

## SECONDARY – INFRASTRUCTURE

14/4/09

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### HOLYROOD SSS – SCHOOLYARD

**Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal):** I know, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, that everyone is in a hurry and is hungry at the same time. I am going to be very brief.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House, particularly, the hon. Minister of Education & Human Resources, the deplorable state in which the Holyrood SSS is. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the yard of this school has grasses and shrubs higher than the average man. I am going to table a photo of this. The schoolyard is nearly *une forêt en friche*. At the beginning of the year, nothing has been done for the students, for this school. After a whole semester, the situation is the same.

I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see to it that, at the resumption of studies, these students have a better environment. The point is that we ask our students, our kids to respect environment, but we put them in such a deplorable state. Moreover, we talk about equal opportunities and, at the same time, we give different treatments to different schools. We have schools where the yard *est impeccable* and other places *où c'est une forêt en friche*. *Donc, il y a des messages qu'on passe à travers ces actions. Je demanderai donc au ministre de jeter un coup d'œil sur ces photos - c'est vraiment effrayant – et de faire le nécessaire pour que ces enfants puissent avoir un environnement sain.*

*Merci, M. le président.*

### **The Minister of Education, Culture & Human Resources (Dr. V. Bunwaree):**

I have just listened to what the hon. Member said, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Of course, early, tomorrow morning, I will send a team there to see what is happening. But I must say that there is no *deux poids deux mesures, deux types de traitements*. *Ce n'est pas injuste, mais il y a certaines écoles qui font mieux que d'autres*. We are looking at this in a global view also in all schools. We have had some complaints in some places, and I am going to see to it that the environment at school reflects what we want it to be.

Thank you.

23/6/09 (53)

### BELL VILLAGE SSS & SNIT CENTRE – BUS TOP

(No.B/646) **Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware that most buses plying on their way towards the motorway do not stop at the lay-by near the Bell Village State Secondary School and the SNIT Centre and, if so, state if consideration will be given for the putting up of a bus stop thereat.

**Reply:** I am informed by the National Transport Authority that both Bell Village SSS and Shah Noorani Institute of Technology (SNIT) are situated close to each other along Old Moka Road at Bell Village.

A lay-by measuring 40m x 3m has been created near the State Secondary School to accommodate only dedicated school buses in the morning and the afternoon. Stage carriage buses plying on their way towards the motorway are not authorized to stop at the lay-by as it is not a bus stopping place.

From a traffic management and road safety point of view, this lay-by should not be used as a bus stop for regular buses, as this would lead to school buses being forced to park at alternative spaces on the road itself. This would result in the Old Moka Road being obstructed, thus leading to traffic jams. On the other hand, students would have to walk on the road to their buses which might lead to accidents. These problems should be avoided at all cost.

As there is already a bus stop in a lay-by and shelter in the direction of the motorway, at a distance of 300m from the Bell Village State Secondary School, the need to create a bus stopping place does not arise for the time being.

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**MAHATMA GANDHI SSS, MOKA - FOOTBALL  
PLAYGROUND**

(No. B/1312) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the football playground at the Mahatma Gandhi State Secondary School, Moka, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the hon. Member that the football playground forms part of Phase IV of the construction project at MGSS Moka and that works are scheduled to start in 2010.

In reply to PQ B/48 in 2008, the hon. Member was then informed that works related to the playfields would be undertaken during financial year 2009/2010. However, some delay has been encountered with regard to Phase III of the project due to the coming into operation of the new Procurement Act and the need to go by new bidding procedures. I wish to also mention that the implementation of Phase IV of the project can only start after completion of the previous phase.

Let me reassure the Hon Member that all measures will be taken to ensure that works related to the football ground are completed in 2010.

I wish to avail of this opportunity to inform the House that in secondary school construction projects, the provision of football playground is normally taken care of in the last phase, as the first phases are devoted to the construction of classrooms, science blocks and other specialist rooms, administrative and toilet blocks.

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**STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS & COLLEGES - FOOTBALL PITCH,  
GYMNASIUM & MULTI-PURPOSE HALL**

(No. 1A/62) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the State Secondary Schools and Colleges, he will state the number thereof in which there is a –

- (a) football pitch;
- (b) gymnasium, and
- (c) multi-purpose hall.

**Reply:** The information in regard to State Secondary Schools and Colleges is as follows -

	<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Number</b>
(a)	Football Pitch	42
(b) & (c)	Gymnasium / Multipurpose Hall	32

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**REGIS CHAPERON SSS - HAZARDS**

(No. 1A/99) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Regis Chaperon State Secondary School at Belle Rose, he will state if he is aware of -

- (a) the hazards relating to electricity supply;
- (b) the defects in concrete rendering in a number of classrooms;
- (c) irregular cleaning, and
- (d) inadequate security services and, if so, the remedial measures that will be taken, if any, indicating the timeframe therefor.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, there were problems of hazards relating to the electricity supply at Dr. Regis Chaperon SSS. In view of the damaged sockets and switches resulting from acts of vandalism at the school, necessary measures were taken by the Ministry to disconnect the power supply.

The whole review of the electrical system of the school is incorporated in the major rehabilitation/extension works to be carried out at the school. According to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, the tender documents will be finalized by October 2010 and with this implementation schedule, works are expected to start early next year, should everything proceed smoothly.

As regards part (b) of the question, given the old state of the school building, problems pertaining to defects of the concrete rendering, cracks and spalling in some classrooms have been reported. With the view to remedying the situation, major rehabilitation and extension works will be undertaken. These will include the following -

- (i) construction of a new science block;
- (ii) construction of a new toilet block;
- (iii) waterproofing works;
- (iv) review of the whole electrical system;
- (v) replacement of damaged naco frames;
- (vi) conversion of the existing laboratories into classrooms;
- (vii) provision of new ramps for the disabled;
- (viii) provision for a parking area;

- (ix) renovation works to existing blocks including remedial works to any spalled concrete and cracks; and
- (x) provision of cover to existing storm drains.

Works are expected to start early next year, should everything proceed smoothly.

As for part (c), it is to be pointed out that the cleaning of premises of State Primary and Secondary Schools is normally contracted out by this Ministry. In this context, the Ministry has recently awarded the contract to Contractor Service Maison Ltée. The Contractor, however, has failed to provide full service to all schools with the consequence that cleaning of school premises has not been properly undertaken in several schools, including Dr. Regis Chaperon State Secondary School.

This Ministry is following up the issue very closely with the Contractor. As a result of this monitoring, the school has now been cleaned to the complete satisfaction of the School Administration. In the meantime, Heads of Schools have been advised to have recourse to day-to-day non contractual labour for services not provided by the Contractor and recoup the expenditure from the payment due to him.

As regards part (d), Security Services in Schools are also contracted out by this Ministry and a contract has just been awarded to RSL Security Services Ltd for that purpose. The performance of the Contractor is being monitored by the Ministry and no adverse report has been received to date on the services provided by him

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### DR MAURICE CURÉ SSS - BUS STOP

(No. A/7) Dr R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the lay-by found near the Dr Maurice Curé State Secondary School, along the Saint Paul Road, Vacoas, in the direction of Phoenix, he will state if consideration will be given for the putting up of a bus stop thereat for the convenience of the school students.

**Reply:** I am informed that the existing lay-by located in front of Dr Maurice Curé State Secondary School is already being used by the dedicated school buses catering for students attending that school.

Given that this lay-by has been constructed within the school premises, for the purpose of alighting and boarding of Dr Maurice Curé SSS students exclusively, and for their own convenience, the question of converting it into a public bus stop cannot be considered on safety grounds.

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#### DR REGIS CHAPERON SSS - REHABILITATION

(No. A/19) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the major rehabilitation and extension works to be carried out at the Dr Regis Chaperon State Secondary School, he will state where matters stand in each case, indicating when works are expected to start.

**Reply:** Rehabilitation and extension works at the Dr Regis Chaperon SSS are being carried out in two phases.

Phase I of the project consists of extension and related works to the existing building and comprises the following -

- (a) a new two storey toilet block;
- (b) a new three storey specialist room block that will accommodate one laboratory each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and 2 computer rooms;
- (c) a boundary wall, and
- (d) covering of the canal crossing the school compound.

Tenders have already been floated in respect of the above works and the closing date is 23 March 2011. If everything goes on smoothly, works are expected to start by June 2011.

Phase II of the project will consist of rehabilitation of existing buildings and facilities. Survey works by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping are ongoing and will be completed by mid-April 2011. It is expected, as per tentative implementation schedule, that tenders will be floated by September 2011. Works are expected to start in November 2011, should matters progress smoothly.