

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/981 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Mr Uteem**)

*To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-*

**Whether, in regard to the Arabic Paper of the recent Certificate of Primary Education examinations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, information as to if it has received representations complaining about the standard thereof and about mistakes therein and, if so, indicate the steps taken in relation thereto?**

### REPLY FOR SITTING OF TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2011

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Yes, I am informed by the MES that it has received representations from a number of organizations and some parents with regard to the Arabic Paper of the CPE Exams 2011 related mainly to the level of the Question Paper, the reading passages, vocabulary used and the essay topic.

However, I wish to point out that according to the MES, no mistake has been reported in the Arabic Question Paper but there were a few new words utilised.

Mr Speaker Sir,

Following receipt of the complaints, MES investigated into the matter as follows:

- (i) A sampling exercise was carried out prior to the marking exercise, involving some 600 scripts, to look at the performance of candidates. A range of responses to the different questions were compiled and analysed to identify areas of difficulty.
- (ii) The marking scheme was adjusted to take into account any difficulty encountered.

However, it has been found that the new words did not cause any unexpected consequence on the performance of candidates.

MES has also informed that it has taken appropriate measures so as not to penalize any candidate and to ensure fairness to all candidates.

It has further reported that the Arabic Paper has respected the norms designed and the overall standard of the paper is within the level of CPE pupils.

In fact, 71.08 per cent of the candidates have passed the examination in the subject this year, a performance which is comparable to that of previous years.