



RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Executive Council

MAIN DECISIONS

Executive Council Meeting – Friday 20 October 2023

The Executive Council met today under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Johnson ROUSSEY, G.O.S.K; and has among its deliberations:

DECIDED

- (i) To approve that upon receipt of funding from the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd. (MIC), the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation will award a contract for the sum of Rs 65,822,987.06 for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of 3 x 350 m³/day containerised sea water reverse osmosis desalination plants. An additional production of 1050 m³ of water per day will be obtained upon commissioning of the three plants which will help to improve supply and alleviate the difficulties being faced by the population.
- (ii) That the Commission for Water Resources initiates action for the procurement of twenty (20) spare submersible and surface water pumps estimated at Rs 4,380,000. for deployment at reservoir and borehole sites, as and when required. Having spare pumps readily available ensures that water supply systems can be quickly repaired in case of pump failure or other emergencies and minimises the downtime of the these equipment, reducing inconveniences and disruption in the distribution schedules.

- (iii) To approve the allocation of grant to the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation Ltd. (RPUC) for the months of October, November and December 2023 to enable the Company to cover its operational expenses.
- (iv) That the Commission for Education will meet the costs of air tickets in favour of markers from Rodrigues for their participation in the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) marking exercise to be held in Mauritius as from 13 November 2023 for Grade 6 and 30 November 2023 for Grade 5.
- (v) That the Commission for Training will invite applications for the award of two (2) Scholarships tenable at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) in Mauritius for academic year 2024 - 2025. The scholarship is an initiative of the Government of India to offer assistance for vocational training to students from Rodrigues in continuation to its ongoing scholarship programs and strong bilateral relations with the Government of Mauritius. The scholarship is facilitated by the Outer Islands Development Corporation (OIDC) under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity).
- (vi) That the Commission for Trade and Licensing proceeds with processing of a list of thirteen (13) applications for Trade Licence.
- (vii) That Mrs. Cecily CYPERSADE, National Consultant of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Mauritius will be on official mission to Rodrigues from 16 to 19 October 2023 in the context of the development of the National Action Plan, in line with the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) Strategy initiated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to address the challenges driven by both natural and human-induced processes such as drought, climate change, biodiversity loss, agricultural practices, energy production and sustainable infrastructure development .
- (viii) That the Commission for State Land Lease will grant Agricultural Leases to six applicants who are genuine farmers/planters in a view to encourage them to increase their productivity in line with the policy to improve food security.

- (ix) That the Commission for Agriculture will organise an Agri-Fair/Exhibition on Smart Agriculture, on Saturday 28 October 2023 at the Commission for Agriculture at Citronelle, in the context of the World Food Day which is celebrated annually on the 16th October. It will be an opportunity for the Agricultural Services and other stakeholders to exhibit/sell and promote their schemes and services for the benefit of the local farming community. The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is "Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave no one behind".

In this same context the Farmer's Centre and Office at Terre Rouge will be inaugurated on Sunday 29 October 2023 and the Commission for Agriculture will hand over Agricultural Permits and Small Farmers Welfare Fund Cards to land occupants and Planters/Farmers of the locality.

- (x) That the Commission for Youth and Sports will provide a financial grant to the Rod Trail Association for the organisation of the 14th Edition of Trail de Rodrigues on 05 November 2023. The theme of Trail de Rodrigues this year is "Koste Zil l'Ocean Indien" with the objective to: -
- (a) unify the local population through sport;
 - (b) share with foreign participants and visitors our deep sense of hospitality and our joy of living;
 - (c) ensure the protection of our natural environment; and
 - (d) increase the visibility of our beloved island as an authentic tourist destination.

- (xi) That the Commission for Youth and Sports will provide financial grants to all team sport for calendar year 2023 for capacity building and for acquisition of sports equipment and other expenses to ensure the proper development of all athletes as follows:

Team Sport	Amount per Team (Rs)
Football	
1 st Division teams (men)	60,000
2 nd Division teams (men)	30,000
Regional teams (men)	25,000
Feminine teams	25,000
Volley Ball/Handball/Basketball/Rugby	
Men	25,000
Women	25,000

- (xii) To approve a new proposed subdivision on the Reclaimed Land at Oyster Bay and to allocate a plot to AEL DDS Properties Ltd. to relocate its Petroleum Depot from Port Mathurin for safety and security reasons in view of the increasing number of vehicles and enhanced availability/storage of petroleum in Rodrigues.
- (xiii) That the Rodrigues Sports Company Limited will recruit additional handy workers for the maintenance of sports infrastructures.

TAKEN NOTE

- (i) That Section 69 of the Finance (Miscellaneous provision) Act 2023, has amended the Public Procurement Act to include departments of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the definition of Public Body. With the amendment, Accounting Officers of all Commissions are now empowered to take certain decisions which previously required the approval of the Island Chief Executive.
- (ii) That twelve (12) entrepreneurs in the plant-based medicinal and cosmetics industry will participate in a one-week Training and "Eductour" Programme in Reunion Island from 02 to 08 November 2023 which will be financed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) and the Economic Development Board (EDB) Mauritius. They will be accompanied by one officer from the EDB Rodrigues Office and one Industrial Analyst of the Commission for Industrial Development.
- (iii) That a half day workshop pertaining to the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in schools at risk will be organised by the Mauritius Red Cross Society on Friday 20 October 2020 at Hotel Les Cocotiers. The aim of the workshop is to sensitise schools on the tool Kit for assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities and come up with an action plan with the collaboration of school committee to manage risks at schools level.
- (iv) That the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) is awarding a contract for the sum of Rs 1,393,000. for desilting works at Anse Raffin Dam.

- (v) That the Commission for Women's Affairs will organise a Groupe de Parole in favour of a new batch of ten (10) women survivors of domestic violence to provide a platform for the victims to be listened to and share their experiences and to be empowered on how to recover from victimisation through therapeutic activities.
- (vi) That at its meeting held on Tuesday 10 October and Tuesday 17 October 2023, the Building and Land Use Permit Committee has approved the grant of twelve (12) Building and Land Use Permits and one (01) Industrial Building and Land Use Permit.
- (vii) Of the outcome of the 38th Meeting of the Rodrigues Tourism Licensing Committee (RTLCC) which was held on Wednesday 04 October 2023 whereby ten (10) applications were considered and processed.
- (viii) Of the last statistical records for the month of September 2023, 6,895 tourists visited Rodrigues compared to 5,184 for the same month in 2022. From January to September 2023, 65,195 tourists have visited the island compared to 51,258 for the same months in Year 2019 (normal year prior to Pandemic) which depicts an increase of 27.2%.
- (ix) Of the organisation of the Special Vacances Programme during the School Holidays of November/December 2023 from 21st November to 16th December 2023 targeting the student community and the youth in general with the following objectives:
 - (a) to provide them with healthy leisure activity;
 - (b) to foster bond of friendship among the youths of the different Regions and within the Regions; and
 - (c) to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery among the youths.
- (x) Of the Inauguration of the Unsorted Outpatient Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Wednesday 11 October 2023 which is a sub-unit of the Accident and Emergency department (AED) where seasonal flu and other minor ailments will be treated. This new arrangement will not only alleviate the space constraint in the present AED but also, provide prompt and efficient medical attention to emergencies.

- (xi) That Rodrigues will participate along with Mauritius in the Indian Ocean Tsunami Exercise 2023 which will be held on 25 October 2023 to simulate the islands being put in a tsunami warning situation and require *the Rodrigues Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (RDDRMC)* to:
- (a) implement stakeholder's Standard Operating Procedures associated with their National tsunami warning chains;
 - (b) test organisational decision-making processes for issuing of emergency warnings to public;
 - (c) test the communication links at all levels;
 - (d) promote emergency preparedness and response at institutional and community level; and
 - (e) create awareness, improve the readiness and resilience in the community.

For this year's edition the RDDRMC has decided to conduct the exercise at Pointe Coton, Saint Francois and Graviers.

**Chief Commissioner's Office
Port Mathurin
Rodrigues**

Date: 20 October 2023