

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Order! Order please! Order! Can we have some order? Hon. Thierry Henry! Hon. Thierry Henry, second time, third time, I will sanction you!

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF CISNA - MAURITIUS

The Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance (Mr D Sesungkur): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I wish to make a statement regarding the hosting of the Permanent Secretariat of the Committee of Insurance, Security and Non-banking Financial Authorities (CISNA) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Mauritius.

Madam Speaker, in view of financial resource constraints, the CISNA Secretariat was hosted, on a temporary basis, by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) of South Africa. In July 2018, the SADC Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment approved the setting up of a permanent office of the CISNA Secretariat. This decision was endorsed by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2018.

Subsequently, on 12 October 2018, CISNA launched a bidding exercise for the hosting of the permanent office of its Secretariat, opened to CISNA members only.

Madam Speaker, as the hosting of the CISNA Secretariat in Mauritius is in line with Government's Africa Strategy and its vision to be Africa's Regional Hub, and being given that the reputation and visibility of Mauritius at the regional and international landscape would be enhanced as it would be viewed as the seat of the Authority regrouping all non-bank financial services regulators of the SADC region, Government agreed to the Financial Services Commission (FSC), which is a member of the CISNA since 1998, participating in the bidding exercise. It has to be pointed out that currently, there are no SADC institutions in Mauritius whilst two institutions of COMESA are already hosted here, namely, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, formerly the PTA Bank, and the COMESA Infrastructure Fund.

The bid process was closed on 29 March 2019 and the bid documents were opened and evaluated at the 42 Bi-annual CISNA Meeting held in Mauritius last week.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the bid proposal of the Financial Services Commission has been successfully considered and the FSC has been

officially informed that CISNA has approved the setting up of its Permanent Secretariat in Mauritius. Indeed, the hosting of a SADC substructure in Mauritius will reinforce our ties with SADC and Africa.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

PUBLIC BILL

Second Reading

THE BUILDING CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

(NO. II OF 2019)

Order for Second Reading read.

(4.38 p.m.)

The Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Mr N. Bodha): Madam Speaker, I move that the Building Control (Amendment) Bill be read a second time.

The main object of this Bill is to amend the relevant sections of the Building Control Act to provide for alternative ways of serving notices on owners of dangerous and/or ruinous buildings where such notices cannot be served upon such owners personally or by registered post.

Madam Speaker, at present section 32 of the Building Control Act provides that where a notice is required to be served on the owner or occupier for the purposes of the said Act, such notice shall be served by an officer of the relevant local authority personally on, or sent by registered post to the owner or occupier.

However, in many cases, the exact address of owners of dangerous and/or ruinous buildings is unknown and they remain untraceable. Notices sent by post to the last known address are consequently returned undelivered. In such circumstances, as the Building Control Act does not make provision for any other alternative manner for the service of notice on the owner, the Local Authorities are thus unable to take any action against such owners of dangerous and/or ruinous buildings which thus become a public hazard.

It has thus become imperative to bring amendments to the present Building Control Act to provide that in case the owner or occupier of a dangerous building remains untraceable,