

17.09.2019

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

**B/816**

The Honourable Fourth Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (**Mr Henry**)

*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 flooding problem in Mare Tabac, he will state the measures taken by the National Development Unit in relation thereto, since 2017 to date?**

**REPLY**

Madam Speaker,

The Mare Tabac Village is located downstream residential and agricultural areas. Significant overland stormwater flows are generated during downpours which converge through upstream sugarcane fields, crossing the village and draining to the River Tabac in the downstream side of the village.

Madam Speaker,

Following consultations Hon. Mrs BOYGAH, the Parliamentary Private Secretary of the region had with Hon HURREERAM, Government Chief Whip and Hon JHUGROO, Minister of Housing and Lands, a proposal was made to carry out a consultancy and propose appropriate remedial measures.

Subsequently, Servansingh Jadav and Partners Consulting Engineers Ltd was appointed as consultant by the NDU on 12 December 2017 to study the area and propose flood-mitigation measures.

The Consultant submitted a Preliminary Design Report in February 2018 to the NDU. Following approval of same by the NDU in April 2018, the Consultant submitted a Detailed Design Report in September 2018. Consultations were held with the Consultant and other stakeholders, and the Report was finalised in April 2019.

The Consultant has identified three flood-prone areas which need to be addressed.

The first flood-prone area is located at the existing bridge at the junction of the New Grove Road with Mare Tabac. The river bed has a localised depression and negative slope downstream the bridge which contribute to swelling of the river and its flooding. The construction of a few houses within the 16 metres reserve has aggravated the situation.

The second flood-prone area is School Lane which lies on a natural flow path. Significant overland stormwater flows from the upstream sugarcane field to converge towards the School Lane.

The third flood-prone area identified is Mandhub Lane near the bridge, upstream the B82 Road. This area is located between the sugarcane fields and the River Tabac.

Madam Speaker,

To alleviate flooding problems in these areas, the Consultant has proposed, *inter-alia*,

- (i) the refurbishment and lining of the existing bridge across New Grove B82 Road;
- (ii) dredging and desilting works along River Tabac over a stretch of about 255 metres;
- (iii) construction of a new reinforced concrete culvert across a track road;
- (iv) construction of a new reinforced concrete drain over a length of 415 metres and 420 metres along School Lane and Mandhub Lane, respectively including reprofiling and resurfacing of the lanes; and
- (v) relocation of existing services along New Grove B82 Road, School Lane and Mandhub Lane.

Madam Speaker,

The Mare Tabac Village being predominantly a residential area, the NDU had to seek wayleaves from the CEB, the CWA, Mauritius Telecom, the Water Resources Unit, the RDA, the Forestry Department and acquire land from private land owners. The wayleaves have been obtained from the Authorities concerned. As regards the acquisition of the required portions of land from the private land owners, the Ministry of Housing and Lands has already been requested to do needful. Hon. Mrs BOYGAH, Parliamentary

Private Secretary, Hon HURREERAM, Government Chief Whip together with the Minister of Housing and Lands are closely monitoring the project.

Once the land acquisition issues are sorted out, the NDU will proceed with the appointment of a contractor for the construction works.