

# PRIMARY & SECONDARY

## GENERAL ISSUES

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### MODEL UNITED NATIONS – GRADE 12 STUDENTS – POST-COVID

(28/11/2023)

(No. B/1612) **Dr. A. Boolell (First Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether she will state if consideration will be given for resuming the Model United Nations activity for Grade 12 students in the post-COVID era, recognising its pivotal role in fostering critical thinking, diplomatic skills, and a nuanced understanding of global affairs among our youth.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the Model United Nations is an extracurricular activity which has been organised by my Ministry for students of Grade 12 from all secondary schools, State-aided and fee paying since decades. This important activity aims at providing a dynamic and immersive educational experience that combines elements of research, diplomacy, public speaking and critical thinking, ultimately, preparing participants for a better understanding of global issues and the skills necessary for effective engagement in international affairs.

Furthermore, the MUN is a platform that empowers the youth with different roles in diplomacy simulation whereby despite the ability to indulge in debates, sometimes controversial, but in the end the enriched deliberations through the cross ventilation of ideas culminate in our learners becoming more knowledgeable individuals. This innovative activity, Mr Speaker, Sir, which met with resounding success after its introduction, was sustained over the years. The Model United Nations is first organised at zonal level in the four educational zones during the first term holidays; the best delegates and best delegations of the zonal MUN then have the opportunity to participate in the national Model United Nations which is organised during the second term school holidays.

Finally, six of the best delegates from the National MUN are selected through an interview exercise carried out by senior officials of the Ministry to participate in an

international MUN. The last MUN was held in 2019. In 2020 the implementation of MUN at zonal level had started as per usual practice in January. The different delegations had already started working on their resolutions and were preparing for the merging sessions when the preparations came to a halt with the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, with the sanitary conditions and regulations enforced, the Model United Nations could not be organised in the subsequent years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, today, we see around the world the potency of the youth fighting for global causes and yes, we say the voice of youth is important. What we want is to keep the flames of democratic principles alive in our young people thus with the sanitary situation in the country back to normal, the Model United Nations is being reinstated by my Ministry in 2024. In fact, planning has already started. Zone Directors in January 2024 will liaise with respective Heads of schools so as to sensitise Grade 12 students for the eventual participation in the MUN activity.

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Vice-Prime Minister.

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## **GENERAL ISSUES**

### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

#### **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS – BOMB THREATS – INQUIRY**

**(28/11/2023)**

**(No. B/1587) Mr R. Doolub (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity whether, in regard to the successive bomb threats received in more than 30 educational institutions on Thursday 16 November 2023, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if an inquiry has been initiated thereinto in order to trace the sender of the threatening emails and, if so, the outcome thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*