

CULTURE

GENERAL ISSUES

YEAR 2009

TOPIZE, JOSEPH REGINALD (KAYA) – MONUMENT (31/03/09)

(No. B/55) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the 10th anniversary of the death of Joseph Reginald Topize, also known as Kaya, he will state if Government will consider the advisability of erecting a monument in his memory for his contribution to the development of our local music and the creation of the Seggae Music.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, we fully recognize the contribution of Joseph Reginald Topize, also known as Kaya, in the promotion of our local music. I am thankful to the hon. Member for the question and wish to inform him that, in fact, my Ministry has received several suggestions, both locally as well as from Mauritians abroad, for honouring this prominent Mauritian artist who is renowned as the pioneer of Seggae music.

In the wake of the construction of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African culture, we have envisaged to include an element to give due recognition to the artist.

Moreover, my Ministry is giving serious consideration to the work and contribution of Kaya and to explore the best way to recognize the life and work of the artist. I would welcome all suggestions from any hon. Member to that effect. Of course, Mr Speaker, Sir, this will be done in consultation with the family of the artist.

Mr Barbier: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether there is a timeframe, whether a committee has been...

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: As short can be.

Mr Barbier: Will the hon. Minister also consider the advisability of putting to contribution the MASA?

Dr. Bunwaree: I have mentioned all the stakeholders.