

## **CHAMAREL - PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL (29/03/11)**

**(No. A/34) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he is aware that there is no pre-primary school in Chamarel and, if so, will he state if consideration will be given for the construction thereof.

**Reply:** There is, in fact, one private pre-primary school namely the Ste Anne Pre-Primary School, registered with the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA), operating in the region of Chamarel. This Pre-Primary school is located in the Chamarel Village Hall, which premises had been leased free of charge to the Manager of the school by the Black River District Council.

However, the Village Council needed the building for its activities and requested the school to vacate the premises. After negotiations, the school was allowed to continue its operations up to June 2010. Since the school had still been occupying the building, a notice to vacate the Village Hall was issued to the Manager of the school on 31 January 2011. With a view to ensuring that the inhabitants of the area are not penalized, Government has decided that the St Anne Pre-Primary School be allowed to stay in its present location until my Ministry has put up a building to house a pre-primary school, to be run by the ECCEA.

Since 2009, my Ministry has initiated action for the acquisition of land for the construction of a pre-primary school in the locality. The plot of land has been acquired in November 2010 following normal land acquisition procedures by the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Thereafter, survey and design works were undertaken and tenders were floated for the construction of the pre-primary school comprising of 2 preprimary classrooms, a toilet block, a kitchenette, a playground and other related works with closing date 22 February 2011. Eleven bids which were received are presently being evaluated. It is expected that the contract will be awarded by the beginning of next month. Should everything proceed smoothly, works are expected to start in May this year and the pre-primary school will be ready for the resumption of studies in January 2012.