



**EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

**(UNREVISED)**

**FIRST SESSION**

**TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025**

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**THE CABINET**

**(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
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Hon. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan	Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
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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
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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
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Hon. Ranjiv Wochit, OSK	Minister of Local Government
Hon. Mahendra Gondeea, OSK	Minister of Arts and Culture

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**MAURITIUS**

**Eighth National Assembly**

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**FIRST SESSION**

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**Debate No. 37 of 2025**

**Sitting of Tuesday 25 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)*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**Madam Speaker:** Today, 25 November 2025, we mark the International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. We are happy on this occasion to have in our midst the new Regional Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ms Bhatia.

UNDP has been supporting Mauritius for a very long time, but more specifically today, we must underline the support of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus by the UNDP. Once more, we are benefiting from the close collaboration of the UNDP to support our own efforts to struggle against Gender-Based Violence.

Indeed, tomorrow, we will launch the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence at the call of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I am pleased that the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, and Ms Bhatia will be with us on that occasion to show their commitment to this very complex cause.

I look forward, once more, to welcoming you all tomorrow and in the days to come until we close on 10 December on Human Rights Day.

Thank you.

**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 Law Practitioners (Disciplinary Proceedings) Bill (No. XXIX of 2025). (In Original)
- (ii) The Annual Report on Performance of the Prime Minister's Office (Defence and Home Affairs) for the Financial Year 2024-2025.
- (iii) The Annual Report of the Bank of Mauritius for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- (iv) The Financial Statements and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Rodrigues Subsidy Account for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**B. Ministry of National Infrastructure**

The Annual Report on Performance for the Ministry of National Infrastructure (National Development Unit) for the Financial Year 2024-2025.

**C. Ministry of Health and Wellness**

The Financial Statements and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Morris Legacy Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**D. Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning**

The Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering (Administrative Penalties) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 112 of 2025)

**E. Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection**

The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Competition Commission for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**F. Ministry of Local Government**

District Council of Pamplemousses (Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Sports Complex) Regulations 2025. (Government Notice No. 111 of 2025)

**G. Ministry of Arts and Culture**

- (i) The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the English-Speaking Union for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
- (ii) The Annual Reports and Reports of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Society of Authors for the years ended 30 June, 2021 and 2022.
- (iii) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**COST OF LIVING INCREASE – LOSS OF AFFORDABILITY – REMEDIAL MEASURES**

**The Leader of the Opposition (Mr G. Lesjongard)** (*by Private Notice*) asked the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to the increase in the cost of living and the loss of affordability, he will state the measures taken by his Ministry in relation thereto, indicating the –

- (a) sums disbursed from the initial injection of Rupees 2 billion in the Price Stabilisation Fund as at date, giving details of the disbursements, including justifications therefor;
- (b) projected evolution in prices of basic commodities over the next three months, and
- (c) cost of the consumer basket as at 31 October 2025.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Minister!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, upon assuming office in November 2024, the new Government was confronted with a challenging economic situation.

In fact, the previous government's economic mismanagement left a difficult legacy: public debt jumped by 43% in five years, reaching over 83% of GDP by mid-2024.

An independent audit revealed that the former administration even engaged in systematic fiscal misrepresentation of key economic figures, masking a larger budget deficit (5.7% of GDP instead of 3.9%) and slower growth than claimed.

This “voodoo economics” and lack of transparency severely limited fiscal space and undermined confidence in our economy.

In simple terms, high inflation and a constantly depreciating rupee were the results of the poor economic fundamentals we inherited. Our country, reliant on imports for fuel, food, and commodities, was hit hard by pandemic disruptions and international conflicts. The past government's heavy borrowings and loose fiscal practices aggravated these pressures.

As a result, by late 2024, the cost of living had become a serious strain on families. The new Government recognised that urgent action was needed to stabilise the economy and provide relief to the population.

Madam Speaker, over 2019-2024, the Rupee lost considerable value against the US Dollar, Euro, and other currencies.

There are a few reasons for this depreciation.

First, global investors flocked to the US Dollar due to rising US interest rates, which strengthened the Dollar and weakened currencies like ours.

Second, Mauritius' balance of payments was under strain. High import bills, especially for fuel and food, meant persistent demand for foreign currency, putting downward pressure on the Rupee's value.

Third, the confidence in our economic management was shaken by the past administration's opaque practices. When debt is high and deficits are understated, markets react by valuing the currency lower. Indeed, our Central Bank had to intervene repeatedly, selling hundreds of millions of dollars to slow the Rupee's fall. All these factors contributed to the USD/MUR exchange rate reaching unfavourable levels, making imported goods even more expensive and feeding into domestic inflation.

In summary, we have high inflation and a weak Rupee because of external shocks and internal weaknesses (past economic mismanagement, high debt, and reliance on imports).

This is the reality the new Government started with in November 2024. We fully appreciate how these issues translate to hardship for the average person from rising grocery bills to more expensive gas and utilities.

Madam Speaker, in view of the unstable international context with rising international freight, upward volatilities in foreign currencies and rising global prices of essential commodities, and as promised in the Electoral Manifesto, "the Government has established a Price Stabilisation Fund of Rs10 billion starting with an initial Rs2 billion contribution as announced in the Budget Measures 2025-2026 to protect the purchasing power of the population".

In this context, Government has approved the implementation of a fixed subsidy scheme under the Price Stabilisation Fund for a pilot phase of six months starting 26 August

2025. A fixed quantum subsidy scheme has been introduced under the Price Stabilisation Fund for five essential commodities –

- (i) processed cheese;
- (ii) milk powder;
- (iii) edible oil;
- (iv) infant milk, and
- (v) baby diapers.

A first evaluation of the scheme is being done after three months.

Madam Speaker, I shall respond to parts (a) to (c) of the question regarding the measures taken by my Ministry to alleviate the increase in the cost of living with particular reference to the Price Stabilisation Fund.

With regard to part (a) of the question, Government has allocated an initial Rs2 billion for this fiscal year to the Price Stabilisation Fund with the objective of mitigating rising costs of essential commodities. This refund scheme is being administered in collaboration with the Mauritius Revenue Authority, which verifies sales claims prior to authorising refunds. Caps have also been established to ensure the scheme remains fiscally predictable and within the approved envelope. The projected requirement for the six-months pilot phase stands at approximately Rs492 million.

I am informed that for the months of August to October, an amount of Rs186 million is being processed by the MRA, out of which, Rs73 million has been disbursed. The MRA is awaiting further submissions from traders to effect the remaining refunds. For period October to December this year, an estimated amount of Rs197 million is expected to be disbursed.

Furthermore, it is to be noted that the Fund also provides required fiscal subsidies to maintain the present price of bread to the population. The total cost is Rs47 million for the period ending October 2025. It is expected that the total cost for the whole fiscal year would be Rs448 million.

As regards the justifications requested, the sum disbursed has been used to operationalise a pilot six-month refund scheme targeting selected essential commodities, namely –

- (i) milk powder – Rs50 per kg;

- (ii) edible oil – Rs15 per litre;
- (iii) infant milk – Rs 55 per 900g;
- (iv) baby diapers – 50 cents per diaper;
- (v) processed cheese – Rs10 per 250g

Under this scheme, Government refunds 60% of the difference between the prevailing market price and the 2021 benchmark price, which represents the lowest pricing point observed between 2021 and 2025. This benchmark was selected to ensure an objective, data-driven basis for calculating the refund while maintaining fiscal discipline.

The refund is designed to –

- provide immediate and visible relief to consumers;
- reduce shelf prices by an estimated 18% to 28% depending on the commodity, and
- stabilise the prices of goods heavily affected by international prices, exchange rate volatility, and rising freight and insurance costs.

An interministerial technical committee comprising my Ministry, Ministry of Finance, MRA, and STC is conducting a mid-term review after the third month of implementation to adjust the scheme if necessary.

Madam Speaker, it is to be noted that there are not less than 43 essential commodities under price control mechanism at the level of Mauritius and 36 commodities for Rodrigues.

In line with the Government Programme 2025-2029, my Ministry is continuously conducting market analysis and monitoring so as to undertake policies for price stabilisation such as the implementation of markup controls on essential commodities and VAT exemptions. Nevertheless, the prices of several essential commodities continue to remain high due to persistent international inflation, volatile exchange rate, and rising freight and insurance costs.

We have noted that there has been an effective decrease in the prices of commodities on which we have intervened. However, the evolution of prices is dependent on international price practice and also the FOREX exchange.

It has been noted that –

- For edible soya bean oil, there has been a decrease of 5.8% since introduction of the price control and subsidy scheme. It is projected to remain stable over the coming months.
- For processed cheese, there has been a decrease of 5%. It is projected to remain stable.
- For infant milk powder and baby diapers, there has been a decrease of 5.5% in price and price is expected to remain stable.
- For milk powder, there has been an initial decrease of 24.2% at intervention and we have noted an increase at international level by suppliers by 4-5%.
- With the introduction of price markup and removal on VAT on items such as frozen vegetables, we have noted an average fall of around 9% in market prices.

Madam Speaker, it is to be noted that the removal of VAT on a range of essential food items has had direct and immediate impact on the purchasing power of households. By eliminating the 15% tax on basic goods such as frozen and canned vegetables, infant foods, selected dairy products, and other widely consumed items, retail prices dropped overnight giving families instant savings on their weekly groceries. This VAT removal has also helped soften the impact of exchange rate fluctuation and rising import costs, which would otherwise have pushed prices upward.

The measure has, therefore, acted as a buffer for consumers ensuring that essential items remain affordable while the Ministry continues to monitor and stabilise the wider market through price-control mechanism and the new refund scheme.

Madam Speaker, I wish to highlight some additional measures that Government has taken to increase the purchasing power of the population. These include –

- (i) Payment of a 14<sup>th</sup>-month bonus to employees earning a monthly basic salary of up to Rs50,000;
- (ii) Payment of the 2025 salary compensation to employees earning a basic monthly salary of up to Rs50,000;
- (iii) The reduction in the price of diesel by Rs5 per litre and MOGAS by Rs7.75 per litre.

As regards part (b) of the question, over the next three months, basic commodity prices are expected to show moderate overall stability supported by several favourable external trends.

These stabilising factors are expected to continue easing import cost pressures. At the same time, international prices for rice, wheat, and sugar have fallen by 38%, 10%, and 17%, respectively, contributing to a more favourable cost structure for stable import.

As such essential commodities that are already demonstrating declining or stable trends – including vegetables, milk powder, edible oil, and processed cheese – are expected to remain broadly stable, especially those benefiting from subsidies, VAT removal, and controlled mark-ups.

However, certain categories may continue to face upward pressure due to international volatility and supplier-driven adjustments. Global dairy and edible oil prices have risen in recent months, with the FAO Food Price Index showing increases of 6.6% for dairy, 10.5% for edible oils, and 9.7% for meat.

These trends, combined with exchange rate sensitivity, imply that commodities such as beef, lamb, coffee, and some processed foods may exhibit moderate increases. Fresh and chilled products such as chicken and yoghurt also remain vulnerable to cost adjustments.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (c) of the question, based on my Ministry's continuous retailing monitoring across essential products categories, the overall cost of a basic household basket has remained broadly stable as at 31 October 2025, supported by the combined effects of price controls, VAT removal and recent introduction of subsidies.

Our data show that several high-consumption items, including cooking oil, powdered milk, processed cheese, frozen vegetables, and baby essentials, recorded notable price reduction ranging from 5% to 24%, while other categories remained steady despite global pressures. Without these measures, a significant portion of the basket would have been subject to upward adjustment driven by higher supplier prices, exchange rate movements and freight costs.

Looking forward, my Ministry expects further improvement in the affordability of the consumer basket as the new six-month refund scheme under the Price Stabilisation Fund begins to take full effect with additional list of commodities.

This scheme is designed to bring immediate and visible reductions on key essentials.

In conclusion, since one year, the Government has been working without respite to help the public cope with the high cost of living.

We inherited an economy in distress, characterised by high inflation, a weakened rupee, and a strained fiscal position due to both global crises and the bad legacy of the previous administration.

Our response has been comprehensive and urgent, combining immediate relief measures for households with reforms aimed at restoring economic stability. Prices of fuel and basic goods have been cut through tax and subsidy interventions; wages and incomes have been boosted through bonuses and compensation, and essential services like transport, internet, and healthcare are being made more affordable, if not free, for our citizens.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Minister...

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** I am finishing.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, these measures are already bringing relief. Inflation has begun to trend down and the Rupee has stabilised. Most importantly, families are seeing practical benefits. We are continuously monitoring the situation and will not hesitate to introduce additional support if necessary. The cost of living remains our top priority, and this Government is committed to ensuring that every Mauritian can afford basic needs and live in dignity despite the challenging economic climate.

The path to full economic recovery will take time and we have started on the right foot. By addressing both the root causes and the immediate symptoms, we are confident of steering our economy out of trouble.

The Government's message to the population is clear: we understand your difficulties, and we are taking concrete action to alleviate them. Together, we will overcome this cost-of-living crisis and build a more resilient foundation for Mauritians' future.

Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister.

Yes, please, your first question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Yes, and I hope, Madam Speaker, I will be given enough time...

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I will be lenient.

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...to put my questions...

**Madam Speaker:** I will be lenient.

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...because he has taken 25 minutes to reply to this PNQ.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** You do not have to say it!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker...

*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, that argument raised by the hon. Minister on economic mismanagement by the previous government, *la population en a marre, Madame la présidente!*

**Madam Speaker:** Come...

**Mr Lesjongard:** After one year...

*(Interruptions)*

After one year, the population wants to see results, as stated...

**Madam Speaker:** Come with your question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...by the Deputy Prime Minister himself!

**Madam Speaker:** Come with your question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, several budgetary measures such as the review of the VAT registration threshold for SMEs...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** *Chut!*

**Mr Lesjongard:** ... the review of the age of eligibility for the basic retirement pension and the removal of the *CSG* allowances are having a negative impact on Mauritian households and have contributed...

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...to what I would call an affordability...

**Madam Speaker:** What is your question?

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...and a cost-of-living crisis.

**Madam Speaker:** What is your question?

**Mr Lesjongard:** My question, Madam Speaker, to the Minister: can the hon. Minister inform the House whether his Ministry has carried out an assessment or a study of these impacts on households, and if not, why such a study has not been carried out until now?

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Minister!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker...

**Madam Speaker:** Please all of you... One moment! You have to bear in mind, it is true you took a very long time, hon. Minister, maybe you replied to everything, but we all have to bear in mind we only have 30 minutes. Please!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** First of all, let me answer his first question. He said that *les gens en ont marre concernant, allons dire...*

**Madam Speaker:** No, you do not have to reply...

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** ...*on est en train de mettre sur l'ancien gouvernement.*

**Madam Speaker:** That was...

**Mr Lesjongard:** ... to repeat...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Minister!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** This is the truth!

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Minister, please! Only reply to his question! And as from now, you do not make comments, you ask the question. Otherwise, I am going to rise... Otherwise, if we go like this, I am going to raise the Sitting. Straightforward answer to that question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, this is the truth! They destroyed the economy...

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, but...

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** ... and we are here to redress the economy. The Ministry is constantly monitoring market prices of essential goods. We are doing it full time.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second, question only. Question only!

*(Interruptions)*

No, you wait for him to finish!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, the House should not forget that this Government was elected on promises to lower prices on everyday goods...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Oh! Question! Question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Lesjongard:** Is the Minister...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Sit down! Hon. Leader of the Opposition...

**Mr Lesjongard:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** ...if everybody is going to do this, I am going to raise the Sitting. Second warning. Now, you put a question.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Oh, are you warning me?

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I am warning everybody. Everybody, please!

**An hon. Member:** Time is over!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Lesjongard:** Is the hon. Minister aware that today at supermarket counters, people are leaving behind goods which they are unable to pay, Madam Speaker?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, this is why we have come with the measures – removing VAT. We have come with Price Stabilisation Fund to alleviate poverty.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, third question, please.

*(Interruptions)*

Yes, I have seen you. I have noted. Please!

**Ms Anquetil:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Please!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, in August, Government took the decision to subsidise the price of milk. However, the price of milk is on the increase, including infant milk – you made reference that there has not been an increase in infant milk. Can the hon. Minister inform the House as to why Government decided to use public funds to subsidise milk products and did not reduce the profit margins on those products?

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** First of all, the profit margins ...

**Madam Speaker:** Straight reply!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** In fact, there is a maximum markup on basic commodities like milk. And we have to note that price of milk today is a lot cheaper than when the MSM was in power.

Let me give you some examples –

- (i) Farmland: 1 kg today is being sold at Rs267 and when the MSM was in power, it was around Rs274;
- (ii) Snowy: 1 kg, Rs237 today, and when MSM was in power, it was Rs271;
- (iii) Anchor: 1 kg, Rs254 today, and when the MSM was in power, it was Rs271.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, hon. Minister, we have got the gist.

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Okay.

**Madam Speaker:** We have got the gist. Your fourth question because I have other people waiting.

**Mr Mohamed:** Did he get the gist?

**Madam Speaker:** I have got other people waiting.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, paragraph 51 of the Government Programme refers to new legislation to allow parallel importation of pharmaceutical products, which as stated, will result in more competitive prices on medicine. Now, more than 10 months have lapsed since that announcement was made. Will the hon. Minister inform the House where matters stand with regard to pharmaceutical products?

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition does not have to worry about it. We are working on it. Already one year, we are working on it. They were in power for ten years; they did not do anything.

**Madam Speaker:** But don't!

**Mr Lesjongard:** That is why the hon. Deputy Prime Minister wants to leave the Government?

**Madam Speaker:** Fifth question! Fifth question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, on the same issue, can I ask the hon. Minister to inform the House what has been done at the level of his Ministry to control the prices of medicine, especially those medicines that are not available in our public hospitals?

**Mr Mohamed:** Molnupiravir!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** There is maximum markup on medicine. It is a controlled product.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, sixth question and then I will let the Chief Whip put a question.

**Mr Lesjongard:** On the same issue... No, let me finish all my questions, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Well, I do not know how many you have.

**Mr Lesjongard:** I have a lot of questions.

**Madam Speaker:** Alright!

**Mr Lesjongard:** You gave him time. You should give me the same amount of time, Madam Speaker.

*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker...

**Madam Speaker:** Everybody...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, the...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Put your question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Yes, I am putting the question.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Members!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, the prices of basic food such as dholl puri and roti have witnessed a significant increase due to ruthless measures taken by this Government. Today, *enn pair dal puri inn sorti Rs18 inn vinn Rs 28* in one year's time. That is an increase of Rs 10, Madam Speaker! Does the hon. Minister realise the harm that it has done?

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Question!

**Mr Lesjongard:** And will he inform what corrective measures will be taken...

**Madam Speaker:** *Voilà!*

**Mr Lesjongard:** ...to address this, Madam Speaker?

**Madam Speaker:** Corrective measures.

*(Interruptions)*

**An hon. Member:** *To le met mark-up lor dal-pouri?*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, it is not all the *marchands dal-pouri* who are selling at this price. People need to compare.

**Mr Lesjongard:** That is the price...

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** If it is not value for money, he should not buy it.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Nobody is listening to the Minister. You are all talking at the same time! Thank you.

*(Interruptions)*

He must give all his questions first.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, the population was promised a decrease of more than Rs20 on petroleum products. One year down in his mandate, is the hon. Minister in a position to say if this Government will respect this pledge made to the nation because they won the elections mainly ...

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** We will try our best.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes. More questions?

**Mr Lesjongard:** Yes, I have got questions, Madam Speaker.

**Ms Anquetil:** ...

**Madam Speaker:** *Madame...*

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, with the...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Let me put things ...

*(Interruptions)*

Quiet!

Now, of course, you have the right, but he is the Leader of the Opposition; it is his time. This is his time. He must finish all his questions. I will give you a chance. I will not be able to give everybody. You are making my life very difficult today!

**Mr Lesjongard:** And we are making the life of the population easy today, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Carry on!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, with the forthcoming summer and cyclonic period, sooner or later we know that the prices of vegetables will go up. The hon. Minister, we remember, came to the House with *chouchou* and *bringelle*, and I will give him the prices in the market today. Can the hon. Minister inform the House as to how he intends to maintain reasonable prices of vegetables as we approach the festive season and the end of the year? Prices have more than doubled, Madam Speaker!

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Vegetables! And I know the prices!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, these are seasonal products, but this Government has come with maximum mark-up on frozen vegetables and canned vegetables. Let me give some prices.

**Madam Speaker:** I think he is mentioning fresh vegetables.

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Yes, but we can also eat frozen vegetables and canned vegetables.

- Emborg Garden Mix 450g, today, it is being sold at Rs78. When the MSM was in power, it was at Rs143.
- Ardo Mixed Vegetables 400g, today, it is being sold at Rs57. When the MSM was in power, it was at Rs101.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, I will have to give at least one question to the Chief Whip.

**Mr Lesjongard:** When I finish, Madam Speaker.

Can the hon. Minister confirm that the prices of the following products have kept on increasing since the beginning of this year? I have a table that supports what I am saying, Madam Speaker, that is –

- Fresh and frozen beef;
- Mutton and chicken;
- Poisson La Perle;
- Salted Fish;
- Canned Pilchards.

Will he tell the House what he intends to do to alleviate the loss of affordability this population is facing? Because we are not going to eat only milk in this country.

**Madam Speaker:** Short and sweet! Babies take only milk!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** He needs to be patient because there is a second list of subsidised products coming soon.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Chief Whip!

**Ms Anquetil:** Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Le ministre pourrait-il indiquer à la Chambre quel était le taux d'inflation en 2022 et en 2023, et quel est le taux d'inflation aujourd'hui ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** Monsieur le ministre, allez-y !

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Inflation was huge when the MSM was in power.

Let me give you some examples –

- October 2022, it was 9.9%;
- November 2022, it was 10.3%;
- December 2022, it was 10.8%, and
- It was around 11-12% in 2023.

**Mr Guinness:** *Zot ti pe ramass TVA!*

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** *Chut !*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Let me give some examples as from July –

- July 2025 – 3.1%;
- August 2025 – 3.3%;
- September 2025 – 3.4%
- October 2025 – 3.5%.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue!

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, the Minister should, in fact, say they started on...

**Madam Speaker:** No, don't, don't!

**Mr A. Duval:** ...the back foot.

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** Given that the Minister's government has renegaded on all their promises, from the payment of 14<sup>th</sup> month, ...

**Madam Speaker:** I want a question!

**Mr A. Duval:** ...decrease of price of fuel....

**Madam Speaker:** I want a question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** All of the promises that have been made have been renegaded. The one, *la promesse phare de l'Alliance du Changement...*

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** I am going... I don't...

**Mr A. Duval:** C'est la question !

**Madam Speaker:** You sit down! I have just said we need questions. We do not need comments!

**Mr A. Duval:** I am putting a question in a context.

**Madam Speaker:** I want you to give a question. Otherwise, I will ask someone else to speak!

**An hon. Member:** Sit down!

**Mr A. Duval:** La promesse phare était bien sûr d'instaurer un fonds de stabilisation...

**Madam Speaker:** Ce n'est pas possible !

**Mr A. Duval:** ...de R 10 milliards.

*(Interruptions)*

Quand est-ce que le ministre peut-il...

*(Interruptions)*

Est-ce que le ministre peut éclaircir la Chambre sur quand on peut s'attendre à ce fameux fonds de stabilisation à la hauteur de R 10 milliards comme promis, surtout maintenant que le deal des Chagos est en question ? Quand ?

**Madam Speaker:** I do not need an answer. The Minister spoke for 20 minutes on the stabilisation price. We do not need an answer!

Yes, Mr Jhummun!

**Mr Lesjongard:** One last.

**Madam Speaker:** No, Mr Jhummun asked!

**Mr Lesjongard:** On the same issue, the price stabilisation issue.

**Mr A. Duval:** La question, c'est quand ?

**Mr Lesjongard:** On the price...

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, my question? I have put a question!

*(Interruptions)*

**An hon. Member:** *Pe anpes leader lopozition koze sa kou la!*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, we have a mandate of five years, he has to be patient.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Mr Jhummun! Yes, I gave him way!

**Mr Jhummun:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the same vein to reduce cost of living and improve the purchasing power, can the hon. Minister seek whether the STC can consider to import more products, basic necessities, in order to alleviate poverty and reduce cost of living?

**Madam Speaker:** I thought he already replied to that as well.

**Mr Jhummun:** *Non, non.* I am saying the STC. Can the STC consider?

**Madam Speaker:** Very short and sweet!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** We are in this direction. STC will import more products.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, okay. Last question, Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Last, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Then we will break!

**Mr Lesjongard:** I get back to the Price Stabilisation Fund. We understand from the reply that out of Rs492 million, only Rs73 million has been disbursed until now by the MRA. Now, he made mention of the second list. May I ask the hon. Minister to inform the House on where matters stand with regard to the publication of the second list of products to fall under that fund, when we know that the consumer protection associations have already agreed on the list since three months ago, Madam Speaker?

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Minister! Last reply, last question!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** Madam Speaker, we have indeed met the different associations of the consumer protection. We then had a technical committee between my Ministry...

**Mr Mohamed:** *Sa si zot pa ti fer!*

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** ...and the Ministry of Finance.

**Mr Bhagwan:** *Yogida ti fer rekor!*

**Madam Speaker:** Let the Minister speak, please!

**Mr Yeung Sik Yuen:** The interministerial committee will need to meet by next week. Thereafter, we will go to Cabinet.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Time is up!

Now, we go to Prime Minister's Question Time. I am calling the hon. Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles!

**NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT – SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS SUSPENSION  
– REASONS & SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

**(No. B/1031) Mr R. Jhummun (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** 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 threat to national security posed by 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 for the said suspension and under whose directives same was carried out, and
- (b) estimated economic and social impacts thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, on 31 October 2024, on the night of Diwali, whilst the whole nation was celebrating the victory of light over darkness, the then Government took a totally irrational decision which left the country in a state of dismay and darkness. That decision was taken just a few days before the 2024 general elections.

On that very day, the then Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, Mr Premode Neerunjun, informed the Officer-in-Charge of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority that following a report from the then Deputy Director General of the National Security Service, Mr Hurrydeo Ramdany, that letter was dated 31 October 2024, that the national security and law and order situation in Mauritius could be jeopardised following the posts and publications and broadcast on social media of alleged telephone conversations of certain political figures from the previous regime and their close associates. According to the then Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service these conversations “allegedly represented a threat to national security of Mauritius” and was likely to seriously destabilise the information as well as the fundamental Constitutional, Economic, Social structures of Mauritius. In order to prevent any breakdown of public safety and public order as well as to maintain law and order in the country, the then Intelligence and Security Coordination Committee had recommended that appropriate and immediate measures be taken.

It must be pointed out that the previous Government had completely disregarded the views and advice of the then National Security Adviser from India. The then Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, thus directed the Officer-in-Charge of ICTA to take appropriate action for the curtailing of the social media platform totally until the 11 of

November 2024, that is, on the very date of the proclamation of the results of the general elections which they thought they were going to win.

Madam Speaker, I wish to remind the House that the leaked information which was broadcast on the social media was extremely damning against the previous regime, especially on the eve of the general elections. Day after day, the recordings garnered widespread attention among the public, which was then in shock and awe at their contents.

Consequently, the Board of ICTA, under the chair of Mr Dick Ng Sui Wa, hastily directed all internet service providers to temporarily suspend access to all social media platforms until 11 November 2024 in pursuance of section 18(1)(a) of the Information and Communication Technologies Act of 2001.

It is in those circumstances that on 01 November 2024, the whole nation woke up to the shocking news that the then Government had taken the decision to ban social media and reduce internet speed. This unprecedented decision by a regime which was “*en nette perte de vitesse*,” had been taken without the slightest consideration for people who depended on the internet to do their work, and school children who also followed tutorials on the Internet during the exams period and more importantly without measuring the impact it would have on the economy of the country. They couldn’t care less. The decision was in fact a political ploy hatched at the highest political level to save their skin. They thought they could save their skin against an impending debacle, classic to what happens in certain rogue states and under despots.

Madam Speaker, the level of public outcry against this decision through all walks of life was unimaginable.

Clearly, the previous regime had pressed its auto-destruction button. You know what they say – “*Jupiter rend fou ceux qu’il veut détruire!*”

In regard to part (b) of the question, Madam Speaker, I am informed that the adverse economic and social impacts of the suspension of the social media platforms have been tremendous and devastating. It has generated considerable economic and social disruptions, including –

- (i) loss of revenue for businesses that rely on online advertising or digital sales;

- (ii) disruption of SME operations, particularly those using social media as their primary marketing channel, and
- (iii) negative impact on businessmen and the BPO sector who are totally dependent on the internet for their work.

More importantly, Madam Speaker, the reputational damage inflicted on our country as a place where the rule of law and freedom of expression prevail and a haven for tourism and business, was universally acknowledged.

Madam Speaker, I want to reassure the House that my Government will never ever allow any such despicable decision against the nation's interest and which curtail fundamental liberties. As I have indicated on many occasions, my Government also stands committed to upholding the fundamental right to freedom of expression, while also ensuring that this right is exercised responsibly.

Furthermore, I wish to inform the House that the whole matter is still being investigated.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Prime Minister!

Yes, supplementary!

**Mr Jhummun:** From what I understand, there will be a full enquiry on all these issues and can the enquiry be even undertaken upon the leaked information and all the posts that they tried to block on the eve of the election? Can we have a full-fledged enquiry on all these issues?

**The Prime Minister:** All these posts had been secured, Madam Speaker, and also, there will be a full-fledged enquiry. It has started, but it is going to continue for a while.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

Yes, hon. Babajee, First Member for Savanne and Black River!

#### **PLEASURE CRAFT PPC 7380 OL 10 – DISAPPEARANCE FROM RIU HOTEL – INQUIRY**

**(No. B/1032) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** to 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 pleasure

craft PPC 7380 OL 10 which disappeared from in front the RIU Hotel on 9 November 2025 and found in a basin at Les Salines on 11 November 2025, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) whether it is suspected of having travelled to Reunion Island;
- (b) the number of officers posted at Rivière Noire Coast Guard Post, indicating since when and whether they visioned the hotel cameras, effected any arrest and informed the ADSU, and
- (c) whether the inquiry will be entrusted to a new team of investigators.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 12.45 hours, one Mr B. J. S., a Belgian national residing at La Gaulette, reported the disappearance of his pleasure craft, bearing number PPC 7380 OL 10, which had been berthed and moored in the lagoon in front of the Lux Hotel, Le Morne, at the Black River National Coast Guard Police Post.

An enquiry was opened and on the same day, following information obtained, officers of the National Coast Guard and the CID proceeded to the Petite Rivière Noire salt pan, in the ex-shipyard basin, where the pleasure craft was found. It was unattended.

A search was also carried out in the vicinity of the region and 15 jerry cans of motor spirit, hidden among mangrove vegetation was also discovered about 50 metres from the craft. The CID, Scene of Crime Office (SOCO) and FSL personnel were called to the locus for examination and both the craft and the jerry cans which were secured.

Madam Speaker, in regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the enquiry is ongoing and the Police is exploring all avenues, including the possibility that the pleasure craft may have been used to travel to Réunion Island or other neighbouring islands.

As regards part (b) of the question, 31 Police Officers are posted at the Black River National Coast Guard Police as at 20 November 2025. It includes –

- (i) One Assistant Superintendent of Police,
- (ii) 9 Police Sergeants;
- (iii) 19 Police Constables, and

(iv) 2 Temporary Police Constables.

I am also informed that in the course of the enquiry, officers have viewed the CCTV footage at Lux Hotel. No arrest has been effected so far. The Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) has also been informed of the present enquiry and has started intelligence gathering, given the nature of the items recovered.

With regard to part (c) of the question, I am further informed by the Commissioner of Police that it is not envisaged at this point, to entrust the enquiry to a new team of investigators. But this might have to happen later.

Since the hon. Member has made mention of the Mauritius–Réunion axis, I wish to inform the House that a series of reinforced measures are being implemented to counter illicit activities including drug trafficking activities, particularly along the Mauritius–Réunion axis. Cooperation with Réunion authorities is ongoing and is being strengthened through the *Groupe de Contact sur la Sécurité*, which facilitates, *inter alia* –

- (a) real-time intelligence sharing between the ADSU and *L'antenne de l'office anti-stupéfiants* (OFAST) for drug trafficking operations;
- (b) coordinated maritime surveillance between the National Coast Guard and the *Forces armées dans la Zone-sud de l'océan Indien* (FAZOI);
- (c) information sharing and capacity building between the MRA and *La direction générale des douanes et droits indirects* to counter illicit trafficking, and
- (d) judicial corporation between the Attorney General's Office and *le Bureau du Procureur Général de la Réunion*.

These efforts are further supported under the EU funded Safe Seas Africa initiative, which enhances maritime domain awareness and inter-agency cooperation through the tripartite regional maritime intelligence sharing between the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar, the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles, as well as the Operation Room of the National Coast Guard.

Madam Speaker, following the State visit of President Emmanuel Macron, it was decided to enhance the cooperation between our two nations in the fight against transnational organised crime, in particular Narco Trafficking, in the Indian Ocean. The Police will also benefit from new capacity building opportunities through the Indian Ocean Academy.

These measures and new corporation avenues will significantly strengthen monitoring, improve enforcement capacity, and deter illicit maritime activities within our territorial waters.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

Yes, Mr Babajee.

**Mr Babajee:** Will the hon. Prime Minister enlighten the House regarding the place he mentioned – Les Salines lagoon, that land was leased to someone who is now jailed in Reunion Island and that the boat was kept in the same place for two days? Also, how come those officers did not know the boat was captured over there?

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Prime Minister.

**The Prime Minister:** It is a good question. I will have to ask the Commissioner of Police, but, in fact, they did not know. They were tipped-off about the boat being there.

**Madam Speaker:** It should be okay. Yes, the Fourth hon. Member for Rodrigues, Mr Edouard.

#### **MR L.R. & MS A.M.R. CIVIL MARRIAGE – VISA APPLICATION – REFUSAL**

**(No. B/1033) Mr J. Edouard (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** 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 visa application submitted by one Mr. L.R. in favour of one Ms. A.M.R., a Malagasy national, for the purpose of the celebration of their civil marriage in Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Passport and Immigration Office, information as to the reasons for the refusal thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Passport and Immigration Office that, on 09 April 2025, Mr L.R., a citizen of Mauritius, aged 61 years, submitted an application for an entry visa for the purpose of marriage on behalf of Ms A.M.R., a Malagasy national, aged 42 years. On 16 May 2025, the application was turned down in the absence of relevant documents.

On 15 July 2025, Ms A.M.R. made an appeal to reconsider her application for visa.

By virtue of Section 19A(2)(a)(i) of the Civil Status Act, no marriage shall be celebrated unless an entry visa has been issued to the non-citizen for the purpose of the publication of the intended marriage.

Under Section 19A(2)(iii) (EA) and (EB) of the Civil Status Act, a non-citizen intending to get married to a Mauritian has to submit the following documents –

- (i) an affidavit or any other legal document, duly sworn or affirmed by him/her before a Court of Law in his/her country of residence, attesting that he/she is in gainful employment or, alternatively, has sufficient means to maintain himself/herself, and
- (ii) an affidavit or any other legal document, duly sworn or affirmed by him/her before a Court of Law in his/her country of residence, attesting the marital status of the person.

The policy is to grant entry visa for the purpose of marriage upon submission of the documents as provided under Section 19A of the Civil Status Act.

Madam Speaker, I wish to point out that there have been several cases whereby non-citizens have come to Mauritius for the purpose of marriage without the documents required under Section 19A of the Civil Status Act. Since they are not able to get married without these documents, they request for extension of their visas and therefore, they remain in Mauritius on visa for long periods of time. This is why non-citizens applying for a visa for the purpose of marrying a citizen, are requested to provide upfront the required documents under Section 19A of the Civil Status Act.

Ms A.M.R. has therefore been requested to submit the documents required under Section 19A of the Civil Status Act. As at date, she has not submitted any documents.

I am informed that there have been instances, Madam Speaker, whereby non-citizens are getting married to citizens for the sole purpose of obtaining residence in Mauritius. In order to address such issues, my Office is reviewing the Civil Status Act as well as the Mauritius Citizenship Act and the Immigration Act for any consequential amendments.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

The Table has been advised that PQ B/1034, which is the next one, will be replied by hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, PQ B/1040 will be replied by hon. Minister

of Land Transport and PQ B/1047 will be replied by hon. Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation.

So, now I think I should call the Third Member for Grand' Baie & Poudre d'Or, Mr Etwareea.

**DEVELOPMENT BANK OF MAURITIUS LTD – MR D.A., COMMUNICATION  
ADVISOR – APPOINTMENT DETAILS**

**(No. B/1035) Mr R. Etwareea (Third 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 D.A., Communication Advisor at the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to his date and terms and conditions of appointment, including the remuneration and other benefits drawn, indicating the number of times he has benefitted from increases thereof, further indicating the rationale thereof and who recommended and approved same.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the DBM Ltd that Mr Deven Annacootee was enlisted as a part-time "Service Provider for Media Monitoring" for an initial period of six months from 01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 against an all-inclusive monthly payment of Rs25,000.

The contract of Mr Annacootee was subsequently renewed three times on the same terms and conditions, with the same monthly fee of Rs25,000 as follows –

- (i) First renewal was for a period of six months, from 01 July 2021 to 31 December 2021;
- (ii) A second renewal for a period of one year, from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, and
- (iii) A third renewal for a period of one year, from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

At the end of December 2023, a new contract with revised terms was signed with Mr Annacootee as part-time "Communication Consultant" for a period of one year from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 for an all-inclusive monthly fee of Rs35,000.

The initial contract and each subsequent contract renewal of Mr Annacootee were approved by the-then Board of the DBM Ltd upon the recommendation of Management.

Total payment effected to Mr Annacootee from January 2021 to October 2024 amounted to Rs1,250,000 for Media Monitoring only.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr Etwareea:** Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm that Mr Annacootee had a dual employment; that is, while being employed at the DBM, he was also working at the Ministry of Fisheries?

**The Prime Minister:** Yes. It appears to be the case.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes.

Now, we have Second Member for Rodrigues.

### **PRB REPORT – FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION – RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIONS**

**(No. B/1036) Mr F. François (Second Member for Rodrigues)** 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 forthcoming publication of the Pay Research Bureau Report, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to where matters stand, indicating whether consultations were carried out as expected concerning the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Director of the Pay Research Bureau that in line with established practice, the Bureau has had consultations with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as well as the Rodrigues Workers Federation in the context of the preparation of the next PRB Report. Letters were sent to both the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Federation requesting written proposals as well as their views and observations on general conditions of service.

Madam Speaker, as a matter of fact, in July 2023, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly was requested to submit information related to the review exercise. In August 2023, the Management of Rodrigues Regional Assembly and Trade Unions in Rodrigues were requested to submit their representations.

The Pay Research Bureau has conducted a first visit to Rodrigues in June 2024 whereby the Director and the officer of the Bureau met the Management of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Unions and Federations to explain the approach and methodology that the Bureau would adopt for the 2026 review exercise.

Thereafter, two additional visits were effected to Rodrigues from 02 to 04 April 2025 and from 06 to 12 April 2025, respectively, to hold consultations with relevant stakeholders. The Pay Research Bureau also had meetings with individuals, who had expressed an interest to depone.

Madam Speaker, it is opportune to note that at the request of one of the Federations, a meeting was held with its affiliates in June 2025 at the Bureau to discuss certain outstanding issues pertaining to pay, grading structures and conditions of service.

Furthermore, in July 2025, a delegation comprising the Island Chief Executive and officers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly had a meeting at the Bureau, where several issues in relation to Rodrigues, were discussed and cleared.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Yes. You alright hon. François?

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

#### **GRAND PORT-QUATRE SOEURS COASTAL ROAD – RADIO-BROADCAST SIGNAL – RECEPTION DEFICIENCIES**

**(No. B/1037) Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** 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 radio-broadcast signal, he will state if persistent reception deficiencies thereof have been noted along the coastal road from Grand Port to Quatre Soeurs in respect of Radio Plus, Top FM and other licensed radio broadcasters and, if so, indicate –

- (a) under whose responsibility rests the obligation to ensure adequate radio-signal coverage thereat, and
- (b) whether measures are being envisaged to monitor, enforce or improve broadcast reception thereat and, if so, when same will be implemented.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Chief Executive Officer of MultiCarrier (Mauritius) Ltd that intermittent FM Radio reception in certain parts of the south-east region of Mauritius is a long-standing issue.

This is due to the fact that certain regions, especially the coastal road in the south-east region are mountainous and therefore, the topography of the terrains result in sporadic FM Radio reception.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the responsibility to ensure adequate radio and signal coverage rests with MultiCarrier (Mauritius) Ltd, a company established under section 28 of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act. MCML acts as a multiplex operator and is responsible for ensuring both terrestrial radio and television transmission over the island of Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agaléga.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (b) of the question, MCML is aware of the situation and is considering the possibility of installing a new FM Station in the south-east region to improve radio broadcast signal. MCML is in consultation with the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority and all FM Radio operators for the allocation of specific FM Radio broadcast frequencies for that region.

I am also informed that at present, MCML is undertaking preliminary test on the FM broadcast reception in the south-east region and the quality of FM reception in that region is expected to improve within the first quarter of 2026.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. That should be alright.

The hon. Fourth Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue!

#### **MAURITIUS ENTRY VISA – MR B. R. S. (*EL CAPO*) ARREST**

**(No. B/1038) 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 the entry visa to Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Passport and Immigration Office, information as to –

- (a) the number of persons presently overstaying same, and
- (b) in the case of Mr B. R. S., also known as El Capo, the –
  - (i) date and reasons of the arrest thereof;
  - (ii) verification, if any, carried out prior to the issue thereto of same;
  - (iii) duration of the visa, and
  - (iv) actions, if any, taken at the expiry thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I am answering to both B/1038 and B/1041 as they are connected.

With regard to the number of persons presently overstaying their visas, I am informed by the Passport and Immigration Office that as at 22 November 2025, around 9,800 persons are overstaying in Mauritius.

I am further informed that Mr B.R.S. is a French national born on 19 October 1994 in French Guyana and holds a French passport. He came to Mauritius on 30 May 2025 from Reunion Island and it was his first visit to Mauritius. At the immigration counter, he informed that he would stay in the country for a period of six days at a guesthouse in Mahebourg for tourism purposes.

Security checks and verifications carried out on the Interpol database on the same day revealed nothing adverse on Mr B.R.S. and the latter was allowed to enter Mauritius for 15 days. It is to be highlighted that French nationals do not require a visa prior to travelling to Mauritius.

On 14 June 2025, date on which his visa expired, he neither left the country nor applied for an extension of his stay. Since that date, he was being looked for by the Tracing and Tracking Team of the Passport and Immigration Office.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, on 29 October 2025 at around 12:15 hrs, following information obtained by the Police, Mr B.R.S. and two other persons, namely Mr J.P.S.E. and Mr J.F.I.G., who were in a private car, were intercepted at Royal Road, La Source, Central Flacq by CID Eastern Division. They were found to be in possession of suspected drugs and other incriminating articles, including –

- (i) One rifle without any label nor any serial number;
- (ii) One black plastic wrapping containing a quantity of white powder suspected to be cocaine on the right-side jacket of Mr B.R.S.;
- (iii) One plastic parcel wrapping a quantity of white powder suspected to be cocaine in the car;
- (iv) One knife sharpener;
- (v) One – what they call a – “Rambo” knife from under the observer’s seat, and
- (vi) Two black hoodies and one pair of black and red gloves.

All these items were secured by the Police and the three persons were arrested. Mr B.R.S. confessed his guilt.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that on the same day, that is, 29 October 2025, at 13:40 hrs, a case of “Sequestration”, which occurred on 25 October 2025 at around 23:00 hrs at L’Espérance Trébuchet, was reported against Mr B.R.S. at Piton Police Station.

On 30 October, he was provisionally charged before District Court of Flacq for the offence of “Drug dealing to wit: Possession of Cocaine for the purpose of distribution and Conspiracy to commit sequestration”. He was remanded to Police cell. Mr B.R.S. appeared before the District Court of Flacq on 06 November, 13 November, and 20 November 2025. The Police has objected to his release on bail and he has been remanded to Police cell until 27 November 2025 whereas the other two persons were released on bail on 20 November 2025.

On 02 November 2025, the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in Mauritius sought information from the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in France on Mr B.R.S. Thereafter, on 04 November 2025, INTERPOL France issued a Red Notice against Mr B.R.S., who is wanted for –

- (i) Drug- related offences;
- (ii) Participation in a criminal conspiracy with a view to preparing an offence punishable by 10 years imprisonment, and also
- (iii) Money laundering.

Madam Speaker, I am informed that investigation by the Police is ongoing regarding all the cases reported against Mr B.R.S. The enquiry will reveal whether there is any connection with the recent cocaine seizure on the MV Alpha Bravery.

By virtue of the provisions of the Passport Regulations 1969, nationals of almost all countries are granted visa on arrival after having satisfied immigration requirements and security checks.

This system has given rise to many, many persistent abuses as evidenced by the significant number of overstayers. My Government will take remedial actions to strengthen the border control system by amending the legal and regulatory frameworks where necessary to prevent the occurrence of such abuses.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. A. Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** My first question, Madam Speaker. Given that this person has remained nearly four months on the territory without a valid visa and that he was publishing videos on

social media, which, in fact, are being used to press charges against him – videos that tell about his violent and unlawful activities. It puts into question, raises issues on the role of the Field Intelligence Unit, which reports to the Prime Minister and the Commissioner of Police, and how for four months, such a violent individual convicted for murder and drug trafficking internationally has been allowed to come and do that in front of social media. So, that is the first question.

**The Prime Minister:** This is why I said we have to review all these things. You just said murder and all this, but when they checked on the Interpol List, it was not there. That is the problem! We have a deficient system, which we are going to look at and change because many countries in the world are now using a new system. It might cost a little money, but it is a new system where these individuals will not be able to come in.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Prime Minister. Yes, one more question!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, my second question, Madam Speaker. Can the hon. Prime Minister clarify, given the exemption for visa requirements for people travelling from France, whether the same checks are done for the travellers coming from a French territory as would be the case for another traveller coming from a country where visa is required? Therefore, are the procedures for background checks the same as in the case of this Mr El Capo?

**The Prime Minister:** To my understanding, it is. Whether it is being or not, I do not know. But to my understanding, it is. It is the same check.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Babajee, do you have a question? No? Because your PQ was also answered by the hon. Prime Minister. Let me proceed now.

B/1039, hon. Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière!

#### **MR A. C. & MR A. C. P. – REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS – ALLEGED SCAM**

**(No. B/1039) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** 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 inquiries initiated into the case of alleged scam by real estate developers Mr A. C. and Mr A. C. P., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police and the Financial Crimes Commission, information as to where matters stand, indicating if notaries public are suspected of being involved therein.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 28 March 2023, one Mr B. S. R. made a declaration to the Central CID to the fact that

- In November 2021, he decided to purchase a villa forming part of the “Iréva Villas”, a project of Areva Immobilier Ltd and represented by Mr A.C.P. as Director;
- On 24 November 2021, Mr B.S.R. signed a ‘*Contrat de Reservation Preliminaire/Société Civile Immobilière d'attribution*’ with Areva Immobilier Ltd for an initial contract of around Rs8.2 million;
- On 13 December 2021, a down-payment of Rs1.5 million was made;
- On 17 February 2022, Mr B.S.R. paid a sum of Rs3.5 million;
- On 07 December 2022, Mr. A. C. P. requested him to pay an additional sum of Rs2.2 million over and above the agreed amount of Rs8.2 million. He refused to pay the extra amount. He has served a *mise-en-demeure* to the Director of Areva Immobilier Ltd;
- He has given this declaration as a measure of precaution as he intends to enter a civil suit against the company.

In accordance with established procedures an enquiry is initiated even if a precautionary measure has been given, whether the offence has been committed or not.

Police started an enquiry on the matter. It has recorded statements from six persons, including Mr D.R., Notary and Mr C.P., Director of Iréva Villas, who denied the allegations levelled against them, and they were allowed to go. The other four statements were from witnesses.

I must point out that despite the fact that a declaration was made to the Police on 28 March 2023, it was only on 13 May 2025, more than two years afterwards, that the case was forwarded for advice to the Office of the DPP. This even, there is a cloud, there is a nebula of cloud here – why did it take more than two years for the case to be forwarded to the DPP?

On 22 May 2025, the Office of the DPP requested the Police to initiate further investigation. The Police is attending the request; has started the enquiry.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that the names of two Notaries Public have been mentioned and that the enquiry is going on.

I am informed that the FCC had received several complaints made by victims against the owner of Venezis Property and owner of Areva Immobilier Ltd. Following which the latter had initiated two investigations for money laundering with predicate offence of swindling occurring as from year 2022. An enquiry is ongoing on this matter as well.

The hon. Member will appreciate that perhaps at this stage I cannot give further details.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Yes!

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, ce genre d'escroqueries devient malheureusement trop fréquent et font beaucoup trop de victimes mauriciennes de la diaspora mais aussi étrangère. Donc, le Premier ministre peut-il nous dire si des moyens seront mises en œuvre pour prévenir des tels actes car il y beaucoup trop escrocs qui sévissent en toute impunité dans ce secteur ?

**The Prime Minister:** There is going to be a new Law Practitioners Bill that is coming up. We have to look at all these notaries as well.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes!

**The Prime Minister:** The two of them are well known; I suppose you know who they are.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Last question, Time will be up.

**Mr Quirin:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Même si des procès au civil, voire au pénal, sont engagés, les victimes ne retrouvent pas leur investissement. Donc, le Premier ministre peut-il voir avec le bureau de l'*Attorney General* pour que les lois soient amendées en exigeant, par exemple, des fortes garanties aux promoteurs, garanties qui peuvent éventuellement servir à indemniser les victimes ?

**The Prime Minister:** I think, I will ask for the hon. Attorney General to look into this matter.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, time is up.

Now, the Table has been advised, the following PQs have been withdrawn: B/1042, B/1045, B/1046, B/1047, B/1052, B/1055, and B/1061.

Now, we got very little time left before we break for lunch. We can still start. Yes, let us start with question time.

Yes, everybody wants to break, right? No?

Questions! Hon. Babajee again. *Vous avez enlevé ? Je n'ai pas eu le temps tellement ça va vite.*

Allez-vous allez me dire, hon. Chief Whip!

### **BLACK RIVER DISTRICT – MARKETS – PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

**(No. B/1055) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the Black River District, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) the number of markets in operation thereat, if any, and
- (b) whether consideration will be given for the –
  - (i) construction of a new market on the west coast and issue permits in relation thereto, and
  - (ii) search for a private partnership to start the operation of a temporary market on Saturdays or Sundays thereat.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CWA HOTLINE 170 – CONSTITUENCY NO. 18 – COMPLAINTS & PERFORMANCE**

**(No. B/1056) Ms S. Anquetil (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to Hotline 170, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to –

- (a) the number of complaints received through same over the past two years from customers of Constituency No. 18, indicating the number of resolved and pending complaints, indicating the main categories thereof;
- (b) whether it operates on a 24-hour basis;
- (c) the number of staff assigned thereto, and
- (d) the average response time or service performance level thereof recorded over the past two years.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Madame la présidente, avec votre permission je dépose des informations sur le nombre de plaintes reçues, celles résolues, celles en attente ainsi que les principales catégories de plaintes reçues au cours des deux dernières années de la part des consommateurs de la CWA pour la circonscription numéro 18.

Concernant la partie (b) de la question, j'ai appris que la ligne d'assistance 170 fonctionnait auparavant 24/7. Cependant, ces horaires d'ouverture ont été modifiés et sont désormais de 5 heures, le matin, à 23 heures à compter du 1 septembre 2022.

Néanmoins, en période de forte affluence et pendant les fêtes, la ligne d'assistance 170 reste ouverte 24/7 compte tenu du volume d'appels.

Concernant la partie (c) de la question, j'ai appris que la hotline 170 est gérée en interne par la CWA qui compte actuellement 15 employés. L'équipe comprend à un coordinateur des relations publiques et de la communication, deux chefs d'équipe et 12 agents de service clientèle. Face à une charge de travail croissante, la hotline 170 s'appuie fortement sur ces 14 employés à temps partiel et aussi qui travaillent par *roster* de 5 heures le matin à 9 heures à domicile et de 16 heures à 21 heures afin d'assurer le fonctionnement quotidien et de traiter les demandes des clients.

Malgré ce dispositif, le service expérience client restant au sous-effectif par rapport au nombre d'appels reçus notamment en cas de coupure d'eau majeure ou de problèmes d'approvisionnement en eau régionaux.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (d) de la question, j'ai appris que les réclamations sont traitées par les équipes d'exploitations des six zones de distribution d'eau. Donc, nous avons six zones. Ces équipes sont également confrontées à un manque de matériel et de personnel pour effectuer des réparations, les raccordements à domicile et les autres interventions.

Il convient de préciser que le réseau de la CWA est ancien et présente des défaillances dans plusieurs régions ce qui le rend sujet aux ruptures des tuyaux. Selon la complexité de la réclamation, le délai de réponse moyen de deux à trois jours. Ce délai peut être plus long dans certains cas notamment, si des travaux importants sont nécessaires ou en cas d'indisponibilité de l'entrepreneur. J'ai également appris que la CWA a approuvé un système de *roster* révisé assurant ainsi la disponibilité de la ligne d'assistance 170 désormais 24/7.

Ce système mobilisera un effectif total de 33 personnes qui permettra de se passer du personnel à temps partiel – donc on va recruter, on recrute actuellement 33 personnes pour

travailler – et sera renforcé par des équipes administratives chargées du suivi des réclamations jusqu'à leurs résolutions.

**Ms Anquetil :** Madame la présidente, s'il vous plaît !

**Madam Speaker :** Yes !

**Ms Anquetil :** Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Je remercie l'honorable ministre pour sa réponse. Le ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre s'il trouve acceptable que la hotline 170 censée assister la population que la majorité des plaintes ne demeurent ni traitée, ni suivie, ni même accompagnée d'un retour aux usagers et le personnel ne s'adresse pas correctement au public. Peut-il également préciser si lui-même, le ministre responsable de la CWA, est satisfait de la performance de ce service ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Madame la présidente, je remercie l'honorable membre pour sa question. Je dois souligner, Madame la présidente, que je ne suis nullement satisfait personnellement des performances du hotline 170 de la CWA.

Je suis pleinement conscient des nombreuses difficultés auxquelles le public est confronté notamment, par le manque de réactivité exactement, comme l'a si bien dit l'honorable membre, de ce service face à la détresse des abonnés qui subissent des situations de *water stress*.

Je peux d'ailleurs témoigner que j'ai personnellement téléphoné sur le 170 et j'ai appris plus tard que l'honorable *Deputy Prime Minister*, le DPM, a aussi téléphoné sur ce hotline et je peux dire que le DPM a eu plus de chance que moi.

Quand moi j'ai appelé, puisque moi quand j'ai appelé le 170, Madame la présidente, afin d'évaluer le fonctionnement du service, j'ai pu constater les mêmes problèmes que ceux rapportés par nos concitoyens.

J'ai précisément pour cette raison, c'est précisément pour cette raison, Madame la présidente que j'ai demandé qu'un rapport complet sur la performance du service hotline soit soumis dans les plus brefs délais.

J'ai demandé aussi au *General Manager* d'écrire officiellement à celui qui est responsable de ce hotline 170 et une lettre est sortie, un *warning letter* est sortie, adressée à celui qui est responsable de ce hotline.

J'attends, je dois le dire ici à l'Assemblée nationale et je suis sûr que les employés responsables de ce hotline m'écoutent actuellement parce qu'ils savent que – ils ne sont pas au courant de ce que je vais dire ici – mais ils savent que cela va chauffer. J'attends de ce service qu'il soit beaucoup plus réactif et qu'une meilleure coordination soit assurée entre le hotline 170 et le département de camions-citernes de la *CWA* afin que les doléances des abonnés puissent être traitées plus efficacement dans les meilleurs délais. Il est également clair qu'une augmentation des effectifs – donc, on recrute là comme je le disais un peu plus tôt – est envisagée pour améliorer de manière durable la performance et la qualité de ce service essentiel au public.

**Ms Anquetil:** Une dernière, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** Je fais juste une remarque, c'est ce qu'on appelle un numéro vert. Ce n'est pas que le 170 qui est déficient.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Moi, ce qui m'intéresse, c'est le 170.

**Madam Speaker:** Je sais !

**Ms Anquetil:** Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. L'honorable ministre peut-il informer la Chambre s'il est au courant que plusieurs tuyaux ont été posés à Belle Rose-Quatre Bornes sous l'ancien régime, mais n'ont jamais été raccordés, laissant ainsi les habitants sans accès à l'eau dont ils ont désespérément besoin ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Assirvaden:** Je dirai quelques mots dessus avec votre permission, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** Oui, je vous en prie.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Je comprends très bien ce que l'honorable membre dit en ce qui concerne le raccordement des tuyaux à Quatre Bornes, mais malheureusement, il n'y a pas qu'à Quatre Bornes. Si vous allez en direction de Cascavelle par exemple – l'ancien ministre doit sûrement savoir – quittant Beaux Songes, vous allez voir sur la gauche, des gros tuyaux que nous avons installés en 2023, sûrement en 2024. On a payé des millions de roupies. Ces tuyaux ne sont jamais raccordés. Il n'y a pas que ça. À Tamarin par exemple, le ministre est au courant...

*(Interruptions)*

Le ministre est au courant ! À Tamarin, Morcellement les Salines à Tamarin au Morcellement...

*(Interruptions)*

**An hon. Member:** Maunthrooa! Maunthrooa!

**Madam Speaker:** Laissez parler...

**Mr Assirvaden:** Laissez-moi répondre !

**Madam Speaker:** Laissez parler le ministre !

**Mr Assirvaden:** Au Morcellement les Salines à Tamarin, des tuyaux ont été posés pour des millions et des millions de roupies. Ces tuyaux n'ont jamais...

**Ms Anquetil:** Incroyable !

**Mr Assirvaden:** Et le ministre est au courant. Malheureusement, il ne pouvait pas mettre la pression avec Prakash Maunthrooa! C'est ça la raison ! Il ne pouvait pas le faire parce que l'ancien directeur général de la *Central Water Authority* ne répondait pas au ministre ; il répondait à la cuisine. C'est cela le souci aujourd'hui !

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Merci. Chers amis, il nous reste cinq minutes. Est-ce que ça vaut le coup ? Je ne crois pas, honorable Rookny. Vous voulez poser votre question ?

**Mr Rookny:** Madam Speaker, shall I go for my B/1040? My PQ B/1040 that was for the hon. Prime Minister and allocated to...

**Madam Speaker:** It was already replied.

**Mr Rookny:** No, it has not been replied but it has been redirected to the Minister of Land and Transport.

**Madam Speaker:** Je n'ai rien compris. Pour l'instant, votre numéro, c'est B/1057.

**Mr Rookny:** Après *lunch*.

**Madam Speaker:** *Après lunch*. Okay, let us break for lunch. We break for lunch and we meet at 2.30 p.m.

*At 12.56 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 2.35 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

**Madam Speaker:** Please be seated! We will resume question time.

The hon. Third Member for Pamplemousses and Triolet!

**LIVESTOCK IMPORTATION – PERMIT HOLDERS – MONOPOLISATION OF  
SECTOR**

**(No. B/1057) Mr K. Rookny (Third Member for Pamplemousses & Triolet)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to the importation of livestock, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) persons or entities currently holding permits therefor;
- (b) whether any monopoly or dominant position exists in the sector, and
- (c) number of import permit applications presently awaiting determination, indicating the reasons for the delay in processing same.

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Division of the Veterinary Services of the Ministry has received applications for permit for the importation of livestock from three importers, that is –

- Socovia;
- Uhora Ventures Ltd, and
- Punjoo Mamade Ehsan Moussa in 2025.

And all three importers have been issued with import permits during the year.

As regards part (b) of the question, it is clear from my reply to part (a) that there is no monopoly or dominant position in the sector.

Concerning part (c) of the question, two importers have made application in the month of October and November 2025. An import permit has been granted to Socovia (Belle Vue) Ltd, whereas the application of Uhora Ventures Ltd received on the 26<sup>th</sup> of 2025 for import of 700 cattle from South Africa is awaiting determination.

I am informed, Madam Speaker, that the reason for the delay in processing the application of Uhora Ventures Ltd is because a preliminary environmental report is awaited from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Rookny?

**Mr Rookny:** Could the hon. Minister advise the House if the whole approval process at the end of the day rests with the two veterinary officers of his Ministry?

**Dr. Boolell:** No, it does not rest on two veterinary officers of the Ministry but it rests on the advice tendered by them and of course, you know, the matter is then referred to the Ministry to ensure that there is full assessment, in the light of which a decision is taken to serve the interest of all parties concerned.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, hon. Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes, Chief Whip!

### **SHELTERED MINORS – OVERSTAY IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS – ADMISSION & DISCHARGE DATE**

**(No. B/1058) Ms S. Anquetil (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare whether, in regard to minors removed from their families and placed under the custody of her Ministry, she will state the number thereof currently admitted in public hospitals, including the Brown-Sequard Hospital, indicating in each case the date of admission and expected discharge date.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I propose to reply to PQ B/1058 and PQ B/1073 together as they relate to the same subject matter.

**Madam Speaker:** B/1073?

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** B/1073.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** I wish to thank the hon. Members for raising these questions which have been a real concern since I took office and even long before as Member of the Opposition. My colleagues will agree with me that a child's place is not in a shelter and certainly not in a psychiatric hospital.

With regard to minors removed from their families, I am tabling the information of children who are admitted in public hospitals, including Brown-Sequard Mental Healthcare Hospital with the dates of admission and discharge. These children are under a Court Order granted by the Children's Court.

Madam Speaker, reasons for overstay at hospitals are multiple, ranging from –

- (a) Residential Care Institutions licenced under the Residential Care Institutions Regulations of the Children's Act 2020 to admit children of specific age groups are running at full capacity. Accepting a new resident will breach capping ratios or supervision standards;
- (b) Staffing levels in existing RCIs cannot be adjusted to ensure care, particularly for those children with psychiatric disorders and mental illness which result in the display of behavioural attitudes and aggressivity;
- (c) Children with psychiatric illness, mental disorders, sexualised behaviours require one to one care attention and the existing staffing level in RCIs cannot attend to same. This requires additional recruitment and there is a serious lack of caregivers on the job market.

Given the situation, hospitals provide this safe supervision until a compliant placement becomes available. I am informed that overstay occurs only when all legally permitted alternatives are exhausted. It is also important to flag out that one of the measures that we have taken is to entrust children in foster families. For the first time, we marked the Foster Care Day this year and more than 100 families have registered as potential foster parents.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that with regard to overstay of minors in hospitals, a first meeting of a steering committee, co-chaired by my colleague, the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and myself, was held on 11 August to discuss and find solutions. Discussions were also held on the appropriate and dedicated support to be provided to these children. Subsequent meetings, co-chaired by representatives of my Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, were held on 18 August, 02 September and 28 October of this year respectively.

Madame la présidente, nous avons hérité d'une situation complexe. La plupart de nos *carers* ne disposent pas de formations nécessaires pour accompagner, encadrer, réhabiliter les enfants qui nous sont confiés, particulièrement ceux dit *with behavioural concern*. Et comme le *Children's Act 2020* désigne l'hôpital comme *place of safety*, il y a eu une tendance ces dernières années, de placer ces enfants au *Brown-Sequard Mental Healthcare Hospital* par défaut. C'est une situation qui a duré pendant de longues années. Or, ces enfants ne représentent pas un groupe homogène. Il n'existe pas de solution unique. Chacun connaît une réalité personnelle, souvent bouleversante avec des besoins spécifiques qui requiert une approche individualisée.

Madame la présidente, je dois attirer l'attention de cette Chambre sur une pratique qui a été tolérée sous l'ancien régime, et qui doit cesser immédiatement – la surmédication systématique des enfants placés en milieu psychiatrique. Nous sommes d'avis que le placement en milieu psychiatrique doit être l'exception, jamais la règle, et limité dans le temps. Il nous faut des structures spécialisées de type thérapeutique communautaire avec des équipes multidisciplinaires. Les admissions prolongées en psychiatrie sont reconnues comme contraires au développement de l'enfant.

Madame la présidente, que proposons-nous ?

- Premièrement, de revoir la législation pour limiter strictement la durée de séjour des enfants dans nos établissements hospitaliers.
- Deuxièmement, de promouvoir les familles d'accueil pour permettre aux enfants de vivre dans un environnement familial. Cela nous évitera d'ouvrir des *shelters*.

Concernant les enfants présentant des troubles comportementaux, nous avons constitué un comité, présidé par le secrétaire permanent de mon ministère, pour transférer le *Rehabilitation Youth Centre* (RYC), actuellement sous tutelle du bureau du Premier ministre, vers mon ministère. L'objectif est de mettre en place un véritable programme d'encadrement et de réhabilitation. Cela nécessitera un changement de mentalité profond. Certains officiers demeurent convaincus que leur rôle consiste à punir ces enfants, à les corriger. Ces vieilles habitudes sont tenaces et doivent être combattues. Comment ? En recrutant des personnes appropriées et en les formant adéquatement. C'est ce que nous proposerons dans le prochain budget.

Madame la présidente, concernant la question de l'après-18 ans, malheureusement, nous ne disposons actuellement d'aucune solution de logement. Le sujet a été évoqué avec mes collègues, le ministre du Logement et des Terres et celui du ministère de l'Intégration sociale, de la Sécurité sociale et de la Solidarité nationale. Nous nous pencherons sur la question. En attendant une solution étatique pérenne, nous sommes en pourparlers avancés avec une ONG qui accueille déjà certains de nos enfants et qui serait disposée à leur fournir un hébergement temporaire jusqu'à ce qu'ils acquièrent une autonomie financière.

Madame la présidente, tout est à revoir. Les *shelters* censés être des refuges provisoires sont, malheureusement, devenus des lieux d'hébergement permanents. Il est impératif de repenser l'encadrement de nos enfants. Notre mission n'est plus simplement de

les garder, mais de les préparer à la vie. C'est à cette tâche que mon ministère s'attelle avec détermination dans les limites de nos moyens actuels, mais avec la ferme volonté d'apporter les changements structurels que ces enfants méritent. Je vous remercie.

**Madam Speaker:** Merci. Allez-y !

**Ms Anquetil:** Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Je remercie la ministre pour sa réponse. Hier, en visitant certains hôpitaux, j'ai été témoin d'une réalité bouleversante, comme l'a si bien dit la ministre. 25 enfants placés par le ministère restent bloqués dans nos hôpitaux faute de placements. Et je me permets une petite parenthèse...

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Question!

**Ms Anquetil:** ...pour dire que j'étais agréablement surprise de rencontrer...

Une minute !

C'est un sujet qui n'est pas politique et je voudrais qu'on me donne le temps de poser ma question. C'est un sujet sensible, pas politique ! Alors, donnez-moi le temps de m'exprimer.

J'ai visité des hôpitaux. J'ai rencontré du personnel passionné, et vraiment, c'était bien. La ministre trouve-t-elle acceptable que rien que pour 2025, 18 enfants placés, pourtant autorisés à quitter l'hôpital, soient privés de scolarité, d'un placement, et pire, exposés aux infections ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Madame la présidente, naturellement, je ne trouve pas cela normal du tout ! C'est pourquoi j'ai dit dans ma réponse que nous explorons toutes les possibilités pour que ces enfants puissent d'abord être confiés à des familles d'accueil. *The last resort will be the shelter.*

Nous sommes sur la même longueur d'onde, Madame la présidente. Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec l'honorable membre que la place des enfants ne se trouve pas dans les hôpitaux ni dans les *shelters*. La place d'un enfant est dans une famille, dans sa famille biologique de préférence. Mais s'il y a des problèmes, si des problèmes persistent dans la famille biologique, donc, la dernière solution serait une famille d'accueil.

**Madam Speaker:** *Famille étendue aussi! Pas juste biologique.* They call it next of kin.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Oui ! Exacte !

**Madam Speaker:** Yes!

**Ms Savabaddy:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Je remercie l'honorable ministre pour sa réponse, que j'ai bien écouté, par rapport à la question B/1073. En attendant les autres ministères concernés, est-ce que la ministre peut confirmer s'il y a eu une étude approfondie à ce sujet, et comment aider ces jeunes qui autrement vont finir leur vie dans les rues ou entre les mains des réseaux de drogues sans encadrement approprié ? Merci.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Madame la présidente, à ma connaissance, il n'y a pas eu jusqu'ici d'études faites concernant le cas de ces enfants-là. Mais nous procédons actuellement à, allons dire, un *survey* inofficiel pour voir le nombre d'enfants touchés par ce problème et essayer de voir des alternatives pour confier ces enfants dans des structures appropriées autres que les rues.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay.

**Ms Savabaddy:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Madame la ministre peut-elle confirmer s'il y a un *time frame* pour cela et combien de temps cela va prendre ?

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Je suis désolée de dire que cela va prendre le temps qu'il faudra parce que nous disposons de peu de moyens financiers. Il nous faudra attendre le prochain budget pour savoir s'il y a un *time frame* ou pas. Donc, à ma connaissance, nous travaillons, allons dire, à un rythme effréné pour pouvoir confier ces enfants, les abriter comme il se doit, mais il n'y a pas de *time frame*. Cela va prendre le temps qu'il faudra. Comme je vous le dis, on travaille avec des moyens très, très limités. Il nous faudra voir dans le prochain budget comment faire pour aller plus vite.

**Ms Savabaddy:** J'espère qu'une solution sera trouvée avant.

**Madam Speaker:** On ne parle pas assis ! Mademoiselle !

**Ms Anquetil:** Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Les *social workers* du ministère de la Santé ne sont présents qu'aux heures de bureau et en demi-journée le samedi. La ministre trouve-t-elle raisonnable que, pendant tout le reste du temps, aucun *carer* ne soit

fourni par son ministère pour encadrer les enfants placés dans nos hôpitaux ? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Minister!

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Bien sûr que ce n'est pas normal, Madame la présidente ! Ce n'est pas normal du tout. Mais je l'ai dit et je le redis, nous avons des *caregivers* qui ne sont pas formés du tout. Nous avons hérité, malheureusement, d'une situation complexe et difficile pour nos enfants. Certains *caregivers* travaillent de bonne foi, mais il y en a d'autres qui peut-être veulent travailler mais n'ont pas la formation nécessaire pour encadrer, accompagner, allons dire même, surveiller ces enfants. Donc, on n'a pas le nombre de *carers* formés à ce sujet.

**Ms Anquetil:** Une petite dernière, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** Je comprends l'importance de cette question. Je pense que vous savez pourquoi. Allez-y ! Je vous laisse. Madame la ministre, vous êtes sur le gril là.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Ok, il n'y a pas de souci !

**Madam Speaker:** Il faut accepter. C'est normal.

**Ms Anquetil:** Alors, la ministre peut-elle confirmer à la Chambre si elle est informée que plusieurs mineurs ont été envoyés directement au Brown Sequard Hospital par son ministère sans même avoir été pris en charge par un hôpital classique ? Juge-t-elle cette pratique acceptable ? Merci, Madame la présidente.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Madame la présidente, je ne suis pas au courant de ce cas. Si l'honorable membre a les informations précises, je lui demande de ne pas hésiter à venir vers moi pour que je puisse enquêter davantage et trouver une solution, bien sûr.

**Madam Speaker:** Très bien.

**Ms Savabaddy:** Ma toute dernière.

Merci beaucoup, Madame la présidente. Puis-je demander à l'honorable ministre si elle est au courant du cas de ce jeune garçon, âgé de 17 ans et forcé en ce moment de rester dans

un hôpital public jusqu'à ce qu'il atteigne ses 18 ans au mois de mars prochain ? Est-ce que la *Child Development Unit* a-t-elle été informé de ce cas ? Si oui, qu'est-ce qui sera fait ?

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Je vais répondre la même chose : je ne suis pas au courant de ce cas. Si vous avez un cas spécifique, n'hésitez pas à venir vers moi ou vers les services du ministère, on va s'enquérir et prendre les décisions qui s'imposent ?

**Madam Speaker:** Quel hôpital, au moins ?

**Ms Savabaddy:** Jeetoo à Port Louis !

**Madam Speaker:** Jeetoo à Port Louis. Je pense qu'on peut laisser la ministre souffler un peu. Allez-y, moi maintenant du coup, je suis perdue, comme d'habitude.

Nous avons, je pense, l'honorable *Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle* !

#### **POINTE DU DIABLE – PARKING FACILITIES & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – MEASURES**

**(No. B/1059) Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Land Transport whether, in regard to Pointe du Diable near Bambous-Virieux, he will state –

- (a) whether consideration will be given for the provision of additional parking facilities for visitors in view of the poor visibility along the main road thereat, and
- (b) the measures being envisaged to ensure safe access and proper traffic management thereat, particularly during weekends.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit that the issue of providing additional parking facilities at Pointe du Diable does not fall on the purview of that Unit.

However, as per information obtained from the Beach Authority, only two parking areas are currently available at the locus, both accommodating a total of 12 parking lots. These parking spaces have been provided by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change as part of the coastal protection works and partly by the National Heritage Fund as the Ruins of the French batteries located there is a national heritage site.

The topography of the land at Pointe du Diable as well as the geometry of the road make it very difficult for the provision of additional space as requested in the question. Being given that the place is a very popular view point, the available parking spaces are fully booked, particularly during weekends and vehicles even park on the roadside, thus giving rise to potential traffic hazards.

As regard part (b) of the question, Madam Speaker, I have requested the TRMSU to consider the possibility of implementing appropriate traffic management measures along the coastal road at the locus with a view to improving road safety. The police have also been requested to step up the enforcement on inconsiderate on-street parking, particularly during weekends.

Madam Speaker, as we are dealing with the issue of parking, allow me and I seek your indulgence for two minutes at most, to raise a problem faced by disabled persons in our towns. There are 80 parking spaces provided for disabled persons. My colleague, hon. Ashok Subron, Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, has recently drawn my attention last week to the fact that the parking slots earmarked for disabled persons are very often illegally occupied by other vehicle users. This causes undue hardships to those who really need these parking facilities for their commuting and access to essential services.

To deter such practices, my Ministry is considering to introduce strong measures against contraveners. To that effect, the parking fines for illegal use of parking slots reserved for disabled persons will be reviewed upwards and we are thinking of doing this in the context of the revised parking rates that was announced by the hon. Prime Minister during budget time. As such, the present fine of Rs1,000 provided for such unlawful use of parking could be increased to Rs5,000, subject to government approval.

As a last note, Madam Speaker, I, therefore, appeal to vehicle users to be very cautious and abstain from parking illegally in areas demarcated for disabled persons. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister.

Yes, Mr Seeburn!

**Mr Seeburn:** Madam Speaker, being given that this is a very popular historical site, attracting lots of tourists and local visitors on weekdays and public holidays, will the hon. Minister consider the possibility of requesting the relevant authorities to remove the wooden

barriers that are next and adjacent to the existing canon itself and provide adequate parking facilities for the safety of the road users and the visitors?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** I will ask the Traffic Management and the Road Safety Unit to liaise with the Ministry of Environment and to try and sort out this issue.

Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Third Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or, will you wait for a few minutes please?

Hon. Mohamed is stuck in the traffic. So, we will wait. Hopefully, he will be here.

Let's proceed for hon. Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière!

#### **INVALID PENSIONS – PROPOSED MAJOR REFORMS – TIMELINE**

**(No. B/1061) Dr. Ms R. Daureeawo (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity whether, in regard to the Invalid Pensions, he will state where matters stand as to the proposed major reforms envisaged, indicating the proposed timeline for the implementation thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY MAURITIUS (FORMER) – YOUNG FOOTBALLERS – SUPPORT & FOLLOW-UP**

**(No. B/1062) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the former Liverpool Football Club International Academy, Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the support provided to and/or follow-up made of the young footballers across all age groups who were part thereof, indicating the number thereof who –

- (a) made it to professional football, and
- (b) pursued alternative pathways.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Madam Speaker, the former Liverpool Football Club International Academy Mauritius commonly referred to as the Liverpool Football Academy was set up in June 2019 and was placed at the Côte d'Or National Sports Complex.

I am informed by the Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Limited that the young footballers who form part of the former Liverpool Football Academy benefited from a comprehensive support programme across all age groups. This included –

- free coaching, provision of training kits and transport facilities to attend training sessions three times weekly.
- Medical and paramedical assistance including physiotherapy sessions and access to gym facilities.
- Regular physical fitness assessment and guidance on proper nutrition and diet;
- the trainees were covered by an insurance scheme, and
- trainees who required academic assistance were granted financial support by the Trust Fund for excellence in sports.

The trainees of Liverpool Football Academy were also offered the opportunity to participate in annual tours.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am further informed by the Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Limited that only four players have progressed to professional football; three in USA and one in France. Six other players had trials in professional clubs in Europe and Réunion Island but unfortunately, they were not successful in securing contracts.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Limited that over its six years of operation, players released by the Liverpool Football Academy were used as a feeder system to the National Football League. Those who were unable to secure position in the National Football League, subsequently joined the Centre Technique National François Blaquart which provides a continuation pathway for players aged 18 to 20.

Notwithstanding what I have just stated, Madam Speaker, I have to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the operation of the Liverpool Football Academy together with its annual license fee has cost the State more than Rs168 million over its six years of operation, that is, from 2019 to 2025.

Madam Speaker, out of 545 players who have been trained under the Liverpool Football Academy only four were able to secure contract with professional football teams. Even more alarming, Madam Speaker, 72 players were dismissed by the Academy for poor performance. A whopping 112 players had quit and 54 had to leave having reached the age limit.

Pour un gouvernement responsable, Madame la présidente, poursuivre sur cette voie n'était plus acceptable compte tenu de l'état de profonde précarité dans lequel se trouvait l'économie mauricienne et les résultats non concluants *and it is precisely for this reason, Madam Speaker, that this Government, as part of its programme for the revival of football has come up with a new structure in form of a centre national d'excellence de football.*

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

Yes!

**Mr Quirin:** Merci. Peut-on savoir de l'honorable ministre, avec la fermeture de l'académie de Liverpool, combien de joueurs de l'ancienne académie qui vont intégrer le centre national de formation François Blaquart ? Est-ce que le centre est déjà opérationnel ou bien ce sera le cas dans un proche avenir ? Combien de jeunes footballeurs, toutes catégories confondues, qui étaient au Liverpool Academy, ont intégré ou vont intégrer la nouvelle structure qui sera mise en place ?

**Mr Nagalingum:** Madam Speaker, I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to PQ B/999 on *la relance du football à Maurice* at our Sitting of 11 November 2025. You will have all the answers/replies required.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, malheureusement je n'ai pas la réponse du ministre sous la main

**Madam Speaker:** On va lui faire confiance pour le moment.

**Mr Quirin:** Lui faire confiance – on verra bien.

Peut-il nous dire, malgré toutes les garanties qu'il nous a données par rapport à la nouvelle structure, il n'est pas sans savoir qu'il y a eu quand même cette période de transition entre la fermeture de l'académie de Liverpool et l'ouverture de la nouvelle structure François Blaquart. Il y a quand même eu plusieurs mois ...

**Madam Speaker:** Une période grise, on va dire.

**Mr Quirin:** ... une période morte pour ces jeunes. Donc, il n'est pas sans savoir que les fléaux sont là et ces jeunes ont été laissés à eux même. Donc, si je comprends bien, l'honorable ministre peut-il nous confirmer effectivement que tous ces jeunes qui étaient à Liverpool Academy – c'est ça ma question, c'est une question simple qu'il peut très bien répondre s'il le veut – combien de ces jeunes vont intégrer la nouvelle structure sans que personne ne soit laissée au bord de la route ?

**Madam Speaker:** Maybe you can answer that.

**Mr Nagalingum:** I can answer, Madam Speaker. Already, all the young footballers that were in the Liverpool Football Academy, are now practicing at the Blaquart.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, you will find out in due course.

I am coming back to the hon. Third Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or.

I welcome back our hon. Minister for Housing and Lands. I thought I had lost you.

#### **FOND DU SAC – SITE IDENTIFICATION – MARKET FAIR CONSTRUCTION – UPDATE**

**(No. B/1060) Mr R. Etwareea (Third Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the negotiations with the Mont Choisy Group for the identification of a site for the proposed construction of a market fair in Fond du Sac to serve the Fond du Sac, The Vale and Grand Bay areas, he will state where matters stand.

**Mr Mohamed:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Apologies, once again. When it rains; it rains.

So, in answer to the question, I am informed that the District Council of Pamplemousses is liaising with the Mont Choisy Group for a release of 6 acres of private land at Fond du Sac for the construction of the market fair. And, that is following important meetings that have happened in 2025 and I am informed that on 02 April 2025, the Ministry of Local Government confirmed to my Ministry that the market fair and other associated amenities project at Fond du Sac form part of the list of projects to be implemented. The latter ministry had, on 12 February 2025, also submitted a preliminary layout plan for the market fair project.

This is the information I have.

**Madam Speaker:** Alright, yes.

The hon. First Member for La Caverne and Phoenix.

**E-HEALTH PROJECT – MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION DIGITALISATION –  
SERVICE DELIVERY MODERNISATION**

**(No. B/1063) Mr K. Lobine (First Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether in regard to the e-Health project, he will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof, indicating whether it comprises an e-dispensing component wherein medical prescriptions will be sent electronically, thus enabling enhanced stock control and reducing queues in public health institutions.

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, I wish to refer the hon. Member to my response to PQ B/46 from the Sitting of 04 February 2025 in which I provided an update regarding the status of implementation of the e-Health project which forms part of government's global digital transformation agenda aimed at modernising service delivery across the health sector.

Madam Speaker, Phase I focuses on the deployment of the foundational modules that establish the necessary digital infrastructure to support patient and health service management. The core module includes a Patient Administration System (PAS), e-Health portal and mobile application, Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) and donor management application, reporting an analytics and laboratory information management systems.

Additional modules that were initially earmarked for Phase II, were also brought forward with a view to providing a fully paperless patient experience at the earliest possible stage. As a result of this exercise, the testing phase started on 23 August 2025 at Flacq Hospital which was the most advanced in terms of site preparedness.

The system is currently being piloted there and in several associated primary healthcare facilities namely Bel-Air and Belvédère Mediclinic, Bramsthan Area Health Centre, and Medine Camp de Masque Community Health Centre. Weekly interministerial committee meetings are being held with the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, the UNDP to fast-track implementation and resolve operational challenges in real time.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the e-dispensing component, I am informed that the pharmacy module currently provides the functionality for pharmacy studio electronic prescription directly from the pharmacy desk and to manually mark each prescribed medicine

as fully or partially dispensed. This allows for accurate tracking of prescription dispensed under the e-Health system. At this stage however, the module does not yet include the inventory management feature which means that automated real time stock control is not available at this stage. The inventory management system, together with the full e-dispensing capability where prescriptions will be transmitted electronically from the consultation room to the pharmacy, will be implemented in a subsequent phase of this project.

Madam Speaker, once the full pharmacy module is deployed, the system will allow automated stock updates, improve forecasting and replenishment up-lining and better alignment between prescribing patterns and stock levels. This will considerably strengthen medicine supply chain efficiently and reduce wastage or shortages across facilities.

Madam Speaker, even at this early stage, the pilot system has demonstrated tangible benefits. The digital capture of prescriptions and reduction in paper-based processes have already contributed to improve queuing management, reduce congestion at registration desk and pharmacy counters and a smoother flow of patients within the hospital environment. These eventual roll outs of full e-dispensing will further minimise queues, reduce waiting time, enhance overall patient experience across public health institutions.

My Ministry will continue to monitor the implementation process closely and refine the system through ongoing optimisation, capacity building of staff and strengthening of institutional processes with the objectives of ensuring successful deployment of e-health system across all public health institutions.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister.

**Mr Lobine:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I ask the hon. Minister whether this project, at completion phase, will also englobe the private sector, the private health providers and private doctors so that there is a liaison between the public sector and the private sector?

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, that does not form part of a project. I hope that later on, we can take it over.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Dr. Prayag.

**Dr. Prayag:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the hon. Minister confirm whether provision has been made to procure generators for all the mediclinics and the AHCs that will be working on the e-Health system afterwards?

**Mr Bachoo:** If the need is felt, we definitely have to take recourse to this.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Mr François.

**Mr François:** Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the e-Health network system will consist of a link component with Rodrigues especially to facilitate the transfer and follow-up of patients from Rodrigues to hospitals here? Actually, it is a complete mess and chaotic for patients.

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, we are looking into this and I will be having consultations with the Ministry of Information Technology.

**Madam Speaker:** Now, the Second Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or, Mr Beejan.

This one will be replied the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

#### **POINTE AUX CANNONIERS – FOOTBALL PITCH RENOVATION – PROJECT STATUS**

**(No. B/1064) Mr N. Beejan (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the recent renovation of the football pitch at Pointe aux Cannoniers, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) the scope of works thereof;
- (b) the name of the contractor therefor;
- (c) the initial contracted and final costs thereof, and
- (d) whether his Ministry has considered or will consider –
  - (i) taking remedial actions to properly level the pitch which currently presents a safety hazard;
  - (ii) the installation of lighting facilities to allow for evening use, and
  - (iii) provision of toilet and changing room facilities thereat and, if so, when.

**The Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Mr R. Bhagwan):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I am informed by the Beach Authority that the Vale Public Beach of an extent 0.32 hectare was initially partly covered with grass and sand.

The plot of land is sloppy with a gradient exceeding one metre. Representations have been made by the inhabitants for the construction of a proper football pitch.

Further to requests received from inhabitants of the regions and beach users, funds were allocated during the Financial Year 2022-2023 to the Beach Authority for the upgrading of same to the National Development Unit under the COVID-19 Project Development Funds.

Madam Seaker, as regards part (a) of the question, the scope of works included mainly

—

- Cut and fill of the existing ground to make it level;
- Construction of 85 metres retaining wall within filled reinforced block walls on three sides;
- Associated works for the retaining wall including the construction of reinforced concrete bases;
- Casting of a tied beam at the top rendering and painting;
- Supply and fixing of plastic-coated chain link;
- Laying of geotextile and levelling of the beach area with 150mm to 200mm fixed layers of spores;
- Planting of grass on the beach area;
- Supply and fixing of turbs, and
- Minor levelling of the parking space.

Madam Speaker, as regard parts (b) and (c) of the question, the Beach Authority launched bids on 25 January 2023 for the project to level the ground of the public beach after bid evaluation. The contract was awarded to contractor Loro Construction Ltd for an amount of Rs1,677,250 following board's approval on 29 March 2023. Works started on 26 May 2023 and the project was completed on 18 August 2023. The total payment effected to the contractor was Rs1,661,964.

With regard part to (d) (i) and (ii) of the question, I am further informed that the Beach Authority will carry out further levelling works as important sand has partly been washed out and additional lighting will be provided also. Works are scheduled to start in two weeks.

As regards part (d) (iii) of the question, consideration would be given for provision of toilets and training room facilities taking in consideration planning policy guidelines and availability of space.

**Madam Speaker:** Do you have a question?

**Mr Beejan:** Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the hon. Minister inform the House why a basic standard of safety and levelness was not achieved in the initial exercise prior to general elections 2024? This has caused much problems to the youngsters and also to the wider community of Pointe aux Cannoniers.

**Mr Bhagwan:** We all know how projects were managed prior. We have assumed duty in Government. So, we are exploring ways and means to at least redress the situation in consultation with MPs of the constituency.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes. Second Member for Rodrigues, please!

#### **RODRIGUES – ELECTRIC POLES DISPLACEMENT & EXTENSION**

**(No. B/1065) Mr J. 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 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.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Madame la présidente, en ce qui concerne la partie (a) (i) de la question, je suis informé par le *CEB* que pour l'année 2025, il y a eu 20 demandes

d'électricité qui nécessitaient une extension du réseau du *CEB*, dont deux sont en attente à ce jour.

Concernant la partie (a) (ii), pour l'année 2025, il y a eu 26 demandes de dépassement du réseau *CEB*, parmi lesquelles, quatre sont en attente à jour.

Concernant la partie (b) (i) de la question, j'ai appris que le *CEB* gère actuellement plusieurs programmes d'assistance visant à faciliter l'accès à l'électricité pour ses clients.

Ces programmes comprennent –

- (i) Une aide pour les extensions des réseaux basse tension d'un maximum de cinq poteaux pour les clairières résidentielles – donc, ceci est applicable à Rodrigues, mais aussi à Maurice –, qui remplissent les conditions requises pour de tels programmes ainsi que pour les organisations sociales, religieuses et caritatives ;
- (ii) Si les clients résidentiels ne sont pas éligibles au programme d'aide à l'extension du réseau de basse tension – basse tension, c'est devant la porte pour emmener à la maison –, deux options leur sont proposées pour faciliter l'extension du réseau basse tension uniquement, soit une contribution non remboursable de 50 % du coût du projet, soit le paiement intégral du coût qui sera remboursé en part égale sur cinq ans aux clients ;
- (iii) Pour les nouveaux clients commerciaux, il existe le programme faciliter les affaires, dans le cas duquel le *CEB* prend en charge 50% des coûts d'extension des réseaux basses et hautes tensions ;
- (iv) Pour les clients industriels dont les projets sont viables, le *CEB* exigera le paiement intégral du coût du projet, qui sera remboursé aux clients en part égale sur cinq ans. Si le projet n'est pas viable, le coût d'extension du réseau sera entièrement à la charge du demandeur.

J'ai été informé que les deux premiers dispositifs mentionnés ci-dessus ne s'appliquent pas aux demandes concernant des sites issus du morcellement de terrain. De plus, en ce qui concerne le déplacement du réseau, *bouz kolon*, le *CEB* prend en charge 50 % du coût du déplacement du réseau basse tension pour les clients résidentiels.

Concernant le point (b) (ii), le plus important je pense de la question, je tiens à informer l'Assemblée que les dispositifs applicables à Maurice sont également étendus aux clients éligibles à Rodrigues.

À ce stade, Madame la présidente, le *CEB* m'informe qu'aucune dérogation particulière n'est envisagée.

**Mr François:** Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes!

**Mr François:** May I ask the hon. Minister whether he is agreeable to table the actual rates of the *déplacement des colonnes*?

**Mr Assirvaden:** The rate?

**Mr François:** The rates applicable.

**Madam Speaker:** Oui, pour le déplacement des colonnes.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Alors, je disais que le *CEB* prend en charge 50 % du déplacement du réseau.

**Madam Speaker:** Du réseau.

**Mr Assirvaden:** C'est dépendant d'où on va mettre le poteau, si c'est un peu plus loin. Je peux essayer de voir. Je le déposerai. Merci, Madame la présidente.

**Mr François:** The hon. Minister mentioned that some of the schemes are not applicable to morcellement. Basically, we do not have morcellement, but we have subdivisions on the State land in Rodrigues. Does this make a difference so that consideration will be given in our case? We have subdivisions on the State lands, but not morcellement as it is in Mauritius.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Je peux essayer de voir avec le *CEB*, comme vous n'avez pas de morcellement à Rodrigues ; vous avez des *subdivisions*. Je peux essayer de voir. Merci.

**Madam Speaker:** Very good! Now, we have finished with hon. François. Hon. First Member for La Caverne and Phoenix, again, please!

#### **VACOAS-PHOENIX MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURES – RENOVATION**

**(No. B/1066) Mr K. Lobine (First Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the sports infrastructures, including gymnasiums, falling under the purview of the Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether surveys of the state thereof have been conducted and, if so, indicate whether evaluations of the renovation, rehabilitation

and re-equipping costs thereof and the required timeframe for the implementation thereof have been worked out.

**The Minister of Health and Wellness (Mr A. Bachoo):** Madam Speaker, the Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix has informed that it has 33 gymnasiums and 15 football grounds under its jurisdiction. Comprehensive surveys have been carried at all the sports facilities and numerous defective items and equipment were identified and earmarked for repair and upgrading.

I am tabling the renovation, rehabilitation and re-equipping of the infrastructures that have been implemented and whose total estimate is Rs53.8 million.

The hon. Member may wish to note that in the context of Budget Estimates 2025-2026, my Ministry had submitted a proposal of Rs400 million for construction and upgrading of amenities for all the 12 local authorities, out of which, Rs40 million was applied for the project construction and upgrading of amenities on behalf of the Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix.

Madam Speaker, it is expected that funds would be made available in the forthcoming financial years to attend the above-mentioned renovation projects.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière!

**MAURITIUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE – SPECIAL ADVISER, MR M.B. –  
ALLEGED RECORDING & CANVASSING**

**(No. B/1067) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the 2025 Elective General Assembly of the Mauritius Olympic Committee, he will state if he has taken cognizance of a recording circulated prior thereto wherein his Special Adviser, Mr M. B., is purportedly heard in a conversation with Mr P. T., President of the Association Mauricienne de Boxe, allegedly canvassing in favour of some candidates and, if so, will he state if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, indicate the outcome thereof and the actions, if any, taken in relation thereto or being contemplated, if any.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that I have taken cognizance of the recording that was circulated on the eve of the elective general assembly of the Mauritius Olympic Committee. Since this recording has never been authenticated, I do not intend to take any action in relation thereto.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, c'est une affaire...

**Mr Apollon:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes!

**Mr Apollon:** I just want to seek the guidance of the Chair whether it is permissible to ask a question related to an alleged recording which has not been authenticated and whose transcript has not been laid before this Assembly?

**Madam Speaker:** But we just now learnt that it has not been authenticated.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Apollon:** But is it permissible to ask this question?

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** No, one moment. Are you going to do it?

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. A. Duval, do you want to come and sit here? Do you want to come and sit here?

*(Interruptions)*

There was a point of order. I cannot even give any ruling if everybody will give a ruling in my stead.

*(Interruptions)*

I am referring to your point. What I heard was that it was not authenticated. That was a reply to that question. So, for the moment, it is okay. Now, if he asks something else, then we will see. You were a little too early. Come on!

**Mr Quirin:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Je considère cette affaire extrêmement grave malgré...

**Madam Speaker:** Tout est grave !

**Mr Quirin:** Malgré la réponse...

**Madam Speaker:** Tout est grave.

**Mr Quirin:** ...que vient de nous donner l'honorable ministre. Peut-il nous expliquer par quel miracle – un terme qu'il aime bien utiliser – son conseiller spécial s'est arrogé le droit de parler en son nom en invoquant même le DPM pour faire du *lobbying* ?

**Madam Speaker :** Non, non, non.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Quirin :** ... pour faire du lobbying...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** ... *ki to konpran...*

**Madam Speaker :** *Non, non, non.* I will not have this. If you are referring to that same incident, the answer was it was not authenticated. So, you cannot put any more on that one. I do not see how you can pursue.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** You can't!

**Madam Speaker:** How can you pursue that? It has not been authenticated. We do not know who it was.

**Mr Quirin:** We know ...

**Madam Speaker:** You know!

**Mr Quirin:** He knows as well.

**Madam Speaker:** I cannot accept that.

**Mr A. Duval:** How can you not allow it!

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** I will not allow this question.

**Mr Quirin:** *Missie Moustass ti korek! Missie Moustass ti bon!*

**Mr A. Duval:** *Zot pe ale mem ar Missie Moustass toulezour, sa kapav poze an kestion !*

**An hon. Member:** *Ey ale do!*

**Mr Quirin:** Cover-up! Cover-up!

**Madam Speaker:** I cannot accept this question.

**Mr Quirin:** Cover-up!

**Madam Speaker:** I do not know what hon. Mr A. Duval is talking about but I cannot accept your question.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order to clarify your ruling.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** *Kisasa!*

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** Sittings at the National Assembly since the general elections have time and time again referred to alleged recordings...

**Mr Bhagwan:** Manque du respect.

**Mr A. Duval:** ... including those of *Missie Moustass*.

**Madam Speaker:** Let me...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** Let me take a point of order! The point of order being why is it that Members on the government side have been able to put questions on those alleged recordings and that the Member from this side is not being allowed to?

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Let me answer. May I be allowed to answer? From what I heard this morning, maybe even before, there are investigations going on regarding Mr *Moutass* whereas in this case, I understand that...

**Mr A. Duval:** Nobody wants to investigate, that is the point!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** *Twa to enn malelve ...*

**Mr Quirin:** *Mem pa enn lanket...*

**Madam Speaker:** I can still not ...

**Mr Quirin:** *To mem pa fer enn lanket lor la!*

**Madam Speaker:** Okay! When you finish all of you...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Quirin:** *Pourquoi?*

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** May I be allowed, hon. Minister, to reply? Now, if you go on like this, I am going to lose, not my temper, but I am going to lose my head.

**Mr Quirin:** Shame!

**Madam Speaker:** What I was trying to say, if you will allow me, hon. Member, I do not know if I have to believe him or not, that is not my job. What I heard him saying was that

it has not been authenticated. It is not the same. It is not the same situation. The other one is under investigation.

So, I will not take this comparison. Now, let us proceed with the other questions. *Alors*, hon. Fourth Member for Rodrigues, Mr Edouard!

**Mr Edouard:** Madam Speaker, B/1068.

**Mr A. Duval:** ... at the end of the day...

**Mr Mohamed:** On a point of order, the hon. Member is making comments from a sitting position. He had the opportunity of trying to open his mouth for worthwhile reasons when he was Speaker but chose to fly around the country using taxpayers' money. In the circumstances, Madam Speaker, may I ask you, humbly, to request this hon. Member to start behaving in a proper manner?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** *Malelve!*

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Mohamed:** Shut it!

**Madam Speaker:** I do not want to keep repeating the same things over and over again...

**Mr Mohamed:** *Pa deklar malin.*

**Madam Speaker:** Please, hon. Minister! Please!

**Mr Mohamed:** Yes. I apologise.

**Mr Mohamed:** *Pa deklar malin kan ou pa malin.*

**Mr A. Duval:** *Tah, ale do ta...*

**Madam Speaker:** Why don't you guys ...

**Mr A. Duval:** ... *ar zot de pwa de mezir ! Ale ar zot de pwa de mezir !*

**Madam Speaker:** Are you saying this for me?

**Mr Mohamed:** *Vwayaze ankor do pigeon.*

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** *Twa ki pe dir mwa sa la ? Twa ki pe dir mwa sa la ?*

**Mr Mohamed:** *Vwayaz ar taxpayer's money.*

**Mr A. Duval:** *Twa ki pe dir mwa sa la ?*

**Madam Speaker:** Oh my God!

**Mr Mohamed:** *Mwa ki pe dir twa...*

**Mr Assirvaden:** *Pigeon lin dir ein... pigeon.*

**Mr A. Duval:** *Nou ti dir li get vwayaz lot fwa la!*

**Mr Mohamed:** *Dir, dir, dir ta. To nek koze, to pan konn...*

**Mr Assirvaden:** *To 'nn bien dir pigeon!*

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Mohamed:** *Al pran consej ar papi to vini!*

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Members, I am suspending the Sitting. That is enough! I am suspending the Sitting.

*At 3.28 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 3.41 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

**Madam Speaker:** Please be seated and take a deep breath.

Okay, I am now calling on the hon. Fourth Member for Rodrigues.

### **RODRIGUES – LIVESTOCK EXPORT – EMBARGO – MAURITIUS**

**(No. B/1068) Mr J. Edouard (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to the livestock in Rodrigues, he will state whether his Ministry will consider lifting the embargo imposed on the export thereof to Mauritius.

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much. Madam Speaker, there is no embargo in respect in the movement of cattle, sheep and goats from Rodrigues. The last restriction of movement of livestock from Rodrigues to Mauritius was imposed in March 2021 following the detection of foot and mouth disease cases.

Now, in order to control the depletion of Rodrigues livestock population, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly had imposed a temporary restriction of movement of cattle for the period of two months as from 24 February 2025.

Madam Speaker, since May 2025, a revised protocol for the movement of cattle from Rodrigues to Mauritius is applicable and the protocol *inter alia* makes provision for the following conditions –

1. The division of the veterinary services inspects farms in Mauritius to verify compliance with regard to biosecurity measures in place prior to issuing movement permits;
2. The veterinary services of Rodrigues Regional Assembly conducts foot-and-mouth disease virus testing, identification and registration of the National Livestock Information System;
3. The veterinary services of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly send the result of the test to the division of the veterinary services; only livestock tested negative for foot-and-mouth disease by the veterinary services of the Commission for Agriculture in Rodrigues is authorised for movement into Mauritius;
4. After assessment of the test results, identification, farms and other necessary information, the division of the veterinary services issues the movement permit;
5. Upon arrival in Mauritius, after inspection by a veterinary officer, livestock is allowed to move from port area to the respective approved farms as per the movement permit, and
6. Failing to comply with any of the above conditions shall imply that the applicant or farmer shall not be allowed to move livestock from Rodrigues for at least one year.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that on 7 October 2025, my Ministry requested the Commission for Agriculture, Rodrigues Regional Assembly to provide information with regard to the number of goats and sheep which could be made available to Mauritius for the end of year festivities. A quota for movement of livestock has been provided by the Commission for Agriculture, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 9 October 2025 for 1,150 animals including cows, bulls, goats and sheep for the period October to December 2025. From the beginning of November 2025 to date, 75 cattle, 457 sheep and 300 goats have already reached Mauritius.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister. Yes, hon. Edouard?

**Mr Edouard:** Is the hon. Minister aware that with the present protocol, farmers are losing confidence in livestock farming and they are stressed with overcrowded farms?

**Dr. Boolell:** No, I am not aware. I am glad that you made me aware but then the Commission for Agriculture of Rodrigues should see to it that the matter is addressed in a very forceful and meaningful manner and to see to it the biosecurity and safety is the crux of livestock farming.

**Mr François:** Madam Speaker...

**Madam Speaker:** Yes?

**Mr François:** Just one supplementary if you allow me. May I ask the hon. Minister whether there is still MFD traceability in Rodrigues?

**Dr. Boolell:** As of now, no. There is no case reported.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, the hon. First Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East!

#### **CONSTITUENCY NO.10 – FOOTBALL PITCHES – LIGHTING INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE**

**(No. B/1069) Mr C. Baboolall (First Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the football pitches of Bel Air, Ernest, Bramsthan and Sebastopol, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the District Council of Flacq, information as to a timeframe for the installation of lighting facilities thereat and adequate maintenance thereof.

**The Minister of Health and Wellness (Mr A. Bachoo):** Madam Speaker, I am informed there are two football pitches in Bel Air, one located at St Michel and the other one at Petit Bois Caroline, while the village of Bramsthan has only one football ground. According to the District Council of Flacq, the respective lighting system of the three aforementioned football pitches is functional.

With regard to Ernest Florent football ground, I am advised the Council intends to replace the existing underground cables by new overhead wiring as well as the floodlights.

Madam Speaker, there are two football grounds at Sebastopol located at Pellegrin and Lesur in Sebastopol where the floodlights have to be replaced as well. I am informed that due to budgetary constraints, the projects at Ernest Florent and Sebastopol football grounds have

been deferred and my Ministry and the District Council of Flacq are exploring alternative funding sources.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. No supplementary? Okay, the hon. Third Member for Pamplémousses and Triolet!

### **WATER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS – NEW APPLICATIONS – TIMELINE FOR CLEARANCE**

**(No. B/1070) Mr K. Rookny (Third Member for Pamplémousses & Triolet)** asked the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to new applications for water supply connections, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the –

- (a) number thereof currently pending, category-wise, indicating –
  - (i) when same were submitted, and
  - (ii) reasons for the delays, and
- (b) measures being taken to expedite same and expected timelines for clearance.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Madame la présidente, la *CWA* m’informe qu’elle gère six zones sur l’île. Ces six zones reçoivent en moyenne 300 nouvelles demandes par semaine. On m’informe que la *CWA* soustrait la réalisation des nouveaux raccordements à des entreprises privées. Ces entreprises sont tenues d’effectuer au minimum 40 nouveaux raccordements et 20 m<sup>2</sup> de travaux de réfection, de voirie par semaine et par zone sur cinq jours ouvrables hors weekends et jours fériés.

Selon les informations communiquées par la *CWA*, sur les six zones d’approvisionnement en eau, deux à savoir les zones de Nord et *Lower*, n’ont aucun sous-traitant pour la réalisation des nouveaux raccordements. Ces opérations sont effectuées en interne par la *CWA*. La *CWA* a indiqué que pour les deux nouveaux appels d’offre qui seront lancés prochainement pour ces deux zones, le nombre minimal de nouvelles demandes à raccordement à traiter par semaine passera de 40 à 60.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (a) de la question, j’ai été informé que le nombre total de nouvelles demandes reçues depuis 2020 à ce jour, s’élève à 53 892, dont 38 296 raccordements ont été effectués, 1 984 annulés. Actuellement, nous avons 13 612 demandes qui sont encore en attente pour la zone d’approvisionnement en eau pour les six secteurs.

Concernant la partie (a)(ii) de la question, la *CWA* m’informe également que les principales causes de retard dans la mise en place des nouveaux approvisionnements sont multiples et comprennent –

- Retard dans l’attribution du contrat de réparation des nouveaux raccordements ;
- Droit de passage accordé par la *RDA* et d’autres autorités locales ;
- En attente des travaux de pose de tuyaux internes effectués par les demandeurs ;
- Retard de paiement ;
- Documents manquants, non-soumis ;
- Conditions de chantier difficiles, et dernier
- Litige entre demandeurs et familles et voisins.

Madame la présidente, concernant la partie (b) de la question, la *CWA* m’informe que pour résorber l’arriéré, elle envisage de prendre une série de mesures, celles-ci comprennent –

- (a) Renforcer les capacités d’enquête sur le terrain grâce à un déploiement d’équipe d’enquêteurs supplémentaire dans les zones où le retard est important, réaffectation temporaire du personnel technique dans d’autres zones, introduction d’un objectif hebdomadaire de production d’enquête par équipe,
- (b) Mobilisation accélérée des entrepreneurs et suivi des performances. Donc, augmenter le nombre d’équipes d’installation active en réaffectant les sous-traitants. Augmentation du minimum hebdomadaire du 40 à 55 unités par entrepreneur.

Madame la présidente, comme indiqué précédemment au cours des cinq dernières années, soit de 2020 à ce jour, 13 612 demandes de raccordement des tuyaux d’eau potable dans la zone des six secteurs sont toujours en attente. Bien que la *CWA* a indiqué que des mesures correctives sont prises pour résorber ce retard, je crains que le traitement de ces demandes ne prenne un peu plus de temps. La *CWA* m’a également informé qu’à l’expiration des contrats de nouveaux raccordements d’ici début 2026, elle lancera un accord cadre afin d’accélérer les nouveaux raccordements et la remise en état des routes.

L’Assemblée voudra peut-être noter que j’ai demandé au *General Manager* de la *CWA* d’examiner personnellement la question posée par l’honorable membre et d’élaborer un plan

de mise en œuvre en vue de réduire l'arriéré existant. Notre souci à nous, outre les 13 612 demandes qui sont toujours en attente, nous avons en moyenne comme je l'ai dit un peu plus tôt, 300 demandes par semaine et avec la main d'œuvre que nous avons, avec les contracteurs que nous avons, nous arrivons à fixer que 240 cas par semaine. Donc, chaque semaine nous avons des arriérés de 65 demandes. Donc, pour vous dire que la situation est un peu compliquée, mais j'ai demandé à la *CWA* de revoir et je reviendrai à l'Assemblée nationale concernant les mesures correctives.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes ?

**Mr Rookny:** *Madam Speaker*, j'ai bien compris que pour les zones du nord il n'y a pas de contracteurs. Je voudrais savoir si le ministre pourrait nous informer de la raison pour laquelle les contracteurs n'ont pas été nommés, n'ont pas été *appointed*.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Les contracteurs ?

**Mr Rookny:** Les sous-contracteurs n'ont pas été nommés pour les connections.

**Mr Assirvaden:** J'ai appris que le contrat était terminé. On a lancé un appel d'offres pour le nord, mais cela n'a pas été concluant. Donc, on va refaire l'exercice dans quelques semaines.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, one more.

**Mr Rookny:** *Madam Speaker*, des 13 000 demandes toujours en attentes et des doléances que j'ai de mes mandants, il paraît qu'il y a beaucoup d'applications qui sont plus vieilles que deux ans, donc des gens qui ont payé pour être raccordés depuis deux ans, mais toujours en attente. Donc, des nouvelles maisons, des gens qui attendent de rentrer dans leur maison n'ont pas d'eau. Quand est-ce que les réaménagements vont être faits au niveau de la *CWA*, les équipes techniques seront basculées dans le nord pour qu'on puisse soulager nos mandants ? Merci.

**Mr Assirvaden:** Je voudrais préciser à l'honorable membre, Madame la présidente, que vous avez des personnes qui ont demandé à être raccordées au réseau de la *CWA* depuis deux ans, mais on a depuis cinq ans, donc depuis 2020. Il y a des demandes déjà de 2020 à ce jour. Donc, c'est pour cette raison que nous sommes arrivés à 13 000. Il faudra graduellement réduire ce *backlog*. Ce qui se passe c'est que nous allons demander une chose, comme je l'ai dit un peu plus tôt, aux contracteurs de passer de 40 raccordements par semaine à 60 par semaine, une chose. Deuxième chose, nous allons lancer un appel d'offres pour recruter

d'autres contracteurs, des contracteurs qui ne sont pas dans le nord, mais qui peuvent sortir d'autres régions pour aider dans le nord, mais qui peuvent sortir d'autres régions pour aider dans le nord. Mais je dirais que nous avons aussi pensé à ce qu'une équipe interne de la CWA pourrait aussi participer au raccordement.

**Madam Speaker:** Now, we have the hon. Third Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle!

### **ILLEGAL RALLIES & MOTOR RACING – LEGAL FRAMEWORK & MOTORSPORTS TRACK CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/1071) Mr A. Ramdass (Third Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the illegal rallies and motor racing occurring in public places and along public roads, he will state if his Ministry is considering –

- (a) setting up a legal framework therefor with a view to reducing risks of accidents, and
- (b) constructing a car rally track for the promotion thereof and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Madam Speaker, motorsports, particularly rally and racing, are witnessing a surge in popularity in Mauritius. This growing interest reflects a broader global trend where young people are increasingly drawn to high adrenaline skill-based sports that require precision, discipline and teamwork.

However, Mauritius currently lacks a dedicated and secure facility that allows for the structured development of this sport discipline. Motorsports enthusiasts often resort to informal and unsafe venues to practice or compete, which presents serious risks both to themselves and to public safety.

This Government, Madam Speaker, not only preaches, but also practices compassionate governance, and in the 2025-2026 Budget, the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance provided an amount of Rs6 million for a feasibility study on the construction of a rally circuit for our young rally enthusiasts.

The construction of a purpose-built motorsports track would provide a safe, regulated environment for training, competitions and recreational use. Such a facility would allow for the organisation of authorised events under the supervision of the relevant sports federations and institutions, thereby ensuring that all activities adhere to national and international safety standards and regulations.

More importantly, the track would serve as a preventive measure against illegal street racing, which causes a growing danger on public roads. By offering an alternative legal outlet for motorsports enthusiasts to express their passion for racing, the project would contribute significantly to road safety awareness, instilling in participants a culture of responsibility, discipline and respect for traffic laws.

The project aligns with Government's vision regarding youth empowerment, social inclusion and sports development. It would serve as a hub for skill building, providing training opportunities in mechanics, driving techniques, event management, safety protocols, and even entrepreneurship in the motorsports industry.

Madam Speaker, a technical committee comprising officers of my Ministry, led by engineers from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and officers of the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit, was set up to draft a term of reference for the enlistment of the services of a consultant to conduct the feasibility study. Motor cycling clubs, NGOs for the protection of road users and other stakeholders have been consulted, and the term of reference has been finalised. The consultant will be required to objectively assess whether the construction of a motorsports track is practical and likely to succeed in Mauritius. By evaluating its potential viability from various perspectives, including technical, economic, legal, operational and venues generation, my Ministry is currently preparing the bidding documents which will be launched shortly.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Mr Ramdass!

**Mr Ramdass:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the hon. Minister for his reply. Can we have an indication as to the timeframe for the realisation of this project?

**Mr Nagalingum:** I cannot tell you about the timeframe, but all I can say is that the technical committee has been established. They are from senior management – technical officers from my Ministry, project coordinator led by engineers of my Ministry, and

representatives of the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit. The number of meetings held so far is four: 22.07.2025; 13.08.2025; 01.09.2025; 10.09.2025.

**Madam Speaker:** I am so sorry. I am checking my Standing Order. Yes, go ahead!

**Mr Ramdass:** One last question. Can the hon. Minister give an indication to the House as to whether a site has been identified for this project?

**Mr Nagalingum:** Not yet, hon. Member. The technical committee will do the feasibility study. Then, they will tell us exactly where we can have the racing track.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Dr. Prayag.

**Dr. Prayag:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the Minister even consider having more than one site available for such a project because it affects all the youngsters of our country? Many of them even lose their lives while doing illegal rallies?

**Mr Nagalingum:** Like I said, a speech was made in the Budget by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and we are being given Rs6 million to do that project. I cannot say if we can have two, three or more than one, but we will start by one.

**Madam Speaker:** Alright. B/1072 has been withdrawn.

#### **RIVIÈRE DU REMPART DISTRICT COUNCIL – ALLEGED MISSING STREETLIGHTS – INQUIRY**

(No. B/1072) **Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the recent allegations of missing streetlights worth over 3 million rupees from the Rivière du Rempart District Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether an inquiry has been initiated thereinto and, if so, where matters stand.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **MINORS UNDER MINISTRY’S CUSTODY – CDU FOLLOW-UP & HOSPITAL OVERSTAYS’ DISCONTINUATION**

(No. B/1073) **Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare whether, in regard to the children placed under the custody of her Ministry, she will state –

- (a) the program, if any, implemented therefor or follow-up thereof made by the Children Development Unit once they reach 18 years old, especially, those with behavioural concerns, and
- (b) whether consideration will be given to discontinue the practice of admitting such children in hospitals over long periods of time in the absence of medical reasons therefor.

*(Vide Reply to PQ B/1058)*

**Madam Speaker:** So, now, I call Dr. Prayag, First Member for Piton and Rivière du Rempart!

**MEDICAL BOARD DEPARTMENT – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS –  
ALLOWANCES - ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS**

**(No. B/1074) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity whether, in regard to the pre-Covid 19 practice of medical practitioners of the Medical Board Department of his Ministry carrying out medical examinations to assess eligibility for various benefits in public hospitals, especially, at the SSRN Hospital, he will state if consideration will be given for the resumption thereof and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Mr Subron:** Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that under the current system a medical assessment is carried out by medical practitioners of my Ministry to determine the eligibility of applicants to the Invalid's Basic Pension or Disability Allowance and Carer's Allowance.

As at date, there 345 medical practitioners employed on sessional basis, serving the Medical Unit of my Ministry. Assessments are carried out either by a medical board, which comprises two medical practitioners or by one medical practitioner at the claimant's residence for those whose mobility is limited and who cannot attend the medical board.

Madam Speaker, I am informed that prior to COVID-19 pandemic, medical boards were carried out in public hospitals, area health centres and in social security offices across the island. The last medical board at SSRN Hospital was held on 09 March 2020 and was subsequently ceased due COVID-19 pandemic. However, for patients who were admitted in the Brown Sequard Hospital, medical assessment has been continued in the said institution till date.

I am further informed that since year 2023, medical assessments are being carried out at the Moka Eye Hospital and the Souillac Hospital for cases of visual impairments. Thus, at present, medical boards related to disability benefits or pensions are being conducted in 15 social security offices in Mauritius and Moka Eye Hospital, Souillac Hospital and Brown Sequard Hospital.

I am tabling, for the attention of the Members, a complete list of the centres.

Madam Speaker, I wish to highlight that my Ministry is currently in the process of reforming the Invalidity Pension and Disability Allowance system. The conduct of medical boards in public hospitals has been considered in this context as it will facilitate access to medical records of applicants. A first round of discussion has already been held with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Once the holistic reform and its new assessment model is ready to be implemented, we will then reevaluate the necessity of holding medical boards in hospitals or in some of the hospitals. Of course, in this context, necessary clearance will be sought from the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

Now, the hon. Third Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle!

Have I missed one? I am sorry one moment. Just I keep getting little papers about being withdrawn etc., so sometimes I may lose sight. So, the next one is Mr Ramdass. But if I make a mistake, you just tell me.

### **ROSE BELLE AREA HEALTH CENTRE – METHADONE DAILY DISTRIBUTION – RELOCATION**

**(No. B/1075) Mr A. Ramdass (Third Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to the daily distribution of Methadone at the Rose Belle Area Health Centre situated in a residential area and the risks to the safety of inhabitants and road users including women and school children, he will state if consideration will be given for the advisability of relocating the distribution of Methadone to an alternative area.

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, methadone is presently being dispensed at 23 police station sites, five Community Health Centres, 13 Area Health Centres, five Methadone Day

Care Centres, 7 Mediclinics, 2 community sites, 8 hospitals and 5 points in Prison Setting catering for around 8,745 beneficiaries daily. The total number of dispensing points of methadone including police station sites, healthcare settings, community sites, Methadone Day Care Centres and Prison Services is 74. At certain sites, there are two dispensing points and different dispensing times: 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. caravan and 9 a.m. to noon in healthcare settings.

The relocation of methadone dispensing sites from police stations to healthcare settings is one component of a holistic approach to the management of patients and opioid use disorder. In that context, a national protocol namely, '*Protocole de prise en charge de l'usage de drogue à Maurice*' was elaborated in March 2023 in order to come up with evidence-informed management of people for those drugs at large in a comprehensive manner and also address the issue of methadone dispensing.

However, this protocol is currently being reviewed by a joint technical working group between the National Agency for Drug Control and the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Its objectives, amongst others, is to come up with sustainable measures and solutions to methadone dispensing issues in all its dimensions.

Madam Speaker, it is expected that the new protocol will help to empty our streets and police stations of drug users, considerably reduce drug dealing, increase the safety of all residents and treat drug users in a humane, ethical and effective way, enabling most of them to return to a normal life and professional reintegration.

Methadone dispensing at the Rose Belle Area Health Centre has started in September 2023 with two patients and is currently catering for 139 patients, both inside Area Healthcare Centre and in the yard to the caravan.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry is well aware that the Rose Belle Area Health Centre is situated in a residential area and the risk involved in that, there are problems of loitering, littering and other anti-social behaviours of the patients during and after dispensing time. In this respect, several meetings are being held with the police of the region to enforce security and to discourage loitering and anti-social behaviour during and after dispensing hours.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry will certainly look into the possibility of relocating the dispensing point into another suitable area.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Mr Ramdass!

**Mr Ramdass:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the hon. Minister for his reply. Whilst I do understand, Madam Speaker, that no one wants to have this activity carried out within his vicinity, however carrying out such an activity in a residential area poses risk to the security of the residence. One possible option would be to relocate this activity to JNH Hospital, will the hon. Minister be willing to consider that possibility, at least to give some thought, some consideration to that possibility?

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Minister!

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, this matter is being looked into by the joint committee will be set up with NADC and my Ministry. But I can tell the hon. Member that the question of putting back to the hospitals that is not something which is recommended because we have patients there, we have to look after patients, not after drug addicts only.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Dr. Prayag!

**Dr. Prayag:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Maybe the hon. Minister could consider shifting back, I mean, to dispense methadone, given that it has to be done under police supervision, to do it in the police stations of the neighbourhoods with the staff of the Ministry of Health and Wellness?

**Mr Bachoo:** Even the Commissioner of Police is not of that opinion. Unfortunately, that's why we have got a joint meeting between NADC and our Ministry.

**Madam Speaker:** You will find a solution!

**Mr Bachoo:** We will try to find a solution.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, one more Mr Ramdass and then Dr. Aumeer!

**Mr Ramdass:** I understand that this activity... Of course, I stand guided, I stand corrected by the hon. Minister, but I understand that this activity is already carried out at JNH Hospital, possibly identifying a specific area ...

**Madam Speaker:** Which hospital?

**Mr Ramdass:** JNH Hospital

... within the precinct of the hospital could be a possibility that the hon. Minister could envisage?

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, earlier hospitals were being used for that purpose. But as I told you, it's being discouraged nowadays because of the number of patients attending hospitals and even doctors are not agreeable to this. So, I have to find out certain suitable places where this can be dispensed.

**Madam Speaker:** Aucun problème n'est insurmontable.

**Mr Bachoo:** Definitely, Madam Speaker, I told you we have got a meeting with NADC and my Ministry. They are trying to find out ways and means to solve this problem. It's not only in Rose Belle, in each and every area of this country, nobody wants these things to be dispensed near localities. So, we have to have to find places. It's very difficult.

**Madam Speaker:** Bon courage M. le Ministre.

Dr. Aumeer!

**Dr. Aumeer:** Madam Speaker, thank you. May I ask the hon. Minister whether if he could liaise with NADC so that methadone distribution which has done its days – you will find different methods of substitution therapy which no longer needs to have these people on the roads on a daily basis? Try to, if you can, use your influence to tell them there are suboxone and other drugs that can be used on a long-term therapy and have lesser people on the roads? Thank you.

**Mr Bachoo:** Madam Speaker, I am not an expert in that. I will rely on NADC for this because they are experts, they know how to deal with this problem.

**Madam Speaker:** But we keep hearing this. Thank you, Dr. Aumeer.

Yes, next question, Mr François!

## **REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS – CORAL BLEACHING EVENTS – IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(No. B/1076) Mr J. F. François (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries 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.

**Dr. Boolell:** I will reply to the question. It's a lengthy reply and all the information related is in the reply and it's worth perusing it.

**Madam Speaker:** Can't you table part of it?

**Dr. Boolell:** I will circulate it.

**Madam Speaker:** You will circulate. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, I am sorry. Of course, I keep being contacted by the lower Table. So, I have to tell you that the Table has been advised that the following PQs have been withdrawn, let me do that and then we will proceed. B/1072, B/1077, B/1079, B/1081, B/1086, B/1091, B/1092, B/1096, B/1100, B/1102, and B/1104.

I will have to check every time. So, B/1078 should be alright. Question of Dr. Prayag has been withdrawn. So, now we have Member for Rodrigues, Mr Edouard!

**RIVIÈRE DU REMPART – CRUSHER RUN DISTRIBUTION – SITES – JANUARY  
2025 TO 25 NOVEMBER 2025**

**(No. B/1077) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the distribution of Crusher Run by the District Council of Rivière du Rempart in Constituency No. 7, Piton - Rivière du Rempart since January 2025 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain and provide the list of the sites where same was distributed, indicating in each case, the quantity thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

**RODRIGUES – PUBLIC SERVICE – 243 GENERAL WORKERS DISMISSAL –  
COMPLAINTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(No. B/1078) Mr J. Edouard (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations whether, in regard the 243 General Workers fired from the public service in Rodrigues in 2012, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Office of the Ombudsman, information as to where matters stand concerning the complaint filed thereat in relation thereto and the recommendations thereof, if any, on the way forward.

**Mr Uteem:** Madam Speaker, at the outset, let me point out that the question relates to the Ombudsman as section 96 of the Constitution has not yet been amended and we still refer to Ombudsman as opposed to Ombudsperson unlike Ombudsperson for Children and Ombudsperson for Financial Services.

Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Office of the Ombudsman that according to its record, no investigation was initiated in relation to the dismissal of 234 general workers from the Public Service in Rodrigues.

However, the matter was the subject of judicial proceedings and a judgement was delivered by the Supreme Court on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. I am informed that following the termination of employment, several former general workers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly appealed to the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal which concluded that the termination was in accordance with law.

The aggrieved former general workers then applied to the Supreme Court for a judicial review of the determination of the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal. The Supreme Court held that the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal did not have jurisdiction to hear the appeal and declared the tribunal's decision to be a nullity.

The Ombudsman has also informed that in light of the said judgement the decision to terminate the employment of the temporary general workers emanated from the Public Service Commission and in accordance with section 97 (2) (g) (iii) of the Constitution, the Ombudsman is not empowered to enquire into the decision of the Public Service Commission.

Madam Speaker, at the level of my Ministry, I am informed that there is no record of any complaint received from the former general workers recruited by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, Mr Edouard, you alright? Okay.

Let us carry on. Hon. François.

#### **INTERTOWN GAMES – PARTICIPATING MUNICIPAL COUNCILS**

**(No. B/1079) Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the Intertown Games currently being held, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain the list of the –

- (a) Municipal Councils having enlisted and those not having enlisted athletes to participate therein, indicating the reasons therefor in the latter case, and
- (b) measures being envisaged to help urban authorities to make such an event more successful.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **DIGITAL ACCESS INTRODUCTION – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – STATUS**

**(No. B/1080) Mr J. F. François (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of Digital Access as an integral citizen right and the way forward, including the need for a constitutional amendment, he will state where matters stand.

**Dr. Ramtohul:** Madam Speaker, as the House may be aware, my Ministry launched a Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-29 earlier this year and this blueprint serves as a comprehensive roadmap which is built on four strategic pillar and five enablers.

As a government, we see digital access being of fundamental citizen right and which is deeply embedded within the pillars and the enablers that feature in the blueprint. Universal and reliable digital infrastructure ensures connectivity while legal protections and cyber security measures safeguard personal data and build trust. Meanwhile, the focus on digital literacy equipped citizens with the skills that they require and these pillars, together with the comprehensive ecosystem, where every citizen can fully participate in the digital economy and foster trust and confidence in the system.

It is good that I point out here, Madam Speaker, that the previous regime promised a smart Mauritius for a decade. Yet, they left communities without functioning digital services. Their slogan was smart; their governance was obsolete.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that an interministerial committee has been established and my Ministry is monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the blueprint. We have also established a dashboard for every minister, the PS and SCE for every ministry to be able to monitor implementation of the projects.

Furthermore, my Ministry is holding consultations with the relevant institutions to identify appropriate reforms and to strengthen digital rights, privacy and data governance as it recognises the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks are vital for guarantying digital

rights. Half-baked apps, system that crashed, e-services nobody used; we, on the other hand, are embedding digital access into the governance framework as a right not as a marketing tool.

Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Attorney General's Office that amendments will be made to the Constitution of Mauritius to better protect fundamental rights including new generation rights relating to technology in line with the Government Programme 2025-2029 and as reflected in the blueprint for ICT. So, the Constitutional Review Commission which shall be set up, shall look into the inclusion of digital rights as the fundamental right under Section 2 of the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the previous administration created a two-speed Mauritius: the connected and the forgotten. We refuse that model. They treated citizens as users; we treat them as right holders.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister. You are fantastic; you are very happy. I am happy when you are happy.

Yes, hon. Fourth Member for Port-Louis North and Montagne Longue, Mr A. Duval.

#### **RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS – WATER STRESS ALLEVIATION – VIABLE SCHEMES**

**(No. B/1081) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to rainwater harvesting systems, he will state whether, with a view to alleviating water stress that impacts on daily functioning and sanitary requirements, his Ministry will consider –

- (a) imposing a profit ceiling thereon to increase the accessibility thereof for domestic usage, and
- (b) implementing viable schemes therefor in favour of public institutions.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **BAMBOUS VIRIEUX TO POINTE DIABLE – SOIL EROSION – DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT**

**(No. B/1083) Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of National Infrastructure whether, in regard to the segment of the

road stretching from Bambous Virieux to Pointe Diable along which resurfacing works are ongoing, he will state if any geotechnical or drainage assessment was carried out prior thereto and, if not, indicate whether consideration will be given for the –

- (a) provision of drainage facilities thereat to prevent soil erosion and water accumulation, and
- (b) construction of a retaining wall or protective structure to stabilise the slope and safeguard the newly resurfaced road.

*(Withdrawn)*

**“BY-CATCH FISH” – GENERATED TURNOVER – LICENCES**

**(No. B/1084) Mr A. Duval (Fourth Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to “by-catch fish”, he will state –

- (a) the turnover generated from the sale thereof over the past financial year;
- (b) regarding the licences issued therefor, indicate the –
  - (i) conditions attached thereto;
  - (ii) eligibility criteria to be issued therewith, and
  - (iii) number of current licence-holders, and
- (c) the details of licences issued since January 2025 to date, including date of application and of issue, names of licence-holders and whether the licences were issued following any tender exercise and if so, give details thereof.

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that there has never been any record on “by-catch fish” turnover generated from sales. However, I am informed that the turnover generated for period July 2024 to June 2025 for the removal of 18 Part 15 turn of “by-catch fish” fish from licensed foreign tuna long liners amounted to Rs140,200 in terms of commission for the Agricultural Marketing Board.

Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight that prior to 08 August 2025, non-licensed foreign tuna longliners were not under any obligation to declare or sell the “by-catch fish” fish to the AMB.

With regard to part (b) (i) of the question, I am informed by the Agricultural Marketing Board that buying agents are appointed in line with section 11(h) of the Mauritius

Agricultural Marketing Board Act 1963 under the conditions and responsibilities associated with the appointment, include of tension of all applicable permits and licences having the capacity to bear all operational costs associated with the removal of “by-catch fish”, purchasing, procuring, selling or otherwise disposing of “by-catch fish” on behalf of AMB and operating strictly within the commission structure approved by AMB.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) (ii) of the question, I am informed by the Agricultural Marketing Board, that the eligibility criteria for an entity to be appointed as buying agent by the AMB are as follows –

1. Holder of a valid Food Handler Certificate;
2. Fishmongers’ licence, and
3. An import permit for fish and fish products.

It is worth noting that prior to finalising the eligibility criteria, the issue was discussed and approved by Cabinet. Moreover, a buying agent must also be financially sound and should have access to suitable storage facilities in line with regulation 4(2) of the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing (Controlled Products) Regulations 2025 and be fit and proper.

With regards to part (b) (iii) of the question, I am informed by the AMB that currently there are two buying agents namely Ecotropik and Aquarius Company Ltd. Madam Speaker, the AMB received an application from Ecotropik Company Ltd on 15 May 2025 and for Aquarius Company Ltd on 18 August 2025. The appointment as buying agent was effected on 09 June 2025 and 03 September 2025 respectively. The application of the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd will be entertained favourably once its new executive has been appointed.

Madam Speaker, I wish to point out that no tender exercise has ever been carried out for the appointment of any buying agent. However, in a spirit of transparency, accountability and good governance and contrary to previous practices, this government has now come up with criteria for the appointment of buying agents through the promulgation of Mauritius Agricultural Marketing (Controlled Products) Regulations 2025.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, I understand that the former authorised agent, the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd which has been the authorised agent for 20 or 30 years, had in fact, in 2022, in part of a discussion at his Ministry – he was not yet there – and it was decided then that it would not be in the interest of the MCFC to remove them as

authorised agent as it would lead to loss of jobs. There are minutes for that and it would create a financial burden ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Every time, you are not asking questions.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, I have listened to the Chief Whip earlier; you have said nothing.

**Madam Speaker:** I know! I am going to tell her as well.

**Mr A. Duval:** So, may I be extended the same leniency?

**Madam Speaker:** Okay. For today, I am going to let you.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** It is true that the Chief Whip did the same thing.

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes! The question, therefore, is...

**Madam Speaker:** Come with your question!

**Mr A. Duval:** The question, therefore, is what financial support, if any, or what arrangements will be made for the MFCF now that it has seen itself, after 30 years, deprived of exploitation of by-catch?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** *Dimann marsan pwason!*

**Dr. Boolell:** In fact, if the hon. Member has paid heed...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Chut!

**Dr. Boolell:** ...to what I have said, I have said the application of Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation will be entertained favourably once its new executive has been appointed. I can tell you, in relation to what we are doing to bring onboard the federation, it will serve the interests of the federation and fishmonger co-operative society contrary to past practice when one person had monopoly over the sale of fish.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, with regard to the...

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Question!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, question. Figures are available. For 2019, the federation had registered a turnover of Rs6.6 million. For 2022, Rs4.7 million paid to them.

**Madam Speaker:** Question!

**Mr A. Duval:** In commission for the sale. Therefore, there are figures. It is a lucrative business.

**An hon. Member:** *Kestion!*

**Mr A. Duval:** Now, that this has created a serious impediment to their revenues which, by the way, is used to be distributed amongst their members. They say a thousand fishermen benefits from these.

*(Interruptions)*

What is going to be made with regard to the fishermen who might now have been left...

**Madam Speaker:** In limbo.

**Mr A. Duval:** Sur le banc de touche.

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Speaker, ...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** ...*ti nome par MSM.*

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Chut!

**Dr. Boolell:** Let me impress upon the Member that at long last, there is transparency and accountability. We expect the federation to be transparent, and it has been given the opportunity to be transparent, and it will be taken onboard. Contrary to the past practice when Mr Seetaram was member of the Agricultural Marketing Board! Member of the Agricultural Marketing Board!

**An hon. Member:** *Ala li la!*

**Dr. Boolell:** The Agricultural Marketing Board was the body issuing the permit. He was sitting on the board and he had total control over those who were entitled to remove fish from the non-licensing fishing vessel.

Today, we are widening the circle and giving opportunity to one and all because we are bundling the non-licensed fishing vessels, which means that the quantum will be much

bigger. Therefore, the shares acquired will be to one and all. We have said priority is first to fishmonger co-operative society.

They all have obligations to serve first and foremost the fishmonger cooperative society. We are waiting, and I have said it, once they have set up their executive, the federation will be taken onboard. We are going to entertain their application favourably.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, please!

**Madam Speaker:** Question! Question!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes. The hon. Minister must be clear. There are now only two private companies acting as authorised agents. This is not transparency.

Nonetheless, Madam Speaker, let me ask the hon. Minister if he is aware that prices of fish, since the new framework in August, has increased substantially because of increased commissioning being made now by those two authorised agents? Can he confirm whether the commission that is supposed to be set up at the level of the AMB for deciding on the prices of fish has been set up, and who sits on it?

**Dr. Boolell:** The information being relayed by our friend is wrong! He has been fed with the wrong information.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay.

**Dr. Boolell:** Let me impress upon him that the committee is doing its work in all transparency, and there is no reason to spread or to fuel rumours. Contrary to past practices when there was opacity in relation to activities being carried out by Mr Seetaram and his acolytes!

**An hon. Member:** *Lerla li pa ti trov nanye!*

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Babajee!

**Mr Babajee:** Yes, Madam Speaker. May I ask the hon. Minister, as he just said, in regards to Mr Seetaram...

**An hon. Member:** Bassoo!

**Mr Babajee:** ...where everyone was saying *misie pwason* of the MSM regime. Will he start an enquiry on the same person? Was there conflict of interest between the AMB and the by-catch? If there were irregularities, will actions be taken?

**Dr. Boolell:** I thank the hon. Member. There was blatant conflict of interest! An inquiry will be conducted.

**Madam Speaker:** The question was: can you start an investigation?

**Dr. Boolell:** Yes!

**Madam Speaker:** It is a new question. He asked for members of the commission.

*(Interruptions)*

**Dr. Boolell:** The information will be circulated.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, exactly. Easy!

I have finished with hon. A. Duval. Hon. Baboolall, First Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East!

#### **MEDINE, CAMP DE MASQUE – MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/1085) Mr C. Baboolall (First Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether in regard to the construction of the Multipurpose Complex-one Stop Shop at Medine Camp de Masque, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the start and completion dates thereof, indicating the sum paid to the contractor as at to date and reasons for the delay thereof.

**The Minister of Health and Wellness (Mr A. Bachoo):** Madam Speaker, the construction of Multipurpose Complex at Medine, Camp de Masque was approved in financial year 2023-2024 as a design and build project at an estimated of Rs62 million and Rs25 million has been earmarked in the current financial year.

The building will be located on a land of an extent of 11,240 square metres owned by the District Council of Flacq. In the meantime, the council is undertaking the construction of the block wall by its in-house labour. As at date, up to 60% of the wall has been completed. In August 2024, the District Council of Flacq has invited request for proposals for the selection of consultants for design of a multipurpose complex at Medine. It was launched with closing date 02 September 2024.

Two bids were received. However, after evaluation of the proposals, none of them were found to be responsive. Given that the multipurpose complex will house different government entities, the District Council of Flacq intends to consult the relevant stakeholders before

proceeding with the relaunching of the tender for a consultant for the design of the multipurpose complex by the end of January 2026.

The works on the site are expected to start in August 2026 and completed by September 2027.

#### **ELECTRICITY DEMAND – SOLAR SYSTEM KITS – PROFIT CEILING IMPLEMENTATION**

**(No. B/1086) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to the impending increase in demand for electricity during the peak summer season, he will state if his Ministry will consider imposing a profit ceiling on solar system kits aiming at encouraging investment therein thus reducing reliance on the national grid.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **BOIS-DES-AMOURETTES – FOOTBALL PITCH RENOVATION**

**(No. B/1087) Mr M. Seeburn (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the renovation of the football pitch at Bois-des-Amourettes, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether a technical assessment has been carried out to verify compliance with the initial project specifications and standards, indicating if discrepancies have been observed and, if so, indicate –

- (a) whether –
  - (i) the contractor will be required to carry out remedial works, and
  - (ii) actions will be taken against anyone having condoned same, and
- (b) expected date of coming into operation of the said football pitch.

*(Withdrawn)*

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Chief Whip! B/1088!

#### **PALMA – ST MARIE COLLEGE – REAR ACCESS REQUEST**

**(No. B/1088) Ms S. Anquetil (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the St Marie College, in Palma, he will state if his Ministry is in presence of a request for the opening of a rear access to the said College that would open on State land, with a view to alleviating traffic congestion

currently prevailing on Laseringue Avenue during school days and, if so, indicate whether consideration will be given to granting such access on State land.

**Mr Mohamed:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Ministry of Local Government had, on 03 October 2024, submitted a request to my Ministry for the creation of a new access road from Palma SSS running along State land up to St Marie College with a view to easing traffic congestion along Laseringue Avenue during school days.

Consequently, a joint site visit was carried out with the relevant stakeholders, including the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit to address issues pertaining to creation of the said access through State land. The TMRSU has made its recommendations in the matter proposing that consideration be given to utilising the existing road network of Palma VRS Morcellement as an alternative access to service St Marie College.

However, I am further informed that the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes has initiated fresh consultations with the TMRSU to determine the most appropriate course of action in this regard. Accordingly, Madam Speaker, upon a decision being reached among the relevant stakeholders and duly communicated to my Ministry, needful shall be done for the release or reallocation of the required plot of State land to facilitate the implementation of the project through State land.

This is something which has been pending for a long time. Through the intervention of the hon. Members of this constituency, I hope this is being favourably considered. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Question, not statement, please!

**Ms Anquetil:** Yes! Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente. Je remercie aussi l'honorable ministre pour sa réponse sincère. C'est une décision qui aurait dû être prise depuis longtemps. Le ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre si son ministère envisage d'effectuer un *site visit* des lieux afin de déclencher les démarches nécessaires? Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Mr Mohamed:** Madam Speaker, as I have said in my reply, since the TMRSU has already made recommendations with regard to the existing road network and then the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes has initiated fresh consultations with the TMRSU, it will be for those institutions to communicate to my Ministry.

Now, if there is the need for a site visit in order to decide on the appropriate portion of State Land that needs to be used for that very important project, of course, we will do the

needful and I will let the hon. Members of that Constituency be made aware of, for us to be able to be present there.

**Madam Speaker:** Last question, hon. N. Beejan!

**GOODLANDS – SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE – SPORT FACILITIES –  
RENOVATION**

**(No. B/1089) Mr N. Beejan (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre D’or)** asked the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare whether, in regard to the Social Welfare Centre situated at Goodlands, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether the renovation thereof is being envisaged, including the fencing and lighting facilities of the volleyball pitch, *boulodrome* or any other sport facilities found thereat and, if so, give details thereof and, if not, why not.

**Ms Navarre-Marie:** Madam Speaker, I have been informed that no major renovation of the sports facilities at the Goodlands Social Welfare Centre is envisaged at this stage.

The Social Welfare Centre has two sports facilities, namely the *boulodrome* which is in good condition and the volleyball pitch. The poles and lighting of the volleyball pitch were removed in 2017 for upgrading works that did not materialised due to the withdrawal of sponsors and insufficient funds.

The perimeter fencing has also deteriorated over time. Due to financial constraints, my Ministry has prioritised urgent works across social welfare centres island-wide such as electrical rewiring, waterproofing and slab replacement as well as expenses linked to evacuee centres.

Consequently, no dedicated provision has been made for upgrading the sports facilities at Goodlands although minor maintenance works are undertaken and social welfare committees seek support from District Councils and other partners for such projects.

Madam Speaker, I am moreover informed that the newly appointed Social Welfare Committee has initiated small-scale upgrading of the volleyball pitch including fixing the poles and net by end of November 2025, marking the pitch in early December and resuming day time practice by mid-December.

As for a more substantial upgrading, such as installing a new lighting system or converting the pitch into a mini soccer ground, I wish to inform the House that the matter

may be considered when the budget proposals of my Ministry will be submitted for the next financial year.

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

I think we will stop here. I have, unfortunately, to tell you again a list. It is becoming very complex. Since the beginning I have got so many questions that have been withdrawn. Maybe we should think about doing it in a better way.

Anyways, I have to tell you for today, the following PQs have been withdrawn; B/1040, B/1090, B/1093, B/1094, B/1099, and B/1103. I am sure we can do better this time.

Thank you very much.

### 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.*

### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(4.38 p.m.)

#### WITHHOLD RELEASE ORDER – FIREMOUNT GROUP LTD – UNITED STATES CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION

**The Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations (Mr R. Uteem):** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I wish to make a statement in connection with the Withhold Release Order (WRO) against Firemount Group Ltd issued by United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on 18 November 2025.

As per the Withhold Release Order, the U.S. Customs will immediately detain garments, apparels and textiles manufactured by Firemount Group Ltd based on information that reasonably indicates forced labour use. The Release Order defines forced labour as all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for its non-performance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily.

Madam Speaker, in its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report entitled: “Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor”, published in 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor added Mauritius in the list of countries where goods are produced by child labour or forced labour. Mauritius was added in the list in respect to garments produced by forced labour.

This action followed negative reports published in 2023 and 2024 from Transparentem, a non-profit organisation which investigated into labour abuses in Mauritius’ apparel manufacturing industry which covered factories operated by Firemount Textiles Ltd. The report highlighted labour rights abuses faced by workers in terms of recruitment fees; deception; abusive working and/or living conditions; intimidation and threats; abuse of vulnerability; audit deception and deficiencies; and inadequate response to grievances.

Madam Speaker, when I took office, I had a meeting with His Excellency the US Ambassador to discuss how Mauritius can be removed from this blacklist.

Consequently, with the help of the International Migration Office, my Ministry came up with new regulations under the Private Recruitment Agencies Act to ensure the ethical recruitment of foreign workers.

The Special Migrant Workers’ Unit of my Ministry is dedicated to address all issues pertaining to Migrant Workers and to investigate all reported cases of abuse.

We have also taken a policy decision to ensure that no enterprise which is the subject of complaints for serious offences against migrant workers is allowed to recruit new migrant workers.

Madam Speaker, the report of the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) against Firemount Group Ltd is, according to the communique issued on 18 November by CBP, based on information which reasonably indicate forced labour. Taken together, the evidence according to that communique demonstrated that workers at Firemount Group Ltd were subject to four International Labour Organization indicators: abuse of vulnerability, debt bondage, deception, and intimidation and threats.

Madam Speaker, I am informed by my Ministry that there have not been any cases of forced labour against Firemount Textile reported to our Ministry in 2025. On 19 and 20 November last week, officers of my Ministry carried out inspection visits to the two factories of Firemount Textile Ltd at La Tour Koenig and St Felix and interviewed migrant workers and members of Workers Council. They found no evidence of forced labour. I also chaired a

meeting yesterday with the management of Firemount Textile Ltd in the presence of officers from my Ministry where the representatives denied all allegations levelled against them.

Madam Speaker, the report of CPB was based on enquiries carried out before I assumed office. I am aware that in the past employers used to repatriate foreign workers before the latter could testify against them. The law now requires my Ministry to be informed before an enterprise can repatriate any worker.

My Ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) to ensure that Mauritius is removed from the blacklist of the US Department of Labor at the earliest.

My Ministry will not tolerate any enterprise that abuses migrant workers and tarnishes the reputation of Mauritius.

Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms A. Navarre-Marie !

(4.42 p.m.)

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**The Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare (Ms A. Navarre-Marie):**  
Madam Speaker, with your permission, I wish to make a statement in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women which is being commemorated today.

Gender-based violence, Madam Speaker, is fundamentally an expression of domination and constitutes a serious violation of human rights. It prevents individuals from developing their full potential, contributing to society and living with dignity. For too long, this despicable crime was carefully hidden by society, concealed behind closed doors and dismissed as private matters.

This issue has been brought to the surface thanks to NGOs and brave individuals. For years, discussions, demonstrations and conferences have been organised, studies commissioned and programmes implemented. There have been achievements, meaningful progress that we must acknowledge. Yet, more remains to be done. While much can be

achieved in isolation, much more can be achieved through collaboration. As Minister, I strongly believe in networking, in the power of coordinated, multisectoral action where Government, civil society, communities and individuals work together towards our shared goal.

The theme of our national campaign which runs from 24 November to 10 December this year is '*Fam to pa zis enn viktim, to enn sanzman*' – 'Women you are not only a victim, you are the change'. It carries both a pledge and a challenge, it recognises women's inherent resilience and leadership and calls upon our institutions, our communities and every citizen to stand united against this scourge.

Madam Speaker, almost every day, my Ministry is confronted with victims of violence and their painful experiences, the everyday horrors which they face. Data compels us to act with urgency. According to Statistics Mauritius, a Gender Approach 2023, 7,177 domestic violence cases were reported in 2023, out of which, 5,729 were targeted against women, thus representing 80% of all cases. From January to June 2025 alone, 3,768 cases were reported with 3,200 involving women victims. These figures are disturbing. According to UN Women and WHO research, globally, one out of three women has ever experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in a lifetime. Behind every statistic, lies a human story.

Madam Speaker, misunderstood parental models, tragic personal experiences coupled with the challenges and pressures that exist in our changing and complicated society, constitute grounds for manifestations of violence.

However, I wish to reiterate the following: this Government has the necessary will to put an end to this heinous social scourge and it is high time to tackle this issue in a more organised, coordinated and comprehensive way.

Madam Speaker, while our current legislation does not classify femicide as a distinct offence, we recognise it as an urgent national concern requiring targeted preventive strategies. In that context, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act will be replaced by a comprehensive domestic abuse legislation. This new legislation will reflect Government's unwavering determination to fight against gender-based violence. *La loi va être appliquée dans toute sa rigueur*. This new legislative framework will align Mauritius with international best practices.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that since August this year, my Ministry has established 12 Family Support Services Centres, operating as integrated *guichet unique* one-stop shop facilities under one roof, bringing support for children, women and families, including psychosocial assistance, legal guidance, referral pathways and rapid intervention for victims of all forms of violence, including online harassment. Our 24/7 hotline 139 provides immediate crisis intervention, safety planning and connection to emergency shelter where necessary.

Madam Speaker, while we must respond to violence with urgency and effectiveness, our ultimate goal must be prevention. Amongst other measures which my Ministry has taken, is to enlist the contribution of men, young men as allies against this scourge. Our positive masculinity programme has enrolled as at now 25 young men who believe that man is not the problem only but part of the solution.

Madam Speaker, eliminating GBV stands high on the agenda of this Government. Through networking between Government, NGOs, civil society and individuals, we can achieve our goal, that is, creating a nation where every woman and girl lives free from fear and violence. During these 16 days of activism and beyond, let us all pledge not only to prevent gender-based violence but ultimately, to wipe it out and eradicate it.

On a personal note, Madam Speaker, I will continue my task with compassion, justice and the vision of a safer Mauritius against all odds. I thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you very much.

## PUBLIC BILLS

### *First Reading*

*On motion made and seconded, The Law Practitioners (Disciplinary Proceedings) Bill (No. XXIX of 2025) was read a first time.*

**Madam Speaker:** Perhaps now we can break for tea. Thank you.

*At 4.50 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 5.32 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

**Madam Speaker:** You may be seated!

*Second reading*

**THE COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

**(NO. XXVIII OF 2025)**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

(5.32 p.m.)

**The Attorney General (Mr G.P.C. Glover, SC):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that The Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII of 2025) be read a second time.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, please.

**Mr Glover:** Madam Speaker, this Bill amends the Courts Act to simplify and streamline the procedure for an application for a judicial review. Judicial review is one of the cornerstones of the rule of law. It ensures that the decisions of public authorities remain within the bounds of legality, fairness and reasonableness. It is not an appeal on the merits but a review of the decision-making process. This is a common mistake. It enables the citizen to stand up and be counted when his rights are at stake. It gives him the opportunity to access an important judicial process.

And because it is so important for the citizen, it became naturally important for us to look at the process to render it more accessible, in line with the commitment of the Government to make justice more accessible to all.

Madam Speaker, as you are well aware, the courts do not have the power to second guess administrative decisions and change them because they believe that a different decision ought to have been taken. That would be breaching the separation of powers. Instead, the courts can only check the manner in which a decision has been taken and whether it has indeed been taken in accordance with the principles of fairness, reasonableness, equality and legality. But just as the decision-making process needs to be reasonable, it goes without saying that the review process itself must obey the same imperative.

The purpose of this Bill is therefore not to narrow the scope of judicial review, but to make the process by which it is exercised more efficient, more predictable, and more responsive to the needs of the citizens and of the administration alike.

The present process for judicial review spans two different stages. The first stage is the application for leave of the court to proceed with the substantial judicial review application. It is only if leave is granted that the citizen will be allowed to proceed further with the second stage of the application.

It is thus heavy, cumbersome and costly to the litigant citizen, and as if that were not enough, it often ends because the legal issue at stake is no longer a live issue.

That is because the courts are loathe to interfere to stop and stay an administrative decision pending a final decision after the hearings are concluded.

For too long, Madam Speaker, the first stage of judicial review - the application for *leave* - has become a source of delay and uncertainty.

Cases have remained pending at the threshold stage for months, even years, before the court could decide whether the matter should proceed to a full hearing. This defeats the very purpose of judicial review, which is to ensure prompt supervision of administrative action. All this, Madam Speaker, obviously impacts, first and foremost, the citizen who comes to court to obtain justice.

Madam Speaker, as far back as 2009, the Law Reform Commission had highlighted in a Discussion Paper that judicial review, being part of the Supreme Court's supervisory jurisdiction, must be reformed to better operate as an effective control over the exercise of public power.

The Commission observed that the two-stage procedure - first, leave; then, the substantive hearing - was necessary as a filter against frivolous applications, but that procedural delays risked undermining confidence in the process itself.

Over the years, it must be said that the courts have tried to apply these principles. Yet, in practice, the leave stage has become congested. Although applications are filed *ex parte*, multiple affidavits are sometimes exchanged, and oral arguments are often heard on the same points that will arise again at the merits stage. This duplication consumes judicial time without adding value to justice.

The present Bill, therefore, responds precisely to that difficulty. It retains all substantive guarantees of fairness but modernises the procedure. It does so by assigning the leave stage to

the Judge in Chambers, imposing clear time limits, and ensuring that once leave is granted, the matter proceeds without the need for a further application which would necessitate the lodging of another motion before the court.

Madam Speaker, allow me then to highlight the principal changes in this Bill.

First, it inserts an entire new sub-part to the Act titled “Procedure to Apply for Judicial Review.”

Clause 3 of the Bill adds new sections 76B to 76J to the Act.

Under the new section 76C (1), an application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made to the Judge in Chambers not later than 45 days after the impugned decision. This clarifies the former requirement of “promptness” we inherited from our British colonial masters which was felt inadequate as it was not informative enough and left it to the entire discretion of the court, leading to sometimes seemingly contradictory decisions.

The delay of 45 days is not innocuous. It straddles the very limited delay of 21 days for appeals and the 3 months that was erstwhile taken to be the benchmark for delay for applications for judicial review to be initiated. It also follows consultations with the judiciary, in order to allow a realistic opportunity for applicants to prepare their case while still ensuring expedition.

The idea here, Madam Speaker, is to allow concerned citizens the time to be informed of a decision affecting them, to retain legal advisers and to prepare properly for a challenge – without extending the period so much that any administrative decision is plagued with uncertainty for months on end.

The Judge in Chambers will consider the application *inter partes*, that is, with notice to the other side, thus enhancing fairness and transparency right from the start.

The motion must be supported by affidavit, accompanied by all relevant documents and a statement of case setting out the detailed grounds, the relief sought, and proof of sufficient interest.

The requirement for a comprehensive statement discourages speculative filings and focuses the court's attention on genuine issues of legality in the decision-making process of the public body.

The Judge in Chambers shall then determine the application for leave to apply for judicial review on the papers alone, but may, where he deems necessary, request written submissions on any point or, in exceptional circumstances, order an oral hearing in chambers.

This approach, Madam Speaker, reflects modern judicial review practice worldwide. It reduces unnecessary hearings while preserving the Judge's discretion to hear counsel where fairness so requires.

Madam Speaker, a binding time limit is being introduced in this Bill. The Judge in Chambers must determine the application for leave to apply for judicial review not later than 60 days after the case is in shape. If that delay is not respected, the matter may be reported to the Chief Justice. This is a major innovation being brought forward by this Government.

Earlier this year, in the Criminal Appeal and Criminal Review Act 2025, a time limit for sentencing after conviction was introduced. Similarly, here, the court retains full discretion, but the timeframe serves as an incentive for prompt decision-making, not a deterrent.

Madam Speaker, Government intends to broaden the recourse to time limits in the upcoming reforms of the judicial process. The goal is to respond to a pressing demand by the public for judgments to be prompt, because, Madam Speaker, as we all know, justice delayed is justice denied.

There is a growing perception in this country that lodging a case in court to defend or vindicate one's rights is so time consuming that it is often better to let things slide. Or that only those with money and the ability to wait can afford to go to court. This cannot be allowed to endure.

At the same time, Madam Speaker, this Government is acutely aware of the challenges faced by the members of the judiciary and such reforms are not meant to unduly pressure them.

Lack of means, personnel and time are not imputable to the honourable and hardworking men and women who sit as magistrates and judges in our Courts. However, there have been and there still are, some cases of exaggerated delay which simply cannot be accounted for.

Which brings me, Madam Speaker, to a question that will be hotly debated in the months to come, and as you say yourself, the question will be: is the imposition of time limits on decisions of the judiciary an interference on judicial independence?

Would the legislator be overstepping the separation of powers when mandating such provisions?

The first element of an answer is that the judicial function does not operate *ex nihilo*, that is, conjured into existence out of thin air. No, it exists because there is a Constitution.

The first element of an answer is that the judicial function does not operate *ex nihilo* – conjured into existence out of thin air.

No, it exists because there is a Constitution and because there are laws that delimit its role, its jurisdiction, its powers and its duties. It would, I submit, Madam Speaker, be therefore absurd to denounce any reform of the legislator that affects the judicial function on the basis of the separation of powers.

The real question is whether the content of the reform does indeed curtail the independence of the judiciary?

Madam Speaker, here, I believe that an important nuance – often used word these days – is often lost. We tend to deal with the question in terms of absolutes when in fact it is a question of degree.

Would a law imposing a time limit of 24 hours on judgments be a breach of judicial independence? I submit yes - of course!

Because by forcing Magistrates and Judges to rush through their decisions, one would be curtailing their ability to effectively adjudicate the complex issues before them and expose them to opprobrium or sanctions should they fail to meet this excessively demanding standard. It would be simply unacceptable in a democratic society.

On the other hand, would a law imposing a time limit of, say, 12 months on judgments be a similar evil? I think not. Citizens have the right, under section 10 of the Constitution, to judicial decisions being taken within a reasonable time. And, it is not reasonable for someone to have their life, their work, their goals and their means suspended for years waiting for a judgment with no deadline in sight. And yet, Madam Speaker, this is what is happening today in some extreme cases. There are judgments of the Supreme Court which are still awaited after many years! Too many I dare say!

These two extreme situations, Madam Speaker, show that a time limit is not in itself a breach of judicial independence or a necessary safeguard for citizens. It all depends on how reasonable the time limit is with regards to the type of case at hand, and therefore whether it does impose undue pressure on the judiciary or whether it simply prevents the most egregious cases of delay.

And, this is why the 60-day limit has been chosen here for a determination on the application for leave only. We believe it is reasonable, fair, and strikes a good balance between the independence of the judiciary and the citizens' rights.

Furthermore, it is to be noted that the time limit starts from the day the case is in shape, which means when the Judge in Chambers has heard all parties concerned, and not from the initial day of the application for leave to apply for judicial review was made.

Madam Speaker, in this Bill, only one narrow right of appeal is preserved, that of the applicant who may appeal against the refusal of leave, but no appeal shall lie from the decision granting leave. The rationale is very simple. The respondent will have every opportunity to defend the decision at the merits stage. Multiplying interlocutory appeals would only delay justice.

Where leave is granted, the application for leave shall stand as the substantive application for judicial review. No new application or filing will be required, and the grounds of review will be limited to those on which leave has been granted.

The case will then be listed before at least two Judges of the Supreme Court, including, as far as possible, the Judge who granted leave, for hearing on the merits. This will ensure both continuity and collegiality.

Madam Speaker, pending applications will continue under the existing regime, thereby protecting vested procedural rights. Finally, a number of statutes, including the Financial

Crimes Commission Act, the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act, the Employment Relations Act, the Bank of Mauritius Act, the Extradition Act, and others, are amended to refer expressly to the new procedure, so that all legislation speak the same language.

The reforms, Madam Speaker, thus seeks to assist, not constrain, the Judiciary: to give the Court the procedural tools to deliver justice more swiftly, while maintaining full independence in decision-making. In fact, the judiciary has, in this particular case, Madam Speaker, been amply consulted in the preparation of this Bill and the feedback received on the final version has been positive.

For citizens and practitioners, the impact will be tangible. Applicants will know that they must act within 45 days of the decision. Respondents will know when they must reply. And, both sides will know that the Judge in Chambers must decide the leave application within 60 days once the matter is in shape.

This will bring certainty, efficiency, and predictability – values that are essential to any modern justice system. It will also relieve the Supreme Court of the backlog that currently accumulates at the leave stage, freeing judges to focus on substantive cases of real importance.

The reform will also strengthen the confidence of investors, professionals, and citizens in the administrative justice system. When government decisions can be challenged promptly and fairly, it fosters trust in public institutions and, ultimately, in the rule of law itself.

Madam Speaker, Mauritius is not alone in modernising its judicial-review procedure. Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom have all moved towards written, time-bound leave processes.

The proposed new Sub-part VIA of the Act is in line with these international best practices, while preserving our own judicial traditions.

At a deeper level, Madam Speaker, this Bill reaffirms a fundamental principle: that legality and efficiency must coexist. Justice delayed, in matters of public administration, often means injustice not only to the applicant but also to the wider society, because everyone can be affected by the resulting uncertainty.

The Government's broader programme for justice reform is driven by this same philosophy. We are modernising procedures, clarifying jurisdictions, and making our courts more accessible to citizens. The present amendment is another step in that process.

The Courts (Amendment) Bill 2025, Madam Speaker, is thus a useful and practical reform. It modernises an important area of administrative law while preserving every constitutional safeguard. It brings clarity where there was uncertainty, and it introduces discipline without rigidity. Above all, it ensures that the right to challenge unlawful administrative action remains effective, not merely theoretical.

Judicial review is, after all, "the protection of the citizen against the abuse of power."

This Bill, Madam Speaker, strengthens that protection by making the process fit for the demands of a modern Mauritius.

I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, Mr Seeburn.

(5.51 p.m.)

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Courts (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Attorney-General. This is a Bill that embodies our Government's commitment in modernising and strengthening our judicial system, making it more efficient, accessible and fair to all Mauritians. A Bill that this Government brings forward with clarity, conviction and courage with a purpose of not to narrow the scope of the judicial review but rather to make it more accessible as stated by the Attorney-General in his address to the House earlier.

Madam Speaker, our Government's programme for 2025-2029 clearly prioritises reform of the justice system. We pledge to introduce a Judicial Review Miscellaneous Provisions Bill to simplify procedures and harmonise judicial review across the law under various enactment. During the debate on the Government's Programme, we reaffirmed that improving judicial efficiency, access and predictability is not just a legal reform but rather a cornerstone of good governance and public trust.

Madam Speaker, too often procedural bottlenecks in our courts have caused delays, uncertainty and additional costs. Through this Bill, we aim to improve access to justice and make our legal system more responsive to the needs of citizens and businesses.

Madam Speaker, for years we inherited a legal framework where more than 25 statutes referred to judicial review in different styles, different formulations and different procedures. The result of this is it creates confusion, litigation delays, procedural loopholes and also inconsistent remedies depending on which statute one happens to fall under.

Madam Speaker, let us be absolutely clear. This Bill is about bringing order, harmonising our justice system and strengthening the supervisory role of the Supreme Court. Madam Speaker, Clause 3 of this Bill brings an essential reform to the way the judicial review applications are handled. It provides that applications for leaves will be disposed of by a Judge in Chambers, a model that enhances both efficiency and fairness. In fact, a Judge in Chambers is already entrusted with urgent and procedural matters and this Bill builds on that expertise by allowing leave applications to be decided on papers. Clause 3 helps to reduce delays, legal costs and unnecessary formalities.

At the same time, Madam Speaker, the Bill maintains important safeguards. For instance, where the interest of justice requires it, the Judge may call for an oral hearing. Madam Speaker, crucially, this Bill introduces a 60-day timeframe for the disposal of the leave application. This is reasonable and fair. Bringing predictability and preventing the stagnation of cases, reasons must be given when leave is refused. An applicant retains the right to appeal and this ensures transparency and accountability at every stage.

On the other hand, Madam Speaker, if leave is granted, that same application becomes the substantive application eliminating duplication, thus saving time and reducing cost. Madam Speaker, this Bill is clarifying jurisdiction. It is cleaning up inconsistencies, it is removing interpretative ambiguities and ensuring that the Supreme Court is not shackled by outdated drafting from the past century.

Madam Speaker, Clause 4 is one of the most significant parts of this Bill. It amends over 25 different enactments and harmonises statutes that govern the health professionals. It governs the financial regulators, trade unions, Mauritius Revenue Authority, Financial Crimes Commission, Financial Intelligence Unit, Financial Services Commission, intellectual property, road traffic. It also governs real estate agents, national transport, public bodies appeals and even United Nations sanction processes.

Madam Speaker, this government is doing something that the opposition never dared to do – that is, establishing one clear unified legal path to the Supreme Court for all judicial review matters.

This Bill is ensuring that new leave based judicial review system is aligned across our legal framework. Madam Speaker, these are consequential amendments and not arbitrary changes. The Courts Act is being reformed. All of the statutes that refer to judicial review or similar procedures must be updated so that they refer to the same modern streamlined process. This harmonisation is essential and without it, we risk legal fragmentation, uncertainty and inconsistency in how different public bodies are reviewed by the courts.

Madam Speaker, by making judicial review more accessible and predictable, we are lowering the barriers for citizens, businesses and regulated entities to challenge administrative decisions. By requiring leave, we are discouraging frivolous or vexatious applications, protecting judicial resources and ensuring that serious claims are given due attention. This process respects both efficiency and procedural fairness. It is striking a balance between filtering weak cases and preserving rights.

Madam Speaker, some may question why Clause 4 amends so many different acts. Let me address that directly because this is necessary. When we reform the Courts Act, procedures for judicial review, we must also bring into line all other laws that rely on or refer to judicial review cases; otherwise, we will have a mismatch. Some laws will refer to all procedures, others to the new, resulting in confusion and inconsistent practice and litigation risk. By amending more than 25 statutes, we are ensuring legal coherence. It is a structural reform giving certainty to courts, litigants, public bodies and regulators. In the long run, this coherence will save judicial time, reduce appeals and foster public confidence in the legitimacy of judicial review cases.

Madam Speaker, this is the demonstration of the government's commitment to justice reform. By making judicial review more effective, we reaffirm that state decisions are subject to accountability and that citizens have meaningful access to legal recourse. The Bill does three things. It is protecting the litigants from uneven procedural treatments. It is protecting the judiciary by giving it a coherent legal architecture. It is protecting the country from legal uncertainty.

Madam Speaker, the Bill is reinforcing the judicial review system. It is strengthening the rule of law. It is making our legal system more predictable, more manageable and more

accessible. It is the type of reform that a serious and responsible government brings. In fact, this government is delivering modernity and not politics.

Madam Speaker, before I conclude, allow me to thank the hon. Attorney General for his continuous significant contribution to our justice system and his team for drafting this progressive piece of legislation that it reinforces our rule of law. We are doing what the previous government never had the courage nor competence to do. This Bill is bringing coherence to our laws, it is strengthening our judiciary and is standardising our access to justice in building a modern legal framework that Mauritius and our people out there deserve.

Above all, Madam Speaker, this Bill is a modern, practical and necessary reform. This is how we deliver on our promise for a just, transparent and efficient court system. This Bill deserves the full support of this House.

With these words, Madam Speaker, I thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. A. Duval.

(6.00 p.m.)

**Mr A. Duval (Fourth Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue):** Yes, thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Bill purports to simplify and streamline the procedure for judicial review. But, Madam Speaker, with utmost respect to the hon. Attorney General, I think that this Bill does only half of the reforms that have been long recommended by the Law Reform Commission since 1995, reaffirmed, supported again, faced discussion paper in 2009, that is, that we look at the procedure which this Bill is doing but also, at the substantive part which we are not.

The hon. Attorney General's philosophy has been and rightly so to bring under one umbrella legislation to put order into our legislative frameworks where it is necessary and to bring clarity. He has done it with the Civil Appeal Act, the Criminal Appeal Act being the latest to consolated scattered provisions in a coherent umbrella statute.

For judicial review, Madam Speaker, the most perhaps constitutional significant of all or as constitutional significant, he does not do so. In fact, he is doing the opposite. He is burdening the old Courts Act with a complex procedural sub-part instead of following the long-held recommendation that we bring one full-fledged statutory legislation for

administrative justice; an Administrative Justice Bill that addresses the procedure but also lays down the substantive part judicial review.

So, the question, Madam Speaker, first is why has the hon. Attorney General chosen not to follow the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission?

Why has he not thought it fit to bring in this Bill today clarity; clarity on the grounds for making a judicial review and on the remedy that may be sought?

Given that our judicial review procedure has been based on the English Law Rule 53, Order 53, which has now been itself modernised under the Civil Procedure Rule 54, where we have the right to claim compensatory damages now.

The first point, Madam Speaker, with regard to the Bill, which I think the hon. Attorney General should consider, is that of delay. Under the Bill, the aggrieved party has 45 days within the date of the decision of the administrative authority to make his application for judicial review. But the administrative authority itself has no duty to inform the aggrieved party of its decision. Where the aggrieved party makes a request for the reasons for the decision, pursuant to the principle of natural justice, there is no delay to do so under one piece of legislation.

Why are we then imposing 45 days down from three months, which used to be the case and which is the case in the UK, when we do not have a said delay for notification of the aggrieved party of the decision of the administrative authority? One recent case which happened under this Government was the demotion of Police Officers, for example, which occurred the day after the general elections. It was effected the day after general elections. They were demoted and transferred, but were only served with their official letter a month after.

So, one important amendment is to change the delay not to the date of the decision, but to the date of notification. 45 days from the day the applicant receives his notification.

The second, Madam Speaker, is the duty – I said it – on the administrative authority to communicate their decision within a prescribed time and a set delay. We impose a duty on the judge in chambers, we impose a time limit on the Judge in Chambers to dispose of the matter on the first leg, but we do not impose a prescribed time for the administrative authority to either notify or give the reasons for the decision.

Madam Speaker, this is more so relevant in the absence of the long-awaited Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, I hope that the hon. Attorney General will see merit in making that small amendment – changing the date of the decision to the date of notification of the decision, which will make a whole difference. If you take the example of the Police Officers who were demoted the day after the general elections, they would have had nearly two weeks to make their application, given that the decision was taken on the next day and notice given to them a month after.

The third, Madam Speaker, is the right of appeal, that is, appeal to the Privy Council should be as of right as per the Constitution, either on the first leg or the second leg.

Madam Speaker, if you look at the case of the Jacpot Ltd (Appellant) v Gambling Regulatory Authority (Respondent) (Mauritius), you will see that the Privy Council has clarified Section 81 of the Constitution as to who can appeal to the Privy Council on judicial review applications and who can satisfy first, how do we determine the value as set out under Section 81 (1)(b) of the Constitution, of Rs10,000, when, Madam Speaker, you will agree that not all judicial review applications can be valued in terms of monetary means. This what the Privy Council said in the case of Jacpot, which concerned the case of the revocation of a license.

It is stated that although the license might generate revenue, would have a value, the right to a license being a discretionary decision of the authority was not a right that the applicant had – a civil right –, but merely, he had the right to be treated fairly when deciding on his application for a license. Therefore, there could be no monetary value attributed to that right. In the case of Jacpot, he failed in the first test of Rs10,000.

Then, there is the second which is found under 82 (2)(b), whether it is of general public importance. There again, the application to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was not successful because they thought that although that right, important as it is, is a public law right, that is, the right to be treated fairly, it is no different from the right of any person with a relevant interest who has to see the law applied. Therefore, it denied the application. It denied the appeal to the Privy Council. In the case of Jacpot, having failed the monetary test and having failed the general public importance test, it had seen its appeal denied. So, the question is why doesn't the Attorney General, who is simplifying and streamlining procedure, deem it fit to provide as of right, the right to appeal to the Privy Council, given that in certain cases of judicial review, there are complex issues?

Like in the case of Jacpot, there are many other cases that do not, on the face of it, allow an appeal to the Privy Council on a question of judicial review, as in the case of Jacpot, it concerned the granting of license. The same can be said for others who have applied for a job and who have appealed by judicial review.

The fourth, Madam Speaker, is the issue of substance as per the Law Reform Commission Paper. I must say that the Law Reform Commission Paper, which is dated in 2009, has given a very streamlined, concise, proposed Administrative Justice Bill stating clearly the grounds for relief.

There were a number of grounds: excess of jurisdiction; unauthorised administrative act or omission, which was in anyway unauthorised or contrary to law; breach of principles of natural justice; unjust, unreasonable, irregular, improper exercise of discretion; abuse of power, and fraud by faith. All of those which were to be found under one legislation.

As it stands under this Bill, you will find the procedure under the Courts Act. You will have to go to case law for substance. And according to the Supreme Court rules, the law is silent, we will have to go to England. How is that streamlining? How is that not creating more of a mess, in fact? So, The Law Reform Commission had long pondered – 30 years they have been recommending for one umbrella legislation.

Madam Speaker, similarly, the remedies which include – I have said it – restitution, compensation or damages in money, which is not permissible at present under our law.

The Supreme Court has disallowed claims for compensatory damages in Mauritius although it is the case in England. Yet, the Law Reform Commission has recommended that. And, I would ask the hon. Attorney General why does he not think it important, now, since he is bringing an amendment, since he is attempting to streamline and clarify judicial review, since it is an opportunity for him to come and, once and for all, to bring a modern piece of legislation in line with the best practices that other Commonwealth countries have followed in line with the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission that have long pondered and which is here, why did he not see merit in doing so?

So, Madam Speaker, I think it is a missed opportunity to have a comprehensive law on judicial review. I think that we could have followed the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission again when it comes to the duties imposed on local authorities, on administrative authorities.

You will see, Madam Speaker, if you look at the Law Reform Commission paper, you would see that, for example, under Section 14 of the draft, you would have a request for reasons, there would be a duty. An applicant, an aggrieved party would be entitled to make a request for reasons to an administrative authority who would have by law the duty, the obligation to reply. It would have by law to provide the statement of reasons within a prescribed delay – 30 days as from the date of the request. Because what is the point of having a delay if the administrative authority can take months and years to furnish a statement of reasons or to furnish his decision in writing.

There was the principle of natural justice enshrined in the draft legislation that the law relating to natural justice would apply to any person/body granting, refusing, modifying or revoking any licence, permission, qualification or authority or imposing any penalty under the powers conferred by the enactment.

So, this is it, Madam Speaker. I am not inventing anything. It is here. It has been here for 30 years; the hon. Prime Minister was Prime Minister then. He was again Prime Minister when they issued the discussion paper in 2009 and he is now Prime Minister again...

**Ms Anquetil:** Et il reviendra encore !

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Ça suffit!

**Mr A. Duval:** ... and yet this Law Reform Commission paper has all but been wasted.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Speaker, to reiterate what we do need now is a stand-alone Administrative Justice Act.

**Madam Speaker:** You have said that.

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, codified grounds of review.

**Madam Speaker:** Do not repeat, do not repeat!

**Mr A. Duval:** But I am just concluding, codified remedies, statutory duty on administrative authorities to give reasons, statutory timeline imposed on them, a clear right of appeal to the Privy Council and, therefore, a modern administrative justice bill and then, Madam Speaker, I think that the country would be much better.

Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Ms Collet!

**An hon. Member:** Mais, Joe quand même !

**Mr Assirvaden :** *Joe tap lamin – bien egois ein !*

**Madam Speaker:** Qu'est-ce qui se passe là ? Est-ce que l'honorable Ms Collet peut parler ? Elle vous attend là ! Allez-y.

(5.53 p.m.)

**Ms M. R. Collet (First Member for Rodrigues):** Merci, Madame la présidente. Aujourd'hui, c'est mardi 25 novembre 2025, personne n'accepte d'injustices et demandes de raison.

Alors, les exemples du passé, nous rappelle pourquoi cette réforme est indispensable, Madame la présidente, et nous avons cette demande de refonte du domaine du droit administratif.

Nous avons vu des dossiers emblématiques des droits où la clarté des règles s'est perdue dans des délais excessifs et il a fallu attendre cinq ans ou plus avant qu'une décision judiciaire ne soit rendue.

C'était vu comme normale mais nous sommes tous d'accord que ce n'est plus acceptable et même à Rodrigues une région autonome, certaines décisions publiques ont été contestées, mais aboutissant après des années de procès et procédures complexes. Et, il me semble que les lenteurs judiciaires touchent toute la république.

Ces affaires ne sont pas des anecdotes, Madame la présidente. Elles sont les miroirs d'un système qui laissent trop souvent les citoyens dans l'attente et l'incertitude. Notre justice ne répond plus aux exigences de rapidité, de clarté et de proximité. Mais qu'il soit bien clair, ce n'est pas la faute judiciaire. Nos juges, nos hommes de loi, notre *judiciary staff* sont des professionnels hautement formés. Ils travaillent avec rigueur et compétence. Ce sont les procédures trop lourdes et trop anciennes qui freinent leur efficacité mais ils donnent de leur mieux.

Depuis longtemps nos concitoyens et même nos juges réclament une justice plus rapide, plus simple, plus proche. Nous n'avons pas été sourds à des réclamations légitimes et raisonnables exprimées à travers la presse écrite et parlée – exprimées dans des débats publics, exprimées dans les attentes quotidiennes de tous.

Aujourd'hui, le moment tant attendu est enfin arrivé, ce projet de loi est la réponse directe aux attentes du peuple, des *law practitioners* ainsi que du judiciaire et j'aborde dans le sens des interventions de l'honorable l'Attorney General et que mon collègue l'honorable Seeburn, avec votre indulgence, Madame la présidente, je souhaite mettre en contexte projet de loi.

C'est un projet qui modifie la *Courts Act* pour simplifier et rationaliser la procédure de révision judiciaire et non une refonte du fonds du droit administratif qui, je pense, évolue au cas par cas.

Ce projet de loi introduit une nouvelle sous partie *Sub-Part VIA* qui encadre clairement les étapes. La demande de *leave* doit être déposée dans un délai de 45 jours. Elle doit être complète afin qu'affidavit, pièces justificatives et motifs précis. Le juge en Chambre peut décider d'un *stay*, c'est-à-dire suspendre la décision administrative contestée et le juge doit statuer dans un délai maximum de 60 jours et en cas de refus de *leave*, un appel est possible devant la cour suprême.

Une fois le *leave* accordé, la demande devient directement une révision judiciaire et il n'y a plus de doublon. Mais qu'est-ce qui est la justice, Madame la présidente ? La justice c'est l'équilibre entre les droits et les devoirs, c'est l'institution qui protège le faible face au fort. C'est la garantie que chacun est traité avec équité selon la loi sans privilège ni discrimination.

La justice c'est le socle de notre démocratie et sans justice il n'y a pas de liberté véritable. Sans justice, il n'y a pas de confiance dans l'État et la révision judiciaire est l'outil qui incarne cette justice. Elle ne juge pas si une décision est bonne ou mauvaise mais juge si elle est légale et juste et c'est la garantie que personne n'est au-dessus de la loi ni même de l'administration.

Je pense que la procédure révisée est maintenant plus cohérente. Quand nous parlons d'administration, nous parlons de tous les services publics : ministères, l'Assemblée régionale de Rodrigues qui agit au nom et pour le compte du gouvernement central, les collectivités locales, les établissements publics comme les hôpitaux ou les universités et même les organismes chargés d'une mission de service public. Tous devront savoir que leurs décisions peuvent être contrôlées vite et efficacement.

Ce projet de loi, Madame la présidente, harmonise la révision judiciaire dans toutes les sphères la vie publique. Il touche la santé, la finance, l'économie, les médias, la propriété

intellectuelle, la fiscalité, l'agriculture, le transport, les professions réglementées et même les sanctions internationales. Ainsi, il prévoit entre autres que les décisions, par exemple, du *Registrar of Companies*, du Tribunal de relations de travail pourront être contestées par révision judiciaire.

Les décisions du *Financial Crimes Commission*, de l'*Independent Broadcasting Authority* seront désormais révisables. Les professions réglementées : architecte, géomètre, *quantity surveyors*, vétérinaire auront accès à la révision judiciaire en cas de refus d'enregistrement et de sanction disciplinaire. Et, les décisions du *Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal* de la *National Land Transport Authority* seront aussi soumises à la révision judiciaire.

Enfin, Madame la présidente, ce projet de loi est au signal fort. L'État n'a pas peur d'être contrôlé, il choisit la transparence, il choisit l'efficacité et il place les citoyens au centre.

Ce projet de loi incarne une justice moderne, une justice de confiance, une justice au service du peuple, et je remercie l'équipe du bureau de l'*Attorney General*, ainsi que l'*Attorney General* pour leur écoute et réactivité aux défis du monde moderne dans notre république, et je soutien ce projet de loi. Je vous remercie, Madame la présidente.

**Madam Speaker:** *Merci beaucoup.* Short, nice and sweet. Thank you.

Hon. Pentiah!

May I just ask if I am mistaken? I heard something about the date of notification and the date when the decision is taken. Even under this law, the date of notification counts. Just to make things clear.

**Mr Glover:** Madam...

**Madam Speaker:** Even the 21 days.

**Mr Glover:** Yes, Madam Speaker, I thought it was obvious to everyone...

**Madam Speaker:** Of course.

**Mr Glover:** ...but it seems that it is not obvious. So, we will address the issue later on.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I have been in PBAT for 10 years, so I know. Hon. Pentiah!

**Mr A. Duval:** But your point is to clarify it. Make it obvious!

**Madam Speaker:** Mais, c'est clair...

**Mr A. Duval:** That is the point!

**Madam Speaker:** C'est évident. C'est déjà la loi.

(6.24 p.m.)

**The Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms (Mr L. Pentiah):** Madam Speaker, I was going to say at the very outset – with your permission – that I was blessed that both Members of the Opposition were present for a change, then one just walks out. But then again, I am honoured to have at least one Member of the Opposition at this hour of work, still in the House.

**Madam Speaker:** Get on with your speech!

**Mr Pentiah:** Madam Speaker, to address two things; concerning the notification, the Attorney General will duly address but concerning clarity on grounds and clarity on remedy, two issues raised during the intervention of the hon. Member of the Opposition. Well, grounds and remedy are clear for judicial review. This is the ABC of law of judicial review.

And, Madam Speaker, shall I start? I start my intervention with a quote from Montesquieu, the architect of the doctrine of separation of powers who wrote in *The Spirit of Laws*, and I quote –

“There is no crueller tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice.”

Madam Speaker, these powerful words capture the very spirit of what we are debating today. Already, the 28<sup>th</sup> Bill of this year. This Bill is about preserving one of the most fundamental pillars of our democracy, the right of every citizen of this country to challenge, by way of judicial review, the decisions of the Executive and our public authorities. Indeed, judicial review is the living expression of Montesquieu's doctrine of separation of powers. It is the means through which the Judiciary ensures that the Executive remains within the parameters of the law and the decisions taken by those in power are lawful, reasonable and fair.

Madam Speaker, this Bill is a safeguard that ensures that power does not turn into tyranny, that authorities exercise with accountability and that justice remains within the reach of the people to seek redress where applicable. Our Constitution enshrines this safeguard first and foremost in clear and noble terms. Section 3 guarantees to every citizen the protection of

the law, a phrase that has long been interpreted by our Courts to include the right to seek justice and to challenge unlawful administrative action. Section 17 of our Constitution provides that when a person alleges that his fundamental rights have been, are being or are likely to be contravened, he may apply directly to the Supreme Court for redress.

Section 17(2) of our Constitution vests the Supreme Court with the jurisdiction to make such orders, issue such writs and give such directions as it may consider appropriate, including the very prerogative remedies that form the heart of judicial review, such as *certiorari*, *mandamus* prohibition or declaration. These provisions together give life to the principle that justice must always remain accessible, enforceable and impartial. Judicial review, Madam Speaker, is therefore not a mere procedural tool. It is also a constitutional right guaranteed to every Mauritian.

History has shown, Madam Speaker, that whenever the Executive acts without proper checks and balances, the rule of law is fettered and public confidence in institutions erode. The previous government, having sown the seeds of unfairness and disregard for due process, tasted the bitter taste of the fruit of their own poison at the last general elections. That is why this amendment to streamline the judicial review process assumes all its importance. It ensures that the mistakes of the past cannot be repeated, that power is subject to the discipline of law and that fairness and accountability are restored at the heart of governance. The Executive must govern, yes, but it must do so within the limits of law and under the scrutiny of justice. The previous government on too many occasions acted in ways that defied the principles of fairness, procedural propriety and impartiality. Appointments and promotions were influenced, disciplinary actions were taken without the right to be heard and decisions were marked by bias and procedural irregularities. Many of these were decisions amenable to judicial review but the reality is that for many citizens, that route was simply out of reach; not because justice was unavailable but because it was unaffordable, intimidating and painfully slow.

As Minister of the Public Service and Administrative Reforms, I have met countless officers who have suffered in silence, dedicated men and women who are unfairly bypassed for appointment or promotion, officers who met every qualification, who have the experience, the dedication and the integrity, yet were overlooked without explanation. When asked, very often the reply was ‘I could not afford it’, some even silently added ‘I was afraid of retribution by the tyranny of those in power’.

Madam Speaker, ‘time is money’. This adage could not be truer than in this context. The longer the process, the higher the cost, to such an extent that judicial review runs the risk to be the privilege of the few when it should be a right of all. I have even known cases where public officers who had the courage to bring the cases to Court, saw their proceedings dragged on for so long that they retired before judgement was delivered and in some tragic instances, they passed away before justice could be served. Those cases were struck off as no longer live matters but, Madam Speaker, for the victims and their families, the injustice lives on.

It is therefore with deep satisfaction that I welcome the Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII of 2025) brought before this House by the Attorney General. This Bill is a turning point, it brings long awaited reform to the judicial review process, a reform that will make the system faster, simpler and fairer. For many of our citizens, including public officers, there is now light at the end of the tunnel. Judicial review will no longer be the privilege of the few but a right within the reach of all. The problem we are addressing through this Bill is well known. The current process of judicial review has become too lengthy, too costly and often not accessible.

What we endeavour as a responsible government and what this Bill delivers is a streamlined process that reduces time and cost, simplifies access and ensures that citizens can challenge unfair administrative decisions without being overwhelmed by complexity or delay.

The first stage – the test of arguability, where the court decides whether the applicant has an arguable case with a little prospect of success. The second stage, that is, the substantive hearing where the case is fully heard and court decides whether the public body acted lawfully, fairly and rationally. Madam Speaker, in practice, as we have said, the first stage has become unnecessarily complicated. Hearings are often conducted in open court, oral submissions are made, affidavits are exchanged, and most cases, two or more judges sit to deliver a written judgement, sometimes many months later at the very first leave stage. This is time consuming. This is costly and contrary to the very purpose of the leave stage which is meant only as a preliminary filter.

As noted in the case of *Mohit v. The Director of Public Prosecutions of Mauritius* (Mauritius) [2006] UKPC 20 and echoed in several Supreme Court judgments, the leave stage should be determined on a cursory glance at the material to decide whether there is an

arguable case. Yet, the leave stage has become a trial before a trial. A trial before the trial. That is what this Bill seeks to correct.

Under the new part Sub-Part VIA of the Courts Act, the judicial review process will now be modern, efficient, accessible –

- (i) the time limit from 90 days to 45 days, encouraging prompt action and certainty;
- (ii) the Judge in Chambers will determine the application *inter partes* on the papers alone, without open court hearings, except in exceptional circumstances. Here, again, the discretion of the court is preserved;
- (iii) the Judge must deliver a decision within 60 days, bringing long-awaited timeliness to the process;
- (iv) where leave is granted, the same application stands at the substantive hearing, avoiding duplication and saving time;
- (v) where leave is refused, an appeal can now be made to the Supreme Court under the Civil Appeal Act 2025 instead to the Privy Council.

Perhaps, the hon. Member of the Opposition should have read this part instead of proposing that we should go to the Privy Council.

Madam Speaker, these reforms transform judicial review from a distinct costly procedure into a fair, efficient and accessible remedy for the people. With this Bill, Mauritius stands alongside many other jurisdictions, embracing a modern and citizen-centred model of administrative justice. The Courts (Amendment) Bill 2025 is more than a judicial reform. It is a reaffirmation of our constitutional values of fairness and accountability, of reaffirming that this is a land where the rule of law prevails.

This Bill says to every Mauritian that justice will no longer depend on wealth or endurance. It will depend on right and reason. With this Bill, the Government is making justice affordable, swift and fair. We are ensuring that those aggrieved by decisions of public bodies suffer the least possible prejudice. We are fulfilling our solemn duty as a caring and responsible government that justice must not only be done – as rightly said by the Attorney General –, it must be seen to be done.

At the pace at which our justice system is being reformed, I have no doubt, Madam Speaker, that Mauritius will soon stand as a model of democracy; a nation where the rule of law will again prevail, where justice is within the reach of every citizen and where our democratic values are not merely proclaimed, but lived.

Madam Speaker, I shall conclude with the very words of Lord Denning, affectionately remembered as the people's judge. He propounded, 'If the citizen is to have confidence in the law, he must be able to challenge the acts of the Executive without fear or excessive cost. Justice must be open to all.'

Madam Speaker, this is a promise of this Government. This is a path to a fairer Mauritius. With these words, I commend the Bill to the House. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Minister of Labour!

(6.40 p.m.)

**The Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations (Mr R. Uteem):** Madam Speaker, the Bill before this House is part of a series of Bills that have been introduced in Parliament since the beginning of the year to improve access to justice and ensure a speedier and more effective dispute resolution mechanism. This is in line with the Government's commitment, as announced in the Presidential Address earlier in January, to introduce reforms to ensure that the judicial and legal system operate more efficiently, swiftly, fairly and make justice more accessible.

I am not going to set out the long list of amendments that have been brought to various legislations, ranging from the Financial Crimes Commission through the new Revenue Tribunal Act and amendments to the Criminal Appeal and Criminal Review Act and the Civil Appeal Act. Suffice it to say, Madam Speaker, I would like to put on record the brilliant work done by the hon. Attorney General and his team at the State Law Office to pilot these reforms. As a leading senior counsel, the hon. Attorney General has first-hand experience of the hurdles and procedural rigidities which all too often result in lengthy and costly proceedings, abuse of process and denial of justice.

Madam Speaker, the object of this Bill is to simplify and streamline the procedure for an application for judicial review. As has been aptly stated by the hon. Attorney General,

judicial review is the fundamental means by which the Judiciary calls the Executive and the public bodies to account, and make sure that they exercise their authority within the limit of the powers and remain accountable under the rule of law. Judicial review is an important component of the check and balances enshrined in our Constitution. For example, if a citizen has applied for a licence and has not received his licence, usually, he will go by way of judicial review to review the decision of the Minister. Similarly, if he has been denied a licence by the local authorities, he would usually go by way of judicial review. For certain appointments by the Local Government Service Commission and PSC, again, the remedy would be to go by way of judicial review.

Now, I am very surprised by what hon. Adrien Duval stated. He started by stating that the hon. Attorney General missed an opportunity to review the substantive law, and he relies on the Law Reform Commission. I have had a quick glance at the Law Reform Commission's discussion paper on judicial review, published in November 2009, which annexes a draft Administrative Justice Bill which was borrowed from the Barbados Administrative Justice Bill. I have gone through the grounds which is set out in section 5 of that draft Bill and I am sorry but all of the grounds that are set out in that Act is already grounds for asking a judicial review to the court.

**Madam Speaker:** Exactly!

**Mr Uteem:** So, the Act only codified what exist in our law. So, what is the point of putting restrictions on the judiciary for grounds under which they can review an administrative decision, because there may be in the future other grounds that may be developed through judicial pronouncements? So, I don't think that there is any reason why this legislation should curtail the right of the judiciary when it comes to the grounds on which to review administrative decision.

Similarly, when I look at the remedies provided in that draft legislation, these are already remedies that are applied consistently by the courts in Mauritius. Now, the only nuance on what hon. Adrien Duval stated is about damages, but again, damages in exceptional circumstances is awarded in England and, I am sure, in cases which befit it – an award of damages which is quite exceptional because judicial review by its nature itself concerns the review of the decision-making process as opposed to the decision itself. So, it will be extremely rare that in a case of judicial review, the court would award a monetary compensation.

But what I found even more shocking is that the hon. Member, who chose not to be present when we reply to his address, started by saying that the hon. Attorney-General adopted to, and I quote –

“A complex procedural system.”

In fact, it is the complete opposite, Madam Speaker. This Bill is going to substantially simplify matters as when it comes to judicial review. As the Attorney-General mentioned, we have two steps when it comes to judicial review. First, the citizen, the aggrieved party must apply for leave to bring judicial review, this is the first stage, the leave stage. Then, once he has been granted the leave, he goes to the second stage, which is the main part of the judicial review, where the decision on the merit is considered and determined.

Now, there is a fair amount of confusion as to what happens at leave stage. At leave stage, what should really happen is that the court should only determine on a quick perusal of the material available, if there is an arguable case with a realistic prospect of success – a very low threshold. At the leave stage, the court may dismiss applications which are frivolous, vexatious or hopeless.

So, at leave stage, the role of the judiciary is to act as a filter and throw away all those unmeritorious cases, *ex-facie* the evidence produced. Now, what happen in reality, in practice? Unfortunately, depending on the lawyers, there are extensive exchanges of affidavits and counter-affidavits and preliminary point and objection and just at the leave stage, the procedure drags on for weeks and for weeks and this result necessary in denial of justice.

So, what is the Attorney-General doing with this Bill? First of all, the procedure before leave, at the moment we have to go before two judges and that takes time. This is being replaced: leave stage – you go to a judge in Chambers. Judge in Chambers usually have jurisdiction when you have to expedite matters; when there are matters which call for prompt decision, you go to a judge in Chambers and obviously, it is easier for a judge, sitting alone, to decide on an application than two judges sitting in an open court.

Second procedure that is being simplified. Everything has to be in your affidavit, in your written material in front of the judge in Chambers. Exceptionally, the judge can ask for written submission and even more exceptionally, he can ask for oral submission. So, in practice, this is bound to be a speedier process than it is today. But to ensure that it is the

speedier process, the hon. Attorney-General has inserted a clause which imposes a time limit within which the honourable judge must give his determination, and that is 60 days from the close of pleading, from the close of the hearing, if there is a hearing. And, the Bill goes even further and you can even complain to the Chief Justice if the judge in Chamber misses that first 60 days delay.

A second way where we are simplifying the system and bringing certainty is the delay within which you can apply for judicial review. And, here I completely don't connect with the hon. Member who is a barrister. So, he is supposed to know the law. I can understand many Members here who are not well versed in law who can maybe make a comment as stupid as saying that the time limit to bring judicial proceeding is three months and now you read it, you are reducing it to only 45 days.

But there is a long list of cases, Madam Speaker, where the court has systematically held that the three months' delay is not the applicable criteria. Applicable criteria is promptness. You need to promptly bring an application for judicial review and this is where we have a problem because the courts are inconsistent when it comes to determining what amounts to promptness. Is it six weeks? Is it a month? Is it two months? Is it 21 days? There has been consistently contradictory judgement and not only at the level of the Supreme Court but all the way to the Privy Council. And in the Privy Council and at least two decisions, the law lords restated the rule. The rule is that you have to bring judicial review as promptly as possible and what is prompt will depend on a case-by-case basis, depending on the facts and depending on the explanation given by the applicant for the delay, if any, to bring proceedings. Now, what we are doing today is removing this uncertainty as to what amounts to promptness. We are staying in the law – 45 days, that's it.

Now there is certainty, everybody knows that you have to apply for judicial review within 45 days of a decision. And what are we doing? In section 4, we are amending all the laws, a series of laws, which had contradictory delays for applying for judicial review. There are some decisions which requires you to do judicial review within 21 days. There are some statutes which requires judicial review to be lodged within 28 days. There are some statutes which does not even provide a statutory timeframe; it just tells you that you can appeal by way of judicial review against the administrative decision. So, now we are bringing certainty. Whether it is an appeal against a decision of the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal, whether it is

the appeal against a decision of the Mauritian Revenue Authority, all appeals by way of judicial review to date will have to be lodged within 45 days.

Now, how can that be a problem? How can that be disputed? How can that be creating uncertainty or penalising the applicant? So, that is why I simply cannot understand a barrister telling you that when you produce certainty by giving a timeframe, this will necessarily be something bad.

The 60-day delay, why is it important? It is important, Madam Speaker, because I will give you an example of a case for which the judgement has just been given this year and that relates to a lecturer who had decided to appeal against decision of the University of Mauritius. In that case, the application for leave for judicial review was lodged in February 2018. Judgement, on leave stage, – I am not talking about the second stage but on leave stage – was delivered on the 09 September 2025, two months ago, that is, seven years. And by the time, the judges gave their decisions, there was no live issue. There was no live issue because the poor applicant had retired and the question of giving him a promotion was no longer a live issue. So, this is the type of abuse that we are trying to meet today by bringing this time limit of 60 days in order for judges to give their decision.

The other very important amendment that is being brought, Madam Speaker, is the new section 76(h) which deals with the second leg. Now, as the law stands today, after having gone through the process of leave, after having obtained leave, you have to start from scratch again. The applicant has to swear a new affidavit, annex new series of documents and produce it. Sometimes, you have boxes of pleadings that are being thrown to the judges, duplicity in materials.

So, now what we are saying is that in this new law, if the Judge in Chambers *ex facie* of the pleadings, sees that you have a good arguable case that deserve to go to the next stage, you don't need to file a new set of affidavits. This affidavit, these documents that are being filed to the Judge in Chambers in the first instance, in the next stage, this would be the basis for the second stage; for the stage where the judges will consider the application on the merit.

And, again, I don't understand the hon. Member. He says that we should have put the right to appeal to the Privy Council. This is why we have the decision held by two judges so that precisely you can apply to the judicial committee of the Privy Council. And he thinks that it is not as of right. Let me just read the first sentence of the judgment in the case of C-

Care in which my learned friend appeared. C-Care against the Employment Relations Tribunal –

“This is an appeal as of right from a decision of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, which refused the appellant leave to apply for judicial review ...”

So, what is he talking about? It is already in the law and in any event, the judicial committee of the Privy Council always have the discretion to entertain an application to be heard before him even if the Supreme Court has denied the applicant the right to appeal to the Privy Council.

Madam Speaker, the other thing he mentioned is that we need to bring a law so that all administrative bodies are bound to give reasons of their decisions. Again, as a lawyer, he ought to know if a person is aggrieved because he had a legitimate expectation to be informed of a decision, he had a legitimate expectation to be consulted or if a public body has abused his right or has acted abusively *abus de droit*, these are grounds for judicial review. You don't have to set it out in the law; already it is a ground to apply for judicial review. So, there is absolutely no reason to go and amend all possible legislations and say that an administrative body has to give a decision every time he is required to make a decision. We all know it is already in the Civil Code. Whenever a body/an authority is given a discretion, they need to exercise this discretion in good faith. It is already in the law. There is no need to change the law.

So, Madam Speaker, I hope I have replied to the various grounds raised by the hon. Member. I once again congratulate the hon. Attorney General and his team at the State Law Office to bring this piece of legislation which no doubt, is going to simplify the application for judicial review and ensure a speedier resolution of dispute.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister.

Your winding up speech, hon. Attorney General.

(6.59 p.m.)

**Mr Glover:** Madam Speaker, I was just wondering when my learned colleagues were actually making reference to the other side of the House, that I am becoming very adept and almost a champion now at shadow boxing because I do not have an opponent to face me when he needs to face me.

I am very grateful to the hon. Uteem for his extremely compressive tutorial on the law. I have not had the time to do it in my speech and he has done it as he usually does. I am also very grateful to hon. Seeburn, hon. Ms. Collet and hon. Pentiah for their speeches on this Bill.

Now, since hon. Uteem has been complete in his address to the House, let me just address a couple of matters that really defeat completely my comprehension and understanding of the law.

It is absolutely true and certain that my aim, the aim of this new Bill was not to change the substance of the law relating to judicial review. Mr A. Duval, the hon. Member, is right to say that I have not done so and I restricted my intervention of the procedural aspects for one very good reason which was touched upon by hon. Ms Collet in her speech.

The aim was to amend the processes so that we address the very immediate problem which is delay and accessibility. *C'est un choix délibéré. C'est une simplification et non une refonte.*

Now, the point that hon. A. Duval makes in relation to the notification issue which brought a wry smile to your face, Madam Speaker, is again because he has failed to read everything in the Bill. If he had gone to Clause 4 (Consequential amendments), and the various acts of Parliament which are being amended to put them in line with what we propose in this amendment to the Courts Act, he would have seen that in every single sub-part of Clause 4, (1) (2) (3) (4) and following, that the words used in the enabling legislation which gave the right to the public body to take the decision – let's take the first one which is the Allied Health Professionals Council Act where is said that it is amended by repealing section 37 replacing by the following section –

“Review of decision of Council –

A person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Council.”

Now, how can you be aggrieved if you do not know of the decision? If one goes to the next one which is the Bank of Mauritius Act, how can you say that you are dissatisfied with the determination of the review panel if you are not aware of the decision of the review panel?

I can go on and on for another 30 minutes but I am obviously not going to bore this House with more nonsensical matters.

Now, hon. Uteem has also delved on the 45 days issue, and I said it in my speech and I repeat it so that it is very clear. There have been many decisions deciding on what is an application which has been done with the promptness required by the law. Some legislations provide for 21 days, some 28 days but some do not provide it and in the C-Care case, referred to earlier on, 42 days was decided not be prompt enough. And when we know that erstwhile, in the old days, three months were kind of the yardstick. It was decided and I said it in my speech that 45 days would be as one can say we middle the diddle. We go 45 days which is half of three months so that we give ample time to the persons dissatisfied with a decision to start judicial review proceedings.

Now, Madam Speaker, building a bridge to the future, which is the aim of this Government, means to pause and reassess the workings of our institutions with clarity and honesty. We must ask ourselves whether they still serve the public with the efficiency, fairness and transparency that a mature democracy requires.

The reform before us, though technical in appearance, touches on principles that define who we are as a nation. This Bill does not touch the substance of judicial oversight developed by our case law over decades. Instead, it simply modernises the procedure through which that oversight is exercised. These reforms do not encroach upon judicial independence; they reinforce it by giving the courts the procedural structure they themselves have long called for. They reduce unnecessary formalism and allow judges and allow judges to devote their time to what truly matters – the substance of the challenge.

Finally, Madam Speaker, this Bill, in fact, restores trust in the system. It protects both the individual and the administration by ensuring that legality is determined without unnecessary delay. It reaffirms that in Mauritius, the rule of law is not an abstract idea, but a living principle.

With these words, 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 Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII 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 Courts (Amendment) Bill (No. XXVIII of 2025) was read the third time and passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Madam Speaker:** Adjournment!

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 02 December 2025 at 11.30 a.m.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Madam Speaker:** The House stands adjourned!

*At 7.08 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 02 December 2025 at 11.30 a.m.*

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**DRUGS & ALCOHOL DRIVING – LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING**

**(No. B/1040) Mr K. Rookny (Third Member for Pamplemousses & Triolet)** 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 proposed strengthening of the legislative and enforcement framework to address cases of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, he will state where matters stand, indicating whether Government intends to implement the announced measures, including the immediate impounding of the vehicles and the suspension of the driving licences of the offenders involved therein.

*(Withdrawn)*

**MR B. R. S (EL CAPO) – ARREST – COCAINE SEIZURE**

**(No. B/1041) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** 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 one Mr B. R. S., also known as El Capo, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the reasons for his recent arrest, indicating –

- (a) his nationality, date of entry in Mauritius and from where, indicating the number of times he visited the country and nature of the visas issued thereto;
- (b) his connections in Mauritius;
- (c) his place of abode in Mauritius, and
- (d) whether he is suspected of having any connection with the recent cocaine seizure on the MV Alpha Bravery.

*(Vide Reply to PQ B/1038)*

**CASINOS OF MAURITIUS – PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING –  
IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME**

**(No. B/1042) Mr R. Jhummun (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** 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 proposed restructuring of the Casinos of Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the

House, obtain information as to the expected timeframe for the implementation thereof, giving details thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **OLD GRAND PORT – CIVIL STATUS OFFICE – CLOSURE REASONS**

**(No. B/1045) Mr A. Ramdass (Third Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** 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 Civil Status Office at Old Grand Port, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the reasons for its closure, indicating since when it is closed and whether consideration will be given for the reopening thereof to facilitate access to vital registration services for residents of Grand Sable, Old Grand Port, Bambous Virieux and surrounding areas.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **LOANS – BANK CHARGES, FEES & COLLATERAL SECURITIES – REVIEW**

**(No. B/1046) Mr R. Jhummun (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** 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 bank charges, fees and collateral securities regarding loans granted by financial institutions, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank of Mauritius, information as to –

- (a) when same were last reviewed, and
- (b) whether consideration will be given to aligning same to international norms and standards applicable in other jurisdictions.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **ONLINE RISKS, HARMS, CYBERBULLYING & HARASSMENTS – VICTIMS’ SUICIDE – SAFETY REGULATOR**

**(No. B/1047) Mr B. Babajee (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** 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 online risks, harms, cyberbullying and harassments and victims thereof attempting/committing suicide, he will state whether consideration will be given for the –

- (a) establishment of an independent online safety regulator with a highly qualified commissioner at the head thereof, and
- (b) banning of social media to those under 16 years old.

*(Withdrawn)*

**ROAD ACCIDENTS – DRIVERS UNDER INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL  
SUBSTANCES – FATALITIES**

**(No. B/1052) Dr. F. Aumeer (Third Member for Port-Louis South & Port-Louis Central)** 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 road traffic accidents, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof wherein drivers involved therein were found to be driving under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs/substances and/or without holding valid driving licences over the past three years, indicating the number of –

- (a) fatalities that ensued, and
- (b) vehicles involved that were rented as contract cars and those which were rented illegally

*(Withdrawn)*

**UNAUTHORISED ONLINE MONEY WITHDRAWAL – LOCAL BANKS  
CUSTOMERS – REPORTED CASES**

**(No. B/1054) Dr. F. Aumeer (Third Member for Port-Louis South & Port-Louis Central)** 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 unauthorised online withdrawal of money from the accounts of customers of local banks, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Cybercrime Unit of the Mauritius Police Force, information as to the reported number of cases thereof over the past three years, indicating the –

- (a) banks concerned therewith;
- (b) outcome of inquiries carried out in relation to the responsibility of the banks pursuant to section 51 of the Banking Act, and
- (c) number of prosecutions carried out and convictions secured, if any.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **LIVESTOCK AVAILABILITY – PRICE ESCALATION**

**(No. B/1090) Mr K. Rookny (Third Member for Pamplémousses & Triolet)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to meat for the forthcoming festive season, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) expected availability and volume of livestock for local consumption;
- (b) measures being taken to ensure stable and affordable prices, and
- (c) whether any risk of price escalation or supply shortage have been identified.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **DWELLINGS – LANDSLIDES & EROSION – ENVISAGED MEASURES**

**(No. B/1091) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the dwellings severely endangered by landslides and erosion over the period 2019 to 2024 during the flood-prone seasons, he will state the number of occupiers thereof who were served an “order to evacuate”, indicating the number of such dwellings which are still occupied as at date and the measures being envisaged to ensure the safety of the occupiers thereof ahead of the 2025-2026 flood season.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CONGOMAH BRIDGE – RECONSTRUCTION – START & COMPLETION DATES**

**(No. B/1092) Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port-Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the Congomah Bridge, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether the reconstruction thereof is being envisaged and, if so, indicate the timeframe for the expected start and completion dates thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE MACHINES – DISTRIBUTION**

**(No. B/1093) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to the 500 Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machines donated through the “Gift of Givers NGO”, from South Africa, in August 2022, he will state how same were distributed among the public health institutions.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **RIVIÈRE DES CRÉOLES-NOUVELLE FRANCE – FLOODING MEASURES**

**(No. B/1094) Mr A. Ramdass (Third Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of National Infrastructure whether, in regard to the coastal region of Rivière des Créoles to Nouvelle France, classified red zones in terms of flooding, he will state the emergency measures, if any, taken by his Ministry ahead of the forthcoming rainy season.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **MEDICAL REGISTRATION EXAMINATIONS – STATISTICS**

**(No. B/1095) Dr. F. Aumeer (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to the Medical Registration Examinations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Medical Council, information as to the –

- (a) number of –
  - (i) candidates sitting therefor over the past five years, on a yearly basis, indicating the corresponding number of passes and pass rate, and
  - (ii) attempts open to a candidate to sit therefor, and
- (b) whether the examination papers are vetted by local medical consultants in collaboration with the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **VISION 2050, 10-YEAR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK – MEASURES**

**(No. B/1096) Dr. Ms R. Daureawo (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning whether, in regard to the formulation of the Vision 2050 and corresponding 10-Year National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework, she will state where matters stand, indicating the measures being envisaged to rebuild trust in public institutions and ensuring transparency and integrity.

*(Withdrawn)*

**CAESAREAN SECTION BIRTHS – AGE RANGE & RATIO – REMEDIAL  
MEASURES**

**(No. B/1099) Ms A. Savabaddy (First Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to women giving birth through Caesarean Section (CS), he will state the prevalence thereof in Mauritius, indicating the –

- (a) age range concerned therewith and the ratio of birth by CS in both public and private health institutions, and
- (b) measures his Ministry proposes to take to address the issue along the recommendations of the World Health Organisation.

*(Withdrawn)*

**ANGIOGRAM EXAMINATIONS/ANGIOGRAPHY PROCEDURE – WAITING LIST  
– REMEDIAL MEASURES**

**(No. B/1100) Dr. Ms R. Daureawo (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to angiogram examinations/angiography procedure, he will state the –

- (a) number of –
  - (i) patients having undergone same at the Jawaharlal Nehru and Queen Victoria (Candos) hospitals, respectively since 2020 to 2025, indicating the number thereof on the waiting list as at October 2025, and
  - (ii) angiography machines available therefor, and
- (b) measures put in place to reduce waiting time therefor and facilitate same.

*(Withdrawn)*

**SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES – LOANS GRANTED – ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED**

**(No. B/1102) Dr. Ms R. Daureawo (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives whether, in regard to the Small and Medium Enterprises, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) the number thereof registered as at date, indicating the amount of loans granted thereto from 2020 to 2024;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made of the obstacles with which they are faced, and
- (c) the efforts being made to support them overcome trade barriers and expand internationally.

*(Withdrawn)*

**BEAU PLATEAU ROAD (GOODLANDS-COTTAGE) – ROAD WIDENING –  
PAVEMENTS & HANDRAILS INSTALLATION**

**(No. B/1103) Mr N. Beejan (Second Member for Grand' Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the connecting road from Beau Plateau Road, from Goodlands to Cottage, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether consideration is being given for the –

- (a) widening thereof, in view of the number of accidents reported thereat and increasing volume of vehicles plying thereat daily and, if so, indicate the expected start and completion dates thereof, and
- (b) installation of pavements and handrails thereat, including through compulsory land acquisition near residential zones if deemed necessary to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

*(Withdrawn)*

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION – COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL –  
PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

**(No. B/1104) Dr. Ms B. Thannoo (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries whether, in regard to agricultural land, he will state the extent thereof converted for commercial and residential purposes over the period 2019 to 2024, indicating the measures being envisaged for the protection and preservation thereof for the purpose of farming and food production in the face of the urgency to ensure food security.

*(Withdrawn)*