

16.07.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/623

The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central
(Mr Osman Mahomed)

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 Head of the Strategic Planning and Economic Directorate, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Economic Development Board, information as to the (a) qualifications held and package drawn and (b) number of reports and strategic and policy advice prepared and submitted to Government as at to date?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

I refer the Honourable Member to the comprehensive reply I gave to Parliamentary Question B/83 on the same subject at the Sitting of 02 April 2019, wherein, I gave detailed information on: -

- a) The organizational structure of the Economic Development Board;
- b) The mandate of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate;
- c) The composition, qualifications and salary packages of members of the Strategic Planning Team;
- d) The different strategies and themes on which the Directorate had advised Government; and
- e) The on-going priorities of the said Directorate.

Since then, the Directorate has also been very active in advocating policies and collaborating with Government for the preparation of Budget

2019-2020, after coordinating the activities of the Commission for Economic Affairs of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and evaluating the recommendations from the various multi-stakeholder discussions held by the Commission.

Given the high importance of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate, much effort is being put in by the Economic Development Board to identify the ideal candidate for the post of Head Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate which is vacant. Two recruitment exercises conducted in February and July 2018 have not been successful and the person identified to occupy the post, following another recruitment exercise in January 2019, has declined the offer. The EDB is considering to hire the services of another international recruitment agency to assist in finding the right person for the position.

In the meantime, the responsibilities of the Directorate are under the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the EDB. In addition to the existing team constituting the Directorate, the EDB has in June 2019 retained the services of a consultant, who has been working in economic consulting related jobs for various governments and organisations of international repute across the world, on economic planning assignments. The terms of reference of the consultant, who is well-versed in economic modelling, are to:

- a) advise and prepare reports on the economic sectors of Mauritius using empirical analysis;
- b) develop econometrics models for economic analysis; and
- c) train and build capacity in econometric tools and modelling for the staff of the EDB.

