**C/210/2021**

This Office received an anonymous complaint from a student regarding noise and air pollution caused by an aluminium workshop at la Paix Piton. The student explained that the workshop was being operated by a Police Officer and did not know where to channel the complaint.

2. A case was opened and the complaint was referred to the Ministry of Health. The Environmental Health Engineering Unit of Rivière du Rempart Health Office reported the following on 16 December 2021:

(a) The incriminated aluminium workshop is registered at the Registrar of Businesses as “Aluminium/Welding of Metal works pieces’ workshop” at Independence Street, La Paix, Piton. The workshop which is located in a highly residential area was not in operation at the time of visit. However, the presence of machineries (cutting saw, grinder and drilling machine) was noted inside the workshop. A representative of the company informed that the workshop had no Building and Land Use Permit for the Aluminium workshop and no permit to operate electric motors therein.

(b) As per the Standards for Noise Regulations under the Environment Protection Act for any noise monitoring, the noise survey must be conducted from the premises of the complainant. In the present case as the complaint is anonymous, no noise survey could be carried out.

(c) As the alleged workshop was being operated without a Building and Land Use Permit for Aluminium workshop and permit to run electric motors therein, the matter was referred to the District Council of Rivière du Rempart for necessary action through correspondence dated 10 December 2021.

3. On 16 February 2022 the Office of the Ombudsman queried the District Council of Rivière du Rempart which reported as follows:

1. A first joint site visit was effected by the Inspectorate staff of the Land Use & Planning and Health Departments on 23 December 2021, where the site was found closed.
2. On 10 January 2022, a second site visit was effected and one Mr Vedanand Beekharry was met on site handling aluminium frames. He informed that he was not carrying out any commercial activity but doing renovation works for his residence.
3. As per records available, no Building and Land Use Permit had been issued to operate aluminium workshop or electric motors at the locus.
4. Following a site visit on 28 March 2022, no renovation works were observed but some aluminium doors were seen on the site and the proprietor who was also present at the time of the site visit informed that he has not yet replaced the doors.

(e) The Council was contemplating to initiate legal action against the alleged offender for operating an aluminium workshop without a building and land use permit.

4. On 07 April 2022 the Office of the Ombudsman queried the District Council of Rivière du Rempart on action taken to prevent the recurrence of the said nuisance in order to ensure that no noise pollution continued to be caused in the vicinity. In a reply made to this Office the District Council of Rivière du Rampart informed that a site visit was effected on 11 January 2023 and no operation was being carried out by the alleged offender which was also confirmed by his immediate neighbour present on site.

5. It is therefore hoped that our intervention has resolved the student’s problem.