

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/801

B/801 The Honourable First Member for Curepipe and Midlands (08.07.08) (Mr Guimbeau)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries:-

Whether, he will state if 250 arpents of State land at Palmar were initially vested with the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries for cow breeding and in respect of which, his Ministry later called for expressions of interest for industrial and tourism development projects and, if so, indicate

- (a) the reasons therefor and**
- (b) the date on which the calls for expression of interest were made and the number thereof received and from whom.**

REPLY

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I wish to refer to my reply to PQ B/322 on 29 April 2008 wherein I indicated that:

- (i) My Ministry is currently proceeding with the closure of the Palmar Livestock Breeding Station. 250 arpents out of the 310.4 arpents have been earmarked for industrial and tourism related projects.
- (ii) The Ministry of Housing and Lands would conduct a survey and prepare a Master Plan for the judicious utilization of the State Land.
- (iii) The Master plan would then be submitted to a Committee to be set up by Government to examine the credibility of the promoters and the viability of their projects. Thereafter, the names of the investors will be known.

(a) My Ministry had at 31 May 2008 received 27 applications. Following requests made for a transparent exercise applications were invited through the press.

(b) A Press Communiqué inviting Expressions of Interest was published in local newspapers on 2 June 2008 and on 6 June 2008 respectively. The closing date was 30 June 2008. The Communiqué also mentioned that potential promoters who had already submitted applications were not required to re-apply.

2. The Departmental Procurement Committee of my Ministry met on 2 July 2008 and took note of proposals submitted. 51 applications from potential investors have been received and 5 late submissions.

3. I am informed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands that the Master Plan is presently under preparation for the site and caters for various development projects related to tourism, leisure and recreation. Several options will be considered and relevant authorities will be consulted regarding the provision of infrastructure and amenities on the site, prior to finalization of the plan.

4. All applications will then be examined by a committee to be set up by Government.