main causes of this tardy supply of these textbooks by selected bidders in order to remedy the problem. I found that there were only two main local printers who were monopolising the printing of these textbooks. The main reason why these two were able to do so was simply because the specification for the inside papers being 90 grams matt for procuring these textbooks.

Earlier during this year, I openly denounced such obscure practices which were blatantly encouraged by the previous regime. Who were the main victims? Our helpless kids. They suffered unjustly as they were denied timely delivery of their textbooks. With a view to addressing this issue, more printers are henceforth encouraged to participate in the textbook bidding exercises. Henceforth, my Ministry, in consultation with the MIE, revised the paper requirement from 90 grams to minimum 80 grams matt.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I tabling a copy of the bidding document for the particular procurement exercise. Bids were launched by my Ministry on 19 June 2025 through open national bidding for the provision of textbooks to secondary schools, mainstream students and educators, in respect of Grade 7 to 9 for Academic Year 2026.

I am informed that according to the bidding document, the delivery time for textbooks shall be within 60 days as from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. Moreover, the successful bidders are required to provide a maquette of the textbook to the MIE to ensure that same meets the requirements and specifications of my Ministry.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that there were technically four responsive bidders.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (c) of the question, I am tabling the list of bidders together with the corresponding contract prices for each lot. I am informed that all the conditions mentioned in the bidding document have been fully adhered to, except for the delivery period and its strike off process prior to bulk printing in relation to Lot 4. Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Bid Evaluation Committee and Departmental Bid Committee, the Senior Chief Executive of my Ministry provided an extension in delivery period of around two weeks for Lot 4.

Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Procurement Section of my Ministry that all bidders who have been awarded contract for printing of textbooks for both primary and secondary have until the end of November 2025, at latest, to deliver their respective lots of textbooks. Except unforeseen circumstances beyond my Ministry's control, all textbooks are expected, hopefully, to be distributed to all schools on time prior to the start of the Academic Year 2026 so that our students can resume their studies in all serenity. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. Yes!

Mr A. Duval: Can I ask the Minister – we are talking about millions of rupees of procurement of textbooks – is it normal that, with respect to Lot 4 as stated by the Minister, a contract has been awarded whilst two critical conditions as per the bidding document, that is, the delivery time and the prior submission of a maquette to ensure quality, have been forgone? Who has taken the decision, therefore, to forgo these two critical conditions contrary to the bidding document?

Dr. Gungapersad: I said it in the main answer. But definitely, as you are mentioning, I think an investigation will take place in that sense.

Mr A. Duval: May I ask the Minister about – I am sure he has received it as well – an anonymous letter that alleged that there have been meetings prior to the award of the contract for Lot 4 between the Senior Chief Executive of his Ministry and a non-responsive bidder at the time? There have been allegedly modifications made to the Minutes, and provisos have been added and Backdated. Following that meeting, an award was given in respect of which, again, conditions which were critical to the bidding document have been forgone? In light of this, is the Minister now going...

Mr Mohamed: Excuse me, on a point of order.

Madam Speaker: Yes, this is an anonymous letter.

Mr Mohamed: On a point of order.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Mr Mohamed: Whenever a Member of Parliament makes such accusations, he must come and back it up. Very often, I see that they have a loose tongue whereby they can pronounce whatever they want, slur anyone, throw in accusations, but they have nothing to back it up. I am saying that I am taking a point of order because unless and until this Member can back up what he is saying – not his word – with a document or someone who said so, then he can come. Otherwise, he should...

Madam Speaker: Let me reply.

Mr Etwareea: This is not the first time!

Madam Speaker: You have put your point of order.

Mr A. Duval: And I would be...

Mr Mohamed: This is too much!

Madam Speaker: Hon. Member...

Mr A. Duval: I would be more than happy to table the said letter.

Madam Speaker: No, no, no.

Mr A. Duval: I will. I undertake to do so by...

(Interruptions)

An hon. Member: Now!

Mr A. Duval: I undertake to do so. I do not have it with me now. If you give me 10 minutes, I will table it. But the question remains...

Madam Speaker: Hon. Member, you did not let me deal with the point of order! First of all, the Minister raised a point of order. Secondly, I did not have the time. By the time you said it, I had started talking. You said anonymous letter. So, even if you table it, it is an anonymous letter.

An hon. Member: *Sa aussi li pa kone!*

Mr A. Duval: Right! Let me rephrase my question. But it is to be noted that whistleblowing is encouraged in the House.

Mr Mohamed: Madam Speaker, on another point of order.

Madam Speaker: You cannot both stand up! Sit down!

The Deputy Prime Minister: Sit down!

Mr A. Duval: And there is no...

The Deputy Prime Minister: Sit down!

An hon. Member: *Assize do!*

Mr Mohamed: I have another point of order.

Madam Speaker: He is raising...

An hon. Member: *Assize do!*

Mr A. Duval: He has... I am being interrupted. It is my time...

(Interruptions)

He should say with relevance to which point of order in the Standing Orders.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Asize!*

Mr Mohamed: I am telling you. Sit down!

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Asize!*

Madam Speaker: He is raising...

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Ale do sovaz!*

Mr Mohamed: Madam Speaker, I take note that he is not insisting on the question. However, while he was putting his question...

Mr A. Duval: I will rephrase.

Mr Mohamed: ...he is rephrasing it —, he made some serious averments that he should withdraw first and then continue.

An hon. Member: Withdraw!

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, may I?

Madam Speaker: Okay, yes, but do not...

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, let me ask the question differently. Is the Minister...

Hon. Members: Withdraw! Withdraw!

(Interruptions)

Mr A. Duval: But under which Standing Order?

Hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, under which Standing Order has hon. Shakeel Mohamed raised a point of order? Which Standing Order? He is simply making a speech! I am asking a question. He has made a point. I will rephrase. Can I ask my question now?

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: First of all, ...

Mr A. Duval: Can I ask my question?

Madam Speaker: But you do not let me reply! If nobody will let me talk, we will sit here and wait!

(Interruptions)

It is so obvious, even...

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Li pa mem konn fer so travay!*

Mr A. Duval: *Ki mo pa...*

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Minister, please!

The Deputy Prime Minister: *...li onte pou...*

Mr A. Duval: *Vinn asiz-la, montre mwa fer travay-la!*

An hon. Member: *Li pa kone!*

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: May I say a word? The thing is that I am sweet Speaker; I am not loud Speaker! Before you finished, I tried to stop you because I noted that you said anonymous letter, and I knew that it was wrong. But you do not let me speak! So, now, I am asking you to withdraw whatever you said based on that anonymous letter, then, I will let you put other questions. Please!

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, the question was: has he received an anonymous letter?

Hon. Members: Withdraw! Withdraw *avan!*

Mr A. Duval: That was the question.

Hon. Members: Withdraw!

Madam Speaker: Withdraw it because it is anonymous!

Mr A. Duval: Withdraw what, Madam Speaker? What?

Madam Speaker: Everything that was in that anonymous letter!

Mr A. Duval: I will rephrase it. And therefore, I am changing the question.

(Interruptions)

The question is simply: has the Minister received an anonymous letter making allegations against his Senior Chief Executive in the award of the contract to a non-responsive bidder...

Madam Speaker: One moment, everybody! One moment!

Mr A. Duval: ...who did not comply with the conditions of the contract? It is a question; he will tell me!

Madam Speaker: First of all, you withdraw everything that you said that was in that letter. First, you withdraw, and then I will allow that question, okay?

Mr Gunness: *Lerla to poz to kestion!*

Mr A. Duval: Madam Speaker, I cannot withdraw the fact that there is anonymous letter which raises allegations.

Madam Speaker: No, you are not listening to me. We are both members of the Bar. You know what I am saying.

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Sa!*

Madam Speaker: You have already said, now you have another question...

The Deputy Prime Minister: *Enn lot kalite bar!*

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: ... which may be is different. Withdraw the first part!

Mr A. Duval: In the interest of my question being put, I will withdraw and rephrase it differently. I will ask it again. Has the hon. Minister received a letter or be it anonymous, making allegations against impropriety involving the Senior Chief Executive in the procurement of that contract to the non-responsive bidder in respect of the Lot No.4 for the record, is it clear now?

Madam Speaker: Yes, okay! Hon. Minister!

Dr. Gungapersad: I wish to assure the hon. Member that I sit on the right side of the House and on this side, we believe in transparency, in accountability. So, rest assured, whatever has to be done, will be done. No need to worry regarding same.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Minister, he will not give up until and unless you say whether you received a letter or not?

The Deputy Prime Minister: Enfin!

Madam Speaker: No, we don't want to know whether you are going to act on anonymous letter.

An hon. Member: *Dir li oui!*

Dr. Gungapersad: Yes, and we have already acted as for his reassurance.

Madam Speaker: Very good! Very good! That's better!

Mr A. Duval: May I ask a last question?

Madam Speaker: Last question but careful!

Mr A. Duval: Yes! Will the hon. Minister now undertake to come back to the House and to inform the House of whatever maybe revealed by any inquiry which he might have initiated already or is about to initiate?

Dr. Gungapersad: I repeat myself again. I am sitting on the right side of the House and we adhere to transparency and as in all the cases, we will do the needful. Rest assured!

Madam Speaker: Okay, you will tell the House in due course!

Next question! Now, where are we? We have finished with hon. Duval.

Now, we are with Mr Apollon, Second Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien!

FISHERMAN CARD – PENDING APPLICATIONS – ISSUANCE OF CARDS

(No. B/987) Mr T. Apollon (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to the Fisherman Card, he will state the number of pending applications therefor, indicating when same will be determined and the cards issued.

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, hon. Member. Madam Speaker, you see the time. We are on the right side of history. We are all aware that our lagoons have been over-exploited, Madam Speaker, and depleted over the years. The previous government had gone far against sustainable fisheries by issuing a substantial number of Fisherman Cards and many of these applications should not have been considered in the first instance, as some of the fishers who have received their Fisherman Cards are already engaged in gainful employment.

My Ministry is receiving daily representation to the effect that Fisherman Cards have been distributed in an ad hoc manner, without strict adherence to the prescribed criteria and proper verification process. There are currently 2,546 Fisherman Cards, out of which 1,190 Fisherman Cards were issued between the years 2022 to 2024, alone. And, 709 Fisherman Cards were issued in 2024 only. So much so, one week prior to the issue of the writ of elections, that is on the 28 September 2024, 416 Fisherman Cards were issued by the previous government.

Madam Speaker, with regard to Fisherman Cards, I wish to inform the House that there is a total of 1,512 applications which have been made at the level of the Ministry. As regard, whether these 1,512 pending applications would be determined and issued, I must emphasise that utmost care and caution need to be exercised prior to taking a decision. There is a need for a sensitive and balancing exercise to be carried out to ensure the traditional fishermen earn a decent living. We, as a committed and responsible government, have a duty to protect the traditional fishers who have earned a living out of fishing activities for generations.

Moreover, we have a moral duty towards our future generation to protect our lagoon and our natural resources. Hence, in order to ensure surveillance of our lagoons and to allow our fish stock to rejuvenate, strict control on this issue of Fisherman Card is warranted.

Mr Apollon: Merci, M. le ministre. Comme nous le savons tous, à la veille des élections de novembre 2024, les Fisherman Cards étaient distribuées sans control et sans respecter les critères pour l'obtention de ces cartes et maintenant, c'est ce gouvernement qui est en train de mettre de l'ordre. Le ministre peut nous dire si l'ordre de faire cet exercice illégal émane des officiers de Fisheries ou l'ordre venait d'en haut ? Et si c'est le cas, est-ce-que le ministre pense ouvrir une enquête approfondie pour faire la lumière sur toute cette affaire ?

Dr. Boolell: I take on board the comments and advice tendered by my good friend. We are going to put order in the House. But first there is a call for the proper verification exercise which is ongoing. Notwithstanding it, if I may state, there are 286 Fisherman Cards, which have not been stamped and therefore appropriate and corrective measures will be taken to redress the situation.

Madam Speaker: Yes, that's okay, Mr Apollon!

Yes, Dr. Ms Daureeawo, Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac!

PLAISANCE, CAMP LEVIEUX & TRÈFLES – WATER SHORTAGES/CUTS – COMPLAINTS – REMEDIAL ACTIONS

(No. B/988) Dr. Ms R. Daureeawo (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to Plaisance, Camp Levieux and Trèfles, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the number of complaints it has received for water shortages/cuts over the past six months, indicating –

- (a) how often same have occurred thereat over the past six months and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether an assessment has been made to rule out losses in the water distribution network, and
- (c) remedial actions, if any, taken to ensure regular and sufficient water supply thereat.

Mr Assirvaden: Madame la présidente, la CWA m’informe que les communes de Plaisance, Camp Levieux et Trèfles sont actuellement alimentées par le réservoir Stanley. La CWA m’informe également qu’au cours des six derniers mois, 69 réclamations ont été enregistrées pour Plaisance, 231 pour Camp Levieux et 230 pour Trèfles. Ces réclamations concernent principalement des coupures d’eau, des fuites et des tuyaux rompus.

En ce qui concerne la partie (a) de la question, Madame la présidente, pour Plaisance, le seul mois de mai 2025, a enregistré 48 plaintes, soit 70 % du total, ce qui indique un pic inhabituel et ponctuel de problème de service. À partir de juin, donc le mois juste après mai, le nombre de plaintes a chuté de façon spectaculaire et est resté constamment bas avec une moyenne de quatre plaintes par mois. En ce qui concerne la région de Camp Levieux, les plaintes mensuelles varient de 17 à 58, avec une moyenne d’environ 39 plaintes par mois, indiquant, il faut bien le dire, des difficultés opérationnelles régulières et des contraintes de réseaux. Quant à la région de Trèfles, les plaintes mensuelles ont affiché une tendance à la hausse constante, passant de 14 en mai à un pic de 96 en octobre, donc le mois dernier, 2025.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (b) de la question, la CWA m’informe que le réseau de distribution d’environ 6,4 km, desservant ces régions, est constitué de tuyaux en amiant ciment et de canalisations en polyéthylène, haute tension, communément appelé canalisations tuyaux de type bambou. L’évaluation relève que les principales causes de pénurie d’eau sont les suivantes –

- quantité d’eau insuffisante pour répondre à la demande dans la région ;
- gestion incohérente du fonctionnement des vannes, ceux et celles qui ouvrent les vannes sont de façon incohérente ;
- rupture de tuyaux de communication, et
- fuites isolées au sein du réseau de distribution locale.

Les équipes de la CWA enquête systématiquement sur tous les signalements de coupures, à la mesure du possible, afin d'identifier les fuites, les défauts des vannes et les irrégularités de pressions.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (c) de la question, je suis informé que l'unité des eaux non-facturées, *non-revenue water*, de la CWA a été chargé de réaliser un audit détaillé et une revue de conception du réseau existant dans les régions touchées, y compris l'analyse des apports, la surveillance des débits nocturnes, de ce que je disais un peu plus tôt ce matin, la pression le soir et la détection des fuites afin de garantir que les pertes, les cas échéants soient identifiés et corrigés.

La CWA met actuellement en œuvre des mesures correctives suivantes –

- réparation rapide dans la mesure du possible des fuites détectées ;
- réglage des vannes, on a beaucoup de problèmes avec cette affaire de réglage des vannes ;
- gestion de la pression pour améliorer la régularité du débit ;
- renforcement des équipes d'interventions, des opérations, pour répondre rapidement aux incidents ;
- en parallèle, la CWA examine la capacité d'approvisionnement dans la région de Stanley et étudie les options pour augmenter la source notamment le développement des forages supplémentaires dans les mois à venir, et
- une interconnexion possible avec les system adjacents ainsi que la possibilité de poser un pipeline.

J'ai posé la question – pourquoi nous avons le réservoir de Bagatelle Dam. Aussi grand que soit-il mais malheureusement, la région de Stanley, de Trèfles continue à subir ce problème d'eaux. Là nous avons pris la décision de relier ce Bagatelle Dam avec le Réservoir de Stanley parce que c'est Stanley qui alimente la région.

Donc, cela va se faire d'ici fin février. Donc, nous allons prendre toute une connexion sur le réservoir de Bagatelle pour alimenter Stanley et Stanley va alimenter la région avoisinante.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. You are happy?

An hon. Member: Very happy!

Madam Speaker: Hon. Apollon, yes, one more question.

MV WAKASHIO – COMPENSATION PAYMENT – STATUS

(No. B/989) Mr T. Apollon (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to the MV Wakashio grounding, he will state where matters stand as to the payment of compensation to the victims thereof, including fishermen, businesses and environmental groups, especially, following the recent release of the official report of the Mauritian Court of Investigation therein.

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, hon. Apollon.

Madam Speaker, at the very outset, I wish to inform the House that the previous government refused to make public the report of the Court of Investigation into the grounding of MV Wakashio.

As a responsible government, we could not allow things to linger. Consequently, I had a meeting with my colleagues, the Attorney General, along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, to discuss the way forward and following which, the government decided that the report be made public, thus upholding the principle of transparency espoused by this government. This is contrary to the stand taken by the former government. Accordingly, a communiqué was issued on 02 October 2025, thereby informing the public that the report was now accessible on the website of my Ministry.

Madam Speaker, I am informed that following the grounding of MV Wakashio, compensation to the tune of Rs200 million was paid to victims including fishermen and other claimants over the period of 2021 to 2022 by the Japan Protection and Indemnity Club, insurer of MV Wakashio.

I am tabling the total amount of compensation that was made to the victims. However, following the release of the report of the Court of Investigation to the grounding of MV Wakashio, no payment of compensation has been effected by the insurer as the ship owner, Okiyo Maritime Corporation, has on 25 October 2021 entered a case before the Supreme Court, applying for a limitation fund to be set up limiting the value of compensation to be paid to the tune of approximately Rs720 million.

The case of Okiyo Maritime Corporation v the State of Mauritius was heard before the Supreme Court on 24 October 2025 and the judgment of the Supreme Court has been reserved.

Moreover, the Attorney General's Office is in the process of finalising a *mise en demeure* for civil action in relation to compensation for all expenses and claims of the Government of Mauritius against all parties for oil pollution damage.

On the other hand, Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Director of Public Prosecution that the Commissioner of Police has been requested to initiate an inquiry into an alleged act of negligence which may have been committed by officers of National Coast Guard. The Commissioner of Police has informed my Ministry that the matter has been referred to the Central Criminal Investigation Department and inquiry is ongoing.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Mr Apollon.

Mr Apollon: Thank you very much. As we know, there are many NGOs and citizens that also initiated legal action. Will the government support these NGOs in the legal action?

Dr. Boolell: Yes, in fact, Dentons has lodged a case on behalf of the NGOs, and we are working very closely with Dentons. We are comparing notes and you can rest assured that we will leave no stone unturned in relation to compensation that should be paid to the victims.

Mr Seeburn: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the hon. Minister also state whether, the *mise en demeure* that the Attorney General's Office is envisaging to serve on the company that caused those damages, would include all the damages that were caused to the shores of Mauritius, including the parties involved.

Dr. Boolell: I cannot give an exact reply although this question should have been addressed to our good friend, the Attorney General but as I have said, you can rest assured, no stone will be left unturned.

Madam Speaker: Okay, next question, please.

Hon. Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle, Mr Seeburn.

GRAND PORT – STATE-OWNED COASTAL LANDS – PAS GÉOMÉTRIQUES LAND – LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

(No. B/990) Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to State-owned coastal lands, including inbound Pas Géométriques land, situated within the district of Grand Port, he will state if

Government is considering the possibility of introducing amendments to the existing legislation with a view to providing a mechanism for lessees thereof to obtain freehold titles to such leased properties at an agreed and fair market-based price and, if so, indicate the guiding principles, criteria and timeline envisaged for such policy consideration.

Mr Mohamed: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to thank the hon. Member for this very important question which has led to some confusion in the minds not only of the then government, but of the situation between occupiers of those particular plots of lands. At one point in time, wrongfully and unlawfully, certain plots of land which were on *Pas Géométriques*, specifically ex-CHA houses on *Pas Géométriques* and some building site leases on *Pas Géométriques*, were sold by the government of Mauritius in breach of the State Lands Act and the *Pas Géométriques* Act.

And, now, we end up with a situation where all those people who lived on *Pas Géométriques* ex-CHA and building site leases are, in fact, people who were given those plots of land in moments of difficulty, people who socially needed social protection and could not afford a home or had their homes and their abodes destroyed in cyclones, in bad weather and needed government's support, and this is what was done many many years ago.

Now what has happened is that through some blunder, part of those plots of land were sold and then all of a sudden when they realised that there is now a blunder that has been committed, they said – ‘Okay, hold one, in spite of the fact that we sent letters to all those lessees telling them we could sell; it was taken back.’

So, a part of those people now holds leases that are, in fact, not leases because they are in violation of public order and some of their neighbours hold leases and they cannot purchase.

So, being given that at this stage there is no restriction of sale of land in respect of building site leases for residential purposes other than those falling within the *Pas Géométriques* and taking into account that your question relates specifically to the sale of coastal state land, I am going to respond therefore, following this introduction, as to what action is being taken by my Ministry to look into this problematic situation.

So, we have received many requests from people such as lessees who would like to purchase state lands on *Pas Géométriques* ex-CHA houses, and unfortunately, they happened to be on *Pas*

Géométriques. So, in view of the explicit restriction in the law, those requests cannot be entertained at this juncture because I simply do not want to repeat blunders of the past.

Accordingly, we have sought advice from the Attorney General's Office as to whether and how those state land on *Pas Géométriques* could be sold. Clearly, that would require a huge policy decision on the part of my Ministry.

So, I have responded to such questions under PQ B/38 and B/118 on 04 February and 04 March, respectively and I reiterate again, this is a complex matter because we have to analyse the legal aspect, the social aspect and the policy implications involved therein.

I reiterate that I am very uncomfortable today when I note that you have people who hold lease/title deeds that are not even worth the paper it is written on because it has been sold in violation of two specific statutes. What shocks me even more is that those documents were registered as title deeds! So, the blunder started somewhere and continued at different *échelons*.

So, what I have to do now is deal with two categories of citizens. One gentleman living in Pointe aux Sables, I recall, came to see me – many Members of Parliament have spoken to me –, he is a sick person. His neighbour's property has been sold. All be it that the title deed does not really represent much. It has been resold and registered again. God knows how! Now, he wants to understand why is it that they are given the right to buy whereas he cannot and he is a sick man. Before he departs this world, he would like to transmit something to his children. So, this is precisely the difficult situation we are in.

I have the difficult task, together with colleagues of Government, in finding a solution to this. We will find a solution. We will bring justice. Very often, we are called upon to clear and clean the mess left by others.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: The hon. First Member for Port-Louis North and Montagne Longue!

GINGER CULTIVATION – IMPORT CHALLENGES

(No. B/991) Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port-Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to ginger, he will state whether he is in presence of representations from planters thereof as to any unfair competition to which they are facing from importers thereof and, if so –

- (a) indicate the measures his Ministry proposes to take in relation thereto, and
- (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Agricultural Marketing Board, information as to whether consideration could be given for the local production thereof to be purchased at a guaranteed price and be given priority on sale.

Dr. Boolell: The question has been looked into and the hon. Member can rest assured that the matter has been referred to the Police.

As far as ginger is concerned, it is a commodity which depends on market forces. So, let the market force act. In the meantime, in the light of the request made by the hon. Member, the Agricultural Marketing Board will look into it to if there can be a floor price. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Ms Savabaddy: I thank the hon. Minister for this answer. Mais, Monsieur le ministre, les planteurs de gingembre sont confrontés actuellement à une concurrence déloyale des importateurs, ce qui les met en difficulté financière. Est-ce que le ministre peut examiner ce problème et proposer des solutions pour les soutenir ? Merci.

Dr. Boolell: I have proposed a solution. There is an alternative, notwithstanding that the Agricultural Marketing Board can give a floor price. There is a call for proper discussion with our planters. That meeting can easily be organised.

In relation to the illegal activity and in relation to import by certain illegal importers, the matter has been referred to the Police. The matter is being looked into and corrective measures will be taken. Those guilty will have to face the consequences of their illegal act.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière!

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL – BOARD COMPOSITION, BUDGET & ACTIVITIES ORGANISED

(No. B/992) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the National Youth Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) composition of the Board thereof, indicating when it was set up;
- (b) budget allocated thereto and to each Regional Youth Council for financial year 2025–2026, and

- (c) detailed list of activities organised thereat and related amounts spent since January 2025 to date in respect of each Regional Youth Council.

Mr Nagalingum: Madam Speaker, the National Youth Council is a statutory body established under Section 3 of the National Youth Council Act 1998 with the object *inter alia* to initiate youth development project and activities with the aim of encouraging the active participation of youth in the process of their own empowerment.

Section 13 of the Act provides for the setting up of ten Regional Youth Councils in each district and in Rodrigues. I wish to point out that projects or activities organised by Regional Youth Councils are funded by the National Youth Council as and when such requests are made.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Executive Committee of the National Youth Council was last reconstituted in January 2025 in accordance with Section 7 of the NYC Act 1998. I am tabling the composition thereof.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that as sum of Rs77.8 million, which includes the funding of major capital projects related to the upgrading of youth hubs, has been allocated to the National Youth Council in financial year 2025-2026. I am informed by the National Youth Council that an amount of Rs100,000 has been earmarked for each of the ten Regional Youth Council.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed by the National Youth Council that the period January to end of October 2025, nine activities have been organised by the five Regional Youth Council to the tune of Rs167,740. I am tabling a list thereof.

Madam Speaker, since the enactment of the National Youth Council Act in 1998, nearly three decades ago, the youth sector in Mauritius has undergone significant and profound transformation, including the emergence of a new form of youth organisation network, evolving youth needs and priorities in areas such as employability, entrepreneurship, development, digital transformation, climate change, mental health and civic participation and an increased need for enhanced governance, accountability and representation with the youth sector.

In light of the above development, the current National Youth Council Act 1998 no longer adequately reflects the realities, aspirations and challenges of the youth population in Mauritius. Cabinet has approved that my Ministry undertakes a complete review of the Act.

Thus, Madam Speaker, my Ministry is undertaking a comprehensive review of the council with a view to better addressing the needs and aspirations of the youth. This includes the present functioning of the council, its governance structure and operational mechanism.

The objective is to ensure that the National Youth Council evolves into a more dynamic, responsive and effective platform for youth participation and empowerment.

Furthermore, this review exercise forms part of a broader effort to allow the council's mandate and programme with the National Youth Policy and with current national priorities. Upon completion of the review of the election, the National Youth Council will rule out a new series of youth-led initiatives, including leadership development, civic engagement, entrepreneurship sensitisation and community-based project.

Madam Speaker, I must also emphasise that when I took office, the noise surrounding the management of the National Youth Council was overwhelmingly negative.

In light of many representations, I have requested the Office of Public Sector Governance to undertake a full-fledged enquiry. The enquiry is underway and the report is being awaited in the coming month. In light of the outcome of the enquiry, my Ministry will act accordingly.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Questions?

Mr Quirin: Madame la présidente, en ce qui concerne la composition du *Board* du *National Youth Council*, l'honorable ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre quels sont les critères retenus pour la sélection de ses membres et si le processus de nomination est ouvert à des candidatures publiques afin d'assurer une représentation équitable de jeunes et des organisations de jeunesse. Ou est-ce que ce sont des agents politiques qui ont été nommés comme pour le *Mauritius Sports Council* et pour la Commission Nationale du Sport féminin ?

Mr Nagalingum: Section 7(3) of the National Youth Council Act 1998 provides that –

“No person who is –

- (a) an office-bearer of a political party; or
- (b) a member of the assembly or of a local authority,

Shall be eligible to be a member of the Committee.”

So, if the hon. Member wants to know, no member who forms part in the political party is in that committee.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Mr Quirin: J'ai une question, Madame la présidente.

Madam Speaker: Faites attention à ne pas faire ce qui s'est passé tout à l'heure. C'est-à-dire dire des choses si vous ne pouvez pas les prouver, *okay* ?

Mr Quirin: Pourquoi vous mettez en doute ma capacité de prouver ce que je dis ?

Madam Speaker: Non, je ne mets pas en doute. Je ne mets pas en doute ! Je vous dis de faire un peu attention parce que dans la précédente question...

Mr Quirin: Oui ?

Madam Speaker: Vous avez déjà évoqué certaines choses. Je ne vous ai pas arrêté.

Mr Quirin: Je ne sais pas où vous voulez en venir, mais...

Madam Speaker: Allez-y ! Allez-y. J'ai remarqué quand vous avez posé la question.

Mr Quirin: Qu'est-ce que vous avez remarqué ?

Madam Speaker : Et bien que vous ayez dit dans telle et telle organisation...

Mr Quirin: Oui, c'est le cas.

Madam Speaker : Et ça, vous pouvez apporter des précisions.

Mr Quirin : L'honorable ministre est parfaitement au courant, c'est pour cela...

(Interruptions)

C'est pour cela qu'il a omit de... qu'il a fait exprès de ne pas donner les noms des personnes qu'il a nommées sur le National Youth Council. Mais je n'ai pas insisté. Je n'ai pas insisté malgré tout.

Mr Nagalingum: I am saying that I am going to table it. It is a long list; I am tabling the list of the committee members.

Mr Quirin: On prend la connaissance.

Madam Speaker: Members, if you will allow me? Earlier on, I wanted to wait for the end of questions to come back to what happened. Earlier on, we had an issue between the Member for Port Louis North and the hon. Minister raised a point of order.

I thought it would be wise to remind everybody that we have to look at Standing Order 22 in general which says the “Contents of Questions” but I will come specifically because I need time to have a look at the Standing Orders in order to give a ruling. So, now I am coming on Section 22 (h) which says –

“a question shall not include the names of persons or statements of facts unless they are necessary to make the question intelligible” and, in the case of statements of facts, can be authenticated by the Member concerned, nor shall it contain charges which the Member asking the question is not prepared to substantiate;”

That is, I think, what the hon. Minister was raising this morning. So, I am telling you just to be careful because just before I made that comment, you have started a little bit. I did not want to stop you but now that you do not understand why I was saying that; I was just telling you to be cautious. But just remember, all of you, we have to go by the Standing Orders. This is why you have voted for me to be here.

Mr Quirin : Ma deuxième question, Madame la présidente. L’honorable ministre des Sports peut-il confirmer par rapport à la réouverture du Centre de Jeunesse de Trèfles, qu’une somme astronomique – j’ai les documents avec moi – de plus de, je vais dire le chiffre exact, R 1 254 000 selon un *estimated amount*.

Est-ce que l’honorable ministre peut-il confirmer que cette somme a bel et bien été dépensée, et si oui, en quoi cela est-il justifiable en cette période de *ser sentir* pour la population ?

Mr Nagalingum: I do not have the answer now. I am going to provide the answer to the hon. Member.

Madam Speaker: You want to give the document?

Mr Quirin: Yes.

Madam Speaker: Please, take the document from the Member. Thank you.

Can we move forward hon. Quirin, or do you have a supplementary question?

Mr Quirin: J'ai terminé, merci.

Madam Speaker: Okay, merci beaucoup. Okay!

Hon. Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes.

METRO EXPRESS LIMITED – ADVERTISING CONTRACT – UPDATE

(No. B/993) Ms S. Anquetil (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Land Transport whether, in regard to the current advertising contract, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Metro Express Limited, information as to whether there has been any update thereof.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Madam Speaker, I would refer the House to my reply B/417 of the hon. Ms. Anquetil at the sitting of Tuesday 06 May 2025 where I stated that an amount of – it is a long figure but I am going to cut it short – Rs34.3 million had been paid to Metro Express Limited by Alliance Media since the beginning of the contract on 28 August 2020, that is, over a period of five years almost and this averages to about – again, I am going round up – Rs6.9 million per year.

I am informed by Metro Express Limited that after my raising serious concerns regarding the contract of MEL and Alliance Media at the level of National Assembly during PQ of hon. Ms. Anquetil, and I would like to thank her for that particular question, a further amount of Rs56.8 million was paid suddenly by the advertising company as part of the advertising revenue stream of MEL. No doubt, the reply that I had made had been very beneficial to Metro Express Limited.

I am further informed that the total amount of Rs91.04 million has been received by MEL to date which comprises of a minimum guaranteed payment of Rs34.3 million for a period up to January 2026 and a variable income share of Rs56.7 million for the period up to April 2025.

For the period May to July 2025, a further Rs1.6 million will be paid to MEL as income share. The income shares for months of August, September and October 2025 are currently under evaluation. The average has therefore moved; it has almost tripled over that period of five years and now it is averaged to around Rs18.2 million per year which is important because Metro Express Limited needs that revenue to reduce the yearly deficit.

Madam Speaker, in view of the anomalies initially observed regarding the contract, a special audit is being undertaken to ascertain compliance with procurement and legal procedures and

assess the performance of the contractor. Further action will be taken on the basis of the outcome of the special Audit Report.

In this respect, I must point out that MEL has recently appointed its park and leisure manager, Mr B.H, a marketing and communication manager. The latter holds qualification in Events and Project Management. As part of the duties, the latter is expected to manage the advertising contract to optimise advertising revenue streams of the Metro Express Limited.

I am made to understand that Mrs B.B, former communication officer at MEL resigned from the company last month.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Ms Anquetil: Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Le ministre peut -il indiqué à la Chambre que la personne à laquelle il fait référence dans sa réponse a effectivement était élue sous bannière MSM lors des élections Municipale à Vacoas en 2015?

Mr Osman Mahomed: I am aware of this. Mrs B.B. was elected by the Alliance Lepep in 2015. She was subsequently recruited as Public Relations Officer of Larsen & Toubro during the construction of the Metro line to liaise with people facing difficulties during construction. Then, subsequently, she was recruited as Communication Officer of Metro Express Limited.

Now, she left the company last month, a decision of her own. There has been no pressure at all. Now, the new officer in charge, like I said in my substantive reply, is expected to do a better job to monitor the contract of the contractor Alliance Media because we need this revenue to reduce the deficit of the Metro Express Limited. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes! Are you okay?

The next question is being withdrawn if I am not mistaken. Then we will move on. I am a little surprised, our friend hon. Jhummun is not here. Hon. Third Member for Port Louis North, hon. Caserne!

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS – SUSPENSION – REASONS – SOCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT

(No. B/994) Mr R. Jhummun (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation whether, in regard

to the suspension of the social media platforms on 01 November 2024 in Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) reasons therefor and under whose directives same was carried out, and
- (b) estimated economic and social impact thereof.

(Withdrawn)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARENESS PROGRAMMES – SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE MAURITIUS LTD – BENEFICIARIES

(No. B/995) Mr L. Caserne (Third Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives whether, in regard to the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Small and Medium Enterprise Mauritius Ltd., information as to the number thereof held since January 2025 to date, indicating in each case, the number of beneficiaries who benefitted from facilities therefrom.

Mr Ameer Meea: Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that since I took office in November 2024, I have initiated consultations with SMEs, SME Association and Federations in order to take stock of state of affairs of the business community in Mauritius.

During these discussions, it became obvious to me that our local entrepreneurs were not aware of the vast potential and benefits accruing to them whenever they register their businesses whether as companies or individuals with my Ministry. Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that any micro, small or medium enterprise registered with my Ministry is provided with an SME Registration Certificate free of charge.

This certificate is valid for an initial period of five years and is renewable thereafter. Throughout its validity, the certificate unlocks various facilities and benefits for the SME which facilitates its operation and business development. For instance, registered SMEs can benefit from a four-year tax holiday, duty-free facilities on the acquisition of a double cabin utility vehicle, loans at concessionary rates from various banking and financial institutions, exemption from land conversion tax and expedited processing of building and land use permits amongst others.

Furthermore, SME Mauritius Ltd, a government-owned private company, falling under the purview of my Ministry provides grants to SMEs under various schemes, namely –

- the Business Transformation Scheme;
- Technology and Innovation Scheme;
- Market Readiness Scheme;
- Greening Support Scheme, and
- Agri Business Scheme.

Madam Speaker, with a view to encouraging aspiring and new SMEs to take full advantage of these benefits and thereby work towards realising their growth potential, I took the decision to conduct Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes across the island on a regional basis. During these awareness programmes, my Ministry set up information booths and special desks with experienced officers to provide advice and guidance to attendees in order to enable those who are starting or who have just started operation to be equipped with the knowledge and resources regarding the process of setting up a new business and to obtain firsthand information about registration with my Ministry, so as to tap into the various benefits and grant schemes available.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry organised the first entrepreneurship awareness programme in January 2025 for the region of Port Louis, comprising of constituencies 1, 2, 3 and 4 at the Dr. Idrice Goumany Municipal Centre, Plaine Verte, during which some 325 persons benefitted from the programme. The second entrepreneurship awareness programme was held in April 2025 in the north region, comprising of constituencies 5, 6 and 7 at Plaine des Papayes multipurpose hall and around 460 persons benefitted from the programme. A third awareness programme was held in June 2025, in the southern region comprising constituencies 11, 12, 13 and part of 14 at Kuushi Hall, Plaine Magnien, involving around 450 persons benefitting from the programme. And a fourth one was held in August 2025 for the central region comprising constituencies 18, 19, and 20 at the *Salle des fêtes* Plaza, Rose Hill where some 350 persons benefitted from the programme.

Madam Speaker, with around 1,600 aspiring entrepreneurs having benefitted from the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes, these sensitisation campaigns are already bearing fruit and giving new impetus to the entrepreneurial culture in Mauritius.

Madam Speaker, I wish to further inform the House that the next Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme will be conducted for the eastern region and in Rodrigues, and we expect that over 500 persons will benefit from the programmes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. No supplementary?

ANNOUNCEMENT

PQ B/992 – HON. QUIRIN – UNAUTHENTICATED TABLED DOCUMENT

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Members give me one minute. I am coming back on the PQ B/992 from hon. Quirin. We received a document which hon. Quirin has kindly tabled. Unfortunately, I will not be able to accept the document because it is just a list of items with estimated amounts in rupees not purporting to be any document having any connection with paragraph (c) of PQ B/992.

(Interruptions)

Just a flying document that is not authenticated. So, I am sorry, I cannot accept this document.

(Interruptions)

Mais, if you get a better document, I will accept, of course.

Mr Quirin: It is a genuine one!

Madam Speaker: *Je n'ai pas compris.*

Mr Quirin: It is a genuine one! I can assure you!

Madam Speaker: I do not want to be assured. It has to be authenticated.

Mr Quirin: I received it as it is.

Madam Speaker: So, we cannot do any better. Okay, these are the Standing Orders.

Yes, hon. Lukeeram, please!

HARRY LATOUR STADIUM – RENOVATION WORKS – UPDATE

(No. B/996) **Mr C. Lukeeram (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the renovation works undertaken at the Harry Latour Stadium, he will state where matters stand.

Mr Nagalingum: Madam Speaker, the Harry Latour Stadium is owned by my Ministry and managed by the Mauritius Sports Council. It is operational and being utilised by both the public and football clubs. Following a site visit I conducted at the stadium, I requested that improvements

be made thereto for provision of better services and improved security to the public. These include installation of three metal gates, construction of a new septic tank, replacement of defective floodlights and raising of a section of the boundary walls.

I am informed by the MSC that these three metal gates have already been installed. A contract has already been awarded for the construction of the new septic tank. Practical handing over of site is being carried out today, 11 November 2025, and the works are expected to start by next week. The duration of the works would be 60 days. Surveys are being carried out for the replacement of defective floodlights and the raising of the boundary wall. Thereafter scope of work will be prepared and bids will be launched accordingly.

Madam Speaker: Yes? Everyone is happy? The hon. Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka!

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE – OCCUPATION & TENANCY ORDERS – LEGAL MEASURES

(No. B/997) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare whether, in regard to gender-based violence, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the number of Occupation and Tenancy Orders issued to victims thereof since 2019 to 2024, indicating whether her Ministry will consider commissioning a study of the reasons why Occupation and Tenancy Orders are not issued in certain identified cases and collaborating with the Attorney General's Office to identify legal measures to address the issue.

Ms Navarre-Marie: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that for the period 2019 to June 2025, a total of 42 applications for Occupation Orders and three applications for Tenancy Orders were made. Out of these, seven Occupation Orders were issued and no Tenancy Order was granted.

The Protection from Domestic Violence Act was first enacted in 1997 to protect spouses from acts of domestic violence. It has since been amended in 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2016 so as to extend protection to persons living under the same roof, broaden the definition of domestic violence and strengthen penalties. Originally, the Act provided for occupation and tenancy orders under sections 4 and 5, and these were subsequently amended in 2011 through sections 4A and 4B.

Such applications are made before the District Court and both types of Orders may be applied for, together with a Protection Order or separately where the safety or housing of the victim is at risk.

Madam Speaker, as to the reasons why such orders are not issued, I wish to inform the House that this matter is being examined in the context of the ongoing review of the legal framework on domestic abuse. The new Domestic Abuse Bill aims at strengthening protection and support for victims and enhancing the effectiveness of the justice system. The Bill is currently being drafted at the level of the Attorney General's Office and the issue of Occupation and Tenancy Orders will be considered as part of this legislative reform. I am informed that the commissioning of a study is not envisaged at this stage. I also understand that the draft Bill will be communicated to my Ministry by next week.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Dr. Ms Thannoo? Thank you for that question. It makes three for today. Thank you!

PQ B/998 has been withdrawn. So, now we have hon. First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue!

**RODRIGUES – DISPLACEMENT & EXTENSION OF ELECTRIC POLES –
MORCELLEMENT & NON_MORCELLEMENT AREAS – PENDING CASES**

(No. B/998) Mr F. François (Second Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the displacement and extension of electric poles for high and low voltage networks in Rodrigues to new residents in morcellement and non-morcellement areas on State lands, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board (CEB), information as to –

- (a) the number of pending cases as at date for –
 - (i) extension, and
 - (ii) displacement to allow customers apply for CEB clearance for Building and Land Use Permit, and
- (b) whether –
 - (i) a review of the CEB available Schemes to facilitate access to electricity, and

- (ii) consideration of special derogation for Rodrigues for remedial action to ease the financial burden on lessees thereat, will be envisaged.

(Withdrawn)

MAURITIUS – PROPOSED FOOTBALL PROFESSIONALISATION – IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME

(No. B/999) Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port-Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the proposed professionalisation of football in Mauritius, he will state where matters stand, indicating the expected timeframe for the implementation thereof.

Mr Nagalingum: Madam Speaker, with your permission I will reply to PQ B/999 and B/1021 together as they relate to the same subject. I thank the hon. Member for allowing me to expatiate the plans and programme for the revival of football in Mauritius.

Madam Speaker, we all remember the golden days/years of le roi football which had firmly established itself as the island's most popular sport, transcending ethnic, social and religious divides. The level of competition was intense and football became a unifying cultural force. Football stars in five generations of youth players with a diverse fan base and stadiums were always full, even regional matches were attended by thousands of enthusiasts.

However, Madam Speaker, when I took office, football in Mauritius was in deep crisis. Our national team was languished at the bottom of FIFA rankings; stadiums were more than often empty; enthusiasm has worn off; sponsors were reluctant to invest, given the lack of competitiveness and fan interest. Young athletes often preferred other emerging sports, leaving football with a shrinking base.

The collapse of Mauritius football has been mainly due to the lack of political vision of the MSM-led government over the last 10 years. These are manifold, but may be summarised as follows –

- neglected youth development;
- failure to address governance issues;
- failure to build structure, training centres, scouting system or coaching programmes;

- talented players lacked pathways to professional careers, both locally and abroad, and
- poor maintenance, lack of planning and absence of community facility meant that infrastructures failed to serve as a sustainable backbone for football.

The decline of Mauritian football was not a merely sporting issue, but a reflection of political short-sightedness of lack of vision. Instead of harnessing football's unifying power, leaders allowed communal division, poor governance and quick political fixers to undermine the sport.

Fortunately, Madam Speaker, Mauritius still has the potential to be a strong footballing nation. With the correct plans and political will, *nous retournons au sport ses lettres de noblesse*.

Madam Speaker, already, the mood in the country is changing. Football matches have started to attract good crowds. The national team has started once again to perform decently. Football in villages is picking up consistently. That is palpable. The meaningful results we are now experiencing are not a mere coincidence. It is a process of a calculated approach.

In this context, my Ministry and the Mauritius Football Association (MFA) have agreed to collaborate for the revival of football, which also includes the professionalism thereof. Accordingly, together with MFA, we have developed a 4-year plan for the revival and the professionalisation of football. The strategic objectives of the plan are to –

- reform governance and transparency in football administration to ensure accountability, efficiency and trust;
- rebuild domestic competition to attract spectators, sponsors and media attention;
- develop strong grassroots and youth pathway through a comprehensive review and strengthening of *écoles de football* to identify and nurture talents nationwide;
- professionalise football by establishing clear structures, standards and support mechanism for clubs, coaches and players to transition towards full-time professionalism;
- upgrade football infrastructures across the island to meet modern, safe and inclusive standards;
- invest in coaches, referees and administrators education to raise the technical and managerial level of Mauritian football;

- straighten woman football as a key growth area for participation, visibility and leadership, and
- rebrand football image to restore public confidence, pride and community engagement in the sport.

Madam Speaker, the revival of football is estimated to cost some Rs238 million annually. The annual breakdown of the proposed budget is as follows –

- Rs120 million will be dedicated to men and women clubs to support operational youth development and compliance with licensing standards.
- Rs50 million will be directed towards grassroots and youth development initiative, including the revival of inter-school and inter-college competitions, the football for school programme, football training centres and community or village football activities.
- Rs40 million will be invested in infrastructure and facilities, covering the development of mini pitches, upgrade to football training centres and creation of women football friendly environment.
- Rs8 million annually will support coaches, education and technical assistants, including CAF licensing coaches, continuous professional development and the training of grassroots educators.
- Rs10 million will be allocated to enhance facilities, establish national league and facilitate international participation in respect of beach soccer and futsal.
- Rs10 million will be earmarked for sport science and hyper performance programme to strengthen fitness, medical and performance analysis support unit.

Madam Speaker, the MFA will contribute financially through co-investment in projects funded by FIFA Forward, CAF grants and sponsorships. With dedicated allocation earmarked for clubs' licensing, youth leagues and national team participation, Government will also participate in this initiative. In collaboration with FIFA Forward and related international assistant programmes, priority will also be given to the development of new AstroTurf pitches. These facilities will serve to modernise regional football infrastructure, provide year-round, all-weather training and competition surfaces and support grassroots youth, women football, futsal and community football activities.

According to MFA, USD 50,000 is available for grassroot football development. In primary schools, the MFA has also indicated that FIFA funding is also available for 10 synthetic surfaces. Additionally, the MFA has received 1,000 balls, donated by FIFA for the football of schools' project.

Madam Speaker, on the technical side, my Ministry and the MFA will act as a lead agency for planning and coordinating the project for the revival of football, overseeing grassroot youth, woman football, futsal and beach soccer programmes. It will also be responsible for implementing coach education, referees and technical assistants. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes! You both have the right to speak!

Ms Savabaddy: Merci, Madame la présidente. Lors de la conférence de presse du ministre, datant du 2 octobre dernier, un programme de détection pour les U15 à U18 a été évoqué. Or, quand on voit la carrière des grandes vedettes, ils ont commencé bien plus tôt, même à l'école primaire. L'honorable ministre peut-il nous dire ce qui sera fait à ce sujet ? Merci.

Mr Nagalingum: I have a meeting with my good friend, the hon. Minister of Education. We are working on a plan and this is coming shortly. We are going to announce it.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Ms Savabaddy: Merci, Madame la présidente. Puisque le mot de professionnalisation a été évoqué pour la relance du football, quelle serait la fourchette de salaire qui sera proposée aux footballeurs choisis ? Merci.

Mr Nagalingum: How can I say it now? Let the plan come first. We will work on it and then we are going to decide on the amount we are going to give to the football.

Ms Savabaddy: The plan is not ready?

Mr Nagalingum: No.

Ms Savabaddy: Okay.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Mr Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Merci, Madame la présidente. L'honorable ministre peut-il dire à la Chambre quelles structures de bonne gouvernance seront mises en place pour superviser la mise en œuvre

du projet ? Car comme il l'a dit lui-même, plusieurs centaines de millions seront dépensés chaque année.

Mr Nagalingum: The project is in an implementation phase over three years. So, when it comes to governance and infrastructure improvements, it will occur in the first 18 months. So, we are giving time and working on it. I am sure that all the technical assistance, training and financial guidance will be provided as we go along, and we are going to see the results soon.

Mr Quirin: Dernière question, Madame la présidente.

Madam Speaker: Yes!

Mr Quirin: Récemment à la presse, l'honorable ministre a parlé de miracle à venir pour le football mauricien, peut-il de ce fait dire à la Chambre, quels sont les principaux indicateurs de performance qui sont très utiles, qui seront utilisés pour mesurer les résultats au fil des années, bien sûr ?

Mr Nagalingum : When we are talking of miracles, there is miracle because *nous avons la volonté et le gouvernement, l'ensemble du gouvernement, le Premier ministre et le Deputy Prime Minister et tout le monde ensemble pour faire de sorte que nous donnons toute notre attention pour que la relance se fait et avoir des résultats.*

Mr Quirin: Les indicateurs de performance – ma question est sur les indicateurs de performance...

Mr Nagalingum : You have to wait!

Madam Speaker: Il faudra attendre. I have a few more minutes. So, I will ask Mr Babajee, yes!

WESTERN REGION – WATER SUPPLY – RESERVOIRS – WATER TANKER TRUCKS – REMEDIAL ACTIONS

(No. B/1000) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the western region, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the –

(a) number of –

(i) reservoirs located thereat, indicating the respective capacity thereof, and

- (ii) water tanker trucks available to supply households thereat, and
- (b) remedial actions being envisaged to ensure regular and sufficient water supply thereat.

Mr Assirvaden: Madame la présidente, en ce qui concerne la partie (a) de la question, la CWA m'informe que la partie West du pays qui comprend les régions de Rivière Noire, Tamarin, La Gaulette, Case Noyale, Petite Rivière Noire, Bambous et Cascavelle, est alimentée par un réseau de distribution intégré, lui-même alimenté par treize réservoirs de services. Je dépose à l'assemblée le tableau indiquant la capacité de chaque réservoir.

En ce qui concerne la partie (a) (ii) de la question, je suis informé par la CWA qu'actuellement deux camions-citernes, malheureusement que deux camions-citernes, sont déployés dans la région de Rivière Noire pour répondre aux demandes des consommateurs par le biais des systèmes de plaintes. Ces deux camions-citernes quoiqu'insuffisants, je l'admets, fonctionnent selon un calendrier prioritaire garantissant une intervention rapide dans les zones vulnérables, les zones de basse pression et les ménages subissant des interruptions prolongées. Par ailleurs, la CWA a lancé un appel à manifestation d'intérêt pour louer des camions-citernes supplémentaires, je l'ai dit ce matin encore, pour l'ensemble de l'île afin de renforcer sa flotte existante pendant la saison de stress.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (b) de la question, je vais aller un peu vite, j'ai été informé que la CWA entreprend actuellement des actions correctives suivantes pour améliorer l'approvisionnement. Tout d'abord une station de traitement d'eau a été installée à Beaux Songes pour traiter 2000 m³ par jour pour la région de Beaux Songes, Cascavelle et parallèlement la CWA réalise actuellement une étude de faisabilité pour l'installation d'une autre station de traitement d'eau d'une capacité de 2000 m³ sur la rivière de Bois Noire. L'objectif est d'accroître la production d'eau destinée au réservoir d'eau Bois Puant améliorant ainsi l'approvisionnement de Coteau Raffin.

Deuxièmement, la CWA a l'intention de moderniser la pompe, monter en puissance pour cette pompe, pour qu'elle puisse pomper de l'eau de la rivière Baie du Cap afin d'accroître le volume et la fiabilité de la prise d'eau à la rivière de Baie du Cap. Nous faisons aussi, il faudra dire, Madame la présidente, la CWA continuera par ailleurs d'identifier des emplacements stratégiques pour les forages. Il y a déjà, on a foré déjà à l'arrière de UBP à Bambous et ce forage sera mis en service la semaine prochaine afin d'accroître la mobilisation de ressources.

Dernière petite chose, Madame la présidente, je suis heureux d'informer la Chambre que la Central Procurement Board a enfin donné son accord final, l'autorisation finale pour *the* Rivière des Anguilles Dam. Rivière des Anguilles Dam, l'appel d'offres. Donc, on a reçu l'approbation finale, le lancement d'appel d'offres est prévu pour quelques semaines, donc fin novembre 2025. Le gouvernement MSM va sûrement dire que... et l'attribution du contrat est prévue pour avril 2026, donc l'année prochaine et la construction devrait débuter en août 2026, l'année prochaine cela va commencer et s'achever pour terminer à la veille des élections en août 2029. La construction du barrage contribuera à atténuer la pénurie d'eau dans une grande partie de l'Ouest.

Merci, Madame la présidente.

Madam Speaker : Je vous en prie.

So, now Mr Babajee, you are okay?

Mr Babajee: Yes, thank you.

Madam Speaker : Mr Beehook ! I think it's the last question now.

ST GÉRAN HOTEL – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LICENCE – CONDITIONS, REVISION & OUTCOMES

(No. B/1001) Mr R. Beehook (Second Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil) asked the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change whether, in regard to the St Gérán Hotel, he will state when was the Environmental Impact Assessment licence for works on the beach and in the adjacent marine area issued thereto, indicating –

- (a) the conditions attached thereto, and
- (b) whether it subsequently submitted a request for the revision thereof and, if so, indicate the –
 - (i) justifications provided, and
 - (ii) whether same was approved and site inspections/ compliance assessments carried out by his Ministry to ensure adherence to the conditions set out in the EIA licence and the outcomes thereof.

Mr Bhagwan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that on the 13 October 2023, the One&Only Le Saint Gérân for proponent submitted an EIA application for the proposed work at One&Only Le Saint Gérân at Poste de Flacq, including –

- (i) the construction of groynes;
- (ii) the construction of breakwaters;
- (iii) the installation of rock revetments using basaltic rocks, and
- (iv) beach nourishment.

Following consultations with relevant stakeholders, the application was examined by the EIA Committee at its meetings held on 07 June 2024 and 05 July 2024. An EIA license was granted to the proponent on 10 July 2024.

Madam Speaker, I will be tabling a list of conditions attached to the EIA license granted to the proponent.

With regard to part (b) (i) of the question, on 13 May 2025, One&Only Le Saint Gérân made an application for a variation to the EIA license for coastal protection works, pertaining to replacement of basaltic rock by sandbag at the core and with basalt rock capping at Rock Revetment 2 near the helipad using the sand available from its premises. The proposed work methodology would allow for rapid execution of the works in order to mitigate the ongoing severe erosion problem.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (b) (ii) of the question, following receipt of the request for a variation to the EIA license for coastal protection works with respect to Rock Revetment 2, my Ministry had consultations with relevant authorities, including the following –

- Ministry of Housing and Lands;
- Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries;
- Mauritius Oceanography Institute;
- Department for Continental Shelf and Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration, and
- The National Coast Guard.

No objection was raised to the request made by the proponent for the variation of the EIA license and the application for variation was examined by the EIA Committee at its meeting held on 04 July 2025. On 10 July 2025, a letter of approval to variation for the coastal protection works was issued to the proponent with conditions. I will be tabling a list of conditions attached to the letter of approval.

Madam Speaker, as regard compliance and assessment, I wish to inform the House that during implementation of works, site inspections and monitoring were duly effected by my Ministry on three occasions namely, on 06 August, 29 September, and 08 October 2025 and assessments were carried out to determine whether works were undertaken as per their approved methodology and conditions imposed in the EIA license as well as approval granted by my Ministry for variation for coastal protection works. The salient mitigating measures observed on site included –

1. provision for geotextile screens to prevent sediment entrainment were in place;
2. provision of signboard to inform public of the works were in place;
3. working area cordoned-off for public safety, and alternate public access provided, and
4. dedicated personnel appointed to continuously verify the integrity of geotextile screens.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that on 05 August 2025, protests were received from fishers regarding works around the helipad, following which works had to be halted by the proponent. A consultative meeting with fishers was organised on 12 August 2025 by the proponent and same attended by representatives of different Ministries, including my Ministry. Subsequently, a case was lodged at the Supreme Court by the proponent against those interfering with the works. Further to an interlocutory order from the Supreme Court on 10 September 2025, works resumed on 26 September 2025.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the works were completed on 07 October 2025. To date, no non-compliance to conditions of the EIA license and of the letter of approval to variation for the coastal protection works has been observed. Regular monitoring is being ensured at the level of my Ministry and the Ministry of Agro-Industry.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Mr Beechhook.

Mr Beehook: May I please ask the hon. Minister whether there had been inspections carried out with regards to pollution in the lagoon which, ultimately, led to disrupt the activities of the fishermen of the locality who are still protesting that they have not been consulted adequately or simply look into solutions to remedy this?

Mr Bhagwan: Madam Speaker, there are regular monitoring which are effected by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, responsible for the Fishing Department, and as well by my Ministry. So, there have been representations. I think compensations were given to the fishermen and they went to Court and ultimately, we are having a permanent monitoring at our level, weekly.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Ms Manan.

AGRICULTURE CURRICULUM – NCE & SHOOL CERTIFICATE LEVEL – MINISTRY’S POLICY

(No. B/1002) Ms D. Henriette-Manan (Third Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resource whether, in regard to Agriculture as a subject, he will state –

- (a) the number of secondary schools currently offering same at School Certificate level;
- (b) the policy of his Ministry regarding the teaching thereof at National Certificate of Education level, and
- (c) whether a curriculum therefor has been developed for Grades 7 to 9 and, if not, why not.

Dr. Gungapersad: Madam Speaker, at the very outset, I wish to thank the hon. Member for this pertinent PQ referring to Agriculture.

I wish to inform the House that Agriculture, as a mainstream subject, is currently not available in state colleges, and is only available in private colleges under the PSEA. However, state colleges as well as private colleges, are providing a full-fledged one-year programme entitled ‘Introduction to Smart Agriculture’ within the Foundation Programme in the Literacy, Numeracy and Skills. The students of the foundation programme delve into eco-friendly farming methods such as organic farming, aquaponics and hydroponics, and develop hands-on skills through practical activities.

The elective also addresses the pressing issue of climate change, guiding students to understand its impact on agriculture and how climate-resilient strategies can ensure sustainable food production. Allow me to salute the good work being done in these schools.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that 40 grant-aided schools currently offer Agriculture as a mainstream subject. Out of these 40, 28 schools including 8 from Rodrigues, currently, offer agriculture as a mainstream subject up to the School Certificate level. The 12 remaining schools currently offer Agriculture as a mainstream subject up to grade 9.

Madam Speaker, as regards part(b) of the question, the annual programme for the National Certificate of Education assessment 2025 does not include Agriculture as a compulsory core, optional core or non-core subject for the said assessment. Private colleges, however, that are authorised by the PSEA to run the subject at Grade 7 to 9, conduct their own internal examination at school level. The PSEA has established requirements for the teaching of Agriculture in grant-aided private schools as follows –

1. The educators for Agriculture should possess a degree in agricultural field;
2. The number of periods allocated weekly for Agriculture for Grade 7 to 9 is either one or two periods;
3. Students of Grade 7 to 9 are provided with free textbooks, and
4. The teaching facilities should be as per specific norms and standards.

Madam Speaker, regarding part (c) of the question, I am informed that although the Science curriculum covers related topics such as plants, photosynthesis, food production, food security and the use of fertilizers, there is presently no formal curriculum for Agriculture that has been developed for Grade 7 to 9 by the MIE.

Madam Speaker, the curriculum for Agriculture has not yet been developed due to the fact that there is an insufficient number of secondary school educators qualified to teach Agriculture. It is therefore necessary to design and implement a teacher professional development programme, and to equip our state colleges with the adequate facilities prior to the effective introduction of the subject.

During my recent visits to Rodrigues and Agaléga, I had fruitful meetings with the stakeholders including students and parents who requested the introduction of Agriculture and

Marine Science among others as taught subjects. These requests have been favourably entertained and the blueprint for education which will be made public soon, will spell out the way forward.

To conclude, the expression, ‘Let us produce what we consume and consume what we produce’ is not only topical but pertinent as well. Together with my colleague, the hon. Minister of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, we are going to initiate joint programmes to encourage our children to embrace farming and agriculture; be it as a subject, as a hobby or as a profession later on.

Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Yes, I have two minutes left.

Hon. Babajee, do you think you can have a go and see if the hon. Minister won’t take too long? I do not want to be unfair to you, again.

POST CYCLONE BELAL – FORTHCOMING RAINY SEASONS – FLOOD MITIGATING MEASURES

(No. B/1003) **Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of National Infrastructure whether, in regard to the forthcoming rainy seasons, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the preventive measures being taken regarding –

- (a) Tamarin River, following one loss of life during flooding in the wake of Cyclone Belal;
- (b) Petite Rivière Noire where the road is always blocked and the whole village flooded, and
- (c) Cotteau Raffin drain near the entrance of Le Morne Road.

Mr Guinness: Madam Speaker, regarding part (a) of the question, I am informed that very often, after heavy rainfall, water from the mountains flows and accumulates on the classified roads along Tamarin River. Unfortunately, it would appear that since the loss of life during flooding in the wake of cyclone Belal, this matter has not been given due consideration or any remedial measure taken.

I must here, thank the hon. Member to have raised this very pertinent question and to reassure him that the Land Drainage Authority has been requested to look into this issue and consider the construction of a cut-off drain along with other flood mitigating measures.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I am informed that the region of Petite Rivière Noire was officially declared a flood prone area by the LDA since June 2022, following repeated floodings which resulted in road blockages and inundation of residential areas. The floodings are mainly attributed to the low-line topography of the village and the confluence of the 4,2 km Petite Rivière Noire River with its tributaries, rivulet minguel and feeder pavé which drain towards the village.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that as part of the short-term mitigation works, desilting of feeder pavé and rivulet minguel was completed in February 2023, covering a total stretch of 0.7 km at a cost of Rs980,000.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part(c) of the question, I am informed that Cotteau Raffin being a coastal settlement located along B9 Coastal Road with steep mountain, mountainous slopes on the landward side and the flat residential terrain on the seaward side is an area highly susceptible to run off driven flooding. A full-fledge drain project is being implemented by the NDU with consultancy support from Lux Consult. The design for the drain project has already been completed and is presently at land acquisition stage. Same is expected to be finalised by March 2026. Once all clearances would be available, the NDU will request for funding to proceed with the bidding exercise and implement the project which is estimated to cost some Rs60 million.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, time is up!

The Table has been advised that the following PQs have been withdrawn: B/1006, B/1007, B/1008, B/1009, B/1010, B/1012, B/1013, B/1014, B/1015, B/1016, B/1018, B/1019, B/1022, B/1024, B/1025, B/1026, B/1028, B/1029, B/1030.

I hope there is no mistake because it is quite long.

MOTION

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 10(2)

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) Standing Order 10.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(4.11 p.m.)

***ALPHA BRAVERY BOARD VESSEL – DRUG HAUL – FRIDAY 07 NOVEMBER
2025***

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, with your permission, I wish to make a statement in relation to the drug haul of 433.10 kg of a white substance suspected to be cocaine; the street value of which is estimated at Rs6.5 billion, on the board vessel *Alpha Bravery*.

On Friday 07 November 2025, in the evening, the Police Headquarters received information that parcels suspected to contain drugs, had been found on board of *Alpha Bravery* by the captain. Acting promptly on this information, the National Coast Guard initiated continuous tracking of the vessel using its operational surveillance systems and established communication with the ship's Master.

Alpha Bravery left Brazil on 07 October 2025 and was proceeding towards Singapore with a load of iron ore. Its final destination was scheduled to be China. The vessel sailed under the flag of Greece, having on board 23 crew members, including six Hellenics, one Russian and 17 Filipinos.

After having found suspected drug parcels on board, *Alpha Bravery* contacted the Designated Person Ashore of the shipping company based in Greece and requested for bunkering in Mauritius.

Given the potential magnitude of the threat, the Commissioner of Police directed the activation of a multi-agency response involving the National Coast Guard; the NCG Maritime Intelligence Cell; the National Coast Guard MARCOS, which is the Indian Navy's Marine Commando Force; the Anti Drug and Smuggling Unit; the Special Mobile Force; the Mauritius Revenue Authority; the Scene of Crime Office; the IT Unit; the K9 Unit and the Elite Marine Commanders.

A detailed operation plan was formulated to safely intercept the vessel, prevent any destruction or transfer of evidence at sea, and ensure the safety of all the personnel involved. On the same day, that is, on Saturday 08 November, NCG commandos boarded the *Alpha Bravery* from the police helicopter. They winched them down. Thereafter, the vessel headed towards Port Louis harbour under escort of the National Coast Guard.

Alpha Bravery dropped anchorage at about two nautical miles off the port limit on Sunday 09 November 2025 in the morning. The Police and Customs Anti Narcotic Sections boarded the vessel and met with the Master, a Greek national.

Two hours after anchorage, Lawyer Avineshwur Raj Dayal, whose services had been retained by Indo Oceanic, Local Shipping Agent of *Alpha Bravery*, boarded the cargo vessel.

The Master of *Alpha Bravery* related that he was informed by the chief officer to the effect that on Friday 07 November 2025, whilst the chief engineer was carrying out a routine check in the engine room, he came across 15 suspected abnormal plastic parcels, each secured with a life jacket.

The suspected parcels were conceived in the cofferdam of the engine room. The Designated Person Ashore of the shipping company, which is based in Greece, instructed the master to cause the door of the engine room to be welded for security reasons.

Upon the instruction of the Police on Saturday 08 November, the welded door of the engine of *Alpha Bravery* was cut open. There were 15 suspected plastic parcels. A search in the cofferdam of the engine room revealed the presence of a raffia bag containing spare batteries, ropes as well as several ignition lights. All these were secured.

It is obvious, Madam Speaker, that the life jackets and other materials found on board were to be used for off-loading in the sea of these drugs. This is a well-known *modus operandi* among transnational drug traffickers, as a means to recover drugs in the high seas, to evade security patrols.

The parcels found on board by the Police were cut. It was found that they contained a white substance suspected to be a 'Dangerous Drug to wit Cocaine'.

The crew members all denied knowledge thereof.

DNA swabbing of the parcels was conducted by the Police.

The Police has also enlisted the collaboration of other jurisdictions to determine the possible ramifications in this case.

Madam Speaker, as I have stated to the House on a number of occasions, the nefarious environment fuelled by drugs, drug addiction, drug trafficking and other drug-related crimes that the previous government has left as legacy is alarming.

As stated in the House previously, the previous government failed to act on information it received on the suspicious movement of ships probably transporting illegal substances crossing our waters.

At one point, in June 2024, there were two ships crossing near our shores. One headed to Seychelles and the other one was heading to Mauritius. The one that went to Seychelles was arraigned by the Seychelles authorities and 900 kg of narcotics were seized on that vessel. However, the ship advancing in our waters was allowed to move freely. The Police were made aware of this information, but it turned a deaf ear, much to the disappointment of the Regional Maritime Information Centre (RMIC) – a centre which is dedicated to the coordination of regional operations at sea with respect to maritime safety and security in the Western Indian Ocean. Now, we can all guess why the Police in this country did nothing while Seychelles intercepted the other vessel!

In the case of the *Alpha Bravery*, this action of the Mauritian Police constitutes a record-breaking seizure in our fight against narcotics trafficking. It raises the legitimate question as to why such an operation has never been undertaken during the past 10 years, especially when it is common knowledge that transnational drug trafficking knows no frontiers and that our region is not spared from that scourge.

It is known that numerous vessels regularly cross the southern seas, with the probability that some are involved in criminal activities, carrying drugs across our waters. If we have been able to effect such seizure, this is due to immediate action following receipt of information indicating the presence of a dodgy vessel possibly with drugs near our waters.

Madam Speaker, the *Alpha Bravery* operation demonstrated outstanding inter-agency coordination, tactical efficiency and operational discipline. From the very outset, monitoring, tracking, and coordination of the entire operation was undertaken in a professional and exemplary

manner by the CP and the teams of NCG, MARCOS commandos, ADSU and SOCO teams, the MRA and also K9 units. With the support of the Mauritius Port Authority, all contributed to this remarkable success.

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to every officer involved in this complex and high-risk operation. Their actions, conducted in full compliance with established standard operating procedures and international maritime law, ensured both the safety of all personnel and the preservation of crucial evidence.

This seizure, which is one of the most significant in the recent times, sends a strong message to international trafficking networks that Mauritius will not tolerate the use of its maritime domain for illicit activities. Our agencies will continue to defend our territorial integrity with professionalism, courage, and resolve.

I reaffirm, Madam Speaker, the Government's steadfast commitment to combating drug trafficking and transnational organised crime. We shall continue to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, invest in intelligence capabilities, and enhance training and technology to safeguard our people, our economy, and our reputation as a law-abiding nation. The success of Operation *MV Alpha Bravery* stands as a proud example of what can be achieved when our security forces act with unity of purpose, guided by integrity, discipline, and patriotism.

This is also why during my official visit to India, I asked for the assistance of India for the control of our now very extensive maritime EEZ, and India, Madam Speaker, has kindly agreed to our request. We are thankful to India.

There should be no doubt as to the unflinching resolve of Government to combat drug-trafficking.

Madame la présidente, en tant que chef de gouvernement, je voudrais dire, haut et fort, devant cette auguste Assemblée, que nous continuerons à être impitoyables contre la mafia en tout genre.

Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Prime Minister. May I suggest that we break now and then we can come back for the Bills. Thank you.

At 4.21 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 4.56 p.m. with the Madam Speaker in the Chair.

Madam Speaker: Please be seated.

PUBLIC BILLS

First Reading

On motion made and seconded, the following bills were read a first time –

- (i) *The Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025)*
- (ii) *The Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII of 2025).*

Second reading

THE POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(No. XXVII of 2025)

Order for Second Reading read.

(4.58 p.m.)

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025) be read a second time.

Madam Speaker, the Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025), this Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025) is both urgent and historic in its purpose. It is designed not merely to amend the law but to redefine the capacity of our Police Force, restore public confidence, and correct the systemic failings that have hindered police inquiries and ultimately plagued delivering justice in our country for far too long.

The Police Act of 1974 has been the foundation of policing in Mauritius for over fifty years. While this legislation at the time served our nation well, the nature of crime has changed dramatically since its enactment.

Today, the Police Force faces unprecedented challenges posed by transnational and technology-driven offences. These crimes are complex, sophisticated, and often borderless, exploiting globalisation and technology in ways that outstrip the reach of conventional investigative methods and local resources alone.

Under Section 9 of the Police Act, one of the primary duties of the Police is to prevent and detect offences. This provision was drafted at a time when criminal activity was largely localised, and investigations could be conducted within familiar parameters.

However, offences such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, and other complex criminal enterprises have become increasingly prevalent. These are not only sophisticated in execution but also frequently involve networks operating across multiple jurisdictions, leveraging advanced technology and financial instruments to evade detection. Criminal organisations have grown, we all know, in sophistication, and without modern tools, Mauritius is falling behind in the fight against these threats.

The investigations of serious and long-standing unresolved cases, such as the Kistnen case, the Nadine Dantier case, and other cold cases, are often beyond the capacity of local expertise alone. These are intricate matters that require specialised skills and a knowledge of how to deploy them, for example in digital forensics, communications technology and financial analysis, skills that, without external support, are not practically available locally.

The existing Police Act does not provide the Commissioner with the authority to engage foreign investigative expertise, and as a result, local officers, despite their dedication and professionalism, have at times been constrained in their ability to resolve these cases efficiently. This limitation has not only delayed justice but, in some instances, allowed criminals and their networks to operate with impunity, undermining both public confidence and national security.

Madam Speaker, the House will recall the Kistnen case, an MSM Political agent, a matter that has long symbolised the failures, or should I say deliberate failures, of the previous regime.

Under the former government, this inquiry was mismanaged and deliberately misled the public, with critical leads ignored, investigative protocols circumvented, and opportunities to bring clarity to the matter squandered. What was clearly a case of homicide was made to appear to be a case of suicide. Had the people not booted them out, it would have remained a case of suicide. Nobody would have known. No further investigation would have been made and that would have been that. The very able magistrate who presided the Judicial Inquiry was as reported in the press unforgiving about how the police who investigated the case were unprofessional and I recall what was said on the case: it marks a new level of incompetence. So, incompetent they were. Families

of the victim were left in anguish – no answers, there was no closure and public confidence in the integrity of law enforcement was severely eroded.

This Government, in contrast, is determined to rectify those past mistakes, ensuring that every aspect of the investigation is conducted transparently, professionally, and in full accordance with the law. We already know and I mentioned it the other day that forensic experts abroad have already concluded that it was not suicide but murder.

By empowering the Police to retain specialised investigative officers from overseas in serious and complex cases, we will contribute to restoring institutional rigour into important police inquiries and we will finally pursue justice in cases that the previous administration tried to cover up.

Bringing in experts from abroad with specialised skills, independence and international experience to assist our police in the reopening of this case and in other major inquiries, will make possible the pursuit of all leads available and the thorough investigation of matters, which by reason of passage of time, may become very difficult to unravel. I will give you an example – and I have witnessed this – for example, somebody tried to destroy his mobile phone. He burnt the phone and threw it in the sea. This was found by the police – I am talking about the police in UK – the phone was destroyed by fire; they managed to get the information out of that phone. We intend to do this here as well, with their expertise.

Just as those whose loved ones are affected by disease, the victims of those who were injured or affected by crime, could not care less about the identity or the nationality of the police officers who bring them assistance in their hour of need and find out who is guilty. They cry out for justice. This is what matters to them. Who is finding out does not matter for them. This is what we are trying to do. Just like my hon. friends who are doctors here. When somebody is very ill, you not go and see from which community he belongs or which colour he is. You want the best doctor. This is exactly what we are doing here with the police force. This measure and the radical and far-reaching reforms we will bring forward in the coming months, will provide us with the best chance of answering their cries.

The proposed amendment to Section 22 of the Police Act directly addresses these challenges. A new subsection (1A) is being introduced, which provides that –

- (a) The Commissioner of Police may retain the services of foreign specialised investigative officers to carry out complex or serious criminal inquiries. This does not prevent a local policeman to be there but he may retain the services of a foreign specialised investigating officer.
- (b) Such officers shall act under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Police or any other police officer designated by him.
- (c) The specialised investigative officers will have no powers of arrest, and
- (d) Eligibility to serve as a specialised investigative officer will be restricted to persons who have served in a foreign law enforcement authority and who have demonstrated specialist expertise in the type of inquiry for which their services are retained.

Madam Speaker, I stress that these foreign specialised investigative officers will be under the direct control of the Commissioner of Police or any other police officer designated by him. They will not be able to initiate or decide upon any police inquiry but will instead carry out specific, complex or serious criminal inquiries as directed by the Commissioner of Police or any police officer designated by the Commissioner.

As I mentioned, these foreign specialised investigative officers will have no powers of arrest and as I have said, this reform is part of a broader legislative and institutional programme that we shall bring forward shortly, that will transform our law enforcement, strengthen the rule of law and restore institutional integrity. It complements the recent interim amendments to the Financial Crimes Commission Act of 2023, which were immediately necessary to address the deliberate and structural weaknesses inserted and inherited from the previous administration.

Under the previous Government, investigations into complex financial crimes were frequently delayed, completely mismanaged or allowed to stagnate, owing to overlapping mandates, unclear line of accountability and frequent confusion over prosecutorial authority. Cases went unresolved for years, creating a perception that financial and other malfeasance could occur with impunity.

The FCC amendments have corrected these failings decisively. By restoring the primacy of the Director of Public Prosecutions, those amendments ensured that prosecutions are coherent, consistent and subject to rigorous oversight. Cooperation between the police and the FCC has now

been strengthened, closing loopholes that previously allowed suspects to evade justice. Above all our reforms, we will signal to the public that no person, however influential, is beyond scrutiny and that our institutions are capable of acting decisively and independently. These measures are more than technical adjustments; they are systemic corrections of past errors, restoring integrity and public trust in the administration of justice.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear: this Government is not merely tinkering with the law. We are correcting the failures of the past, restoring professionalism and accountability and sending a clear message. Mauritius will no longer tolerate delays, inefficiency or institutional inadequacy. Families of victims will be concerned about the integrity of our institutions and our international partners must have confidence that justice will be delivered, the rule of law will be upheld and justice will be delivered on time, not in ten years' time as we have seen these days.

This Bill aligns fully with the Government Programme of 2025-2029 which commits to modernising our institutions, enhancing law enforcement capacity and reinforcing public trust. By enabling the engagement of international experts, strengthening investigative capacities, and linking reforms to broader legislative measures such as the FCC amendments and the coming law enforcement transformation, we will ensure that our law enforcement agencies are prepared for the challenges of the modern criminal landscape.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, this Police (Amendment) Bill is necessary now so that critical inquiries can benefit from the expertise it will enable the police to bring to bear. It empowers the Commissioner of Police to take effective action in cases of complex crimes, addresses unresolved cold cases and strengthens institutional integrity while helping to restore the public faith in justice. It complements recent legal changes that have corrected systemic failings and prepares the ground for our further transformative reforms which will firmly situate Mauritius as a nation where the rule of law is paramount and where justice is timely, independent and impartial.

This is our contract with the country, Madam Speaker, and the Bill shows that we shall not flinch from fulfilling that promise. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Seeburn, yes!

(5.10 p.m.)

Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in full support of the proposed Police (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Prime Minister. This Bill has a profound importance to the functioning of the law enforcement in our Republic. This Bill comes at a time when we must strengthen the capacity of the Mauritius Police Force to deal with increasingly complex forms of crime while ensuring that the rights of individuals remain protected, upholding our democratic institutions and the rule of law. The existing Police Act does not allow the Commissioner of Police to engage or retain services of foreign investigators as the hon. Prime Minister said earlier.

Madam Speaker, henceforth this Bill will empower the Commissioner of Police to retain services of foreign specialised investigative officers under its direction and control, so as to enhance the investigative capacity of the police in dealing with enquiries in serious and complex criminal cases and put a clear and transparent process within the bounds of our constitutional right, so as to modernise and restructure the police work.

I strongly believe, Madam Speaker, that this can mark a positive step in the renewal of our justice system that fosters public confidence. This is more than a legal reform as it says to every Mauritian, rich or poor, powerful or ordinary that in our Republic, the law stands above all to serve the vulnerable and uphold the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, justice has no borders. In today's world, crime does not stop at our shores. We face frequent criminal cyber intrusions, international money laundering and drug trafficking leading to violent criminal offenses. We heard earlier in the House the Statement of the hon. Prime Minister, highlighting the legacy of drug problems left by the previous Government, which is alarming and needs to be tackled urgently. This Bill sends a strong signal to the public that this Government intends to keep pace with those developments. This is about acquiring expertise and not interference.

By bringing in foreign investigators under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police, our officers will be acquiring specialised knowledge and best international practice to deal with

complex cases that require advanced technical and foreign expertise which will, ultimately, serve the public interest and the fight for justice in Mauritius.

Madam Speaker, public trust is essential. When citizens believe that police investigations are competent, fair and transparent, they are more likely to cooperate. The Bill provides the opportunity for the Mauritius Police Force to demonstrate that competence and fairness. The Bill recognises the need to reform our investigative capacity in complex criminal cases, and this is consistent with a broader shift towards aligning our system with international standards that will enhance public confidence so that every investigation is impartial, thorough and beyond suspicion.

Madam Speaker, this Bill serves as a stepping stone towards a more comprehensive reform with a prudent approach, ensuring that there is institutional clarity and competence to meet the end of justice. Specialised foreign investigators will work hand in hand with our national police. They will transfer knowledge. They will share techniques and this will enhance our local capacity so that in time, our own officers can handle even the most sophisticated crimes.

Madam Speaker, this Bill provides for the foreign specialised investigative officers to act under the direction and control of the Commissioner of the Mauritius Police Force to carry out police enquiries in complex criminal cases. The Bill does not create any parallel avenue beyond normal oversight simply because experts are foreign. The Bill ensures that those assisting have limited scope. As noted, they will have no powers of arrest and they will properly integrate under the Police Commissioner's direction.

Madam Speaker, this approach shows that Mauritius is confident, and not insecure. We are a mature democracy, promoting transparency and accountability. We are ready to face the truth, whatever it may be. This is the mark of a strong and responsible nation.

Madam Speaker, the objective of our Government is simple: no crime, no matter how complex, powerful or hidden, can go undetected or unpunished. By welcoming foreign expertise and cooperation, we are sending a clear message that in Mauritius, justice will always prevail.

Madam Speaker, in an era where criminality is complex and serious, we must ensure that justice remains one step ahead. Retaining foreign investigators is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of wisdom. It gives our citizens confidence that every investigation will be fair, transparent

and professional. This is how we strengthen our institutions – by learning, by collaborating and by never compromising on the truth. This Bill should not be viewed in isolation. It sits within the broader reform agenda of the Government in modernising the criminal justice process in complex cases.

Madam Speaker, allow me further to address a matter of great importance: the proposal to retain services of foreign investigators within our national system of law enforcement is not a question of capacity, but rather it is a question of credibility and collaboration. The world of crime today has changed. Criminal networks are sophisticated, transnational and often backed by vast financial resources, making it more difficult for our local investigators to gather evidence. To fight them effectively, Mauritius must be ready to tap into global expertise as a demonstration of strength and transparency.

Madam Speaker, let me say that we are proud of our dedicated local investigators, but when we invite foreign experts to collaborate in complex, serious criminal cases, we are not undermining our police force. We are, in fact, empowering it. Foreign investigators will bring specialised knowledge and advanced technology with international best practices that can enhance our local investigations and help to build the capacity of our own officers through skills transfer and joint operations.

In a democracy, justice must not only be done. It must be seen to be done. Madam Speaker, by involving independent experts in criminal cases, we are sending a clear signal to our citizens and to the international community, that Mauritius has nothing to hide, that we are committed to uncovering the truth, and that no crime will go undetected or unpunished regardless of who is involved. This amendment will, therefore, strengthen public confidence in our institutions and reinforce the reputation of Mauritius as a country governed by the rule of law.

This Bill makes it clear that such collaboration will remain under the full authority and supervision of the Commissioner of Police. The sovereignty of Mauritius will never be compromised. The foreign officers will strictly operate within the legal framework and for the specific purposes authorised under this Bill.

Madam Speaker, we are not alone with this amendment to the legislation. Even the greatest nations in the world, like the United Kingdom, the United foreign investigators in the interest of truth and justice. They did so not because their institutions were weak, but because they were strong enough to be transparent. Mauritius can do same with confidence and without hesitation.

Madam Speaker, before I conclude, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to the hon. Prime Minister for his leadership, vision and determination in bringing this important amendment to the Police Act before the House. It is about protecting our citizens, our families and our democracy. It shows that this Government has the courage to act when it matters most in defence of justice. It reflects a clear and courageous vision – a vision of a Mauritius where law enforcement is modern, professional and accountable, where justice is above politics and where no crime can go undetected. This is the kind of reform that strengthens our democracy and reassures our people, where they can have full confidence in the institutions that protect them.

Madam Speaker, I truly believe that one day, history will remember this reform as a turning point where Mauritius chose to strengthen the rule of law to open itself to global expertise, and to reaffirm that justice in our country is firm and fearless. We are moving forward in building a nation where our citizens feel protected, where institutions are trusted and where the guilty can no longer hide in the shadows.

I, therefore, urge all the Members of this House to come together in support of this Bill so as to make our country safer, stronger and prouder. Madam Speaker, with these words, I thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Junior Minister!

(5.20 p.m.)

The Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Mr H. Narsinghen): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the floor.

Let me explain the context prompting the presentation of the Bill of today. Madam Speaker, let me remind Members of the House that 11 November, in a way, is the liberation day. You know fully why it is the liberation day. We must thank the enlightened electorate, as mentioned by the

Prime Minister, which has uprooted the unprecedented dictatorship and rogue state put in place by the previous regime.

The black period of our history was marred also by alleged extrajudicial killings like the case of late Mr Kistnen, as alluded by the Prime Minister. Not only Mr Kistnen, but also, late Mr Kanakiah and Mrs Mooniaruth, and so many others. We have witnessed, unfortunately, unprecedented alleged judicial killings which have not been elucidated. Here, I reiterate my sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.

I use the term ‘alleged extrajudicial killings’ but let us see the findings of the bold magistrate regarding the judicial inquiry which took place and which speaks volume and speaks for itself.

In a nutshell, Madam Speaker, the bold magistrate found that the death was not a suicide. She described the case as a clear case of criminal homicide and our Prime Minister mentioned about murder, possibly there was murder. The inquiry report also criticised, don’t forget, the conduct of the police investigation. We all know that there were attempts of cover-up. We all know that Mr Kistnen was a prime political agent in No.8. The Magistrate qualified the handling of the case by the police in a very strong term as “abhorrent”, that is, repugnant. It marked unprecedented incompetence and attempts to cover up. Who attempted to cover up? You all know who attempted to cover. Who wanted to be Prime Minister and judge at the same time? The report found serious deficiencies, missing footage, poor management of evidence, defalcation of papers in the hands of the victim. In light of the report, the DPP, as you know, intimated the police to carry out in-depth inquiry. Unfortunately, this was not carried out.

Our actual Prime Minister promised to rope in foreign investigators and this is being done today. We have to walk the talk. The number of speakers during previous debates mentioned about that. This was being done in the past on an unofficial and ad hoc basis without the proper legal framework and safeguard measures. For example, in the past, if we were having recourse to foreign investigators, unfortunately, evidence of such investigators could not be admissible.

Now, the objective of the Bill, you will see that the Police (Amendment) Bill represents an important opportunity to modernise our investigative system and very important is to restore public confidence in our law enforcement. While some police officers, we have to acknowledge, display courage and dedication in their daily duties, unfortunately, some do not do the same. The reality,

Madam Speaker, is that our investigative framework remains outdated in many respects. We continue to rely excessively on confessions and provisional charges, often at the expense of robust evidence-based investigations and I lay emphasis on this concept of evidence-based investigations which is very important. When confessions are later retracted or declared inadmissible, unfortunately cases collapse.

The over-reliance on confessions, you will see, Madam Speaker, reflects systemic shortcomings. Insufficient training in investigative techniques and also a lack of advanced forensic capacity and limited access to modern equipment. Our training system although improving over time still does not provide officers with specialised competency-based development in investigation and in many advanced jurisdictions, detectives must follow clear professional pathways that include modules in crime scene management, digital forensics, financial investigations and evidence handling.

It is true that we have many capable and qualified officers, including more than 500 with degrees in Police Studies and Law. At one time, as the head of the Law Department, with the Mauritius Police Force, the University of Portsmouth and the blessings of Mr Dan Bhima and the CP, Mr Gopalsingh and also Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam who was then Prime Minister and, of course, still Prime Minister, we trained more than 350 policers, crowned with a BSc in Police Studies.

Unfortunately, what we have seen over the years, they are too often underutilised and seldom promoted to positions of command, based on merit and competence. This must change and we are here to build a credible, modern police force and also a more modern investigative force. People with qualification, Madam Speaker, and experience, should get fast-track promotion like it was done with cadet inspectors. And, I would recommend here a two tiers system of recruitment and promotion. It is important, I believe, that on one hand we focus more on physical criteria and possibly lower qualifications and I would make that special recommendation to the Prime Minister but on the other hand, it is also important to focus for some people, especially those in the investigative department to focus more on qualifications, IQ and experience and possibly then lesser physical qualities.

Another very important point, Madam Speaker, we find out that in Mauritius for many years, there have been major limitations in our forensic infrastructure. Mauritius depends heavily on the

Forensic Science Laboratory which certainly plays a crucial role but lacks the full range of specialisation found in modern forensic institutes. Forensic medicine, DNA analysis, digital forensics and ballistics are areas that demand continuous investment in both people and technology. A well-equipped forensic laboratory, independent, very important, accredited and technologically advanced is vital for building cases that can stand up in court. Without it, even the best intention investigations are hamstrung by the lack of scientific support.

Now, what we also see that we have to address in the future, we must also acknowledge a shortage of modern investigative tools, for example, 3D scenes scanners, digital evidence laboratories to proper crime scene mapping and also imaging equipment. These technologies, Madam Speaker, are standard in leading agencies, not only to enhance accuracy but also to ensure transparency and accountability. I am sure in the future, besides trying to rope in foreign investigators, we have also to embrace international best practices and see the role models internationally but also at the regional level. There is much we can learn from international best practices and certainly the Prime Minister referred before to the United Kingdom and also, I will also refer to Netherlands, not only the United Kingdom, Singapore, Germany, stand out as global leaders in investigative science and technics.

The United Kingdom, as you know, through Scotland Yard and the College of Policing pioneered the PEACE Model of investigative interviewing, an evidence-based approach, that avoids coercion and focuses more on reliable, admissible statements. The Netherland, as you know, holds one of the world's most sophisticated forensic institute, the NFI which integrates over 40 forensic disciplines with a rigorous, very important, quality control framework. Singapore also has invested massively in digital and forensic innovation through its home team science and technology agency. While Germany's federal criminal office, once one of the world's most comprehensive forensic systems serving as a model of scientific integrity and efficiency.

Now, we should not only look at the European countries, I think also within Africa, South Africa offers a useful regional reference. Despite its challenges, South Africa possesses, as you know, Madam Speaker, the continent's most advanced forensic and digital investigative capacity, particularly through the Hawks Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation and I believe that targeted cooperation with South Africa, especially in areas like DNA and organised crime investigations could bring practical regional benefits.

Now, at the same time, that we are trying to rope in foreign investigators, it is important to have the proper regulation and also domestic oversight. That's said, any collaboration with foreign investigators must be strictly regulated and this is what has been done by the Prime Minister and his team who prepared the law. Their role should be, I lay emphasis on that, to support, not to supplement, not to supplant our national institutions. They must operate under the clear authority and the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and Senior Mauritian Officers.

Foreign investigators should have no powers of arrest – this was mentioned rightly so and hammered by the hon. Prime Minister – no powers of search and seizure. The mandate must remain very technical and advisory. All evidences collected or processed must comply fully with the Mauritian law, a Chain of Custody protocols must be safeguarded by our own officers.

Recourse to foreign investigators does not mean to flout the golden principle of rule of law and also, I will hammer that we have to be fully compliant with human rights. We have to reconcile the tracking of crimes and also respect for human rights is of utmost importance. We have to comply with section 10 of the Constitution.

In short, foreign assistance must serve our sovereignty but not certainly to weaken it. So, advance investigative techniques can and must coexist with constitutional safeguards. Modern policing in democratic societies depends not on coercion but on precision, on science, documentation and respect for the due process of law. Every foreign expert deployed in Mauritius must therefore comply with our own legal standards and the universal principles of justice and dignity.

Now, obviously, there is the clear intention of Government to seek foreign investigators. In spite of the intention, there was no legal framework to rope in foreign investigators; now this is being done. The Government has already expressed its readiness to seek foreign expertise from renowned agencies such as Scotland Yard, but also from other countries, not only Scotland Yard. We have good experts from India, from South Africa, especially in serious and sensitive cases, for example, the unresolved matters involving late Mr Kistnen, Mr Kanakiah and so many others.

These cases, Madam Speaker, unfortunately, have deeply affected public confidence. This was mentioned by my colleagues. It is right that the hon. Prime Minister intends to demonstrate that such alleged crimes will not go uninvestigated. The involvement of respected foreign experts

in these specified cases would show that Mauritius, the government, means business and is serious about transparency and accountability.

Now, we have to be careful. It does not mean that if we are amending the law, this is a panacea or a miracle solution. Obviously, it is not a miracle solution. However, we must be clear, recourse to foreign investigators will solve to a great extent our problems. Lasting progress will come only and I lay emphasis on that, through structural reforms and also massive investment at home. This will take time inevitably. That means building our own forensic capacity, modernising our equipment, professionalising our investigative ranks. It also means rewarding merit over political affiliation, over community or creed. The future of policing Mauritius must be based competency and integrity.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Junior Minister, time is almost up, please.

Mr Narsinghen: Yes. So, thank you for your attention, Madam Speaker. I will rest my submission here and I commend the Bill.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Minister, Mr Pentiah.

We all keep an eye on the time.

(5.36 p.m.)

The Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms (Mr L. Pentiah): Madam Speaker, I start by quoting –

“The object of this Bill is to amend the Police Act so as to empower the Commissioner of Police.”

This, Madam Speaker, speaks of itself, the very object of today’s Bill before the House. I stand, Madam Speaker, to contribute in today’s debate on the Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025) before the House which is far more than a technical amendment. It stands as an essential component of this Government’s broader reform agenda aimed at modernising, professionalising and restoring public confidence in our law enforcement institutions.

This Bill may appear simple in its form, yet it carries with it profound moral and institutional significance. It reflects this Government’s resolve to restore justice, accountability and the rule of

law particularly in the wake of heinous, unsolved crimes that have for too long haunted our conscience as a nation. How can we not feel for the families of the public officers who lost their lives in suspicious circumstances, to say the least. The following names come to mind, Madam Speaker.

Jhurry Vijay Anand, 18 June 2020, falling at Medine Mews building in Port-Louis, from the 11th floor. He was a Procurement Officer at the NDU at the time. The report described the incident as '*décès après une chute*' rather than a clear suicide or deliberate act, reported Le Mauricien of the date.

Late Sarah Boitieux, again 2020. She was at the time working as a typist and administrative employee at the then Prime Minister's Office. She was found with a scarf around her neck, hanging by the handle of a cabinet in the kitchen. That also in the wake of all the discrepancies and unequivocally questionable incidents concerning procurement incidents. Her death occurred within days of several other suspicious deaths of civil servants in the late 20s. We have mentioned the case of Pravin Kanakiah. Some commentators on this case linked Boitieux's death to a wider set of suspicious deaths among others.

Madam Speaker, speaking of Pravin Kanakiah, besides of what was said about him, let me please bring this before the House. His body was found on 11 December 2020 at *La Roche-qui-Pleure* with a different set of clothes that he was found in Reduit at his workplace. The official autopsy carried by Dr. Sudesh Kumar Gungadin, attributed the cause of death to a traumatic subarachnoid haemorrhage, i.e. bleeding in the brain due to trauma. This was reported in the media. An investigation by the MCIT and subsequent judicial inquiry were opened to clarify the circumstances. During the hearings, the medical experts gave evidence that the injuries were consistent with blunt forced trauma rather than natural cause of suicide alone. I quote –

“The victim had 16 injuries on the body. The victim was already dead when the body fell into the water. This is not a case of drowning.”

Dr. Gungadin reported in *5-Plus*. Yet, the police still maintain the official line that the death is a suicide. The said, and I quote –

“The Police studied for different possibilities and avenues before concluding to suicide.”
despite the medical evidences casting doubt.

Madam Speaker, we mentioned the case of Mrs Mooniaruth. Mrs Mooniaruth, once more, was concerned with cases of procurement. She climbed on a chair at the roof of the Registrar Building and then jumped off that. What is deplorable about the circumstances of this sad incident is that the then Minister of Public Service came to this House and revealed alleged confidential medical report of the late person.

It was allegedly said that this person was suffering from depression. The family stood strong to deny such claims. This person's case is still unresolved. Madam Speaker, we have the case of – finally, I must say, I shall add to it – Mr Kanakiah and of Mr Soopramanien Kistnen.

Madam Speaker: Mr Kistnen.

Mr Pentiah: This case was in 2020. The backdrop of all the cases brings this case into another aspect and forces us to look at it from this perspective. Mr Kistnen was no one else, but the agent of the MSM in Constituency No.8, Moka and Quartier Militaire. He was no one else, but who worked closely day in, day out with the then Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth. It at his place that they sat for tea and for breaks. It is his family who catered for them as well as Mr Sawmynaden and Mrs Luchoomun. Yet, this person's body was found in a field calcinated. Rather hastily, the police, at the time, classified the case as a suicide case.

Had it not been for a competent member of the bench, had it not been for a magistrate who feared nothing, had it not been for a magistrate who was in search of the truth, the judicial inquiry would have perhaps stayed at a stage of suicide!

She uncovered and revealed to us the failings of a system of investigation. The hon. Prime Minister mentioned the word 'deliberate' earlier on. I believe he was not deliberate in mentioning the word 'deliberate.' This is, in fact, palpable, open and shut, deliberately closing a case when it should not be closed.

Madam Speaker, such cases, such instances, such heinous crimes call upon us to be cautious to answer to the legitimate expectations of the people of our country. The Government stands resolute in its commitment to bring perpetrators to justice and to uphold a zero-tolerance policy against crime, corruption and impunity. A pledge made to the people, who with faith and conviction, renewed their trust with us.

How symbolic it is, Madam Speaker, that this Bill is being presented on 11 November – a day that coincides exactly one year after the landslide victory at the elections of November 2024 of the people of our country. A victory of renewal. A victory of integrity. A victory of hope.

Madam Speaker, the Police (Amendment) Bill No. XXVII of 2025 seeks to amend Section 22 of the Police Act, as I said, to empower the Commissioner of Police to retain the services of foreign specialised investigative officers to assist in complex or serious criminal inquiries.

As said by hon. Seeburn, these experts will operate under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Police of our country or a designated officer. They will have no powers of arrest. Their function will be to assist and strengthen investigative capacity, to bring technical expertise and to inject scientific credibility into the conduct of serious and complex investigations. The intention is to reinforce our police force to enable it to work alongside specialists who possess the forensic and analytical sophistication required by modern day criminal investigations.

Madam Speaker, our police force has always been a pivotal institution in maintaining law and order. Its members served courageously across the island. Yet, we must confront reality with honesty and courage.

Over the past decade, we have witnessed an erosion in investigative competence often ‘deliberate.’ I repeat myself with this word, and this not a mere political statement. Madam Speaker, it is an observation echoed by the population.

I have considered the book ‘Forensics in Paradise: A Mauritius Odyssey’ by Dr. Satish Boolell. In his book, Dr. S. Boolell is bare – the systemic failures of our investigative political system, crime scenes left unsealed, evidence mishandled, external pressures, external political pressures and a lack of scientific rigor. He recounts how, amongst others, in the Bassin Blanc case, essential forensic details such as post-mortem timing and larval evidence was ignored.

Madam Speaker, in the end, our past and recent history of unresolved criminal cases is not just the path left by the past decade. It is the burden on our collective conscience today. This Bill, though seemingly straight forward, carries profound way. It is our collective acknowledgement. The time of complacency and silence must come to an end. If we do nothing, we become accomplice in the injustice that has claimed too many innocent lives. That, Madam Speaker, would

be an affront to a belief in the sanctity of human values, in the sanctity of human lives and in the face of the rule of law.

Let this Bill be concrete evidence for the 27th time before the House that human lives are above pure, basic unsupported political decisions. Let it be a sign that this Government stands for ethics, stands for courage, and stands for its commitment to truth. Let us operate within the bounds of law guided by justice, and not by convenience.

Let this Bill be a pathway for shared experience. Let this Bill be an opportunity for our police force to learn and train amidst foreign specialised experience investigators to be more efficient. The time has come to restore faith, rebuild integrity and reclaim trust in our institutions.

With these words, Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill. I thank you.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Minister of Agriculture!

(5.51 p.m.)

The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Dr. A. Boolell): Madam Speaker, I feel rather sorry that the Leader of the Opposition and the Whip of the Opposition have chosen to stay away when we are debating a very important Bill – the amendment to the Police Act. It is not because only one provision is being amended that this Bill is not significant.

It is a Bill which is full of significance and means a lot. The Prime Minister has committed and given a firm commitment that justice will not be delayed. Justice will be done!

He has stated without fear or prejudice that we would not tolerate a culture of impunity and it is a message being sent loud and clear to those who have gotten away with heinous crimes but they will not get away now. With heinous crimes or illicit trafficking and they have started to quake in their boots.

Undetected crime will not remain a mystery irrespective of complexity. The rule of law has to prevail and we are instilling confidence in the minds of people for far too long, people in this country have been living in fear and no one, Madam Speaker, no citizen likes a case closure. Government is determined to walk the talk to unravel complex criminal cases and the investigations become less arduous because the mutual legal assistance and extradition treaty we have signed with many countries especially with Commonwealth countries.

France is a willing part of the mutual legal assistance but not over extradition. And, the Bill was a promise made to the nation to bring to justice suspects in the Kistnen case and other criminal cases. Let me quote, Madam Speaker –

“the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam has reiterated his dissatisfaction with the initial management of this enquiry and has that the truth will be pursued relentlessly, ensuring that justice is served not only for the family of Soopramanien Kistnen but for the entire nation.”

Madam Speaker, they are unresolved cases because of gross interference from a corrupt regime. There was an era of forestall over law and order during the MSM regime.

Collusion and flagrant violation of separation of power was inevitable because of State capture. The decadent filthy regime set up the political arm of the Executive to threaten, to frame and made arbitrary arrests with duplicity of special teams within the Police Force.

Special Striking Team will no longer strike at political opponents. The former Commissioner of Police was a lackey of the MSM-led regime and the MSM in government had been a curse and the curse of the nation and was involved in shady deeds and never dared to address front forcefully and frontally transnational crime. It had a culture and still has a culture of perverting the course of justice.

The CP, we have trust in him, in the light of arrests made over drugs which was discovered on board of a ship. The CP we follow the trail to detect, with the services of experts, those who have perpetrated the crimes. And, let me refer to 2 cases which were deliberately closed, the ICAC U-turn on MedPoint, Madam Speaker, was shocking. And I quote –

“The MedPoint case is a shadow looming over the Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and his ruling MSM party. In an election year, the London-based Privy Council is supposed to decide whether or not Jugnauth broke anti-corruption laws by taking part in the buying of a decrepit clinic partly owned by his own sister. The first time that a sitting Prime Minister is facing such a trial in the history of Mauritius.”

And I quote –

“Now, on the eve of the case being heard in London, the ICAC has switched sides, from prosecuting to defending Jugnauth. This is not the first time that the MSM has attempted to

squash a case in this way and when it comes to MedPoint, it is only the latest in a long line of attempts made by the current government to bury the case”.

Those were the days and these days are over, Madam Speaker. We had to deal with a political party in power which had links with the Mafia and let me remind the House of the Angus Road saga and this is what Mrs Prayag wrote in L'Express on 19 November 2020 and she said it without fear and she had the guts to say it in the face of adversity and she said it, and I quote –

“This saga started as a sale of property where the source of funds and the mode of payment raised a number of legal questions. It then took on a political dimension when it transpired that Pravind Jugnauth, who currently holds the office of prime minister in an election being challenged at the Supreme Court, had been or is being investigated by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in connection with the purchase of property and possibly also for unlawful cash payments under the Financial Intelligence Anti Money Laundering Act. Ironically, this piece of legislation was enacted when he was minister! When confronted in parliament, [we have put several questions to him. I did when I was Leader of the Opposition but he chose to run away and he chose not to reply], he sought to hide behind an alleged ICAC enquiry to refuse to answer to parliamentary questions. Subsequently, it emerged that only a few weeks after taking office in December 2014, the MSM government cancelled a request for information on this matter sought from the UK's Serious Fraud Office under the Mutual Legal Assistance Scheme. The saga continued with disclosures about investigations being supposedly concluded not once but twice already in the past for lack of evidence.”

Nothing says the case cannot be reopened. It has to be reopened in the name of justice and we have to do it as a responsible government. We cannot allow those who have links with the Mafia to get away with murder, with corrupt practices, Madam Speaker.

As information trickles down far from clarifying the issues, it also deepens the legal and political ... There are now far more questions that the hon. Prime Minister, former Attorney General, Ravi Yerrigadoo and the ICAC have to answer in the public interest.

The Pack & Blister scandal, the sale of planes of Air Mauritius are financial crimes with huge payments made in all opacity. The MSM regime in power never had the will and determination to wage war on illicit activities. It was party to it.

Should I highlight the connection with Franklin, Madam Speaker. Illicit drugs, especially, synthetic drugs, are cheap but did they have the courage to wage war on drugs? No! They were lenient and should I say, Madam Speaker, they had connection with the Mafia.

The digital age has revolutionised drug-trafficking, has revolutionised human trafficking, money laundering, illicit trading in firearms, trafficking of wildlife and natural resources against the CITES – the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

It is the fourth largest transnational crime activity of drugs, counterfeit and human trafficking and the CP with his team is expected and, rightly so, to break the vicious circle. The war on drugs and the barons is a national and transnational war.

As to transnational crimes, they have too often escaped us but we are saying time to put an end to this because we are going to come with a team which can deliver and we are going to enlist the services of experts to wage war on transnational crime.

Because it is an organised crime, it is a multibillion industry that operates across borders, exploiting vulnerable persons and undermining global security. In Africa alone, it accounts to 4% of the continent's GDP, over more than 90 billion US dollars.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, we cannot comment on ongoing cases before the Supreme Court but it is good to find out how many Ministers of the previous regime had acquired properties built by Mamy R. We need to find out and they have acquired properties built by the person who is under question by the Financial Crimes Commission. We have to find out who bent the rules and bent backwards for a few dollars more to allow the likes of Sobrinho to wash, rinse, dry and spin dry the money. He was given a certificate of good character and a banking licence by Financial Services Commission, bypassing the Bank of Mauritius. All these cases have transnational implications.

As a low tax jurisdiction, the hon. Prime Minister is sending strong signals that the police force would neither retreat nor surrender on complex criminal cases. The file will not be closed. Notwithstanding the diligence of the Financial Crimes Commission, new legislation will be introduced to set up the National Crime Agency with a highly specialised officer to head the agency, and I have been told that he will probably be recruited from Scotland Yard. Our anti-money

laundering programme, in line with our legal and regulatory obligation, I must say is robust. An Unexplained Wealth Order and Interim Freezing Order are well entrenched in our legislation.

The amendment to section 22 of the principal Act gives unfettered power to the Commissioner of Police to enlist – as has been highlighted and reinforced by all those who have intervened – the services of experts in criminal investigations, as has been stated, let us say it again, with no power to prosecute. There are specialised police who will use data and latest technology as the hon. Prime Minister has stated, to unravel mysterious crimes. They will collect sufficient evidence for the suspect to be indicted before the Court.

May I remind the House that on 21 February 1998, the hon. Prime Minister appointed a senior police officer from UK to study reform of our police force, the famous Constable Shattock and when we did so, some of us were sneering. Some people outside were sneering. The hon. Prime Minister was right to enlist the services of an expert to revamp our police force, to inculcate new values, to reinforce the relevance and importance of being sincere to the police force and to deliver and to be able in relation to work which is being entrusted to the police force.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Friday 30 2011 in the Council and Senate room of the University in the presence of Deputy Commissioner of Police because our objective as was highlighted by hon. Professor Narsinghen is that we need to look at capacity building. We have to make sure that our police force is a police force which is constantly being updated with constant breakthrough in technology, and funding was released by Government, by the Office of the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communication. Yes, it was thanks to us, under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, that University of Mauritius ran courses for police officers, including BSc Honours Police Studies and various continuous education and tailormade programmes such as Diploma in Police Studies.

Madam Speaker, as I have stated, this legislation is an act of faith, of commitment from a government which believes in separation of power. The amendment to the Police Act empowers the Commissioner of Police to retain the services, as and when required, of foreign specialised investigative officers to carry out serious, complex criminal inquiries under his control. We have given a commitment to this House and I firmly believe, and I know the public has placed trust in us. A year since we have this absolute trust from the public and we are here to live up to the expectations of the public. We are here to live up to their expectations! We have a moral

responsibility to act and to act without fear or prejudice. This is the trust that the public has confided in us and we have to live up to the trust confided in us by the public and we are here for the public because you have to live up to their expectations.

Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Prime Minister!

(6.08 p.m.)

The Prime Minister: Yes, Madam Speaker. I wish first of all to thank all the hon. Members who took part in the debates. Again, such an important piece of legislation, the Opposition is absent. As we reach the conclusion of the debates, I wish to say, Madam Speaker, that this has been a golden opportunity for them to participate because this is a piece of legislation that will transform the whole because this is part of a bigger picture.

We have said that the challenges we face today are not the same challenges that we faced at the time of independence or in 1974, which the Police Act was dealing with at the time. We have challenges which are beyond our borders. We have to have a police force which is equipped, which is trained and which will also not allow corruption to come in, that they have to do their job that they are paid to do. This is what we are doing. We have to move with time. We are in this fast-evolving world and improved technology. It is important that we seek expertise of those who have acquired that expertise over a long time. I gave the example earlier on of this mobile phone. This cannot be done in Mauritius at this time. It cannot be done but it will be done once we put in place everything of this *armada* that we are talking about.

I wish to reassure the House that the reforms are being pursued thoroughly but within the police force but not only instruction operations, also at the level of recruitment, you will see changes. We want to have the best people. Now, we do not want people who are motivated to become policemen and policewomen. This recruitment policy itself is being reviewed and this enlistment of foreign experts is not a reflection on the capacity of our officers. They have not had the training; they have no knowledge. They have to have this capacity building. That is why we said that we want to have foreign experts, including Commonwealth experts and we will train our own people. We have some very able police officers in our police force but they have not had the

training that they should have had. We have very often seen in the past big *flaflafla* on the papers, somebody is arrested and then nothing.

This is what we want to change, Madam Speaker. We have to move with time. As I said, it is part of a bigger picture. We are bringing the National Crime Agency Bill. This is will be a total change in Mauritius. Total change – it will transform the police force and with the support of these foreign experts, we will be able to do what we have not been able to do so far. We have many examples. I have given the example because it is the latest case of Kistnen, where here, the police experts and everything had a look and they decided it was a suicide case. But how is it now that we know it was murder? It was actually murder. I know the judicial inquiry was done by this very able Magistrate. The report has not been published but we had bits and pieces in the Press and what she says in it, is exactly what I am saying. The incompetency level, probably deliberate – because you know, with the MSM, it is always covering up.

We have seen when the Minister went to depone, you had snipers on the roofs. But all this will change. As I said, this is part of the bigger change that is coming. What I am saying is that I am confident. With the changes that we will bring, the people of this country will get results – and results on time, not delayed – concrete results, and justice will prevail.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. You have to commend the Bill once more to the House.

The Prime Minister: I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

COMMITTEE STAGE

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

The Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025) was considered and agreed to.

On the Assembly resuming with Madam Speaker in the Chair, Madam Speaker reported accordingly.

Third Reading

On motion made and seconded, the Police (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVII of 2025) was read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Madam Speaker: Hon. Prime Minister, adjournment of the House!

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 11.30 a.m.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Speaker: The House stands adjourned!

I have two Members who want to make adjournment matters. Mr Ramkalawon, please!

MATTERS RAISED

(6.16 p.m.)

CONSTITUENCY NO. 9 – QUEEN VICTORIA – PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE

Mr C. Ramkalawon (Third Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil): Madam Speaker, my request is addressed to the Minister of Transport. I am speaking on behalf of the residents of Queen Victoria of my constituency to bring his attention to a critical issue affecting the daily lives of these people, which is the severe lack of adequate public transport, especially after 5 p.m. The inhabitants have to walk around 3-4 km to go back home from Flacq. This issue has affected many students, especially during the exams period. Therefore, I, once again, make an urgent appeal to the Minister to take immediate actions. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Minister!

The Minister of Land Transport (Mr Osman Mahomed): The matter was raised before. I will ask the Commissioner of the National Land Transport Authority, Mr Nabeebaccus, to look into the problem.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Ms Henriette-Manan!

(6.16 p.m.)

PEROS BANHOS VESSEL BREAKDOWN – RODRIGUES’ SUPPLIES SHORTAGES – REMEDIAL MEASURES

Ms D. Henriette-Manan (Third Member for Rodrigues): I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries with regard to the breakdown of the vessel Peros Banhos that will certainly, once again, cause major shortages in Rodrigues, given that Mauritius Trochetia can serve as a replacement, but with hundred fewer containers. Can the hon. Minister kindly see that measures are considered at the earliest to address this situation to prevent the recurrent shortages that we, unfortunately, face each end of year? Thank you.

The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Dr. A. Boolell): I thank the hon. distinguished lady who gave me advanced notice.

Madam Speaker: The distinguished lady is an hon. Member!

Dr. Boolell: She is an hon. Member. I said hon. Member!

Madam Speaker: Yes, okay.

Dr. Boolell: I reinforce it.

Madam Speaker: Oh, okay! Don’t get angry, Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Following which, I raised the issue with my Senior Chief Executive, and a meeting was held at the Ministry. The engineer of the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd and the

Director of Shipping were in attendance. The matter was raised and flagged, including many other issues. Your concern has been addressed. Of course, there is still some room for improvement. What I will do is I will give you the outcome of the meeting. The Minutes are here, so, I will convey them to you, okay? Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. Dr. Aumeer!

(6.18 p.m.)

RUISSEAU DU POUCE & RIVULET PAILLES – FORTHCOMING RAINY SEASON – DREDGING WORKS

Dr. F. Aumeer (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central): Thank you. My question is addressed to the hon. Minister of National Infrastructure, to whom I have given advanced notice earlier on. We are nearing the forthcoming rainy season. I would ask him if he could liaise with the relevant authorities so that dredging works could be entertained along Ruisseau du Pouce and Rivulet Pailles, which are the sites of overflowing and cause total harm to the people who live around there. They are very concerned at the moment as to what would be done as, unfortunately, since a year, no works have been done. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Minister!

The Minister of National Infrastructure (Mr G. Gunness): Thank you, hon. Member. Concerning the Ruisseau du Pouce, for the upgrading, we already have a consultant, Luxconsult Ltd, which is doing the preliminary design report and which is going to be reviewed by the consultant after obtaining views from the LDA. In the meantime, the Municipal Council has been asked to do the dredging, cleaning and desilting of all the rivers.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Mr Beehook!

(6.19 p.m.)

**POSTE DE FLACQ & POSTE LAFAYETTE FISHERMEN – POLLUTION IMPACT –
MEETING REQUEST**

Mr R. Beehook (Second Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil): Merci, Madame la présidente. My request is addressed to the hon. Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries. Following my question to hon. Bhagwan with regard to pollution and the impact to the economic activities of the fishermen of Poste de Flacq and Poste Lafayette, may I request the Minister to, please, if possible, set up an appointment with the representatives of the fishermen to look into the matter?

The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Dr. A. Boolell): The hon. Member should know that I always entertain his legitimate requests. A meeting can easily be fixed. We will meet those who feel aggrieved with pleasure.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. Anyone? Very good!

Thank you very much. The House is adjourned!

At 6.20 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 11.30 a.m.