

PRIMARY

INFRASTRUCTURE

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ABDOOL RAMAN ABDOOL GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS – CONTRACT (31/10/2023)

(No. B/1353) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Abdool Raman Abdool Government School, in Port Louis, she will state if tenders have been awarded for the implementation of Phase II of the proposed infrastructural works thereof, indicating the – (a) name of the successful bidder;

(b) contract value, and

(c) expected start and completion date thereof.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to PQ B/388 of 25 April 2023 wherein I had informed that bid for the project was launched on 23 April 2023 with 29 May 2023 as closing date. I am now informed that following the recommendation of the Central Procurement Board, my Ministry had, on 18 August 2023, informed all bidders that the bidding exercise has been cancelled in accordance with Section 39 of the Public Procurement Act. I am further informed that new bidding documents have already been sent to the CPB for vetting following which the tender documents will be launched again.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Speaker, Sir, yet again, this bidding exercise is being cancelled. This process of bidding exercise dates back to, if I am not wrong, maybe 10 years. Mr Speaker, Sir, the last bidding exercise, I recall, was since 2019 and then it was awarded to a Contractor and cancelled again. Now, referring to the last PQ by myself in April this year, bidding exercise was launched but can I ask the hon. Minister why again and again this bidding exercise is being cancelled?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, as stressed by the hon. Member with regard to this project, hon. Dr. Husnoo has been following this project with me for a number of years I should say but I must say that we have been very harsh on the officers and we've been asking them to make sure that things move on smoothly as from now but I thank the hon. Member for having put the question allowing me to follow up further on this particular project.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Speaker, Sir, but I am sorry to say. You haven't given a plausible explanation as to why the tender exercise has been cancelled. Why each time you say you are following the exercise when I want to know what the reason is?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, in July 2023, the Central Procurement Board wrote to the Ministry saying that there were missing bid documents and according to Section 39 of the Public Procurement Act, they had to cancel the bidding exercise but I must say that in spite of the fact that the project started long time back, there were phases I and II and this is the phase II that we are stumbling.