



RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Executive Council

PRESS RELEASE

The Executive Council met at 10.00 hours this Friday 29 April 2011 under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. G. JABEEMISSAR, G.O.S.K. and has, among its deliberations:

DECIDED :

- (i) to approve that the Commission for Agriculture make necessary arrangement for the introduction of the Rodrigues Agricultural Reform Bill to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for onward transmission to the National Assembly for debate and enactment. The different laws and regulations dealing with agriculture in Rodrigues date as far back as the year 1882 to 2004 spanning down around 43 pieces of legislations. These laws are dispersed and scattered with the result that many of them are now outdated while others are difficult to enforce, particularly due to the specific conditions in Rodrigues.

The aim and objectives of the Rodrigues Agricultural Reform Bill is therefore to provide an up to date and appropriate legal framework that will allow a sustainable agricultural development in Rodrigues that takes into account the need to conserve our natural resources and to protect public health and the environment.

- (ii) to approve that the Commission for Health grant financial assistance to the tune of Rs 50,000 to Mrs. M.D. LOUIS of Grand La Fouche Corail to enable her to proceed to South Africa for further medical treatment. Mrs. LOUIS aged 30 years, has been under treatment for choroidoretinitis bilaterally since April 2007.

DECIDED :

- (iii) to approve that the Commission for Health initiate procedure to erect a commemorative monument on the occasion of the AIDS Candlelight Memorial 2011 which will be observed on Sunday 15 May. The Candlelight Memorial which started in 1963 takes place every third Sunday in May. The monument will be named "**Monument de L'Espoir**" and aims amongst others to:-
 - (i) commemorate the lives of those lost and affected by AIDS;
 - (ii) serve as an important intervention for community solidarity, breaking down barriers and giving; and
 - (iii) act as community mobilization and sensitization on HIV/AIDS.

- (iv) to approve that the Commission for Health establish the general policy that all patients suffering from cancer be accompanied by a relative whenever they are referred to Mauritius for further treatment in addition to the existing practice for the transfer of patients to Mauritius. It has been observed due to the fact that the prevalence of cancer is increasing in Rodrigues and most patients suffering from same have to be referred to Mauritius for further treatment, as from now onwards these patients who need great psychological support be accompanied by a relative.

TAKEN NOTE:

- (i) that the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office and Commission for Arts and Culture will reward the 14 slammers by assisting them to participate in the final of the National Slam Competition on 14 May 2011 at Serge Constantin Theatre in Mauritius which will be held.

- (ii) that the Commission for Arts and Culture will organise a musical competition known as "**Meyer Performance Misikal en Solo**" opened to musicians playing the following instruments to mark the Music Day Celebration to be held on Tuesday 21 June 2011: - Accordéon, Violin, Mandolin, Guitar, Benjo, Saxophone, Harmonica, Keyboard and Trumpet.

- (iii) that the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Co. Ltd. has submitted its quarterly report for January to March 2011, in line with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Management Regulations 2008 Section 19(2) and 20(3).

TAKEN NOTE:

- (iv) that the Commission for Public Infrastructure has awarded a contract for the construction of a Recreational Area at Riviere Banane, Rodrigues. The work will consists of: -
- (i) Clearing of work area of all undergrowth, bushes and trees and carting away debris;
 - (ii) Construction of Parking area;
 - (iii) Supply and fix of Pine Pole Barrier of Treated Pine Timber;
 - (iv) Supply and fix of Pine benches;
 - (v) Construction of one Kiosk; and
 - (vi) Provide and fix of Pine gate.
- (v) that a team of four (4) Officers including consultants from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life will be on mission to Rodrigues from 5 to 8 May, 2011 in connection with the implementation of the E-Health Strategic Plan which has been prepared by the Ministry.

The E-Health Strategic Plan aims at defining an appropriate ICT Strategy to improve processes at the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, its departments as well as relevant Health Agencies with emphasis on improving productivity quality and service delivery.

- (vi) that two (2) Officers of the Aids Unit of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life are in Rodrigues from 25 to 29 April, 2011 in the context of the Global Fund Round 8 Training Programme. The objectives of the mission are to equip resource persons from Rodrigues and promote capacity building for nursing and paramedical staff on HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) as well as consolidate the participation of 'Agent de Santé Communautaire' to encourage VCT among Rodriguans.

Central Administration
Chief Commissioner's Office
Port Mathurin
Rodrigues

Date: 29 April 2011