



IMMACULÉE CONCEPTION SCHOOL – BUILDING SECURITY

(No. B/230) Dr. F. Aumeer (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resource whether, in regard to the Immaculée Conception School located at corner Jules Leveux Street and Monseigneur Leen Street Ward 4, he will state –

(a) the number of years the school has not been used for educational purposes, and

(b) if he has been made aware of severe security and health concerns arising from the lack of maintenance and oversight of the premises and, if so, indicate the measures being envisaged to secure the building.

Dr. Gungapersad: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regard to part (a) of the question, I have been informed that the Immaculée Conception School is no longer being used for educational purposes since 2012 given its state.

I am also informed that the premises where the school was formally housed were officially handed over to the Mauritius Police Force in April 2017 for the setting up of a Police warehouse. Following complaints received on the Citizen Support Unit Portal in 2021 by inhabitants of the region, my Ministry took note that the Mauritius Police Force did not go ahead with the said project.

Moreover, the Ministry of Housing and Lands has informed my Ministry on 12 October 2021 that the premises are under its control, but were being occupied by the Field Services Unit, a department falling under the aegis of the Ministry of Local Government. Therefore, this school no longer falls under the purview of Ministry of Education and Human Resource since April 2017.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regard to part (b) of the question, my answer is yes. We are conscious about the insecurity there. Complaints from the public were made to my Ministry in 2021 pertaining to drug addicts and dangerous squatters occupying the premises. The Ministry of Housing and Lands was accordingly requested to undertake necessary and appropriate actions, given that the land on which stands the ex-Immaculée Conception School is under the control of the latter Ministry.

Additionally, the Mauritius Police Force was requested to reinforce Police patrol around the premises of the school and take necessary actions against the illegal occupants for the safety and security of the public. This request was reiterated this year again.

Thank you.