



SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

THIRD EDITION

FRIDAY 03 MARCH 2023

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MAURITIUS
Seventh National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

National Youth Parliament

THIRD EDITION

Debate No. 02 of 2023

Sitting of Friday 03 March 2023

The National Youth Parliament met in the Assembly House, Port Louis, at 10.00 a.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Mr Speaker: Please be seated!

MOTION

RENEWAL ENERGY – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Leader of Opposition: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely –

“This National Youth Parliament resolves that practical and comprehensive strategies be implemented to empower a multi stakeholders’ approach in harnessing the power of renewable energy from rhetoric to action such as to accelerate sustainable development in Mauritius”.

Question again proposed.

M. le président, nous reconnaissons la position et les obligations du pays en tant que signataire de la Convention africaine sur l’énergie depuis 2011. Nous voulons rediriger l’attention de la Chambre sur le fait que seulement 1 % – je dis bien 1% – du budget est alloué pour l’implémentation des *policies* du gouvernement sur l’énergie. M. le président, nous notons avec vigilance que nous sommes très loin du but de l’île Maurice d’atteindre 60% d’énergies renouvelables d’ici 2030 car nous sommes aujourd’hui qu’à 23%.

M. le président, nous voulons aussi plaider pour le développement d’infrastructures pour l’énergie renouvelable tout en établissant un secteur de l’énergie verte comme un pilier économique prometteur. M. le président, nous y sommes. Si l’état d’urgence énergétique devrait déclarer, la guerre n’y est pas étrangère mais ce sont d’abord et avant tout les errements successifs du gouvernement que nous payons aujourd’hui. M. le président, ce gouvernement illustre parfaitement ce proverbe français –

« L’enfer est pavé de bonnes intentions ».

M. le président, les derniers débats et surtout l’attitude du gouvernement étaient déplorable. Des mensonges et des mensonges. Oui, la vérité blesse. Je croyais que nous étions des personnes matures et qui font preuve de discernement mais non, je suis resté ébahi devant un gouvernement au bord de la démagogie attaquant les membres de l’Opposition sur l’émotion personnelle et interpersonnelle. On est où ? Nous sommes dans le temple de la démocratie. Nous devons être à la hauteur de cette institution!

M. le président, l'accès à l'énergie est essentiel pour le développement économique, social et environnemental. C'est pourquoi il est crucial que nous nous engagions à atteindre cet objectif ambitieux. Nous ne pouvons plus ignorer les effets dévastateurs de dépendance aux énergies fossiles sur notre planète et sur notre avenir. C'est pourquoi nous devons investir dans les énergies renouvelables et favoriser la transition vers une économie verte. Les énergies renouvelables sont une source d'énergie propre, abordable et illimitée.

M. le président, nous avons la possibilité de faire la différence. Nous pouvons être les pionniers d'une nouvelle ère d'énergie propre et abordable en investissant dans des projets énergétiques durables et en encourageant l'innovation technologique. Nous pouvons être des leaders d'un mouvement mondial vers une économie verte capable de stimuler la croissance économique tout en préservant notre planète. Ensemble nous pouvons travailler pour atteindre l'objectif de l'accès à une énergie abordable et propre pour tous. Nous pouvons laisser un héritage durable pour les générations futures et créer un avenir plus sûr.

M. le président, pour conclure, nous sommes une minorité qui souvent, devant l'adversité – du gouvernement dans ce cas – peut se sentir désarmée. Néanmoins, nous sommes convaincus que notre cause a raison d'être et sa mise en œuvre devrait être le but ultime de quelconque personne qui aujourd'hui va vivre le crime de l'humanité contre la vie.

With these words, Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend the motion to the National Youth Parliament. Thank you.

Mr S. Jealal seconded.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Opposition.

Minister of Energy!

(10.08 a.m.)

The Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr A. Ramdany): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in this debate.

At the very outset, Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope the House will allow me the privilege on behalf of my noble friends and myself and I am sure on behalf of the whole House, of expressing our sincere congratulations to the Opposition for finally putting forward such a resolution which englobes various suggestions – whether practical or not – at a time when there is an urgent need

for our country to accelerate efforts to achieve affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all our citizens.

Before starting this debate, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify something. We, on this side of the House, agreed to hold this debate not as a stage for the impulsive launching of counter-productive attacks like some of the Members of the Opposition have done yesterday. Perhaps, for some two minutes' fame but our Government wants to try and reach a consensus on this motion which may only be achieved if the Opposition Members are willing to consider some amendments. That said, Mr Speaker, Sir, I will give my first impression of this resolution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, upon analysing the motion at hand, I honestly think that the Opposition has just complied all the measures already being implemented by the Government and have tried to claim it as their own. To prove my point, Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall refer to the proposal of the Opposition which relates to encouraging public and private sector partnerships in relation to investment in sustainable energy projects. To do so, it is posited that enabling policy frameworks and financial incentives should be provided, which is indeed true, but not a novelty as the Government has already embarked on the implementation of financial incentives to private partners.

Let me reassure the Opposition that we, on this side of the House, are all aware of the size of our economy and are humble enough to value the contribution of the private sector in achieving both SDG 7 and the 60% renewable energy target in the electricity mix by 2030. In fact, if the Opposition had studied the renewable energy roadmap 2030, they would have known that the power purchase agreements with IPPS would not be renewable for call. In fact, even before the United Nations Member States agreed on the 17 SDGs, the Mauritian Government had been working in close collaboration with the private entities, including the Independent Powers Producers (IPPS) to advance towards the aim of generating electricity from renewable sources. I am referring to the Long Term Energy Strategy 2009-2025 Report where it was stated that a transparent and fair regulatory environment that appropriately balances the interest of consumers, shareholders and both public and private sector suppliers of electricity generated from renewable energy will be devised.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with time such an enabling framework has been indeed established. For example, the Electricity Act (2005) has been amended to transfer from the CEB the powers

conferred upon it to the Utility Regulatory Authority. This is surely a firm step which will encourage the private sector to work in collaboration with the Government. I may also refer to the Mauritius Renewable Agency Act which allows the setting up of an agency to establish the necessary mechanism and framework to increase the production of electricity from renewable energy, including IPPS. In 2017, the CEB Act has also been amended to allow CEB, that is, the Green Energy Company Ltd. to participate in power projects without having recourse to the public procurement.

Mr Speaker, Sir, mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in decision making as to which company in the private sector will be allowed to be in IPP has also been devised. There is of course the Public Procurement Act (2006) which established the Bureau of Public Procurement as a regulatory authority for monitoring and oversight of public procurement as well as the Public Private Partnership Act (2004) amongst others.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, certain measures about the generation of electricity from renewable energy through a public-private sector collaboration has also been mentioned in the most recent Budget Speech. For instance, the Green Transformation Package Project is expected to contribute an additional 200 MW of electricity by 2025. The setting up of the hybrid renewable energy facilities in partnership with private promoters for a total of 140 KW and the development of abiomass framework to encourage the production of energy with bagasse via incentives to small planters have all been mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, since these measures have been stated in the Budget Speech, the Finance and Audit Act will be applicable and the PIMA, not chilli for the Members of the Opposition, but the Project Implementation and Monitoring Agency will assist and ensure the implementation of these measures.

Mr Speaker, Sir, all these show that there is already a policy framework to ensure such collaboration for the generation of electricity from renewable energy. Now coming to the financial incentives for the public sector, I will not go into too much details as most of these information are readily available, more specifically on the CEB website. Perhaps the Opposition has to do a better job in researching. Just to name a few, individuals and companies will be allowed to generate renewable energy up to a maximum of 150% of their annual requirement.

The CEB will in turn purchase electricity under the MSDG Scheme at a feed-in rate of Rs4.20 per kWh.

A carbon neutral loan scheme has been introduced by the Industrial Finance Company of Mauritius Ltd. (IFCM). We will need to increase... No let it be, they will not understand this point. The deduction financing is also available through commercial banking sector. The SUNREF project has also been included to support the financing and building capacities of companies in the implementation of strategies for an optimised use of energy and natural resources.

Mr Speaker, Sir, all our policies gear towards what we deem precious. We aim at “what not divides us, but what unites us.” Nonetheless, as promised I will suggest something that can be amended in this specific proposal. I will perhaps call for a single act to simply administration. I have to admit that even for someone with a legal background, it was quite difficult to understand what was the process, but it is there. However, given the small size of the electricity market, complete unbundling of the power system through other financial incentives to encourage the private sector’s investment is not envisaged at this stage.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister. I now call upon Mr Jhugroo-Cangy.

(10.16 a.m.)

Mr R. Y. B. Jhugroo-Cangy (Member of Parliament): Merci, M. le président. Non, M. le président, vous ne rêvez pas. Effectivement, un *PPS* est en train d’applaudir l’opposition. Je salue l’effort de l’opposition et permettez-moi d’inviter les membres de ce côté de la Chambre à applaudir l’opposition encore une fois.

Et encore une fois, en tant que simple PPS, de rappeler au leader de l’opposition que ce n’est de la littérature. En lisant la motion, je me suis dit est-ce que c’est de la dramaturge ? Où allons-nous ? Où est le côté pragmatique parce que les solutions sont très révolutionnaires, permettez-moi d’utiliser ce mot qui a été mentionné un peu plus tôt, mais j’ai l’impression que nous sommes dans un pays archaïque. Où est le côté pragmatique ? Comment allons-nous justement implémenter ces solutions ? Ah, nous sommes tous d’accord que nous voulons bouger vers un pays meilleur ile Maurice durable, mais comment ?

Enfin, je ne blâme pas l'opposition, ils n'ont pas de portefeuille ministériel pour savoir la synergie qui réside justement ! La synergie, le *sine qua non* pour relier divers piliers ! Et permettez-moi encore une fois de dire que le développement, c'est de se baser sur la base, sur le passé, sur un pilier. C'est cela le développement. Il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu, enfin, peut-être que j'ai tort, M. le président. Inviter la consolidation, les mots de la motion, oui nous acceptons l'invitation. Une invitation d'agir, effectivement nous devons agir. Le gouvernement est là pour gouverner, laissez-moi réitérer encore une fois, et l'opposition pour opposer et de proposer, mais de proposer dans la bonne direction parce qu'à la fin de ce débat, nous allons tous voter pour une motion pour le bien être de l'île. Et, si le gouvernement devrait résigner comme on l'a dit un peu plus tôt, il n'y aura pas d'opposition !

J'accepte, au niveau de notre gouvernement, l'invitation pour la consolidation, mais quelques points pour la plausibilité et la réalisation. Par exemple, le point stratégique, l'île Maurice, cela ne vous dit rien l'opposition ? Moi j'aurai vu justement *tidal energy, hydro power* si j'aurai parlé des divers réservoirs, j'aurai la réponse de l'opposition : mais non, on n'a pas d'eau dans nos réservoirs. Mais nous sommes entourés de quelque chose de très important, une ressource que nous pouvons exploiter justement. Il y a divers projets implémentés par notre gouvernement. Par exemple, le *Mauritius Oceanography Institute*, un institut qui est le bras technique du gouvernement de Maurice en océanographie et qui permet justement l'énergie marémotrice. Marémotrice ou le motrice, je parle des vagues, et non, M. le président, encore une fois, je ne parle pas à quel point est vague la motion de l'opposition ! Mais je parle bien d'utiliser cette ressource qui nous entoure tous, les membres du gouvernement comme les membres de l'opposition.

A travers un plan stratégique 2021-2024, nous proposons au niveau de notre gouvernement un objectif stratégique. Stratégique, non seulement ce sont des mots que je me permets d'employer dans cet hémicycle mais pour pouvoir implémenter de manière pragmatique. Et si on n'arrive pas à *catch the idea, feasibility studies, feasibility*.

Et encore une fois, je félicite pour l'idée qu'on avance pour accroître les connaissances transformatrices. Mais comment ? Mettre un mot comme l'aquaculture, quelle est la synergie ? Comment ? Permettez-moi de vous dire en exploitant cette ressource qui nous entoure et libérer justement le potentiel de l'océan à travers l'énergie ou les motrices, encore une fois les vagues.

Alternatives très peu coûteuses par rapport aux combustibles fossiles que nous avons. Eh oui, chère opposition, nous allons inclure parce que nous concrétisons l'inclusion au niveau de notre gouvernement, parce que nous pensons même aux îles éparses, parce que nous sommes la république de l'île Maurice.

De plus, nous allons considérer l'usage des pompes et de l'aquaculture pour que nous puissions justement faire une synergie, une *sine qua non* et une solution cyclique et je ne dis pas circuler comme ont dit certains Membres de l'opposition un peu plus tôt. C'est vrai qu'ils tournent en rond ! Mais cyclique dans le sens que ce sera un cycle, il n'y aura pas de *wastes*, il n'y aura pas de déchets. Nous allons tout utiliser judicieusement comme je me permets, M. le président, d'utiliser le temps de cette Chambre, de cet hémicycle judicieusement, de ne pas perdre le temps de tous les Membres ici présents.

En outre, cela va contribuer à bâtir une société éduquée. Eh oui, je me permets encore une fois de faire la synergie avec le ministère de l'Éducation pour pouvoir implémenter justement l'éducation de la société environnementale mais holistique, un développement holistique de nos jeunes pour pouvoir comprendre les problèmes auxquels l'océan fait face, l'océan est confronté à un grand souci. Et de plus, aux solutions que nous proposons de manière pragmatique encore une fois sont nécessaires.

Permettez-moi, M. le président, de terminer et de dire fièrement, encore une fois nous acceptons au niveau de notre gouvernement et j'exhorte les membres du gouvernement de voter en faveur de cette magnifique motion à la Shakespeare. Mais si les amendements sont portés avec des solutions viables et faisables, permettez-moi de me répéter 'viables' et 'faisables'. Ce ne sont pas de simples mots magiques qui ne peuvent être traduits en action parce que - permettez-moi de terminer en anglais - *we want to translate words into actions for the country*.

Merci, M. le président.

(10.22 a.m.)

Ms S. Aboobakar (Member of Parliament): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to add what my hon. friend mentioned about aquaculture and energy from the ocean. First of all, our gas emission in Mauritius is very high as I will continue further about my arguments. It is very stupid to start to find energy from the ocean if we cannot control our gas emission in Mauritius.

Today, there are still just one billion people who are missing out on education, health, jobs and economic opportunities, just because of affordable electricity. Nearly three billion people lack access to clean cooking facilities resulting in an estimated 3.8 million deaths a year attributed to household air pollution.

So, in accordance with the World Health Organisation guidelines, the air quality in Mauritius is considered moderately unsafe. With the most recent data in the case that the country annual mean concentration is PM2.5. Let me explain: which is 14 micrograms per cubic meter of air and that we are exceeding the recommended maximum which is 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the transport sector represents around 50% of this total final energy consumption. There are more than 600,000 vehicles in Mauritius, so you can just imagine the amount of emission that we are actually ejecting in the air.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there was definitely successful implementation like fuel quality or even fiscal incentives but I would like to point out that even with those implementations, our gas emission from transportation is above what is recommended, as I mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are fully aware that SDG 7 is about sustainable and affordable energy. The Government was talking about implementing new ways to reduce pollution. But we are still waiting. In the measures announced in the Budget 2022- 2023, photovoltaic farms will be set up to meet the electricity needs of the light rail system, that's amazing, that's great but we are still awaiting and what's happening, is it still laying in the drawer? It's definitely affordable but apparently they do not focus in a clean and affordable energy but rather in a cheap and affordable energy for everyone.

I would like to remind, Mr Speaker, Sir, that on 28 July 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution declaring that everyone on the planet has a right to help the environment. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is essential to enjoy our human rights. When environmental rights are violated, people on the planet suffer from reduced health and wellbeing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to add that the measures announced in the Budget 2022-2023, the number of hybrid and electric vehicles will increase, that's amazing. We can see that

the amount of gas emission will reduce but those implementation and measures by the Government are just sugar coating the real problem. I will give some examples. First of all, EV charges generally rely on electricity from power plants. We still use fossil fuel. Moreover EV batteries with recycling methods are still in the early stages but they are not specifically designed to be recycled. So, does that really help or is just the Government trying to find the easiest and cheapest way to tackle the problem. We cannot just think until our nose, we have to think outside the box and go further than this.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest the use of biofuel. There is a comparison of environmental effects between electric and other vehicles and biofuel needs to be based on a life cycle procedure. A study in Germany noted that biofuel such as palm oil and biomass residues offered a reduction. Algae or seaweed is considerably cheaper and more sustainable than the other options, which means 85% to 95% of seaweed is water, which means seaweed is very suitable for biofuel.

Mr Speaker: MP Aboobakar, you have exceeded your time limit, kindly wrap up your speech.

Ms Aboobakar: Okay, I would just like to finish with the fact that we are Mauritius, *nous sommes une île, nous sommes uniques. Nous ne pouvons pas prendre tous les exemples des autres pays. Nous avons un amazing environment*, we have to enjoy our natural resources and everything that we have around us. We cannot just focus on the fact that we are going to implement more things like a UV Panel or wave electricity or anything that the Government mentioned. We have to go further than this. We have to see what's around us and I would like to finish that we have to enjoy our environment. We can implement so many things, so small things that is going to make a big impact in our society without degrading, which is very essential.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. I call upon all Members to kindly make an effort to stick to your respective time allocations for the betterment of the House. Thank you. Deputy Prime Minister!

(10.28 a.m.)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning (Mr M. H. Gulam Husen): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Before I start, the Member mentioned that we need to clean the air before cleaning the ocean but the ocean in itself absorbs 80% of CO₂ compared to the land which only absorbs 20%. She is speaking about the entire environment, but the ocean is on the way of doing it. Can we do everything in one day? Take all the environment measures in one day? I will come to my point now. Yesterday, while the Opposition was on our resolution, they claim that it was very brief, very superficial. But I can assure you that we fact-check and then brought that resolution. Therefore, today the Opposition proudly instructs the Government in regards with wind turbines to come up with plans for the decommissioning of the wind turbines once they have finished being used.

I would like to inform you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that Mauritius has one wind farm in Plaine des Roches and has 11 wind turbines there. The wind turbines take approximately 20 years for them to be taken down and if needed then will get replaced. Therefore, I see the eagerness of the Opposition for us to create a solution, a plan for the decommissioning of these wind turbines in the near future of 20 years. But Mr Speaker, Sir, what bothers me the most is the fact that the Opposition is asking us, or should I say instructing us, to create the decommissioning plan. But it had already been created.

Is it so hard to go on the internet and type environment.gov.mu.org? The Opposition would have found out that over there, there is already a plan which has been proposed for the decommissioning of wind turbines which talks about the beginning and placing of these wind turbines until the end and this great Government has thought of the future to the point where it has even thought of the ways to transport the materials once the wind turbines have been broken down into parts.

In regards the report, the Government realises that when we are going to break and decommission these wind turbines, firstly we are going to have so much scraps and of course, we cannot just depose the scraps; it is going to be littering. Therefore, we have already thought of a plan of sending these and recycling them. Approximately 3,360 tons of metals will be recycled and from that, they will compromise cable wires which have high-value copper which will be sold and recovered. There are hubs and towers. On the other hand, the transformer, one which will not be used that much, will be sold and money will be received from that.

Moreover, the Government has also realised that from these wind turbines, oil and lubricants will also come out. Therefore, care has already been taken towards the hazardous and toxic material that will come out; for example, lubricant oil, hydraulic fluids and insulating fluids, within the best available environmental-friendly technologies that will be present 20 years in the future. Not only that, we should also realise that the Government has already thought that since we are working with oils, there might be oil spillages that will take place. Therefore, I can assure them that precautions for that have also been taken.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to end, I would just like to say this Government has thought so much for the future and the decommissioning plan of the wind turbines. We have already thought that once those wind turbines have been decommissioned, which transport will take them from Plaines des Roches to the facilities where it will be recycled and we are going to be using certain vehicles which we know. Since the Member really mentioned about CO2 emissions and how it is growing and affecting our environment, we have already thought of ways in which we will take measures for that. Therefore, I ask the Opposition; let's check the resolution first and then present it. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister. I understand that you all Members are highly motivated youth parliamentarians but I would advise that you make a more reasonable use of clapping to ensure the flow of the Members of Parliament. Thank you. We have a strict time allocations so, I would advise you to please make a more reasonable use of clapping. Next MP Seeburn!

(10.33 a.m.)

Ms B. Seeburn (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in as much as our Government takes a due cognizance of the need to move away from our dependence on fossil fuels in favour of cleaner alternatives as essential if we are to make the planet inhabitable for future generations, I applaud the laudable efforts of the Opposition to put forth this motion. I wish to hash over some specificities.

Renewable energy has become a buzz given the realisation dawning upon the potency it unlocks for humanity to have clean energy in abundance. Reiterating what the previous Members

of the Government outlined prior to this, our Government has, is and will always adhere to any motion bearing at heart the best interests of our country and our countrymen.

The motion of the Opposition stipulates for critical renewable energy infrastructure and our Government equally pledges for the action towards the same. However, we cannot deny the cost of this transition which the other side of the House has failed to address. Renewable energy infrastructure needs to be produced from scratch and some of the pertinent aspects would be high capital cost, risk of energy loss, short service life, insufficient standardisation, and complex maintenance.

In spite of the immense importance of energy storage, the cost of purchasing energy storage systems can pose a major challenge. Energy storage systems can cost above a thousand dollars per kilowatt hour to acquire. This is especially the case when aiming for high capacity efficiency and durability. While it could be argued by the Opposition that this is a long-term investment and it would be recovered in energy saved over the lifespan of the system, many energy storage systems are also affected by short service life and may be susceptible to impairment and efficiency reductions. The high cost of energy storage systems also affects the growth of renewable energy technology since most renewable technologies require batteries to store the electricity generated. Therefore, the need of the hour is optimisation in the composition and one that aligns well with the *modus operandi* of Mauritius.

Within this spectrum, our Government proposes circular economic practices instead. By mitigating the risk of resource depletion through recycling which taps into a new narrative of renewable energy. *M. le président, il ne suffit pas de qu'introduire des mesures qu'on jugerait d'extrême importance. La bienséance s'agirait de faire en sorte que ces mesures ne sont point au détriment de notre économie.* Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. MP Askurn!

(10.35 a.m.)

Mr S. Askurn (Member of Parliament): Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for recognising me.

The target goal of Mauritius to reach 60% renewable energy in its electricity mix by 2030 has only progressed to 23.9%. With some seven years left and taking into consideration the current state of governmental policies, it appears to be difficult to attend the objective of 60%.

The CEB falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. It is to be noted that it is a single agency for transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in Mauritius. CEB currently produces about 46% of the country's total power requirement from four thermal power stations and approximately 10 hydro-electric plants.

The majority of its energy sources come from heavy fuel oil and coal. The remaining 54% of the country's power requirement is acquired from independent power producers, principally private generators from the sugarcane industry using bagasse and imported coal.

Bagasse is considered as a renewable source of energy in Mauritius. However, it is not sustainable and the value of energy produced is too little. Moreover, the production process unfortunately pollutes the environment. We must, therefore, aim at shifting to other sources such as solar and thermal energy.

In addition to these technical measures, a massive awareness campaign must be implemented as soon as possible so as to disseminate information on sustainable energy, practices and the importance of implementing them at individual level. This should have as effect to target the various segments of the population. In that optic, the appropriate medium of communication must be used. If this strategic operation is conducted in the best possible manner, it is ultimately expected that electricity consumed and produced will be from a more renewable and sustainable source.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are many things that the Government did not do but I must recognise that the Government has done many things but where they have done such things, it appears to be highly insufficient. This motion from the Leader of the Opposition is an ultimatum for this Government to bring a more constructive policy in regards to the renewable energy matter.

If the Government is not prepared to do so, I would have suggested like yesterday for them to resign but this time, they shall be forced out of office. Might I suggest to the members of the Opposition to possibly then consider a Motion of No Confidence in the Government? For the

sake of the country, let the Government be the Opposition and the Opposition be the Government. We will show to them what we can do altogether. Thank you for your attention.

Mr Speaker: Minister of Youth Empowerment!

(10.39 a.m.)

The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation (Ms M. T. E. Kattic):

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The motion proposed by the Opposition is indeed a very interesting one despite its faults.

The first one which I would like to highlight is the fact of introducing the idea of environment to children at a young age. Isn't that what the Government is actually doing?

MIE books designed by professionals already introduce children to the idea of environment, climate change, clean and sustainable energy and other related aspects at an adequate age. It cannot be done at any younger age because no three-year-old will be able to understand nuclear energy, for example.

Moreover, the promotion of green career pathways does not offer any certainty of employment to the youth. How will the population be assured of obtaining a job after opting for such career pathways when less than 30% of Mauritius' energy production comes from renewable sources? Taking into consideration the 95,800 people who are currently unemployed, more jobs need to be created regarding renewable energy before looking for the labour force.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, endorsing national awareness is once again a very good idea, but I would like to point out that numerous campaigns have already been conducted by the Government. So much is already taught at school and so much is already covered by mass media. So, isn't it better that funds for further so-called awareness are allocated to taking concrete actions such as the proper removal and disposal of turbines as proposed by the Opposition itself?

I would thus like to conclude by inviting the Opposition to review its priorities regarding the SDG 7 and to take concrete, immediate and urgent actions to accelerate the sustainable development of Mauritius. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister.

Vice-Prime Minister, hon. Ms Wahidna!

(10.41 a.m.)

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Authorities and Disaster Risk Management (Ms S. F. Wahidna): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would wish to address to the claim of the Leader of Opposition about the 1% of the budget allocated for energy policies. I would wish to highlight that our Government has been receiving funds and it would be futile for the Government to spend more than that said 1% budget when we have enough funds from international bidding and joint ventures.

I would also wish to address to another Member of the Opposition and just state that we cannot eradicate fossil fuels very abruptly and suddenly. This is a slow process of evolution and it takes time; it needs time. There are no black-and-white solutions, but the good news is that we are trying and we keep on working in this fight against the fossil fuel.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Opposition for their motion about harnessing the power of renewable energy in Mauritius. Let's talk about renewable energy, shall we? The motion refers to the creation of agro voltaic farms on a small scale, *très bien*; but what about the solar photovoltaic? I am baffled to see how this motion refers to nothing about solar PVs, not a single line, despite our Government having invested a lot in the development of photovoltaic. We are aware that agro voltaic is a novel solution proposed for the future, however how does the Opposition plan to cater our present assets already put in place by this Government, that is, solar PVs?

I am the Minister of Local Government; is agro voltaic really feasible for private households at the local level or is it for industries and factories only? The House should be aware that solar photovoltaic technology is developing at an alarming rate globally and in Mauritius it shall influence the country's energy sources for the future. In the Budget Speech 2020, it was announced by our Finance Minister that various projects catering for solar, wind and biomass energy are being put in place at Tamarind Falls reservoir or at Henrietta. I shall not waste the time of the House by reading the Budget measures. I will leave it to the Opposition to consult it themselves.

Now, there have been concerns raised about the unaffordability and high price of PV's. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very simple; Members should firstly note that the price of PV has been decreasing substantially for the past 10 years on a global level. And the Government has given

incentives and grants under the CEB schemes to encourage citizens to make use of solar energy for heating water or producing electricity. We are aware that setting up PVs require an initial investment, however, it will subsequently provide home owners with free energy. With the progression of technology and the increase in global demand for PVs, this Government is certain that the price is likely to decrease in the next few years. That is why we are investing in this direction. And not only that, investors can cover the cost in the long run.

Under my Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, the Mauritius Meteorological Services employs Campbell-Stokes Recorder to measure sunlight hours. The reason we have invested in this device is that it is very practical and simple to use. However, atmospheric conditions, the speed of wind, even the humidity level and air pollution undermines our ability to calculate sunshine. That is why to counteract irregularity that solar energy gives, we have proposed for batteries to be used as a backup when needed. We have also heavily invested in technology towards accurate solar predictions, that is, artificial intelligence. We have full hope for a greener and more renewable oriented Mauritius.

Now, referring to the blatant statement made in today's motion, I would wish to raise a point about our initiative in the education sector that engages our youth to pursue career path in green jobs. Yes, we have worked in that direction. Here is a newspaper article of this week that reports the launching and inauguration of a solar laboratory at the University of Mauritius in collaboration with the Huawei firm. I shall table this article so that no confusion or lack of awareness remains.

My colleague, the Minister of Education along with our Minister of Energy has ensured and promised the youth that the renewable energy sector has a large potential for job creation and is expected to create 7,000 jobs out of which 60% will be from solar photovoltaic technology solely.

Mr Speaker, Sir, solar photovoltaic has become a pillar in the energy sector. Mauritius receives more than 2,900 hours of sunshine each year and we intend to fully exploit the energy derived from the sun. We also rely on joint venture as I have just said from private firms.

We take good note of the motion by the Opposition. However, it will subject to certain amendments that the other side will be willing to make. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: Mr Kissoon!

(10.47 a.m.)

Mr Y. Kissoon (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Mr Speaker, Sir, let me voice out the following salient point about the motion of the Opposition.

To begin with, we will start implementation of policies by pre-establishment of a green fund market and also allow enhanced disclosure and transparency. And how will we execute this plan? To start with, we would encourage a public-private partnership on setting up a new green bond market. Moreover, to allow transparency, we will set up a new authority that will ensure transparency within this newly founded organisation.

Secondly, the Opposition recognises the strategic role of the country in promoting green energy diplomacy through international relations and regional integration. In order to advance the achievement of the SDG 7, in a regard, we urge the Government to collaborate with relevant organisation and initiatives such as the International Renewable Energy Agency, SEforALL Initiative, Small Island Developing State Lighthouses Initiatives, IORA, Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, the International Solar Alliance, the Africa Renewable Energy Institute and others to promote green energy development and to finally make Mauritius self-reliant in these key technologies.

Furthermore, the Opposition calls for the prioritisation of green energy diplomacy as a key pillar of the country's foreign policy to create opportunities for international corporations and to position Mauritius as a leader in the clean energy transition.

To sum up, I recently heard about a Government Member talking about intergovernmental cooperation between other countries at the regional and international level. But we should also ensure that no strings are attached in making deals because in international politics there are no permanent friends but permanent interests.

So, we should also ensure that Mauritius is not becoming a proxy State because we would lose our sovereignty.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Minister of National Infrastructure!

(10.49 a.m.)

The Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development (Mr R. Daworaz): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I have been hearing the hon. Member of the Opposition, Mr Askurn, and I must say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that he is speaking about Motion of No Confidence, giving definitions, which is indeed not the case here. That reflects what the Opposition is and it gives us a taste about their kind of thinking.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to address the House on the proposal aspects found in this particular motion and I will focus mainly on the measures numbers 1, 2, 4 and 9.

To start with, as we all know, the small and medium enterprises play a key role in the overall economic development but also contribute to overall industrial pollutions in Mauritius. Allow me to table a copy of this official document on greening the small and medium enterprises and improving access to green finance in Mauritius which is indeed published by the United Nations Environment Programme at page 4 paragraph 4, where it says, Mr Speaker, Sir, and I quote –

“Mauritian authority has made commendable policy efforts towards businesses to engage into sustainable practice and finance as seen in the national budget 2020-2021 and the ten years SME Master Plan.”

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition is now making a recommendation for sustainable financing at this point in time but here in the Government it is clear that the work has already been started years back. Moreover, in the National Budget Speech 2019-2020, there has already been a DBM Microcredit Loan Scheme, an extension of a semi refinancing scheme, reduction of the rate interest from 5.5% to 3.5% under the SME Factoring Scheme.

Now, I will not keep telling the measures that are already mentioned in the budget, I would rather make a request to the Members of the Opposition to go and make a good research prior to coming to this House. Of course, these measures have already been implemented by the Government. We will see at the end of the day if the Opposition deserves congratulations and whether you can try to stand up for what you are proposing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to call for development for charging stations for electric vehicles, I wish to inform the House that our Government has already approved a 10-year

electric vehicle integration road map for Mauritius up to 2030. There are already schemes for installation of electric chargers to generate energy for vehicles and incentives are already being provided to them. Regarding the creation of photovoltaic farm for education purpose, our Government has already started on the project in the name of SUNfarming Africa where an agrivoltaic at Gros Cailloux has already been built which shall be used for research and education platform. Moreover, the platform will inject energy into CEB medium voltage network by the end of March 2023.

Mr Speaker, Sir, regarding the setting up of an information sharing hub, I wish to inform the Members of the Opposition that there is already a framework under the name of Small Island Developing States Lighthouses which relates to energy transition strategies.

To conclude, Mr Speaker, Sir, since we are lacking time, I would give the Members of the Opposition a *pro bono* advice and ask them to please come to this House with concrete solutions rather than proposing measures that are already existing and are being implemented by our Government. It is clear that this is all from the Opposition: lack of vision, lack of strategy, lack of audacity. Either you are better or you are the same because right now you are verging at the worse. Those are my comments, thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Minister of Information Technology!

(10.54 a.m.)

The Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation (Mr E. M. J. Vally): Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you. I am pleased to see how much the Opposition are concerned about the sustainable development for Mauritius and harnessing the power of renewable energy. However, I think we should consider promoting some environmental projects with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Alliance of Small Islands States and getting to know them before even urging the need to set up an information sharing hub, like my colleague said, through them.

M. le président, comme on le dit si bien, la connaissance est dans l'action. Donc, comment est-ce que l'Opposition pense-t-elle implémenter un centre de partage d'information avec l'IORA et l'AOSIS sous l'égide de la MARENA s'ils ne font même pas d'activité qui concerne l'environnement et l'énergie renouvelable avec ces derniers.

I would like to know which kind of information will be shared with the above mentioned organisations. I do trust the Opposition's arguments but I do not trust the way they are using these arguments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we want a greater energy resilience to promote energy efficiency and accelerate green energy transition *mais ce serai bien aussi que mes chers collègues de l'Opposition établissent un plan d'action très bien détaillé en terme de contenu pour la bonne continuation de cette résolution particulièrement.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you.

Mr Speaker: MP Veeramunden.

(10.56 a.m.)

Ms S. S. Veeramunden (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. *Sine qua non, synergie, des mots grands et éloquents ont été employés entre les quatre murs de l'hémicycle, cependant, point de débat diplomatique.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the wake of the Russo-Ukrainian war and the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy system faces the ripples of an exponential increase in petroleum products prices. Internationally, 89% of global greenhouse gas emitters come from fossil fuel. One ton of coal is burnt every second in Poland; 733 m. people lack electricity and about 50 billion tons worldwide annual total greenhouse gas emissions; 36 billion tons of carbon dioxide was emitted due to energy from fossil fuels. The goal set in the Paris Agreement will not nearly be reached. Nationally, according to the IRENA, 76% of electricity was generated through non-renewable sources.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let that sink in. As Mauritius draws up a road map to raise the percentage of renewable energy to a range of 35% to 40% by 2030, the Opposition promotes marine biotechnology as the geographical location of Mauritius is an attribute for harnessing wave energy. Firstly, since solar and wind power are intermittent in nature, wave farms have a constant energetic value pioneered by the WERPO in South Africa, the construction of a Wave Energy Converter Prototype has been done by the Mauritian Oceanographic Institute in 2021 and it is high time to build replicates of collocated low cost converters which interact with each other hydro-dynamically and electrically suitably locating them in the region of Baie du Cap in the

southern coast where the amplitude frequency and bathymetry of the wave regime are appropriate. Offshore power plants should be put into consideration as this increases the energy potential of the waves.

Secondly, ocean thermal energy conversion plans currently located in Japan could produce sustainable renewable resource for our island where moreover MOL and Bombora Wave Power Ltd are conducting research to identify wave energy potential using digital technology and GIS.

Thirdly, blue carbon capture is a viable instrument to reconcile the mitigation of CO₂ emissions during electricity generation and the decarbonisation of fossil fuels through sea grass, mangrove and tidal marshes stole in coastland marine ecosystems which secreted a greenhouse gas and it is to be noted that 83% of the global carbon cycle is circulated through the ocean and 1.02 billion tons of carbon dioxide are being released annually from degraded coastal ecosystems. These solutions need to be explored in other islands of the Indian Ocean where agreements could be made with the green climate fund so as not to leave anyone behind.

Additionally, considering that the UN Sustainable Development Agenda adopted in September 2015 validates the role of inclusion strategies in encouraging environmental protection, the Opposition fosters the inclusivity of any individual concerning all aspects of manipulation of renewable resources. To substantiate the motion, Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to allude to a UNFCCC report prepared by women which recognises the structural inequalities that impede the representation of women in climate, especially if they are of indigenous backgrounds and environmental discourses and furthermore reports that delegation members at UNFCCC conferences comprise of less than 30% women, not even half.

To dismantle a legacy of discrimination, lack of educational opportunities and patriarchal as well as other perverse ideologies, the Opposition urges the setting up of sensitisation campaigns on strategies that ensure equity. These include gender budgeting which assesses the gendered impact of fiscal decisions, gender expertise referring to the holistic understanding of social construct and viewing things with an intersectional perspective. We, contemporaneous citizens, cannot live in an eco-chamber of bygone views.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Deputy Chief Whip!

(11.00 a.m.)

Ms K. Bahadoor (Deputy Chief Government Whip): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

I have been hearing a lot of criticisms from the other side of the House against all the good work done by this Government since the start of this session. I would like to commend the motion made by the Members of the Opposition. On the face of it, the motion seems very constructive. However, it seems that the Member of the Opposition is unaware of the many steps this Government has taken to ensure that renewable energy is vulgarised and is accessible to all the citizens of Mauritius.

The call of the Opposition Member regarding critical renewable energy infrastructure such as transmission lines, storage systems and charging stations for electric vehicles, and the need for substantial investment in research and development to establish renewable energy as a promising economic pillar is worthy of praise but comes in as a late reminder. Action has already been taken. I would like to point out that in fact, this Government is all for it and it has already invested in a number of initiatives in collaboration with the private sector, NGOs and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council. The Member of the Opposition, according to me, is not aware of all the developments that Mauritius has witnessed in the last few years under the able leadership of our Prime Minister. Many fuel stations are today equipped with charging stations for electric vehicles. Adapters are available on the local market for charging electric vehicles in any place. Not only this, the Government has announced a tax rebate of 10% to buyers of electric vehicles and is further encouraging the whole population to buy electric vehicles.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are following suit of many advanced countries that have committed to reduce harmful gas emissions through the reduction of polluting energy sources. Clean energy today has reached a tipping point. Solar power, electric cars, grid scale batteries, heat pumps are but a few examples of this energy revolution. The world is moving towards green technologies in every sector and we, Mr Speaker, Sir, want to join this bandwagon. We do not want to be left behind in this global endeavour of saving our planet.

For our country to make of renewable energy a strong economic pillar, this Government has shifted its focus on low emission electricity. However, we have to adapt to climate change and secure livelihood, food, water and other supplies. The measures taken and technologies to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are paying the dividends today. This Government has put in place policies that will help achieve many global sustainable goals and improve the health and livelihood of our citizens.

Mr Speaker, Sir, our Government, therefore, proposes that the Opposition's motion be amended to include further reinforcement of existing measures and infrastructure instead of speaking for the development of the critical renewable energy.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: MP Collard!

(11.03 a.m.)

Ms K. A. M. Collard: (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Sir, coming to the motion raised by the Opposition on promotion of sustainable education, I would like to draw the attention of the House that sustainable topics are already being discussed at the level of educational institutions and are widely present in various subjects at school. Moreover, it is equally important to note that since 1973, we celebrate the Environmental Day on 05 June which helps in sensitising the kids about the needs and to conserve environment. On this particular day, children help by gardening, planting trees and picking up litter. So, you see, children are already aware.

Secondly, not only has the Government looked into the complaints from the population all around the island but the Government came forward with plans to provide 1,000 solar panels to the low income households and the medium commercial businesses therefore increasing the use of green energy and encouraging the purchase of hybrid cars where no taxes are paid.

As a matter of fact, nowadays, children, regardless of their social background, are raised to respect and protect his surrounding environment through medias along with the governmental institutions.

And I wanted to point out, Mr Speaker, Sir, that when it comes to green jobs, it is to be noted that the jobs must generate productive and decent work for all. However, innovative

strategies to promote green jobs can only succeed with the full involvement and participation of workers and enterprises. In this respect, I believe that despite the promotion of green jobs will undeniably help in sustainability, it is crucial that the employees should give a helping hand in ensuring and realising this particular goal of green environment.

In addition, Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Budget 2022-2023, it is clearly being provided that the DBM Energy Ltd will implement solar PV projects at its industrial buildings as well as other public buildings for a total capacity of 6.2 MW.

Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning the point elaborated by the Opposition to promote awareness of green jobs and green energy career, I would like to state that in this regard, the Government is already working towards including women's participation in its strategic position in the green industry. For example, Mr Speaker, Sir, the management of natural resources is often the primary user of management of land, forests, water, and other natural resources.

To conclude, I would like to say that I strongly believe that our Government, with the help of other respective organisations and the help of the Opposition also, will be able to reach the target of 60% of renewable energy by 2030. Mr Speaker, Sir, our vision for our country does not stop here. We want to build a generation where sustainability will be inculcated. After all, our small island has achieved so much so far and yet more eco-achievements are to come.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Calling upon MP Nursimloo! Do you have a point of order?

Mr Jealal: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to humbly remind the Chief Whip to go by the agreement that we have settled and to respect the timeframe of his Members.

Mr Speaker: Opposition Whip, I remind you that as Speaker, it is my duty to enforce time limits! I, once again, advise you to make a reasonable use of clapping in the House. Again, as the Chair, it is my duty to enforce time limits. Thank you.

Moving on again to MP Nursimloo! Another point of order? Please.

Mr Rengassamy: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. The Member of the Opposition earlier mentioned that we have ingenious people in Mauritius. This is not relevant according to Standing Order 47.

Mr Speaker: I will not entertain this point of order. Members, you are advised that points of order should be indeed relevant and should contribute to the debate in this House. I will no more entertain points of order relating to irrelevancy and repetition because they do not contribute to the actual debate being discussed. The words employed by the MP are a vector of communication. They are a device to implement and to enforce their opinions and their ideas. Please!

MP Nursimloo!

(11.09)

Mr P. P. Nursimloo (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Sir...

Mr Speaker: Yes, MP Maudhoo.

Mr Maudhoo: I want to add to what has been said by the Opposition Whip. It will be...

Mr Speaker: Excuse me! Do you have a point of order?

Mr Maudhoo: No, Standing Order, section 28, a point of explanation.

Mr Speaker: It is a personal explanation then?

Mr Maudhoo: Yes, I will be adding to what has been said by our Opposition Whip.

Mr Speaker: Is this a personal explanation?

Mr Maudhoo: Yes.

Mr Speaker: Okay. Please, go on!

Mr Maudhoo: I believe that it is unfair that the Members of the Opposition are being forced to adhere to the time limit while the Members of the Government are...

Mr Speaker: Allow me to stop you here. I have not said that Members of the Opposition should adhere and that Government side should not. As the Chair, I, myself, will implement the time limits. As I said earlier, we have time constraints, but I will be compassionate towards all of you and I will make sure that you all get the time to speak. Thank you.

Hon. Mr Nursimloo!

(11.10 a.m.)

Mr P. Nursimloo (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Mr Speaker, Sir, as an Opposition Member, I rise today to propose a crucial issue that affects not only our country's future, but also the world at large. Mauritius like many countries has been heavily reliant on non-renewable sources of energy such as fossil fuel.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the main reasons why we are still lagging behind in renewable energy is the lack of governmental training in this field. We need to invest in training our officials and expert and maybe train the government also in renewable energy technologies to help our country transition towards cleaner energy sources. By doing so, we can unlock the potential of renewable energy in Mauritius and achieve our energy targets while also creating employment opportunities for our youth.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another issue that hinders our process towards clean energy is the lack of awareness in the population about renewable energy. We need to educate our citizens about the importance of renewable energy and the benefits it brings. Through awareness campaigns, workshops and seminars, we can increase the public's knowledge of renewable energy technologies and encourage them to adopt cleaner energy practices in their daily life.

Moreover, we need to address the lack of implementation in agrivoltaic. This innovative approach can help increase our renewable energy production while also promoting sustainable agriculture practices. By implementing agrivoltaic, we can create new opportunities for our farmers while contributing to our energy targets.

In conclusion, the need for clean and affordable energy for all is critical in our fight against climate change. As a country, we need to take bold steps to transition towards renewable energy and reduce our carbon footprint. Let us work together to address the lack of governmental training in renewable energy, create awareness among our citizens and implement agrivoltaic to achieve our energy targets and build a sustainable future for Mauritius.

Once again, let me address that we may be seen as the bad guys of this Parliament, but let me tell you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we are the Opposition and we will rise as the underdogs of this Parliament with our work.

“No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others.” - Alfred North Whitehead.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Mr Nursimloo. I wish to make something clear if I haven't been earlier. I am suspending all points of order pertaining to Standing Order 47 - Irrelevance or Repetition. Under the Standing Order, the Speaker is entitled *proprio motu* to suspend specific points of order regarding Standing Orders. So, everything is clear. I wished to mention that.

Moving on, I call upon Mr Aukloo.

(11.13 a.m.)

Mr M. Aukloo (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to address issues regarding one of the clauses that the Opposition has put forward.

First of all, the Opposition has stated that we should, and I quote –

“Consolidate traditional activities while also developing emerging ones like aquaculture biotechnology.”

They also asked for the exploration of oil and gas in our EEZ. Now, this stated that we should develop aquaculture. Well, let me remind them that one of the farms located at the eastern coast close to Pointe aux Feuilles by the Ferme Marine de Mahebourg Ltd, which produces mainly the Red Drum fish variety which generates 5,000 tons of fish annually.

Now, for the marine technology, let me enlighten you on the fact that the Budget 2021-2022 has stated in clauses 174, 175, 176 and more that this sector is being promoted and is currently in the research state.

Finally, for the question about oil and gas in our EEZ, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition knows that the exploration of oil and gas is a very perilous project and that there are research being conducted in this sphere about the risk and advantages of such project before acting on it in an environmentally friendly manner.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, let the Opposition know that they have to do their homework before mentioning such statements. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Mr Aukloo. Hon. Members, I now invite the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair.

At this stage, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker: You may resume your seat. Hon. Minister Marie!

(11.16 a.m.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Mr I. A. Marie): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. So, to begin I would like to take the time to thank the Opposition for the extraordinary measure they have proposed today. I have been able to hear many Members of Opposition talk about their motion, their points, and I think it is truly brilliant on their part. Their work is incredible, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Members of the Opposition are truly magicians in my opinion. They have been able to write a motion where they have taken many insignificant points and measures, they sugar coated it, embellished it to make it become some sort of measure they think is adequate to resolve the issues. But, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the truth, *ce n'est qu'un écran de fumée parce que cette motion de l'opposition n'a absolument rien d'innovant, ne mène à rien et ne va pas réussir à accroître l'essor et la durabilité énergétique dans le pays.*

To further elaborate, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Opposition used in his address some rhetoric to action. So, here if I follow the logic of the Opposition, he is implying that Government has not taken actions so far to enhance sustainability in Mauritius and only his motion will be able remedy the situation. But, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would be a travesty to believe that. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this government since many years has been fully committed to the energy transmission.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the national Budget 2021-2022, this government has proposed a Green Energy Fund to provide financial support for renewable energy and projects initiated by government, offer initiative installation of solar water heaters, the photovoltaic panels and system energy to all members of the public.

In addition to being magicians, I would like to say that the Opposition Members are also great actors. They come in front of these cameras, in front of the population, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, proposing their motion - very nice, well worded, very eloquent, but this motion is only a

rehashing of past government policies, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. For example, they say they want to develop sustainable energy infrastructure by implementing more charging stations but this has already been done by government, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

In the 2021-2022 Budget, it was announced by government that the Industrial Financial Corporation of Mauritius will provide leasing facilities of 3% per annum over a period of 10 years for operators to acquire electric vehicles and invest in charging infrastructure for those vehicles.

Another point of confusion I have with the Opposition is where they mentioned that they want to be inclusive to all members of the Mauritian society. They have mentioned women, LGBTQ+ Community, they have mentioned the youth but one major marginalised community I have not seen them mentioned anywhere in this motion, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the poor of this nation. *Les pauvres, M. le président, ne sont pas mentionnés une seule fois dans cette motion malgré qu'ils soient les plus grands marginalisés de ce pays, M. le président.*

Je demande à l'Opposition, ils ont de très bonnes idées mais comme le Leader de l'Opposition a dit, pour conclure - « l'enfer est parfois pavé de bonnes intentions ». Et dans cette motion, je vois de très très bonnes intentions et de très bonnes idées mais je pense que beaucoup de mes collègues ont parlé d'amendements, je pense que *the motion has to be scrapped to be applicable, Mr Speaker, Sir.*

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Order please! You are addressing the House! If you have anything to say, raise a point of order!

MP Nanette!

Mr Hossen: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. Referring to section 40(2), it is clearly stated that it shall be out of order to use unbecoming words or expressions about Members of the Assembly. The Member of the Government has just treated us as magicians, actors, questioning our eloquency or I should even say that...

(Interruptions)

May I continue, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir?

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please take it as a compliment!

(Interruptions)

Order please! Order!

There is no need for applause!

Yes, Chief Whip!

Mr Pierre: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request a personal explanation; the Opposition did mention to completely force out the Government and now they are complaining about some adjectives!

The Deputy Speaker: Enough, enough Chief Whip! We have heard enough!

Yes!

Ms Veeramunden: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware that you have suspended points of orders under section 47 but I am raising a point of order under section 42(1) where the Member of Parliament has stated that...

The Deputy Speaker: I have already ruled on that!

Ms Veeramunden: ... we have not included...

The Deputy Speaker: MP, I am on my feet! You have to stay quiet when I am speaking! I have already ruled on that section; my decision is final!

MP Nanette!

Ms Nanette: Pertaining to section 39(30)(b) I give way to MP Seetaram, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: MP Nanette, you won't be making a speech?

Ms Nanette: No.

The Deputy Speaker: I will proceed with the next orator!

Minister Ameer Meea! No crosstalking please!

(11.23 a.m.)

The Minister of Social Integration, Social Solidarity and National Integrity (Mr J. H. Ameer Meea): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Firstly, I will start by saying that the Opposition has again disappointed us by bringing forward such a vain motion. This motion is about finding comprehensive strategies in harnessing the power of renewable energy to accelerate sustainable development in Mauritius. But this motion is only bringing forward general points or even existing projects. This shows how invested the Opposition is in this motion. I will leave the people to be the judge of that.

Coming on to my first point, the Opposition recommended the use of green bond markets which is completely absurd as establishing green bond markets is a high-risk measure for ecological capital raising in comparison to what the Government is already doing. Financial markets are speculative in nature and empirical evidence shows that private investors are not keen to allocate much funds to them due to inherent poor credit rating. Matters of such importance should not be banked on speculations because of its high volatility. In fact, green bonds have already been issued directly by the Central Bank or private groups such as IBL or Rogers.

In addition, the money is being channelled through incubator's programme to target SMEs. This part of the motion recommends the implementation of green investment fund but maybe a hon. Member from the Opposition – or should I say not so honourable now - ...

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please refrain from attacking people!

Mr Ameer Meea: ... can tell me who prepared this or tried to prepare this because green investment funds already exist in Mauritius since 2016 and USD28 m. has been allocated by the GFC Board which is supported by the UN. The measures that I have just mentioned will lead to sustainable economic growth compared to the measures proposed in the motion.

Coming on to my second point; I think the Opposition believes that Mauritius is the size of Russia as they are calling for construction of more charging stations for electric vehicles when the average mileage for a fully charged car is 341 km which is for reference seven times from Port Louis to Mahebourg.

The Deputy Speaker: Order please!

Mr Ameer Meea: I don't know if there is a Member from the Opposition who does Port Louis to Mahebourg seven times since they work so hard. Mauritius is a small island and building a fleet of charging stations will only worsen the urbanisation problem. Our Government has priorities and we know what we have to do.

I would also like to remind the Opposition that money does not grow on trees *mes amis*! And we cannot go around financing projects left, right and centre! Yes, projects relating to renewable energy to accelerate sustainable development of Mauritius are important but we cannot finance the Mickey Mouse projects they are proposing!

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, you have a point of order?

Mr Jealal: Section 40(2), the Member should refrain from using unbecoming words and calling our motion as a Mickey Mouse project!

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order please!

Minister, you should refrain from inciting or imputing improper motives on the Opposition!

Please proceed!

Mr Ameer Meea: Being a responsible Government, we prioritise projects of utmost importance first.

To conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take the word of the Leader of the Opposition, '*démagogie*'. He said that earlier in his speech and maybe the Leader of Opposition himself will teach his Opposition what this word means.

The Deputy Speaker: Wait, Minister!

You have point of order!

Mr Bhujun: *Referring to section 28 about personal explanation; I said nous sommes au bord de la démagogie et non pas que ce gouvernement est au bord de la démagogie. Si tu comprends bien ce que je veux dire, la démagogie veut dire d'agir dans une certaine façon qui contrarie la liberté d'expression. Mais ce que je voulais dire, on est au bord. Sache que quand on*

est au bord, on ne tombe pas dans le précipice ; si tu es au bord ici, tu ne tombes pas au milieu dedans ! Alors je voulais dire que tu es au bord !

The Deputy Speaker: I will have to interrupt you!

Mr Bhujun: J'espère que tu comprends. Oui j'ai fini, M. le président !

The Deputy Speaker: Members, let me be clear. When you raise a personal explanation you have to ask for the floor first before you speak.

Please proceed!

Mr Ameer Meea: If he had let me finished, I could have explained. He used the word *démagogie*, maybe he could have explained to his other Members what the word means because they clearly don't know its meaning and they are trying to tell us what to do. But after all, we are all patriots and as Mauritians say: '*nou bizin marye pike*' so that we can work together towards a sustainable Mauritius. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: MP Rama!

(11.28 a.m.)

Ms M. Rama (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Yesterday the Government has extended their hand to us and we have accepted it. First, we have created a motion that highlights the importance of building onto what the Government has done; was implementing new and innovative measures. Members of the Government have not once mentioned collaboration or cooperation.

To elaborate on the Opposition's resolution; we have mentioned the introduction of increasing emphasis on sustainable finance in regard to SMEs to lead to green business development in Mauritius. Let me just remind the House that SMEs contribute to not 5, not 10 but 40% of our country's GDP as per latest reports, almost half of our economy. India, in 2016, has issued green bonds to support SMEs. After over half a decade, the beneficial results of this issuance have depicted numerous benefits. For example, SMEs in India are increasingly turning to solar power as a source of renewable energy. The falling cost of solar technology combined with Government's incentives and policies to promote solar energy has made it an attractive option for SMEs looking to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Rwanda in 2019, has issued

green bonds to support SMEs. After nearly half a decade, Rwanda is exploring the potential of small scale hydroelectric projects to generate electricity for their businesses.

It is now 2023 and this Government, our own public sector does not even have the ability to do the necessary in terms of providing financial support to SMEs from our already existent green bond market of over USD 10 m. It is to be noted that even our private sector, namely, the Mauritius Commercial Bank has put in place the ‘There is more to green than green campaign’ involving the financing envelope of Rs5 billion with the goal of facilitating SMEs’ green business development.

If the Government would wake up and would see the missed out opportunities and would put more time and energy into green finance instead of providing us with big and broad claims about the supporting of SMEs, several advantages to support affordable and clean energy would be offered to SMEs in Mauritius. Green bonds provide access to affordable financing for SMEs. Green bonds are specifically designed to fund environmentally sustainable projects, thus, leading us to our goal of 60% of clean and affordable energy. As such, they offer low borrowing costs compared to traditional bonds as they are often oversubscribed due to increasing demand for socially responsible investments. This can help SMEs reduce their borrowing cost and increase their profitability, enabling them to invest in clean energy projects. This capital raising will be reflected in creating financial incentives to SMEs in investing clean and affordable energy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, after being on the grey list of Financial Action Task Force, I am sure the House probably remembers the FATF episode, through the green business development of SMEs, the State as a whole would benefit as foreign investors would have the incentive to invest into clean and affordable energy. The Government needs to seriously consider an SME dedicated green bond market with attractive yield and adequate to attract local and foreign investors. These funds when diffused at competitive rates through our banking system to SMEs would only then, I repeat, only then really make projects in the clean and affordable energy industry for major contributors of our GDP a reality.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Chief Whip. You have a point of order?

Mr Pierre: No, a personal explanation from Standing Order 28. I want to make it clear to the Opposition with your permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir...

The Deputy Speaker: No, Chief Whip, you have not. MP Rahilbhaye, proceed.

(11.32 a.m.)

Ms A. S. Rahilbhaye (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regards to the Motion put forward by the Opposition, I would like to mention that I am agreeable to certain provisions and I thank our fellow Members of the other side for their hard work and their contributions. However, I believe that there are some measures of the Motion that need to be discussed and amended.

Firstly, I think that it is important to highlight the fact that the main disadvantage of agrivoltaics is the high upfront cost needed due to the fact that they require more complex mounting systems that can cost up to triple the cost of installation of regular flat roof PVs. Additionally, they are versatile investments as they are dependent on our weather.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, shall I remind this august Assembly that our island is prone to cyclonic weather for a quarter of the year. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, does this entail regular maintenance and repairs on these equipment? Aside from that, there are several other rising issues and factors that hinder the continuity of this project. Notably: heavy rainfall, flooding, drainage as well as injury or death in case of direct contact or mishandling.

Moreover, without regards to these concerning issues, it is implied by the Opposition that they intend to use this rather expensive technology in the small scale production and I cannot help but enquire, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, why small scale? If the Opposition has conducted their research thoroughly, I am certain that they are aware that the main crops grown in agrovoltaic farming are beans, tomatoes and basil which are produced that we heavily import from India for an annual cost of roughly Rs485 m. Money that we cannot afford to spend.

To conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the hypothetical use of this technology, I strongly believe and with the support of our Government that we should adopt this provision at a larger scale for the following reasons –

- (i) to generate a potential income to our country;

- (ii) alleviate the burden of import duties;
- (iii) aliment a portion of households, and
- (iv) create green employment.

With these words, I advise our Government to consider this Motion after amendments are made to it. Let actions speak louder than words. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, MP. Minister of Agro-Industry.

(11.35 a.m.)

The Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Mr M. S. Seebaruth): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in regards to my speech, I would like to happily share my humble views about the Motion of the Opposition.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion talks about the comprehensive and practical measures to be implemented. However, after an analysis of the measures proposed by the Opposition, especially in relation to agrivoltaic farms, it soon became obvious that this project has some shortcomings.

Firstly, the World Economic Forum refers agrivoltaic as a practice of growing crops underneath solar panels. However, this measure would not be practical for crops which are not shape tolerant. An example is, as you can see in Mauritius, we have sugar cane plants and a sugar cane plant needs to be grown in full sunlight. Moreover, this morning before I came to the Youth Parliament, I consulted a planter, a farmer who has much more experience than any Member in this House and said that indeed sugar canes need to be grown in full sunlight. Therefore, it is irrelevant to the plantation of sugar cane that agrivoltaic farms to be implemented when this Government has been trying to revive the sugar cane sector through appropriate measures they can in the budget 2020 which I shall refer.

Furthermore, this Opposition has failed to mention that agrivoltaic farms are three times more expensive than solar PVs as proposed by the Vice-Prime Minister before my speech some minutes ago and instead, what I would propose to farmers is to use solar PV which are much more affordable and what the Government is trying to do, indeed through the Minister of

Environment who said in her speech that we are trying to encourage farmers to go into solar PVs rather than agrivoltaic farms and then the Vice-Prime Minister who referred also to this part and thus, we all agree that this is a measure that we should go forward with.

However, I would not turn a blind eye towards the good measures implemented and proposed by the Opposition because aquaculture as mentioned in the Motion of the Opposition is in line with the Government. In fact, I would refer to yesterday, a meeting with the Prime Minister on Zoom yesterday night and he agreed also that this measure is in line with the Government Agenda which was also referred to the Minister of Blue Economy in his speech yesterday.

Moreover, I would refer to what the Chief Whip said yesterday *qu'il étend la main à l'Opposition* and as you can see we are accepting some measures that the Opposition is proposing and we are also proposing amendments to be made in some measures and we shall accept these measures if it is amended.

I thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minister. MP Brasse.

(11.39 a.m)

Mr L. V. E. N. Brasse (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

First of all, I want to enlighten the House by saying that agrivoltaic is not about planting sugar cane, but crops and vegetables suitable for such a measure.

M. le président, en tant que membre de l'opposition, nous nous opposons au déni et à cette dure réalité auquel nous faisons face. Les Mauriciens souffrent, oui, ils souffrent de l'incapacité du gouvernement à prendre des mesures nécessaires sur l'utilisation de l'énergie renouvelable au sein de cette économie.

M. le président, en se mettant sur ces beaux escaliers à l'extérieur du Parlement, nous pouvons admirer une belle vue. Cependant, la subjectivité de ce mot nous interpelle car, oui, personne ne trouve cela amusant de voir cette masse de fumée noire provenant de maints véhicules. L'opposition propose alors un changement radical de véhicules polluants aux véhicules verts, notamment connu comme électrique.

2016 marque l'année de grâce, l'importation des véhicules électriques fut facilitée par la suppression des taxes. En ce faisant, nous pouvons aspirer à ressembler à nos camarades norvégiens qui en 2021 ont réalisé une vente de voitures électriques de 86 % sur le nombre total. Il est indéniable de noter qu'au niveau des ressources financiers, l'île Maurice est de loin derrière la Norvège, mais c'est justement ici qu'entre en action notre fameux gouvernement. Au Budget 2020, comme l'a souligné le leader de l'opposition, seulement 1 % a été attribué à cette marche vers l'utilisation de l'énergie renouvelable. L'île Maurice a par le passé demandé de l'aide à certains pays comme l'Inde pour certains projets au niveau de l'infrastructure. Alors pourquoi ne pas réitérer cette mesure pour augmenter l'importation des véhicules électriques et donner un large choix aux Mauriciens ? Ceci est cependant un projet à réaliser sur le long terme.

M. le président, le ministère du Commerce doit aussi prêter main-forte. Effectivement, l'importation en masse de quelconques objets, dans ce contexte, de véhicules électriques, risque de jouer des tours à notre balance commerciale. La motion de l'opposition est de planifier sur le long terme, donc, cette approche bénéficiera à l'économie avec le temps car en augmentant l'importation des véhicules électriques, nous réduisons l'importation du pétrole. Cela apparaît alors plus profitable sur une base de cinq ans, c'est un point aussi soutenu par la TCO.

Toutefois, pour encourager l'achat de ces véhicules une campagne de sensibilisation est requise. Les Mauriciens vivent à mille à l'heure. Oui, tout s'enchaîne trop vite ! À travers les différentes plates-formes médiatiques, il serait avantageux d'informer la population sur les avantages des véhicules verts soit l'achat hors taxes de ces derniers ou une plus longue durée des voitures électriques comparées aux voitures à pétrole parmi tant d'autres. J'éviterai de m'attarder sur ce point car le *MP Nursimloo* a suffisamment élaboré dessus.

Dernièrement, M. le président, permettez-moi d'utiliser un oxymore, car, oui, l'opposition s'unit au gouvernement. Nous partageons et respectons la mesure prise pendant le Budget de 2020-2021 qui permet à la *CEB* depuis le 05 novembre 2021 de proposer des stations de recharge pour les voitures électriques provenant de l'énergie solaire photovoltaïque. Comme le dit Armstrong : « C'est un petit pas pour l'homme, un grand pas pour l'humanité. » C'est tout pour moi.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, MP! Hon. Ms Nundlall!

(11.43 a.m.)

Ms P. Nundlaul (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the COVID pandemic and the impact of the recent conflict between Russia and Ukraine, it is undeniable that countries globally have not been spared by the rising cost of energy which have impacted households, industries and businesses.

However, the Government of Mauritius has committed to pursue its green energy transitions. These initiatives are expected to trigger economic growth, job creation and an overall improvement in social welfare, and surely to work hand in hand with our citizens.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not see why inclusivity of marginalised groups in the production, sale, distribution, and consumption of clean energy is mentioned in the motion since our local legislations, including the Equal Opportunities Act, the Workers' Rights Act, and even the supreme law of our land, our Constitution, is against any kind of discrimination on the basis of the citizen's age, colour, religion, political opinions or gender identity.

We have all been to CEB's or CWA's office at least once in our life, haven't we? And we can clearly notice that the number of female workers is quite high. Furthermore, the Mauritius' 2020-2021 National Budget Speech has made provisions for the promotion of local manufacturing, innovative sectors and employment of more women in sectors of clean energy. Through an integrated development solution, Mauritius also has the support of the UNDP to increase employment for women. In a governmental course programme in December 2022, youngsters, especially girls were urged to pursue their studies in the field of renewable energy. And also through the Youth Employment Programme (YEP), the Government facilitated the transition of youth from education to employment and provided the core skills required to join the clean energy economy.

Also, talking about availability, affordability and accessibility to all members of a society as announced in the 2019-2020 Budget, grants were provided to low-income families for the purchase of water tanks of capacity 400 to 1,000 litres.

Moreover, with regard to the LGBTQIA+ community, as mentioned in the motion, one should recognise that LGBT people are broadly protected from discrimination in areas such as

employment and the provision of goods and services, making it one of the few African countries to have such protection for LGBT people.

To conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to strive for an equal Mauritian society where we are all living in a healthy environment, we should as from now walk the talk and recognise the legal responsibility by strictly discouraging any forms of discrimination amongst individuals and abide to the legislation put in place by our Government.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ms Nuckcheddy!

(11.46 a.m.)

Ms H. V. Nuckcheddy (Member of Parliament): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention something about what the Minister of Agriculture mentioned, about sugar cane. Little did you know that Mauritius' sugar cane production and global demand is gradually declining. So, do you know that sugar cane plantation is the main cause of freshwater pollution and eutrophication? Please, do your homework properly, Minister!

One of the most convenient ways to produce renewable energy is by implementing agrivoltaic farms in households and municipal playgrounds. Agrivoltaic farms at the household level are great because people can grow their food and produce their own energy, thanks to solar panels. Agrivoltaic farms at the municipal level. Please, do not get excited! You may be wondering why agrivoltaic farms on a playground? Do we need to grow food on playgrounds? Let me get to the point. It is mainly to target youngsters. There is a strategy behind this move because we have all witnessed of how fun playgrounds are.

I am referring to the fact that children relate playgrounds to something interesting. These are the main interests. So, having an agrivoltaic farm there would increase their interest in the environment, and they would be like: 'Oh, you can actually grow vegetables. They do not grow in supermarkets.' Or: 'What's this weird metal stuff over it? It absorbs sunlight.' Basic things like this.

I do acknowledge the controversy concerning the final disposal of solar panels. Taking into account the estimated 25-30 years of production of renewable energy, which widely

compensates the negative effects of disposed metals, let me add that we would implement green finance to support further research concerning the potential repurposing or local recycling.

On the maintenance aspect, I guess the Members were ready to mention the maintenance aspect, like when the solar panels would be damaged, who is going to repair them? *Ki pou fer ? Demonte met dan kwin ?* I guess it is what you expect me to say. Well, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I ask my friends to let their pessimism aside because it just demonstrates their lack of faith in our citizens. Unlike our Opposition that would like to mention all the Mauritians that are smart, bright, hard-working and talented - let me say, exceptionally talented people - with the help of the Internet, they develop amazing repairing skills.

We did not choose our people and their skill set unlike the Members of the Government. Let me add that our people will be showcasing their repairing capacities and solar panels will generate employment.

I will conclude on the financial aspect of providing solar panels. Maybe you are wondering - don't I know that solar panels are expensive? I do know that. The thing is that the Government would need to provide solar panels every 25 to 30 years. So, dear Members of the Government, do you know it would be...

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the Standing Orders, the Member should refer to the Chair and not to...

The Deputy Speaker: Please, Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: You have raised a point of order. It is my duty to go by the Standing Orders.

The Prime Minister: Okay. That is what I am pointing out.

The Deputy Speaker: What is the point of order?

The Prime Minister: The point of order is that the Member just referred to the Government and addressed us instead of the Chair. Thank you.

Ms Nuckcheddy: My apologies. I am referring to the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please!

Mr Seebarith: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. So, the Member is referring to the repairing of solar panels which has nothing to do with the motion ...

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please wait! You are referring to a point of order. Please, be concise and precise! We have already ruled on that. I will not entertain this point of order.

Mr Seebarith: But she is still referring to the repairing of...

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please, I have already ruled! MP, proceed!

Ms Nuckcheddy: If we weighed up the renewable energy production to the actual cost, taking into consideration its 25 years of energy production, it is worthy. I would like to add something. Any voltaic farms like any other concept have its pros and cons. If we focus on cons, it just shows a lack of goodwill when taking such important measures concerning the progress of our country. We must consider both pros and cons and not just try to find cons to spit on an Opposition Member's statement. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister of Public Service!

(11.52 a.m.)

The Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms (Mr S. L. Labonté): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

First, I would like to salute the proposals of the Opposition side to ensure that practical and comprehensive strategies are implemented to make sure that renewable sources of energy are used to accelerate sustainable development in Mauritius. But unfortunately, some of the solutions discussed in the Opposition's motion are already being implemented by our Government. I suggest that the Opposition do a thorough research before calling for action that is fortunately being taken since quite a long time.

For instance, seeing the prevalence and influence that sustainability occupies among the young generation, it has been of paramount importance to the Ministry of Education to ensure that sustainable education and raising awareness of their availability are done in every educational institution in the country. As a matter of fact, the significant concept of what is the

environment and what the environment consists of has already been implemented in the curriculum. Grade 3 students and onwards at primary level receive the adapted and accurate definition and concept of the environment, its importance and its features in the science syllabus of primary school.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe it is of primordial importance that I remind this House of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a vision of sustainable education implemented by the Mauritius Institute of Education that seeks to balance human and economic well-being with cultural traditions and respect for the earth's natural resources. The ESD has been implemented as a way to enable people, especially students, to develop the knowledge, values and skills to the way that the Government exploits its use of renewable sources of energy and do things both locally and globally that improves the quality of life of individuals without damaging the planet for the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to point out that an integrated approach to sustainable development in society and in particular educational settings has remained an essential theme to our Government. It is of major importance that the youth that represents the future of the country are well and accurately aware of the sources of energy available in our country given these times of uncertainties. Through the use of this integrated approach, education for sustainable development strives to enable students to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in relation to sustainable development.

It is also important to note that the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, for example, SDG 7 - clean and affordable energy, includes the MIE's education for sustainable development. For that reason, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the MIE has been very active in promoting ESD since its creation in the Republic of Mauritius. It has been conducting a range of ESD activities related to curriculum development, teacher education, educational research, outreach and community engagement, because this Government believes that it is important for all its citizens, particularly its younger generation to be well informed of how the Government plans to exploit and use the numerous renewable sources of energy that Mauritius possesses to make our Republic a functioning and prosperous one.

Allow me to outline that the new MIE Strategic Plan is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for education and has taken care of Education for Sustainable Development. ESD has therefore been

addressed in the National Curriculum Framework for primary education - Grades 1 to 6 and secondary education - Grades 7 to 9 in both the mainstream and extended programme. It is therefore also noteworthy to point out that consultation with a range of stakeholders involving a democratic process and participatory approach have been used to develop the National Curriculum Framework for both primary and secondary levels.

Being the Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, I have also ensured that my Ministry in compliance with the Public Service Commission, the Mauritius Institute of Education as well as the Ministry of Education have provided intensive training to teachers in connection with the new NCF and its different textbooks where a range of concepts of ESDs are addressed.

Additionally, it is important to highlight that the Government is already promoting awareness of green jobs and green career pathways given the fact that the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Mauritius offer a range of three courses at undergraduate level for students who have just completed their HSC which conspicuously leads to job opportunities in the green sector.

To conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would strongly advise my fellow Members on the Opposition side to review their findings because the Government is already doing what they are mentioning on their motion *depuis belle lurette*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Minister Gunnoo!

(11.58 a.m.)

The Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping (Mr Y. Gunnoo): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been mention of certain measures in the motion from the Opposition about the blue economy which concerns my Ministry. Unfortunately, these recommendations to develop emerging activities connected to the EEZ such as the aquaculture is irrelevant as this has already been implemented in Mauritius to a great extent. An Aquaculture Master Plan was even put in place in 2006. Maybe the Opposition is still stuck in the past. *Zenfan la fini ne, fini kumens galoupe, aster zot pe al lopital!*

However, the Government has moved forward much more that the Opposition can even imagine as we are on the stage where fish fingerlings will soon be provided to SMEs, Mr Deputy

Speaker, Sir, in order to encourage them to get into the aquaculture business. We will not be developing the aquaculture sector as it has already been done. The Master Plan on aquaculture was put in place as I have said before in 2006. The Master Plan has already been implemented. We have already got positive feedback from it too but what we can do as a Government is to democratise this industry. But this is what we are also doing right now! Therefore, I would like to bring the fact to the Opposition that the aquaculture sector in Mauritius is not an emerging one but one that has already emerged.

Before going on the second point, I would like to invite the Members on the other side of the House to go on the website of my Ministry to learn a little bit more about aquaculture and the master plan that is available – you are complaining about not having enough information yesterday. As the Opposition did TikTok in the Metro Express instead of doing their homework.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please do not impute on Members here! Kindly withdraw!

Mr Gunnoo: I withdraw that I said that the Opposition did TikTok on the Metro Express.

The Deputy Speaker: Proceed, please!

Please! Withdraw unequivocally!

Mr Gunnoo: I withdraw.

The Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Mr Gunnoo: My second point is the fact that the Opposition proposed oil and gas exploration in a sustainable way. I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Let me be accurate. I quote –

“an environmentally responsible manner”.

When they mention that the motion is about harnessing of power of renewable energy, it is quite paradoxical to talk about exploitation of oil and gas industry in the same motion.

Also, when we talk about the oil and gas industry, even its mere exploration as the Opposition mentioned in their motion is very difficult to have it done in a sustainable way or like they have mentioned: ‘environmentally responsible manner’ due to the waste that is being created by the hydraulic fracturing process which is usually required during the exploration

process. However, my Ministry and this Government are urging the Opposition, if they have discovered a process which is almost perfectly sustainable, please communicate it to my Ministry and please do not do it *via* TikTok; do it *via* official communication channels.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please! We have already ruled on that! Do not do personal attacks on people.

Mr Gunnoo: There is no personal attack! The TikTok is available!

The Deputy Speaker: Please! You are talking about a personal conduct! Do not argue with the Chair!

(Interruptions)

Order please!

Mr Gunnoo: I am not arguing; I am justifying myself!

The Deputy Speaker: You are implying on the personal conduct of a person! Please!

Proceed!

Mr Gunnoo: I will end by wondering what will the Opposition do with oil and gas if found in our EEZ.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, please wait!

You have a point of order? Go on.

Mr Seebaruth: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister did not refer to any personal names, so why...

The Deputy Speaker: I already ruled on that! This is a duty of the Chair! Please, order!

Minister, proceed!

Mr Gunnoo: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will end by wondering what the Opposition will do with oil and gas if ever found in our EEZ. What we have been discussing since this morning about the transition to renewable energy and mentioning that we do not have enough charging stations – they have mentioned this in their motion – I wonder *si zot pou servi sa petrol la kouma siao pou fer mine frite!*

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Minister. I would like remind the House that the use of sarcasm or overdue of sarcasm will not lead to a constructive debate. Please limit to that.

Yes.

Ms Rama: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, the only accepted languages are English and French and not Creole and he has spoken Creole twice already!

The Deputy Speaker: I have taken note of that. Thank you.

MP Ms Toolsee!

(12.03 p.m.)

Ms R. Toolsee (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is something that I find very funny actually; the Minister labelled us as actors, magicians but yet he is still here to be part of the show – as an actor or magician, I don't know!

(Interruptions)

Earlier the Vice-Prime Minister and another Member of the Government stated that there are already enough awareness and green jobs to be created in the future. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge everyone who has a degree in environment or any other qualification to please raise their hands.

The Deputy Speaker: You are putting a question to the Chair?

Ms Toolsee: I'm asking you...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Please order!

Ms Toolsee: I'm urging them to raise their hands, whoever has any environment...

The Deputy Speaker: No, I will not allow! Please proceed with your speech!

Ms Toolsee: Okay, fine.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, you have a point of order.

Mr Seebarath: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, questions should be ask during question time and not during debates!

Ms Toolsee: It is not even a question!

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Mr Gunnoo: It's a question! You just asked!

Ms Toolsee: It is not a question! It is...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Please! I am on my feet! Be quiet!

I have already ruled, please proceed MP!

Ms Toolsee: Since they do not understand the meaning of a rhetorical question, I cannot do anything.

I would like to point out that if people of our age do not even have a degree or a qualification in environment or any other field in the sector so, how come we are the ones who will be entering the workforce in the next seven years and barely any of us have a degree in that, does that mean that the green jobs will be a minimum wage career field? So, basically, I think that the Government...

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please wait. You have a point of order!

Mr Gunnoo: This MP is demeaning us because we do not have a degree in environmental studies! So what!

Ms Toolsee: I said...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order please!

Yes.

Mr Pierre: I second the impure motives behind this.

The Deputy Speaker: No cross talking!

Ms Toolsee: No, it is not even a personal attack!

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please! You will have to withdraw the words!

Ms Toolsee: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir...

The Deputy Speaker: Do not argue with the Chair!

Ms Toolsee: Yes. I will rephrase my point.

The Deputy Speaker: Kindly rephrase that.

Ms Toolsee: I was saying that barely anyone...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Ms Toolsee: Okay! I withdraw my words because I did not even say that you do not have a degree in environment whatever!

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order in the House! Please withdraw unequivocally!

Ms Toolsee: What should I withdraw? I did not tell them!

The Deputy Speaker: Do not argue with the Chair!

Ms Toolsee: I withdraw whatever you think that I have said!

The Deputy Speaker: I said: withdraw unequivocally!

Ms Toolsee: Okay. I withdraw!

The Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Ms Toolsee: I will proceed by saying that we need a reality check about the qualification that the young generation has; whether they are in line environmental qualifications because when green jobs will be created, we will be the ones entering the workforce in the future. So, does that mean that green jobs will be a minimum wage career field? So, basically, what is the Government doing? The Government is continuing its legacy of implementing a measure at the cost of other variables such as inequality gaps and poverty cycle and then they accuse us of thinking about the future like 20 years! Of course, we will think about the future! We are farsighted people!

Also, there is a difference between being optimistic and realistic. I would like to applaud the guts of the Government to actually believe that we will reach our target of 60% renewable energy in our energy mix by 2030 with the way they are implementing their measures. On the

Opposition side, we are baffled by such incompetency and that's why we have come up with constructive and judicious measures in this motion. However, I am also aware that they must not have grasped the content as they should; I mean standards. So let me go through it in general.

Mr Speaker, Sir, our motion is broad and inclusive. Since the Government often fails to understand teamwork, we have managed to unify them through our motion. How? Propositions have been made to various ministers. For example, to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Minister of Labour, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Good Governance, Minister of Youth, Minister of Culture, Minister of Industrial Development, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Blue Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, MP, we have a point of order!

Mr Seedheeyan: The hon. Member is saying that we do not have the competence; we do not have a standard. Is it fair for her to say such things to the Government? Come and take our place if you are so competent like you are claiming!

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

Ms Toolsee: You cannot address me! You have to address the Chair!

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Please MP!

Mr Seedheeyan: I am addressing the Chair!

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please! Order!

(Interruptions)

Order! Please do not make accusations against any person here!

Yes, you have a point of order!

Mr Pierre: I second the Minister!

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: There is no second! Chief Whip, we are not seconding in such...

Order, please!

Proceed!

Ms Toolsee: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I was saying that we have proposed measures to every ministry. So, I think that they definitely owe us a thank you. And now that they are refuting this motion, it clearly means that they do not even want to work. Definitely, several measures have been implemented but then most of them are still stuck on the propose status; all we hear is: ‘we are proposing this’, ‘the CEB plans to do this’...

The Deputy Speaker: MP, I will have to remind you that you have to wrap up because time is nearly over.

Ms Toolsee: Okay.

The Deputy Speaker: Please!

Ms Toolsee: So, I want to know when will these measures come to action because our measures...

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ms Toolsee, please, wait. We have a point of order.

Ms Bahadoor: Point of order, Section 40, the Member cannot say these words like: “we are not competent, we cannot do anything.”

The Deputy Speaker: We have already ruled on that! Please, proceed.

Ms Toolsee: She has just said that again!

The Deputy Speaker: We have already ruled on that! Yes, we have a point of order?

Ms Auhammud: Referencing to the same point of order, I implore the Deputy Speaker’s wisdom to ask the Member of the Opposition to withdraw her words. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: I will not entertain. Please, proceed.

(Interruptions)

We have already ruled on that, please!

Ms Toolsee: *Aret perdi letan do!*

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, you have a point of order?

Ms Toolsee: *Ki to pe lev lame lor mwa?*

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order!

(Interruptions)

I am on my feet. Please, maintain decorum in this House!

(Interruptions)

Please, enough!

(Interruptions)

I am on my feet, Members! Be quiet and maintain the decorum of this House. You are the young people representing this country, this Nation. You should be an inspiration to them. Do not go to instigations or accusations. You have to maintain a certain decorum in this House. I will not entertain any point of order. Proceed!

Ms Toolsee: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to firstly ask the Minister to say sorry for doing this gesture because he cannot intimidate me in the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: I will have to interrupt everyone here. Please, I will have to discontinue your speech. We will proceed with the next orator. Mr Mudun!

(12.11 p.m.)

Mr L. Mudun (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, before starting I would like to point out that...

The Deputy Speaker: MP, please wait. You have a point of order?

Mr Askurn: Thank you for recognising me, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. On a point of order...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please!

Mr Askurn: On a point of order, it is a serious breach of privilege as a Member of this august House to make an abuse of point of orders...

The Deputy Speaker: Please, I have already ruled on that. I am quoting that all over again.

(Interruptions)

Please, proceed! Mr Mudun, please proceed!

(Interruptions)

Order! Mr Mudun, proceed!

Mr Mudun: So, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, before starting I would like to point out that agrivoltaic is a dangerous and hazardous technology. Is the Opposition suggesting that we put highly dangerous technology in our playgrounds and therefore jeopardise the safety of our youth for the sake of awareness?

Anyways, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to address the issue of wind turbines and their multi-usage potential as well as the decommissioning of these turbines as proposed in this Motion. Wind turbines are a valuable source of renewable energy and their capacity for multi-usage is vast. In addition to producing electricity, wind turbines can also be used for water pumping, water desalination and various other applications. In many rural areas of our country, people still rely on wells for their water supply.

Wind turbines can be used to power pumps that draw water from these wells which can be stored in tanks for use in homes and farms. This will not only make water more accessible, but it will also reduce the amount of labour required for pumping water. This multi-usage ability not only adds to the value of wind turbines, but it also makes them a versatile investment for Government and businesses.

However, as we all know, wind turbines have a limited lifespan and eventually they will need to be decommissioned. The price of decommissioning wind turbines can be significant. It is a challenge that must be addressed. However, we should not let the cost of dismantling dissuade us from investing in renewable energy as the benefit of clean energy outweighs the cost in the long run.

Furthermore, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, decommissioning wind turbines in Mauritius should not be a priority at this time even if the plans for this have already been constructed. Mauritius is a small island nation with a limited land area and we should focus on making the

most of these wind turbines we have started. We should explore their multi-usage potential and invest in their maintenance and upgrade of existing turbines. As a Government, we will continue investing in renewable energy and work towards a sustainable future. Wind turbines have the potential to help us achieve this goal and we should not let the cost of decommissioning discourage us from investing in these green turbines. We should focus on their multi-usage possibilities and make the most of them while they are still functional.

Last but not least, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we agree that wind turbines have a valuable multi-usage potential and we should explore this potential to the fullest. Decommissioning wind turbines in Mauritius should not be a priority for us today – maybe in 20 years – and we should concentrate on making the most of these turbines that we have. Wind energy is an essential source of renewable energy and it is important to ensure that the cost of shutting down these turbines is not passed onto taxpayers or the local community. Instead, we put forward that we amend the proposal of the Opposition’s motion to ensure continuous investment in renewable energy and work towards a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, MP. Ms Jaria!

(12.15 p.m.)

Ms I. Jaria (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Member of the Opposition previously claimed –

“The Government is taking small actions that will not have any big impact...”

Well, the Opposition seems to be in contraction with itself. As my fellow member of the Government emphasised, they proposed a small scale agrivoltaic farms, I repeat, small scale agrivoltaic farms. Are they implying that their own solution will not be effective? Taking the Netherlands as an example, only three hectares produce two MW of energy. Regular solar farms would for instance produce 4.5 MW.

Allow me to make it clear to the Opposition who seemingly needs to upgrade their mathematical skills. 4.5 MW is greater than 2 MW; the energy production per land is much larger. The Opposition also mentioned the national awareness campaigns through mass media platforms ought to be mentioned. Yet, the use of the media has several cons. Perhaps the Opposition is not so proactive or far sighted as they mentioned they were. Does the Opposition

not realise that desensitisation is a major concern. Solutions to any subsequent indifference should perhaps be endorsed as well through, for instance, the use of climate nudges.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I find it ironic that the Members of the Opposition are making this very laudable suggestion of sustainable financing whilst forgetting that this Government has already set up the first ever regulatory frameworks for green investment in the country. The Bank of Mauritius has issued their guideline in June 2021, followed by those of the FSC in December 2021, effective as from the same month. We are extremely proud to therefore confirm that we now have the legal and regulatory systems in place to invite activity in the green bond markets.

However, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, financial markets can unfortunately become prone to abuse, corrupt practices, anti-competitive practices and so on. We cannot, therefore, launch something overnight and something which we are not able to properly accompany with the necessary guard rails, precautions and contingency measures to make it safe for investors to operate in this market and trade in green bonds and what not. This is why we prefer to proceed slowly but surely and with precaution as it is something completely new for this country, the markets, the sector, the local economy and the people. I am sure even the Members of the Opposition themselves cannot but agree with me.

On another point, the development of renewable energy infrastructure was also called for. However, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in terms of electric vehicles as was already highlighted before, the CEB has recently launched a series of very interesting renewable energy schemes for installation and operation of charging stations for EVs targeting service providers such as fuel stations, corporate entities such as companies and individuals. I can only invite the Members of the Opposition perhaps to go check on the CEB website for more information in their spare time, which I am sure they have a lot of before finding flaws in the Government. This Government has done a great job in terms of promoting, deploying and investing in renewable energy technology. And, yes, thanks to all those initiatives and MARENA, CEB, the URA, and the private sector, renewable energy can almost be considered today as a pillar in its own of our economy.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, MP! The Speaker will now take the Chair.

At this stage, Mr Speaker took the Chair.

Mr Speaker: Please be seated!

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEBATES - TIME CONSTRAINTS

Members, I have an announcement to make. Please be advised that due to time constraints, we will have to wrap up the order of business. So, I would advise you all to, please, stick to your debates and not to repeat information that has already been canvassed. Thank you. I hope I have made myself very clear here.

Ms Rahilbhaye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a point of order pertaining to Standing Order 28, personal explanation.

Mr Speaker: Members, we are very short on time. Such points of order are irrelevant to the debate! Please, let's go straight forward to the next order of business. So, I will now call upon MP Johnson!

(12.21 p.m.)

Mr D. N. Johnson (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as a small developing island state, Mauritius is experiencing negative consequences from climate change that cause significant economic loss, humanitarian suffering and environmental degradation. The transition to a green economy must target SMEs since they are crucial to the overall economy. SMEs are having the opportunity to switch to renewable energy sources like solar to reduce their dependence on non-renewable sources of energy. This will not only reduce their carbon footprint but also lower their energy bills in the long run and going towards more green projects.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to enhance private capital for green investment, it is necessary to design an enabling environment that facilitates green finance. It would also be helpful for the Government and financial regulators to take active lead in harmonisation of a definition of practice of green finance to prevent instances of greenwashing. According to a UN report, also mentioned by the Government side earlier, 48% of SMEs interviewed noted that strategies and initiatives by the Government and other institutions based on green financing are not specific to SMEs. Indeed, SMEs are receiving mentorships and trainings to equip them with the expertise required in executing green projects. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, loan officers also

need to be trained on how to execute green finance proposal. This could be done through forums and workshops on green financing initiated by the banks associations.

I would also like to address that high cost of acquiring new recycling technology and machinery...

Mr Speaker: MP Johnson, please wrap up your speech!

Mr Johnson: Yes, Sir.

SMEs also lack training on how to make recycling profitable which limits their capacity to recover funding from commercial lenders. Several SMEs whose primary business activity is not recycling are also keen on greening their operation by adopting eco-friendly practices.

To conclude, Mr Speaker, Sir, the landscape of SMEs in Mauritius is still highly secured towards enterprises that are highly labelled intensive with low value addition. Thus, there is a need to further develop and promote policies and incentives that will help SMEs to shift to higher value added projects, green projects and activities having a better impact through their use of green energy.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. As Youth Parliamentarians, preparedness is expected from you. So, I would advise the upcoming orators to modify their speeches so as to stay under strict time frames. Thank you.

Moving on now to MP Joseph!

(12.25 p.m.)

Mr O. G. Joseph (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Mr Speaker, Sir, coming to the motion put forward by the Opposition on the development of sustainable governance structure through diversified and innovative approach, might it be recalled to the Opposition and all its Members that they, themselves, stated that Mauritius has been ranked 13th globally in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report; consolidating its position as the best place for doing business on the African continent. Ranking first in their very motion and in terms of good governance, Mauritius figures out to be the first country among African countries in the Global Index of Good Governance. These statistics *per se* defeat the concern echoed in the motion

regarding good and sustainable governance, and in terms of multi-stakeholders and private sector collaboration.

However, we do have to accept that the motion presented by the other side of the House and the interrogation itself of the Members of the Government are recipient of each and everyone's willingness and endeavour to find, develop and improve renewable sources of energy, which in turn will not be depleting our environment.

To answer to what has been mentioned in the Opposition's motion, it is to be pointed out that several measures have already been developed by the Government for renewable source of energy such as undertaking legal and institutional reforms in the energy sector. For example, the creation of MARENA, as one of my learned friend has already stated. In August 2019, the URA launched its three-year Strategic Business Plan with the assistance of the Africa Development Bank and the African Legal Support Facility. The Energy Efficiency Act provides for product labelling and importation of energy efficient equipment and the Building Control Act of 2011, which aims at improving energy efficiency in building design.

Moreover, is the Energy Efficiency Management Office not setting up a diversified and innovating solution to approach the creation and implementation of renewable and clean energy project? As this entity aims at creating a synergy around an efficient management of energy and thereof develops guidelines for various economic sectors with respect to energy efficiency. More than that, this entity has as function in particular to implement strategies and programmes for the efficient use of energy established with regional and international institutions and participate in programmes in a bid not to only be effective but also to be efficient when it comes to the use of energy.

Mr Speaker: MP Joseph, please conclude your speech!

Mr Joseph: In terms of collaboration, our learned friend from the other side has stated that we are indeed lacking collaboration. However, it is to be pointed out that we, Mauritius, have signed the Marrakech Pledge, which is committed to the setting up of a green fund by the FSC. In 2020, the Ministry entered an agreement with standard chartered banks to create a national framework for sustainable finance.

Mr Speaker: MP Joseph, I am sorry but you have exceeded the time limit. I will have to end your speech! Moving on to MP Mohitram!

(12.28 p.m.)

Ms Y. Mohitram (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

M. le président, permettez-moi de revenir sur l'exposé du ministre qui a mentionné des éoliennes. Les éoliennes qui après leurs durées de vie de 20 ans sont non recyclables. Les éoliennes qui font parties des moyens les plus coûteux de réduire les émissions. Je ne suis pas surprise que le gouvernement prenne une telle décision surtout que nous sommes lourdement endettés d'environ 11.5 milliards de dollars. Cela est démonstrative de comment leur capacité de prendre des décisions est questionnable. Je pense qu'il s'est trompé de l'objet du débat, laissez-moi le rappeler, il s'agit de trouver un modèle de structure énergétique propre et durable et accessible.

M. le président, tout ce qui a été dit et a été fait jusqu'à présent c'est la preuve d'un manque de considération de vision. La population est témoin du manque de solution concrète et efficace. Doit-on continuer à tolérer la complaisance, l'incompétence, le confort de l'hypocrisie du gouvernement ? Doit-on continuer à ressasser des discours et développer des mesures dans l'opacité? Doit-on continuer à oublier les caractéristiques de notre île, les besoins de notre population? Non.

Il est temps que le gouvernement enlève ses œillères sur la réalité et cesse sa politique de l'autruche, qu'il prenne des mesures simples, concrètes, durables, vertes et efficaces. Jusqu'à présent, qu'a-t-on vu ? Une indifférence totale, un programme écocide, climaticide, un soutien aveugle aux multinationales, des constructions exagérées. Dans son programme, le gouvernement avait initialement prévu un objectif de mix énergétique de 25.2 % mais a atteint le 23.9 %. M. le président, permettez-moi de citer Victor Hugo –

« Quand on veut faire d'un enfant un géant, on se comporte pas en nain »

Soyons modestes ! Il faut que vous ayez les moyens de vos ambitions. Les chiffres sont parlants. Faut-il que je continue ? Il ne faut que des pas simples et significatifs comme réduire les dépenses, un auditeur de la gestion énergétique, des sanctions contre les gaspillages, une fiscalité verte, un soutien pour ceux qui privilégiaient les renouvelables.

Mr Speaker: MP Mohitram, please conclude!

Ms Mohitram: Dites-vous bien que l'énergie est au centre de tout, du développement, de notre confort, de notre bien-être. S'occuper de l'énergie, c'est s'occuper de la quiétude, la paix, la sérénité de la population. M. le président, nous avons une population qui est affamée de réponses et une opposition qui ira jusqu'au bout pour les trouver. Sur ce, merci, M. le président.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. MP Leung Miow Wah!

(12.31 p.m.)

Ms T. Leung Miow Wah (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to raise issues with regard to the measures that are being proposed by the Members of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, the motion suggested by the Opposition is indeed an interesting one but there are definitely some flows persisting to it.

Firstly, our Government can argue that why the idea of decommissioning wind turbines and researching multi-usage sound good in theory; it may not be practical in reality. For instance, the cost of decommissioning wind turbines can be very high and may not be economically feasible for smaller companies or countries. Additionally, researching multi-usage may take up significant time and resources without any guarantee of success.

Moreover, this Government can proclaim that implementing the resolution may have unintended consequences that could be detrimental to Mauritius such as the cost of wind turbine decommissioning may be passed on to consumers in the form of higher energy prices. Furthermore, researching multi-usage may divert resources away from other important projects. Without careful consideration of these potential consequences, the resolution may not be thus beneficial or favourable.

However, the Opposition party has not fully grasped the complexity of wind turbine decommissioning and multi-usage. There may be technical challenges in properly removing and disposing of wind turbines and researching multi-usage may require significant knowledge and expertise in different fields. Without a proper understanding of these issues, the resolution may not be therefore effective.

In the light of the above, wind turbine decommissioning and multi-usage may not be a pressing issue in Mauritius for the time being. There may be other environmental or economic

issues that require much more immediate attention and resources rather than that. Without a sense of urgency, the resolution may thus not be a priority for the country at this moment. Thank you for your attention.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Members are advised that they should refrain from using rhetorics and rebuttals in their speeches so as not to take too much time of the House. Thank you. Moving on next to MP Moongah.

(12.33 p.m.)

Ms V. Moongah (Member of Parliament): Merci, M. le président. C'est avec un cœur peiné que je m'adresse à cette Assemblée Nationale des jeunes aujourd'hui. Je dois vous dire, M. le président, que j'étais très excitée à débattre sur cette motion aujourd'hui mise de l'avant par mon équipe. J'espérais qu'on allait tous sortir gagnant mais toutefois il y a toujours des têtes de mules qui refusent de comprendre. Ils parlent et parlent et l'événement tient presque à sa fin et M. le président, *not one single constructive idea yet!*

Moi-vous dire, le *Roadmap 2030 of the Ministry of Public Utilities*, une beauté. *It contains a series of technologies and know-how to be used along with their projected capacities. Its schemes and partnerships are proposed. However, Mr Speaker, Sir, this document is somewhat incomplete as it is not a holistic plan with little to no consideration given to sustainability in some areas which hinders the implementation of the Roadmap in the long term. The objective of this Clause, Mr Speaker, Sir, would be de combler cette lacune.* Comment les membres du gouvernement n'ont pas pu mettre de l'avant une chose d'une telle importance dans leur motion le manque de professionnalisme à son paroxysme.

Voilà quelques propositions concernées –

- *Advocate the government of Mauritius to establish a multi-stakeholder platform to complement the proposed Inter-Ministerial Council. It should include the representatives from the Ministry of Public Utilities, the private sector and the civil society.* Oui, les personnes qui nous ont élus. Elles doivent avoir l'obligation de donner et de faire comme prévu dans l'esprit du Code Civile Mauricien. *This is in line...*

Mr Speaker: MP Moongah, please, conclude your speech!

Ms Moongah: Conclude *tout*?

Mr Speaker: I hope you will all understand that we have very strict time restrictions. So, please!

Ms Moongah: Allez, allez d'accord. *Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, this concerns our elders, dada, dadi, nani. I will urge the Government to develop a communication strategy to ensure that the Roadmap and any other policy decision be simplified and disseminated* parce que M. le président, nos grands-mères, grands-pères ne vont pas pouvoir s'informer convenablement en consultant les documents techniques sur le site du gouvernement. Sur ce, M. le président, on sait tous que l'espoir fait vivre les imbéciles mais ici M. le président, l'espoir fait vivre le gouvernement. Merci.

Mr Speaker: Please state your point. Go ahead!

Ms Rahilbhaye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I believe that the member from the other side has been imputing motives for the last 15 minutes of her speech.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Please, order in the House!

Ms Rahilbhaye: Calling us "*imbéciles*", "*têtes de mules*", I don't believe that...

Mr Speaker: Member, have you made your point? Have you stated your point of order? Thank you. I will no more accept points of order pertaining to such petty matters. I believe...

(Applause)

No clapping! No clapping, please! Let's not waste the time of this House. I have advised members to stop using devices such as rhetorics and rebuttals. I am now urging you to stop making use of rebuttals so as not to waste the time of the House. We will move on right now to the Minister of Land Transport.

(12.37 p.m.)

The Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail (Mr A. Ramsoorooop): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I will dive directly into the content of my intervention for today. In 2020, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Energy and Public utilities commissioned to the EV consult with the drafting of a report entitled "A 10-Year Electric Vehicle Integration Roadmap for Mauritius."

It is clear from the debate we have heard from the Opposition side that they have not even consulted this particular document which clearly establishes the integration of EVs and smart chargers within the Mauritian society. Allow me to refer the House or more specifically, the Opposition side to page 61 of the aforementioned document measures 5.3 and 5.4. Due to time constraint, I will not be able to dive into the content of those two measures.

Taking into account the fleet of EVs on our streets as well as the geographical size of our island, it would be impractical to introduce such measures in the short run. Additionally, allow me to also clarify that these measures projected timings are not 01 March 2023 to 03 March 2023 but rather 2023 to 2026! *M. le président, la patience est une vertu*, surely not a virtue gifted to the Opposition and proving their so-called farsightedness.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to sound like a primary school teacher but this motion calls for such actions. The synonym of ‘practical’ is ‘feasible’ and it is clearly not feasible for the Government to implement such ambitious measures overnight. It required birds’ eyes for details, clearance, expert opinions amongst others.

The pandemic has also been mentioned by various mention of the Opposition and I guess they should take into account the delay of projects due to the same pandemic. Even the EV Consult report suggested close monitoring...

Mr Speaker: Minister, please wrap up!

Mr Ramsoorooop: ... evaluation and recognise the importance of time. I will also prefer the Opposition to the CNIS RE Scheme by the CEB and also applaud the laudable work by technical staff, civil servants who are currently working on those projects.

We thank the Opposition for aligning themselves with the vision of this Government, whether intentionally or not, and endorsing projects that are already in the pipeline. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Mr Bundhoo!

(12.40 p.m.)

Mr R. Bundhoo (Member of Parliament): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to make something clear, the Government criticised oil and gas when they are themselves exploring the Gas and Petroleum Offshore Bill. We would like to make clear

statement that whether they are criticising the oil and gas, I say it again, they, themselves are exploring the Gas and Petroleum Offshore Bill.

M. le président, je suis impressionné de la façon dont ce gouvernement qui semble montrer un énorme intérêt pour la fiabilité de nos informations, mais semblerait-il que leur arrogance aveuglerait ses membres du côté droit par rapport à la situation à l'extérieur de ce Parlement. La grande majorité de la population semblait être mal averti à propos tout le projet que nous voulons proposer.

Si vous continuez à proposer des plans rater pour le pays, il n'y aura pas de gouvernement. Nous demandons au gouvernement de mettre l'emphasis sur la popularité de ce sujet et d'arrêter de se baser sur leurs actions prises dans le passé comme certains membres le font.

Merci beaucoup, M. le président.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Vice-Prime Minister, Ms Sookna!

(12.41 p.m.)

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Ms S. Sookna): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Mr Speaker, Sir, climate change is happening now and it is happening to everyone. As a matter of urgency, today we are all seated in this very National Assembly to represent the youth of Mauritius, to provide for realistic, practical and comprehensive strategies to ensure proper use of our resources so that in the future, Mauritius is still known for its beautiful beaches and captivating nature.

Allow me to bring to this House's attention paragraph 7 of the Opposition's motion which talks about, and I quote –

“Promoting sustainable education, raising awareness of its availability and introducing the concept of environment to young children.”

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thought we were here to add on to existing measures to accelerate sustainable development. How are these proposals mentioning solutions when they are already exist? For instance, if Members from the other side remember back during primary years, we studied science; we were introduced to the concept of climate, greenhouse gases and corrective measures to save energy at a very young age of nine. In secondary school, we were further

acquainted with the notions and subjects like agriculture and marine biology which are subjects that promote green and sustainable education. Unless Members of the Opposition can clarify how young is young, I would like to move now to my proposals since we are short of time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to work for a healthy planet and highly indulge the youth in doing so, as the Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, I bring forward the following proposals –

- (i) Coupled with the existing learning programme of sustainable education, I submit that more competitions or even summits shall be organised nationally within the education sector to encourage the participation of all stakeholders in environmental action.
- (ii) To contribute effectively to achieving SDG 7, the Government shall extend its resources to the youth to mentoring youth led organisations in order to develop innovative solutions for the said cause.
- (iii) Additionally, the youth is also encouraged to use their voice to advocate for the sustainable energy through social media, online petitions and protests.

The Government, therefore, puts forward the creation of a national Student or Youth Council for such. Nonetheless, seeing the enthusiasm of the Opposition to work towards a healthy planet, I would like to end by calling the Opposition to join hands in all pieces necessary with our Government to break the cycle of climate change.

Considering the fact that we are short of time, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to address to the comment of one of the Opposition Member who stated that they would do better if they were to become government. Well, Member from the opposing side...

Mr Speaker: Vice-Prime Minister, allow me to stop you. These rebuttals are not essential to the debate.

Ms Sookna: Yes, but I would like to add to it. It is just one line.

Mr Speaker: I have said it. It is not pertinent to the debate. This is my ruling. So, with your permission, we will move onto the next speaker.

Ms Sookna: Okay, thank you.

Mr Speaker: Ms Soojhawon!

(12.45 p.m.)

Ms T. Soojhawon (Member of Parliament): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The fact that some of our measures emanated from some existing measures acclaimed by the Minister of Energy and the Deputy Prime Minister underscores the ineffectiveness of state actors in the green energy sector. The Members of the Government have been rambling about alleged pragmatic measures to be undertaken by concerned authorities. I sincerely hope that the documents will not end up in a locked and dusty drawer whose key will disappear in the void.

Continuing on to my speech, Mr Speaker, Sir, no Member in this House can refute the fact that we are under crossfire of a daunting energy crisis. Indeed, juggling with this adversity as the Small Island Developing State is a herculean task. Our motion undeniably touches a wide spectrum of aspects to fasten the green energy transition that considers reliability, affordability, inclusivity and modernity in our energy supply.

In the face of an alarming estimated public sector debt of Rs449.6 billion as portended by PwC for 2022/2023, harnessing the potential of regional and international cooperation is overriding. The establishment of an information sharing hub clearly for SIDs through the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Alliance of Small Island States, the SAMOA Pathways amongst others obliterate the need to go for trial and error which indubitably absorbs the majority of productive resources ...

Mr Speaker: Ms Sookna, please, wrap up! Thank you.

Ms Soojhawon: Yet, it seems to me that the Government is welcoming unsustainable debt. With its arms wide open, I wonder what list the Government is in the quest for after the FATF. Well, the exchange of tangible experiences in terms of assessing the feasibility of renewable energy projects, acquisition of technical and managerial expertise pave the way towards ossifying a sustainable energy mix. A vivid example would be the convention signed by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, *l'Agence française de développement*, and *l'Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie* in 2017 whereby the strategic partnership of Mauritius and Reunion led to the drafting of a National Biomass Framework. Much emphasis is to be laid on the fact that the ministries themselves endorsed this partnership.

Mr Speaker: Ms Sookna, I will interrupt you. You already exceeded your time limit. I will have to end your speech here.

Ms Soojhawon: Okay, thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Moving on to Ms Pusun!

(12.48 p.m.)

Ms D. Pusun (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. First, I would like to point out that motion proposed by the Opposition is useless. Younglings have had a myriad of green activities ranging from the cliché tree planting day to the sophisticated aquaponic construction and harvesting. I can solemnly declare that our Minister of Environment and our Minister of Education have done a marvellous job in inculcating green values among our youth. Plus, once our students reach Grade III, they have a special subject called Social, Scientific and Environmental Education which promotes sustainable education.

Also, they study science as a mandatory subject from Grad IV until Grade IX. Science teaches our dear Mauritian students about the importance of the environment and critical use of energy in our daily life. Yes, Mr Speaker, Sir, our Government is catering for the environmental education of all Mauritian students including that of big indigenous population of Mauritius.

Additionally, let us emphasise on our educational socio-sphere. Our Government has successfully linked education in institutes with sustainable energy organisation. The latest example, as one of my fellow colleagues mentioned earlier, is the collaboration between the University of Mauritius and Huawei on a solar panel laboratory. And, yes, for those Members of the Opposition saying that I am just talking about past achievements and repeating myself, let me tell you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this event was launched on 23 February 2023, just one week ago. Let us clearly show our Government's commitment towards achieving the sustainable development goals and realising a low carbon economy in Mauritius.

Mr Speaker: MP Pusun, please, can you move to your conclusion? Thank you.

Ms Pusun: Now, replying to a statement that one of the Members of the other side of the House has made, unfortunately our Government is still part of a circus because if it is left in the hands of the clowns the country will be in chaos. There is no vision, there is no passion and there is no mindset.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, we move to the Prime Minister.

(12.51 p.m.)

The Prime Minister: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Due to time constraints, I will restrict my speech.

Mr Speaker: Thank you.

The Prime Minister: Allow me to begin by thanking the Leader of the Opposition for presenting this motion before this House. It is indeed very pleasing to see that the Opposition also holds at heart the well-being of the people of the Republic of Mauritius. I believe my Government's priorities are very clear: to work in the interest of the Republic of Mauritius, our beloved country. The operative word is work. The Opposition is trying to lecture us on rhetoric. Anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, as so many of my fellow colleagues have pointed out, many of their propositions are already being implemented by my Government. That is how much we are working for the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will now move on to some of the lacunas in their motion, just a few because of the time constraint. They mentioned that there are not enough being done in terms of initiatives for the education sector. In fact, there are many marine science careers that are being promoted and eco-tourism and environmental science is already being encouraged, all initiatives of my Government. As for the charging station of electric vehicles, we are relying on the private sector but we are encouraging them and incentivising them. We are trying to work with collaborations here.

As for inclusivity, inclusivity should not remain only on the motion of the Opposition; it is for all aspects of Government. I think I will restrict to that. Other potential ideas that have not been mentioned, a very important one is nudging which I think instead of restraining people, we should nudge and inform them and make them aware of how they should make their decisions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to return to the attitude of the Opposition. So many of the orators on that side of the House display such arrogance, some even argue against democratic principles upon which this august Assembly is founded. How can they suggest that the

Opposition should rule, minority rule? I really do not know how to qualify such views. *Enfin*, I will let the population be the judge of their proposals that is how democratic we are.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to work with the Opposition on this motion. We have the opportunity to do something extraordinary today and my Government is willing to show flexibility. We will vote in favour of this motion subject to amendments being made, as previously stated by Members of my Government. On this note, I wish to put my hand forward to the Leader of the Opposition as a gesture of bi-partisanship because I want to see bi-partisanship, especially on a matter of such great importance.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Thank you, Prime Minister. Leader of the Opposition!

(12.54 p.m.)

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. E. Bhujun): M. le président, je vais essayer d'être bref à cause du temps. Enfin, enfin, nous sommes arrivés à la fin de cette motion ; à la fin de ces deux jours au Parlement. Vous avez bien parlé ; vous avez eu le temps, une chose tellement précieuse, malheureusement nous ne sommes pas le maître des horloges. Vous avez surtout bien défendu votre bilan si j'ose le dire - votre bilan datant de plusieurs années.

M. le président, je voulais demander aux membres du gouvernement de pouvoir faire la distinction entre leurs projets déjà établis et nos propositions. Si vous savez c'est quoi faire la distinction, j'espère que je ne dois pas m'expliquer sur cela, c'est quoi la distinction. Certes, vous avez fait des progrès, ce que nous voulons c'est d'accélérer ce processus. Il y a une horloge - tout comme celle qu'on a ici dans l'hémicycle - présente dans une très grande ville au monde et cette horloge affiche les heures, les jours et les années qui nous restent à combattre le changement climatique. J'ai peur devant cette horloge. Nous vous avons tous peur devant cette horloge. Nous sommes tous témoins des effets dévastateurs de la crise climatique.

The youth is tired, tired of this Government's arrogance and sarcasm. It is not just about having Master Plans and frameworks that will be put into a drawer, like one of my Members mentioned. What we want is to have a balance in Parliament and that is the role of a Parliament and the Opposition.

M. le président, le gouvernement continu de mettre en cause nos chiffres. Mais sachez que ce sont vos chiffres, sur vos propres sites Web. Alors, essayez de faire la mise à jour. Depuis 2021, il n'y a rien qui a été fait !

M. le président, je dépose, aujourd'hui, tous les faits, tous les *fact checks* qu'on a fait. Tous mes membres aussi ont des documents à déposer pour que nous ne sommes pas critiqués. Nous prouvons que nous avons fait nos *homework*. *We have done our homework!*

M. le président, le ministre s'est attaqué à ma personne. Malgré les excuses écrites que j'ai eues de sa part, ce n'est pas quelque chose qui se fait. Ce gouvernement aujourd'hui n'a pas à dénigrer les membres de cet hémicycle.

M. le président, je donne la main aujourd'hui au gouvernement et j'accepte la main qui m'a été offerte hier et aujourd'hui aussi. De considérer la voix de la minorité pour une fois, vous avez le pouvoir, le pouvoir de tout changer.

M. le président, nous sommes à l'aube d'une nouvelle ère. L'humanité a compris que nous ne pouvons plus être les maîtres du monde. L'espèce humaine restera malgré l'évolution incomparable dans le monde animalier l'une des espèces qui doit respecter la loi de la nature. Soyons humbles et vous l'êtes ! Accordons nos violons, comme nous avons si bien dit tous ces jours. Je suis fière aujourd'hui de tous les parlementaires ici. Nous sommes tombés sur un accord pour une cause qui nous touche tous. Soyons l'exemple ! *I am very proud of this Government and this Opposition. We are here to work together. C'est de cette façon que cette nouvelle ère doit se construire avec the bilateral partnership, as our Prime Minister mentioned. This is why today, with all your amendments, I am presenting a motion to the Youth Parliament.*

Merci, M. le président.

Mr Speaker: Leader of the Opposition, do you commend the motion to the National Youth Parliament?

Mr Bhujun: Yes. With these words, Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend the motion to the National Youth Parliament.

The motion was, on question put, agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the National Youth Parliament do now adjourn to a date, place and time to be fixed by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Deputy Prime Minister seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: With these words, Members, the National Youth Parliament stands adjourned!

At 12.53 p.m. the Assembly, was, on its rising, adjourned to a date, place and time to be fixed by the Speaker of the National Assembly.