(No. B/59) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether in regard to the project for the construction of a building to house the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, he will state where matters stand.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am advised that a first tendering exercise for the construction of the building to house the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture at La Tour Koenig was carried out in August last year.

The exercise was unsuccessful as by the closing date of 03 October 2008, only one bid was received for the project and the price quoted was around 72% more than that estimated by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping.

Taking into account the big difference between the estimated price and the bid price and the fact that it was not possible to really assess the competitiveness of the bid as there was only one submission, the Central Procurement Board recommended that a re-tendering exercise be carried out.

Tenders have been launched anew in March 2009. The closing date for the submission of bids is 07 April 2009.