
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2004.

PRESENT

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)
Hon. Dame Billie A. MILLER, D.A. (Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Mr. G. W. PAYNE, LL.B.
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works)
Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment)
Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.
Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.) M.A. (Public Finance) (Leader of the Opposition)
Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.) F.D.S., FDRCS, J.P.

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.) J.P. (Minister of Health)
Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Mr. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)
Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.
Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, March 19, 2004.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, March 19, 2004, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no corrections or observations, then let these Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Bills:

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados National Terminal Co. Ltd.), Order, 2004.

2. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Natural Medicinals Inc.) Order, 2004.
3. Value Added Tax (Refund) (People's Cathedral) Order, 2004.
4. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Cane Vale Seventh Day Adventist Church) Order, 2004.
5. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police Inc.) Order, 2004.
6. Value Added Tax (Refund) (JGL Hotels Limited) Order, 2004.
7. Value Added Tax (Refund) (Carleton Court Holdings Limited) Order, 2004.
8. Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust Ltd. for the year ended June 30, 2003.
9. Report on the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003.
10. Report on the Public Enterprise Investment Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2003.

10.20 a.m.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2002.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: I am commanded to lay the following:

Instrument Adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at its 91st Session held in Geneva on June 19, 2003, and Ministerial Statement.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the years 2000 and 2001.
2. Annual Report of the National Assistance Board for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the following Bills be read a first time:

1. The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill, 2004.
2. Family Law (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day.

ORDER NO. 8 – ARTS AND SPORT PROMOTION FUND BILL, 2004

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of this Bill cited as the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund Bill, 2004. You would recall the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had indicated this Government's commitment to identifying and creating new and additional opportunities for the Funding of the arts and sports development in Barbados. This legislation creates an additional avenue and opportunity for a dedicated stream of funding in support of the arts and sports.

Sir, you would appreciate that arts and sports represent a very critical important aspect of the social fabric of our society as well as having opportunity for the creation of wealth and the earning of income in those areas of creative expression. Additionally, high levels of international recognition contributes to a sense of national identity and pride. Sir, these areas are critical to our further and future development on several spheres. I will speak more fully with respect to arts and sports sectors later in this presentation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill arises out of two sources. In this Government's National Sports Policy Paper, debated and approved by this Parliament, there was an indication of a commitment to establish this type of funding. Additionally, in the Economic Policy Statement of the Minister of Finance he indicated that it was his intention to ensure that the revenue which was derived from the lotteries in Barbados would be channelled in the direction of the development of arts and sports, notwithstanding the fact that all lotteries in Barbados are operated under the aegis of various sporting bodies namely, the Barbados Turf Club, the Barbados Cricket Association and the Barbados Olympic Association.

Sir, of those bodies, the Barbados Olympic Association would be the most broad-based as there are 29 sports listed as Olympic sports in Barbados within the wider grouping of 58 national sports associations registered with the National Sports Council. Of course, cricket is arguably our major international sport and horse racing continues to be a major sport in Barbados.

It was indicated by the Minister of Finance at that time that we needed to ensure that the Funds generated were not only going to the sports identified by the organisers but to a wider range of sports and arts. It was also indicated at an earlier period that Government desired to see a merger of the operations of the lotteries in Barbados and should the merger be achieved, it would see resulting reduction in the level of taxation on lotteries because these associations said that the Government was taking a large share of their revenues.

The merger was eventually realised and included all the lotteries except the Barbados Cricket Association lottery which opted not to be part of the merger and, therefore, pays a different rate of taxation from the other lotteries.

Sir, the merger came into practical effect as of October 2002 after discussions, negotiations, memorandums of understanding, letters of intent and finally contractual arrangements between the Barbados Olympic Association, the Barbados Turf Club and the National Sports Council. In terms of the agreed distribution of funds from the merger of these lotteries, it was agreed that 36 per cent of the profits would be distributed to the Barbados Olympic Association, 36 per cent to the Barbados Turf Club, 18 per cent to the National Sports Council and 10 per cent to the National Cultural Foundation. This arrangement is now beginning to show some profit and proceeds from the profits of the lotteries are flowing to those entities as mentioned.

Sir, for example, the National Sports Council has already received its first benefits from the profits of the various lotteries and has begun the process of providing financial support via that funding mechanism to several

national sporting associations for upcoming activities which I will discuss during the course of this debate.

The other important step taken is that Government made a determination that in addition to the profits which come to the National Sports Council and National Cultural Foundation as a result of their being part of the entity called Sports Lotteries Barbados, that the Government would earmark a significant percentage of the taxation on the lotteries.

10.30 a.m.

Sir, the Minister of Finance in this year's Financial Statement and Economic Policy presentation to this Parliament indicated that he would be allocating 60 per cent of the tax revenue, which is from the tax levied on lotteries, to an arts and sports promotion fund. This legislation provides the legal authority for the Ministry of Finance to be able to allocate 60 per cent of the taxes which are levied under Section 3 of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act. There is existing legislation but as it stands now, 100 per cent of the taxes taken have to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Sir, what is being proposed by way of legislative action is to guarantee that there is a direct mechanism for targeting funding, by way of providing that 60 per cent which is paid into a special fund, the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund, to be administered by the Accountant General to be audited by the Auditor General and to have those audited statements laid in Parliament as is provided under the legislation.

The intention is for the resources of the Fund to be used to support organisations involved in the arts and sports in Barbados in order for us to be able to develop these two major planks of our social and economic development strategy. The Funds, based on the legislation, would be those monies generated by the 60 per cent of the taxes, any additional monies that Parliament may from time to time vote for that purpose and put into the Fund and any other monies derived by any other means. For example, there is a provision for private sector contributions into the Fund which would be done by way of a tax break. Sir, that is the background to the establishment of the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund and the reasons why we would have taken the step of putting this into legislation with all of the appropriate guarantees.

Sir, what about the need for these funds? I believe that the needs are evident but I would still spend some time this morning speaking about the two areas which are to be the principal beneficiaries of these resources.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our sports policy is governed by the national sports policy which I indicated came through

this Parliament in 2000. It recognised a number of challenges that face the sporting community. These included organisational and structural weaknesses in several of the national sporting bodies. Some have been corrected and some are still there. It recognised the general lack of financial support which was available to a number of these sporting associations. It also recognised at that time that there is need for a coherent national strategy programme which would allow for greater coordination and synergy to be derived from the operation of these associations.

We also recognised at that time that there was, particularly in some aspects of sports, a shortage of well-trained instructors, coaches or administrators, whether in the school system through the first level intervention of physical education teachers or at the national level, to move amateurs to professional level or sportsmen from a team as top national competitors within the national tournaments to move into Caribbean championships and to wider championships in the Americas and to the world level. We had some concerns about the quality of governance in a number of national sporting associations and the perpetual issue of availability of well equipped sporting facilities, the physical infrastructure which is necessary for us to be able to pursue our objectives in sports.

Sir, what then does the sports policy articulate? The sports policy of the Government spoke to our commitment to the improvement of sporting facilities and venues and the provision of venues across the entire island. In fact, our policy is that every settled major community must have ready access to sporting facilities. This is in pursuit of a very important objective.

Sir, participation by the broad mass of the population in sporting activities is critical not only for sports in and of itself but for health and well-being generally. It is well-known that 30 minutes of active physical activity per day will help to reduce the possibility of cardiovascular heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and related matters.

Therefore, the provision of broad-based facilities in the communities allows for part of our preventative health strategy to take root in the communities. It also provides an opportunity for persons of obvious sporting talents who may not any longer be part of an education institution, and every education institution has sporting facilities attached to them, to be able to have access to these facilities in the community.

Sir, in the last several years, lights have been installed at a number of these facilities across the island. As persons became involved in the workforce, we found that there was a rapid fall-off in the participation in sports by talented sportsmen. Some of these sports persons were at the top of their league while at school but they dropped out of sports

when they reached their late teens and early twenties because they had no time to practise because they had to choose between studying and sports, job and sports.

Sir, the fact that we have been able to extend opportunity for sports into the night now provides the opportunity for teens to practise in a very serious way as well as for the general populace to have the opportunity to exercise, and that programme continues.

What else does our sports policy speak to? It speaks to increasing our competitive edge at the national and international level in all sports. Sir, we all know how proud we feel when our national teams, whether here in Barbados or abroad, bring honour and glory to our country. I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is not here with us this morning but I want to congratulate him, Sir. The Honourable Member has a son who was on the CARIFTA swimming team and it is clear that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and his kinsfolk are determined to make their mark on the national stage in one form or another.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, fostering that competitive edge at the national level is part of what we do. Of course, the Government can only enable in this regard because it is at the level of the sporting associations that preparation for national level competitive activity is done. Sir, I will speak later to our strategy for providing assistance for national associations to help them to reach that level. In particular, it spoke, Sir, of training for our sporting instructors, and we have worked with a range of international bodies, such as the Commonwealth Sports Organisation to provide enhanced training.
10.40 a.m.

Sir, it also spoke of the promotion of sports for all policy, and that included making provision for persons with disabilities. For example, you would be pleased to know that the blind cricket that we had in Barbados recently was in part possible because the National Sports Council provided a coach, Mr. Wendell Coppin, I could call his name, who worked with our team over a period of two or three years, to provide them with the opportunity.

Our Special Olympics Team has done exceptionally well internationally, in the Special Olympics in Ireland last year. Again, Sir, this was facilitated through some of the assistance provided under this sports policy. There are other social benefits such as the development of a discipline for a healthy and well disciplined society which are also listed among the objectives of our sports policy as well as the achievement of national excellence and prestige, and the stimulation and appreciation of an interest in sports.

Sir, spectators are made of people who know about and appreciate the sport. Therefore, the provision of a wide range of coaching and exposure in all of our various sporting disciplines, in schools and the wider community, help to stimulate that interest in a wide range of sports. Of course, it is recognised that sports provides an opportunity for personal, economic and professional development, and we speak particularly in two areas. One, Sir, are those sportsmen who pursue their professional careers.

I must congratulate the Barbados Cricket Association and the Barbados Cricket Team, not only for their recent success in the regional championship, but in the fact that they have been able to create a pathway which now sees several Barbadian professional cricketers finding their rightful place on the West Indian Cricket team. Sir, that is professional development in Sports. We have several others going off to England and doing a range of activities.

Sir, there is another aspect of sports which we do not hear too much about, and that is the matter of sports scholarships, which have provided opportunities for several persons, including some in this Parliament. The Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, a star athlete of this country, represented his country well and brought great distinction to us.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are wondering why the Honourable Member for St. Michael South was afraid to come to the National Stadium on Saturday to challenge me, but he was wise to stay away.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: He is out of the country on national duty, I am advised.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South can attest to the fact that sports afforded him the opportunity, and several others, hundreds over the years further pursued their sport and reached high levels, but to pursue academic studies. Therefore, as part of a deliberate strategy for sports development in Barbados is the matter of sporting scholarships in all disciplines.

Again, Sir, we perhaps do not do enough to promote what has been happening but there are several young Barbadian cricketers, for example, who go to England and Scotland to do their 'A' levels and to play cricket. Some do it at the university level, but a lot of the scholarships in cricket are at the 'A' level stage as well. Of course, there have been scholarships in football, swimming, lawn tennis, golfing and a range of activities. Sir, we need to pursue

vigorously and seriously that as an avenue, for the purpose of sports itself, as well as providing enhanced educational opportunities. These things were addressed in this National Sports Policy, which is a document of this Parliament.

Sir, I spoke earlier about the development of leisure activities for the wider society and things of that nature. I must say that much of what we have been able to benefit from today, did not happen by accident. It was the foresight of an earlier Barbados Labour Party Administration to create the National Sports Council in 1987. That body has been the executive arm for the policies of successive Governments since then. Indeed, today, it continues to play a pivotal role in the execution of our sporting policies.

The National Sports Council makes its major mark by the provision particularly of coaching in some 14 disciplines. I believe they coach approximately 18 000 persons a year, much of it in schools, especially at the primary schools where there is not a dedicated physical education teacher. Also, at the secondary school level where they go during school hours and after school hours to augment the work which is done in cricket, football, basketball, badminton, the whole range of sporting activities, including swimming.

They also organise several junior competitions. I believe there are as many as 28 junior competitions that are organised by the Sports Council, from the Herman Griffith Cricket competition to the primary school sports which they do in association with the Barbados Union of Teachers and junior football.

Sir, if we are to be able to develop the number and quality of sportsmen that we desire at the top, we need to have a very broad base. We therefore have a commitment to expose all of our children to as many sports as possible, such that they may find their talent and their niche.

We have a system in which having trained and identified that talent at the primary school level, at the point of transfer to secondary school, a list is provided. Schools are notified of those persons with talent coming out of the primary school system so that they are aware that John in 1A1 was good at football, and Susie was good at swimming, *et cetera*. Sir, that system of cooperation and using our information in sports is important.

Where, of course, it seems to fall is that there seems to be the corridor of uncertainty, to use a cricketing analogy: you do not know if to play or leave. At the post-secondary level, there seems to be a fall-off and we need to address that, where we have a number of youngsters who, having pursued their sport through the secondary level, do not somehow seem to make it into the clubs, or they go to tertiary institutions where, in the past, sports were not taken as seriously as they are now, and I am pleased to report, Sir,

that certainly at the level of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, in the last three years or so, they have developed for the first time, a dedicated full-sized playing field, where they have their own facility for football, cricket, and athletics.

10.50 a.m.

During the course of this year they will be building a sports pavilion with facilities for a gym and other associated services because it is ridiculous to have 2 500 robust young men and women, several of whom would have represented their schools in various sports, going to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and not having any facilities to continue in their sports. Similarly, I am pleased that the Barbados Community College continues to take sports serious, they have facilities there, and have included in their educational programme, an associate degree in physical education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can clearly see the great commitment the University of the West Indies has in fostering sports development in Barbados. For many years Mr. Jebodhsingh, the Director of Sports and other related activities, has been doing a fantastic job. He has now been given additional tools in the form of a dedicated football field, a dedicated cricket field and hard courts. Sir, the 3W's Oval at the University of the West Indies represents, in my estimation, the finest of our cricket facilities in terms of its all-encompassing nature. It has an excellent field, with indoor nets and associated facilities.

Sir, it is the intention of the University of the West Indies to position that facility to become a proper centre for cricket development. They have recognised that their role in contributing to the education and development of our society cannot ignore what is for us a major part of our lives. Cricket is not only a major sports of itself. Cricket represents one of the most potent forces for Caribbean unity. It represents one of the most readily identifiable emblems of pride which we as West Indian people can wear. It has provided us with a level of international recognition that has been surpassed by no other sector.

At their facilities at the University, you have a repository of knowledge of the history of the game, you have a repository of knowledge based on more recent studies involving either the physical aspects, use of technologies and various initial aspects of the game as well as the physical facilities. Therefore, I look forward to the completion of their development programme where we can see the 3W's Oval at the University of the West Indies providing full and proper services of an academy, because that is essentially what the Centre for Cricket Development would ultimately have to be. It will also provide opportunities for several of our players who in the past had to choose between their

academic development and the opportunity to develop their professional skills.

Sir, I do not know how far the Leader of the Opposition might have gone, but he was not too bad with the cricket bat and I know that at his time at university he would have loved to have the 3W's Oval. It was a cricket ground but it was just a cricket ground as there was any other place and cricket was never seen as a true extra-curricular activity.

Sir, the shift now is to have the Centre for Cricket Development and the sport of cricket as a core aspect of the University's work and not just something that the students play around with if they find the time from their studies. The appointment of the former West Indian great Sir Jeffrey Dujon as the Director for the Centre for Cricket Development and other persons of knowledge and worth augurs well for the development of that facility.

Sir, the matter of coaching, training, development exposure and the handing over of persons from junior to secondary to post-secondary stage and the matter of the clubs becomes very important to our development. Sir, Government is here to lend assistance to the national associations, so at the end of the day we have to ensure that the associations discharge their obligations. The Leader of the Opposition would be well aware, being a man involved in sports, that these associations usually function as affiliate bodies of the international governing body for the individual sport. In that regard they have more statutory responsibility as they are the ones who would monitor athletes to take part in international competitions. Whether we are members of that body or not - as far as we are concerned they are Barbadians and they are Barbadian teams - we have an interest in making sure that those bodies function in the best interest of Barbados generally.

Sir, working with the 55 or so national associations is a major priority for the achievement of our policy on sports, so we, through the National Sports Council, provide funding on an annual basis in support of the work of these associations. For example, in the last year we would have provided \$100 000 as a straightforward administrator grant to help these associations run their basic affairs. In addition to that, something in the region of \$500 000 a year is provided by way of grants to national sporting associations to help them either to host competitions here in Barbados, to help them fund the participation of athletes in international events and to finance the development cost of special training programmes and things of that nature. As recently as last month we would have distributed \$215 000 as the first tranche of several disbursements we will be making during the course of the year in support of the specific development programmes identified by the several associations.

We provided funding for the Amateur Athletic Association in the sum of \$20 000 to assist with their participation in the CARITA Games. We would have provided the Swimming Association junior programme with \$20 000 as well to assist primarily in their participation at the CARITA Games as well as in other development programmes. We would have provided \$20 000 to the Barbados Boxing Association primarily to help Junior Greenidge and Shawn Cox as they continue their training and competitive activity in preparation for the Olympics in Athens.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a *sotto voce*, asking about Christopher “Shaka” Henry. Sir, “Shaka” Henry is a professional fighter. In November of last year, we helped him with his exposure in challenging for the World Title and we provided him with some \$22 500 to assist in defraying the cost of the fight which was put on. Without that assistance, that World Title would not have been possible and the belt would not have come to Barbados. During March we provided the Cycling Association with \$25 000 specifically for the work of Barry Forde to assist with his training, his development and exposure leading up to the Olympics.

Sir, according to the rules, much of the assistance that is provided for funding of individual athletes has to be provided through the national associations. We would have provided assistance to the Barbados Volleyball Association and the Barbados Football Association as both of them have indicated that their development programme to take them to the next level requires the full-time employment of a technical director.
11.00 a.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have done it in the past with the Barbados Volleyball Association and we are doing it again. They, as you know, are the Caribbean champions, and have been for a while but they need to move to the Nausicaa Championships and to levels beyond that to help them to go beyond their plateau point. We have provided \$25 000 and will provide additional tranches to meet that overall cost of \$80 000 for a technical director.

In the case of the Barbados Football Association, their technical director will cost somewhere in the region of \$157 000 and we have provided our first tranche of \$25 000 to move in that direction. Again our football needs to be taken to a level beyond that where it is now. Sir, similarly for the Barbados Hockey Association, in order to have them prepared for the Pan American Championships to be held in Barbados in late April, the sum of \$20 000 will be provided.

Sir, through the Amateur Athletics Association, the sum of \$25 000 was provided for Obadele Thompson, as he moves towards the gold in Athens and similarly \$25 000 for Andrea Blackette, as she moves towards the gold in the Olympics.

Sir, the Barbados Netball Association, with the Barbados team placing 7th in the championship in Jamaica last year, have brought in an Australian coach to help them with the various aspects of the game, and we have met their request with the sum of \$10 000 to assist them with that four-week programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have recognised the critical importance of the programmes that are developed by these associations and we, therefore, sought to provide assistance to financing, based on the development of specific technical proposals. Sir, it is not gift money to be disbursed willy-nilly, these are associations that are required to have a strategic plan which would indicate a long-term vision. They are required to have an implementation programme, so that we can check their progress against the achievement of the stated goals.

Sir, great care is taken to ensure that we do not have money that was specifically earmarked for one purpose, being used for another because that would defeat the specific objectives that have been set.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those are examples of the kinds of collaborative activities that have existed and the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund Bill will provide yet another source of financing, which will enable us to do even more in the development of sports in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will appreciate, we have had a reasonably good year in sports last year. This year has already started reasonably well. We have had reasonably good results at our CARIFTA games, particularly the swimming team which has been able to improve on its performance relative to last year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, therefore, would wish to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, who is absent from his seat, for his son's participation in the CARIFTA swimming team and to say well done.

Sir, I do not have to recount the performances of our cricket teams or the performances of our boxers but to say that across-the-board during last year, much of the focus would have been on Olympic qualifiers and that we have persons across a range of sports who have qualified for the Olympics. We have Bradley Ally who has qualified in swimming, and financial assistance has been provided for him to continue his training in the United States of America.

There are persons in athletics, there are two persons who would have qualified in shooting for the Olympics, *et cetera*.

Sir, what are these areas that will require funding as we go forward? In terms of coming activities this year, there are several regional and international championships which will be held here during the course of the year, for which funding would have to be considered. There is the Dominoes and Whist World Championships in July. There is the Olympics in Athens in July/August, 2004, in which Barbados will be represented by its best team. There is the Pan American Hockey Championship in April, and there is the Caribbean Volleyball Championship to be held in July/August this year. In addition, there is the International Draughts Championship, which is to be held, and in which we have to get into a discussion with the organisers concerning the role which we would play in that regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the assurance is that Government will continue to shoulder some parts of the responsibility in bringing honour and glory to sports to Barbados.

Sir, another critical area in which the Government will have to act in support of its sporting policy, is in the improvement of some key aspects of our infrastructure. Sir, there is the need to improve in much of our major sports and sporting facilities, for example, in cricket, there are improvements that are required in our international test match cricket ground, Kensington Oval, in order to make it ready for the Cricket World Cup, 2007.

Sir, a perusal of the big book, which is, in effect, the tender document that has been put out to allow countries to compete for the opportunity to host matches, indicates what are the new minimum standards as set by the International Cricket Council in relation to the grounds. They relate to the quality of the turf; the size of the grounds in terms of the limits of the boundaries; the type of stands that are required and the matter of visibility, for example, the slope; the type of seating and the requirement for the physically challenged; and crowd control.

Sir, it was interesting, by way of example, to note an old term coming into the new requirements for crowd control at cricket. There is now a requirement for a moat around the grounds. Sir, remember the olden times there was a moat around the castle, an area usually filled with water and alligators or some other vile creature to prevent intrusion. The new arrangement now requires that in the open area between the stands and the field, that a net two feet high should be erected, which would make it difficult for persons to run onto the field. Therefore, by way of example, they have introduced old concepts of defence into the new cricketing arrangements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those standards also identified the need for indoor practice pitches which are within easy access to players during the activity on the ground. They indicate the new requirement for, or the absence of parking, and a whole range of other issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the bottom line is that as part of our bid to host significant events in 2007 World Cup, we have developed a plan for the redevelopment of the Kensington Oval, which would be undertaken...

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy wants to have the business down at North Stars but that is a separate matter. The reality is that in cricket, we need to have the redevelopment of our facilities.

Sir, in relation to other major facilities, there is clearly a need for the redevelopment of the National Stadium Complex. That complex was developed, not as a stand-alone area but as an entire area which is dedicated for sports development. So far, there is the original National Stadium which is used for football, track and field and cycling, primarily. In that compound, there is also a small boxing gym, a training gym, and other indoor facilities. Adjacent to that, is the Netball Stadium which provides a number of outdoor courts for netball which is also used for volleyball and hence the need for a comprehensive redevelopment.
11.10 a.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, these facilities need to be upgraded and augmented. There is a \$20-million plan for the redevelopment of the National Stadium. It will be done in a number of phases for the simple reason that the stadium will need to continue in operation as a going concern whilst much of the redevelopment occurs because there is a hectic schedule of activity at the stadium.

Sir, a number of clubs train at the stadium. Also, the Louis Lynch championships, the Jim Wedderburn championships, the Primary and Secondary School championships, football games and a whole range of other activities are held there.

The \$20-million plan will involve a number of features. First, there is a need to build a new velodrome because in the era of 1972 when the stadium was built, the 550-metre track was standard and used around the world but today the 330-metre track is standard. We are therefore training our cyclists on a track they are unlikely to encounter when they go into international competition. Therefore, it is to the credit of our cyclist, particularly Barry Forde, that they have

returned such outstanding performances. We need therefore to remove that velodrome and build another one adjacent that would permit our cyclists to operate on standard tracks they would meet internationally.

We have refurbished the stands over the past several years and there are plans to add additional stands to provide capacity...

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for popular events there is not enough capacity but we have to strike a balance because it costs money to build capacity and we cannot build huge capacity for a few events like the Senior Games, the cultural activities like Crop Over and the Inter-school Athletic Championships and entertainment-related activities. When we build the additional stands, it would allow us to refurbish, remodel and make the necessary changes in relation to the existing stands.

Sir, in relation to the football field, concerns have been shared by several persons about the quality of the field over the last several months. This relates directly to a problem with our irrigation pump where water is drawn from a well on the Codrington Estates which is owned by Government to irrigate the field at the National Stadium. A new pump is on order but, in the meantime, we have taken the steps of using tanker trucks to provide water in order to maintain the stadium at a certain quality.

Over the last two weeks, the President of the Barbados Football Association in organising its 2004 domestic season, indicated that the scheduling of matches this year is one informed by a deliberate strategy to take football out to the communities and that they will schedule matches where there are lighting facilities so as to allow for matches to play later in communities to encourage a greater public participation. A few major matches will be played at the stadium but this has given us the opportunity for redevelopment by way of laying sand on the field and allowing fresh grass to grow by way of aggressive irrigation in order to make sure we have an international quality field as we prepare for a series of international encounters.

Sir, I must congratulate the Barbados Football Association because the 2004 season is the first time where so many international matches have been scheduled for football. Sir, in the region of ten international matches were scheduled and several were held here in Barbados; and this augurs well for us. We fondly remember when there was an aggressive programme for internationals in Barbados and many international teams visited here. I am glad to see we have returned to the recognition of the need to expose our players to teams better than themselves in order that they may lift their standard. This requires facilities which are modern and we have undertaken to do that.

There are also plans for the redevelopment of the Netball Stadium and this will also be done on a phased basis. We are changing the roof on the existing facility because it has fallen into disrepair and, as we speak, workmen are changing the structure and working on the associated facilities. The long-term plans also include the provision of a modern surface on which to play.

Sir, no one will play a major international competition on an asphalt surface in volleyball, netball or basketball. Therefore, we need to provide sprung flooring whether wooden or otherwise. There is all-weather sprung flooring that can be used even in an outdoor court situation. We will make these improvements later and some of these funds derived from the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund Bill will put us in a better position to be able to address some of these major infrastructural issues.

Sir, one deficiency we still have is in relation to our floor sports like judo and related activities where there is a need for indoor facilities designed for such. Part of the long-term development of that stadium area will include the provision of facilities that can be used by persons in those sports that need extended exercise-type floor facilities.
11.20 a.m.

Sir, our relationship with national sports associations is key and it is through the national associations where much of the distribution of funds in this Arts and Sport Promotion Fund would be made. We have already started a programme in which we are helping the associations to improve their governance. Very often we hear of quarrels at the national level. We hear of the failure to hold general meetings and the failure to produce annual accounts. As a matter of fact, in some associations, the Executive Members take the associations to court in order to have matters settled relating to procedure and otherwise.

We are using both a carrot and a stick approach as far as effecting these improvements. We have worked with the Barbados Olympic Association in putting on a series of courses for sports administrators. It is very important that across-the-board and at several levels in our sporting organisations that we have people who are trained and competent at the technical as well as at the administrative levels. It must never happen in Barbados as happened with the West Indies Cricket Board sometime ago, when players went halfway around the world in an age group competition only to discover that several players were not of that age group. Sir, the administration is supposed to take care of those things.

It must not happen in Barbados that athletes go to competition internationally without proper accreditation, arrangements for their travel or finding the most

cost-effective solution to have them safely and adequately housed. Therefore, we are working to provide training for sports administrators.

Sir, there is also the matter of the stick, of tying the continued availability of funding through this Bill as well as otherwise to the submission of reports, accounts and adequate proof that organisations are still affiliated with an international body or whatever other form of governance structure which they had at the time of the application for funding.

For example, an organisation that applies for funding to help a team of junior players go to some international coaching clinic or to help one of our national athletes train for a particular event, cannot use that funding to improve their headquarters. We would not be supporting organisations which do not respect their own Rules as noted in their Bylaws. We hope that by way of this dual approach, both positive and normative, to effect these improvements.

Sir, I spoke about the associate degree programme in physical education which is being conducted by the Barbados Community College and a number of our coaches and administrators attend those courses. The coaches at the National Sports Council also assist with administration and we provide by way of scholarship or facilitation with leave, for them to do bachelors and masters programmes in the relevant areas. The Technical and Vocational Training Council, Erdiston Teachers' College and other agencies are also involved in sponsoring or organising training.

Sir, one of the important aspects of our sporting policy on which I want to speak briefly is the matter of Barbados' full involvement in, compliance with and promotion of the policy of playing fair in terms of our anti-doping policy. We will recall that this Administration has established a National Anti-doping Commission chaired by Dr. Adrian Lorde who has distinguished himself as one of the foremost persons involved in sports medicine, especially in the area of anti-doping policy. That organisation continues to work with our athletes by way of providing education and training. They also go about their work very quietly, but efficiently, in providing drug tests at several of our national championships.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us not fool ourselves that these tests are being done because we suspect anybody of taking drugs. These tests are being done because it is now a requirement of all the international supporting bodies of which the local bodies are affiliates. Sir, if these tests are not done, when our athletes turn up for international events they would not be allowed to participate. These tests are being done so that our athletes would become accustomed to the

procedures which have to be followed when they go to international competition.

When I attended last year's National Body Building Championships which were held at the Plantation Garden Theatre, it was not at a dedicated sports facility, I was able to see for myself how the Anti-doping Commission was able to set aside an area to do their collection of samples. Mr. Deputy Speaker, being knowledgeable in these areas, you would be aware that where testing is required, as soon as a person performs, they have to be accompanied by an official for a period of time. They are required to consume a certain quantity of water and to pass a urine sample under supervision, which is then sent to an IOC laboratory for testing.

Therefore, we, through the establishment of the Anti-doping Commission, have been pursuing this policy to ensure that our country and our athletes on an individual basis are not found in positions which will cause us any embarrassment or pain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill we are debating today provides that additional source of funding which will allow us to address several aspects of our sports development and more. I must make it clear for the benefit of this Parliament that the provision of this funding is without prejudice to the continued provision of funding by this Parliament for the continued work, for example, of the National Sports Council, where we spend in the region of \$13 million on an annual basis, Sir, \$9 million on recurrent expenditure and \$4 million in capital expenditure. Sir, this is not an alternative to that, this is in addition to that funding.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, last year we spent just under \$5 million in capital works at the National Sports Council. If you look at the headquarters of the National Sports Council you will see that the money was not spent on the headquarters. It was not spent on the increase of comforts for the staff although we need to do that, subject to regulatory matters that we are trying to work through. It was spent in the development of sports in the communities. It was spent in the provision of playing fields, pavilions and hard courts in various communities. Sir, as you are aware, there is still work to be done.

There are some areas in which we have not been able, as yet, to provide the facilities that are so dearly needed. For example, Cane Vale is one of those areas. It is indeed a high priority of the National Sports Council to provide those facilities. Perhaps, when I am winding up my speech I may speak about some of the work that is currently in progress. Suffice it to say, we are pleased with what we have been able to achieve so far. The last Annual Report of the National Sports Council (NSC) indicated that they have under their

control some 108 playing fields across the eleven parishes of Barbados, 62 hard courts and 46 pavilions. I believe that some 35 hard courts and associated fields already have lights and the lighting programme is ongoing.
11.30 a.m.

I must say on that score that the Council has placed an order for several sets of portable lights. We recognise, Sir, that we cannot, even with the best will in the world, even with all the money in the world, and we do not have all of the latter, that we will not be able to either provide lighting for all grounds or provide it all at the same time. There are areas from time to time where community-minded persons will want to organise sporting activities at night. When they check the cost of portable lights, it is so prohibitive, Sir, that it makes it difficult or impossible to host activities. Therefore, part of our immediate response to the demand for the facilitation of night time sporting activity will be the provision of portable lights, such as generators and lighting masts and so on, to allow for those to be available to sporting organisations and communities to advance their work.

Sir, we are pleased with what we have achieved thus far, but I am sure Honourable Members today will speak about other areas in which they would like to have facilities. We will take very careful note of them, and work aggressively to satisfy that demand.

Sir, I want to speak about the other aspect of the use to which these funds would be put, that of the arts. As you would appreciate, the cultural industries have been recognised as a key aspect of our society and economy. We all know that some of these have been accused of having only a mercenary view of culture. Culture is not only about dancing and putting on a show, but culture is the way we live. It is how we do all that we do, so we are not into that high-level, philosophical debate about a matter on which we all agree, but within that wider framework, there is a recognition and, indeed, a commitment that has been made.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, within the subsection called the arts, as that sits in the wider aspect of our national culture, commitment has been made for the provision of additional support.

There are a number of organisations which do excellent work. I believe the Honourable Member for St. John can speak volumes about this. He can claim some artistic capability as a dancer and an actor. Many of us were and I must tell you, Sir, that I can claim that as well. I learned my African dancing under Danny Hinds. Those involved in the artistic community would know Danny Hinds. He was a good St. Peter man, a dancer and a drummer. In my teenage

years, it was not unusual for me to don my grass skirt or other costume and participate in some show or other, doing the robust movements associated with the choreography in African dancing.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, in all seriousness, this is not about me here today. In terms of the cultural industries, we know that they are usually defined as those industries which have their origin in individual creativity, skill, and talent and they provide an opportunity for personal development, both as a higher order plane as well as economically.

Around the world today, some of the most lucrative professions are those in the cultural industries. Musicians, some of our visual artists, actors and actresses are among some of the most rewarded, in terms of value and wealth.

Sir, in terms of some definitions and categories for our policy in Barbados, along with CARICOM, we have divided our cultural industries into three categories, arts and culture, media, and design. In this context, we are speaking therefore not about the broad cultural industries, as much as we are speaking about the arts aspect, including performing arts, visual arts, photography, craft, museums, galleries, heritage sites, festivals and the like.

The Minister of Finance and Prime Minister who is also Minister of Culture, indicated his commitment to the development of cultural industries on several occasions, and in public statements. He followed through on those indications and commitment, by way of hosting a national forum on cultural industries in 2002.

In fact, Sir, that forum which was attended by a wide range of stakeholders involved in the cultural industries, identified a number of concerns, as well as recommendations for the development of cultural industries. Therefore, that June 28, 2002 Forum, of which a broad-based range of persons would have spoken, represented the platform on which the policy would have been developed.

Of course, Sir, the Government's policies recognise that cultural policy has to be a key aspect of our economic and social development strategies, and we must, as a nation, devise strategies which would allow the creativity of our people to be exposed, honed and fully developed.

We also recognise, Sir, that we need to ensure that we are able to help our people to benefit fully, by developing their talents to international standards, without, of course, losing our Barbadian way and flare. We have to put our Barbados brand on our cultural activities to be able to exploit them internationally.

In terms of identifying some of the areas going forward, of course, Sir, some of the concerns that the cultural practitioners had, was the matter of lack of finances. There was also the matter of the necessary support for developing the business aspects of the arts, because they recognise that a number of individuals with artistic talent may not have the business support to help them more properly to exploit their artistic talents, in a very rigid hard-nosed business world.

It spoke of the concern about the relatively low level of private sector partnership and sponsorship for activities in the artistic field, and that the matter of cultural and artistic philanthropy was not as well developed in Barbados, as it was in more developed countries of the world.

It also spoke of the need for tighter legislation to protect our cultural heritage, as well as to protect the intellectual property of our cultural and artistic practitioners.

They also raised concerns, of course, about the impact of some international trading arrangements on the trade in goods produced in the cultural industries and things of that sort.

Specifically, Sir, they identified some of the areas on which they would want us to focus. These included music where they wanted us to ensure that we not only continue a broad-based programme for the development of musical talent but that we also as a society, that is Government, private sector and civil society, evolve mechanisms to be able first of all to help our musicians protect their intellectual property and secondly to be able to market and exploit it internationally. Sir, we have intellectual property legislation, we have established an anti-piracy unit within the Royal Barbados Police Force and there is a rights protection organisation as established by the artistes.
11.40 a.m.

Sir, we also need to make sure that there is enough rigorous policing of the rights not only in Barbados but that the rights agencies internationally perform their required counterpart function that where Barbadian music is played overseas our artistes are able to receive the benefit of royalties in the same way that the rights organisation ensures that when foreign music is played in Barbados it receives the royalties from Barbados. If we do not ensure that international component is maintained, then there would continue to be a net outflow of royalties in relation to protection.

Sir, in terms of the development of the music industry, the Ministry of Culture along with the Ministry of Education continues to push music development in our schools. Many schools now have school orchestras which consist of both a pan section and a section with traditional instruments, the

wind and string instruments. Over the years we have noticed that many of our young musicians have focussed on wind instruments rather than strings and a special string project was developed to encourage our young musicians to move in that direction. Much of the development work is going on but it is the hard core commercialism which was identified as being a major challenge and for which perhaps some of this funding may be requested by the relevant organisations.

Sir, dance has not enjoyed the level of popularity and support in recent years as it did in the past. There are some 35 or so associations that are registered whether they be community dance groups or national companies. Therefore, I hope that the associations involved in dance would use the availability of these funds to raise their game.

Sir, similarly in theatre arts there have been several theatre groups, but the forum has identified that there is a considerable amount of theatre and they would want to move to the next step to have more impactful productions. Much of the theatre that is done now is almost exclusively in the area of comedy. There are annual productions which we look forward to, but in terms of major productions we have not had much of that lately. The National Cultural Foundation continues to work with community groups to develop talent on that level, but I think that much of the work in that area would perhaps need to be married with the area of film. In fact, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister, has indicated his great interest in pushing the whole question of film in Barbados from two angles. One is to develop the technical capacity and capability of persons in Barbados to write, produce, direct and perform technical functions in relation to film and to leverage that availability of technical resources to produce locally made film.

Sir, among the several groups that are into film, there is a group which is seeking to produce a full length commercial feature film on Bussa and the 1816 Rebellion. We had a documentary type approach to it so far. They want to use aspects of Barbadian history and culture to "Barbadianise" film production to tell our story, and I believe we have a rich story to tell. Sir, Amistad is a film, that I am sure many people would be familiar with, which is based on the experiences of some slaves going over into the United States of America. For that to be made into a story and to be a successful film, suggest that aspects of our own historical arrangements can be commercialised to tell the story from our perspective.

Sir, the other important component of film is to leverage the existence of technical resources to attract international companies to film in Barbados. Across towns and cities in the United States of America, Canada and in other places around the world and in the Caribbean, there is a deliberate push to attract film companies and the Minister of Culture has indicated his intention to establish a film

commission in order to facilitate that. If you are in Toronto, New York or in any of those places on a given day you may easily run into the filming of a movie on the streets. All of us have seen it on several occasions. You are walking down the sidewalk and the police would say to go on the other side of the road and you would see the actresses and actors coming in and out of some buildings saying a few words and they press on.

Sir, Barbados provides an opportunity for year round film making. The last major one we had, a 30 minute feature film which was produced for TNT, not Trinidad and Tobago, the Turner Network Channel, was around the year 2000 or so. They used a point on the beach at the entrance to St. Lawrence Gap, a portion of the Careenage and several other areas in Barbados in order to do the filming. That was a source of revenue for the country, a source of employment for persons in the film industry and an avenue for persons skilled in theatre arts. Sir, our commitment to the development of these sectors is both for culture in its wider perspective as well as for providing economic opportunity.

Sir, we will continue to provide education and training in this area. Work in this area has been done by the Barbados Community College where in 1974 the Division of Fine Arts was established. Over the years that Division has expanded and has changed its role to the point where in 1987 the associate degree in arts education, graphic arts and craft media, was developed. Sir, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation worked with the Division of Fine Arts and the European Union to provide scholarships for persons graduating from that design programme to go to universities in Europe, I believe there were 12 of them, to do Masters in designs. They have come back and they have been in the craft industry, designing furniture and they have been designing a range of products both artistic and functional and have added to the quality of our lives here. They have also been involved in the export of those services in the Caribbean and beyond. In addition to that, there is also now a Bachelor of Fine Arts which was started in 1998.

Sir, the Minister of Culture has indicated his intention to establish a national school of performing arts in order to broaden and to give focus to this range of activities. Of course, we must not forget the literary arts where our writers have for many years done us proud whether in the area of poetry or in full length books. Indeed, there are many more Barbadians who are publishing in a wide range of areas, but that forum indicated that there would want to see additional support provided for authors to encourage them to publish. 11.50 a.m.

In fact, all of us would know of the concern that has been expressed from time to time, not only by the authors in the arts area but authors in Barbados generally, whether it be

our history or in political times, text books or other educational materials, that we are encouraged by the number of persons who publish but we believe there is more that can and should be done. I, therefore, would want to salute those Barbadians who have taken the steps to offer several publications, and certainly this is to be encouraged.

Sir, the area of arts and sports cover a very wide range of activities in this country. Many of the concerns that have been expressed by persons involved, speak to the matter of the availability of funds. The Funding which is to be derived from this Arts and Sport Promotion Fund, as established under this legislation, subject to the approval of Parliament, represents somewhere in the vicinity of \$3 million per year, being an existing activity within the Lotto community. Of course, the intake may vary from time to time based on actual participation but as it stands now, that 60 per cent should represent something in the order between \$2.5 million to \$3 million a year. In addition, the sums which are derived from the distribution of the profits of the lotteries and the sums allocated by the Government with the approval of Parliament for grants to the National Cultural Foundation and grants to the National Sports Council, provide an opportunity for Barbados to be able to finance the several plans that have been developed by these national sporting and arts organisations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am satisfied that the intention of the Bill is not only clear and very laudable but that this mechanism of targeting the tax revenue and identifying it to be used for this purpose, gives an assurance and guarantee to the arts and sporting community that goes above and beyond what is a mere policy statement and policy intention of the Government.

Sir, there would be some persons who would argue that rather than going to the elaborate mechanism of having a Bill that it could have allocated sums in the Estimates, but then that does not allow for the kind of assurance which the sporting and arts community have through the legislation. Sir, given the way how Estimates are prepared and administered, it also does not allow for a kind of responsive approach whereas the allocation of funds garnered in the Fund, will be largely by way of representation and application made to the Fund, which would be administered by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Based on the regulations which would be produced later, a committee would be established to advise on the disbursement of the funds. It would review the requests that are made, identify the areas of priority, with the Accountant-General's Office providing administrative support by way of maintaining accounts, producing them as is required under the legislation, and with the Auditor-General providing the oversight of audits. Sir, Parliament will be kept abreast as it is required that within two months of receiving the Auditor-General's

statements that the reports and accounts of the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund be laid before this Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I therefore, commend this legislation to the Honourable House. I am pleased that we have been able to answer the cry of arts and sports organisations by way of the provision of additional source of financing. I look forward to the employment of these funds so generated for the good of arts and sports.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a small contribution to this debate, fully conscious that the development of sports and culture is perhaps the most critical strategy required for utilising Barbados human capital.

Sir, as I did in the Budget reply, I want to introduce information into this debate to justify my position. I think the Honourable Members were in fact surprised when we indicated that Barbados had more young men under the age of 25 than young women. In fact, the situation is even more distinct when one looks at the age cohort, the below 19, that there are, in fact, more males than females in Barbados under that age.

Sir, why I say it is important to analyse what we are about today is because there is a general feeling that our males are being marginalised, and not because of any position being taken by the females but there is a concern in Barbados that we are not taking full advantage of the resources available to us with respect to males.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I therefore, see it as being absolutely vital for a strategy to be developed to allow us to make the greatest use of our young men in Barbados and this is why I think it is very important to develop strategies for sports and culture in Barbados in order to make even greater use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to substantiate what I am saying by utilising information provided in the Human Development Report, 2003. I think this would also come as a major surprise to Barbadians that net enrolment at secondary schools, the ratio of males to females is actually 98 girls to 100 boys.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one checks the statistics for tertiary enrolment, one would see that for every 100 males enrolled at tertiary institutions in Barbados, there are 245

females. It therefore means that we can no longer pretend that this is not an issue for Barbados. I know again that even though this statistic is available and has been published, it would come as a surprise to Barbadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, where could our males be going? If indeed there are more males than females under the age of 25, and if there are 98 girls for every 100 boys, what could explain the dramatic change in enrolment in tertiary education in Barbados? I see the development of sports and culture the most critical requirement for making full use of our human capital resources in Barbados.
12.00 noon

I now go into this debate in a more involved way at the constituency level because something must be done to explain what is happening between secondary schools and tertiary institutions in Barbados. I will give an example of my own upbringing across St. Michael North West. By way of this example, I will demonstrate why there is so much need to concentrate even more fully on this area of our development. In 1996 in the by-election, there was mention of the need to regrade the pasture behind Ferniehurst. In 1999, it was carried in the *Nation* news that there would be a regrading of the pasture behind Ferniehurst but it never happened. Instead, in response to the kiosk situation which created chaos, lights were installed at the top of Deacons Road that have not yet been turned on at the Ferniehurst pasture. Of course, in an attempt to play politics, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West brought some question about these lights.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to address this matter in a more serious way because ...

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member who just took his seat is suggesting some sort of improper motive on my part. I do not come here to play or make "mock-sport". I come here for serious business and anything which I do in this Chamber is serious. I suggest that the Honourable Member withdraw the comments.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point has to be made that in order for us to develop sport and culture there has to be an increase in the participation of young boys and girls in sports.

Sir, the Deacons pasture was used for BCL cricket in the 1960s and 1970s. So, too, was the pasture behind Westbury School as well as the pasture at Belfield. I recall as a boy looking forward to weekends to see the Deacons team play against Beverley Hill or play another BCL team from across the country and it became a village issue.

The development of houses with glass rather than shingles and wooden structures created a problem in carrying hard-ball cricket beyond where it was in the 1960s and 1970s. Therefore, to this day, the Eagle Hall Primary School does not have a pasture on which the children can play a game of cricket. This is also true of the Deacons Primary School. I say this because if we are serious about developing sports in Barbados, then in addition to putting lights on the field to allow persons to play beyond 6.30 p.m., we need to develop the infrastructure at these small community pastures in order to allow for the development of our sports.

It is one thing to put up lights to win favour but it is another thing to ensure that the pasture which we play on is adequate for the game being played. This is the sense in which we can take note of the development of the UWI complex which started with the development of the pasture.

I also played a substantial amount of cricket at the campus. In fact, I used to captain the cricket team during my time at the University and in order for us to get back on track with respect to cricket, we need to start from the primary school. This means that we have to provide adequate facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, notwithstanding what was said during the last few elections and what was advertised on the back pages of the *Nation* news in those elections, there has been no regrading of the pasture at Deacons. It hurts my heart because several outstanding Barbadians played on that pasture although they did not go on to make the West Indies team and these included players like Will Clarke, an outstanding batsman in the 1960s. Sir, the kind of players we see now must be of concern to those schools who had such talents and could not seek entry into the West Indies team at the time. I can speak of several players like Emmerson Trotman, Nolan Clarke and a host of other players who never saw the light of day because of the high quality of cricket at the time and it must pain the heart of us connoisseurs to see what batsmanship has become and who is making the West Indies side but cannot average 30 when there were players that had an average beyond 50.

Sir, I want to put this debate in its context. If we are serious about developing sports, the first requirement is to develop the facilities on which our young men and women will play. I am therefore making a public appeal to this Government to resuscitate our cricket, not simply Barbados' cricket because in the land of blind men, the one eye man is king. Those of us who watch Lawrence Rowe, Seymour Nurse and outstanding fast bowling know that the quality of our regional cricket has declined significantly and that for us to get back on stream, we need to increase the participation of our young people in the area of cricket and other areas of sport.

We are obviously competing with games like basketball and volleyball where you can provide a hard court facility, lights and the environment that would be more conducive to the playing of these kinds of sports as appose to the playing of cricket and football which we hope would come back to a level of which we are proud.

We will never be world champions in basketball, football or volleyball. Let us not fool ourselves that we are capable of being world champions given the current facilities and requirements that we have to engage in to reach those standards.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I therefore, say that it is absolutely necessary for us to become engaged in increasing at the primary school level across villages in Barbados the participation in cricket and soccer in particular.
12.10 p.m.

Therefore, I am saying that we need to upgrade these small facilities and install the necessary fencing, especially at the Deacons pasture, to allow the young boys and girls to play without the attending danger at that facility. It is a major requirement for bringing us back to where we have to go in cricket. It is an absolute must because in order to become an outstanding cricketer you must play a lot of cricket.

In fact, in order to become outstanding in doing anything in life you have to do it often and get the experience that is necessary. That is the only way it can be done. Let us not fool ourselves that we can become kings of anything in life overnight. Let us not fool ourselves that we can bring theoretical positions to practical life and become kings or queens overnight. It is about doing and doing and cricket is about playing and playing. Therefore, I move on from that position.

Sir, in the constituency of St. Michael North West, it would be ideal to see that pastures across the constituency at least get pitches installed at reasonable cost and also upgrade these facilities. We have seen this being done at the University. It cannot cost a significant amount to start from that position. That is my suggestion for bringing us back to where we should be as a country once again. We are simply not playing enough cricket in Barbados or even in the Caribbean.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, could you imagine in the summer holidays in Barbados where as young boys we did not engage in matches against the youth from the Orleans, Fairfield, Grazettes, Kellman Land, The Farm or Black Rock? Every day it was ritual for us to engage in games. We would organise competitions among ourselves for an entire summer vacation and matches would start as early as 9 o'clock in the morning, then after matches and catching our

wood doves and pigeons we would go to the beach with some breadfruit. When we returned from the beach, we would then play the game of hand after hand or football. We spent the entire day during the summer vacation playing sports, except when Mummy said, "Get to the library and bring out a little book to read." This is no longer the case in Barbados.

Sir, when we see West Indian batsmen getting short pitch bowling and jumping in the air to defend without dropping their wrist and letting the ball pass their chest or noses, we know that something is wrong with the whole quality of batsmanship in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean. Sir, you can only get better if you play more cricket. There is no other way to do it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me talk about coaching. If we are serious about developing sports, we have to have the necessary coaching staff to be able to develop coaching in the kinds of ways that can assist us in developing our various sports. You cannot make the assumption that because you have played cricket at the Barbados level that you would be a good coach because it is about imparting knowledge and truly understanding the sport. It is about truly understanding a sport and having played cricket at that level does not necessarily make you the best person to analyse the game.

Sir, in that context I wish, therefore, to praise a young man who now is a commentator on the air in Barbados. He is Mr. Henderson Wallace, whom I regard as an outstanding find when it comes to commentating on the air on cricket and he never played for the West Indies. Sir, there are some commentators who have played for the West Indies who cannot match him with respect to analysing the sport of cricket.

I make the point to reinforce what I am saying, that you do not have to reach that level of participation in order to have knowledge of a sport and in that context, therefore, I invite again the National Sports Council to consider not only increasing the complement of staff in terms of cricket coaching but increase the quality because I believe that there is talent.

Sir, nobody can doubt the talent of Sarwan. Nobody who has played cricket can doubt the quality of Sarwan. What you can doubt is that the coaching is, in fact, imparting bad habits in him. Those who saw him in his debut and as a younger player, would recognise that he has now developed flaws that never existed before. That is where coaching is necessary.

Sir, as it relates to the whole question of primary schools, we need to have coaching in order to uplift our sports, not only cricket and football. We need to have

coaching because by the time you reach Barbados or test level, all of the basic requirements of batsmanship should be ironed out. The question of having a coach at the test level to iron out basic flaws should not even occur. When you reach that stage you should have known the basics. So, coaching is an absolute must for us if we are to improve the quality and standard of our sports in Barbados.

It is extremely true of soccer. You cannot ask for more talented young men. The problem is, if you do not have a system of coaching at the club level that would allow for the technical aspects of the game to be learnt and learnt well, then when you get onto national level a coach has to spend time on the basic requirements of the sport. Therefore, it is not about any one man appointing any national coach alone or bringing a man from Brazil. It is about having a complement of coaches who can impart that knowledge across the length and breadth of your playing talents. It must start at the primary school level. It cannot be that you wait until you are called to trials in order to get basic training.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was a young boy at Combermere, captaining Combermere's Under-15 intermediate team and going to trials for Barbados in both cricket and football, I used to bowl leg spin googlies. I lost my googly because nobody on the coaching staff could tell me why I lost the ability to bowl, in fact, my "leggy".

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in bowling a leg break, when you have learnt to bowl a googly, it is very tempting to drop your shoulder too early and then disrupt the ability to bowl a leg spinner. Sir, that happened and no coach was available to rectify such a small problem which simply meant keeping your shoulder up and developing your googly with the same action.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, we know about the Honourable Member of St. Michael South as an athlete who wore long socks who sprinted very beautifully but never won. He was the prettiest athlete on the track, running for the Lodge school, but never became anything significant within the sprinting arena in Barbados or the Caribbean.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very serious with respect to the need for special coaching.

Sir, in terms of developing your sporting talent, you have to provide opportunities for your sporting talent to earn because what has been happening in Barbados is that young girls and boys in secondary schools engage in sports out of

pride and desire. Once they leave school the emphasis is then on how do they maintain themselves as adults, how do they earn? Sir, therein lies the problem. We know that we have been losing our athletes and sportsmen when they leave secondary school. Therefore, there is a conflict. Do I maintain my interest in a sport that cannot earn for me, or do I look for a job and become more involved? Therefore, how do we as a country plan for such a transition? Again, it has not been done.

12.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it prompts the question now of how do you allow individuals to continue playing the sport that they love, while giving them the opportunity to earn? The conflict becomes bigger than that, if we continue on the course that we are on presently.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we have to marry sports with academics in order to bring out the best of the individual, then we have to look at what is happening to our males. As I have shown in this debate already, if the enrollment of the female exceeds the male to the extent that it is happening in Barbados, then again, you are compromising the very individual that you are looking to develop.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, "feminist" is saying that more women will play cricket. I suspect that we will have to find opportunities to allow that but, in all fairness, if we are saying that we need to develop our sports alongside the academic achievement, then we have to be concerned about what is happening to the males in Barbados.

This, therefore, brings us to the absolute need for us to recognise where are the talents in Barbados. You are not going to go on and pursue any such endeavour, unless you have a desire. You are not going to continue in athletics in Barbados beyond age 18, unless there is a desire. I think it is well known that we need to organise our sports in order to encourage persons to go beyond school level.

In fact, again, the inter-school competition attracts not only a lot of spectators but a lot of public attention in Barbados. Is there any other competition, outside of Inter-school Sports that does it, and does it happen at the adult level? No, it does not. Why? Because it becomes a conflict between doing a sport out of love, and making a living for yourself in a difficult society or environment. We have several individuals with a lot of talent in various sports in Barbados, but they should be in a position where they could make use of scholarships overseas and have attachments. It is accessibly so in football.

Sir, we have to be honest. Some of us have been around football for years. Again, I had the opportunity to

play First Division for Deacons Farm, and I know that the kinds of individuals who are playing football now are the fellows predominantly out of the ghetto. They love it, they have all the physical skills, but sometimes, they need to be assisted in other areas, but unless we do it, we are not going to be in a position to make the fullest use of the abilities of the young men and women in the area of sports in Barbados. How are we going to do it? There needs to be the complement between sports and academic. You do not have to be any scholar. You just need to know the basics and you need to be able, when you go overseas, to make the kinds of adjustments to a different way of life, not only to the cold weather, but to understanding a different way of life.

Sir, unless you are prepared from early in your school life, in your environment, in your village to change, how would you expect an individual then to go out to England or to Portugal on a scholarship, or on an attachment with a football team and make it? All of the skills that he may have are physical, but there are other skills that are required in that regard. Again, that is extremely important for us in making that transition and step forward.

Sir, I heard a lot of discussion about how many athletes go overseas on scholarships, but I ask the question again, how many really return? Or even when they have gone on scholarships, do they really continue to participate in the area that they went overseas to develop? A lot of them become sidetracked in academia, because they know when they are back home that a degree is more important than running a 400-metre or 800-metre and, therefore, they become more consumed by trying to get the academic achievement than in pursuing the area in which they might have initially gone to develop. This is another area of concern, and I could cite examples.

There are examples from my area. We had a wonderful 400/800-metre female runner who had all the goods. She went overseas and she is now teaching at a secondary school in Barbados. She stopped participating in the sport and focussed on the educational part of it.

Sir, I am therefore saying that, like overseas, we definitely need to develop in order to allow persons to be able to play sports, as well as develop their academic training. How do we do it within the region? It cannot be a Barbados thing alone, no matter what Barbados does, and the region does not move forward commensurately, our overall standards, even in the area of cricket, will not be developed as we are currently experiencing.

We are seeing a little growth in our cricket, but is it translating into growth in West Indies cricket? No, it is not and, therefore, it must be a social concern for us as well as a people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are several individual areas that we can discuss. There is an area that we have been neglecting. Bodybuilding is arguably Barbados' most successful sport outside of cricket. I can take you back to Mr. World in 1975, Mr. Darcy Beckles. I can take you back to Mr. Universe, Mr. Maynard, I can take you to Mr. Roy Callender, but we have never seen it fit in Barbados to put great emphasis on bodybuilding.

It is even more imperative now that we engage our minds to it because it is being discovered that drugs have been playing a very serious role in the area of bodybuilding worldwide. We know that our sportsmen have not engaged in that kind of activity. Therefore, our bodybuilders for years would have been participating against persons who were engaging, and evidenced now that there is emphasis on drug-free bodybuilding, then there is even more requirement for Barbados to put emphasis on the area of bodybuilding. It is now becoming or should be emphasised as a drug-free sport.

In fact, in June there will be a competition in Barbados in bodybuilding for bodybuilders who did not engage in taking illegal drugs. Therefore, we should see it as an opportunity to put even greater emphasis on our bodybuilding. We have an outstanding record. We were champions in the Caribbean for many a year, until recent times and, perhaps, we can make some suggestions about that as well. Is it that we have fallen back or is it that other countries in the region have caught up with us? Why would they have done so over the last couple of years? I do not know the answers. What I know is that we need to put increasing emphasis on it.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me say as well that if we do, then we stand a chance of developing a better all-round sportsman because the Lord never made anyone to be a fast bowler or to be basketball player. Our bodies were never designed to be utilised in such a way, therefore the use of weights, dieting and all of the other complementary things would have to be looked at if we are going to develop proper sportsmen in Barbados. Therefore, I am saying that bodybuilding is actually a major requirement for any sportsman in any sports. Even the great Ronald "Suki" King had to start weight training in order to increase his power of concentration, and every sport requires it.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are obviously other areas that we also need to put emphasis on. We cannot only be looking at the area of arts, we must be concerned about the wider areas of culture in terms of developing sports and culture in Barbados. I say that because

I have serious concerns about some of those festivals. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said in the early 1990s that I see no good reason why we should put so much money into a Jazz Festival. The reason I said that is because we have a whole host of artistes in Barbados who do very well who need to be promoted overseas, but under the guise of tourism we instead pretend that a Jazz Festival brings a whole host of people to these shores every year. That is not true, it was never true and it would never be true. So I am saying that the money we put into developing the Jazz Festival could be used to develop our local artistes by giving them opportunities to go overseas and become exposed. Let us not fool ourselves, the organisation that we put into the Jazz Festival and the time that we spend on it could be better spent on developing our local artistes. There are many ways in which it could be done. Sir, I do not understand why we feel, and we have always felt, that we need to commit so much resources to a Jazz Festival. In actual fact we could "piggy back" on the Crop Over Festival and then use the resources to carry our artistes overseas to a bigger market and develop the markets abroad.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Never mind the "stupsing", I am here to give an opinion, and it is my considered opinion that too much emphasis is being placed on a so-called Jazz Festival in Barbados, but for what and to develop whom.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: I used to sit on the Board and I understand how Congaline was developed and how it became an issue. Congaline was developed because there was an attempt to stop persons from wearing tee-shirts at Crop Over and the minority section of the community determined that they had to have their own festival and they got all kinds of support from business houses in Barbados at a time when small bands across the country were seeking all kinds of sponsorship and could not get any. Congaline has been a useless festival for years. It was developed out of a circumstance that we needed to analyse and never analysed. Congaline was developed because a minority grouping was able to have access to all kinds of funding and all kinds of sponsorship that persons who were engaging in the overall Crop Over Festival could not get access to. That is how a so-called Congaline Festival was developed. What does Congaline mean? What does it represent within the context of Barbados' cultural space? Who does it appeal to? What is its purpose? Certain individuals are obviously more privy and they have greater access to resources and therefore can go their own way when the system, the Government or policy position denies them certain opportunities. That is what happened in Barbados in the early 1990s. I have been hearing discussion and I hope that it is really on its death bed.

Sir, if we are serious about developing arts and culture we must look more holistically at what we are doing and not allow each and every little group to establish a little festival that is really of no consequence to the overall cultural space of Barbados. Nobody can deny that has been happening in Barbados for several years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a first requirement for promoting and developing sports and culture in Barbados is to develop the overall infrastructure of Barbados. It is absolutely necessary for us to be in a position to state clearly where we intend to take culture and sports. We have to be in a position where we know and understand the infrastructure that is required to do so. There are several other areas in which we can engage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in his opening remarks spoke about international recognition. It is true that you need to get international recognition in your sports and in your culture, but how do we get the kind of international recognition that we need in our arts. I have heard that we intend to put pictures and art in every public building.

Sir, for a number of years we had something called tourism that was supposed to be an exposition of our culture but we never saw it fit to encourage or invite our local artistes to get involved in paintings that can decorate hotel rooms, foyers or any such places. There are supposed to be several thousand hotel rooms in Barbados. What is needed is for Government to provide major incentives to allow hoteliers to purchase local art. We all know that genuine art would by its very definition cost much more than what we are getting now off the computer or printed art, but if we are truly interested in developing our tourism product and developing our culture, it means that we must be in a position to be able to make Barbados look more Barbadian in the hotels across the various sites than they currently are. That can be done very easily. They just need to provide the necessary fiscal policy that would accommodate, which has not happened. We have had over fifty years of tourism, yet we have not been able to develop the kinds of linkages between tourism and arts, between tourism and culture and between tourism and agriculture that we should have been able to develop by now.
12.40 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, as I speak, I am speaking from reality. It has not been the case that we can boast of a link between our arts and tourism. Therefore, if there is recognition of the need to promote ourselves internationally, I am saying that the first requirement is to promote ourselves to the people who visit us every year before we even think in terms of going abroad.

Sir, it must be understood that it must be cheaper, more efficient and more effective to market our products to persons who have come to our shores at their own expense, than for someone to take their art and culture overseas. In that regard, therefore, we need to be able to redefine what is our tourism product. It has not developed in the way that we should feel justly proud about. There is not sufficient linkage between tourism, arts and culture, agriculture, and other areas of economic activities in Barbados.

Sir, anybody who believes that Barbados has reached the stage where it has a unique product in tourism is fooling himself or herself, it has not yet reached that stage. Therefore, it has to be part of this debate because we know that a previous Democratic Labour Party's Administration had made a considerable link between sports and tourism. I well recall that in 1994 when the first major impact occurred with cricket and tourism, the then Opposition had said that the performance in the 1994 tourism sector was simply a consequence of cricket and nothing else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, suddenly it is being recognised by the Other Side that we can now use tourism and sports as a major input into our tourism product but there was major criticism of that English tour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, now that I have the opportunity, let me say that I was extremely disappointed with what I witnessed in the Test Match at Kensington Oval, and it could not have happened out of the blue. There is no way that anybody could feel proud to go to a test match and see 70 or 80 per cent of the spectators being of the British type.

I do not care what they are talking about with respect to tourism. We all know what it means to play in one's backyard, that is why there is something called home advantage. That is why in the NBA finals a team makes every effort to get a home advantage because it is known that one plays better football in one's backyard but when one could come to a situation where people could justify 80 per cent of the spectators being British because we are promoting tourism only, it means that we do not understand the importance of cricket to the culture.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: I heard it being discussed on call-in programmes. It means that we do not understand the importance of cricket to our overall being as a people when we could simply justify... I am not saying that there is no need to have a marriage, I am not saying that there is no need to promote cricket as an empowering tool in tourism, but when it reaches the point where there could be 80 per cent of spectators of the British type, then one has to be concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other thing with which I have to be concerned, which has not been raised is that, as a motivating force for our players, it has become cultural for us to play calypso at cricket matches. When the bowler is running up to deliver to the batsman, it is understood that the music should be turned off to allow concentration powers as concentration dictates. Sir, but we could justify a “barmy army” starting off with a bowler’s run-up and getting progressively louder as the bowler reaches the point to deliver, and do not see it as a point to be criticised because it affects the concentration of the batsman. Instead, we can see calypso as affecting the concentration of the batsman as he is about to receive the ball.

Sir, are we prepared to sell our souls? Are we prepared to accommodate anything for the sake of a dollar? Do we not understand that when the “barmy army” starts with its chorus and gets progressively louder at the point of delivery, that it also affects the concentration of the batsman? Yet we insist that our disc jockeys turn down the music when the batsman is receiving the ball from the bowler but cannot see the need...

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, that is a major source of concern for me that we can tolerate a “barmy army” keeping noise regardless, and in spite of but we can find all kinds of reasons why a disc jockey in a test arena has to turn off his music, when our fast bowlers are bowling to the opposing side.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: You do not understand it? It is very simple. I am raising it now. I have not heard it either but I was at cricket. I do not miss cricket. I am not a “Johnny-come-lately” when it comes to cricket. I came up with cricket.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: I came up with cricket in my bones and, therefore, it pains me to know that we can condone that and as a people, we cannot see the need to criticise it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will come back after lunch. I thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.50 p.m.

Hon. Dame. B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.50 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.47 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Honourable House is resumed.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the pre-lunch session I spoke to the issue of developing facilities for sports which is a major requirement for us to develop our sports and culture.

There is another area where a tremendous amount of pressure is placed on politicians to deliver. Those of us who happen to represent constituencies with a lot of sporting teams would understand the pressure of trying to find sponsorship for these teams. Sir, because some of the clubs are not well organised, they come just before the start of a season and then transfer the stress on the parliamentarian to find sponsorship. That is important because when we look at this Fund, the question is, how would it be managed? Who will determine the criteria and the way the Fund is allocated across the various institutions?

Of course, it is very evident here at clause 4, that the purposes of the Fund in accordance with the prescribed criteria is to help finance programmes and activities conducted by arts organisations and sporting organisations for the development of arts and sports.

Sir, when does a club become an organisation for the purposes of this legislation? Is it going to be the case that this funding would only go to large organisations? If that is so, then therein lies the concern as well because in the absence of developing the sport or art at the Fundamental level you are still going to run into difficulty in making a determination as to whether or not a national organisation is, in fact, utilising the Funds to effectively impact on community sports. In the absence of impacting on community sports, then I think that we are up for failure because we have to start to encourage all sports from the grass-roots level. The best way to do it, apart from providing the necessary facilities, would be to assist clubs in terms of their financial requirements. There is no guarantee in the Act that states that a club that is in need can approach Government to get any assistance from the Funding that would be available according to this Act and that must be a source of concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if it is that we are going to have a repeat of what happened at the Amateur Athletes Association, then we are in for a very difficult ride because there is currently a lot of concern over the way in which finance is being managed in a major organisation like the Amateur Athletes Association.

Therefore, I would be concerned if the individual clubs are umbrella bodies within the constituency which may be catering to several sporting activities because there are some clubs that have netball, football and cricket teams. Is it going to be the case where these kinds of organisation could, in fact, approach Government with a proper proposal to develop and assist in the development of sports in Barbados?

I think that it ought to be the case that well-organised groups or organisations in Barbados should be able to get such access to the Funding. It would certainly ease the pressure on parliamentary representatives. Also, in the absence of being not so organised, these clubs find it very difficult to approach business houses on their own and it is an area of opportunity.

Sir, as a younger man in my sporting time, I was able to get involved in the organisation of clubs within the constituency and played games for almost every club, cricket, football, road tennis and volleyball. It was always the case that the organisational skills were lacking in many of the clubs within the St. Michael area. There is no evidence now that anything has happened to turn around that situation.

In fact, I can say, from my own observation, that there has been a decline in active well-organised clubs across St. Michael over the last 20 years and that is a source of concern for those of us who are still involved in sports in somewhere or the other.

Therefore, it is important in terms of providing not only the infrastructure but also the financial assistance that the legislation seeks to deal precisely with what constitutes an organisation and at what level would an organisation be able to approach the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund for assistance at that kind of level within the sporting arena of Barbados.

Sir, above and beyond sponsorship, one of the best ways to allow persons to develop is for them to travel and to participate in playing sports against other clubs in other countries. How do you inspire young cricketers, footballers and volleyballers outside of the national arena to get involved in travelling throughout the region as a means of engaging their skills against other competition and also developing their personal skills?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the area of overseas tours is an area that needs some attention because there can be creative ways found to assist the various clubs across Barbados, which may see an overseas tour as an opportunity to develop and enhance the skills of the players as well as the organisational skills of those who administer the club. Again, those of us who have been involved in overseas tours with clubs would know that it is not an easy undertaking.

First of all, to organise a tour from this end, you have to find the necessary accommodation, find competitors to play against, maintain appropriate diet and personal conduct of the individuals, there is a whole range of things that you have to go through in order to be able to carry a club on a tour that is successful and that would improve the development of individuals.

I think that within the context of the integration movement, there needs to be greater encouragement of tours such that clubs, organisations and individuals can get the opportunities to travel throughout the region. In some ways we need to look at a broader policy, not just within Barbados but across CARICOM as a means of assisting club members in getting greater access to such facilities and tours.

Again, it is not easy to embark on a programme without knowing, from the other side, if the transportation and other requirements that are needed for a successful tour are in place.

Therefore, I can see a great role to be played by a Fund such as this if it reaches, not just national organisations but organisations that lie below the national organisation level. In fact, I am committed to the view that to develop sports effectively, we need to develop from the bottom up and not to develop from the top down.
2.00 p.m.

Therefore that means we have to be in a position to allow this funding to go to the kinds of organisations, clubs and individuals who would effectively broaden the base of participation, on the basis of encouragement for others to contribute, or to get involved in the process of the development of the sport or the art.

In this regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is for me going to be successful only if we are able to channel the financial resources to the bottom in order to develop the various sports across Barbados. I think it would be heading for failure if we think that we can just provide the national organisations with these finances within their already existing structures. This would not make any sense to the overall development of the sports or the arts. So, in addition to providing the financing that is required to develop sports, we also need to restructure the various organisations effectively to allow a

wider level of participation. This is where the involvement of the youth and a wider cross section will become possible.

There are some other sports that are not grassroots and broad based but, in fact, could offer considerable opportunities to Barbadians because of their very nature. They may not necessarily be team sports. I think the time has come in Barbados for a public golf course to allow persons who wish to develop skills in such areas, to get greater access to those kinds of facilities. As it stands now, that game is the domain of those who can afford it and those who lie in a certain category, whereas hand/eye coordination and skills required to play such a sport really rest within the bosoms of average grass roots Barbadian and in that very respect they ought to be given an opportunity to start such a game from a much earlier age, and not wait until they have ascended the social ladder to start to play such sports.

Sir, it is the kind of sport that if exposed to a wider cross section of Barbadians, can provide for a greater opportunity for individuals to get involved in a sport that is a natural complement, a cousin of cricket. Again, those who have played cricket would know that to play a game of golf is just really a natural extension. I am saying it is the kind of sport that ought to be exposed to the wider cross section of the Barbadian public.

There is nothing to stop the Government from seeing it as an area of opportunity and provide...

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Of course, we cannot afford it. I have never paid a cent to play golf, but it is the kind of sport that we can spread to the average grass-roots individual.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, above and beyond the concerns that I have raised, there are several areas that we can get involved in, because as was noted earlier by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, sports would include a whole gamut of activity, too much for us to discuss in detail. Therefore, I feel that in my presentation, it is just a question of looking across the various sporting organisations for a broad framework within which to put and place the general approach to sports administration in the delivery of sports to the wider community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand the Government's desire to expand and develop and place lighting across various fields and communities, even there again, there is need to look at the quality of lighting that we are placing. If you have ever played a tape ball cricket match at night, you would know that it is very difficult to pick up the ball across

several fields in Barbados. While it may be tempting to try to spread the lights across as many communities as possible, we have to be concerned about the quality of the lights that we are providing.

In many instances they are not providing the kind of quality light to allow for the quality cricket that you want, and it more or less becomes an opportunity to socialise. If we are seriously thinking in terms of developing the sport beyond just its social provision, then we have to think in terms of getting even greater and better quality lighting across the various fields.

The other thing is that to this day, we cannot play a night game or a cricket match in Barbados effectively, because we do not have the facilities to do such, and rather than wait until we approach the 2007 World Cup, all like now we should be thinking of exposing our players to that kind of environment. We know that the conditions change under lights, even in terms of the movement of the ball, and the moisture that could occur as a result of dew caused a different impact. There are some cricketing grounds where to bat second in a one-day game, under lights, is actually a disadvantage.

Sir, do not wait until later. The time has come for us to invest now in that area because it is the way forward. Several other cricketing countries have already invested heavily in terms of providing lights and getting their cricketing talents accustomed to the variation in the movement of the ball and the atmospheric conditions, as they see them. Therefore, it is now necessary for us to engage in providing that infrastructure at the highest level as well.

Again, I heard a lot of talk about lights but you go to a volleyball game at Deacons and there are complaints that in certain areas there are blind spots, and the lighting is not adequate. This is the kind of thing I would like to see stepped up, because in a game of basketball or volleyball at night, you need to have much better lighting for the players to develop.

The other matter is that you cannot continue to play volleyball on hard courts and expect to develop beyond the level of the Caribbean, or CARICOM, whereas when you go to NORCECA, you become just another team in the NORCECA Volleyball Confederation. Therefore, we have done very well at this level, or the level of the region, but we have not been able to make the strides beyond the region, in the area of volleyball that we have dominated for several years, and it is because we have not been able to advance beyond the Garfield Sobers Sports Auditorium to allow for the building of one or two other facilities to play indoor sports.

Again, for several years we have utilised the YMCA to play basketball. We have now moved the competitions to the Garfield Sobers Auditorium, and from the time basketball was taken from the YMCA, spectator support diminished as a result. It is a good facility but it is somewhat out of bounds, requiring two or three buses to get there, so we have not seen the commensurate movement in spectators, or we are not getting the same kind of crowd response that we did 15 years ago.

I well recall when I played for Deacons Fast Breaks, even managed and everything else, that the support at the YMCA was outstanding because it was more accessible. Therefore, there is need for us to consider building a smaller type stadium to accommodate a game like basketball and volleyball within a more central area like Bridgetown.
2.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see the development of sports and culture as perhaps the most significant thing for us to fully realise the potential of our human capital in Barbados. I said at the beginning of my speech that our young males are not going on to tertiary level institutions at the same rate as our young females. When you observe what is happening across the various communities, you have to be concerned about the fallout that is occurring among young males in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not agree that soon from now we would have to allow women to play cricket for Barbados and the West Indies, that cannot happen in our lifetime. So how do we put systems in place to better effect the kinds of changes that would be required to make the greatest use of the potential available among our young males in the area of sports. For me, that is a major requirement for any future development not only of sports in Barbados but for the development of the economy and the society.

In the absence of developing such strategies and putting in place such development, we can expect further marginalisation, further deterioration in the society in terms of crime, the family, in health and in terms of the educational system. Unless people have examples to follow, it is going to be difficult to expect and anticipate that into the future there will be increasing tendencies toward the development of self in the future, which is going to create a problem because there has been a kind of falling out in terms of role models and examples for persons to follow. As a consequence of not placing enough emphasis on having the kinds of role models in the society for us to follow, we are seeing an overall deterioration in our social fabric. That can only be addressed if we understand the problems that currently exist, if we understand the circumstances under which the young males in the society are living and if we

understand that we need to address that as a major concern for our future development not just in sports.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I therefore see sports and culture as providing the impetus for us to make better and fuller use of the potential resources that reside within the bosoms of young Barbadians. Once you get that kind of involvement, then you can think in terms of expanding beyond the shores of Barbados and the Caribbean.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is known that there is supposed to be a World Cup Cricket match in Miami in 2007 and already the Americans are spending in excess of US\$40 million on providing such a facility just to host one World Cup Match. The question we need to ask is why would a country like the United States of America wish to invest in excess of US\$40 million to provide a facility to host a world cup match in the year 2007. The answer to that is that in the last ten years there has been in excess of ten million immigrants mainly from the Commonwealth countries who know about cricket who migrated to the United States of America. Therefore, a market has already opened up in the United States of America for the development of cricket in the United States of America.

Several of our past greats, Lance Gibbs and Lawrence Rowe, are involved in the organisation of cricket in the United States of America. Farouk Bacchus is the coach and there are several Caribbean cricketers of the past who play for the United States of America and they have done fairly well in the recent past. Mr. Deputy Speaker, could you imagine the benefits that could occur if the United States of America gets involved in a fuller way in cricket? Apart from wanting to change some of the rules, it would also provide for a market for us in the region.

In the same way in which the Africans are able to go to the European countries and ply their trade in football, the development of cricket at that kind of level in the United States of America would provide a ready market for us to go to in terms of developing the economic part of the cricketing talents of the Caribbean people. Of course they will be able to get attendant academic qualification as a result. To put it simply, the United States of America is much more developed in terms of its infrastructure and if it gets involved in cricket in the way that we wish it to happen, it would offer West Indian people a very great opportunity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look forward to the day when we in the Caribbean will raise the quality of our football or soccer to the level where we can export more of our players into major league soccer in the United States of America, but it is not happening to the extent which we would like it to happen. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I make that observation to show that beyond the need to develop sports and culture, the

concomitant development of sports like cricket and football would offer great opportunities for Caribbean people in the future not only to ply their trade but also to get even greater access to academic institutions and therefore be able to better marry the relationship between sports and academia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see this as a must for us not only in Barbados but within the region to consider that within the absence of making greater use of our young males and in the absence of providing opportunities in the area of sports and culture, we are going to be damaging, even more critically, the social fabric of our societies within the region. I see this not only as an important step, but as a step that if the administrators do not stop to think about what they are doing, we would simply be putting finance into organisations that would not yield the kinds of benefits that are required at this stage because we have substantial evidence of national organisations not reaching the basic grass-roots level at which sports are played in order to effect the kind of change that would be necessary to really develop the sporting talents and cultural talents in the area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would end on the note of arts. I had an interest in music having done the Royal School of Music even though I never got the opportunity to play an instrument but I could look at music and read it. If there is to be cultural awareness and the development of the art form and music, then you need to be able to produce saxophonists, trumpeters and guitarists in order to sustain your own culture and to be able to develop the festival seriously beyond the shores of Barbados and going to the region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this debate it may not be easily recognised that music is a critical part of the culture that has to be developed by way of also providing persons who can play the instruments to allow for music to be sustained and to grow over time. Therefore, part of this process must be to supply the various organisations with musical talent. It is a major requirement and it is something that has to be done. You do not want it to dilute your music by using the computers without allowing people to genuinely get involved in playing instruments at that kind of level that we have seen in the past. You do not want to kill the kinds of instruments that we have been using in our calypsos by using synthesizers and computers to do all kinds of things and to fabricate instead of really hiring trumpeters and trombonists. So in the absence of putting a strategy in place to allow for the development of musicians, we are going to be found wanting.

We must not take pride in one individual going off to Berkeley College to study and then coming back five or six years later. We must understand that we have to develop a wider cadre of musicians at the level that would allow them to participate more fully in the music bands and the cultural

experiences which we have. Just to identify an individual once every five years and to see it as a success in music, is another flawed approach.

2.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, therefore, would like to support the establishment of an Arts and Sport Promotion Fund to assist in financing the practice of arts and sports in Barbados. I would also like to know from the Government that similar to what is required in the legislation where Parliament can vote monies for the Fund as one of the sources for this Fund, that Parliament also has a say in the way in which the Funds are allocated across the various sporting organisations.

I would also like to see a clear, planned criteria to determine how these funds would be allocated across the various sports. Would it be on the basis of mass participation? Would it be on the basis of national recognition? What would be the basis? I think that whatever criteria that has been established, it ought to come back to Parliament for consideration because if left only to an individual to be determined, then we never know how these funds would be used in the future and how they would effect the kinds of changes that we anticipate in the future in developing our sports, arts and culture within Barbados. Therefore, while it may be the purview of the Cabinet to be able to allocate resources, I think it is only fitting that if Parliament has the right to vote monies into this Fund, that Parliament ought to have the right to have a say in the criteria that would be used to allocate all resources to the various organisations that would be able to access funds from the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know of existing situations in this Parliament where Parliament does not have a right to approve or to allocate, yet we are saying that Parliament can vote for monies to put into the Fund. If Parliament can vote for monies to put into the Fund, then Parliament has a right to say something about that criteria.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in that context that I will support the legislation before us, with the hope that it would do the job and would meet the objectives outlined in the legislation, and would assist predominately those who rest at the bottom of the social ladder in terms of developing our sports and culture.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me begin my presentation by giving kudos to the Honourable Minister and his team, and the Honourable Minister of Finance, for what I consider to be a very ground-breaking and forward-looking legislation. As a matter of fact, it is a piece of legislation that may be even more significant than it seems

on the surface. Sir, that stems from the fact that this piece of legislation and the direction being taken by the Government in relation to the development of sports and culture in Barbados, is going to be the professional wave, maybe the national development wave of the future for all Barbadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation has special significance for me because of my background in relation to sports and sporting development, both as a national representative and as an administrator of a national association in the past. I owe a lot of my professional development to the fact that I was involved in sports and that sports was the forerunner to developing my entire personality to the stage where I am today.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Sir, I am ignoring the Asides. I speak possibly as the only person in this Honourable Chamber to date who has represented Barbados at the international level in a sporting discipline.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Sir, one of these days, for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I will make my scrapbook a document of this Honourable House, so that the Honourable Member can see what it is to be a gold medalist for Barbados at a prestigious international competition.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have just returned from the CARIFTA games where I was lauded. That game was 30 years to the day when I was the CARIFTA games gold medalist for Barbados in the 100 metres.

Sir, there are more important matters that we need to deal with today. I am saying that the entire concept of how this Government is dealing with sports and culture, is the platform for the creation of a new professional class for Barbados. I believe that in this particular age, with small developing states in what is now determined to be an age of global trade, seeking to level the platform across-the-board for all countries despite its size, the concept of sports and culture become even more important in the trading activities of small developing states than it has ever been at any time in the history of the development of the world.

Sir, this is a new era for a new potential professional class and development of people in a way which has never before existed. One of the things on which one would need to trade in the future, coming out of small developing states,

would ultimately be the individual's creativity, skill and talent, which could not be easily duplicated or copied by anyone else.

Sir, even though that might seem simple on the surface, if a brain or heart surgeon is performing surgery, I suspect that he or she might be following a specific way of doing it, and that it can be duplicated by some other person in Australia, South Africa or in Great Britain but I do not think that what Brian Lara has been doing on the cricket field, what Usain Bolt or Obadele Thompson have been doing, can be copied in exactly the same way, which makes what that sports person is doing particularly unique in the world, whether it is in sports or in culture. It therefore, offers a platform for that individual to ply their trade anywhere on the globe.

Sir, I think that we need to move the concept of sports and cultural development out of the realm of recreation or national and international recognition, towards a stage where the development of sports and culture creates or should create for Barbados and for other small developing states a new class of professional employees with professional talents, who can ply their trade anywhere in the world.

Sir, I believe that the concept of being involved in sporting development both as an administrator and as an athlete go way beyond what would have happened in the past and becomes even more significant to our socio-economic development than it has ever been.

Sir, with that said, I need to laud and to compliment the Honourable Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and his team for the forward-looking way in which they have approached this matter with the creation and development of this Fund, through this piece of legislation.
2.30 p.m.

I believe this particular Bill will create part of the requirements necessary to create this new environment which fuels this new level of professionalism in our country.

Sir, sports and culture through this mechanism should improve if it is utilised in the correct way but funding requirements is only one way of developing persons for the future. Obviously, new and upgraded facilities will come out of these funds which will create new classes of athletes. We have seen the advancement of other territories in the region relative to Barbados and how they perform in sports since they have had refurbished and upgraded facilities. I always use Grenada as an example because the building of the cricket stadium in the sporting complex was the catalyst for a wave of new Grenadian talent to emerge.

Sir, it pains me to see Grenada winning more medals than Barbados in the CARIFTA Games because five years

ago we would have thought it impossible but the upgrade of their facilities have allowed them to accomplish this. Even without going into the issue of technical competence and training, the facilities have improved their performance in international competition. Therefore, the call for new facilities is important.

We call for new sporting facilities and then compare them with what should be done in other areas of development like health and education. Sir, if we built a new stadium tomorrow, we would hear the issue of whether the money could not be spent on refurbishing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or building a new school.

I say that money spent on the development of the stadium is not the same money that would be used to develop the hospital or a school. I believe that both have their role to play in our national development and that the investment in new sporting facilities leads to our not having to expend money in other areas like the law courts, hospitals and the like because we would be building a socially-conscious and healthy society.

It is important that we understand the importance of sports in this era and not continue to compare sporting development with other areas of national development because they both have their place within the society.

Sir, new technology and their application to the development of arts and sports is important and funding is needed for that. I believe that Government, through this and other legislative mechanisms and the way in which Government is expending this money covers most of the bases relative to building the necessary facilities.

Sir, I believe that the concentration of our efforts to put lights and build facilities in all parishes across Barbados has contributed to building a new community spirit and a level of social involvement by people across Barbados. It has also contributed to the economic development of these areas because at night you can see people buying and selling apart from the social interaction and keeping people out of trouble. Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition expressed the view that our young males are also now in a position to benefit substantially from the development of these facilities.

There is an economic side of sports that is underestimated apart from the buying and selling activity which goes on around the stadium that is not recognised on the surface. I believe that in a tourism destination like Barbados, what the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers would have contributed to creating global recognition for Barbados cannot be measured or estimated in dollars and cents. I believe that he, other cricketers and sporting proponents have created the platform for us to be better able

to ply our tourism trade in Great Britain where cricket is known. The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Wesley Hall, Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge have placed Barbados on the map for us to be able to ply our tourism trade more effectively and this cannot be measured.

Sir, it must begin with the recognition that sports and culture put your country on the map and does that more effectively than any marketing job that could be done. We do not have enough money to do the necessary marketing that these individuals have been able to do for their respective societies through involvement in sports and culture because placing a country on the global map is the forerunner to wider economic development or trading of any kind in any society. Sometimes we do not think of it in those terms but this is why sports and culture takes on a special significance for tourism activity on the island and then there are residual spin-offs as well.

We have sought to utilise sports as the vehicle for the development of the tourism sector under a marketing concept that pushes sports tourism itself as an individual activity within our wider marketing to ensure that we promote Barbados well. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke to it when he dealt with what cricket has done recently for Barbados' tourism and he quoted the figures as far back as 1994. I will not join the chorus as to whether cricket inflated the arrival figures or not. I am saying that it is a legitimate part of tourism activity and development. Therefore, I do not know why anybody would want to say that cricket inflates the numbers.
2.40 p.m.

Sir, if cricket is the vehicle for getting people to Barbados to spend money and to participate in our economy, what is the issue with it? Whether or not the Honourable Member went to Kensington Oval and saw 80 per cent English as opposed to 20 per cent West Indian is another matter that the cricketing fraternity needs to deal with. It is my understanding that 65 per cent of the tickets went to the West Indies while the other 35 per cent went to England. Whoever it is that bought tickets and sold them or gave them away it is a matter for them.

Sir, I am saying that we also need to determine in Barbados what it is that we want. The English have also contributed significantly to our bread and butter while on this island. I am not going to get into the debate.

As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West may have been more taken aback by the fact that we were being beaten than the issue of whether or not they were playing in their own backyard or whether the "barmy army" was playing or calypso was playing when he made a statement on cricket. What the Honourable Member

probably means is that more centrally organised cricket is played. If you are saying that people do not play cricket at the beach, in the village or in the road, that is another thing all together. I am telling you that there are more structurally organised teams playing cricket in the Barbados Cricket Association.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: I believe that when I hear people talk about the malaise that has set into the West Indies cricket that it did not set in overnight. The natural academies that we had for playing cricket and developing skill, I believe are the ones that are no longer practising effectively, whether it means playing in the road or on the beach. Those natural academies have not been replaced although they have been replaced in other territories.

I believe that the concentration of the West Indies Cricket Board has been more on general administration and maintaining a seat on the Board, than it has been on the development of cricket. We thought that natural talent was going to continue to carry us through and that is why I believe that we are in the state that we are in. The cricket analysts could always analyse the reason for the state of cricket.

I believe our golf courses also contribute to our economic development through the development of sports. In Barbados, even though there is the debate about how we utilise land, the best economic use must be made of our land for now and into the future. Therefore, we must be able to balance the level of development that we need for housing and other development. We also have to look at the future economic development and ensure that we are well positioned to do that.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke about golf courses. I think that golf offers Barbadians opportunity. We have good hand and eye coordination and I believe that is the reason that we are as good in cricket as we have been. Golf now gives Barbados the opportunity to be engaged in a global sport and push Barbados on the map.

On the other hand golf is played in a very expansive area. Therefore, for a small developing country with limited land resources, we have to be very careful in the way we designate those resources for particular types of activity. However, when we think about what has happened at Sandy Lane and the sale of the lots on the Green Monkey Golf Course, which are now to be developed and the level of economic activity that will come to Barbados, the activity goes beyond the playing of golf and a new wave of economic activity will happen for Barbados in a significant way in the future.

I believe that is why we should continue to push these things. How would our people be able to earn a living in the future? I believe that development of golf courses, once they are done in a structured way and we are sure about how our water resources are utilised and that we have available land space for the housing of our populace, is an activity that would create a way of earning a living for Barbadians in the future.

I believe that if there is one thing that may help us outside of what has happened for the development of facilities is the Government's administration of sports in Barbados. Sir, I believe that there needs to be more state intervention in the actual management, administration and governance of sports in Barbados at the level of the individual associations if we are going to be able to take our place on the world stage relative to plying our trade or using it as a professional base.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke about us not being world champions in basketball. We do not have to be world champions in basketball. We only have to produce one basketball, volleyball or football player who is able to create a name for himself and we would see what a significant difference it would make to our overall ability to earn from sports through other economic activity.

Sir, an amateur set-up will never be able to produce the type of professional base that we need for the production of a player such as Labron James or Freddie Ado, a fourteen-year-old boy from Ghana of Grenadian descent, who is now playing professional soccer in the United States of America. If we can just produce one individual like these two persons, do you know what it would mean for Barbados?

I believe that in the past, Government's way of dealing with sports has been primarily at the mass recreational level. I believe that the mass recreational level is what will provide the ability for us to choose those who have the potential to be elite athletes in any discipline.

I say that the new professional class of athletes that needs to be developed will not develop on the back of a volunteer or on the back of a cadre of volunteer administrators who, in most instances, are not even well-trained as administrators. That is why I say that state intervention is more important now than it has ever been in any era in terms of sporting development.

We need a new professional structure and a new profession-oriented structure if we are ever to produce the icons that we are going to talk about that would take a place on the international stage. I also believe that a new professional class of athlete at the national level needs to emerge for us as the forerunner to the global professional that we seek to create for Barbados.

I say that Barbados' amateur structure would be hard pressed to create the basis to identify, guide and develop that new professional class of athlete or cultural component for which we are looking.

Sir, this is why administrators need to become professional and I believe that the State has to intervene. We can no longer leave the development of the administration of sports to this volunteer amateur core of people who have been doing it in the past. It might have been good in the past but it cannot take us to where we need to go.
2.50 p.m.

Sir, sports is also linked to education, particularly tertiary level education. If we want to expose more young Barbadians to tertiary level education, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West so well pointed out, it means that the University of the West Indies system has to be involved in the development of sports in a way in which it has never done in the past.

Sir, I laud what Professor Beckles has been doing in trying to get sports to take off as a legitimate part of our tertiary educational system. I say that it is a take off of the United States system, in many ways. It is an avenue to get more people into the tertiary system without neglecting the academic performance that is needed to get them there.

The National Collegiate Amateur Athletic System (NCAA) has some very flexible ways of admitting students who are excellent at sports and culture, into the tertiary system and maintaining a minimum standard of academic performance for them to be able to compete.

I believe, Sir, that we have to come down from these hallowed halls of the higher academe concept, where the only people who can get in there are people who are exceptionally gifted academically. We should seek to open up the doors so that more people can get into this system and be allowed to get a tertiary education. Sports, in my opinion is the perfect vehicle for doing so in this day and age.

Sir, there must be a certain minimum academic standard but we need to help guide them through the system. I believe we need to do it through the University of the West Indies system. Athletes need to use the system to get an education, and it could be a forerunner to the elite level. There is a need to develop elite athletes to the elite level for those who have the potential in and out of academia.

Sir, there are three different structures. There are those who need to get into the system to get a tertiary education through their sporting attributes and through their sporting potential. At the same time, if you have the potential to be an elite athlete, then the system for identification, the system

for training, the system for development and the system for managing that at a professional level, also will change.

For example, in Barbados there needs to be a high-level performance centre for people who have the potential to be elite athletes. There are some that would use the vehicle to get an education. I believe the Leader of the Opposition spoke very eloquently when he said that there were some who went away, like a girl in his constituency and came back and is teaching at a school. She may have used the system to get an education and there is nothing wrong with that. I am saying that if she had the potential to be an elite athlete, then I believe that there should be an avenue made available to her, through a high performance centre for that discipline, in any sporting discipline, fomented either at the local or regional level, so that these people can emerge.

Sir, the United States is closing the door on that NCAA that has produced our athletes so far. Great Britain has already closed the door on that country's system and lead cricket system that we need, but we need a high-level performance centre outside of academia to be able to do it.

I believe, Sir, that the new professional class of athlete need to emerge as administrators who can be put on the national payroll. I am of the opinion that you need to put on the payroll a new class of civil servant as professional athlete. I think it is a shame that Barry Forde, Obadele Thompson and Andrea Blackette are walking around every year begging for money.

I am saying that every association could submit to a national body, whether it is the National Sports Council or the like, five names of people who could become professionals on a payroll. I do not think that this is too much to ask in a \$5 billion economy, given what it could create for Barbados in payoffs in the future.

I am saying, Sir, that all those fellows who are working in people's stores and then trying to come home on evenings and play football for Barbados, I believe that the time has come to put an end to that. I know the Minister of Sports agrees with me.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Cricketers too, exactly.

I think that there needs to be classification, such as A, B, and C, grading. They would get \$1 000, \$2 000, or \$3 000 a month, depending upon the level of ability and how many times they played for Barbados and the like. Sir, it also creates an icon for people in the community to emulate. There can be a rotation system on a contractual basis.

Sir, the point I am making is that the time has come for us to approach the development of this activity in another way, because of the vast potential that it has for national development in my country.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, too, rise to speak on this particular Bill. I want to say from the outset that even though I support the idea of having an Arts and Sports Promotion Fund, I am totally against the way it is to be funded.

I honestly believe that in this day and age when we speak about moral standards, we cannot be expecting the lotteries to finance our young people in Barbados, and expect to set standards by asking people to gamble in order to support sports. I do not like the concept of gambling to finance the young people of Barbados. I honestly believe it is a backward step, and even though the goal is good, I have a problem with the financing.

When one looks at the amount of money that is now being engaged when we speak about golf courses and water polo fields, I think it might have been better, Sir, for some of this money to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund and then to be transferred to the Arts and Sports Fund.

I am not one to follow blindly behind other people. In a small country like Barbados where we brag about how many young people we have who are not involved in the positiveness of the country, one has to wonder what the effect will be when we promote to the young people of Barbados that in order to advance themselves, they must go around and tell people that gambling is good, support it, because if you support gambling you would allow me to go abroad and represent Barbados.

I am saying, Sir, that the taxpayers of Barbados are the ones who have to foot this particular Bill because it is in the national interest that these young men and women go and represent their country to bring us glory.

If anyone had any doubt about the contribution of sports to the development of the Caribbean, Sir, one only had to look at the last cricket test series where, even though the levy was bad mouthed by some Ministers of Tourism, some of them had to come back and eat humble pie and brag about the numbers of English people that were seen at Kensington and at the Oval in Jamaica. I want to say, that all over the world, where you have a good product, a particular levy is charged so that those who want to utilise the advantage, pay a premium to get that particular advantage that they are seeking. Sir, I said from the beginning that I have no problem with the levy, and it is quite clear when one looks at

the numbers that came to this country that the levy was not a negative but a positive for the country.

I have written very much about this particular topic as it relates to the levy and I have some very strong feelings. The truth is I believe that the series could have been better positioned if the West Indies Cricket Board, the Ministers of Finance and the Ministers of Tourism could have planned the series much better, if we did not have the levy.

It is true that when we got to Barbados it was quite clear that the West Indies Cricket Team had all intentions of winning that cricket match, but it seems that some smart groundsman saw otherwise and they did not get the wicket they expected.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the series was supposed to be a drawn series. We were supposed to lose the matches in Jamaica and Trinidad and we were expected to win the ones in Barbados and Antigua. I do not know if it was planned, structured or by accident, but it was clear to me that after Jamaica and Trinidad the levy was not a problem anymore because it was well marketed and well promoted. The British ran it in such a way that they forgot about what they paid for the product as they were in their glory and they achieved what they set about to get when they first came to the Caribbean.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to understand that sports cannot be seen any longer as something you play around with. Cricket is a very serious sport, therefore it cannot be seen as a game anymore but must be seen as a business. I think most Ministers of Finance in the Caribbean have failed sports because they continued to overtax the sportsmen. When one looks at the cost to finance a cricketer, it is deplorable. How can we be bragging about the contribution of cricket to tourism and to the economy of Barbados and continue to tax our sportsmen the way we are taxing them? That was okay when they only had a bat and a pad. When you look at a cricketer today it is clear to everyone that it is not a bat and pad anymore, it is as if he is going to war, and all of those things are taxed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the cost is substantial, how can you ask a man who lives in rural Barbados to fork out the sums that are needed to send his son to play cricket whose contributions will be great, if he is allowed to play, when he cannot afford to finance the gear that must be worn by him?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, because of the taxation policy of the various governments within the Caribbean many talented young men are not allowed to play cricket. I was embarrassed nearly a month ago when I looked at an international team claiming to be a West Indies team, and I could not identify with it because it was not structured on

performance, but on class and money. In other words, I could not recognise the particular cricket team because all rich boys were playing for the team because the fellows who could really play the cricket could not make the team because they did not have the necessary trappings to get involved in the game.

Sir, what was even more ridiculous is that the two cricketers that I could identify with, Barrington Yearwood and Kirk Edwards, incidentally both of them are from the North of Barbados, a vice-captain and the best fast bowler, could not make the team. If we are coming here to finance this type of cricket I cannot go with that because there must be fairness in choice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must get some kind of guarantee from this Government that when we ask people to finance this type of money that there would be fairness in choice. Mr. Deputy Speaker, could you imagine that a vice-captain who is performing cannot get a place in a final team. You also have the best fast bowler who cannot play for the Under-19 team because a group of people felt that they could not identify with the culture of these two players and refused to select them for the team.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the timing of this debate is right because I have some things to get off my mind. As you know, Sir, I fear no man and I fear no evil.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to understand that the systems within the Caribbean cannot be used against the masses of people in Barbados and be used for the "too-few" in the Caribbean. If we as parliamentarians can come to Parliament to vote for this type of money we must make sure that the masses of people in Barbados and the Caribbean benefit from it because what I saw a couple weeks ago is not the type of thing I would put money in support of.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am calling on the West Indies Cricket Board to give an explanation to Barbados. This is not something that should be coming from me, it should be coming from the Government because they need to tell the people of the Caribbean why young Barrington Yearwood and Kirk Edwards were not selected in that final team. We as parliamentarians cannot sit idly by and allow these things to happen without talking about them. If these questions are not answered, people would never understand why there are so many young men in the Caribbean and yet we cannot produce great cricketers. If they are going to be frustrated by the system and we as parliamentarians sit back and allow it to happen, then it is clear to me that there are forces within

the Caribbean who feel that the only place that is left for our young people is up at Glendairy.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the fourth time I am making this statement on the Floor of this Parliament and I will continue to make it until somebody can prove me wrong. It is clear to me that there is a movement within the Caribbean to destroy the young minds in the Caribbean and to interfere with the balance that is within the Caribbean and we as politicians are sitting back and allowing it to happen even though there is a history to their success, that is, that their foreparents worked hard to build the Caribbean, but now they cannot touch a cricket bat to play for the Under-19 cricket team in the Caribbean even though the structures have been built around them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are here today talking about a cricket fund, a sports fund, a netball fund and a basketball fund, but I want to know who are going to benefit from these because to get my support I have to be convinced on this particular matter. The only way you can convince me is when you give me a reasonable argument on what occurred a couple weeks ago to why Barrington Yearwood and Kirk Edwards, two promising cricketers...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The West Indies Cricket Board did not investigate why they were beaten nor the reason why these two players were left out.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not blaming the Minister of Sports. All I am asking him to do is to satisfy my ignorance on this particular matter and to ask the West Indies Cricket Board through the Barbados Cricket Association to investigate. I am not accusing the Minister of anything because we do not expect any political interference in sports. All I am saying is that thousands of people in Barbados have asked me to find out why these two young men did not get a play and why a man was chosen as vice captain and could not make the team and was not even consulted on the composition of the team. I want to know what has occurred there.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want an assurance from the Honourable Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, that this Fund would not be used in the same way as the Under-19 selection fund was used, which is a fair question to ask the Honourable Minister.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have already said what I wanted. The problem with you is that you cannot help reading my column. You are like some that do not read it but can quote everything from it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I realise that a very serious thing is occurring in Barbados. We at North Stars Cricket Club cannot get Government to give us the additional land, and I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was not the Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment anymore because I would have been assured that the land would have been granted to us and that we would have had another stand for the last cricket match.

Sir, it is clear to me that in one breath we talk about the importance of sports but there is a village group which is prepared to seek financing to build the infrastructure and all that it is asking Government to do is to increase Government's assets by acquiring additional land. I want the public of Barbados to understand that North Stars is not asking the Government to provide land for themselves but is asking the Government to compulsorily acquire land for Government itself.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Government cannot do it for North Stars but can contravene the Compulsory Acquisition Act, to try to get land for the Barbados Cricket Association. Sir, let me explain that before anyone gets up. Sir, the Barbados Cricket Association is not owned by Government and the Compulsory Acquisition Act states that Government can only acquire land for public usage as it relates to itself. Sir, North Stars Cricket Club has to operate within a little 2 x 4 stand, which is much better than some that can be found in Jamaica. Sir, somebody should tell Colin Croft that when he visits the North of Barbados to "bad-mouth" North Stars, even though it is a better ground than some on which he would have played and neither is it waterlogged.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who went as far north as North Point because I fear that he would soon step off our territorial boundaries.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is clearly misleading the Honourable House and is also implying grossly improper motives to the Government. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is accusing the Government of being in breach of the law and the facts do not support such a gross and ridiculous accusation.

The facts of the matter are that the lands which are to be acquired in the precincts of Kensington Oval are to be acquired by the Crown for recreational purposes and will

remain the property of the Crown. They are not being acquired for the Barbados Cricket Association. The Government and the Barbados Cricket Association will be joint partners in the redeveloped Kensington Oval and Government is not in that matter acting contrary to the provisions of the Compulsory Acquisition Act.

Sir, while the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is still on the territories of Barbados, even though he is far North, he should withdraw that ridiculous accusation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you rephrase it?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no need. The Honourable Member did not tell you what were the recreational purposes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I am making a ruling.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are in control of the Honourable House and if you ask me to withdraw something that I know is right, I will do so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to withdraw it, you can do so but I have asked you to rephrase it. Could you proceed?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, it is not fair but I do hope that when this matter becomes a legal one, that you are prepared to apologise to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who has first made the statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, seeing that it is true that the Government is acquiring the land for that purpose, I would, therefore, want to know the sport for which the Government would be using that additional land.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point is that it is out there in the public. I have written about it and have again spoken about it in this Honourable House. If the Government does not want free legal advice from me and they are saying that they are right and that I am wrong, then it is not for me but for the lawyers to deal with it.

Sir, I am saving this country millions of dollars because I know that if it is taken up by a lawyer in the interest of those persons in the Pickwick Gap area, they will win the case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the things I know is that, unlike the Barbados Cricket Association, the land at North

Stars Cricket Club is owned by the Government of Barbados and, therefore, if Government compulsorily acquires any additional land, it would be acquired for themselves and not for a private company.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, I am not contradicting myself. What the Government would be doing at Kensington Oval would be for a private company. What they would be doing at North Stars would be for themselves, which the Land Acquisition Act allows.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: As a lawyer, I know you will study that one and would speak to me privately about it and it would be free of cost to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to be very careful, that is why I am saying that the funding for this Fund should come from development. What I have observed over the years, is that large tracks of lands are taken out from agricultural use and are transferred to sports, where large sums of money are being made. Therefore, if one is transferring agricultural land to sports, surely I am saying that all sports should benefit from it. That is a very serious charge and a very serious request.

Sir, what is also fascinating is that even though at that time persons were saying that land could not have been transferred for low income housing, and that there was the need to get an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study in regards to low income housing, it is now clear to me that as soon as the name sports is used, one could get whatever one wants.

Sir, whenever an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study is requested for low income housing, it is not low income housing anymore because that study is very expensive and would automatically push the cost of housing up, to move it from low income to middle or higher income.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to find a way to satisfy the needs of our sportsmen and sportswomen and we need to reduce the cost of outfitting these sports persons. We also have to find an easier way to making sure that when persons want to become involved in professional sports, that they would see it as if they were going into a profession and would not simply use sports as a stepping stone to something else. Sir, in the same way that some of the richest people in the world are sportsmen and sportswomen, we can allow the same thing to happen in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, because we are a small country, jealousy sometimes steps in. There are some people who believe that because someone might have come from a poor family, that person cannot attain certain benefits and that those benefits must be left to certain other persons. Sir, the concept of fairness must be practised and one would hope that as long as the concept of fairness is practised, that the masses will be able to show their true talents like before.

Sir, as more scholarships come on board, we are now seeing a situation where the scholarships might be there but we do not have the athletes to send to the scholarships because the cost for the athletes taking part is so great that they cannot now get involved as they used to do before.
3.20 p.m.

You cannot tell me that you are seeing sports as an industry, that you are reducing the cost on tourism and everything else but increasing the cost on sports. Sir, it is as if the Government is contradicting itself and I am calling for clarity on the matter.

I also want to know when the Government will resolve the problem of high taxes on sports men and women in Barbados and to recognise that when they go overseas to represent the interest of the country that it should be a cost to this country. Sir, I am not saying that sports people should not work. I am saying that their energies should be kept for the discipline in which they are involved and that the national association should fund the event instead of the person having to fund the event on his or her own behalf.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have said before that the intention is good but that the way it is being managed is wrong. The Government is setting a bad example and I would not be surprised if I heard something from the church on this matter because this is a moral issue. When we speak of sports we speak of young people and they should not have to promote a product to get funding if it is not the right product for them to promote. Sir, you cannot get funding from gambling and then "bad-mouth" it.

If we are worried about young people, we cannot involve them in these types of things. It is okay to involve older people who have an appreciation and better understanding of life but we cannot put this type of burden on our young people.

Sir, we are now planning for the World Cup in 2007 and major businesses in Bridgetown are complaining about the lack of parking and many other things. We have an opportunity for development in Barbados but we are combining capital expenditure and revenue expenditure to develop Barbados. Sir, we are limiting the development of Barbados by putting the new complex at Kensington Oval.

It also goes against the Bible because it warns us about putting new wine in old wine skins yet this is exactly what the Government is doing.

The Government has joined hands with the Barbados Tourism Authority to put new wine in old wine skins when there is an opportunity for them to put new wine in new wine skins at a greater development to the country. Sir, this is being done in the name of history because cricket has always been played as Kensington but if this is true, then Lord Nelson should not be moved from Broad Street because I have always seen Nelson there. He has played a role, as it is through him that we have our numbers in cricket.

Sir, we must respect those who went before us and their opinions. The same way we cannot build a complex somewhere else, Lord Nelson is a good attraction for the taxi drivers who operate in Broad Street and should remain there for economic reasons as well.

Sir, I have written about this matter in my newspaper column. Government will not get the multiplier effect they want if they get involve in a project that creates capital and revenue expenditure at the same time but would get greater benefit if they provide two capital expenditures. Sir, this matter should be understood as a serious issue that will not die.

I have already said in this Parliament that we have a good opportunity to have the cruise side of tourism in the North. It is also a good opportunity to have a complex and a second hospital, which we need, in the North. It will not do Barbados any wrong to build them there and it would enhance the tourism product to do so.

Sir, Barbados must become developed by expanding and, clearly, this Government will be judged by one thing, having the capacity to expand and failing to do so. They have the opportunity to have a second hospital, a second airport, to separate the cargo section of the harbour from the cruise section and now there is the opportunity to have a new complex somewhere else but they have refused. Sir, when the history of Barbados is written, it will say that the Government of 2004 had the opportunity to do these things and did not.

We have to understand that these issues have to be placed before the people of Barbados in a serious way because development of the country is development of the people and when development is limited the people are limited. Sir, the only people who would be limited in this case would be the masses.

Sir, this Government has limited the development of the masses by not carrying out the development to increase their capacity and they will be judged based on these issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am grateful to you. I support the concept of the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund but I do not support the way this Government want to finance it. It sends a bad message to the young people of Barbados and it cannot be sold to this person sitting in this location at this point in time.

I thank you.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund and the method under which Government proposes to fund it. I do not wish to enter debate on the methodology with the Honourable Member but to say that I genuinely believe that we have come to a point in time in Barbados where we have to try to avoid double standards. For the longest time there has been the existence of lotteries in this country and the patronage of the lottery system by persons from every walk of life in this country and I do not know that we are any further advanced, if we now seek to introduce an obstacle towards the development of sports via the methodology being used when it has been widely practised and supported across Barbados for many years.

3.30 p.m.

I would want to speak to a few issues which are near and dear to my heart. I think that it is only fit and proper that I begin with a note of congratulations to the Minister of Sports and also to his supporting team, especially the members of the National Sports Council.

I represent an area known as St. James Central but included in St. James Central are many districts whence come some of this country's finest sports persons. Sir, bordering St. James Central is St. James South and there is a vast array of fine sports persons also. If there is a dilemma in the constituency in St. James Central, it is the chronic shortage of sporting facilities for athletes, cricketers, footballers, *et cetera* to develop their skill.

It is to their undying credit that they have done as well as they have done, representing not only their districts and clubs but Barbados at a very high level. It is impossible to be associated with that community or to live in that area without coming to an understanding of the chronic problem that is facing Barbadian sports persons, young men and women and, indeed, the not so young insofar as the availability of proper facilities are concerned.

I want to say that I am heartened at an intervention made by the National Sports Council because all too often

we hear of the negatives. We have heard repeatedly condemnation of Government's failings to rise to the high bar that is placed before it, insofar as providing services to the people of Barbados. It is all too often that we do not hear of the successes.

It is a matter of record that within nine months of a general election taking place in Barbados a playing field that was virtually unusable at Bagatelle, St. Thomas, in the constituency of St. James Central...

Asides.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: A community effort began – a transformation. People who were tired, frustrated and fed up with a situation in which the resource was before them but they did not have it within their power to transform that resource to be all that they wanted it to be.

Sir, through the assistance of my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the leadership of the National Sports Council – and I believe that I would want to say with the blessings of our neighbour the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, but I am not sure because he has never come and physically associated himself with it, though I am made to understand that he was lining up to condemn it if it had not come to pass. Sir, a transformation began from the very roots of that community and it has been supported by the National Sports Council in a manner which cries out for laudatory comment to be made on their behalf.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, even as that takes place, there is, perhaps, a lesson for us to learn, not only there at that location but across Barbados. Government's scarce resources can only do a limited amount of things and there is often an opportunity for various types of community endeavour to start projects in the interest of the community. Communities coming together is something that I do not think any of us would dispute and that communities can through various mechanisms transform their existence, especially insofar as overcoming some of the difficulties that any small economy such as ours will have, in providing satisfactorily and adequately to the best of our ability in the arena of sports.

Sir, there is much to be learnt in the lesson, but above and beyond that, there is also much for Government to be cognisant of. Even as we do these things, every Honourable Member of this House would have had the experience of situations where the National Sports Council or some other Government department comes into a constituency and starts a project which is worthwhile on the face of it, but the Honourable Member of Parliament or the people of the community may not have been consulted fully or at all. I

take the opportunity, even as I commend the National Sports Council, to point out that at Hoytes Village a new pavilion is being built, I am sure that the people in that community, like me, are very grateful for the pavilion. However, the size of the pavilion becomes an issue as soon as you see it. Without knowledge that there is more to come to that community by way of a community centre not far away, the people in the community asked the legitimate question, why is this pavilion so small? Is this all that we are getting after we have waited so long? These are the kinds of questions that the people asked.

Sir, even though we say to the officials of the National Sports Council that we are grateful and moved by the way in which intervention has taken place and the quick results that have come to pass, and I do not take unilateral praise for it as the Honourable Member for the area because this is a process that has been taking place for years. Having said that, I think that it is vitally important that as we talk about developing sports and sports infrastructure in Barbados, that we make sure that at all stages we remain in consultative process with the people whom this infrastructural improvement is supposed to impact upon and who are supposed to benefit from the infrastructural improvement.

I think that the consultative mechanism, being in touch with the people, enables us to be in a better position, not only to command their confidence but also for us to understand through the process of dialogue what are the strengths and weaknesses that are existing in this process.

I sat in this Honourable House today and listened to a lot of pontificating taking place, especially from the two Honourable Members who spoke on the Other Side. It was painful pontification on the ears because much of it was spouting in the air without a connection to some of the real problems in Barbados.

Sir, I have no brief to bear for any part of the educational system. I believe that as a Member of the Cabinet that I would be sharing in collective responsibility for whatever decisions are taken in the educational system in Barbados. Having said so, I think that I can make some independent observations about what I perceive to be some of the strengths and weaknesses of the relationship between our educational system and what we are trying to achieve through the development of sports in this country.

Sir, I am perplexed and concerned that sports are encouraged at a recreational level. It is a good thing to do but that seems to be where we place the bar. We, as a community called Barbados, have joined with a broader community called the Caribbean to say that as a matter of priority, with an abundance of urgency, we are going to see to it that certain categories of our people are entitled to be the standard bearers. They will herald this new era of regional

integration. Sir, part of that grouping that has been thrown up as the standard bearers are entertainers, sports persons, university graduates and others who would be affected by this Bill.

I think that the point has to be made that even as we speak in the context of developing the Caribbean, electing, culling if you will, from the crop, a few standard bearers as the primary persons who, at the very beginning, will be the ones who move freely through this region, that we have to be therefore looking at how we develop these sports persons and entertainers and this takes me back to the educational system.

3.40 p.m.

It was not so long ago, Sir, that, with the exception of one or two Honourable Members, I might have left the educational system most recently of all the Honourable Members in this Chamber. I remember well that it was a recreational pursuit and that alone, if a student was interested in the entertainment arts or in sports.

In fact, if we think about what just took place at the Inter-school Sports here in Barbados, many of those youngsters who competed, would have done so in a manner which forces them to place on a scale of priority, the decisions, do I take part in the sports, give of myself in the training and preparation? And what then do I do about my academic performance? Sir, all too often that takes place, and the unfortunate decision has to be made in our educational system.

Sir, at the University of the West Indies, all campuses in this region, there are persons who have sporting and athletic ability, such as football, cricket, you name it, but they will not get a merit. They will not get a mark towards matriculation. They would not get an iota of recognition towards leaving the University of the West Indies with a degree, in spite of all of the ability that they may have athletically.

Sir, in my view, some developmental questions have to be asked. As I said, Sir, it is just my view, as someone who has left the system not so long ago, as someone who has a modicum, and I put it no higher than that, of ability but as someone who understands the painful difficulty of having to make hard choices at a very tender age. Do you on the one hand say that you are going to pursue the athletics, or you are going to pursue the academics? If you decide to pursue both, is there an inherent risk of one standing in the way of the other?

Sir, in other words, does the educational system adequately accommodate or encourage and provide an

incentive to young people, who are so gifted athletically that they can matriculate through the system? I believe, Sir, if we ask that question dispassionately, then the answer is in the negative. There is much more we can do and, in North America, there is hardly a university to be found where a young person, who has that kind of ability is not given some academic reward, as a result of that ability.

I am not saying that our academic standards should plunge to the point where you do not have to meet some basic criteria in order to get a degree, Sir, but I do believe that if a person takes up approximately 20 percent of the term or semester, whatever system is used, in pursuit of the lofty efforts of athletic success, that should account for something in the system towards matriculation.

Sir, I also believe that for too long, we have treated academics as the "must do", and the only way forward. We have sought to cut a line and say that, if you fall on the other side and you are athletically gifted and inclined then, well boy, you know it is good for you and so on, but perhaps if you are good enough, you might get an athletic scholarship at the end of the day.

Sir, we all know there are only so many scholarships awarded. They are coming from outside of this region, but within this region, our school system, and our university system, we are not providing similar types of incentives to ensure that our athletes are given every opportunity to develop.

My fear therefore, Sir, is that even as we speak in the context of this Bill, we may be actually talking about a situation where the purest will say that the academics are the academics, and you do not dilute the system.

Sir, I beg to say to you that if we are talking about creating a category of people whom I have heard described as perhaps the new entrepreneurs and the new professionals, I am one of the first to recognise that the people who are making money in the world today are the athletes and the entertainers. They are not the lawyers, they are not the doctors, they are not the architects, they are not the engineers. They are the ones, Sir, where in an hour or two hours can walk away with US\$1 million or more in their pockets. This is a reality that we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to, in the Caribbean.

If I am to speak, Sir, about a development for the future, then I believe that our educational system must more wholeheartedly embrace the creation of incentives for our students, so that those who are athletically gifted can be ensured of a path forward that would see them matriculating with good results for the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question of maintenance of our infrastructure in sports cries out for addressing. I, Sir, will not be mealy-mouthed about the situation. Even as I have praised the National Sports Council (NSC), I must say to this House, and I think the Sports Council knows, that there are several pavilions in Barbados that are presently closed.

Are we serious? I would want to suggest that there may be caretakers of the pavilions who are being paid. I do not blame the leadership of the Sports Council for the erosion of that system. It is only so much that Mr. King and the Honourable Member can do. The reality is that a person comes to the constituency office and asks for a job. They may write a letter, beg, plead, or cajole and a job is given. Then, suddenly, you will hear that the person is not working.

Sir, nine times out of ten you could go to pavilions in Barbados at 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock, and the pavilion is shut down. They want a job but they do not want work, and that is perhaps the distinction. What effect does that have on the effort that we are trying to create, as a country, to ensure that the infrastructure is there for our young people who wish to use it?

Therefore, during this Easter vacation, when people who did well at the Stadium and those who did not do so well, those who were watching cricket and were in the mood to give of their all in their youth, and they have time on their hands and they go to a playing field, but the pavilion is closed. They cannot get a sip of water. There is nowhere to pass water. There is nowhere to sit and eat.

Sir, you then have to face the frustration of a community which knows that a pavilion was put there, but it was not put there for decorative purposes. It was not put there, Sir, only because of the fact that you could not do better and you say, see here, you get something. It was put there to serve a community and to foster social development and, in my view, social cohesion. If it is shut down, then it defeats the purpose.

Equally, if our people have the benefit of access to these places, they should not take the infrastructure that is provided and recklessly damage it. I would say that many of the places have basketball courts. For example, hard courts with flood lights. This transforms the reality because they can play basketball, volleyball, or whatever, right through to the night, unlike what took place when I was at school. For a small fee you are able to develop a rich talent, but then you get somebody who lawlessly throws a big rock at the light and mashes it up, then they are some who would test off a gun and so there is a gun salute up in the light to mash it up. The National Sports Council must finance that.

3.50 p.m.

Sir, I wholeheartedly embrace the provisions in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto for the community-based organisations to assume management of these institutions – that can be the only feasible and practical solution – so that a community can be ensured of access to the infrastructure and the facilities, and that the community-based organisations can also work towards maintenance and preventative maintenance. We all know too well, Sir, that it is not only a situation of people destroying things recklessly. Many of those people who destroy these facilities are people from outside the district where the facility is located.

Sir, above and beyond that, we also know that Government, irrespective of which party is in power, has a very poor record of being able preventatively to maintain the infrastructure in which it has invested. So, today a pavilion needs paint, next week it needs paint and a bench, the week after that it needs paint, a bench and a few changes of lights and a year later Government might get around to that when the situation is ten times worse than it is today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, again I think that the solution advanced by the Barbados Labour Party in what was a very bold and visionary statement which obviously attracted the public of Barbados was one of the reasons a landslide majority victory took place for a third term, because the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party reflected a vision that the community-based organisations would be a useful solution.

I see the Honourable Member for St. Philip North frantically going through the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto in the hope of finding something similar, Sir, and I would want to assure him that is like walking through a desert in the hope of finding water. There is no oasis as far as community-based organisations are concerned to be found in that document.

Asides.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must move on to the question of our development. I heard a lot of talk about the development of cricket and people paying taxes, *et cetera*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Caribbean has never done so badly in its national game. Perhaps one of the reasons which we should look at is whether or not the inability of our players to play in a professional league is impacting negatively on the quality of our sports. Sir, I am not going to stand here and pretend to be the authority or the be all and end all of knowledge on it, but I would want to make this economic point. If it is that the sports persons of tomorrow are supposed to benefit financially and seek, receive and achieve economic reward from their investment, and if that is what we are trying to do to create a new cadre of persons in that regard, then I believe that the blinkered way in which we view business and business development in

the Caribbean and in Barbados in particular must change. If cricket attracts all and sundry, then cricket has to be a product.

Sir, in the same way that football is an attractive product in England and all of the major football clubs are wholly owned or are limited liability companies, why is it that similar approaches cannot be taken within the Caribbean to the development of our game if cricket is such an attractive product. Why do we only see cricket as being Empire against Spartan? Why is it that we do not see first division teams competing more broadly across the Caribbean? Why is it that our league cannot be made professional? These are questions I hope could be addressed by the intelligentsia of the game.

Sir, part of the problem that we face is that there are a number of challenges which cry out for very serious and sober reflection. We are making the mistake of talking about sports and making sport of sports and not trying to see it in the context of a pathway for the development and the enfranchisement of our people. Sir, I could tell you, as I am sure that you are aware, that there are too many young males and females with ability in constituencies across this country who only need for us to be able to open the pathways for them to capitalise on that sporting ability so that they can transform it into an income potential.

Sir, if a man is gifted and the extent of his gift is that he must put it one side with the hope of one day getting through academically in an area where he is not particularly inclined naturally, and if a man is gifted but he has to compromise on his gift because of the fact that it compromises his pursuit of his gift and compromises his opportunity to earn a living to maintain his family because our system does not accommodate easily the employment of persons who are professional sportsmen... We down here seem to believe for some strange reason, even though the Europeans do not do it and the North Americans can do it, that you can be a professional sports person down here and still be working at a nine to five or eight to four-thirty job. Sir, until we see the development and the evolution of sports differently, then we would be compromising the development of people who really form the backbone of our communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is another matter that really disturbs me and I would speak very briefly to it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: I realise your signal, Sir. There has been a refusal to rejoin the debate on whether or not there should be a more mandatory, and I would even go so far as to say, or an element of compulsion involved in the

participation of our young people in broader sporting related activities. Sir, this may not be the time to try to frame this argument because I am running out of time. However, there is much more that we can do. I think the useful first step has been the creation of a fund which would allow \$2 million to \$3 million to be allocated across sectors in sports on a yearly basis which will allow for the stability and the continuity of a lot of the efforts and the improvement of that which we are now able to do for our people.

Sir, to introduce red herrings into the issue and to raise again the question of whether it is right or wrong and if gambling should be involved, I close by saying there has been the involvement of the lottery system in Barbados' way of life now for a long time. Now that we are able to see some reward coming from it, let us not now turn our way against progress in order to raise a red herring.

I thank you.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make what I intend to be a brief intervention in this debate. I do not intend to speak for a long time, but since the Honourable Member for St. James Central raised one or two points during the course of his debate I would wish to pick up on some of them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it would be remiss of me in supporting funding for sports having heard the Honourable Member for St. James Central speak of the facilities at St. John the Baptist, Hoytes, not to recognise and thank the Honourable Member for St. Andrew who is in his chair. The reality is that both the Honourable Member for St. James North and I as the Honourable Member for St. James South have been making a lot of representation relative to sporting facilities in our constituencies.
4.00 p.m.

At the time we met with the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Director of the National Sports Council on the site at Hoytes Village, it was agreed that since that was a ground on which cricket was very frequently played... Honourable Members will recall that I recently made the point that it was the only cricket field on the island on which members used a house or a verandah on the road opposite, which was in an adjoining constituency, to come across the street to play on the field because there were no facilities at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are now speaking about a development that has been a long time in the making and, therefore, the Director of the National Sports Council and the then Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, met at the site and agreed that housing facilities were going to go there, and that sporting facilities would have been

placed strategically so as to allow what was then the constituency of St. James South and St. James North, to share them.

We had agreed on a particular type of pavilion and on the number of sporting facilities that would have been developed at the site. The National Sports Council has not communicated with me in recent times and, therefore, I am not clear whether they are sticking to the original plan or what are the facilities intended. The idea was that we would have tried to utilise as much of the land as possible, to allow for multipurpose and multidisciplinary courts, which would allow both young men and women to have access to sporting facilities. It was also agreed that the courts would have been placed at a particular location so that any adverse impact in terms of the noise, the possibility of the ball going over and damaging any of the properties of the new residential communities which would have been going there, would have been mitigated.

Sir, I am very pleased that though this will no longer fall in my constituency, that the plan to establish multi-purpose sporting facilities there is continued. I do wish to recognise the role which the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has played relative to the development of these facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the size, it was determined by the number of other facilities that we had in the area. The point was made at the time that the constituency of St. James South was one of the most populous areas in Barbados. Before the boundary was changed in the last election, it had approximately 11 000 persons, so that even though it was geographically very condensed, the need for sporting facilities for the young people living in the area was great. Therefore, it was determined that this site would have been a very strategic location for the constituencies of St. James North and St. James South to share the facilities. It was also hoped that given the space constraints that we had at Halls Village No. 1 and Halls Village No. 2, that as soon as the roads were put in and space would have been encroached even further, they too might have wanted to utilise this particular facility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that members of the public recognise the extent to which the development of Government's projects can be so long in gestation and birth, including the coordination of many different agencies of Government, starting with the acquisition process which can be time-consuming and protracted, then involving the development of the plans and drawings, relative to the design of the facilities. Therefore, it can take many years and often communities feel that the instant they ask for a playing field

or for a facility of some kind, that within weeks the National Sports Council should be able to deliver it.

During the course of the last 10 years, even in the constituency of St. James South and across several other constituencies, I have seen a raft of other new sports facilities, new pavilions, or many recreational facilities. In St. James South there are lights on almost every facility, apart from that one at Husbands Gardens, and we would expect that the National Sports Council would assist us in getting lights there very soon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to make this a parochial speech even though all of us could speak in a parochial context in the development of sports in our own constituency but I want to draw the net wider and speak in terms of the full ambit of the import of the Bill currently before the Honourable House for consideration. Sir, I am pleased that we are taking the effort to put more funding into sports and arts but it seems to me from casual observation – and I must admit that I have never been one who was very athletic. In fact, I came to exercise very late in life – that there is a need for greater strategic planning in our approach to sports development and in the development of the arts generally.

Sir, in relation to cricket, I have heard persons express the concern that when people are in school and there are structured athletic programmes, there appears to be the emergence of young athletes with tremendous talents but as soon as these persons leave school, where programmes are not as structured, and where sometimes there is insufficiency of financing within the family to allow these persons to continue training, which might have to be paid for, or for them to acquire sporting equipment and resources necessary to pursue their sporting discipline, their activity tends to fall off. These persons can go into a decline, or one would stop hearing about many young athletes who had shown great promise but for whom there was no sufficiently strategic or structured programme to enhance those sports persons' skills to bring them to the level of regional and international competitions.

Sir, I think it is important that as a country, we start to look at who are some of these talented sports people in the school system and support them in their disciplines. Maybe if we do that, we would produce a Tiger Woods but it is important that from early stages, we put them into proper exercise programmes; that we give them proper nutritional and dietary support; that where finances are a challenge, they are given financial support; and that when they reach the age where they are leaving the school system and the structured programmes, that mechanisms should be put in place for them to continue enjoying the support of their activities and disciplines, so that they would not fall away from it, as a result of the lack of resources.

We are seeing that we are excelling in the game of cricket up to the 19 and under-19 age groups but as soon as we go beyond that, it seems that we are not harnessing and holding our cricketers together. It seems as though we are not training and disciplining them in the way in which they would have been schooled, when coming through the system. It does not only happen in relation to cricket but to several sports, and I believe it has to do with a lack of strategic planning and the fact that there is no programme that has been established for the identification and support of the gifted and talented young sports persons.

Sir, all over Barbados there are young people who cannot participate in one sport or the other because of the lack of funding, and particular in poor communities where a mother might have to choose between buying the basic household things and buying very expensive athletic shoes. In such circumstances, the shoes would not become a priority, no matter how talented that child would be, because the mother would be trying to deal with such basic issues. Therefore, in such circumstances, it seems to me that it then becomes the responsibility of the State. Sir, even my dear friend from St. Michael East would agree with me, that the State has to intervene at that stage and give support to those particular individuals, to ensure that the skill is not lost to the country.

Sir, what we are doing essentially is not guaranteeing ourselves the potential for Olympic gold medals or for athletic medals at the regional and extra regional levels.
4.10 p.m.

Therefore, when individuals cannot afford it for themselves, the State must intervene and ensure that the national good is served. Indeed, we must define it as national good to which we are prepared to commit resources.

Sir, I made the point earlier that we must be prepared to give a package to those young people who have talents because a lot of our athletes do not have the dietary support for the skills and energy levels that they need to perform in their particular discipline. Sir, there is a cost of eating properly and the State has to underwrite this.

There are several countries with State-sponsored programmes. China is the best example although it is a totally different social and cultural structure where gifted students are put into specialist programmes to give them the assistance they need for their talents to emerge.

One of the challenges this and all administrations will face is the proper placement of recreational facilities and how well they should be equipped. One of the difficulties we face is that all communities are crying out for playing fields and courts of one sort or another.

Sir, resources are limited at the level of Government and we cannot put several hard courts into all communities and, therefore, sharing of facilities will have to take place. Often if a facility is put in a compacted community, they see it as their own and resent people coming from outside to use their facility and this can result in tremendous hostility between adjoining communities. Sir, as politicians, it is incumbent on us to explain that our resources will not allow us to put several hard courts or playing fields in every single community. Equally, we must encourage sharing of facilities by communities adjoining each other and within close proximity of one another.

I want to make a particular plea to the Director of the Sports Council who is with us today that greater consideration needs to be given to placing sports facilities in communities and to making provision specifically for young women. Very often one hears of the construction of basketball courts or football fields and where they are constructed or placed, young women rarely get an opportunity to use them for netball, volleyball or activities in which young women will engage. Hence, we have far fewer netball courts than we have football fields but yet we have a larger number of young women in the population than we have young men.

It is important, therefore, that greater attention be placed in providing sporting facilities that young women will have access to because where there is a community and there is one hard court, the boys are going to use it for basketball and the girls will hardly have access to it and we must have opportunities for our girls to excel. Sir, there was a time when the Barbados National Netball team excelled. We have female volleyball teams that have the potential to do well and Barbadians have been doing well in hockey but in order to encourage girls to excel and make their mark internationally, we must make adequate provision for them to have access to sporting facilities whether hard courts or fields of whatever type. Sir, I believe this has been an omission in our planning and approach to the development of recreational facilities. Sir, I would like to reiterate a point which I have made in this Chamber before. It is, in my view, an error of our development planning that we continue to build large communities whether housing areas like Haynesville which has hundreds of houses, the Ivy or the Pine and then complain that people are on the block because we do not provide recreational facilities or green spaces in the community and there is nowhere for people to go but the block.

Equally, we build middle class development and target them at people we know are in their reproductive years like West Terrace and Kingsland but there are no recreational facilities or green spaces. We come back ten years later to try to acquire land to put down a recreational facility at higher cost when it should be part of the developmental

planning that if a large housing development is being done that certain basic community recreational facilities, a playing field, pavilion and one or two hard courts should be part of the planning structure. In fact, I know the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto speaks to this under the area of physical development because I wrote that section myself into the Manifesto.

Sir, it is in placing facilities of this sort in communities that people get to know each other and develop relationships as neighbours. We cannot continue to have a situation where people do not know who live down the street from them because they never see those persons and have no idea who they are. Their children will meet on the basketball court, the football field or the green space and then as they sit in the evening a community will emerge which will bring a sense of social cohesion from this interaction. Sir, I am not one to continue to promote a form of development where we have housing but no recreational facilities or outlet for the people who will occupy those facilities.

Sir, I also believe that in developing sports, we might want because of resources, to initially determine which sports we are going to target. We may determine that we have potential in swimming, football or as has been our traditional stronghold that there is potential in cricket but there may be others. We can emerge as a nation that does well in a particular sporting discipline if we are prepared to put effort into that area.
4.20 p.m.

Cuba has emerged as having top-class athletes because of the kind of training regime to which their young people and people with talent are subjected. Jamaica is known as having world-class sprinters. Bahamas is now emerging as a country that has top-class sprinters. Obadele Thompson, Barry Forde and Junior Greenidge have shown us that even without the kind of national programme that other countries have, our athletes can emerge and star on the world sports stage. If they are able to do this on raw talent, if they had national backing and properly structured funds to give them assistance, especially these people with specific talent, then they would go much further.

I am pleased to announce this evening that in my constituency – Barry Forde is a product of the St. James South constituency – we are starting a Fund for Barry Forde to ensure that he has adequate funding to get him to the Olympics and to ensure that he performs. Barry Forde is, perhaps, one of our best chances of getting a gold medal and certainly as a member of St. James South, where Barry grew up, is well known to people and where his mother resides, I will assist in doing our utmost to put something in the kitty to see that he gets to Greece and is comfortable there.

Sir, it cannot be done in one-off shots like this. It cannot be left to the effort of individual Members of Parliament. There must be structured programmes on which people like Barry Forde can rely. We will be announcing more details of the programme in the days ahead. Barry is currently out of the country and we have been waiting for him to return.

I would now wish to turn to the matter of the promotion of the arts. There is no doubt in my mind as we speak of a global economy, of the disappearance of financial and economic borders and the potential for us to do branding and niche marketing, as individuals in small countries and the potential for us to earn revenue in the new globalized marketplace, our arts are a premier product which we are undervaluing and underselling.

It is significant that the names that one hears most internationally in the Caribbean are those of the musicians, with Bob Marley being the premier example, as an exponent of the Reggae music form, that persons outside of the Caribbean have listened to. It is a rhythm that is unique, with which Jamaicans identify, with association to Rastafarian colours and dread locks. Sir, without our making the effort, these have become brand symbols internationally so that if you go to Japan you can hear people pronounce the word “man” the way that Jamaicans would.

Sir, you can see people wearing dread locks but we do not exploit sufficient components of our arts and culture. We still see festivals in the nature of fun and recreation rather than revenue earning potential.

I was attracted to some figures presented at a conference which I attended earlier this year where the point was made that there are festivals outside of the Caribbean that use Caribbean music, images and brands and they earn more money from Caribbean music and cultural images than we in the Caribbean do.

Labour Day in the United States of America attracts approximately 2 million people who spend US\$70 million. Caribana attracts a crowd of approximately 1 million people who spend CAN\$200 million and Notting Hill Carnival attracts approximately 2 million people who over a two-day period spend approximately £24 million; and my figures are not current. I am using 1996 figures. Sir, you could imagine how these figures would have changed over the last eight years.

However, in the Caribbean we still see Crop Over as fun. We believe that Carnival is something where you go and “wuk up” and have a good time. We are not yet in the mould where we are promoting entrepreneurship in the arts and giving the kind of support and strategic direction to

ensuring that we as a people earn revenues from our images, music, language and culture. Other people continue to exploit them and derive from them greater benefit than we who generate these images, language and culture as a people.

If we are talking about the promotion of arts, we cannot only see the promotion of arts in the promotion of festivals. We have to see the revenue earning, the economic and trade potential in the development of the arts. When we think arts we should think not only recreation, we should think revenue as well.

There are people who have sold and promoted the music of Bob Marley and are deriving benefits from it but not the Bob Marley estate. There are sounds that have been developed in the Caribbean and sung by people from the United States of America, some not even of black extraction, and they are the people who have derived the benefits from it, who have made the music famous or who are now identified with the particular songs and we the originators of the lyrics, rhythm, we who gave birth to event or instrument, are deriving no benefit at all.

Therefore, it is critical if we are talking about the promotion of the arts that while the promotion of the arts is desirable for the development of our culture, we should fully exploit the trade and economic benefits which are to be derived.

Sir, it is not only the fact that Bob Marley's name is so well known. It is the fact that we in Barbados developed Spouge and have allowed it to die or at least go to sleep, if it is not dead. It is a fact that in the Caribbean the only musical instrument produced in the 20th century came out of Trinidad, but Trinidad does not mass produce steel pans for sale internationally. I believe that either an American or Japanese has the patent for the steel pan. They are the people who are deriving the benefits, not the Caribbean, because we saw the steel pan as a fun instrument.

Sir, we listen to the music. It is sweet music and we "wuk up" but we did not think in terms of the revenues that were to be generated from this very precious musical instrument that we had developed and originated. When I say "we", I speak as a Caribbean person. If we have the ability to create in that way in the Caribbean, create in a way which moves people in Japan who hear the English words and do not know what they mean but try to repeat them, who feel the rhythm and want to move to it, we must be sure that the benefit of this creation inures to our pockets and to our national and regional economies.

Let us nurture the arts and develop our culture because it is a reflection of who we are. Our children and people

have to have a strong sense of self but let us not just nurture the arts for fun. Let us nurture the arts for revenue.

Why are we not developing a strong Caribbean theatre? Black Entertainment Theatre (BET) sends American images to us which we mindlessly adopt and mimic. Since the world has shown a willingness to embrace Caribbean culture and images, why are we not developing theatre in the Caribbean with all the talent that we have? The Paul Keen Douglasses, the Olivers, the Barbadian artistes the Gabbys and the John Kings, the Red Plastic Bags, the Black Stalins, and promoting them so that the rest of the world mimics us, rather than we mimicking them.

4.30 p.m.

The arts industry in the United States, including music, film and their cultural exports, in the year 2002 earned US\$40 billion in revenue. When I speak of the revenue earning potential of the cultural exports and of the arts, that is what I mean.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is about to expire.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, our culture and our potential for generating revenue should not be allowed to expire. Therefore, if we are going to promote arts and sports, let us appreciate their revenue-earning potential and let us develop them seriously and strategically for the potential that they have, not only for lifting individuals out of poverty and creating positive images of ordinary people, but let us develop it for the potential and positive impact which it can have on the revenues of the Caribbean.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to make my contribution to this very important debate for the shaping of our nation and its people.

At the core of the development of a people is culture. Culture has had many complex meanings. Sometimes we ask the question what is excluded from culture? Central to everything that we do, is culture. Most of the time when we focus on such a word in these discussions, we are speaking of the arts. However, I would like to follow the chronological order of the actual Bill before us, as it goes from sports to culture. I would probably touch on culture last in the circumstances.

The availability of these funds ought to make some meaningful contribution to our national development. As we attempt to structure new programmes and to have the

maximum use for any injection by the State, we should have very clear and comprehensive visions about what it is we are trying to achieve, and what methods and approaches are required, in order to achieve those goals.

Sir, central to the success of all of this, is not just the putting of the mechanisms in place and making the resources available, but also having the adequate human resources to execute the programme, and give it clear direction through administration, in order to achieve these goals.

Many of our administrators are clouded in their vision, and sometimes you find it difficult to determine exactly what it is they are trying to achieve in the running of the various departments of the State. I am not making any reference to any specific persons, present or not present. I am just trying to put my analysis within a given framework.

The reality is that we have to be committed at this time in the history of globalisation to a fundamental position that can be clearly defined as nation building. We have to develop a system that reflects the consciousness of a people as meaningful contributors to the development of humanity which must be reflected in our cultural programme. We have to look to see what are our disadvantages and advantages.

I am talking about a society that has had a long history of people creating programmes for it, and charting its path in the designs of the programmes and what we ought to achieve and whether we should continue to play a subordinate role to other people in the world. Some people believe that we do not have the capacity to be classified or rated among the best footballers and that was the view of the Leader of the Opposition when I heard him say earlier that we will never be able to reach those points in football.

Sir, what scientific value can be applied to that, if we have reached the level in cricket that we are world class? Why cannot we reach the same level in football? What is the logic? I do not quite understand that sense of reasoning. I believe we must recognise that it has nothing to do with the size, the geography of the country, or the availability of the monetary resources available to us. We have to put the structures, programmes and personnel in place to achieve clear objectives.

Sir, if you are a leader, you must have a vision of cultivating personalities in a State, who can reach the level comparative to anyone else in the world. I believe that we have people in our country who have the natural ability to achieve these things, but we have to work assiduously and scientifically in designing programmes, making the resources available, and providing the adequate facilities for these things to occur.

Sir, when we reflect on our history and we look at a Gary Sobers, at the genesis of our success is the community where everything begins. Whatever we produce it begins within the community and people cannot design programmes that focus directly on what I call mid-stream approaches on elitist and well-structured organisations, and wait until we get there, then to put things in place, hoping to achieve these objectives. I think that where we fell down over the years is at the community level, because we do not focus on individuals who are not part and parcel of well-structured groups.

We have raw, naked pastures across Barbados with only lights spotting at night, and the availability of the personnel to help cultivate the kinds of skills that are required. There is a level of indifference in the administrators because they do not understand their responsibility to the ordinary man and ordinary woman in the community who wants to develop his or her skills.

I heard many persons, and this is probably what motivated our consideration for the introduction of this Fund, who reached the optimal point that they can achieve with the limited means available to them, who became regional and international sportsmen, facing the humiliation as a national icon, walking about, cap in hand, to money magnets in this country, begging for money, sometimes receiving \$5 and \$10. This is a major insult from men and women who enjoy all the affluence, the raping and the plundering of this society, and they do not see it as a national duty to assist some of these men.

I am not only going to talk about where we have excelled, but also in areas where we have the ability to excel. We see Trevor Farley, a regional tennis champion, who is from a poor neighbourhood walking around every day asking for assistance to go and represent the State. At what level of development is the State when an individual who has reached such a level has to go to ask a businessman, who owns half of the country, who receives massive contracts from the State and who sometimes inflates prices, to scrape off a small part of the net profit and share it in the interest of the country itself. Those persons treat our sportsmen with great indignity. It happens to them over and over again.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in our communities people like Trevor Farley, Robert Roberts and Oluca Bascombe – I am only talking about table tennis players, I am not talking about netballers and those persons as yet in the system – have to go begging the State's departments as well. These State departments seem to be only responding to the administrators of the elitist organisations that are well-structured who, rather than using their influence, give those people letters and send them out in the streets to visit every politician, every shopkeeper, every construction magnate, the

old traditional business sector like the Goddard Group of Companies, Chefette and all of these people asking them for assistance, while small sums of money are given to ordinary working-class sportsmen. That is really a reflection of class discrimination.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke about it before and I am going to speak about it until I die because it is a fundamental variable in this Barbadian society. They provide funds for a lot of mediocre persons who are from elitist backgrounds in sports, but whenever ordinary working-class people go to them who have excelled in these specific areas demonstrating a level of greatness, they give pittances to them, and we have to correct that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this calls for an educational programme that will help to instill and cultivate in all of our people, including the business sector the importance of nation building and having respect for this country, which they do not have. It is because of a sense of false class consciousness in this society that emerged as a consequence of our masters and servers relationship that we have had over the years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some people believe that they should still treat certain people in less than a dignified manner in the system itself. Therefore, as long as that exists, the money magnates will shape who would be successful in the system. Even if you originate a policy within the corridors of Government, the impact and the success of the policy only becomes a reality if those persons who control finance in this society allow people to respect their own identity and give them all the assistance that they can without trying to shape them to suit the interest of the money magnates in this system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe everyone quite understand what I am talking about even though they do not want to. In our cultural realm it is the same thing. People make large contributions to certain cultural groups, organisations and individuals to perform functions and cultural programmes that have no real meaning to the society. If it has a commercial worth, it serves as a motivator for those persons to invest. What is Congaline? What meaningful purpose has given rise to Congaline? I can understand Crop Over as a national festival, I can understand the Jazz Festival although it seems to confuse a number of persons, but I never understood Congaline. I do not believe that my view is one that must monopolise the national view. I do not understand it and I would love somebody to explain to me what it really is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Crop Over has an historic background. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael West saying that it was a waste of time to spend

money on the Jazz Festival. This is a man who looks forward to being a leader in this country. Jazz is western music which emerged out of the ghettos of the United States of America. It is black oriented. It relates to oppressed people struggling. When you talk about Blues and Jazz you are talking about an expression of our inner self in the form of music, just like folk is the expression of our life experiences in the form of story telling. When a person can get up and question a black leader in a black country regardless of how we distort it about being a multiracial society... A society that has 95 per cent blacks in the system and very small pockets of Asians and Europeans cannot be a multiracial society. What happens to the culture is that although we have the numerical strength, the personalities and institutions of influence are not dominated by us. We have black skins and white masks, so therefore the white culture emerges and finds itself in a position of dominance, but we do not have a multiracial society by any form of scientific analysis. What we were hearing comes from a position of false class consciousness and from a position of a colonial inversion that has occurred in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition when he seeks to relegate the cultures of black people from the ghetto to insignificant roles in this society.

Jazz is black-oriented and it has produced the best musicians in the world. Hugh Masekela, out of Johannesburg, the former husband of Miriam Makeba is a contemporary jazz player as well as Count Basie and Louis Armstrong.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: When you speak on a topic, I expect you to speak on a topic as a leader with some clear understanding of what culture is and what it is that we are trying to achieve as a consequence to making this fund available to us. That is why I said that I was not speaking about any specific person, let me stick to culture. The best musicians in Barbados today who can play anything and who can be called on spontaneously to respond to any occasion with instruments are Nicolas Brancker and Arturo Tappin. Arturo Tappin played at international level with the best. These are men who are steeped in Jazz and Blues.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the last Jazz Festival we have actually seen a new Caribbean input into the system, where, coming out of the Caribbean for the first time, we have seen the most modern instrument in our cultural framework, the steel pan, being fused with other instruments and bringing out a unique contemporary rhythm that we have never before witnessed. Sir, that was as a consequence of the Jazz Festival. One does not measure the importance of a cultural input based on whether or not it brings tourists in. It is not the amount of tourists that comes or the amount of revenue

made. It is the importance of the perpetuation of a national treasure. Therefore, an inestimable treasure in the form of jazz has to be preserved because it is our music and is grounded in the belly of the people of the ghetto and, therefore, it must be preserved for ever.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I do not isolate black people to the geography of Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago. When I speak about black people, I speak about a race, a people that have preserved itself through some of the most testing times in history. I speak about the resilience which we have manifested and that resilience is given expression in Jazz and Blues music.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if people could understand what has happened to the psyche of people and to the efforts of liberation that form itself in musical expressions through Jazz and Blues, then persons would not come to the conclusion that we should not do everything that we can, in order to unearth those elements of our culture that will suppress us, as a consequence of those past periods of history. Therefore, all that the person would be doing would be giving liberation to something that belongs to us, something which had been suppressed. It was born among our people.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Do not mind that, one must understand it. The reality is that has always happened. When African shirts first came to Barbados, nobody wore them more than the tourists. When black men wore them, it was said that they looked like blouses. It was a reflection of our ignorance. Sir, the respect for our own came as a consequence of education. That is why marrying education into a culture is very important for us in order to give the future direction of this country. We cannot have a programme about cricket at the tertiary level at the University of the West Indies for persons when they are in their late teens and not have it at both primary and secondary levels. I would, therefore, hope that Professor Beckles would do all that he could, to influence those who are responsible for education to have classes at the lowest level of our education system so that we could hear more informed and scientific interpretations about our cricket. Cricket is not about scoring four or six runs, it is about our national pride and about what it means to our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, people saw the outward manifestations when the West Indies were defeated in a cricket match but nobody took the time to internalise or to understand what was actually happening to us at the time when we were experiencing defeat. Nobody asked why it was that an unreasonable manager would give someone

flexibility during the time of a cricket match. We have to ask what it is about cricket, what mechanisms must we use in order to understand what happens to us in terms of our national spirit and in terms of our production in the system.

Sir, the production level would fall, even with persons working in the cane fields, when the West Indies are under defeat. Sir, people do not want to see that as a scientific analysis but that is true. Therefore, when one wants to feel a sense of euphoria in the system itself, the cricketers must understand their role in terms of what it means to the Caribbean people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we go all over the world and although I am a strong supporter of calypso, I am one of those persons who believe that we should not play "Rally Round the West Indies" when we are winning. I believe it is a great embarrassment wherever we go, when people put their right arms on their hearts and stand erect at a national anthem, and we have to stand up listening to "Rally Round the West Indies".

I respect David Rudder as a calypsonian and I love calypso but I do not respect the calypsos in the circumstances because I know that it does not create the kind of will or the mental adjustment that is required, sometimes for us to go forward. I do not even like the burgundy flag with the coconut tree. I think we have to be serious and Marcus Garvey spoke to those things. We need a Caribbean national flag, and that is why I am saying that nation building and a sense of consciousness are important. We like to rally round something that is symbolic. Symbols are fundamental in culture. Sir, anywhere in the world, just like a green light means go and a red one means stop, from the North pole to the South pole, symbols are important. We need a flag that Barbadian children know what the flag looks like, that we understand the importance of the colours and what those colours mean. When I see the Pan African flag and see red, black and green, I know what every colour means. I do not know that about the West Indies flag.

Sir, I listened to commentators describing us in the most pejorative manner as calypso cricketers, and nobody in the West Indies would take time out to write or to go on national radio to chastise the commentators who speak about us in such a manner. That is why I am saying that there is a need for us to have a sense of consciousness to know exactly what it is that we are trying to achieve by having additional funds available to us.

We also have to understand that we have to have complementary personnel in order to administer those funds to achieve their objectives. I am not too sure that exists in the system. I believe that many of us who are responsible for administration do not understand that we have to redress many things in the system. There is a fear, and that is why

some persons talk about or condemn those others who speak about class or race differences in the system.

Sir, wherever we go, everyday we see people responding to others as a consequence of these labels in the society. We could only change it if people are very conscious of what are the major areas that need to be addressed.

I have always said that this society has produced two strands of culture and that the reason why we have to work so hard to change things and to make radical changes is that the mass culture in the system which is relegated to inferiority in the system itself, must now take its rightful place within the system. Black Governments fail black people. They must play the role that has been delegated to them since the 1930s and must radically transform this system. We cannot produce artists in this country who try to sing American music at Karaoke, where people want to sing like North American white and black singers. It serves no useful purpose and our local artistes get no royalties from singing these songs. Sometimes even after moving from the microphone, those persons cannot sing without having a guitarist backing them up.

Sir, in the 1960s we saw the birth of the music industry and we were producing phonograph records almost weekly. There were persons employed by the West Indies Record Limited, St. Thomas, and however small the royalties were, there were records produced by such persons as Richard Stoute singing "Goodbye Now my Bajan Girl", the Opels singing "Gimme de Bottom Bailey", the Draytons Two, Wendy Alleyne, and a number of others in the system. We were producing something that gave rise to a cultural expression which was unique and where the lyrics were a reflection of our own life experiences, like men getting horned and "sweeter than a snow cone". It had Barbadian dialect and the rhythms mirrored Caribbean culture and we need to see the rebirth of that era.
5.00 p.m.

Sir, the Merryman were on the international market but the franchise was sold to someone from overseas because persons who had no commitment to national interest sold it to North America and we have seen a collapse to that entire industry.

Sir, I want to talk about Blenheim which is one of the biggest local pastures located in the St. Michael East constituency. I want to make an appeal to those who have ears to hear that I have fought for four years to get lights on Blenheim against the view of those who said that the pasture was too big to have lights. I want to see a great improvement to the aesthetics of the area because the pasture is too naked. I want to see the development of infrastructure where there are bleachers for the spectators when netball and football are being played.

I was calling before for a mini stadium at Blenheim but I did not pursue the advocacy of that because when administrators provide facilities that look too sophisticated then the community is abandoned and the elitists take over the facilities. Sir, I would also have to rent it, get insurance for it, the people of the community would be victims of exclusion and I would not want that so I withdrew the call for the mini stadium.

Sir, I am not asking for a mini stadium but I am asking that there be proper seating, toilet facilities and that young black people be treated with a sense of dignity. When football is played at Blenheim people are forced to urinate all around the playing field and the odours are not so pleasant thereafter. I would be grateful if proper facilities could be put around the playing field when the money is available. Also, two or three kiosks could be put at strategic points in order to provide employment for people in my community and to make refreshments for those who are coming to enjoy the games on the playing field.

Sir, I want to support sports because I believe that sports has a greater meaning and culture than just the commercialising of it. I believe that sports help to diffuse some of the social tensions and elements of deviance within the community. I believe that sports is an integrating mechanism that brings the community together and helps to establish strong, social, harmonious bonds among people in the society.

If we can provide that kind of alternative for our people rather than they becoming involved in so-called deviant behaviour and criminal activity in the small working-class communities around Barbados, their leisure time can be so moralised and "Christianised" that they would be able to find themselves engaged in something meaningful and wholesome to allow us to reduce those figures that social scientists and criminologists usually bring to show the fundamental changes that are occurring in the society.

Sir, as a Christian man I am conscious that God did not curse the people in the Ivy, Licorish Village or Martinique Road but men who are responsible for administration who do not put the policies and execute them within the interest of the people to cause changes to occur in societies where working-class people exist.

I want to moralise the leisure time of young people and give them hope within the community. I want to redress the imbalances in the cultural spheres of Barbados so that working-class people can have an opportunity to be respected when they showcase their talents in the society. When I go to NIFCA and they bring Oshun and Orisha presentation, it would be seen as something foreign to the

culture while they accept ballet in the system as a refined piece of culture. When certain pieces of the performing arts are brought to the judgement of Barbadians they consider it alien to their culture because our culture emerged out of slavery and colonialism and we are not trying to reclaim our culture.

Sir, this Fund must not be used for using sake. I hope that it will be used with careful guidelines knowing exactly what the fundamental changes are. I have seen a number of mundane elements that need to be addressed. There are unique problems in our environment and I need to see a programme which is meaningful. Sir, sometimes these programmes cannot be carried out by the agent of the State alone and we have to reach out to non-governmental institutions with proven track records to help give guidelines because some of the people in control of the State institutions are traditionalists and are not prepared to break away from those traditional moorings. If we can get persons who have been in the system experimenting with the challenges and dynamics of the system, we might be able to shape a better Barbados and create a more national spirit among our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Miss. C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall try to be as brief as possible but I felt this is one of the occasions where I should address my support to Arts and Sport Promotion Fund Bill, 2004 being discussed here today.

Sir, this Bill will help to stimulate Barbados' investment in sporting and cultural infrastructure. It will also assist with the financing of programmes and activities that will be conducted through various programmes in the arts and sports among our various groups.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was a young girl sports was not seen in this light.
5.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a matter of fact, I can speak proudly of having been at school with someone like Patsy Callender and we know of Freda Nicholls, a successful sports person. However, in our time there were very few young people who had the opportunity to be involved in sports. Our parents and guardians saw sports as an opportunity where you could relax after having worked at academics for an entire day. Sir, a few moments of putting your hands on your shoulders, jumping and skipping would have been regarded as sports, but academics were the norms.

We all know of the saying that all play and no work would make Jack a dull boy, and that was a familiar

statement. The statement was often used with play as the thing that you do when you are tired of doing the academics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, little or no respect was placed on individuals who were into the arts. We have people like Alfred Pragnell, who writes and reads short stories, and Mrs. Jeanette Layne-Clarke, who writes poems. There are many artistes who, in the past, had to go begging for funds or had to sell tickets. Mr. Mark Williams would be able to tell us about a lot of people who were in the arts and who had to beg for help. He would also tell us of the scant respect which was paid to them because they were trying to develop an appreciation of the arts in Barbados.

Sir, little or no attention was paid to Spouge, as was said by the Honourable Member for St. James South. We had a golden opportunity, and I speak as a younger person then, in the late 1970s and early 1980s when saving time was introduced. Daylight Saving Time was not introduced because we wanted people to be in the cane fields earlier or for children to be wandering around. The specific reason for which I remember saving time was being introduced was for individuals to have an additional hour in the evening to engage in sporting activities. Sir, cold water was thrown on the idea of saving time by the then Opposition and then negative things were said about it but the positive thing about saving time was for young people to get an opportunity to be more intimately involved in sporting activities.

Sir, we lost that opportunity and I am not asking for it to return because I understand what it is like for poor people to be in the cane field or wherever they work hours earlier. Therefore, if it is dark in the morning when people have to leave their homes to go to work, it would create some challenges for them. I am only saying that was the opportunity for us to capitalise on the Saving Time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would wish to refer to some of the benefits that sports and arts can offer to people in any society because it is a good forum for people to develop very good discipline. I think that is the most important component of sport. You must have good discipline and then everything follows thereafter.

Sports and arts are income generating ideas and businesses flourish through them. Sports is critical to one's health. For example, if you are talking about the kind of sports that we saw last Saturday at the National Stadium, there are senior citizens who are glad for the opportunity, not only for the competition but to be able to interface with others and to be able to relax and have fun. Sir, what we saw on Saturday speaks volumes to the therapeutic role that sports can play in helping people live a healthy life.

We heard earlier that sports can help to build cohesive communities and I strongly support the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. James South. Sir, for many years I have been saying that recreational facilities should be built in any community which comprises 25 or more houses in order for those individuals to have access to such facilities.

Sports create interest and appreciation. We must also show respect to people despite their disabilities or capabilities. Sports afford training incentives, local and international. I also saw a note about those individuals who have been afforded the opportunity to travel overseas. Coaches of clubs were able to point young people in the right direction to allow them to take advantage of developing academically. Sir, Jay Bailey is now in Australia on the sports circuit as a result of fostering within schools, clubs and then the assistance of the National Sports Council.

We have two very distinguished and able-bodied males in the form of Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes who we need to utilise so that the skills that they have can be transferred. I am sure that kind of injection will help our young people to develop a further interest in cricket and to be able to develop skills in cricketing. These distinguished persons have given their skills to England, Bangladesh and other countries. They are famous homemade cricketers and we need to incorporate them into the system if we are to show that we are interested in the development of sports. That was particularly of cricket but there are many areas that we can talk about.

Sir, Hector Edwards was a very good cyclist. We know that Barry Forde is now ready for the Olympics and, therefore, we need to use those mentors in the system.

I was saddened a few years ago when some young cricketers who might not have had the adequate three CXC certificates or academic abilities, having been chosen to play cricket at the local level, were not able to maintain themselves because they could not get employment. I would wish for this policy to include that these young people would get some form of employment, further training and opportunities for them to excel in the areas where they have the skill.

Sir, this funding would also go towards equipment, gear and to help young people. I am also aware that the Estimates 2004-2005 provides for the construction of a hard court at Bridgefield playing field. I think that is a boss stroke and I am grateful to the Government for giving the residents of the area this kind of facility. There are approximately 1,500 individuals in this catchment area. Therefore, the setting up of that hard court would help to take some of the pressure off the Lester Vaughan School

which, in my opinion is overused, but that is the reason we built the school.

We cannot be spending \$10 million on a school plant and then close it off at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the school can be used for multipurpose activities such as games, arts and further education. I am happy for the proposed hard court to be constructed during this financial year.

Sir, I know that for many years, having been in the school system, that the National Sports Council has an ongoing programme where coaches visit the primary schools; that is where the training starts. One coach in netball or cricket is enough because there are several disciplines where coaching is needed. I hope that this Fund would allow for coaching at primary and secondary level. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is an excellent programme, and I have learnt a lot of skills as a result of supervising my students who would have been in the programme and, of course, supporting them, whether or not they were successful.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also know of the Cuban coaches that have been working here over the last few years helping with the promotion of football. I wish to speak more specifically to some of the programmes that are being done with the Department of Youth Affairs in close collaboration with the National Cultural Foundation. I think this is very important that those two entities meet at some point in the delivery of the services to Barbadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Youth Development Programme, for the last five or six years has been going into communities and training hundreds of young people on an annual basis. It is not that they go in a community and say, "you look like you can play football, you look like you can do jewelry making, you look like you can do dancing, you look like you can do cricket". They usually do questionnaires to find out what are the needs of the people in a particular jurisdiction. Then, they help to create the programme with the facilitation of a coach, so that the young people can do their jewelry making, they can do the football, they can do the performing arts, *et cetera*. I think that is important. I am sure that more than 5 000 individuals have been trained through the Youth Development, Sports and Cultural programmes.

The Peace Project has also taken off with a bang. The Youth Affairs department also has what we call the Youth Achieving Results, where there were many unstructured young people who had needs. As a matter of fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of them would have had the ability but did not have the opportunity to express themselves. As a result, the drums and various forms of equipment that were purchased to offer the training through the National Cultural

Foundation to these young people have really developed tremendous potential.

I had the distinct privilege, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of seeing those young people perform on Saturday evening, and it blessed my heart to see what they were capable of doing. The Honourable Member for the City would be very proud of the steel pan that has developed through the same Youth Achieving Results and the Youth Affairs Department. The steel pan was fantastic when I heard them on Saturday evening, and I am happy that the Youth Affairs Department can do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also have the CHEKS programme, Cultural and Historic Education for Kids in School. I have mentioned this many times but I will still say it again, because I need to make Barbadians aware of the things that are happening in our various departments so that they can also capitalise on the opportunities. Sir, Vere Punka is in with the tuk band, IC with the stilt walking and Cherry Ann with the Land Ship. Those are aspects of our cultural heritage that we need to keep within our system.

The phenomenal thing about it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that children in the schools, who have been participating in these programmes that were shy and disruptive from the reports that are being fed back to us, the majority of them, because of their involvement, have started to build a good strong self-esteem. They have learnt to be a little more responsible, in bringing the bandages for the stilts and so on, and they are developing the self-esteem to help them to hold their heads up and to understand that they have a role to play in their own personal development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Community Independence Committees have developed across the length and breadth of the island. There is a former ambassador, Chad Blackman, with us. He is now actively involved, having the experience of an ambassador, working still with the people in the community in sports and cultural activities to help with the growth, development and sensitisation of the various communities. I would wish that this particular Bill would help with that kind of activity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme and, indeed, the Youth Juniors which is an aspect of the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme is within the school, where a lot of young children get the opportunity to create items and to market them. The training takes place through the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme.

I have been told that there are two primary schools in Christ Church, but it is also at secondary level, where the children were so enthusiastic that when their parents went to the school to see what they were doing, the parents

themselves came on board and got the training. One parent said, "I was so happy to see what was being done, I set up my own little shop next to the house, so that I can help myself as well as help to train my child about the management of a little business". Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thought that was excellent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make a call and trust that my call will not go on deaf ears but that the National Sports Council will create a proposal because I am of the feeling that Barbadians should take full advantage of the ocean. Too many of our people are unable to swim. Many of them do not even go to the beach but we find that millions of visitors come here over the years and they take great advantage of our natural resources, our beaches.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, schools in the centre of the island, particularly St. Thomas, St. George, in St. Joseph and St. James and those adjoining parishes have tremendous difficulty on a daily basis when children have to leave the schools in coaches to get to the Aquatic Centre. Sir, you know that it would take at least 45 minutes for children at Lester Vaughan or Sharon. It is worse when they have to come from Welches or Holy Innocents to be able to reach the Aquatic Centre. This is the 45 minutes slot that would have gone towards the lesson that the children would have had at the pool.

I am calling, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for attention to be paid to the needs of the people in the centre and the north of the island, whose children should also be taught skills in swimming. We know that one Summer we lost about four or five children who were at the beach. I would never be so rude to say that they could not swim. I believe that if they are taught the defensive skills in swimming, it would help them in the appreciation of the beaches and swimming, as well as prepare them for the local and international market, when it comes to swimming competitions.

I believe that the poor people, particularly in those communities, need to have that swimming facility. I have already, Mr. Deputy Speaker, earmarked a location that I would wish to propose for the establishment of a swimming pool, in the area of the centre or the north of the island. It is definitely too cumbersome and I believe our people need to take advantage of that dream that we have about the sea. I would like to think that the Fund would help in that area.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Springer Memorial School and the Lodge School for the outstanding performance this year in their Interschool Sports. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Lester Vaughan School, and I have to name it specifically, because that is a fairly new school and it has taken on some strides within the last year or two to be able to produce athletes like Dario Alleyne and Lianne Kellman, among others.

Sir, to speak of them and the other athletes who went to the CARIFTA games last weekend, I must highly commend them for their commitment and dedication, even though they would not have had the full equipment, and perhaps the full exposure to be able to develop, but this Fund, I am sure, would help them to develop to their potential when that is properly effected.

I was able, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to look at the road tennis that is an indigenous discipline to Barbados. When I see how England and other countries are taking on road tennis in a very serious way, I would wish for the National Sports Council and the community groups to place more emphasis on road tennis and to bring this indigenous discipline into the forefront of the minds of our young people, so that they can get actively involved because it is ours and we need to make it our own. We need to make sure that we market it as ours and that we get whatever benefits should accrue from it.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the disabled among us also need to get some of these resources or more of these resources to help them with their programme because those who perform the best in the various categories get an opportunity to go internationally. We need to pay special attention to the disabled and to the physically and mentally challenged among us because they too have interests and potential and therefore they should be able to use them to the best of their abilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it comes to diet, the gear and the various forms of equipment that our young people need, it is unreasonable for them to have to be going into the private sector, cap in hand, so this Fund will help to prevent that situation. Our athletes need to have to have special training, special diet, special vitamins and so on to be able to build their bodies to make them as competitive as possible. The Jamaicans get it done very well, so we too must ensure that we target and work with our groups. Perhaps we can start with some kind of sporting academy where these young people can go and spend a period of time and get the necessary training from professionals to help to prepare them for the competitive arena.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support the National Sports Council's request for accountability and transparency. I took note that numerous subventions were offered last year and again this year. There are sporting agencies that are coming on board that will get benefit. We know that they would need funds for their preparation, to pay for advertising, for utilities and for the various venues they will use. I strongly support the subventions and the grants as well as the request for transparency and accountability.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it comes to the arts, we have many hundreds of Barbadians who have done us proud over the last four or so decades. We have none other than the great Mighty Gabby. We also have Andisa Andwele from St. Thomas who is doing excellent work not only in the arts but is asking for help for others and moving on. We have Brian "Bumba" Payne. We have the Escorts International. We have Winston Farrell who works assiduously with the young people at the Barbados Youth Service to prepare them in the performing arts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the early 1980s the National Cultural Foundation released some of its officers from working day to day within the compound, and teachers who had special abilities in the arts, crafts and sports were seconded from schools and they all went into the communities and worked alongside the Community Development Officers. That was at the time when we had the parish festivals, and so it would be a wonderful thing if we can do this again to further sensitize our young people. We keep complaining that they are not actively involved or they are not volunteering their services, so we need to bring the resources to them to help them to use those abilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of our artistes are exploited through piracy. Their services and their products must be properly protected. Therefore, I want to support this Bill in whatever form of training or funding that can be put in place for the artistes in Barbados whether it be in the area of cultural activities or sporting activities to give them an opportunity so that they can market themselves and their product and to be able to do their own accounting and to be able to handle themselves when they go on television in the way they should speak and how to carry themselves. All of that would help with the packaging of the items or the artistes as they are.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of those young individuals who went to Cuba and other countries to receive training in sports, arts and cultural expression must be highly commended. I trust that the funding they received from Barbados would encourage them to come back to our shores and give of their service. I also trust that they have been put on bonds so that after receiving the training, they would have to come back to Barbados and give of their service to the Barbadian public to ensure that the more we train, the more it can spiral out into the community for the benefit of all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heartedly support this Bill that is before us. I thank you.

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. R. D. MARSHALL, further consideration of the Bill was postponed until Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of today's Sitting and I beg that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 11.00 a.m. in the morning.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 27, 2004 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.40 p.m.

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KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)

LYNCH, Hon. N. A. (St Michael South)

MASCOLL, Mr. C. A. (St. Michael North West)

MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)

PRESCOD, Mr. T. A. (St. Michael East)

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