

PRE - PRIMARY

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRE-PRIMARY & PRIMARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - LEARNING DISABILITIES & DIFFICULTIES

(27.06.2023)

(No. B/864) **Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the introduction of the outdoor education programmes in the secondary school curriculum for grades 10 to 12 students as announced in the 2021-2022 Budget Speech, she will state where matters stand as regards the conversion of the Anse la Raie centre into a Regional Outdoor Education and Recreation Centre.

The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation (Mr S. Toussaint): Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I will reply to this PQ.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as the House is aware in the 2021-2022 Budget Speech, it was announced –

“To ensure that our youth develop a positive relationship with their surroundings, we will introduce Outdoor education programs in the secondary school curriculum for all students in Grades 10 to 12.”

The Anse la Raie Regional Outdoor Education and Recreation Centre was handed over to the Mauritius Sports Council in August 2021. The refurbishment of the Centre was carried out by the in-house team of the Mauritius Sports Council. The Centre started to receive users as from January 2022.

The Outdoor Education Programme started with 20 colleges as a first pilot project as from May 2022 up to 23 July 2022. Five colleges attended the first pilot project namely –

- (i) Goodlands SSS;
- (ii) Pamplemousses SSS;
- (iii) Loreto College of Port Louis; (iv) Quartier Militaire SSS; (v) Royal College of Port Louis.

The Outdoor Education Programme resumed this year as a second pilot project as from 14 March 2023. Four colleges have attended the Anse la Raie Regional Outdoor Education and Recreation Centre as at 22 June 2023 and are as follows –

- (i) Droopnath Ramphul State College;
- (ii) Islamic Cultural College;
- (iii) Triolet SSS; (iv) Terre Rouge SSS.

As at date, a total of Rs1,085 participants have attended the Anse la Raie Regional Outdoor Education and Recreation Centre. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Dr. Gungapersad: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Thank you, hon. Minister. May I know from you whether these students who go there from Grade 10 to 12 stay there overnight, what we normally term as residential workshops, or is it only during daytime workshops that are carried out?

Mr Toussaint: No, these activities are during daytime and they are within the normal school hours.

Dr. Gungapersad: One last question, Mr Speaker, Sir. We have students who participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as you know. Do these students get this possibility to stay overnight over there during their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme?

Mr Toussaint: Although this question Duke of Edinburgh's is not closely related, I will answer to it because I know the subject matter very well. Those students doing residential projects for their Duke of Edinburgh's, be it bronze, silver or gold level, they ask for places to stay overnight including Anse La Raie.