# THE

# House of Assembly Debates

## (UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J. P. (Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Civil Service)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)(Leader of the Opposition)

Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon).

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER, D.A., (Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Mr. G. W. PAYNE, Q.C.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of Labour and the Civil Service)

Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works and Transport)

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, (Chairman of Committees)

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Energy nd the Environment)

Hon. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A. (Minister of Social Transformation)

Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and

International Transport)

Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M. Sc., M.Phil, J.P. ( Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B. Sc., J.P. (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Dr. the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S. F.R.C.S., (Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health)

Mr. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Ed.), J.P.

Hon. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance),(Minister of State, Ministry of Finance)

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS., J.P.

Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

*Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 14, 2006, be confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

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

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

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the half yearly reports on the Revenue Collection Departments for the periods October 2004 to March 2005, April 2005 to September 2005 and October 2005 to March 2006.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this day's sitting.

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

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

*House 117 Sequence 2*

10.20 a.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 15 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, OF A PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT WILDEY, IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, IN THIS ISLAND, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL FIELD AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to enter a debate on this Resolution, one which I trust that Honourable Members would have no difficulty in supporting. This Resolution is to lease some 3.35 hectares of land or 22 500 square metres of land, at Wildey, Christ Church.

As you would know, Wildey spans both St. Michael and Christ Church. In fact, while it was originally thought that this area of land, like the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium and other parts, were originally St. Michael, by way of small technical detail, the survey showed that the portion of land being leased, has to be truly and properly recorded as being located in Wildey, Christ Church.

Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, this lease of land to the Barbados Football Association, marks the culmination of a major change in the use and character of land in that greater Wildey area. Indeed, back in l969, the Crown acquired a significant portion of land, some 424 acres, at Wildey, Upton and Kent Plantations, from a company called Sugar Works Plantation. Sir, over the years, successive administrations have embarked on a number of major land use initiatives, which have seen the development of housing infrastructure in the area of Wildey, such as Wildey Heights, Wildey Housing Area; adjacent is the Pine Housing Area; the area on which now houses the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Pine Industrial Estate. Sir, that major land use change, investment and infrastructure, the significant portions of it, funded by the Government, has really marked a change in the character of the area, since it was acquired in l969.

Mr. Speaker, another major initiative has been the development of a sporting complex. Indeed, some 26 hectares, approximately 65 acres of land, has been dedicated to the purpose of providing modern sporting facilities for the people of Barbados. Indeed, the area around the Gymnasium, technically called the Sir Garfield Sober Sports Complex, is dedicated to providing the kind of infrastructure and access to land, for those sporting associations, which will allow those organisations to provide the kind of sporting infrastructure required.

Mr. Speaker, you must recognise that sports in Barbados and around the world is conducted at several levels. There is sports at the level of the community; in educational institutions; at club level; and at the national and international levels. Indeed, in most sports, such as those of the Olympic Games and those falling under the umbrella of the International Federations, the only official body which can coordinate sports, which can choose representative teams and which can properly and legally participate in sports representing their countries, are the national associations. Therefore, whether it is in cricket, swimming, lawn tennis, table tennis or football, the national associations play a pivotal role in the development of sports.

Mr. Speaker, there are institutions such as FIFA, which, by way of their very nature of the Constitutions - some may call them undemocratic, some may say those Constitutions severely restrict the ordinary rights that citizens, whether natural or corporate, are able to exercise in their various countries - but those associations have sought to exclude the long arm of Government and they have also sought to exclude the ordinary process of judicial settlement of disputes. Therefore, in the case of FIFA and other associations, they indicate an arbitration or other parallel process, rather than the settlement of disputes through the court, and where Governments may provide the infrastructure, they also require that the infrastructure be vested in the local associations.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that while we criticise those international bodies for their approach to these matters, we cannot assume that all Governments around the world, are open, free and as democratic as we are here in Barbados, and that it has not been beyond the reach of

human experience to know of situations in countries across the world, where Governments have provided infrastructure for national sports, but where they fall out of favour with the sport or on the other hand, where the sport falls out of favour with Government, that the use and access of those facilities have been withdrawn, or the facilities converted to some other use.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, in order for Government to fulfil its responsibility, to provide infrastructure for this sport and football, but also to meet the peculiar requirements of the International Sporting Federation, which is the only body that can grant recognition to Barbados football, it is required that we not only provide this land but that the land is properly and legally vested in the Barbados Football Association.

Mr. Speaker, we have supported this measure, as we have done with other sporting associations. Therefore, at the Wildey Sporting Complex, one of the first homes that was established there was a home for local swimming, and we have seen the difference that has made. Indeed, the Swimming Association would have scored success in the days of swimming off the Aquatic Club and later at the Marine Pool and later at North Point, but it was with the provision of an Olympic-size swimming pool at the Wildey Complex, that that sport was able to take off.

Sir, it was similar with lawn tennis, which, for many years, had to depend on the generosity of lawn tennis coaches at hotels and other locations. They have not been able to organise a number of very successful regional championships. They have been able to have those championships accredited and to have international rankings for a number of our local junior players. Similarly, there was the provision of indoor sporting facilities, via the Gymnasium, which was built through a Technical Co-operation Agreement with China, has allowed for indoor sports, such as volleyball, netball and to a lesser extent, basketball, to improve their international standing.

Mr. Speaker, similarly it is with hockey. The Barbados hockey has reached a very high level and indeed the Banks Festival is not only a premier sporting event but also a major sports tourism event on our calender. Sir, that again could not have reached the height at which it has, without the provision of the facilities, which now include an astro turf in the Wildey area.

10.30 a.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(EDITED)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: The last two areas, which have been earmarked but yet to be fitted out, are the areas allocated for cricket and football. Several years ago, we would have received correspondence from the Barbados Football Association, indicating that they were now in a position to move forward with the building out of the infrastructure at Wildey and making the request for the formal access to the land by way of a lease. This would allow them funding through FIFA, the international federation, under its gold programme, which I believe is funded from proceeds of successive World Cups, to advance football in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, let us not fool ourselves, football is the most popular sport in the world. It is play by and followed by more people than any other sport, certainly in the case of Europe, it is the most organised, structured and profitable professional sport. Sir, even in the United States of America, where by some peculiarity of transatlantic inversion, they call handball, football but soccer in the United States of America has taken off and one can expect that the commercial and marketing genius, which has characterised all aspects of American life, will soon see soccer being treated as if it were invented by the American and, they would want to use their marketing, commercial and telecommunications genius to project this sport.

Mr. Speaker, what is interesting is that they have access to players from all over the world. All the persons in the United States of America national soccer team are persons with names, which would suggest that they have come from all over the world and places, which are true football nations.

Mr. Speaker, the situation of the popularity of the sport is no different in Barbados and, across the length and breadth of Barbados, you would see football being played, at the organised level in terms of competition, as well as at an informal level. Sir, one of the attractions of the sport, is that all you need is a pair of legs and a ball. There is not much required by way of infrastructural and, around the world, therefore, it has caught the attention, imagination, participation of persons particularly in lower income communities around the world. Sir, in the case of Barbados, we need to recognise that this investment in infrastructure will be made by the Government providing land, by the football association and its international federation providing the funding and infrastructural development. It is part of the continuum of what is required to make this sport even better.

Sir, I would certainly want to use the Floor of this Parliament and to enter into the records of Parliament, my congratulations to the football fraternity of Barbados on the achievement of a much improved ranking in the most recent FIFA ranking. Sir, to have been able to reach the

level of 100 in the world for a country of only 270 000, is a significant and major achievement. I would be honest with you, that given the way the rankings are computed, there are heavily influenced by the level of international activity and, if in fact, we had played more international games over the past 18 months, we would have been even further but, if you do not play games, your ranking cannot move and, we certainly believe that we are at the threshold of a takeoff in local and regional football.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment of the Government to support the sport is not limited and must not be defined exclusively by its willingness to contribute land at Wildey to this national training facility. Indeed, I must remind this Parliament that the Government continues to bear, almost exclusively, the cost of the provision of facilities for all of the mass-based sports at the community level in Barbados. Sir, sometimes we take these things for granted but, there are countries around the world, where people in communities cannot have access to sporting equipment. It is to the credit of Barbados that, in our 40th year of Independence, that we can boast of a situation, in which we have somewhere in the region of 100 football fields across this 166 square miles, which is one field ever 1.6 square miles.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I am reminded, sotto voce, that these are multipurpose field, that they play both cricket and football but, such is the nature of Barbados. We are a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society. We are able to cooperate and live together and such is the nature of the sport, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, we have then at each of our 23 secondary schools, playing fields as well, so that makes 123 playing fields even though the level of access to the playing fields at the schools might be different from that of the 100 playing fields in the communities. We have at the 80 or so primary schools, some smaller facilities but, notwithstanding that, Government is committed to its policies and programmes of ensuring that every major community has access to sporting facilities, especially playing field.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to spend any time congratulating ourselves and resting on our two hands, when there is, in fact, further work going on, even as we speak to make sure that additional communities, especially communities, which have a strong sporting culture and tradition, have their playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that there is some unfinished business in that regard. The fact that we are in the process of building out community fields at St. Martins, for example, that the new National Housing Corporation Housing Development at Greens in St. George will include a playing field, that we have to complete and bring to full fruition, the commitment that was made to have a playing field for the folk at Gall Hill to be located in Cane Vale, all of those are part of this ongoing work.

Mr. Speaker, I am making the point that we could be proud of our record today but, I am not making that point in the context of it being a destination, it is only part of the journey and that this Government will follow through as vigorously in its commitment to those community-based facilities as we have to these nationally-oriented facilities.

Mr. Speaker, sports in general, but football in particular, has also benefited from an initiative of this Administration to provide lights at the community level. Indeed, one of the challenges which football especially but cricket would face is the challenge where you have in amateur sports, persons having to make their livelihood, while contributing to sports in Barbados. You have footballers, who do a variety of jobs, some who may not have jobs, some who work in construction, labourers, some who work in offices but then, at the end of the day, they rush home to train. Sir, in the dark, old days, when there were no lights at playing fields in Barbados, at this time of year when by 6.00 p.m. it is dark and by Christmas time it is dark at 5.30 p.m., the training was constrained and you had to make a choice between your job and the sport, whatever was the sport.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the transformation of sports in Barbados by the provision of lights at a number of playing fields across Barbados.

*H117/10:40*

*Sequence 4*

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Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Further to that, we will also have the situation where there are portable lights available through the National Sports Council, which allows as well, for those facilities which do not have permanent lights, to host events.

Mr. Speaker, I was distracted by the sartorial elegance of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I have to check the shoes. I do not know if he has the snake-skin shoes today, but he is looking very elegant. It is obvious that he is in a sporting mood. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome my friend.

Sir, be that as it may, this infrastructure, for which I want to salute the Barbados Football Association and the football community in Barbados, will then add further to what is required. The reality is, all of the facilities that I

mentioned before, including the National Stadium, which has been around since the 1970s have done a good job in their time. Indeed, the National Stadium has been the location on which many an epic battle has been fought in football. We are not crying it down, but as societies change, so does sport. The expectation these days in sports, is that one will have modern facilities, including artificial turf facilities, which play much truer than natural turf.

In the case of Barbados, and certainly at the level of the community fields, one of the practical realistic challenges we have, is that many of our playing fields are former cane grounds. That is the reality. In Parish Land and Fairy Valley we have that situation. The reality is, in the rainy season they are as good as any, but when the dry season comes, some cracks can open up. Sir, also at Wotton, down towards the pond bottom end, some cracks open up and if you are not careful while chasing a ball, you may drop in, and will need a ladder to get back out. Such is the nature of the natural geography of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, whilst we can work around that kind of reality at the broad community level, we do have, on the national level, to ensure that coming down from the pinnacle of those grounds which we use for international training, those that we use for national training and those that we use for the premier teams in the competitions, that we have good grounds. I believe that there is work yet for the National Sports Council to do in this regard.

Sir, I am pleased to report that, certainly at Silver Sands, we were able in that community ... Sir, you will know that the Silver Sands football, which is one of the newer teams in the pinnacle level of the national football competition, has been able to pull themselves from Division 2 to Division 1 to premier league in a very short time, and that time coincides with the time I have been a Member of Parliament, so, I would not want to dissociate myself with any rise of that team.

*Asides.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, the reality is, the field that they use, for example, is a field that was a swampy area. It was a dumping ground overgrown with bush. I was able to work with some friends in the area and the National Sports Council, and, indeed, with some help from the National Conservation Commission, when the bath was being constructed at Silver Sands, and the entire top layer of that field is sand.

*Asides.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: A wonder and blessed facility for the people of Silver Sands, for which they are very happy.

Sir, that field does not suffer from the cracking and breaking of the other fields which totally use soil. Therefore, there really is a message and a need for the National Sports Council, when regrading and resurfacing fields, which it does from time to time, to use more sand than soil, which will allow us to have full and safe access to a natural turf fields over a longer period of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I will make the point that the limitations in the quality of our playing fields was brought out, a few years ago, when a Barbados Children's Trust sponsored initiative, where coaches from the Liverpool Football Club, in England, had been coming here for the past seven years, and providing coaching of the children of Barbados and some clubs. Two years ago, there was a particularly bad drought, and they really felt that their programme was hampered. The ability to transfer skills to our young people to do their training was hampered by the quality of the grounds. One of the features which has been missing from Barbados all the time, has been an artificial turf field.

In fact, there are some initiatives going on. I cannot speak for the Barbados Football Association. I am sure its President will speak. Sir, my advice is that it is intended that this facility at Wildey, would provide such an opportunity for an artificial turf surface, which is all-weather.

I am also advised that the Barbados Children's Trust also has an initiative through some other factors, to have another artificial turf facility. The more the merrier. The more of them we can have, the better for our football, as it has been for our hockey.

Sir, I want, therefore to couch this lease of this land to the Barbados Football Association in its true and proper sporting context, as one of the ongoing needs, by which the Government working with national associations, has done its job.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few comments about the business of community football, and community sports in general. I believe that all of us would agree and recognise, that if we are to have a large enough number of persons with sufficient talent to draw on at the national level, then we need to have a very broad base of a large number of person, being exposed to and actively playing the sports, cricket, football and all sports.

I want to say that the Government certainly intends to make its contribution at the level of community sport. We want to urge the Barbados Football Association, Barbados Cricket Association, Barbados Hockey Federation, the Volley Ball Federation and all of the national federations, to not only do everything in their power to provide support and encouragement to the

community level sports, but to make sure that they do not by way of precept or practice do anything that would stand in the way or hamper any community initiatives.

Sir, I know that in the case of football, there is always a hotly contested issue of the position of the Barbados Football Association in relation to out of season football tournaments. On the two sides of the divide, you get those who express a concern about over-exposure, excessive playing and the possibility of injuries, especially to the national level players.

Sir, even if constraints were placed on the national level players, for their own health and well-being, it is my view, that those constraints should not prevent those persons at the community level, who may have future aspirations or who may just want to have some fun, from being able to do just that. I would want to be satisfied, and certainly in this sport, that no constraints are placed on community level football.

Sir, I would also want to urge that, in terms of the allocation of resources by the Barbados Football Association, resources from FIFA or from wherever else they may come, that those need to go to strengthening what is happening at that foundation level for training and development.

10.50 a.m.

*Sequence 5*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

*House 117, Sequence 06, 10.50 a.m.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Sir, I cannot speak for the Minister of Sports, but I am sure that the Minister of Sports, as a sporting man, will be inclined towards investment in support of community football. I believe there is room for that. We must make sure that at the level of the community, those community practitioners - and we can call them by name, but in every community, there are key organisers who put together the schedules for the matches, make sure that the field is ready, liaise with the Sport Council and the Football Association - should be given every support. For example, these are persons like Carlos in Silver Sands, “Duck” in Parish Land and others, who go out there as volunteers to do this work.

I would certainly want to make the urging, Sir, that the Football Association in the conduct of its affairs, ensures that it does not do anything to frustrate the work of community practitioners, as they seek to organise a range of community football activities. Any attempt to over-bureaucratise and over-structure the sport, will kill the initiative and have the opposite effect from what is intended by way of broadening the base of support and participation in this sport. Sir, it is against that background, therefore, that I want to commend this lease of land to the Barbados Football Association.

The Addendum attached to the Paper sets out the terms and conditions of the lease and these are fairly standard terms. The Lease is for the construction of an international football field and associated facilities. The Lease is for a period of 25 years, with an option to renew for a further period to be determined. The nominal rent - peppercorn rent - of $1 000 a year is what is attached to the lease of this large area of land.

Sir, it will be for the Football Association to develop the site at its expense, subject to the approval of the Town and Country Planning Department. The Football Association would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep for any facility that they construct. They would be responsible for the insurance of the property, the payment of any taxes, utilities and other outgoings. Sir, those terms and conditions are very much in keeping with the terms, which have been provided to the Swimming Association, the Hockey Federation and the Lawn Tennis Association.

I certainly would want to hope, Sir, that the Association would move with some speed to ensure that all of its planning issues are sorted out, and that they are able to construct this facility for the further development and upliftment of the sport of football in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this Resolution to this Honourable House of Assembly and I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. R.D. JONES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On this occasion, it falls on me to speak to this particular Resolution that is before us. Sir, to some extent, it is opportune because I wear a particular hat in another place. One would recognise that there might be over-exuberance, as one speaks to this particular Resolution. I hope that you would raise your hand if emotion becomes a bit too great, but then, we are all emotional creatures and I have always said, not only should the cognitive learning be foremost, but both spiritual and emotional learning should be at the heart of the human being. Therefore, I hope you would not raise your hands too often.

I know it is not always easy when one sits opposite in places such as this, to offer thanks, but in keeping with the good Barbadian traditions, I would first want to offer thanks to the Minister of Housing and Lands, and I will tell

you why, in a few minutes. I know that he would not allow this thanks to go to his head, because I will be at his heels at another time for another purpose. On this particular occasion, it is necessary to say to the Minister of Housing and Lands thanks for the alacrity in which he and his staff dealt with this particular project. I am saying that because after the change in portfolios on the other side, and after speaking to the Minister of Housing and Lands and explaining the severe difficulty of a project about to be cancelled, I asked him to use his good offices to expedite this matter. This is why the Resolution is before us today. I am going to give you just a little history to understand what we are talking about.

Sir, over time, persons have argued that the wheels of Government turn extremely slowing, and others would argue that they do not turn at all. Sir, it goes back to January of 2003, in correspondence coming from the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and, of course, they come out under the penmanship of the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, it says that, Sir, I am directed to inform you that the Cabinet of Barbados, at its meeting held on 30th January, 2003 approved the lease of land, at the Garfield Sobers complex to the Barbados Football Association.

Sir, the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports did its work, as the entity responsible for Sports, generally, and then passed the responsible to those who have control of the lands.

Sir, the correspondence also indicates that both the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Board of Gymnasium Limited, which are responsible for the land at the complex have been notified of this decision, and steps are being taken to have the formal lease drawn up.

The point I am making is that this is the 30th January, 2003 and today, on the 21st of November 2006, just a few days from the celebration of 40 years of Independence, this matter is now before Parliament. The period of time this has taken is distressing for voluntary organisations, such as the Barbados Football Association.

I have correspondence that has threatened the cancellation of a project funded, in some part by FIFA, the international sporting body for football, which funds both developmental activities, through the National Associations in the 207 football playing nations of the world. This is called a Financial Assistance Programme, which provides for every single country under its aegis, regardless of size, whether 4 000 like Montserrat or one billion plus like China, the same quantum of resources. If you are as rich as the United States of America, England, France or Germany, each country received US$250 000 a year to put into its programme. This is one aspect of the revenue, which is generated through television rights, concessions and branding or whatever.

The major project, which has been initiated in more than one hundred countries, is called, A Goal Project. Each country benefits to the tune of US$400 000 plus to initiate, along with Governmental assistance, the particular Goal Project, to improve the infrastructure in the particular countries.

Sir, in 2002, Barbados made application for inclusion in their Goal Project and was accepted in May 2003. We had commenced all the initial exercises, because FIFA stated that we would provide whatever resources we could, but that the Governments of these respective countries should make land available.

Sir, previous to this particular initiative, one recognised that land was allocated at the Sir Garfield Sobers Complex for football, hockey, cricket, many of the mass-based sports in Barbados.

*House 117, Sequence 06, 11:00:14*

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Mr. R. D. JONES: The Minister is absolutely right in saying that football is the major mass-based sport in Barbados, not only from the point of view of those who play the sport, now approximately some 15 000 and growing, but from the number of persons who actually come out to watch and support the sport. We have always argued that outside of cricket, when played at the international level in Barbados, and car racing, which sometimes cause irritation among some of the public of Barbados, but which attracts a massive following, that there is no other sport that attracts a massive following than football. Car racing is the only sport that eclipses all of the other sports relative to crowd support.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been able to have the same kind of emotional response to car racing as I have for some of the other sports, but we are not to take from any person that which that person enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) considers this first project as Project One. Some countries have gone on to Project Two with the same allocation of resources to ensure that the facilities which are constructed are maintained and well-managed.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados is still at the stage of trying to get its project off the ground. That is why I want to thank the Minister who, when I spoke to him and wrote to him on this particular matter, was able to bring this matter to this particular point thus far.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure, and I want to make the point if we are not going to slide down the scale relative to other countries since we have been hesitating for such a long time... In fact, the last piece of correspondence we received from the Goal Bureau, the agency in FIFA that manages these projects, said that we would like to inform you that the Goal Bureau at the meeting of March 15th, 2006 has continued to select countries to benefit from the goal programme. The Goal Bureau also decides that if the approved project - and Barbados is an approved project... This is the project which we have here, in case any Honourable Member wants to see it, I will speak a bit more to it. Obviously, the Minister of Sports who would have some of this documentation would also speak to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Goal Bureau says that if we do not start before the next Goal Bureau in October 2006 - we have passed October 2006 - the Association would be deleted from the list of goal beneficiary countries.

Fortunately, the Goal Bureau has shifted its meeting down to December 14th, therefore there is a very narrow window in which we must operate. I do not want to say that this is the only area of concern, but I am speaking today against the background where the project might have to be resubmitted. Of course, we have been guaranteed that once it is resubmitted that Barbados would go to the top of the list in relation to that project. Mr. Speaker, the concern is that these things take too long and they affect the total viability of these activities.

Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing the crescendo voice of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East loudly proclaiming the benefits and the merits of community sports. Therefore, I know, if not politically but sports-wise, that there is some kind of kindred spirit floating in relation to this particular matter.

There are many persons both in Parliament and outside of Parliament who do not understand what sports can do for a nation or what sports can do for young people, the kind of self-actualisation, the kind of self-esteem building and the kind of approach that they would take to life when someone recognises their skill. Arising out of those, one sees the development of knowledge relative to the particular sports that those individuals play. It is not a situation that at the end of a hard struggle, at the end of long perspiration or at the end of long denial, that a State sector seeks to celebrate the glory. The celebration of the glory must start from its inception when one recognises the talent, and even if not seeing the talent, know that there is potential, and work to develop that potential relative to sports, be it track and field, basketball, netball, volley ball, cricket, football or whatever those sports are.

Mr. Speaker, from the time that youngster enters primary school and one sees that youngster running at the National Stadium or at some secondary school where there is a grass track, and one sees that potential, we have as a nation to identify it, to channel it and to make sense of that talent which we have in abundance in this country among our young people.

Mr. Speaker, too many of our young people fall on the wayside like corn on rock and therefore they are unable to grow because the moisture... In this case the moisture would have to be providing them with the kind of human resources, with the kind of technical resources and with the kind of infrastructure necessary to take them forward. Again, the Minister is right, so this is not a condemnation, this is a recognition.

The Minister spoke to over 100 fields on which football is played. He also recognises and identifies certain fields in certain parts of Christ Church. One of those fields, quite a large field, is in the constituency of Christ Church East Central. He spoke also of the field at Parish Land, also quite a large field, that can accommodate on one side football and on the other side cricket. He spoke also of Inch Marlow and Silver Sands. He did not speak of Briar Hall. I know there was a tangential mention of the field at Cane Vale, but I believe that someone else would speak to that matter. That particular one is a burden.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke of the glory of Silver Sands, a team, which in the past, came through the ranks and which in those days was the top Division One team - excellent players have always come from that part of Barbados - and now he speaks of the kind of flair which is imbedded in the current team that comes from Silver Sands.

I hope, just like many other Honourable Members both on this side and on that side who support the development of sports within their country, that some resources would be provided for training so that play could be developed. Mr. Speaker, the “Pride of Gall Hill” football team, one of the more consistent teams, does not fall within the constituency of Christ Church East Central, but within the constituency of Christ Church West Central, so therefore I am not speaking to it in those particular terms.

Mr. Speaker, the bulk of those youngsters who play football went to school at the only all boys primary school in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, when you take the trajectory relative to that, many of them make up the various national teams of Barbados, not because I am the President of that organisation, but because of their talent. Therefore, with that talent, which could obviously even blossom more, one needs to have this dedicated field truly developed at Cane Vale for the young people of Silver Hill, Gall Hill, Cane Vale, Church Hill, Maxwell and right across that area so that they could have a field where they could more develop their skills and their particular talent.

*House 117 Sequence 7*

11.10 a.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, one, therefore, has to enter into a major education drive, to engage the minds of those persons. Where do the resources come from, to support netball? If one reads the papers, from time to time, one hears the cry, and some persons would issue on the call-in programmes, particularly the sports call-in programmes, why would they not take sponsor walk sheets and go out there and raise funds.

Mr. President, that is true, we must encourage our sports people, but when our netball team has to go and play world championship netball, in Australia, you are not talking of raising $15 000 or $25 000, you are talking possibly of $l50 000 to $200 000. Sir, let us forget about Australia and concentrate on Jamaica, which is the leading netball nation in the Caribbean. If one wants to take a netball team from Barbados - and they should not be only playing at a particular championship, but they should be going to Jamaica or Trinidad and Tobago, even if it is once every three months - to hone their skills, to go to Jamaica, one has first to look at the plane fares, and that is not two pennies being rubbed together. It is a major portion of what you have to do. In order to make sense of the sport, you have to go for at least seven days, and you would have to play ever day. That is a hotel cost. One must also include departure taxes and now since departure taxes have gone up, one understands that is added to the cost of those sports teams that would be travelling. There is no saying to the sport teams that as they travel, they would not have to pay that departure tax. Every Barbadian sports team has to pay that departure tax. Therefore, the cost is phenomenal.

Mr. Speaker, I will give you a simple example, in relation to football. Sir, we must talk these things at times like this, because of the absence of knowledge, one has to use the occasion to speak to these issues. Mr. Speaker, our nearest neighbour, St. Vincent, I believe is just under l00 miles west. I want to send a football team from Barbados to play against St. Vincent and the Grenadine. The first thing I have to consider is the airfare. I am sending only 23 persons: a management team of five and 18 players. Sir, to make sense of paying the kind of airfare, which is over $330 per person, multiplied by the total number of persons amounts to almost $8 000. That is only for the ticket. There is also departure tax out of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and out of Barbados, which have to be added, which total approximately $1 200 or $1 300. They have to be accommodated for at least three nights, at US$75 per night. If you want your players to be reasonably comfortable, otherwise you could put them in a hovel, where they would not be reasonably comfortable, where they would become frustrated and would not be able to perform on the field, thus resulting in disaster. Mr. Speaker, when this is added, we are talking about $20 000, for one team, for travelling to our nearest neighbour, to play the sport.

Mr. Speaker, I must correct the Honourable Member, the hundredth position is not the closest position that we have ever been. In fact, in 2000, we were at the 93rd position in the world, but after the Digicel Cup, 2005, our senior team did not play any football, and according to FIFA, they adjusted the ranking, rather than what happens in four years, to what happened in the last two years. If, of course, in the last two years, we did not play anything, we, of course, would have to be at position 152nd in the world. That is what happened.

Mr. Speaker, there is always the expectations because we have good quality players in Barbados. We have persons like that of Norman Forde, from St. Lucy; Colin “Potato” Forde, who now lives in the constituency of Christ Church East Central, but who used to play for the Pine. He is now a trainer. Sir, there are excellent persons that we have produced across the country. There is also Paul Lovell, from Silver Sands.

*Asides.*

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, everybody would like to put in a name of their constituents but the people who follow sport, would know of these persons. Sir, instead of such disturbance, the Honourable Member should spend some time concentrating and seeking to develop Trents Football Club, because I have heard numerous complaints about the representative for St. James Central, who does not pay attention to the Trents Football Club. Sir, I would, therefore, ask the Honourable Member to be somewhat quiet because I would not want to release the details, relative to his non-participation.

*Asides.*

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central is not like the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, who has been President of Gall Hill Football Club, for the last 40 years. The Honourable Member not been President for the last 40 years. Therefore, one has to look at what is happening with this development.

*Asides.*

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is correct when he speaks to the fact that this development links in to what is happening to the wider community. You cannot go to a country, especially in the southern part of the world, where rain is a problem and seek to put down a natural turf. We might have to,

eventually, but some benefactor outside of FIFA has expressed strong interest in laying down what is referred to as an all-weather field or an artificial turf. This would be a full-sized field.

Mr. Speaker, if one understands how sports is played, the field at the National Stadium is not a full-sized field. It is a minimum internationally-recognised field, therefore, your play is orchestrated in relation to the size of the field. Not only your skill or talent but how you pass you pass the ball or how you use it.

Mr. Speaker, a good example would be, if Barbadians remember, when Barbados played in Massachusetts, at Foxbury Stadium, against the United States of America. Sir, not that the United States of America is three thousand times superior to Barbados but when teams play on a small-sized field, then to be transferred to a large-sized field, there are spaces in which they will be lost. Sir, that happens to any team in the world, who plays under those particular conditions. Therefore, it is imperative that this facility at Wildey be done. It is also imperative - and I believe the Minister of Sports would speak to this - that other fields in Barbados are dedicated only to the playing of football. I am not saying that there should be one football field in every parish because Barbados is still a small land space but where there is access to those dedicated fields, where those fields must be well-manicured and well-maintained.

Sir, part of the difficulty, as the Minister has said, is that these fields are old cane grounds that have been transformed into playing fields but they still carry the characteristics of the cracks and cane holes and therefore, the bounce is uneven and quite disastrous and you are not able to play with surety and panache which is part of your game.

Mr. Speaker, the support is necessary. Sir, a Democratic Labour Party's Government will waive the departure tax on all sports teams coming and going out of Barbados. It must be done. These individuals are not going to represent themselves. When they put on the ultra marine and gold, or as some people call it, blue and gold, they are representing a nation. Therefore, the nation should not burden those who go to represent them. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party Government, committed to the development of sports, will waive the departure tax.

Sir, I want to commend those persons at the Ministry of Finance, who, every time we write asking for a waiver of duty on particular items to support the national programme, we would get a response, 99.9 per cent of the time, in the positive.

11.20 a.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(Edited)

Mr. R.D. JONES: As I have said, I am not here to cut down. I am also here to say thanks to those who, as a result of their responsibility, would support the sport in this way. Sir, I do not think there should be this constant trek and movement of paper across this space. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party Government would say to all national sporting organisations, in a priortised list, which include hockey, netball, cricket, football, all the mass-based sports that they would be able to bring into Barbados their boots, clothing, equipment and gear to a certain quantum every year, without having to approach or write the Ministry of Finance to get a waiver of duty and, this would be embedded within the polices of the system.

Mr. Speaker, it really does not make sense. The Barbados Football Association brought into Barbados in the last year, over $100 000 in equipment and gear to support its national initiatives and national programme, which consisted of balls, jerseys, pants, socks, nets and all those things, which support a programme. On each and every occasion, because they would come in tranches, you would have to write for that and, I think it is something that needs to be eliminated out of the system and make it easier for sport teams to be saluted as part of the effort of the nation. Sir, the State has a right to remove those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the system as it current is, you have to write. We do write and, 99.9 per cent of the times, we are facilitated. Sir, even for this project, when one wrote the various parties previously, the responded well by saying that once the project is commenced that the Ministry of Finance has approved, in principle, a waiver of the import duty payable on these items, which are specifically geared toward the project. Sir, this correspondence was since April 2003, which came from the Ministry of Finance.

*Asides.*

Mr. R.D. JONES: You are not listening. This is from the Ministry of Finance. This is not from the Cabinet, who is talking about the waiver of duty on the start of the project on those items. These are not necessary costs that passed to the association but, they are quantifiable costs. I might then be able to stretch the dollar to facilitate the project based on things such as this. We want more of this commitment for sports and sports development in Barbados. We want more persons in the general public to support the sport. There might be some members in here but I did not see any of them at the National Stadium, supporting the national team - not that I can see everybody, I cannot.

Sir, the national football team is involved in a very critical game in the Digital Caribbean Cup, they played on Sunday, there are four teams playing in Group C to go on to Trinidad & Tobago and one would want to see the representatives of the people and the general public of Barbados turning out in large numbers, supporting the national team. There is no member of Parliament, who would be charged a fee to enter the national stadium and, therefore, you could come and support the national effort.

Mr. Speaker, the team won two to one, against the Bahamas, who were playing for the first time, someone said that we should have won seven to one but at least, Mr. Speaker, we have three points on the board and, we meet St. Vincent tonight and St. Vincent is ranked 85th in the world. Therefore, I want to tender an invitation to all of you, to come out and support the national team. Your face will inspire these youngsters to play even with greater heart. Sir, the skill is there but they will play with grater heart, knowing that the representatives of the people are working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, there were challenges because the National Stadium is out of use because of cultural events. Sir, when trucks drive across it and the stage goes up, you cannot train on it, you have to train at Weymouth, which is really unsuitable for training purposes and, you cannot always get Dover.

Mr. Speaker, there are three agencies that I want to thank. The Deighton Griffith Secondary School has always been a tower of strength, especially as it supports the youth programme of the Barbados Football Association. The Barbados Community College and, more recently, Harrison College has come on board, intermittently, to support that effort. Sir, with fields such as this, it means that your national programme has a dedicated facility, at which they can play, without putting stress on some of the other facilities, which would be still used from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the challenges was that the Chief Town Planner said to us way back then, when permission was given for the project, that we could not have lights, either temporary or permanent, at the facility. Sir, I like to use the exact words. He said that the permission expressedly prohibits the use of temporary or permanent light fixtures for the illumination of the football field at Wildey Gymnasium.

Mr. Speaker, right across Barbados, the Government acting through its agency, the National Sports Council has put up lights in several fields across Barbados. Sir, light have been put up in Wotton, Silver Sands, Parish Land, Speightstown, Black Bess, Blades Hill, all across Barbados. One could argue that they are not the brightest of light but things develop over time and, Sir, young people play. They are able to come home from work or school, get their meals, have their baths, go out at 6.00 p.m. and play the relative sport, be it softball, cricket, football, basketball or whatever else you have but, on this occasion, at a facility for training, you had to train between 6.00 a.m. in the morning and 6.00 p.m. in the afternoon when those persons are either at school or at work and, up to now, we do not understand. Sir, in our desire to propel the project, we have accepted this type of stipulation in the early stages to get the project going.

Mr. Speaker, rest assured, one has to put it back on the agenda because it is not a disturbance to the residents of that particular area. Sir one has to be conscious of citizens around and, therefore, you do not play until 12:00 midnight or 1.00 a.m. in the morning and bring loud music to the community and destroy their property. Mr. Speaker, there will be none of that because football at every ground in Barbados finishes at 9.45 p.m. and within 15 minutes everyone is dispersed to their homes.

Sir, to make sense of this, one would hope that this particular prohibition is removed, that young people coming from school, even if one team starts at 4.00 p.m., then another team could start at 6.00 p.m., another team could start at 8.00 p.m., you closed down the lights, close the facility and people can then go to their respective homes without disturbing too many persons within the particular area. Sir, this one is terribly distressing that we have lights in other communities in Barbados but, on this occasion, you cannot have lights.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go on but I could speak for a day and more on the issue of sports but, I will leave that for another time and another place.

Mr. Speaker, it is good that the lease came, albeit after three years.

*H117/11:30*

*Sequence 9*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Mr. R.D. JONES: I am stating my thanks to the current Minister of Housing and Lands who, acting on our urging, brought the matter with such expeditiousness to the Floor of Parliament. I look forward to even further support.

Sir, at the time the project was costing $1.3 million. This is three years ago. One could well- understand now that it is almost approaching $2 million. Mr. Speaker, FIFA did not change the amount of money provided. We will, therefore, need the assistance of the State to carry the project even further, and we will seek other resources. The assistance of the State now, is necessary. I think that it is the State's responsibility, particularly, since it took three

years and some months for the lease to be approved. Therefore, there must be some responsibility on the State, relative to their own level of negligence, to ensure that the facility comes to fruition and that our young people, such as Richard Jones, a brilliant under-21 footballer and others of that ilk, who come from all over Barbados, including St. Michael Central, with some excellent teams, "Exactly Unified", Barcelona.

Mr. Speaker, I can name all of them for you. You may know ten of them but there are really twelve of them, particularly the two who will joint the BFA this year. You have not yet heard from them, but I have sent them in your direction. I have not sent them in anybody else's direction to be exploited. I have sent them in your direction, Mr. Speaker, for support and assistance to get going, relative to that.

Sir, therefore, with those words, this side would most definitely support the Resolution, and the BFA stands ready to continue in a voluntary way, to assist the development of sport, but to specifically assist the development of football in Barbados among the young, those who play competitively, and for recreation, male and female. I would particularly want to commend our female team, which is under one year old, which has grown in leaps and bounds, and is beginning to look competitive across the region, notwithstanding the might of Jamaica and Trinidad, in female football in the world.

Sir, one recognises that Jamaica is advancing to the semi-finals of the Women Gold Cup, under-20, in the CONCACAF region. Sir, we have a long way to go, but with the support OF the State and private sectors and the support of all conscious persons, who understand liberating the influence of sport, football will even go further.

Mr. President, again, I want to invite you and the Honourable Members of the Honourable House to the game tonight, which starts at 8 o'clock, where St. Vincent and the Grenadines take on Barbados. This game really will determine the two teams who will go on to the final round in Trinidad and Tobago. We surely do not want to become number three, where we have to look for money, that we do not have, to go into a playoff against Haiti and the other teams who come third within their particular zone., so, we have to come first or second. Football is actually played on the field, but we need that support and the resources to ensure that our young people continue on the kind of correct path that we need them to develop in Barbados, and to build the nation.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber as it relates to the lease of land situated in Wildey, adjacent to the Wildey Gymnasium, which lies partially in the constituency of the Honourable Member, who just spoke, who is also President of the Barbados Football Association.

Sir, this lease of land, in my view, is very critical to the further development of soccer in Barbados. I would want to use this opportunity, in a bipartisan way, to really congratulate the Honourable Member and President of the BFA, for making this application to have this land available to the soccer community across Barbados.

Sir, I say that it is critical from the perspective that soccer has developed to a level through the world as an import/export business. Therefore, the facilities that would be required for such development, must always be available, for Barbados to have its required standard of footballers for import/export. Let me explain that import and export aspect.

Mr. Speaker, there are many clubs across Europe, particularly in England, and North America who are looking for the best talents coming out of the Caribbean. Sir, when America hosted the World Cup, it is the only nation, to my recollection, that would have made a profit of $66 million from the World Cup. Therefore, you would see that organising major league soccer is important. The fact is, there are drawing a lot of their players from the Caribbean. England is also drawing a lot of their players from the Caribbean.

In fact, the match between Barbados and St. Vincent tonight, includes a Barbadian professional player. I say that because it is also critical that we pay special attention to the administration of football in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Member that there should be for a waiver of the tax, that is the departure tax, for all sporting organisations leaving Barbados, because, after all, they are acting in an ambassadorial capacity when they leave Barbados to represent this country. This should not be a privilege reserved for only national organisations.

Sir, the community-based sports organisations and the council, should also be the recipients of this noble gesture by Government. Therefore, I am saying that it should be spread across the broad spectrum, of those credible functioning community-based organisations, and should be accorded the status of a complete waiver of departure tax.

Sir, the national associations across Barbados do not only plan activities in terms of travelling overseas and competing in community-based and regional activities,. Most of the footballing clubs that are properly organised,

also make trips at Easter, during the long summer vacation, and particularly coming up to December.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like the waiver of duties to be accorded to the community-based organisations, not all. There are some very credible and well-organised community-based organisations. I can speak about Eden Lodge, Gall Hill, Pinelands, Sonics, St. John, Ellerton and a number of well-organised communities, that should be beneficiaries of the tax waiver.

Sir, my preference for the location of the present facility for the Barbados Football Association would have been at the Pine Basin. Sir, the Pine Basin is beautiful. It is picturesque and it is a wonderful site where we could have the National Headquarters for the Barbados Football Association.

Mr. Speaker, let me be more graphic in my explanation. The Wildey Gymnasium has a number of sporting activities, besides basketball and netball, on the inside. They are people who trek early on mornings to do their various exercises, in terms of walking and jogging. There are the hockey, road tennis and a number of activities at the Wildey Gymnasium.

11.40 a.m.

*Sequence 10*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

*House 117, Sequence 11, 11.40 a.m.*

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Sir, if you want to see what is really happening, put all of these national activities together, the geographical location of these sports, and you would see quite clearly. Sir, five years ago in this Honourable Chamber, I spoke of Wildey becoming the capital of sports in Barbados. At that time, everybody laughed and made sport but what is happening - God moves in a mysterious way - is that the BFA Headquarters will be coming there, and volleyball and different sporting activities are happening in Wildey. Therefore, it is like you are watching it unfold over a period of time.

I am saying now that the Pine Basin should be developed, not only to accommodate soccer but currently MPW uses it as a cricketing facility in the BCA League. There is no person who sees this wonderful area who would not think that does not lend itself to being the headquarters for many sporting activities in Barbados.

In actual fact, Sir, I believe that in Barbados, we have come to a time now where we should have four major sporting facilities in this country. The National Stadium and Kensington should not be the only two. There is a need for one in the north, and I must tell you that the organisers at the community-based organisation, North Stars are doing a wonder job. Then, there is one needed for the middle of Barbados to accommodate, St. George, St. Philip, St. Joseph, et cetera.

Sir, we have to start putting specific emphasis on sports, and seeing sports now differently. Sir, rather than the traditional approach, we should see sports as an employment generator, which would earn income for hundreds of sportsmen in Barbados.

Sir, let me address another critical problem that we are experiencing. There is no way in our development as we are in now, that any sportsman who represents this country, whether it is at the regional or international level, should be without a job. Sir, I repeat. There is no sportsman, once they are competent mentally and physically, who should be without a job in Barbados, having represented this country at the national level.

Sir, I draw from that because in my office, I meet good sportsmen, who are struggling now to find work, would have represented this country, would have paid their dues over and over, and would have sacrificed in times when sports was offering very little. Sir, it is a heartbreak to see these persons struggling, and some of them have even played cricket for the West Indies but they are still struggling.

I believe that as a policy, we should adopt a strategy to target all of these sports people, who are without work. We should place them in the work that is commensurate with their skills, their area of specialisation, particularly their sport, and have them drafted into that framework.

Additionally, Sir, I want to say that the Barbados Defence Force Sports (BDF) Programme is probably one of the most successful youth programmes that we have in Barbados. I would like to see the Barbados Defence Force Youth Sports Programme moved away from only the Garrison, replicated across the communities in Barbados, being fused with the Community Technology Programme and the Barbados Skills Training Programme. Sir, There is a reason for this.

Sir, imagine the professionals at the Barbados Defence Force coming into the community, and all of the youngsters, particularly those who are interested in soccer development and cricket development, getting their early training on mornings. Then, you are looking to export the best talent from Barbados overseas, and particularly from the Caribbean, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago where Trinidad and Tobago have a professional league. Joe Public was just here. Barbados also needs to develop a semi or a professional league for our sportsmen, and use it as an income generating product.

Additionally, when those youngsters have completed the training in soccer and cricket on mornings, then they could go into the community facility and learn a skill, either computer technology, plumbing or another technical skill. Sir, on a fortnightly basis, those persons could be given the same stipend that they currently get from the National Assistance Board.

Sir, you would not have to uproot the young sportsmen from their respective communities to place them in a national service. This service would be right there in the communities. You would be stabilising the communities, harmonising the communities and you would be developing serious community practitioners.

Sir, there is a critical need for a revival of the Barbados Cricket League. We have this false notion across Barbados that you only begin to learn sports when you get to school, nonsense. You begin to learn sports in your own community first.

In fact, if you really understand sports and you have that keen emotion and passion for sports, particularly if you are interested in cricket, the first thing that you learn to do when the rain is falling, is to play "Blind Man Cricket" Sir, now that I am thinking about it, I realise that there are many versions of the modern game of cricket, and we have not yet begun to tap into the wealth of economic potential activity. Let me throw it to the broad spectrum.

CBC did a wonderful thing two nights ago when they showed, "kneeling Down Cricket".

*Asides.*

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: You call it "Marble Cricket" but we call it "Kneeling Down Cricket" at the community level.

Sir, there is also "Tape Ball Cricket". We hear about 20/20 Cricket, but when Winston Connell was alive, we used to play 15 Overs, and then you batted through. Nobody has ever toyed, up too now, with the potential of playing Limited Overs Cricket in the First Innings, and then play the regular game in the Second Innings. It was a wonderful concept. Now, you get the experts who come in and the persons with money and they developed 20/20 Cricket.

*Asides.*

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Winston Connell, exactly. Every Sunday in Barbados, there used to be a wide cross-section of potential Barbadian cricketers, playing at the community level. The communities were stabilised and harmonised because communities were interacting. Everybody is onto 20/20 but we were also playing 25 Overs Limited Cricket. It was just five Overs more, with the same restrictions in place.

Sir, my point is that now, we have to examine all of those different versions of the game. We could reintroduce them, market them properly, and develop a sporting programme that would bring benefits to our sportsmen.

Sir, the Honourable Member would be familiar with the stress that he and I had, in relation to residents of Fort George Heights and Upton, when the residents were very much not in favour of the facility being placed there. The residents complained about the noise level, the glare of the lights that would be shining in their homes, and the potential of the depreciation of their properties.

I remember sitting with the Honourable Member for St. James South at meetings at the Wildey Gymnasium. The Town and Country Department was represented, and the residents were assured that an impact assessment study would have been carried out, before the final determination was made for the approval for the playing field.

Sir, let me say that I am not against the BFA having a playing field. As I said, I would have liked it in the heart of the Pine Basin, which incidentally is in my constituency. My constituency borders his, but I am dealing on a matter of principle.

Sir, I strongly believe that no person, who purchases property in Barbados, particularly in an upscale neighborhood, should suffer the indignity of having that property depreciated, after they have made that investment.

*Asides.*

*House 117, Sequence 11, 11:50:14*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, if the Honourable Minister of Sports was living in an upscale facility and has invested in that property for himself and his children and his children's children, he would fight tooth and nail to protect that investment.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am putting that on the Floor of this House, but I also represent the poor communities from which I came. I am talking about a protectionist policy to protect those people who have made these investments. I feel strongly about the protection of those people's properties in Fort George Heights and Upton who would have struggled and would have made their investment in the land up there. Sir, I am saying that because it is my understanding that there might be some

intrusion of traffic from the main road of the highway into Fort George Heights.

Sir, let me say in this Honourable Chamber, by using a part of my expression, that I would have to 'bite out the Minister's throat' if any traffic is allowed to intrude again through the back of Fort George Heights in this area where these persons have invested their money into their properties. Sir, that would be a bad thing. Sir, I would have also said that if it were the Pine, Wildey or any other area in which persons have invested their moneys because their investments must be secured. Sir, I also want to get to another point which is critical, which is the involvement of our youth. Sir, it is time that we start paying much more attention to the sponsored Banks/Mico Mini League tournament. Sir, many of our youth traverse on Saturdays particularly during the months of January to May to represent their various communities in youth football, but not enough attention, to my mind, is paid to youth football at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East made a very telling statement when he spoke about the redevelopment and the refocusing of community sports. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy also speaks to the development, not only of community sports but community tourism, et cetera. Sir, my point is that the communities across Barbados must be given more than a participatory role. They should be empowered to determine for themselves the type of social programmes, sporting programme sand cultural programmes that they need. We must also extend that to the divestment process where you divest some of Government's properties within the ambit of these community-based organisations.

Additionally, I also believe that a new focus and a new approach is needed. It is time that we accept the phrase that community workers be coined as community practitioners. Sir, the Honourable Minister of Sports is sitting right in front of me. Sir, he is my very good friend, we do not have a disagreement.

Sir, on this wonderful Floor, probably the best democracy in the entire world, I am allowed to express my feelings as I should. Sir, I represent the constituency of St. Michael South East, which is possibly the most densely populated constituency in Barbados, where in terms of a demographic figure, we have 17 500 people living on 17 acres of land, which is approximately 1 000 persons per acre, so I have an inherent right to represent them. I also believe that I came in here with the same privilege as all other Honourable Members, because I did not come in here with Ys and they came in with Xs, I came in with the same Xs as them.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am saying that I have the same privilege in here as anybody else and I will speak when I have to speak and I will sit down when I have to sit down. Right now I am speaking and I am on my feet. Sir, what I say might not always be palatable to the ears, it might prick some people's conscience.

Sir, I am going to deal with the reality of the situation. Therefore, it is against that background that I am calling on the Honourable Minister of Sports to please give me the lights at Dash Valley, in St. George that I wrote his predecessors about. Sir, the Minister of Sports is well aware of the picturesque view. Sir, that field is one of the biggest fields in Barbados and all we need there is the lights in Dash Valley, in St. George.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member spoke about the development of women's cricket, but women's cricket in Barbados is getting to a stage now where it is virtually dying. I think there are only five or six women's cricket teams that are now existing. Sir, we need a rejuvenation as it relates to women's cricket in Barbados. There was a time when 30 or 40 women's cricket teams exist in Barbados, now one could only find about six or seven. Sir, women's cricket is played at Passage Road.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the current team, particularly Mr. Campbell who is the manager of the Barbados Women's Cricket team. Sir, if one recalls well, one would remember that the Barbados Women's Cricket team won the inaugural West Indies Knockout Cricket tournament. This is a very young team and they are groing from strength to strength. I am sure that the Minister of Sports in his consideration would give particular consideration to giving them a special subvention so that we could further develop this particular sports.

Mr. Speaker, women's cricket is played at a very high level in all of the cricketing countries across the world. When women's cricket first came on the scene in Barbados it had a huge following, but suddenly it began to die off. I am saying that women's cricket did not begin in the 1990s or the 1980s in Barbados. Women's cricket started playing in the community as way back as the early 1970s. Sir, one of the pioneers of women's cricket in Barbados, you would not believe it, is the current champion band designer of Barbados, Gwyneth Squires. She used to organise women's cricket across Barbados and we need to develop that.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to hear about the large sum of money that the Barbados Football Association gets, and I am saying to the President that if he gives me a little donation out of the $250 000 for my sports team, I would welcome it.

*Asides.*

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am looking at your current income versus expenditure and how you disburse the expenditure. All I am asking is that you give me a little piece in St. Michael South East too. Sir, I made that request to make the larger point. Mr. Speaker, almost every community across Barbados now organises a community soccer tournament particularly at this time of the year, based on the restrictions from people and now recently Digicel because the Digicel Cup is played. Therefore, I would like an examination of those functioning community soccer clubs across Barbados - because they are clubs that are exclusively geared toward the development of soccer and only take part in soccer competitions - and if there is a council in the area that we provide some small subvention to help them. Mr. Speaker, these are areas that we must look at and we must deal with them in a very serious way.

Mr. Speaker, community participation is the way to go. The community approach to sports in this new globalised economy is critical. We have now to redevelop and reorganise our strategies at the community level. Our policy directives should be geared to the stabilisation and harmonisation of communities across Barbados.

Sir, in terms of soccer - and I hope the President would do it - we should also establish a soccer hall of fame at the National Stadium for all of those soccer players particularly the Jerry Goddards, the Eric Alleynes, the Philip Blagroves, the Wayne Oneales, the Colin Fordes, and the Norman Fordes, et cetera, so that those footballers will be remembered for a very long time in the history of this country.

*House 117 Sequence 12*

*12:00 noon*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, the community-based approach to sports in Barbados is a very critical. It gets to the heart and the functioning and orchestrating of the community level. Any politician, worth his salt, will have a very serious community-based programme, unless he is hypocritical of the fact. Sir, if we agree to that, we would therefore be saying that the equation is that we must now have to redirect our policies to that of a community-based approach.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that our focus now has to be at the community level; that consideration should also be given that the community-based organisations should be subjected to some of the incentives of Government, those that are functioning and those that are very credible. I am calling for a soccer hall of fame. I am not calling it football hall of fame because of the fact that football has now evolved into a game that is technical, very businesslike in terms of its approach and now it has gone to a level where the international countries are trying to attract the best players from this region.

Mr. Speaker, against that background, I have no doubt in my mind that the Honourable Minister of Sports, will obviously follow the community-based approach and adopt this policy. Mr. Speaker, finally, there is no greater force than an idea and people, whose time has come.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this Resolution and to say from the outset that I find it rather strange that a Resolution like this would have taken so long to come before Parliament. As far back as we discussed the Youth Commissioners, the Resident Beat Officers, the point was made in this Parliament that sports has a major role to play in the development of this country and that if we are serious in dealing with the problems, as they relate to the youth of Barbados, then we must find a serious sporting programme, to deal with the social problems, as they relate to the youth of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I remember making the point that whenever Barbados decides to put together a serious sporting programme, one which involves football, using the Youth Commissioners and Resident Beat Officers, then Barbados is set to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, as far back as l994, in one of my campaign speeches, I made the point that considering United States of America was interested in World Cup Football, that it would have served Barbados well to develop football at the highest level, so that when the scouts from the United States of America are visiting the Caribbean that Barbados would have been on the first boat to send persons to the United States of America to help play there and for them to earn foreign exchange for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the problem in this country is that whenever we use the word community, we tend to think of poor people. Once we think of poor people, it is relegated to the back burners and nobody thinks it is important and therefore what we have to do is ignored.

Mr. Speaker, it is worrying for the President of the Football Association to tell this Parliament that it would have cost his association $l.3 million, to set up at Wildey, had the plans been approved, if the lease was approved previously and that now an associations that is looking after the interest of the masses of people of Barbados would now have to look for almost $750 000 more out of funds they do not have, in order to set up something which is due to the fault of the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, what is worrying is that this inflow will cost the Government no money, FIFA is prepared to put

inflows into this country and the Government is sitting on a lease for the Barbados Football Association that can bring foreign exchange into the country, a country that is starved of foreign exchange. Sir, on top of that, we cannot only see it from the $750 000, what we need now to see is a situation had the field and headquarters been in place and the level of football had been allowed to flow, what would have been the inflows from those players, who would have developed themselves over the year, and would have been making remittances to Barbados. Therefore, it is much bigger than $75 000. Sir, the Government has to account to this Parliament as to why it continues to drag its feet on such important matters.

Mr. Speaker, today we are speaking about the Football Association but I can also speak about North Stars Football Club, which, for years, has been waiting on this Government, in circumstances where every Minister has promised me that they would do the necessary to have the land acquisition completed, so that North Stars could get some improved stands but up to now, there has been no progress made. Sir, this is because of the fact that North Stars Football Club is in rural Barbados, and this Government has no interest in rural Barbados. Had it been urban Barbados, this Government would have found the resources, even though it might create traffic confusion.

Sir, rural Barbados has been neglected. There is no doubt that never mind whoever you speak to, once there are persons coming into Barbados that they go to North Stars, they normally like everything they see but yet, it has to be starved. Sir, somebody believes that North Stars happen to be in urban Barbados and the grounds is best suitable for the Football Association... I have also offered the Barbados Football Association, land in the north of Barbados, which is suitable, would not create confusion and I am waiting to see when it would be accepted.

Mr. Speaker, we have three choices: they can play at Checker Hall, at Grape Hall or at Lowlands. All three fields are big enough to accommodate them.

Aside.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: And the airport would soon be there too. And if the Prime Minister does not want the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we want that too and have room for it. Furthermore, if they do not want Speigtstown to be the second town, we have enough space in Moon Town to expand that too. Sir, whatever they do not want, we want, as long as it is right and we have the room to accommodate it. Sir, I am saying we must understand that developing sports in Barbados is also to develop the minds of the young people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, there was a Headmaster at the Coleridge and Parry School, called Mr. J. S. Yearwood, who always used to say that any school that does not have a good sporting programme, is not a school set for its students to learn. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. James North knows very well. The Headmaster was so interested in sports that whenever they were playing football, some youngsters would stand next to the Headmaster's foot because he was very famous for sidelining football.

Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that if there are 15 000 persons in Barbados who play football, that is a significant amount of people who would be playing football. Sir, this cannot be ignored. The mere fact that you have 15 000 persons playing football, you must consider the number of persons who would be attending this particular sports. If you want to see seriousness and the interest...A lot of people believe that football is only recognised in urban Barbados and that is not true. Persons could come to St. Lucy on weekends and they would see the number of cars from all over Barbados that come to the Checker Hall Playing Field. If you were to see the array of number plates, you would not believe it. St. Lucy is not behind God's back, St. Lucy is right up in his face and if people believe it is behind God's back, it would be for one good reason; it would be because he can trust the people of St. Lucy.

*Asides.*

12.10 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(Edited)

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have also made a point in Barbados that has been ignored. I am happy to hear the President of the Barbados Football Association making the point about the achievement of the Barbados football team. The most significant point that has to be made is that it is not only the improvement of the Barbados football team but it is the improvement in the captain.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Norman Forde has brought a level of professionalism to the Barbados football team and has now put it to the highest heights that it will ever get. This shows that if you see someone with talent, that you cannot continue to hide that talent away from the people. I want to thank the selectors and the Barbados Football Association in recognising that point in bringing Norman Forde, a very talented young man, up to a level that he should have been ever since. He has demonstrated without a shadow of a doubt that he has the ability not only to transform himself but to transform the team, which leads me to another point, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I have said months ago that the same point that the Barbados Football Association has now acknowledged, I hope that the Barbados Cricket Association would also acknowledge. Sir, I want to repeat that Barbados cricket would only go further when we acknowledge that Dwayne Smith must be the captain of the Barbados Cricket Team.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, we are speaking about sports. I am not going to argue with you...

Mr. SPEAKER: We are speaking about general matters so there is no need to go into specific details concerning associations, selection of teams, position of cricketers or anything like that.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, this is not a point about associations. Parliament is supposed to bring the debate to a higher level to bring out the best of persons but Sir, I will not argue with the Chair. Mr. Speaker, I am making the point that the same way that the Barbados Football Association has acknowledged the point that Barbados Cricket Association has to acknowledge the point and that they need to carry cricket to the same level that Barbados Football Association is now taking football. Sir, the Dwayne Smiths would be dealt with in the column on Friday, where the latitude would not be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Sports and the Minister of Housing must understand that there must stop dragging their feet on progressive Resolutions, which have to come before this Parliament. Sir, people must understand that foresight is not something that you find in a textbook, it must come from within. Sir, I honestly believe that foresight should not be blocked anywhere in Barbados, that foresight should be acknowledged in Barbados and given leverage and latitude.

Mr. SPEAKER: I try to ensure that I do not go to the mental institution.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am glad that within the last 12 years that you did not have an opportunity to go there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the speed and timing of Resolutions are important. We must ensure that the Resolutions before Parliament so that the costs would not be increased for those organisations, which have to bring these particular Resolutions before Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, we must understand that the Barbados Football Association cannot afford to lose $400 000 in foreign exchange for their capital project.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: No, not under Jones, it was under the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Sports and the Cabinet of Barbados. We stand to lose US$400 000, if we do not put things in place to ensure that the Barbados Football Association can draw down this money.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the Barbados Football Association has to understand that there is a need to ensure that football in rural Barbados and players in rural Barbados are not judged only because of the Premier League, that the Barbados Football Association ensures that they send scouts throughout Barbados to identify good players whether it be in the Parish Tournament or whatever to ensure that the best players play for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe in this system that you can only play for Barbados if you are a member of the Premier League. The same way that I do not believe that you can only play cricket for Barbados if you are a member of the BCA team. I honestly believe that considering the position we are in sports, that the various organisations should have scouts going through Barbados and identifying those players, who have talents. I think it is a crime for rural Barbados to be robbed of their good players.

Sir, if a person wants to play for Barbados, he should not have to move from rural Barbados to go to urban Barbados just to be recognised. Sir, rural Barbados is part of Barbados and a man has a right to represent the interest and the place of birth. It should not be forced on that person to give up the right to where he lives, to move from where he was born and move to urban Barbados to get recognition.

Mr. Speaker, we now have changes in the world and changes in technology and the associations need to change their approach and recognise everybody, based on talent and not based on clubs. We have to understand, if we are serious about young people that we need to keep young people from rural Barbados in that rural culture and that it is not necessary to bring them into the urban culture in order to get a place in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we also have to understand that we need to see a blend between the Resident Beat Officer and the Youth Commissioner because there are some people who want you to believe that there is something wrong in playing football and that a particular crowd follows football. Sir, if it is the impression of people that only a particular crowd follows football, then we must do

something to ensure that the whole of Barbados is following football.

Mr. Speaker, football now cannot be a sport only for a select group, it has to be sport for total Barbados and, when you go to football, you must feel comfortable being at football and not have to worry about what might go on at football. Sir, that is why we need not only an organised sports programme from the BFA but we need to see an organised sports programme also from the Government of Barbados.

*H117/12:20*

*Sequence 14*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, if we stand to gain money from sports, then the Government must be prepared to put some money in sports. I am saying, that it is time that the Government sits down with the Barbados Football Association, the Barbados Cricket Association and other sporting organisations, to map out a plan for sports to reach the highest height, and to earn foreign exchange for this country.

Sir, I am saying that as we are now foreign exchange starved, we cannot afford to wait as long as we did with this particular lease, but we must put some urgency into these matters and deal with them.

Sir, at this time, I would ask the Minister of Sports and the Minister of Housing, when they are going to tackle the serious problem, as it relates to the land acquisition at North Stars. I would like to ask, considering that we have already fouled up with World Cup, what are they going to do with the ICC tournament, that is due to come to Barbados in 2010. Are we going to commit the same errors as it relates to traffic flow, or will we see some foresight, recognising that we have made an error handling World Cup 2007? Will we do everything necessary to correct the problems we have created for 2007, and iron them out in 2010, by coming to the north of Barbados? I hope we do not put confusion on top of confusion.

Mr. Speaker, I have recognised that since we have spoken about World Cup 2007, the Honourable Member for St. George North has gathered some more grey hair, due to the problems put on his plate, that are no making of his own.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, what are you talking about?

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

Mr. R.D. MARSHALL: beg to second that.

*The question that the House be suspended until 1.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.*

12.22 p.m.

*Sequence 15*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

*House 117, Sequence 16, 1.31 p.m.*

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

His Honour J.M. EDGHILL: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all let me say that I am supporting this Resolution that is before the Honourable House, where the Government is giving the Barbados Football Association a parcel of land in Wildey Christ Church for this use. Obviously, this would redound to the benefit of football generally in Barbados, because this was the sort of home that was needed for quite some time.

I could remember some seven years ago, a great Brazilian footballer, Georgino, came to Barbados and had a look at the talent available to him in Barbados. Sir, out of that, he was able to come to the opinion that the junior footballers in Barbados are just as talented as the junior footballers in Brazil.

I am quite sure that most of you would have heard the name, Georgino, who would have played football for Brazil, as far back as 1982. At that time, he played in the 4-2-4 System, so he was the Left Winger. If he was playing in today's football, he would possibly be playing as a wide Mid Fielder, in the 4-4-2 Formation.

When Georgino came to Barbados, he was cognizant of the fact that we adopt the Brazilian type of football. He looked at the strategy of the young footballers, but what he said was lacking was that we were not playing as good a team game as we should. There is no doubt that there is a lot of talent in Barbados, and it is important for the

Government to help the Barbados Football Association so that this talent could be developed.

Sir, right now, there are approximately 10 teams playing in the Premier League Football in Barbados. I think there is a problem with sponsorship, and I would like to see corporate Barbados being more involved in sponsoring football, especially at the Premier League level. I feel that it would be good if each team in the Premier League Competition, would be sponsored up to the tune of $15 000, and I am quite sure that you would see a great improvement in the standard of football in Barbados.

We must recognise that a football is the biggest mass sport in Barbados. More than 15 000 persons play football in Barbados on a fairly regular basis. There are many more thousands of persons who just simply play a little backyard football, from time to time.

I think that football in Barbados needs some real support. The Barbados Football Association could only do so much. However, I would like to see the Barbados Football Association become more serious, and thinking in terms of getting a full-time coach. It is also very important for the Barbados Football Association to think in terms of a full-time manager, so that Barbados could gain some sort of recognition internationally.

For example, if you look at a team like Brazil, which has more than 4 000 persons playing professional football across La Lega, Serra do Mar, Brunus League, in Portugal, even across south and central America, and as far afield as Japan, you will see the potential for football in Barbados.

I am one of these persons who feel that as long as we are able to promote football in the right way, we should be able to get at least 250 to 300 young Barbadians playing football professionally. This will bring very good money to the footballers, and to the country.

When you look at Brazil, La Lega football, for example, in the first 20 top players, there are at least four Brazilians. If you look at Syria, it is almost similar. If you had to go to the Portugese Premier League, you would find possibly 50 per cent of the best players. Sir, 50 per cent of the Portugese Premier League are Brazilians.

Therefore, I am telling you that football has the capacity to employ many more persons in Barbados than cricket. I am not saying that we should not spend money in cricket, but if you are going to be spending the sums that I have been hearing in recent time on cricket, I think it is very important that the footballers in Barbados should get a bigger piece of the cake.

We also need to have more of the playing facilities in Barbados lit at night. For example, by 5:00 to 5:30 some evenings, it becomes dark. Sir, most of the footballers work from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and they are scarcely able to practice effectively and sufficiently. I would like to see more lights installed at some of the playing facilities in Barbados. For example, I would like to see some lights installed at Maxwell in my constituency. Maxwell has a pavilion, and Maxwell is almost the centre of Christ Church and it would be good for Maxwell to get that type of facility.

As a matter of fact, there are no lights in the constituency of Christ Church West Central. I am hoping that the Minister would give me some recognition and a few dollars, so that the people in Maxwell will be able to get lights to be able to play football or night cricket.

I think the Minister of Sports is also aware of the fact that Gall Hill needs a playing facility. This was promised to Gall Hill for a long time, some 12 years, and until now, I am not quite sure what is happening. I have been hearing all sorts of things from time to time, some not the truth. I would like to ask the Honourable Member for St. Philip South to give me a date when they will start working on the facility of Gall Hill in Christ Church.

*House 117, Sequence 16, 13:40:14*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL: This Club, the Pride of Gall Hill, has been able to provide many good footballers for the national team. If one looks at the Barbados junior team now, one would see that it is virtually dominated by players from the Pride of Gall Hill. The Pride of Gall Hill Football team right now is the only Club, since 1985, which is approximately 21 years, that has remained in the Premier League of the Division One competition for the last 25 years. Sir, the great Weymouth Wales, Notre Dame, Haynesville and all the other teams came up and faltered somewhere along the line, but the Pride of Gall Hill has been able to remain in the highest league of football for a very long time.

Mr. Speaker, right now some of the people in the area are becoming a bit angry at the whole situation since this facility was promised to them so long ago. Mr. Speaker, one must understand that there are over 200 members playing football for this Club. There are four divisions in the Barbados Football Association competition and this club has about four junior teams and a Master's team and I understand that soon from now there would be two Master's teams. Mr. Speaker, I am not too pleased with what has happened to this Club over the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, before the football season starts, members of this Club have to be transported sometimes to Blades Hill, St. Philip, Ellerton, St. George and all over the

place just to get a little hour or two of practising football, and this is not good at all. We also had over 16 netball teams playing in about three levels of competition within the Barbados Netball Association, but we have had to abandon the netball teams because they had no where to practice.

Mr. Speaker, the management of this Club has been talking in terms of improving the amount of disciplines at this Club once we have the improved facilities. Sir, high on the list would be basketball and volleyball. Sir, not having this facility means that the people in Christ Church are stagnated to some extent. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, exactly when work would be started on the Gall Hill facility and when it is supposed to be finished. Sir, as long as he could tell me something that I would want to hear, I would feel reasonably good. However, if he tells me something that I do not feel good about, I could be an angry man at times.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Football Association has been doing a reasonably good job over the past few years. However, it is very important for the Barbados Football Association to think in terms of strengthening their management structure. Sir, by so doing, I would like to see the Barbados Football Association coming around at the various clubs so that the clubs could organise their management in a far better way. Nowadays, I find that we are producing groups which call themselves clubs but in actual fact they are really just a group of people playing football under the umbrella of a club. Sir, having talked to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, I think that he is going to put some emphasis on this particular situation because football, has the capacity to employ a lot of people.

Mr. Speaker, over the years we have been able to produce quite a number of very outstanding players in Barbados. I know the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would like me to call the name Norman Forde, who has definitely played good football over the years. Sir, prior to him we would have had people like Ricardo Goddard, whom I consider as one of the better footballers as well as "Gas" Clarke, and "Fowl" Hinds.

Sir, when it comes to goalkeepers, it is my feeling that the two best goalkeepers we would have had in Barbados in the last 30 years would have been Philip Balgrove and Eyre Sealy. They were goalkeepers who were not just only acrobatic but they were able to read the game well and they were also able to have a very good understanding with the last man of the two teams. At that time Balgrove was an Everton player and Sealy was from Gall Hill.

Sir, we have had some excellent footballers and I am quite sure that with improved facilities we could get hundreds of footballers plying their trade all over the world. Right now the MLS is going to become available to everybody. Therefore, we should not be surprised if the United States of America becomes world champions in another ten years because the United States of America plans to spend a lot of money on football. Sir, with the United States of America having the money, I am quite sure that it is only a matter of time before they will be in the top three. Sir, prior to the last World Cup, the United States of America was considered No. 6, so obviously they still has a very long way to go in terms of the improvement of football within that country. However, what they have on most of us is that in almost every State there are excellent facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is going to be very important for Barbados to think in terms of having five stadia. I think it would be good to have two in St. Michael, to accommodate the residents of St. Michael; one in Christ Church; one in the eastern part of Barbados, which would accommodate St. George and St. Philip and one in western Barbados, maybe in St. Peter, which would be able to accommodate St. Lucy and St. Peter and possibly to a lesser extent a part of St. James. I think that as long as we could get these improved facilities, football in Barbados could go a long way.

Mr. Speaker, it is also very important to have a good coach. As far as I am concerned, Eyre Sealy and Keith Griffith are good coaches. Sir, we have a psyche in Barbados were the Barbadian players tend not to listen to the locals as much as they should. However, there is still a place where you could put Mr. Eyre Sealy and Mr. Keith Griffith. I think they should be coaches looking after the juniors because they are both very capable coaches. Sir, as long as we can get these two persons looking after football at the junior level and developing it, then we could have the overall coach whom I would prefer to be a Brazilian, the reason being that we tend to copy the Brazilian type of football. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would stick to that idea so that it would not be too long before we are given a good coach.

Mr. Speaker, some people feel that football is only played by poor people, but football is played in Barbados by everybody. Sir, sometimes people feel that corporate Barbados is a bit slow in getting on board because of whom they perceive as the footballers. Sir, in terms of the Masters, all of the established clubs of years ago, Carlton, Wanderers, Empire and Spartan, are involved, so football is played throughout Barbados.

1.50 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

His Hon. J. M. EDGHILL: Mr. Speaker, if you are looking at it from a health perspective where nowadays it is said that over people over the age of 40 to 50, who suffer from either hypertension, diabetes or heart-related conditions, it is very important to get people being active. As long as we could get the people over 40 and 50 years being active, I think would save the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a tremendous amount of money, especially when you look at the amount of money which is spent of diabetes alone.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that out of a budget of over $1 million, about 20 to 25 per cent is spent on diabetes. These occur just because of our bad habits, not exercising and eating very badly. I think having these sort of facilities and having these facilities lit at night, would help to improve, not only the standard of football in Barbados but the health of many persons within Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for making sure that the Football Association is going to be getting a very good facility, which I think would improve from time to time, so that the players who represent Barbados would have a good facility at which they could practice and as a result, they should be able to do even better in international football.

Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said, a regular playing field is approximately 115 yards and when you look at the facilities in Barbados one would see that they are so small that sometimes when our players get on the bigger fields, they cannot perform as well, due the fact that our facilities are relatively small, they tend to clog in the centre and you do not get the good passion and the sort of constructive play as we know they could provide.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking to the Barbados Football Association making use of this opportunity and I hope they would continue to improve the standard of football over the years. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I would want to support this lease of land to the Barbados Football Association. Sir, it was 30th January 2003, I took this matter to Cabinet for its approval for this lease and it has taken more than three years to come to Parliament. I must state from the outset that even though it has taken this long time, there were a number of community and town hall meetings which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, and the Honourable Member St. Michael South East would have attended those meetings. Of course, there were a lot of problems and challenges which had to be overcome before this matter reached Parliament. It is a fact that the residents of the area have complained and the Town Planning Department had to take these matters into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that with new technology available, I am sure in the future we could see lighting at that complex. At the time when we talked to the residents on the area they felt that the glare could have been controlled. I believe that even now we should be able to put in a system which would help the generation and development of football, as well as to protect the residents.

Sir, the truth of the matter is that the land at Wildey, since 1969, was bought for recreation, sports and housing development. I believe that both activities could coexist with new technology and intervention by the Ministry of Sports and the Town Planning Department.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to compliment the Ministry of Housing and Lands who has brought it to this stage and to remind him that there are yet a number of sporting organisations across Barbados that are still waiting for their leases from Ministry of Housing and Lands. I am hoping they could be selected and brought to this Parliament. Mr. Speaker, during my tenure as Ministry of Housing and Lands, we brought a Resolution for the Hockey Association and Swimming Association, as they all share the complex.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to find out from the Minister of Sports what is happening to the Hockey Association. This associations had put down a nice astro turf at that complex. That astro turf was put down almost l0 years now and I am aware that this association is really in need of help. I believe that the private sector must work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Sports in order to develop sports in this country.

Sir, as one looks at the asto turf one would see a nice astro turf but there is no parking facility. The stadium has not as yet been developed and there is a need for environment cleaning in that area. I believe that work has to be done at the Wildey Gymnasium, in order to provide a better sporting complex in a modern Barbados.

There was also plan by the Amateur Athletic Association to put an indoor stadium and a hostel for sports persons travelling to Barbados. I am not sure what has become of that plan, but I hope that we could see a facility going up at that complex, in order to provide accommodation for the number of sporting enthusiasts who come to Barbados from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke about the fact that the Barbados Football Association received something in the area of

US$250 000 a year. Therefore, I would want to find out if this money is actually spent on football across the country. He spoke about members of the association having to pay for their trips and activities for the council but I want to find out if this money is spent for the development of sporting facilities and to help develop football in general.

I believe as the Honourable Member rightly pointed out, football is still the number one sports across the world, but that FIFA has put this money into the various countries, in order to provide the development of the sport. Whereas we can see there were a few persons who have come to the fore, and not in a big way, even though my friend the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central mentioned the fact that there were a few good football players. He mentioned the ten best football players of all time but he did not mention the name of "Lalu" Goodridge, who has played more than l20 international games. I believe he must be mentioned as one of the players who have represented this country more than any other player in the history of football in this country. Therefore, to leave out Lalu Goodridge is really a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, in my time I have seen great players like that of "Sakis" Greg Ward, Keith Griffith and "Gas" Clarke but I believe in my humble way that Lalu Goodridge would have played more international football that these persons put together.

2.00 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(Edited)

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, it means that coming out of a humble society like Ellerton, with little or no facilities, that it is time for the Barbados Football Association to start putting some of its resources in the country area, it cannot rely on Government to do all. I think that the Barbados Football Association should do so.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the Central League tournament was held at the Glebe in St. George. Sir, I want to say something about the Glebe in a short while. Sir, when you develop these fields across rural Barbados, you help little people and young people to develop a sporting activity, whether football, cricket, volleyball or any other sport. I believe that we have to work hand in hand.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that the private sector businesses must put some resources to help sports organisations. Sir, Government over the years, certainly this Government, would have provided a number of flood lamps for a number of playing fields across Barbados, hard courts, as well as lighting entire fields. This helps to combat crime according to the statistics from the police. Sir, persons playing football, volleyball and cricket at night would have more time to devote to sports and sporting activities than doing other things and I believe that is the way to go. Mr. Speaker, businesses must come hand in hand with Government to help in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a few minutes on the Glebe playing field. Sir, I believe I would have asked all Ministers of Sports, since 1994, for the development of the Glebe playing field. Sir, the Glebe houses the George Park Cricket Club and they were playing for the last 100 years. Sir, one can safely say that it is one of the oldest BCL Cricket Clubs in Barbados yet, we do not have a pavilion at this time. I have asked all Ministers of Sports and we have been promised a small pavilion but, I am yet to see it.

Mr. Speaker, the National Sports Council, in the last year, has sent me the plans, which were approved several years ago, to put a complex at the Glebe. Sir, so far, we have raised about $5 000 to start that complex and, with the help of the private sector, I am going to do what other Honourable members have done and appeal to all the businesses in the area, to those persons who have played cricket at that complex and who have the interest of that complex at heart, to join hand in hand with me, to put a public/private sector partnership in place in order to upgrade the pavilion at the Glebe.

Mr. Speaker, I now have the plans and I believe that we could work together to develop the pavilion. We are also going to ask the Ministry of Sports to give us some help, whether technical, finances or other resources so that we could start that complex.

Mr. President, not only do we have cricket being played at the Glebe but there are other activities taking place there. Sir, according to the National Sports Council, it is highly used and every night of the week, you can see something going on at the Glebe. I therefore, want to use this opportunity to ask the Ministry of Sports to let us work together to develop this facility.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate other sporting organisations like the Barbados Volleyball Association, which has played a role. Sir, it is safe to say that the Volleyball Association, outside of cricket, has won more tournaments for Barbados than any other sport. Sir, since we are discussing sporting activities, they now use the Gymnasium Facility at Wildey and some of the land was also earmarked for the Volleyball Association at this site. I believe that the Ministry of Housing should also use this facility to help the Barbados Volleyball Association, in terms of providing a lease for them, to start the complex, which they so badly need because at the present time they are now utilising the Gymnasium and if a lease is put in place for the Volleyball Association, they would be able to have a home for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution. I believe that the Minister of Housing and Lands must put in place a unit, in order to fast-track some of these leases. I have also seen a position where a number of these leases take too long. For example, the market at the Glebe is taking too long and, therefore, I want to call on the Minister of Housing to put this unit in place in order to fast-track the various leases for the sporting organisations as well as other business investment arrangements, which are so badly needed at this time.

Sir, I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. A.P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution before this Honourable Chamber to approve the lease of 3.35 hectares of land at Wildey to the Barbados Football Association for them to move forward with this much anticipated facility, which should lead to the further development of this well-loved sport in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have had patience and I have allowed Honourable Members on this side to express themselves because I know how important a debate like this one would be to persons in this Honourable Chamber and, as Minister responsible for sports, I think I have a duty to response to some of the concerns raised and to give support, where support is due in regard to some of the things said.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any person, inside or outside of this Chamber, would doubt that sports is a powerful tool for social development. Sir, I go further in recognising the size in the amount of money that is turned over in the sport industry worldwide, that sports is indeed, a serious tool for economic development as well. Of course, all persons cannot become athletes but there are a number of ways in which most persons could participate in the development of sports. Sir, any country that is serious about the development of its people, recognising the pervasive influence of sports, would want to lend its support to the development of any sporting discipline.

*H117/14:10*

*Sequence 19*

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Hon. A.P. WOOD: Especially in this case, we are talking about a sport that attracts, based on the numbers expressed in here today, about 15 000 participants in Barbados. This is a small country for us to have 15 000 persons participating in this mass-based sport. It certainly is to this country's credit that we have been able to bring football to such a point.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start my contribution in this debate at that point. The Barbados Labour Party is indeed paying extremely close attention to the development of a national sports policy. It is true that football would have its rightful place, in the construct of a national sports policy, recognising how pervasive the influence of football will be, in the context of developing a national agenda for sports.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members speaking before me, made mention of some of the concerns that footballers have. The Honourable Member for St. George North spoke about volleyball. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East spoke about the women's cricket, et cetera.

I would just like to say that one of the things that the Government is very conscious of, in the heightened consciousness of the Government, resulted in me, as the Minister responsible for sports, having a discussion with the national associations, not very long ago. The occasion was ripe, out of the fifty-nine or so registered national sporting associations with the National Sports Council, we had participation from about fifty-two of the associations who came to Sherbourne to speak to the National Sports Council hierarchy, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports and myself. A number of interesting issues were raised, some of which were mentioned in here earlier.

Sir, we have asked them to identify during and at the end of the discussion, the five or six key things, pertaining to their associations which would allow them to move from one level to another level, that really would be a higher level. One of the things mentioned was the lack of management capacity of most associations. A very good suggestion came out, within the context of the discussion on that subject, that maybe the Government, as a very caring Government - and support in this area for other entities in Barbados is there, should establish a technical assistance fund, administered at the National Sports Council. Sir, through this fund national associations can get help with the drafting of proposals, which they would want to present to potential funding agencies, so that the construct of the proposals would be such that the agencies would be more disposed in taking the associations more seriously. Sir, maybe also, this technical assistance fund could be used to help them produce medium and long-term development plans for the sports.

Sir, it is one thing to have wide participation in the sport - but the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is in a good position to speak to this matter as well - it is another thing to provide developmental plans for the sport, so that those who are administering the sport could take the fullest advantage of there being such wide interest in the sport.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I have asked all the Presidents and others of the various associations when I met with them at Sherbourne, was the need for them to focus on the strategic direction for their sports, and those who have not produced some development plans, that they need to do so as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that suggestion is one I am willing to take on board. I think it is one of those things that the Government should want to assist the sporting associations with, that is the release of funds via a technical assistance programme, to help them to deal with the drafting of the development plans and the constructing of the proposals, especially if they are looking to get funding to develop their sports.

Mr. Speaker, a number of things came up. The professionalism of sports in Barbados, is one that calls for national attention. You do not professionalise a sport, unless there is a buy-in at the level of the entire population, because money is going to be at the heart of it. You are going to need support from the employers and you will need proper technical assistance programmes for those who are going to be participating in the sport. Ypu will also need improved facilities and access by the national teams to improved facilities for practice. We also discussed the welfare issues attendant to sports persons in Barbados, and health and nutrition issues.

Sir, an Honourable Member spoke earlier about the need for employment to be secured for those who would have been fortunate enough to make national and regional teams, and that they should not be 'scrunting'. The few representatives of association, I have spoken to, and I was in one such discussion led by the Prime Minister, we indicated to them that the welfare issues of sports persons should figure prominently in the discussions of the executives of the various associations, and it should not only be left to the Government. This is one area in which they should be working in partnership with the Government. Once a person aspires and reaches the level of national representation, I think, in my humble submission, those persons should be properly looked after as well.

Mr. Speaker, it should also occupy the attention of those who are running the associations, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Sir, what is the Ministry going to do in regard to arriving at the national agenda for sports? Mr. Speaker, sports has reached the stage now, in other countries, it is tending towards that in Barbados, that it should be treated like any other sector. The potential for economic gain by developing sports as an industry is great. We recognise that. If you look at the National Strategic Plan, you will see within there, sports takes its rightful place.

Mr. Speaker, the Legacy Plan, which is being prepared as part of Barbados' participation in the World Cup, and how the country can benefit from being part of Cricket World Cup, has a component of sports development. There is active participation within the context of the Legacy Committee of World Cup Barbados for us to determine a strategic plan for sports.

Sir, there are other efforts. I spoke about the discussion I had with fifty-two representatives of associations at Sherbourne. SIr, out of the proceedings from that discussion, gave us some very valuable information, which we can use and work into the draft of the National Strategic Plan for sports.

Mr. Speaker, there is a parallel effort, which was commissioned by the Barbados Olympic Association, and through the engagement of a Professor Higgs, from Canada, the Barbados Olympic Association, would soon be getting a revised draft of a document, which looked at the strategic positioning of sports in Barbados. Sir, the particular issues that effort is focusing on, would be institutional arrangements.

Sir, I am not going to stand here and use my time speaking about it, but there are serious deficiencies with regard to institutional arrangements for sports in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, there are manifested, time and again. You have the problems which end up, more often than not, in the law courts, so there are serious issues pertaining to the governance of sports in Barbados. We have issues pertaining to the training and welfare issues in sports. We have issues relating to the management capabilities and capacities at the level of, not only of the community clubs, but also at the level of the national associations. These are things that we want to put together in one document,...

14.40 p.m.

*Sequence 20*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

*House 117, Sequence 21, 2.20 p.m.*

Hon. A.P. WOOD: ...a document that has the buy-in of all the persons who have a vested interest in sports, so that the country would have identified the direction in which it wants to take sports in Barbados, recognising the great potential for sports as an industry, not only in small developing countries but - certainly, the evidence is there to see - in larger countries.

Mr. Speaker, we have these efforts, which are going on simultaneously and I certainly have asked for a rationalisation of these efforts and, in the not-too-distant future, for us to have a draft strategic plan for sports that

would incorporate the key elements of the efforts that are going on today.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said about community sports. I am a firm believer in the development of sports in the community. Sir, before I came to public life, I spent a lot of my time helping to organise activities in St. Philip. As I speak, I am in charge of a pool club in my area. I previously had the benefit of moving pool from a new sport to where it has reached now, through my Presidency of the Barbados Pool Development Association. I held that position for five years and I had to terminate it, once I got involved in public life. I have given a lot of man hours to the development of sports in Barbados.

At the moment I am the President of the Sunrise Cricket Club in my area, the most successful Barbados Cricket League Club in the Knock Out Competitions in the last ten years. I give a lot of my time to it because I understand that every successful national, regional and international sports person would have started somewhere in a community. Gary Sobers came from down there. Desmond Haynes came from within the bosom of the community. Thelstan Payne came from within the bosom of the community in Foul Bay.

I think that every Member on both sides of this House has a responsibility to ensure that he/she lends some support to whatever is happening at the level of the communities. Every successful sports person has roots within a community.

Mr. Speaker, in terms the Government's support for sports in Barbados, this Government has been trying its best in regard to how it supports sports in Barbados. Sir, what I would tell you, and I alluded to it earlier, that it is a lot more than just the Government responding to the request of the many associations for funds over and over. It is all about strategic positioning of sports and the better organising of sports activities, within the context of national development.

Sir, this is where we should be focusing our attention. Once we could get it right there, I am happy that there is a commitment on all sides for us to deal with the strategic positioning of sports in Barbados, the money that the Government could make available in increasing amounts, would be better spent.

Mr. Speaker, the Government, through the National Sports Council provides a subvention to National Associations, and for national teams that either participate in the regional, or international tournaments, or host tournaments in Barbados, we also provide additional funds for hosting tournaments in Barbados.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would remember when Barbados needed an injection, so that the team could have travelled to Boston, they turned to the Government and through the National Association, the Football team was helped because we understand the passion that Barbadians have for football. It was not an insignificant sum in the circumstances, because it was a very important event and we wanted to lend our support to what it is that national team was doing on our behalf.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, in a very good speech, and I had to tell him that it was one of his best speeches in this House, spoke in terms of 99.9 per cent of the times they turned to the Ministry of Finance for a relief in the payment of duties of one form or the other that it is granted.

Mr. Speaker, we also established a fund, a couple of years ago, which is used exclusively by elite athletes. We recognise that we have some athletes, who are on the verge of breaking onto the international scene, and we have some who performed fairly well that they actually broke onto the international scene. Sir, sums of money are set aside every year to help these elite athletes. Barry Forde and Andrea Blackette have benefited, some swimmers have also benefited and we will continue to do that.

Honourable Members spoke earlier about the provision and maintenance of the many recreational facilities in the country. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke about the numerous playing fields we have in the communities and schools. I want to congratulate him, Mr. Speaker, for the initiative that he took when he was responsible for sports, that is, to bring a level of equality in access to sporting equipment, within the primary school system.

Sir, I had the good fortune of getting to the Sports Council at the right time - and there is nothing better than to get the right place at the right time - but we owe it to him. I made sure that when we rolled out the delivery programme for the equipment, he got an opportunity to go at the school of his choice. I do not have to tell you where that school is located, but we went there.

Mr. Speaker, we had a situation where some of the primary schools that had better organised Parent Teachers Associations, and better support from the businesses in the communities, had a moving advantage as we call it in economics, over the other primary schools that were not so fortunate.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East said that at every level, where the Government could intervene to ensure that there is equality of access to sporting equipment so that everyone, independent of the natural

talent or who develops sporting talent, should not start at a disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, at about 80 public primary schools, we were able to donate the similar type of equipment to all of them, so that when they start the Herman Griffith School Cricket Competition, the Football Competition, or the Netball Competition, there is a minimum level of sporting equipment that every primary school has access to, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, we have gone a little further at the Sports Council. We have said that the development of a sporting talent could be better facilitated, if you have properly maintained playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central's Football Association sends a football team to a regional competition, they do not play on substandard playing fields in the main. Sir, when you look at international football played in the Spain or England, the type of turfs that you see there, leave us to wonder. They are in pristine condition.

We are saying that we need to up the bar a bit and ensure that the playing fields that sports is played on in Barbados, football, cricket or whatever, should be kept in better condition. Mr. Speaker, if we want the young persons within the school system and the communities to develop at a faster pace, we need to pay closer attention to the quality of the fields they are playing on, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I saw the need to impress on the Sports Council, following on the heels of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East's initiative, for them to procure much needed equipment, cutting equipment, tractors or whatever, so that the turnaround time of them getting to the playing fields, is much shorter. Sir, the playing fields where persons go to engage in sports, and to release the energies that are built up, should be kept in better condition.

*House 117, Sequence 21, 14:30:15*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, the National Sports Council has procured $443 000 in additional equipment - and every single piece of that equipment has been delivered - so as to ensure that the playing fields in Barbados are kept in good condition to reduce the risk of injury to the many persons who engaged in sports, be it within the schools, at the community level or at the national level.

Mr. Speaker, we have also benefited from cooperative efforts between many a sporting association from within the community and the Government. The Government cannot provide all the facilities. We have tried our best in the provision of over 100 playing fields, over 60 hard courts and over 35 sets of lights on the various playing fields set in Barbados in a decentralised fashion. Sir, we have communities coming forward that want to partner with the Government in developing facilities in their area as well.

Sir, within those communities, leaders - the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East likes to call them community practitioners - have a very high value in regard to the improvement in the quality of life, the building of social cohesion and engendering a spirit of community within many communities in Barbados. Sir, those community practitioners work and the worth of that work should not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, we had groups in Boscobelle that partnered with the Government. Quite recently Minister Farley and I were in Fairy Valley opening such a facility. Only this morning before I came here, I engaged a representative from Lord's Cricket Club in St. Lucy in a discussion on facilitating that group in refurbishing the pavilion at the Ignatius Byer Primary School for the benefit of the Lord's Cricket Club, the George Rock group, the school and for the benefit of the communities in the wider St. Lucy area. Sir, they will get the support from the Government in that regard. The discussion was in the context of what would be a complete set of facilities to allow for the proper development of sports within that community.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned the provision of sporting equipment to the public schools and the purchase of new equipment so as to better maintain the playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, we also provide valuable assistance through the Project OASIS Programme, which was not mentioned earlier, I supposed that was left to me. Sir, the officers that work in the Project OASIS Programme are in the communities with the Youth Commissioners and they can identify better than most of us, because they have the time to do it, what are the precise sporting needs of those particular communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has been responding to that programme with the provision of sporting equipment and technical support, which is the release of coaches. The Government is looking after the payment of those coaches because we understand the strategic importance of starting from the bottom up in regard to the development of sports.

Mr. Speaker, let me take a closer look and use the remaining couple of minutes to look at community football. Sir, I am involved, and I am not ashame to say it, in the revival of the St. Philip Football League. I have encouraged as many communities in my constituency to participate in that revived competition. We ran it last year, it was very

successful and this year it is looking to be even more successful. Sir, I know what participation in the St. Philip Football League competition means not only to the many youngsters, the active participants, in the St. Philip South constituency but to those who would want to support those teams as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have to agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and those who spoke previously, that the country needs to set aside some fields exclusively for the development of football. Sir, I hope we could reach that point in the not too distant future.

Sir, I would not tell you how much we want to start with but I think we need to move our efforts in that direction recognising that footballers develop best when they do not have to worry about the risk of injury and therefore can go the extra mile or the extra yard to express themselves, so I support that one.

Mr. Speaker, in an effort to develop football better within the communities, I also think that we need more qualified football coaches coming out of the communities. Mr. Jones' Association cannot do it all. We need persons who are strategically placed within the group in the community to come forward and want to do some coaching courses so as to become qualified coaches and help with the faster development of football within the communities.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to help them to build management capability within the clubs at the community level. We also need persons coming forward wanting to be professional referees. Sir, one of the things that plagued these out-of-season football competitions is the fact that if the National Association cannot release qualified referees, they then have to turn to persons from within the communities, but because the numbers are thin in regard to those who are qualified to do the job, you get problems sometimes - I am not saying the incident of it is high - in regard to their officiating at some of the games.

Mr. Speaker, I also think that the football teams from within the various communities are deserving of more technical and financial support. Mr. Speaker, I know that football is a game that Barbadians have a great passion for. Therefore, I really think that the direction in which we are going, the Government is willing as ever to go the little extra distance in order to make this release of land to the Barbados Football Association be as productive... The initiative the Government would want to get involved is for us to step back and pay very close attention to what is happening within the communities. Sir, as I said, every successful sports person starts somewhere there.

Sir, when the Barbados Football Association attracts the persons to utilise the facilities whenever it is completed, we want persons who are coming forward to be those persons who would have benefited from strong programmes, strongly supported by the Government, strongly supported by businesses in the area and strongly supported by community practitioners and others living in the areas so that when they reach the new facility at Wildey, they are properly prepared so as to make that investment a very productive investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will now wind up.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, there really is not much more that I can say. I believe that we have had a very rich debate, and I want to thank all Honourable Members from both sides who contributed to this debate. This debate has not only been about the lease of land in its narrow sense of the word, but it has been a debate about sports development in Barbados with special emphasis on one of the major sports in Barbados, football.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it was a most propitious moment in that we are at a time when our national team is preparing for a battle of a further battle in the Digicel regional tournament. I could not think of a better omen for a national football team in seeking supremacy at the regional level than for them to be encamped, even as we speak, at the Silver Sands Hotel in the constituency of Christ Church East.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I believe that the salubrious atmosphere, the warmth and the friendliness of the good people of Silver Sands and the wider Christ Church East area, that their morning jog through the parish of Christ Church, their warm up and cool down on the Silver Sands field, the occasional dip in the ocean - it is a little treacherous up there, if you do not know what you are doing - and the good seafood up there would do them very well.

*House 117 Sequence 22*

2.40 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I would think that Parliament would forgive me if I were to say that Paul Lovell would certainly be very happy about that location. He is injured now and is not directly in the team but certainly his spirit is very much there. I know that given the kind of person he is, even though being on the injured list, he may not be on the play list, at this point, but he is very much a part of the team arrangements there.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the present members of the Barbados Football Team would see this investment, which this country, through its Parliament, is making in them by way of lease of this land, as a vote of confidence in their capacity, as well as in the future of football. I hope that they would also, in their turn, not only now that they are at the height of their careers but certainly as they transition into post-career activities, that they make an ever greater commitment than others have done in the past, to look after the junior programmes. Sir, I support the position taken by all Honourable Members, including the Honourable Minister for Sports, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, that we really need to invest, in more junior programmes. In fact, in his sartorial splendor, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has reminded me that Youth Milan and North Stars have very strong junior programmes.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that those football clubs, which have had a long run at the top, are those which have had youth programmes attached to their Premier League and Division One programmes. Therefore, to the extent, I hope that this facility the Barbados Football Association is creating, would not only be for use of the Barbados national teams, for example, those in training or those in camp now, that it would not only be for the use of premier league teams to give them an ever better surface on which to play, but that a primary focus would be on our children, from an early age.

Mr. Speaker, the football coaches, to whom I have spoken, particularly those from Liverpool, for example, have indicated that unless our youngsters are trained on a true surface from their earliest exposure to football, that all of their time would be spent merely on controlling the ball, taking care of the awkward bounce, rather than on the strategic aspects of football, such as the passing and setting up the play. Sir, perhaps that might explain the weakness we have had in football over the years. We are great on the ball, we dribble well, we tackle well, but when it comes down to it, when we have our chances at the goal, we do not convert enough of our chances at goal. That is what separates the Barbados team from others. We need to be able to score more goals. I believe quite frankly that the untrue and uneven surfaces on which we play, from infants through to senior team, account for the focus which we have, which is not on the goal bars but on the ball in front of us, as we might never know what in fact it could do.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this moment in time, which should mark a new day and a new direction for football in

Barbados, would also see us addressing a number of issues. I know the Football Association is going through some elements of refocusing and restructuring. Certainly all of the challenges which have attended sports, including football, have always turned somewhere on the issues of governance and from time to time all organisations and associations need to ensure that their rules, regulations, procedures and programmes, are such as would inspire the greatest level of confidence and the greatest level of transparency in the operation of those associations. Sir, not only is that important for the sport and for persons who play it but it is one of the most important aspects that is looked at by sponsors and many sponsors are turned off from sporting organisations because of conflicts, perceived conflicts, the failure to produce annual reports, financial statements, and the general lack of transparency. We certainly would want to use the pulpit of this Parliament just to urge associations to pay attention to those things.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that there is no permanent state of good or bad governance in any of the associations, it very often turns on who happens to be in office at that point in time. Sir, the Minister of Sports has touched on the importance of that issue and the solution, when he indicated that arising out of the national consultation on sports, the associations have recognised the need for capacity building.

Sir, the truth is that sporting organisations because of the nature of the way they elect their leaders, et cetera, just like that of youth groups, social groups or community groups, you would have some of the most popular leaders, who are not the best administrator. Therefore, given that many of the sports associations do not necessarily have full time administrations, then we get into these types of situations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Barbados Football Association, the Barbados Cricket Association and the major associations have been able to hire professional administrators. However, I think that in the case of both associations there is still too much turmoil and too much of a propensity on the part of members in general, teams participating in competitions, members of the Executive and so on, to rush towards courts or other forms of dispute settlement mechanisms, other than the traditional approaches of calling an extraordinary general meeting, to deal with the business of the association, in the associations. I said this is characteristic of cricket, as well as other sports in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore want to urge those who want to offer themselves for position in sports administration to make sure that they really have the interest of the sport at heart, not just the interest of membership.

Mr. Speaker, in some associations - and I would say this is not the case of the Barbados Football Association - more time is spent on the content of the meetings, on the Minutes, on arguing about the interpretation of the Constitution of the Association. If you check the agenda

and the Minutes of those associations or the meetings of those associations, there is hardly any mention of any development programme for the sport.

Mr. Speaker, I would certainly think that the time has come when national associations wanting to benefit or seeking to benefit from Government's support, by way of use of taxpayers funds to provide financial support, must also expect that there would be a requirement for good governance in all of their manifestations in their operations. Sir, this Parliament should expect no less from sports associations benefiting from public funds, than it expects from statutory boards and other public bodies benefiting from public funds. Sir, in the same way that statutory boards are rightly and properly pilloried for failing to file annual reports on time and for for failure to observe all of the provisions of the laws that established the Boards and the rules and regulations that govern the affairs, that this Parliament has a right and responsibility to exercise that same level of interest in the matters relating to these national associations.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Honourable Minister for Sports, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, will, through the National Sports Council, use their good offices, as they provide direct financial support to these organisations, each and every year, in addition to providing funding for individual athletes; in addition to providing funding in support for national teams put forward by those associations going to the Commonwealth Games, the CAC Games and other similar sports, that they would use their good offices to give effect to that.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to urge in that regard, that the Barbados Football Association should settle, after its problems of a few years ago, that all of its members, not only at the national level but in the parish leagues, in the individual groups, masters, all need to settle down and get on with the business.

2.50 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(Edited)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: in the individual groups, the Masters, all of them, that they need to settle down and get on with the business. I hope that the assistance being provided by the Government and that being provided by FIFA, would also be used specifically and especially for capacity-building at the community group level. My observation is that while there is no shortage of community practitioner talent, in terms of organising football, by way of organising competitions, by way of doing the training, the weakness is in the management and maintenance of a viable group structure, which would make sure that the records are kept, the funds are properly administered, communications are sent, communications are received and, therefore, the non-playing members of these community clubs must be an important target for training and other support by the football association and, indeed, by other sporting associations.

Sir, players will come, players will go, players will reach the height of their career and retire but, it is the maintenance in that core of non-playing Administration, which would make sure that the club is a viable entity. In fact, many retired famous cricketers have observed that the difference between cricket today and cricket many years ago, is that the club was more than just the team years ago, that the club was a place where you not only came to play but where the non-playing members were there to render advice, not just about cricket but about life.

Sir, it was the older, more experienced, more accomplished members of the club, who would give you a testimonial or the job reference or send you by way of oral introduction in different directions, whether it was going overseas on some business or getting a job somewhere and, Sir, in football, we need to have this.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things we still have in football is that there are many young talents out there. They are not from family and community situations, in which the persons in their immediate circle are necessarily familiar with the system and how it works. There is no one in their immediate circle, who is able to give them that job reference and introduction to persons in strategic positions. If we have the clubs that they are affiliated to, being able to offer that kind of support, over and above what they already do for football, that would ensure that sports continue to play the role, which it has traditionally done, that is, to not only build a healthy body and healthy mind but to provide an opportunity for the social and economic advancement for the people who participate in that sport.

Mr. Speaker, for all of those reasons, all of us are happy to support this Resolution. I want to wish the footballing community in this country well in the Digicel Tournament and in future tournaments. I look forward to the further advance in the ranking of FIFA. Sir, 100 is a great achievement and we need now to go from triple digits to double digits and, it is not beyond the possibility and scope of our dreams. We have punched about our weight in all other matter, why can't we too, go into single digits in relation to the football rankings of the world. Mr. Speaker, one never knows in these matters. The longest journey starts with a single step and this step of building out international quality sports and training facility for football is an important step. We look forward to excessive and long-term returns on this investment, which the country is making in this sport.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A.P. WOOD: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmation without division.*

ORDER NO. 9 – THE DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, in moving the amendment to Section 216(1) of Chapter 159, I am seeking your leave to make some introductory remarks so as to place this entire debate in proper context. Sir, in or about 1904, the first group of cadets was formed in Barbados and for some years after 1904, the Cadet Corp could be found at Harrisons College, Lodge School and Combermere School. Sir, almost from the start, it was provided that youngsters entering secondary school and those places which have Cadet Corp, could join the Cadets at age 11 and so, for many years, until 1979, you could become a full cadet and function as such, but something of moment occurred in the year 1979. Sir, in 1979, Cap. 159 was enacted and under Section 4(c) provision was made for a cadet corp to operate alongside a regular force in the Defence Force as well as a reserve force. Sir, at that time too, what also occurred was that under Section 216(1), it was enacted that no person under the age of 13 years old may be enrolled in the Cadet Corp. It has happened in the last ten years or so that restricting entry to persons no younger than thirteen years, has had a certain negative impact.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members in this House, who have taught, will tell you that in most secondary schools, when children come to First Form, they come with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm and willing to take an active part in all the activities of their school curriculum and otherwise but, some times, after two or three years in secondary school, special motivators have to be applied to keep that interest alive that was there when the students first came.

Sir, the advice given to me is that nowadays, since the strict application of Section 216(1) prohibits people from joining before they reach the age of 13, the total numbers available from which you can make a selection has, more or less, gone down and that in order to increase these numbers, it is necessary to change the minimum age at which cadets could enroll in the activities of the Defence Force from 13 years to 11 years.

Mr. Speaker, the wisdom in moving the age downwards from 13 to 11 is to take advantage of that effervescent energy and enthusiasm, which new students to secondary school demonstrate in their early years in the school. At the same time, let me mention that, aware of the fact that the strict application of Section 216(1) was preventing certain people younger than 13 from entering, certain programmes were arranged as parallel, over time, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education but, at the same time, you cannot call those persons involved in those parallel programmes, full cadets.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of this House would be interested in knowing the status of the programme at this time, certainly as far as numbers are concerned. Sir, at the moment, some 24 units are operating in Barbados, of which 21 functions in Government Secondary Schools. There is an independent unit made of private secondary schools and there is a cadet band and Sea Cadets. The indications are that presently 1 345 students are enrolled in the Cadet Corp, a healthy figure, but more needs to be done. One of the major advantages in young people joining the Cadet Corp is for them not only to be exposed to a range of stimuli and experiences that would benefit them in life but also that strong discipline, which is necessary for youngsters to inculcate in their formative years.

*H117/15:00*

*Sequence 24*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Sir, as I indicated, the purpose of this amendment is to change Section 216(1) in a way where the age at which students can enter, will not anymore, if this amendment succeeds, be thirteen, but which will be eleven years instead.

The advantages that are expected - and this is a very simple amendment - are that youngsters will be able to achieve and be exposed, to more focused activities, early in their lives. Of course, it would lead to an increase of enrollment of students in the Corp, and all the consequential benefits that increases in membership in the Cadets will bring. It would also provide a greater opportunity for the Corp to have a positive influence on young boys and girls in their formative years at secondary school, especially on those who have left the primary school level, as registered or potential cases of deviant behaviour and indiscipline.

In addition, we expect a greater opportunity to establish, and maintain the interest of young students, as well as an enhanced contribution by the Corp, to the development of the nation’s youth.

Sir, in anticipation of this amendment, the Barbados Defence Force is making plans for the enlargement and extension of the programme, and this amendment is not only necessary, but it is the type of change that is bound to produce positive and healthy effects.

I, therefore, beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Opposition understands why this particular amendment has been brought to Parliament. In light of what is occurring in Barbados, where both the Defence Force and the Police Force are finding it difficult to get recruits. It is clear that if you can change the age and instil certain values from early into the youth of Barbados, maybe we might be able to get them to join the Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is, just passing this amendment, will not achieve what Government is setting about to achieve. Government will have to look at implementing the pension scheme, for the Defence Force. It would also have to develop a bridge between the Defence Force and the Police Force.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt, that if we continue to have a situation in Barbados, where other police forces in the region are offering better salaries, even though we have made this amendment, we might be increasing numbers, not for ourselves but increasing numbers for other countries.

Sir, it is clear that this particular amendment will not achieve what we are here trying to achieve today. We need not only tackle it from the primary stage, we also have to understand what is occurring, within the secondary and tertiary of development. We have to understand what is interferring with thoughts of our young men and women.

Sir, we must ask ourselves why it is a lot of them know their careers at a young stage, but when they reach there, they are prepared to move on. The truth is, if we do not change the terms and conditions, we are not going to keep them. We are only going to be building a base for somebody else. We have to acknowledge what is happening and deal with it.

It is also clear, as the records of this House will show that I havealready said in this Parliament that we are not fighting a Cold War anymore. We have to recognise that if the police force has a problem...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please. I listened very carefully, I do not know if you were here, when the leader of the motion said that the reason for this amendment, is to lower the age from thirteen to eleven in the Cadet COrp. I heard not one word relating to the police force, to money or to transfers. You cannot continue with this irrelevance anymore.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, are you saying that what I am saying is irrelevant?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. It is irrelevant.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, that is an opinion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, take your seat, please.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I will, Sir. I understand what is happening. Elections are around the corner.

*Asides.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, you are interrupting this House.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this amendment, which seeks to do a very simple thing, to reduce the age of entry into the Barbados Cadet Corp, from the age of thirteen to the age of eleven. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has totally misunderstood, not only what the legislation said, but what it is seeking to achieve. That misunderstanding is born out of a jaundiced view of what the Cadet Corp is all about. The Cadet Corp is not a pre-police or pre-Defence Force training programme. It is not a training ground for young soldiers and young police. The Cadet Corp is intended to achieve higher, broader and greater objectives.

Sir, it is true that Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force, draw on persons who have been Cadets. They have also been persons who have not been Cadets, but were members of the Scouts and other disciplinary non-military groups, or persons who have not been members of anything, but who have risen to great rank in the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force. There is no direct link, by way, of recruitment between the Barbados Cadet Corp, the Barbados Defence force and the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Sir, clearly, it would be an asset if one made the decision to join, to have that experience. Mr. Speaker, to tarnish the good intention of this Bill, and by extension to tarnish the excellent reputation, of over a hundred years of the Barbados Cadet Corp, to suggest that it merely a

recruitment agency, and that it will fail to achieve its objective, in the words of the Honourable Member, who knows better...

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by trying to give the impression that I said that the Cadet Corp, during its tenure, was used as a base for recruitment. All I have said is, that at this point and time, the idea of making the change is not relevant at this time, based on the problems that are occurring within the two forces. That is all I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, totally irrelevant.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, to seek to tarnish the lofty objectives of the Barbados Cadet Corp and, indeed, it may even serve to mislead and even cause some youngster to fear, that by joining the Cadet Corp, they are being made into soldiers. Sir, that is irresponsible.

15.10 p.m.

*Sequence 25*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

*House 117, Sequence 26, 3.10 p.m.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Asides.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have to be responsible. I want to use this opportunity to participate in this debate to laud the contribution of the Barbados Cadet Corp to the development of this country. The objective of the Cadet Corp is really to build strong individuals, strong in character, discipline, amenable to good order, and persons who are made more serviceable to all mankind, particularly their fellow men.

The Barbados Cadet Corp has a long and rich history. It is to my mind, one of the principal institutions of socialisation in our country. Sir, like all institutions of considerable age and maturity, it has undergone changes. There was time when the Cadet Corp was exclusively male. The decision was taken some years ago to incorporate females into its ranks. Indeed, I must congratulate the females because when we observed parades involving the Cadet Corp these days, it would seem to me by casual observations of certain features of the anatomy that they may very well, on some occasions, be more females on parade than males.

*Asides.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Sir, usually when I observe parades, I observe the totality of the forces on display, so I am able to observe all features. However, that may be the only difference that one would observe. There is no difference in training, and no difference in discipline, no difference in the outstanding output. Those persons, who at the time that the change would have been made, would have either had private fears or have engaged in public condemnation of the change, and fear that it would result in the end of the Cadet Corp, could either be very sorry, or hiding their heads in shame. It has strengthened for Cadet Corp, rather than bringing it into disrepute.

I am satisfied, Sir, that this change we are proposing to make today, to reduce the recruitment age from 13 to 11 is but yet another change in the continuum of development. In fact, what we will get is an opportunity to tap into our young people at an even earlier age. I do not know what was the origin of the 13-year rule, but this change is clearly out of a recognition that our young people, because of their greater exposure to things of the world are maturing at a younger age.

A young child of 11 years old today, is far more exposed to a range of technology, to matters relating to human sexuality, to matters relating to world affairs, to even matters in the academic realms, than a youngster, of 11 years ago, when the Cadet Corp was started. There is no 11-year-old today, who has lived the kind of sheltered life of 100 years ago.

Therefore, Sir, they are at the right point. They are making the transition from primary school to secondary school and it is right and proper, that a disciplined organisation such as the Barbados Cadet Corp should be one of the options, which they have, by way of joining groups.

Indeed, in terms of education, Sir, I remember when I was the Minister of Education, we were concerned that there were not enough children of school age, involved in organised groups. A survey conducted by the Youth Affairs Department had identified that there was something in the order of 25 per cent of school age children, who were members of formal groups. We believe that is too low.

In fact, we instituted a policy at the Ministry, which require that as part of school activity, that used to be referred to co-curricular activities, by way of being one of the optional things you may do alongside school, had to be mainstreamed to become core curricular activities. Sir, it was also part of the requirement for a person’s school life, certainly from the age of Third Form to be a member of one of the official groups in the school, of which there are many: Cadet Corp, Boys’ Scouts, Girl Guides, Optimist Club, The 4-H Club, the ISCF and several other groups.

Indeed, Sir, in the development surrounding the drafting of the National Diploma on Secondary Education, participation in community work, through these groups, is one of the requirements, in order to obtain this particular certification.

In fact, Sir, some consideration is even being given, it has not been decided yet, to making community service and participation in the wider aspect of school life, as part of the requirements for scholarships and exhibition awards.

Sir, the best of our young people cannot be measured only by their academic excellence of which that is important. The quality of our young people must be assessed on the basis of their all-round character, of the level of discipline, and of the extent to which they are willing and able to participate in community development. There could be no better place than the Barbados Cadet Corp.

Indeed, Sir, the records of the Barbados Cadet Corp will read, perhaps as a "Who is Who" of persons that have achieved in the areas of business, commerce, the military of course, law, the Government and even in religion. I believe it was Major Skeete who produced a book last year, or the year before on the history of the Cadet Corp in Barbados.

*Asides.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Of course, given Major Skeete's origin, with a special emphasis on Combermere.

*Asides.*

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would not be distracted by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who took his seat under certain circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, what we are doing today therefore has to be seen in the context of what is happening in the wider society. Sir, all of the social commentators, including in this Report of the National Commission on Law and Order, have expressed concern about the extent to which younger persons are becoming more and more disconnected from the issues of the wider society; how the level of the family will be more concentrated on our internal arrangements; about the individualistic society; than we had in the past. It is through these endeavours of the Barbados Cadet Corp that we are able to make a change.

In fact, Sir, speaking of the issues of change, the Barbados Cadet Corp made a number of internal changes, which have made its programme more exciting and more relevant to young people over the years. Sir, to me one of the greatest innovations has been the introduction of the Sea Cadets. I believe that the Sea Cadets is one of the most exciting branches of the Cadets.

*House 117, Sequence 26, 15:20:14*

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: This innovation also heightens and highlights the level of contributions which the Cadet Corp can make to the wider society and to the future career option of these young people. Sir, contrary to what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was trying to suggest, that it is a skills training institution for junior police, if they want to go there they could go there, the Sea Cadets is performing an important role in discipline.

Sir, I live on an island nation and I believe that our future will depend on full and further exploitation of the sea not just in fishing and for leisure and pleasure as is currently the case but in the exploration for oil, gas and minerals.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have to get back to some of the high level of involvement that Barbadians had in the area of seamanship. There are less Barbadian seamen today than they were many years ago. Sir, in this modern era, being a seaman would relate not only to working on cargo ships but on cruise ships and other ocean going vessels.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now you are about to do the same thing that I stopped the Honourable Member from doing.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would come back to that because the point I am making is that in relation to the activities of the Sea Cadet, which is the fastest growing branch of the Barbados Cadet Corp, the skills which are developed and which will be developed by these 11 years old, not just 13 years old, will be of such an important expansion to their range of career options in the future. I believe that in addition to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic programme and others that we would see an expanded opportunity for Barbadians going to the sea.

Sir, the Barbados Cadet Corp must be congratulated. We do not often get an opportunity to use the Floor of this Parliament to speak to matters of the Defence Force and its various arms, but the Barbados Cadet Corp by way of its affiliation under the umbrella of the Barbados Defence Force performs a very outstanding role. The youngsters who turned out in our last Remembrance Day Parade were outstanding, and I look forward to their involvement in our parade for Independence Day.

Sir, the real benefit and the real virtue of membership of this organisation occurs in those quiet

places not normally seen by members of the public, where on evenings after school, on weekends and in the twice yearly camps where much guidance, much instruction and much transferal of Barbados' culture is provided by the officers of the Cadet Corp.

Sir, as I close, this Parliament must record its congratulations and its thanks because the Officers Corp of the Barbados Cadet Corp is a truly voluntary force. These are people who have their various occupations but they have chosen to make their contribution to the development of the society by working with young people. They are engineers, teachers and tradesmen. Sir, they have made this sacrifice. Sir, I expect that with the reduction in the age of admission from 13 to 11 that they would have an even larger number of youngsters to provide guidance to.

Sir, I therefore believe that this amendment would provide an even greater opportunity for us to strengthen an important social institution, which will provide some discipline, guidance and leadership to our young people at a time when such a direction is needed now more than ever.

Sir, I therefore want to urge all Honourable Members, including the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, to support this amendment, not to trivialise it and not to vulgarise it and list it as having objectives which are not part of the reason. I want to salute the Barbados Cadet Corp, its officers and its members for an outstanding job over 100 years and also for the foresight in making changes necessary today to ensure its relevance for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to wind up this debate, I just want to mention that it has transpired that when a number of 11 and 12 years old students heard that they could not join the Cadet Corp as full cadets, some time ago the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports introduced what was called a junior cadet programme for those children so as to capture the interest which these students were demonstrating. Sir, until one can become a full cadet, one cannot wear a cadet uniform or take part in a night camp. When this is Resolution is passed, if the House is minded to pass it, that would be removed and when you become a cadet at 11 years old you become a full cadet with the capacity to wear the uniform and be involved in night camp and then you would have all the privileges and duties and would be subject to all the discipline and all the programmes which the Corp would offer.

Mr. Speaker, I would have said that the Cadet Corp came to Barbados for the first time in the year 1904. It has therefore seen 103 years of existence and has expanded beyond the Comberemere School, the Lodge School and Harrison College. A number of schools in Barbados are interested. I think that the leadership of the Barbados Defence Force would want me to commend the school teachers who, though not originally in the Barbados Defence Force, played a pivotal role in working with students to interest them in these very important activities. Therefore, all those teachers in the various schools who work in terms of helping to recruit and to select, to guide them, as well as all of those schools that permit the Cadets in the schools to put on particular activities, must be commended. Of course, the leadership of the Barbados Defence Force must be commended for its foresight not just in working with the cadets but in permitting them a role enacted under section 4 and in section 216 (1).

With these remarks then, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

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

*On the motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. G. A. CLARKE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. D. MARSHALL in the Chair.*

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

*Clauses 1 - 2 inclusive were called and passed.*

*On the motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

On the Separate motion of Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Defence (Amendment) Act, 2006.

*House 117 Sequence 27*

3.30 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

ORDER NO. 11 – SECOND READING OF THE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, this is one which has been very carefully examined and it comes out of the

Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act, 1993(11). Of note, Sir, section 10 (c) of this, says that the Council shall not, without the prior approval of the Minister, make provision for the payment of gratuities, or other like benefits, to officers of employees of the Council, in respect to services to the Council.

Mr. Speaker, one possible interpretation of that is that the members who work for the Council have no automatic right to pension or gratuity. Another construction is that for them to be able to earn such, depends on ministerial fiat. In a culture with an independent public service, where civil servants who are permanently appointed cannot be dismissed or subject to ministerial heavy manners, the question before this Parliament is whether the rights to remuneration, gratuity and pensions of the officer of TVET ought not to be so clarified as to put the position beyond dispute.

The members themselves, some of whom work in normal civil service departments and moved to TVET are curious to know what would be their fate in the future. In the meantime, there are some persons who want to work with TVET Council, currently employed in positions where they are cocksure of their right to gratuity and pension but will not be so sure if they move to TVET if that position would be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is being brought here, in a form to make no Minister, who might be capricious or crazy, get up and forbid persons who work for TVET from gratuity and pension. At the same time, it is to ensure that there is sufficient legislative clarity to put a group of persons at a position no less advantageous to their colleagues in other areas of the public service. This is the simplicity of the whole thing; that the existing enactment in clause 10.(c) seems to suggest that it is up to Ministerial discretion to offer gratuity; in a situation where our culture is one, where things like gratuity and pension do not depend on ministerial caprice, in a situation where there are officers in existing Government departments who have opted to go with TVET Council; in a situation where TVET Council functions very much like a public service entity, even though it is not normally in a typical line Ministry but is like that of a quasi-statutory board and so Parliament is being called on today to so set the position as to clearly allow for those persons who quality for pension and gratuity to do so, as of right. That is the catch. Sir, those person who would have worked 10, 15, 20,33 1/3 years, up to age 65, can claim pension and gratuity, as of right in normal line Ministries and we want that type of scenario to prevail here at the Technical Vocational and Education Training Council.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I beg to move that this amendment be read a second time.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, just a quick intervention. I am very glad to know we are having this amendment done today, for the simple fact that only last night I was discussing, a matter I mentioned to the Honourable Member for St. James North, concerning statutory boards. He also said TVET is a kind of a statutory board. I have a situation where a person was workingin the past for the Barbados Marketing Corporation and that person retired and was drawing a pension from l999. That person drew a pension for about five years and then it stopped for about six months, then it started again. Sir, I mentioned that to the Honourable Member because he was at one time, a Minister of Agriculture, and the Barbados Agricultural and Management Corporation is under his Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I know that sometimes a person might be drawing a pension and sometimes Insurance Corporation of Barbados were the persons responsibility for paying the pension. Sometimes I know that you might have a statutory board which might not be in a position financially to pay for the premium and probably the pension automatically stops. If the Honourable Member knows about it, if he could probably shed some light on this present situation.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to me that this amendment is piecemeal and that we need to have a holistic approach to these amendments. It is clear that today we will come with an amendment for TVET, tomorrow we would come with an amendment to another statutory board, and what I am calling on this Parliament is to stop the piecemeal approach to legislation and get a holistic approach to legislations.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you winding up?

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there are any other Honourable Members who would wish to speak. Therefore, let me thank both Honourable Member who spoke.

Mr. Speaker, in the context of the normal Civil Service/Ministry of Education/Cabinet Office/ Ministry of Health, there is an arrangements by which gratuities and pensions are paid from the Consolidated Fund. Therefore, if you work in the Civil Service, your entitlements to

gratuity and pensions come from the Consolidated Fund or the Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, it would be interesting how a place like this one, with a Management Commission, would give its staff guarantees that would be in the nature of telling them that they too could depend on the Consolidated Fund.

In relation to the question posed by St. Michael West Central in listening to what has been happening in Barbados, I am hearing that there are many statutory boards, which do not call on the Consolidated Fund, for pensions and gratuities but which have an arrangements with Insurance Corporation of Barbados, by which they should be funding the gratuities and pensions of their employees.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, even though his presentations here do not always stand the best test of clarity, is always on the streets and has ears that are always pricked up to listen. Mr. Speaker, I am saying to the Honourable Member, to go on the streets and listen to find out what is the status of instances of persons who work for statutory boards. How is it that their gratuities and pensions are funded.

Mr. Speaker, the intelligence coming to me is that there is an arrangements with Insurance Corporation of Barbados. I am yet to speak to Insurance Corporation of Barbados. What the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is saying is that what is happening to his constituent is a highly unusual thing. Obviously that constituent is entitled to a pension because it is paid from time to time.

3.40 p.m.

*Tuesday, November 21, 2006*

(Edited)

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: the person is no longer 35 year or 40 years to go to work, the persons depend on that. We do not know if the person is also entitled to a National Insurance pension. If the person is not entitled to a National Insurance pension, then that poor person is in a position of curious disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment we are doing here is protecting TVET people from being exposed to that kind of scenario. The amendment which we are doing here is to ensure that people like this, are not going to be in any position of disadvantage. I now have to check with TVET people to find out whether in their lives, as a quaisi-statutory Board, if gratuities and pensions for TVET people would come from the Consolidated Fund or through and insurance company.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members should really pay a lot of attention to pensions and gratuities for the reason that they are bound to encounter constituents, who would come to them with credible accounts of experiences that point to disadvantage. At the same time, I would like to urge that all Honourable Members pay particular attention to the rules that govern National Insurance. A lot of our people, some of whom we are close to and are fond of, would work 30 years and 35 years and tell us that all they get is a little National Insurance contributory pension, because they were working the private sector in institutions, which has no pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, there is a fellow from the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, who came to me recently and told me that he had put in 40 years in the private sector and was horrified, when on the day of his retirement from that private institution, he was told that all he would get, apart from the rocking chair, which they gave him, would be a National Insurance pension. He laboured with them under the mistaken view that they had some kind of pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, we are reaching an interesting era too because there are employees in the private sector, who pay contributory monies to pension plans, in circumstances where it is not impossible in five or six years for some of those plans to be articulated with National Insurance or some times when you move from one job, having paid a contributory, to go into another job with a different employer, questions arise.

Sir, even though I have gone a little bit outside, in an era, where we all have to plan for retirement; in an era, where we always have to be sure of our terms of service, whatever employment we function in, I would want Honourable Members on this side, in particular, and those persons who seem to have some kind of curious expectancy, to pay attention to these matters. The reason being that this whole question of pensions, gratuities and such like, test the knowledge and patience of Members of Parliament and, sometimes, invite Members of Parliament to do greater research on behalf of their constituents.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If I may say so, before we go into Committee, it would be good if Honourable Members look up the Clauses because they do explain most of what you have said.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmation without division.*

On the separate motion of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. R. D. Marshall in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. R.D. MARSHALL: This House is in Committee.

*Clause 1 was called and passed.*

*Clause 2 was called and passed.*

*On the motion of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

*On the separate motions of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (Amendment) Act, 2006.*

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 10.00 a.m.

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

*The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*

*H117/15:48*

*Sequence 29*

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## EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

*Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.*

### EDITORIAL QUERIES

*Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.*

**Q1.** *Masthead.* The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

**Q2.** *Order No. 15, Hon. R. R. Farley's opening.* The Minister describes the parcel as 'some 3.35 hectares of land or 22 500 square metres'; 3.35 hectares is 33 500 square metres. Printed as in the source.

**Q3.** *Order No. 15, take-slip H:No.117 (3) 10.30 a.m.; Order No. 11, Hon. R. C. Eastmond's reply.* The source carries an editorial mark '(EDITED)' as a heading after the take-slip, and '(Edited)' as a paragraph in the Minister's reply on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (Amendment) Bill. Printed as in the source.

**Q4.** *Order No. 9, Committee.* The procedural note says the House 'resolved itself into Committee of Supply' to consider the Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2006, presumably Committee of the whole House. Printed as in the source.

**Q5.** *Order No. 9, Hon. R. C. Eastmond's reply.* The Minister says the Cadet Corps came to Barbados in 1904 and 'has therefore seen 103 years of existence'; in 2006 that would be 102 years. Printed as in the source.

### DEBATE SUMMARY

*(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)*

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 21st November, 2006 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair; prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of Tuesday, 14th November, 2006 were confirmed. The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur, laid the half-yearly reports on the Revenue Collection Departments for the periods October 2004 to March 2005, April to September 2005 and October 2005 to March 2006. On the motion of Hon. R. C. Eastmond, Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended for the rest of the day's Sitting.

Hon. R. R. Farley moved Order No. 15, the Resolution to approve the lease under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to the Trustees of the Barbados Football Association of a parcel of Crown land at Wildey, Christ Church, for the construction of an international football field and associated facilities. He traced the Crown's acquisition in 1969 of some 424 acres at Wildey, Upton and Kent Plantations, and explained that the lease ran for 25 years, with an option to renew, at a peppercorn rent of $1 000 a year, the Association developing and maintaining the site at its own expense.

Mr. R. D. Jones, who said he wore a particular hat in another place, thanked the Minister of Housing and Lands, put the number of footballers at some 15 000, and said a project costed at $1.3 million three years earlier was nearing $2 million while the FIFA contribution was unchanged. Mr. H. F. Lashley, for St. Michael South East, supported a community-based approach to sport and warned against traffic through Fort George Heights. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman complained of the delay in bringing the Resolution, and was told by the Speaker to keep to general matters. After the suspension His Honour J. M. Edghill spoke of the Pride of Gall Hill club, Hon. G. A. Clarke said he had taken the matter to Cabinet on 30th January, 2003, and the Minister responsible for sports, Hon. A. P. Wood, said the National Sports Council had procured $443 000 in equipment and that there were over 100 playing fields. Hon. R. R. Farley replied and the Resolution was agreed to.

Hon. R. C. Eastmond moved the second reading of the Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2006, which amends section 216(1) of Chapter 159 to lower the age of entry to the Barbados Cadet Corps from 13 to 11; he said some 24 units were operating, 21 of them in Government secondary schools. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman argued that the amendment would not cure recruitment problems in the Defence Force and Police without better pay and pensions; the Speaker ruled his remarks irrelevant and asked him to take his seat. Hon. R. R. Farley supported the Bill and praised the Corps' century of service. The Bill passed through Committee, Mr. R. D. Marshall in the Chair, and was read a third time.

Hon. R. C. Eastmond then moved the second reading of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (Amendment) Bill, 2006, explaining that section 10(c) of the 1993 Act made gratuities and pensions for Council staff subject to the Minister's prior approval, and that the amendment would remove that uncertainty. Mr. R. D. Marshall raised a constituent's pension from a statutory board, and Mr. D. St.E. Kellman called the amendment piecemeal. In reply the Minister described arrangements between statutory boards and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados and urged Members to attend to pensions. The Bill passed its remaining stages without amendment, and the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 28th November, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.