

TERTIARY

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS - DENTAL COLLEGE

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

UNIVERSITÉ DE BORDEAUX – PARMU AGREEMENT - POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

(19.07.2022)

(No. B/875) Mr S. Abbas Mamode (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to offer of postgraduate studies for Medical and Health Officers under the *PARMU* Agreement with the *Université de Bordeaux*, in France and in other countries, he will state where matters stand, indicating the fields of speciality identified and number of candidates in each case.

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Medical and Health Officers/ Senior Medical and Health Officers of the public sector, registered as General Practitioner undergo postgraduate studies either through recognised medical universities abroad or in Mauritius through joint collaborations with other universities under a Memorandum of Understanding jointly with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.

Since year 1995, for various diploma courses and specialisation programmes, they were conducted through collaboration with University of Bordeaux. 79 participants at that time, including 71 Mauritians had been trained in 12 different fields of specialisation, namely Anaesthesia-Reanimation, General Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Orthopaedic Surgery, Legal Medicine, Cardiology and Psychiatry to mention a few.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am informed that the *PARMU* project, *Projet d'Appui au Développement de l'Anesthésie-Réanimation et Médecine d'Urgence dans l'Océan Indien* was a one-off regional project which was conducted from 1999 to 2003. The *PARMU* project was a collaboration between the Governments of France and Mauritius.

The *PARMU* project ended with the completion of the training in 2003. Therefore, no further postgraduate training can be considered under *PARMU* project.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards postgraduate training of Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers, my Ministry reactivated the policy to provide training for Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers, irrespective of

whether they have qualified from the University of Mauritius or any other recognised medical institution.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 2020, the University of Mauritius launched the new faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and it was agreed that the University of Mauritius will go ahead with an *Accord de Principe* between all stakeholders, namely my Ministry, the University of Mauritius and the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.

Since early 2021, a survey was conducted on human resources for future training needs, in the context of the COVID-19 to identify speciality fields in order of priority.

My Ministry will shortly be proceeding on the signature of an *Accord Cadre de Coopération*, a collaboration between my Ministry, the University of Mauritius, the University of Bordeaux, the Centre *Hospitalier Universitaire de Bordeaux*, the University of Réunion, the Centre *Hospitalier Universitaire de La Réunion* and the French Embassy in Mauritius to provide postgraduate courses to our doctors.

In the first instance, my Ministry is envisaging to provide specialisation training in the field of Radiology and Anaesthesia followed by Emergency Medicine, Nephrology and Neurology. Some 10 candidates will be recruited in each field of specialisation.

The final draft of the *Accord cadre* is awaited from the French side and subsequently, necessary clearances will be sought from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and the document will be sent to the State Law Office for the final legal vetting.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Can the Minister inform the House about the recruitment procedures for candidates who wish to undergo specialisation?

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, procedures will be made through an Expression of Interest. The candidates will be selected by a representative of *Université de Bordeaux* in the concerned field of specialisation.

Mr Abbas Mamode: Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the candidates will have to bear the costs for the specialisation course?

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, no. In fact, all the costs will be borne by the Ministry of Health.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dr. Aumeer!

Dr. Aumeer: Thank you. The Minister is surely aware of the discontent of nearly 10 doctors who were selected by his Ministry to undergo training in Emergency Medicine through the *CHU De Bellepierre à la Réunion*, attached to *Université de Bordeaux*. It does appear that there has been some problems arising as to their recognition as emergency physician. May I ask the hon. Minister whether necessary actions are being taken so that these doctors be recognised as emergency physicians?

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should be updated with the information. The University of Réunion has already been sent for gazetting so that this University, once it is recognised, the Degree will be recognised by the Medical Council. This has been done a long time back.