

YEAR 2006

PUBLIC OWNED COMPANIES AND PARASTATAL BODIES – CHAIRPERSONS – INTERFERENCE (09/05/06)

(No. B/423) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will state if he has received representations to the effect that part time chairpersons of parastatal bodies and public owned companies are interfering in the day-to-day running of these organisations and, if so, will he state what action, if any, has been taken.

The Prime Minister: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not received any such representation, but I wish to inform the House that clear instructions have been given to Ministers to ensure that Chairpersons of Boards and Committees of parastatal organisations or Government owned enterprises under their jurisdiction do not interfere in the day-to-day management of the institutions. This instruction is in line with the Code of Corporate Governance which, *inter-alia*, defines the role and functions of a Chairperson.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have two or three supplementary questions. Has the attention of the Prime Minister been drawn concerning certain parastatal bodies which I am mentioning? The IVTB, for example, which has been largely advertised concerning the interference of the part-time Chairman. The Mauritius Film Development Corporation, recently the Pre-school Trust Fund, and the last one at the MBC/TV. Is it normal for a part-time Chairman to climb ladders and give instructions to technicians? We all know whom I am talking of. He is a friend of mine. I think it's not the duty of a part-time Chairman to go at the MBC/TV every day and look at the films. He is a friend of mine, I know him since long, but it's not the duty of a part-time Chairman to act like this. It is most shameful.

The Prime Minister: As I said, if the hon. Member has any information, he can give it to me and I will look into the matter.