

PETIT CAMP, PHOENIX – WATER TANK (25/04/17)

Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The issue that I am going to raise is to the concern of the hon. Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and probably that may also concern the MPI.

Madam Speaker, this issue is at Petit Camp, Phoenix where we have a concrete water tank which is on four pillars about 30 or 40 metres high and that is causing a lot of safety hazard. This was built by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund a long time ago, about 30- 40 years ago, and now it is not being used. They have been condemned even by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and they were planning to demolish them. Because of this, the pre-primary school is closed, the Community Centre is closed, the gymnasium is closed and the inhabitants of Petit Camp are having lots of problems.

The pre-primary children are taken to Palmerston Community Centre by a van given by the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix every day and this is causing a lot of problems to the children and even to their safety and this is a pressure on the Municipality.

I would ask the hon. Minister concerned to look into it so that these children can be safe in their place of residence and for the inhabitants to use the gymnasium and the Community Centre, if the hon. Minister can look into it urgently for those inhabitants.

Thank you.

The Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo): Madam Speaker, I am fully aware of this particular problem. In fact, I am working in close collaboration with my colleague, hon. Nando Bodha, to address this particular issue.

In view of the highly dangerous nature of the works, it has been decided that the pulling down and/or demolition of the water tank would be carried out by the Special Mobile Force. So let's hope that the Special Mobile Force carries out the work successfully. What I understand is that in the past, SILWF did hire the services of a private company, but it has not been able to do the work.