

07.05.2019

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

**B/274**

The Honourable Third Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes  
**(Mr Ramano)**

*To ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development –*

**Whether, in regard to the news bulletins broadcasts, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if consideration will be given for the subtitling thereof to benefit viewers with hearing impairment?**

**REPLY**

Madam Speaker,

I am informed by the Officer-in-Charge of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that the Corporation currently provides the subtitling of headlines of news items for the *Journal Télévisé* of 1930 hrs on MBC1.

In line with its policy to enhance the digital infrastructure to better engage with audiences, the Corporation is at present working out the modalities for the introduction of a News Automation System which will provide for the subtitling of all news bulletins for the benefit of viewers with hearing impairment.

Madam Speaker,

I am further informed by the Officer-in-Charge that the Corporation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development and the Society for the Welfare of the Deaf, is already providing a 5 - 7 minute news bulletin in Mauritian

Sign Language for broadcast every Saturday after the *Kreol News Bulletin* of 1900 hrs on MBC 2 with a repeat on Sunday.

With a view to better informing viewers with hearing impairment of major events taking place during the week, the MBC has already initiated action to increase the duration of the Mauritian Sign Language News Bulletin to around 13 minutes.