

PRIMARY

CURRICULUM

MATTERS RAISED

SCHOOLS - *KREOL MORISIEN* - OPTIONAL SUBJECT

(06/04/2021)

Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (Fourth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West):

Merci, M. le président. Ma requête s'adresse à la vice-Première ministre et ministre de l'Éducation et concerne le sort du *Kreol Morisien* comme langue optionnelle dans nos écoles.

Introduite dès 2012 comme langue optionnelle parmi d'autres langues, le *Kreol Morisien* a connu un intérêt certain. A ce jour, 9,000 élèves étudient cette langue ; 3,000 au primaire et 6,000 au secondaire, soit en grades 7, 8, et 9. L'année dernière, 1,200 élèves de grade 10 ont exprimé leur intention d'étudier le *Kreol Morisien*, avec l'intention de l'apprendre en *SC* et *HSC* éventuellement. Or, il paraît que le *Kreol Morisien* ne sera pas *examinable* en *SC* et *HSC*. Tout le monde est dans le flou, dans un flou total ; les élèves, de même que les établissements scolaires. Le Cabinet a annoncé vendredi dernier la mise sur pied d'un comité présidé par le Premier ministre. Mais entre-temps, qu'advient-il de ces enfants ?

Mr Speaker: Put your request!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Est-ce qu'il y a vraiment une volonté sur le sujet par le gouvernement ? Pourquoi un comité maintenant alors que les cours ont commencé depuis 2012 ? Gouverner, n'est-ce pas prévoir, M. le président ? N'est-ce pas là une discrimination flagrante...

Mr Speaker: You are making a speech! You are making a speech!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: ... envers ces enfants qui ont opté pour le *Kreol Morisien* comme langue optionnelle ?

Mr Speaker: Hon. Member! Hon. Member!

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YEAR 2021

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
"NATATION SCOLAIRE" – 'BASSINS D'APPRENTISSAGE'
(06/04/2021)

(No. B/164) 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 programme of *"Natation Scolaire"* which involved the construction of '*bassins d'apprentissage*' in primary schools, she will state – (a) the number thereof built as at to date, indicating the –

- (i) cost thereof, and
 - (ii) name of the contractor/s thereof, and
- (b) if a comprehensive report thereon is available.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, on 23 January 2017, the *"Natation Scolaire"* Project was launched by the Prime Minister. This Project is being implemented in collaboration with the Mauritius Sports Council. The main objective of the project is to teach swimming to pupils of Grade IV so as to prepare them in the skills of swimming with the goal of making them autonomous swimmers. We must not forget that we live in an island and we must ensure that the young people learn to swim and develop their survival skills.

The Project which initially concerned 30 primary schools, selected within an accessible range of the nine swimming pools of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, has now been rolled out in 234 primary schools throughout the island. Since 2017 as at date, some 40,052 pupils have participated in the Project. To ensure that a larger number

of pupils benefit from the programme, in the Budget 2018-2019 it was announced that four '*bassins d'apprentissage*' will be constructed, one in each zone.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the letters of award for the construction of three '*bassins d'apprentissage*', namely at Plaines des Papayes Government School, Melrose Government School and Permal Soobrayen Government School have been issued as at date. I must draw the attention of the House that the tenders were launched on three occasions and had to be cancelled due to non-responsiveness of bids. The contract agreements for the construction of '*bassins d'apprentissage*' at Plaines des Papayes Government School and Permal Soobrayen Government School have not been signed yet.

Yet, in view of pending submission of proper insurance policies and performance guaranties. That of Melrose Government School has been awarded for a contract value of Rs37 m. to Kiften Enterprise Ltd. For Cascavelle Government School, the Project could not be implemented earlier as major changes had to be made in the design in view of the relocation of the Project. The bid documents are now ready for launching, but had to be postponed due to the lockdown.

With regard to part (b) of the question, we do not have any comprehensive report at this stage.

Dr. Gungapersad: Given that rebidding had to take place, did the Ministry of Education carry out a feasibility study, a good planning prior to inviting bids, initially?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, this was in fact done, but, as I have said earlier, we had to re-launch the bids because we did not have responsive bidders.

Mr Speaker: Next Parliamentary Question!