



*"Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz" [AKNL] / "Stop Stealing Our Beaches" – Civil society coalition in Mauritius against the privatisation of the last wild beaches remaining and the destruction of their unique ecosystems.*

Email: [contact@aknl.net](mailto:contact@aknl.net) Website: [www.aknl.net](http://www.aknl.net)

**Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz**  
c/o 70, Ganga Lane  
Belle Rose  
Rose Hill

**The Hon Kavydass Ramano**

Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change  
Ken Lee Tower, Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets,  
Port-Louis

Friday 10 January 2020

Dear Honourable Minister

**RE: Saving a unique coastal ecosystem in Bel Ombre from destructive hotel and real estate projects**

Further to our letter of 4 December last, please find enclosed for your kind consideration please an urgent letter to the Chairperson and to the Chief Executive of the District Council of Savanne sent today on behalf of the *Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz* (AKNL) civil society coalition.

As you will recall in our previous letter, among other issues, we alerted you to the need to save from destruction an entire coastal ecosystem that is still functioning in Bel Ombre and that is threatened by a beach hotel project. We had made the request that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) license issued by your predecessor to West Coast Leisure Ltd be cancelled based on the clear scientific evidence that had been ignored. 33 villas will be built across wetlands and sand dunes, with the impact on coral communities in front not even assessed in the EIA report and the Ministry of Environment issuing an EIA license that violates the Ministry's own coastal water quality guidelines for protecting coral communities. We have now learnt that the same developer, the HYVEC Group, is planning to proceed with the construction of 42 to 44 villas and a medical facility at the back of this proposed beach hotel. There are natural drains and wetlands present on the site. Yet, it would seem that this project was allowed to reach BLUP application stage during the time of your predecessor **without having to apply for an EIA license beforehand.**

Clearly, such a situation is most wrong. It confirms that we cannot continue having piecemeal EIAs in Mauritius, in a random order. Ecosystems at risk of being impacted must be considered in their entirety, as a whole, during the EIA process. Otherwise, it is impossible to have any meaningful assessment of possible environmental impacts. Your own ministry is about to seek funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) so as to implement a Mountain Ridge to Lagoon Reef approach to "enhance the resilience of the Coastal Zone of the Republic of Mauritius". How then can 75 to 77 villas be allowed to proceed, around and over coastal wetlands and sand dunes, with an EIA license issued just for half of them, and a flawed one on top?

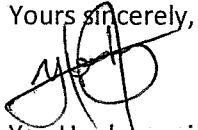
During the recent *Assises Nationales de l'Environnement*, in which AKNL participated, on the final day, you personally observed how half of the rapporteurs from the different thematic sessions reported back to you and all the participants that their groups had cited the protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas such as wetlands and sand dunes, as being an absolute urgent priority for the country and the Ministry.

A cross-cutting key issue for the entire *Assises Nationales* was how to preserve our small island, especially our coast, from the destructive impacts of climate change. Surely this will not be achieved by brushing under the carpet risks of major impacts to natural barriers such as coastal wetlands, sand dunes and drains that help protect against flooding and coastal erosion.

We have informed the District Council that it would be most wrong for the developer to obtain a BLUP without seeking first an EIA license, and we therefore humbly call upon you to kindly request the developer, Table Bay Ltd, to submit an EIA report for the Ministry and the public to ascertain the risks its project poses to the environment.

Before ending, we would like to renew our proposal, if you would so wish, of a joint site visit in that particular area in Bel Ombre so that you can see for yourself this coastal ecosystem that future generations are about to lose forever.

Yours sincerely,



Yan Hookoomsing

For the Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz (AKNL) civil society coalition



Carina Gounden

## PROJECTS UNDER THE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (PDS)

### Marguery 103 Development Ltd

<b>Location</b>	Plantation Marguery, Black River
<b>Project</b>	Development of 6 villas and an open-air gym, yoga centre and open BBQ space
<b>Contact person</b>	Mr. Cyril How
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Email</b>	cyril@landcorpcapital.com
<b>Tel. no</b>	+230 466 3098/ +230 5255 3232
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Letter of Approval

### Table Bay Ltd

<b>Location</b>	Bel Ombre
<b>Project</b>	Development of 44 villas and a wellness centre
<b>Contact person</b>	Mr. Eshan Khan Chady
<b>Address</b>	23, Celicourt Antelme Street Rose Hill
<b>Email</b>	eshan@hyvecgroup.com
<b>Tel. no</b>	+230 464 8600
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Letter of Approval

### North Islands View Ltd

<b>Location</b>	Grand Gaube
<b>Project</b>	Development of 35 residential properties (10 villas, 20 apartments, 5 penthouses) and a wellness centre
<b>Contact person</b>	Mr. Eric Andre Guenzi
<b>Address</b>	Labama House, 3rd Floor Sir William Newton Street Port Louis
<b>Email</b>	guenzi.eric@orange.fr
<b>Tel. no</b>	+230 5257 0977
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Letter of Approval





Yan Hookoomsing &lt;yan.hookoomsing@gmail.com&gt;

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**Attn: the Chief Executive - RE: BLUP Application by Table Bay Ltd**

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Yan Hookoomsing <yan.hookoomsing@gmail.com>  
To: dcsavanne@mail.la.govmu.org

7 January 2020 at 00:17

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: BLUP Application by Table Bay Ltd**

Since 2015, the *Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz* (AKNL) civil society coalition has been actively advocating for the sustainable development of the South Coast, with a strong focus on the preservation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) such as wetlands. We participated for instance in the *Assises Nationales de l'Environnement* organised on 16-17 December by the Ministry of Environment during which the urgent need to protect ESAs and still pristine coastal areas was strongly put forward by many participants.

During the course of the month of December, we came across a public notice next to the So Sofitel Mauritius Hotel in Bel Ombre informing of a BLUP application by Table Bay Ltd for the construction of 42 villas and a medical facility. The date of display was indicated as being 21 November 2019. As there are ESAs located very close to where the notice was seen, we would like to enquire please as to whether Table Bay Ltd has indeed submitted its application already and if so, if this was effected within the mandatory timeframe from the date of public notice.

We are sending as well a letter in hard copy by registered post.

Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration and looking forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,

Yan Hookoomsing

For the *Aret Kokin Nu Laplaz* (AKNL) civil society coalition