



RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

MAIN DECISIONS

Executive Council Meeting – Friday 10 May 2024

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

DECIDED

- (i) That the Commission for Education will proceed with the payment of Cambridge School Certificate Examination fees in favour of needy students who have not satisfied the criteria for promotion to Grade 12.
- (ii) That in line with the budget speech for Financial Year 2023/2024, the Commission for Vocational Training will review the quantum of the Monthly Financial Assistance Scheme from Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000 in favour of post-secondary students from Rodrigues whose family income is less than Rs 50,000 instead of Rs 15,000 as from June 2024.
- (iii) That the Commission for Family Affairs will enlist the services of a qualified resource person/Consultant to finalise the costed action plan "Towards combatting social ills in Rodrigues" which will provide a road map to all stakeholders to combat the different social ills in Rodrigues.
- (iv) That in line with its mission which is to devise strategies, programmes and policies to enhance family welfare by providing them with adequate assistances and supports, the Commission for Women's Affairs will provide assistance to four families which are found to be in distress.

TAKEN NOTE

- (i) That the Honourable Georges Pierre LESJONGARD, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities will lead a delegation comprising Officers of his Ministry and Representatives of the Central Electricity Board from 17 to 20 May 2024 for the inauguration of the 1MW Solar Farm at Grenade.
- (ii) That at its meeting held on Tuesday 07 May 2024, the Building and Land Use Permit Committee has approved the grant of four (4) Residential and two (2) Commercial Building and Land Use Permit.
- (iii) That the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office has granted permission to Cotton Bay Hotel to proceed with the upgrading of the Bridge at Cotton Bay to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the entrance of the Hotel.
- (iv) That the Commission for Agriculture is implementing jointly with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund the Bio Farming Support Scheme to promote sustainable agricultural production by providing farmers with subsidy on the purchase of bio-pesticides and fertilizers. Funding to the tune of Rs 1 Million has been provided in the National Budget for Financial Year 2023/24 to operate the scheme for Rodrigues.
- (v) Of the holding of a Validation Workshop in Rodrigues in the month of May 2024 by Experts from "Centre International de Recherche Agronomique et du Développement" (CIRAD) Reunion Island, to present their findings for the following two purposes:-
 - (a) **Purpose 1:** To support organic agricultural production through adoption of environmental, ecological practices and use of crop genetic diversity; and
 - (b) **Purpose 2:** To design a water irrigation system which should aim at maintaining a very high level of water use efficiency

The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) under the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) Programme and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

- (vi) Of the mission of two (2) Technical Staff from CIRAD Reunion and one from the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) of Mauritius to Rodrigues as from 19 to 23 May 2024 in connection with the assessment of Huanlongbin (HLB) disease formerly known as Citrus Greemy in local lime.

HLB is a severe bacteria disease affecting lime around the world and the CIRAD is assessing the presence of the disease in the Indian Ocean. The study has started in Mauritius under the aegis of FAREI and is now being extended to Rodrigues.

- (vii) That with a view to sensitise and educate students at an early age on the effects and risks of health problems associated with the consumption of salt and tobacco, the Commission for Health (NCD Health Promotion Unit) will organize the following activities:

Sn	Activities	Date & Venue
1	World Salt Awareness Week (13-19 May) 2024 Main activity on 15 May 2024	La Ferme College at 09.45 hrs
2	World Hypertension Day 2024 – Friday 17 May 2024	Palissade Ternel (Playground) at 09.00hrs
3	World No-Tobacco Day 2024 - Friday 31 May 2024	Rodrigues College from 09. 30 hrs to 14. 00 hrs

The World Salt Awareness Week aims to encourage the implementation of evidence-based interventions to reduce salt consumption among the population to protect cardiovascular health and help prevent many other diseases. The theme for the World Salt Awareness week is "It's time to shine the spotlight on salt," highlighting the issue of the "hidden" salt (sodium) in many processed and ultra-processed products.

- (viii) In the context of the Global Day of Parents 2024, the Commission for Family Affairs in collaboration with the Men As Partners (MAP) Ambassadors will celebrate the first edition of the Global Day of Parents which was proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2012. In that respect, a recreational day will be organized on 1st June 2024 at Anse Raffin so as to honour the contribution of parents in the upbringing of their children and their selfless commitment towards their healthy development.

- (ix) That the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection has awarded a contract to extend its Price Fixing Information System (PFIS) for the computerisation of the Price Fixing Unit of Rodrigues and the contract will be completed by end of July 2024.
- (x) That the Commission for Family Affairs has identified the first batch of families to benefit from the "Programme d'autonomisation des Familles", which is expected to help families to start an income generating activity to sustain their needs and to come out of poverty. The objective of the programme consists among others at empowering the families through training/capacity building programmes in life skill management, parental education, entrepreneurship through rearing of pigs and rearing of chickens and basic ICT courses.
- (xi) That in the context of the cultural cooperation between the Seychelles Institute of Culture, the Arts and Heritage and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, a delegation from Seychelles led by Mr. Emmanuel D'OFFAY, Executive Director, Creative Seychelles Agency and two resource persons will be on mission in Rodrigues for the organisation of a series of exchange activities from 27 May to 02 June 2024.
- (xii) That Mr. Jean Frederic RAVINA has been conferred the 'Best Youth' award in the 1st Edition of the National Youth Award Competition organised by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation on Friday 3rd May 2024 at Balaclava Hotel. He has represented Mauritius and Rodrigues internationally in youth forum such as "Youth Capacity building on conflict resolution negotiation and mediation process" at DIRCO, South Africa, and Young African Leader Initiative (YALI) Civic Leadership Track, and 2nd Pan African Youth Forum in African Union headquarters at Addis Ababa which has helped him in developing his acuity in shaping youth development programme that caters for the needs of Rodriguan youth.
- (xiii) That the finals and the Prize Giving Ceremony of the Rodrigues Drama competition in French will be held on Saturday 08 June 2024 from 10:00 hours to 17:00 hours.

- (xvi) That Mr. Frederick MUIA, Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Office for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles will be on mission in Rodrigues from May 15 to 17, 2024. Mr. MUIA would have meetings with the high officials of the RRA and the Labour Division as well as the relevant key social partners :
- (a) to discuss the contributions of Rodrigues for the implementation of the (National employment Policies (NEP) and the elaboration of the 2nd generation of the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP);
 - (b) to assess the request for assistance (priority needs in terms of capacity development) from the ILO, based on the Implementation Plan shared; and
 - (c) to assess the issues around social dialogue, unemployment, poverty and migration to Mauritius.

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

Date: 10 May 2024