

B/596 The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues (**Mr Leopold**)

*To ask the Honourable the Attorney-General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms –*

**Whether, in regard to the young offenders, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the common causes of detention thereof, indicating the number of institutions available in the Republic of Mauritius therefor and if secured training facilities are available thereat?**

### **MATERIAL FOR REPLY**

Under the Juvenile Offenders Act, a 'young person' is a person who has attained the age of 14 and is under the age of 18.

2. I am informed by the Ministry for Defence and Rodrigues, through input gathered from several institutions such as the Commissioner of Prisons, the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and the Probation and Aftercare Service that the common causes of detention for young offenders are conviction for criminal offences, mainly larceny cases, and child beyond parental control<sup>1</sup>.

3. Cases of child beyond parental control, in these situations, include absconding from home, consumption of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs, truancy from school, precocious sexual activities, defiance of

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<sup>1</sup> Table is at Annex

parental/school authority, negative peer influence and aggressive behaviour.

4. There are specialised institutions in Mauritius to detain young offenders. These are the Correctional Youth Centre, the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and the Probation Hostels. Young offenders are not sent to prison. The institution to which they are sent depends on the seriousness of the offence they have committed. Under Section 15(2) of the Reform Institution Act, “where the court is satisfied that it is expedient for the reformation of a minor that he should undergo training in a Correctional Youth Centre or a Rehabilitation Youth Centre, it may direct that the minor be sent to that institution as appropriate”.

5. The Correctional and Rehabilitation Youth Centres cater for youngsters from 7 to 17 years of age, who are the subject of a Committal Order from a Court.

6. Institutions run by the Probation and Aftercare Service are the Probation Home for Girls at Closel, Phoenix and the Probation Hostel for Boys at Les Casernes, Curepipe. These are semi-open residential institutions, with a family-like setting, catering for boys and girls with anti-social behaviour.

7. On the issue of whether secured training facilities are available at these institutions:

- The training given at the Correctional Youth Centre lays emphasis on educational and vocational training, and this includes numeracy and literacy courses, music courses, training in tailoring, electrical course by MITD and training in vegetable production.
- At the Rehabilitation Youth Centre youngsters are empowered through vocational training on Flower Arrangement, Food Processing, Pastry, Beauty Care, Hairdressing, Gardening, Electrical and Mechanical course with Certification. Youngsters who have reached the age of 16 are enrolled for hotel job courses through the Beachcomber Academy. As at present two boys and one girl are on job placement in Victoria and Paradis Hotels. Two girls have been selected for a job placement in Paradis Hotel this year and will start their job placement on 8 July 2019.
- At the Probation and Aftercare Service, residents are sent to schools, either mainstream or prevocational.

8. In all these institutions there are extra curricular activities such as scouting values, basic courses in painting, sensitisation programmes on juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, outdoor educational tours and recreational days.

9. The same situation exists in Rodrigues, where there is one Rehabilitation Youth Centre at Baie aux Huitres since February 2018. As at date there are four juveniles on remand there, and offences committed by them range from larceny to rape. In Rodrigues training facilities include literacy, numeracy, music classes and yoga classes, amongst other activities.

**A. Statistics, Correctional Youth Centre**

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Offences</b>	<b>Number</b>
1.	Larceny	16
2.	Larceny Violence	5
3.	Larceny more than two in number	31
4.	Larceny breaking/night breaking	3
5.	Larceny scaling	4
6.	Larceny on a public road	6
7.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances	1
8.	Attempt at larceny breaking	1
9.	Possession of articles obtained unlawfully	1
10.	Rogue and Vagabond	5
11.	Threatening verbally elderly person	1
12.	Ill-treatment of elderly person	2
13.	Unauthorised access to computer data	1
14.	Breach of condition of release on bail	11
15.	Bearing offensive weapon	1
16.	Assaulting civil agent	1
17.	Drug Dealing	6
18.	Possession of synthetic cannabinoids	1

19.	Cultivating cannabis plants	1
20.	Sodomy	1
21.	Causing a child to be sexually abused	1
22.	Aiding and abetting	3

As at to date, there are 28 minors detained at the Correctional Youth Centre for offences as shown in the table below.

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Offences</b>	<b>Remand</b>	<b>Convicted</b>
1.	Larceny	3	1
2.	Larceny Violence	1	
3.	Larceny more than two in number	4	3
4.	Larceny breaking/night breaking	2	
5.	Larceny scaling		1
6.	Larceny on a public road	2	1
7.	Larceny armed with offensive weapon		1
8.	Attempt at larceny		1
9.	Rogue and Vagabond	2	
10.	Ill-treatment of elderly person	1	
11.	Breach of condition of release on bail	2	
12.	Drug Dealing	1	
13.	Possession of synthetic cannabinoids	1	

14.	Unlawful possession of dangerous drugs	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>

## **B. Statistics Rehabilitation Youth Centre**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Convicted</b>	<b>On Remand</b>
Girls	9	4
Boys	10	6