The Executive Council met at 10.00 hours this Friday 25 February 2011 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mrs. M.T. CLAIR-BRAULT and has, among its deliberations:

DECIDED:

(i) to approve the activities to be organised to celebrate the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence and the 19th Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius as follows;

(a) an Essay Competition in two categories intended for Secondary schools as follows:

   a. 1st category – Form IV and V
   b. 2nd category – Form VI

(b) a Quiz Competition for primary schools (Std VI);

(c) an open Painting Competition for the Public;

(d) Flag Raising Ceremony and distribution of refreshments in all schools on 11 March 2011; and

(e) An Official Flag Raising Ceremony at Camp du Roi Stadium including displays by Police Band, primary and secondary schools, traditional groups, women’s associations, youths, senior citizens and parade by disciplinary forces in Rodrigues such as Mauritius Police Force, SMF, National Coast Guards, Forest and Fire Services and culminate with the final of the Independence Cup Football Tournament.
DECIDED:

(ii) to approve the appointment of new representatives on the Board of Directors of the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company Limited.

(iii) that construction materials be provided to a Sports Club of La Ferme for the construction of their club. The main objective of this project is to encourage the inhabitants of the locality to participate in social and sports activities so as to enhance social ties among the villagers, to promote and nurture community participation.

(iv) to assist families living in extreme poverty in the form of wooden poles and iron sheets to alleviate their precarious housing conditions.

TAKEN NOTE:

(i) of the outcome of the first mission of Mr. G. JABEMISSAR as Chief Commissioner to Mauritius from 18 to 22 February 2011. The main objectives of his visit were to attend the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Labour Party on the official invitation of the Prime Minister and to meet the highest authorities of the central government after his election as Chief Commissioner to reassure the government of the resolve of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly represented by him to have a cordial relationship and collaboration with the Central Government for the development of Rodrigues and its population within the parameters of the law. He met the following personalities for a first contact and consultations regarding the functions of the Executive Council:-

(a) Dr The Hon Navinchandra RAMGOOLAM, GCSK, FRCP
Prime Minister
Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications

(b) Dr The Hon Ahmed Rashid BEEBEEJAUN, GCSK, FRCP
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities

(c) The Hon Charles Gaetan Xavier Luc DUVAL, GCSK
Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment

(d) The Hon Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH
Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development
TAKEN NOTE:

(e) **The Hon Anil Kumar BACHOO**  
Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit,  
Land Transport and Shipping

(f) **Dr The Hon Vasant Kumar BUNWAREE**  
Minister of Education and Human Resources

The main issues discussed in the meetings are:

(a) The airport runway;
(b) The optical cable project;
(c) The issue of subsidy on rice and flour;
(d) The upgrading of four primary schools;
(e) Additional scholarship for Rodrigues out of the 50 new to be awarded;

(f) Additional dredging works at Pointe Monnier/l’Herbe for the berthing of fishing boats;

(g) Port development;
(h) The water development programme;
(i) Hostel for Tertiary Student during their studies in Mauritius; and

(j) Poverty, migration and the housing programme and trackroads.

(ii) that the final clearance of the World Bank is being awaited to award the contract for the feasibility study for the construction of a new runway at Sir Gaetan Duvall Airport. The study to be carried out over a period of four months will involve a multi-disciplinary team including Airport Planners, Engineers, Aviation Economists and Environmental experts. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the feasibility study includes:

- a review of the existing institutional and operational situation at the airport together with an inventory of the existing facilities;
- a traffic Forecasts;
- proposals on the Facilities Planning and Development Proposals. Using the results of traffic forecasts and ICAO/IATA planning norms, the composition/mix and sizing of the airport facilities required over the planning horizon will be;
TAKEN NOTE:

- a development plan for the airport which will be prepared for phased developments. The plan will include outline drawings showing the proposed facilities;

- a financial and economic appraisal as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment; and

- an implementation plan including preliminary bidding documents.

(iii) that the Rodrigues Tourism Office, under the aegis of the Deputy Chief Commissioner’s office, in collaboration with the Chief Commissioner’s Office and other stakeholders, is organising a “Festival de la Mer” comprising of the “Fête du Poisson” and other activities from Wednesday 23 February 2011 to Tuesday 01 March 2011. Over the years, the “Fête du Poisson”, held on the 1st of March to mark the opening of “La Pêche à la Senne”, has proved to be an event which has enhanced the visibility of our island by attracting many tourists to visit Rodrigues.

(iv) of the organisation of one week of activities in the context of the International Women’s Day 2011 which is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. A competition in fashion show has been launched in this context and the winners will be designated through a “défilé de mode” during the official ceremony to be held on Saturday 05 March 2011, at the Cultural and Leisure Centre, Mont Plaisir. Five trophies will also be awarded to five women for their contribution in the development of the following sectors: health, sports, women’s development, education and senior citizen. This year the theme chosen for Rodrigues will be “Women, pathway to development, progress and democracy”.

(v) of the outcome the mission of Mrs. Marie Therese CLAIR-BRAULT, Deputy Chief Commissioner & Delegation in Mauritius, from Tuesday 08 to Friday 11 February 2011, where she paid a courtesy call to Lady JUGNAUTH at the State House and met:

(a) the Hon. S. B. BAPPOO, G.O.S.K, Minister of Gender, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Permanent Secretary, Heads of Units of her Ministry and discussed about the celebration of the International Women’s Day 2011. It was agreed that Rodrigues be included in the activities to be organized at National level.
TAKEN NOTE:

- A delegation of Rodrigues headed by the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been invited to participate in the official launching of International Women’s Day on 8 March 2011 at Grand Bay Conference Centre.

- Hon. Sheila Bai BAPPOO, G.O.S.K and a delegation will come to Rodrigues from 15 to 17 March 2011 to participate in a forum on the theme “Women as Agent of Transformation” - “Les défis de la femme rodriguaise” and other activities will be organised in Rodrigues.

- Six women entrepreneurs from Rodrigues will be invited to participate in the National Sales Exhibition to be held from 31 March 2011 to 03 April 2011 at the Social Welfare Centre of Grand Bay.

(b) Hon. M. CHOONEE, Minister of Arts and Culture regarding the celebration of the coming National Day, the provision of books to the “Centre de Lecture et d’Animation Culturel” (CLAC) and Library in Rodrigues, training of staff in Rodrigues and the setting up of a branch of the Conservatoire Francois Mitterrand in Rodrigues where training in music and leisure could be dispensed;

(c) Hon. N. BODHA, Minister of Tourism and Leisure and Mr. K. MOOTOOSAMY, Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA). The Ministry will provide Rs 5 million for the year 2011 for the promotion of tourism in Rodrigues. The Minister proposes to visit Rodrigues shortly to meet all stakeholders; and

(d) Mr. Jacques DAVID, Commissioner at the Justice and Truth Commission. It was proposed to expedite matters to launch the agreed study on the historical, social, economic, cultural and land use situation of Rodrigues from end of slavery to date.
TAKEN NOTE:

(vi) that a contract for the supply of 8,500 bags of 50 kgs of cement for financial year 2011 has been awarded to Holcim (Mauritius) Ltd for the total sum of Rs 1,867,960.00 exclusive of VAT on an “as and when” required basis.

(vii) that three control panels at Mourouk pumping station will be replaced two of which are undersized while the third one has broke down. The pumping station transfer water from Mourouk to Petit Brule Reservoir from where it is then distributed to the inhabitants of central region and part of southern region.

(viii) of arrangements being made to repair the fibre glass water tanks installed in some villages. Once repaired, they will be supplied with potable water for distribution to villagers under responsibility of the president of the respective village communities. Such a system would be very helpful specially during drought periods to ensure better coordination of water distribution and reduce wastage.

(ix) that the Commission for Water Resources, Handicraft and Consumer Protection proposes to rehabilitate the boreholes found at La Ferme Citron, Mourouk and Nassola through the construction of concrete bases at their outlets and the replacement of the flow metres. Presently, 19 boreholes are operational island-wide.

Central Administration
Chief Commissioner’s Office
Port Mathurin
Rodrigues

Date: 25 February 2011