

Free Transport to Students

MATTERS RAISED

METRO EXPRESS – STUDENT'S MECARDS

(04.07.2023)

Mr A. Ameer Meea (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East):

Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Tonight, I am raising an issue which is addressed to the Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail. It is a very important issue which is affecting the lives of thousands of students. On 26 June 2023, Metro Express issued a communiqué informing passengers, especially students, that the use of Metro Express Cards (MECards) will be compulsory while travelling onboard the Metro Express as from 03 July this year, that is, yesterday. To benefit from free travel, a student must have the MECard and their Educational Institution Card. Their student identity card is no longer valid to travel in Metro Express.

The problem is when schools are applying to Metro Express, this is taking two months for the school to get the Metro Express Card and this is penalising all the students who are travelling in Metro. For example, someone travelling from Port Louis to Curepipe to attend his college, it is costing Rs110 per day. If you time it by five for a month, it is Rs2,400. If in a family there are two students, it is Rs5,000 per month.

So, therefore, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, can I make an appeal to the hon. Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail if they can allow students to use their student card until Metro Express has issued the Metro Express Card to all students, because to my information, there is a huge backlog to issue the Metro Express Card. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: It is okay. You see, I do not find any difficulty in recognising you when you strike the request. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, please!

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning, Minister of Tourism (Mr S. Obeegadoo): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the representations are well noted and will be conveyed to my hon. colleague. **The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Kenny Dhunoo, please!