

**RESIDENCE PERE LAVAL, QUATRE BORNES – KINDERGARTEN &
PREPRIMARY SCHOOL (30/06/09)**

Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE): Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Résidence Père Laval, Quatres Bornes, I am going to address myself to the Minister of Local Government regarding the closing down of kindergarten and pre-primary school which is situated there and which exists for the last fifty-three years. In a letter dated 13 May 2009, the parents are informed, I quote – «Chers parents, je vous informe que le conseil municipal a pris la décision de ne plus continuer à maintenir le service de garderie et l'école maternelle à partir du 1er janvier 2010.

Ainsi, vous êtes priés de faire les arrangements nécessaires pour que votre enfant puisse être admis dans une autre garderie/école maternelle. Le conseil regrette pour tout inconvénient.»

Mr Speaker, Sir, since the parents received this letter, they went to meet the Mayor on 19 May but, unfortunately he was not in the country. On 2 June 2009, they managed to meet him.

He promised to revisit the issue and to report back to the inhabitants of Résidence Père Laval.

But, unfortunately, as at to date they received no communication. On 18 June 2009, they addressed a petition with 245 signatures to the Mayor and copied to the three MPs of the region, asking the Council to review this decision. I was given to understand by the inhabitants that they even had a meeting with the Vice–Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications, hon. X. L. Duval.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this school which is being financed by the Municipality of Quatre- Bornes, operated and run by the Diocèse de Port Louis exists for the past fifty-three years. Many generations have gone through this school. It has all the necessary infrastructure, equipment and qualified personnel. I am given to understand that it is actually catering for forty children in the pre-primary class and fourteen in the kindergarten. I am given to understand that it is operating at optimum capacity. The closing-down will cause, obviously, undue hardship to residents and children of the Résidence Père Laval. Apart from being an institution which has proved itself, it has also an emotional dimension.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would appeal to the Minister of Local Government to use his good offices, to persuade the Municipality of Quatre Bornes not to go ahead with the closing down of the school. I am sure the inhabitants of Résidence Père Laval will be most indebted to him.

Thank you.

The Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands (Dr. J. B. David):

Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, it is never comfortable to close a school be it pre-primary or secondary or whatever and before the hon. Member raised the issue in Parliament, the three sitting members – hon. Deerpalsing and the Vice- Prime Minister, they have contacted the Municipality and contacted me as well and the issue will be revisited Mr Speaker, Sir.