

16.07.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/624

The Honourable First Member for Curepipe and Midlands (**Mr Adrien Duval**)

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 one Mr G. A. he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Economic Development Board, information as to if he has been issued with an occupation permit and, if so, indicate the (a) criteria for the issuing thereof (b) conditions attached thereto and (c) date of issue and validity thereof?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

On 01 March 2018, Mr. G.A., South African national, was issued with a Residence Permit as the dependent spouse of Mrs. L.A. The latter holds an Occupation Permit as Investor since 10 January 2018 which is valid until 09 January 2021.

On 03 August 2018, the Economic Development Board (EDB) informed my Office and the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) that it has carried out a due diligence exercise on Mr G.A. which had revealed that he had previously been charged with drug trafficking offences in South Africa and faced imprisonment.

Madam Speaker,

The PIO which was consulted, informed my Office that it was not in the presence of any adverse report on Mr. G.A. at the time his application for residence permit was processed in March 2018.

The PIO subsequently sought additional information from the INTERPOL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade about the case involving Mr G.A. in South Africa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has written to the relevant authorities of South Africa and the latter have advised the Government of Mauritius to request for Mutual Legal Assistance from the Government of the Republic of South Africa through the appropriate legal channel.

The Interpol of Pretoria has informed that Mr G.A. was arrested in 2006 and prosecuted for a drug related offence in 2007.

The Attorney General has sent a request to the South African authorities through diplomatic channels via the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to seek assistance for information on Mr G.A.. The matter is being followed up closely at the level of my Office and on receipt of relevant information, appropriate action will be taken.

Madam Speaker,

The aim of my Government is to implement policies to encourage fit and proper persons to enter the country to contribute to its economic development and we will not tolerate any person with a criminal record who will tarnish the reputation of our island.