

GRSE – TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES (29/05/07)

(No. B/500) Mr L. Bundhoo (Second Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to transport difficulties faced by the inhabitants of Grand River South East and the neighbouring villages, he will state if he has chaired any meeting/s in connection therewith and, if so, the outcome thereof.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping (Dr. R. Beebeejaun): Mr Speaker, Sir, following representations from Members of the National Assembly of the Constituency regarding bus transport problems in Grand River South East, I chaired a first meeting on 16 January 2007 and a second one on 05 February 2007 to discuss the issue.

The officials of the National Transport Authority, the National Transport Corporation and the hon. Members of the National Assembly of the Constituency were present at both meetings.

Inspections had revealed that the three individual bus operators licensed to operate on Route 56 were not providing services as per the approved timetable. Only two out of three buses were operating and there were no bus services during the day, weekends and public holidays.

As this situation has been causing undue hardship to the travelling public, specially students and old aged and disabled persons, I have approved that the National Transport Corporation will provide a regular service along Route 56.

The National Transport Corporation is expected to start operations as from 01 June 2007.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Deputy Prime Ministry for kindly agreed to chair the meeting on behalf of the inhabitants of Grand River South East and the Members of Constituency No. 10. May I kindly request the hon. Deputy Prime Minister if he could kindly ask the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit to look at this area and to ensure that there is proper bus stop and that CNT buses stop to pick up passengers along these lines?

Dr. Beebeejaun: I thank the hon. Member for drawing attention this problem, but it is a real issue in the sense that there are so many taxis operating

there and the public is hardly using the buses or using the bus stops. But I will look into the problem again.

Mr Bundhoo: A last question, Mr Speaker, Sir. May I ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he can inform the House how many buses from the NTC will be serving this route?

Dr. Beebeejaun: There will be two buses with, at least, seventeen trips each. So, it will cover the need of the population.