
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

PRESENT

The full list of Members present is to be inserted from the Votes and Proceedings. Members identified from the record of this Sitting:

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON (Speaker)

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)

Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY (Minister of Transport and Works)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE (Minister of Health)

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development)

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE (Minister of Drainage and the Environment)

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS (Minister of Industry, International Business and Commerce and Small Business Development)

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning, members. This House is now in session. Members, let me take the opportunity to welcome you all back from our break. I thought it was a bit short, but anyhow. And I look forward to your continued cooperation as we do the people's

business. Members, I have with me three sets of minutes. We are going to take them jointly unless some issue arises. The minutes for Wednesday March 6, 2013, Tuesday March 12, 2013 and Monday March 18, 2013.

MINUTES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, I remember. Mr. Speaker, sir. Beg to move that those minutes be taken as read.

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

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Members, I am in receipt of the accounts and statements - the financial statements for the months of April and May 2012 as prepared by the Accountant General. The financial statements for the months of April and May 2012.

Yes, Minister of Finance.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir, I am commanded to lay the Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Report for 2011, the Financial Services Commission Financial Statements, March 31, 2013, the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption, St. J. Bridgestone Center Limited Order 2013, the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption, Lorna Duncan, Suraj Order 2013 and the Customs Tariff Amendment Order 2013. I am a pleasure.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, honourable member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir. I am commanded to lay the Financial Statements of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, March 31, 2007. Financial Statements of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, March 31, 2008. Mr. Speaker, I am also commanded to lay the Grantley Adams

International Airport Barbados Annual Report 2009–2010, Financial Statements of Caribbean Aircraft Handling Company Limited, March 31, 2009, Financial Statements of Club Caribbean Lounge, March 31, 2009, Consolidated Financial Statements of Caribbean International Airways Limited, March 31, 2009 and the Non-Consolidated Financial Statements of Caribbean International Airways Limited, March 31, 2009.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, honourable member.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: The National Policy and Agenda for Barbados - Stewards of Society for All Ages, January 1, 2012.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. CLERK: Motion in the name of the Honourable Minister of the Environment and Drainage to move the passing of a resolution to approve under section five of the Land Acquisition Act, Chapter 228, the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcel of land situate at Vaucluse in the parish of St. Thomas in this island for the public purpose of expanding the Mangrove Pond Landfill to make more land available for the disposal of waste.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION – LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT VAUCLUSE, ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. [Inaudible.]

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce this resolution to this Honourable House which seeks to acquire a parcel of land measuring 16 acres at a cost of \$523 000 from Eastern Lands Development Limited and situated at Bawcal, St. Thomas for the public purpose.

Mr. Speaker, of the expansion of the Mangrove Pond Landfill and to ensure that adequate lands are available for the disposal and effective management of waste.

Mr. Speaker, the effective management of waste is absolutely essential to any country, particularly smaller developing states, because, of course, managing waste effectively ensures a certain state of health. Managing

waste effectively ensures that scarce land resources are used effectively to create spaces, whether they be open landfills or other types of waste management mechanisms to ensure that the waste generated in a country is adequately managed. And of course, in such a stream of thought, it strives to achieve environmental sustainability. This management process, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, especially that goal that relates to improvements in water quality or water standards and effective sanitation. And that would be goal seven in the taxonomy of Millennium Development Goals. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, Barbados has been seeking to increase the quality of our water supply. Barbados has been striving to ensure that the management of waste is taken on board in a way that reflects the modernisation not only of our mechanisms for waste collection and waste disposal, but also in terms of influencing the way the society sees waste as a whole.

Our vision and strategy for national sustainable development includes four strategic pillars. One has to do with building a society that is economically viable, building a country that is socially balanced, building a country that has sound environmental practices, and building a country driven or guided by good governance within the scope of that strategic framework. This presentation, Mr. Speaker, this discussion falls nicely within the ambit of our environmental aspirations as a country. And it allows us to demonstrate to the public that we are not just talking about environmental policies, but that we are working steadily to create the kind of footprint that allows us to effectively and sustainably manage our waste, the waste generated across the country.

We know now, according to available statistics, that Barbados generates 1 000 tons of solid waste per day. And with the increase in the housing stock and with the continued development of Barbados, we can anticipate that amount will increase across time. So rather than waiting until we reach a stage where we cannot accommodate the waste we create in our country, we, as a government, have taken the position that we have to plan out a strategy that involves some of the most modern technologies as it relates to waste management. And to do that, Mr. Speaker, we must create the space, the physical space, where this development can occur.

Now, in the National Development Strategy for Barbados, areas of solid waste management have been identified and Bawcal has been identified as the premier location where Barbados should seek to build out its solid waste management programme. And this government has continued a trend, a trend of thinking that was started prior to 2008, where we have made a commitment not only to lay out on paper what direction we shall choose to take, but to begin to put the systems in place to build out that circumstance, so that the purpose for this purchase, Mr.

Speaker, is not just about building a new landfill, but rather speaks specifically to government's commitment to building out a sustainable, integrated solid waste management programme at Mangrove Pond Landfill, which is an integrated solid waste management programme that deals with handling and processing all forms of solid and liquid waste.

Mangrove is designed and being continuously developed to also allow the government to pursue its green energy and low carbon strategy. A low carbon strategy because open landfills are known the world over to generate a certain amount of greenhouse gas emissions. And therefore, we have surmised in our own strategic thinking and planning that to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases in Barbados, one of the important steps we have had to take, or to contemplate, is looking at the whole issue of open landfilling versus creating waste-to-energy situations - that we can, rather than storing waste in open areas, convert that waste to energy. And later on in my presentation, Mr. Speaker, I shall develop that entire point.

The government's commitment is to induce a paradigm shift in how we see waste. We have always seen waste as a nuisance, a national nuisance, although on a daily basis as we consume, we produce waste. And right now the government takes the full responsibility for the collection and disposal and the management of waste. The thinking of modern societies is that waste management has to be a shared responsibility, with the burden of the responsibility being placed on the citizens of the country, so that, for example, how people dispose of waste, the whole issue of illegal dumping and those kinds of issues can be brought into a circle of control through the appropriate regulations that can allow us to go forward as a clean country. A country not only clean in terms of its physical aesthetics, but a country clean also in terms of its overall environmental pursuits.

And therefore we see ourselves in the shift in asking the population to no longer see waste as a nuisance, but rather as a resource. We must view waste as a viable source of renewable energy. We must see waste as a viable foreign exchange earner. And citizens must see the handling of waste as a personal responsibility so that the government's comprehensive strategy for waste management highlights a transition from landfilling to the conversion of waste to energy.

Why is this important? It is not only important in terms of our own domestic production of energy, but it is also renewable energy. But it is also important because Barbados has a limited amount of land space and with the need for agricultural land and the need for commercial development and domestic development that relates to housing for our citizens, we realise that we cannot continue

to allocate large tracts of land for the purposes of collecting and storing waste. And therefore it is our position that we have to begin the conversion process where we take our waste and we convert it into renewable sources of energy. And Mr. Speaker, sir, the government of Barbados as we stand today is well on our way in executing that particular programme.

The transition from landfilling to conversion to energy, the aggressive reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases and other ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere. And what happens is that when you indiscriminately place waste in an open landfill, it is sometimes possible to have in your waste stream toxic materials that can become detrimental to our ozone protection. And therefore we are developing a waste handling system where we are extracting all of the recyclables out of our waste to ensure that what goes into the current landfill at cell four is organic waste, organic waste that can be stored until the waste-to-energy plant comes on stream, then can be extracted and put into the waste plant for the conversion of energy. And Mr. Speaker, I dare say that it is an ambitious, achievable objective on the part of this government that allows us to move forward in a way, in a manner that is progressive and consistent with international standards. Barbados is leading the region in this regard and we shall continue to aggressively pursue a policy framework that allows us first to have the space through the acquisition of lands, as this acquisition is, and then to put in place the kinds of systems that allow us to measure and to manage our waste programme in an effective manner.

The purchasing of land is not just about, Mr. Speaker, the state owning more land. Neither is it about seeking to build more open landfills. Rather, it is about the government building out a national integrated solid waste management programme at Mangrove Pond Landfill. And this would include effectively handling 1 000 tons of waste per day, effectively managing the decommissioning of all closed cells at the landfill, the current Mangrove area, the closing of Mount Stinkaroo, which we have done, Mr. Speaker, which was a promise under the last BLP administration, and this government was able to come into office and within the first five years of our government was able to put Mount Stinkaroo to bed. And yes, we are continuing to do our work there in that regard, which we will talk about. Because when you decommission a landfill cell, it is not just about stopping the movement of waste to that cell. It is also about putting on green covers. It is also about trying to ensure that there is proper extraction of trapped gases onto the earth. It is also about managing out the use of that space within the context of effective solid waste management.

The construction of a new cell, cell four, which cost the government \$26 million, which was completed within

budget, which was completed on time, and which has been commissioned and is now in full operation. It is one of the most modern landfill cells in the region, and it has an instalment of engineering technology and other types of practices that will allow it to serve us in the transition from landfilling to waste to energy. Because you would appreciate that until a waste-to-energy plant comes on stream, it will require still the storage of solid waste. And therefore, once the waste stream is cleansed of recyclables, then what is left goes to cell four and will be kept there until it is extracted to go into the waste-to-energy plant.

When the waste-to-energy plant comes on stream and the processes for that particular endeavour have started, and we are working towards the allocation of a contract to a vendor for the construction and the initial operation of that particular element, so that the government's pursuit of the green energy programme at Mangrove is also part and parcel of the thinking of this government relative to waste management at the Bawcal site. And what does this green energy programme include? It includes a landfill gas energy programme, a wind energy programme, a solar energy programme, as I said before, the waste-to-energy programme, a landfill cover and beautification programme, the building of a modern leachate plant to treat leachate from the landfill, the construction of a modern administration building, the construction of a new mechanical workshop.

Now, I know people talk about implementation deficits, and I would like to give the Barbados Labour Party credit for having thought about this kind of modern system but never being able to put it in place. And this government that was once described by the Honourable Member for St. Peter as a bunch of wild boys and the like have been able to put together the kind of intellectual capacity to put in place a system that is highly sophisticated and a system that will modernise Barbados' treatment of waste forever. That is what we have done, Mr. Speaker, and that is a task that we are proud of.

Now one may ask, so where are you on these things? Well, a call for expressions of interest has already gone out for the landfill gas, the wind, the solar, the landfill cover and beautification programme and the leachate plant. As a matter of fact, we are now in the final negotiation stages for the leachate plant contract to be allocated. We are also in the final negotiation stages for the construction of the administration building for the Sanitation Service Authority. And of course we are also working on the tender documents for the construction of the new mechanical workshop. And this, Mr. Speaker, in my view, really sets us on a path where we will be able to work hand in hand with our society in achieving the kinds of achievements that are necessary for us to create a modern Barbados within the context of our society.

I am of the view, Mr. Speaker, sir, that as we continue to work forward on this plan that we will be able to remedy a number of the challenges that we have faced in the past. That we will be able to remedy how we protect our environment, Mr. Speaker, for future generations. That we will be able to remedy any of the uncertainties that face a developing state as it relates to the handling and the management and disposal of waste. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that as we go forward we shall continue to work to achieve those levels of achievement in that regard.

Now building out a sustainable recycling programme is also important to our solid waste management commitments and how we build it out in the Bawcal precinct. And of course recycling is an important part of the whole waste management process and we have to fully appreciate, Mr. Speaker, what recycling means to the management of our waste.

Now there has been a lot of chatter going on in Barbados led by latter-day saints trying to create impressions that this government is insensitive to the needs not only of recyclers, but to the needs of communities where recyclers operate. Mr. Speaker, if there is one tenet of our social makeup as a government that I am proud of, it is our commitment, our unswerving commitment, to ensure that we build not only a just society, but that we build a fair society. That is our commitment. And whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, that this government puts its hands to do, what drives the political actions and the governmental actions of this government is the voices of the people and what people have to say about how they feel about their country, how they feel about their government and how they feel about their future within this country. We are not going to use people's anxieties as stomping grounds to generate fear and to mislead public perception about what the realities are in this country. This government is committed to recyclers, and I want to make that point clear.

And Mr. Speaker, sir, we are also committed to any citizen in this country who has a concern about any operation in this country where that citizen may feel threatened or where that citizen may feel at a disadvantage. It takes time for governments of all types and sorts and eras to correct situations that they inherit or inherited when they came into office. I want to make this point which I shall develop as they go along.

Bees Recycling, SBRC, Sustainable Barbados Recycling Center, scrap metal - there are about ten of them in Barbados. Unless there is one thing that I recall the late former Prime Minister saying when we came into office in 2008, when I became Minister of the Environment. But indeed, his commitment was long before I became Minister of the Environment. He said, we have to create appropriate space for recyclers in this country to operate. And he was

ahead of his time. As a matter of fact, his thinking was way ahead of the thinking of many policymakers who preceded him. Because the truth of the matter is that if you are really going to strip the anatomy of solid waste management and look at the sinews and the structures and understand how a modern, developing country will be able to cope with the production of waste, there has to be able to understand, Mr. Speaker, the role of recycling, because a viable recycling programme extracts a significant amount of waste from the waste stream, which means that what goes into the landfill now is a far lesser quantity of waste than would have gone into the landfill were there no recycling programme. And that is what we understand. And therefore we note the diversion of waste from the landfill up to about 60 per cent, as recent statistics have suggested. Diversion from the landfill.

Can you imagine? Let us throw Greenland in there. As much as it hurts me to even talk about Greenland, but let us throw Greenland in there. Greenland, by the way, that has already seen 100 million Barbados dollars investment, where it was suggested that another \$149 000 000 were required to make it operable. Where there is not even a single topic paper down there, and where this government, because of the typographical and other types of geographical constraints at Greenland, made a wise decision not to invest any more of the public funds in that landfill proposal down there. I would like to suggest to this Honourable House, however, that the government decided not to do that, has now come up with a programme that we will utilise Greenland within its natural context, which is the national park system, which the physical development plan suggested, and suggested very warmly, that no landfill should be placed in the heart of the national park system. Understand the contradictions and we are now working towards the building out of a system, a programme where several persons, both local and international persons, have expressed an interest in assisting the government and putting a solid programme down there that is environmentally friendly, and a programme down there where the government can in fact recover at least some of the costs that was placed down there in Greenland.

But if we did not have a circumstance where approximately 60 per cent of our waste is now diverted from the landfill, the natural lifespan of a functioning landfill within the context of Barbados is about 10, 15, 20 years at max. And if you spent \$26 million to create a landfill, a cell, and then indiscriminately placed waste in there, it is estimated that the lifespan of that cell would only be about five years, at the end of which the government will have to look for another \$60 to \$70 million, and at the end of which the government will have to look for another piece of land, somewhere to place a new cell. We are not going that road. We are following the trend of developing countries in Europe, in Asia, South Korea, in India, where they have now taken fully on board a waste

conversion programme that allows them to be able to execute their waste management programme uninhibited, while at the same time create renewable sources of energy. And that is the road that Barbados, a small island developing state, though we are going through the worst economic crisis the world has ever seen - Barbados' ambition places it on top of all developing countries relative to our moving forward in this particular domain.

And what this waste recycling programme does - it creates employment in addition to the diversion of the waste, it creates foreign exchange. And therefore the government, in all of its contemplations, Mr. Speaker, has taken the position that we must create an enabling environment for this industry to thrive. We must fully support current operators in the domain. And we acknowledge the work, as I said before, of SBRC, a transfer station that was created under the Barbados Labour Party. When we came into office, we found the concept built out and this government agreed to the contract for the operation of that station. And I must say to Barbadians today that we applaud the SBRC operators for the service that they have provided for Barbados over the years and hope to continue to support them all the way in the full operationalisation of their vision and their programme.

But it is not only them. Let me turn my attention to Bees Recycling because my mother always said to me, growing up, anytime you have a truth story to tell, do not choose to include yourself in the idle chatter that goes on. Allow those who are the vanguard of that kind of thought to have their space, to engage their constituency, wherever that is, and to have their say.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that this Minister of the Environment never chooses to take anything lightly when it comes to impact on citizens. What I seek to do with the support of the ministry, with the certain support of my Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Barbados, is that we try to be more solution-based, a solution-based approach that is a win not only for the policymakers, but a win for all of those persons involved in whatever the circumstance of discussion might be.

Bees Recycling. You know, if you listen to the discussion as it has developed over the last several weeks, you would almost think that Bees Recycling only came into existence since 2008. You would almost think so. Mr. Speaker, sir, if you strolled into Barbados over the last few weeks and heard the discussion, you would think that Bees only came into existence in 2008. But why should I? I did not have a march and I did not have people that I brought in to surround me to create an impression.

I know that there are seven persons, seven households, I believe, who live in the close presence of Bees Recycling in Kingsland. As a matter of fact, Mr.

Speaker, I should like to indicate to you, which may not surprise you, Mr. Speaker, I remember when Kingsland plantation was cut up in lots, one acre and two acre lots. There was a man from St. Andrew by the name of Calvin Worth, now deceased, that bought a piece down there. And at the time when the land was cut up, there were still some canes, but scraggly canes on it. So he maximised his investment by squeezing every ounce of weight out of those canes before the land eventually went into another purpose. I well recall that in those days, there were no houses there to speak about. And in the course of development, you have sheep farming, you have Bees Recycling there, and you have some other endeavours going on there, including poultry. Including the building out of that community - a wonderful space. Kay Garden is a wonderful area in St. Thomas in Barbados. And certainly I have the highest regard for every single resident who lives in that area, including my sister, who lives in that general area. Her area might be properly called Edge Hill, but it is still within the precinct of the general discussion that has gone on.

Bees Recycling, and for those persons who run off and write letters and try to generate a discussion around an issue that is highly politicised - Bees Recycling came into existence in the year of our Lord 2000. 2000. Bees moved into that area in 2000. Now, as I understand it, the original purpose for moving in was to grow vegetables. And somehow that endeavour morphed into a bona fide recycling programme in the year 2000, not since the Democratic Labour Party became government. So I have some questions to ask to cover the period 2000 to 2008. That is where I want the questions answered, because there is a story to tell Barbadians, there is a story to tell. And I do not take any pride in any Barbadian household or any community in Barbados struggling with any environmental challenge. But my ministry has experts who go forward and they try to understand by comprehensive assessment what is going on and what is impacting upon the people or what the likely impact would be.

I do not hear people talk about the Minister of the Environment sitting quietly and they say nothing. There are people who are there who have said more. But the remit for managing that fire at Bees was not the Ministry of the Environment, it was the Ministry of Home Affairs. And I would want to compliment the Minister of Home Affairs and his team for the wonderful job they did in keeping the public informed about what was happening there. But the first agency in there was the Environmental Protection Department. And, Mr. Speaker, I have a report that came back from them within 48 hours that I am going to make a document of this House, because, you see, people tend to forget, but history is best preserved on the written pages of that historical record. And I believe it is important because I do not ever want the country to believe that this government is so saturated with insensitivity that there

could be an issue impacting upon people and that the relevant agencies in the government system have not been called to service to ensure that they address those issues vigorously. And that was done. As soon as that fire was reported, my ministry was contacted, the Environmental Protection Department was summoned, laid out, and they did their job, reported back to the ministry and the Minister of Home Affairs. And there was a general, comprehensive approach in ensuring that the public understood what was happening.

You see, in this government, we do not believe that when an incident occurred that a Prime Minister has to go and walk over his minister to solve it. We do not believe that a minister has to walk over another minister to solve a problem or to report to the public what is going on. We believe in order - of course that is what we believe in. And I am proud to be part of a government where we respect the remit of each ministry and allow the ministries and their staff, competent people as they are, to execute their responsibilities.

So this minister has been pelted at. You know, when you live close to a neighbour who has a high paling and a weird dog, you normally belt rocks over the paling, and there are some rock-pelters in politics today that all they ever do - I believe that they have a backyard full of rockstones and they cannot pelt straight, but they end up hitting one another. They end up hitting one another. I would not trouble the Honourable Member. I think that the Honourable Member is already wrapped in swaddling, awaiting to be savaged by one of his own members. But that is the thing. I know that he is a competent man who will take care of himself. As a matter of fact, according to the report, Mr. Speaker, he said that he will take care of himself.

So Bees came to St. Thomas in 2000. They currently employ, Mr. Speaker, 107 employees - 107 in recycling. All of those parameters, including St. Thomas, I should add. Yes, as a matter of fact, I did my own research to find out if I could get a headcount of the numbers of persons from St. Thomas. And they have some from St. Thomas. The owner and operator of Bees is a citizen very committed to Barbados who is a resident of St. Thomas. Yes, as a matter of fact, he assures me that he voted for the representative in St. Thomas. And you can also recall that a close relative of the same who operates Bees Recycling was a member of the Senate and on the other side for the Barbados Labour Party, who preached in a voice more proper than poor, advocating the policies of that party. They are not unfamiliar to themselves and therefore Bees really offers a tremendous amount of contribution to this country. Came in 2000, not as Bees at the time - recycling at the time. That is something that developed over time. And I want to make this point that it developed while the regulators were in place. They did not sneak in the night,

they did not come to the back door, they did not come in on a jet plane. They morphed into who they are now in an arrangement where the regulators were in place, and the regulators that would impact upon that business would be the Town and Country Planning Department and the Environmental Protection Department. So they have to answer some questions too.

I ain't get the bag of tell yet. I ain't get there yet. But they are going there because they want the minister to speak. So the minister will speak.

Bees Recycling as it is today collects and exports 38 per cent of our waste. 38 per cent. In 2012 alone, they shipped over 27 540 tons of recyclable materials, including glass, plastic bags and bottles, cardboard boxes, paper, car bumpers, inner tubes from tyres, tin cans and metal. 27 500 tons. And I wish to ask this question. What would this country be required to do if that 27 000 tons of solid waste stayed in the waste stream? What would we have to do? What would it cost us? And what would we lose? Because each ton of waste shipped out of Barbados generates a foreign exchange return - and that is only for one year and that is only three containers. I understand that there were two other containers full of solid waste that went out of this country. So what I want to do is to allow Barbados to understand what it is we are dealing with here.

I do not believe that anyone should stay silent if constituents are in distress and require the advocacy of their representatives. But that advocacy must be done in the spirit of truth and transparency. They must be responsible, if you will.

I had a march up there, I understand, and busting a few people left. One old lady at a bus stop, stranded so in rain, couldn't get home. And that's not a story. That's a truth with an umbrella. And you know, Thomas, the wind is always high and the rain is always falling. And it went from an umbrella to an umbrella. God, he went toward us and the poor old lady was there in his drenching rain waiting for a bus. That is a fact. That ain't no story. That is a fact. And I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, sir, that if our politics is reduced to this search for cause that has no rooting in reality and truth and is not solution based, Mr. Speaker, it is only riling up a society to become antagonistic against the government and against themselves. Because while one group was marching on one side saying bees must go, another group on the other side was saying, bees must take you. Don't worry, I will get to that, Santa Claus. I will get to that, young Molly.

I will tell you what the minister is saying. 27 540 tons of recyclable materials. That included the items that's mentioned and that, Mr. Speaker, included 1 377 containers at 20 tons per container. That's the work that was done. So 27 540 tons was handled by bees recycling, involvement of

bees recycling in waste. And like I said, there are some other figures that will come in, because there's going to be another discussion in this parliament not very long from now where we will revisit this topic, because the story must be told.

If then, Mr. Speaker, sir, there was not an operator like bees recycling, the question still must be answered. What would we have to do as a country in effectively managing the solid waste stream? Mr. Speaker, we have a deluge of reconditioned cars coming into this country, and in the next 10 to 15 years, they will be all out of commission for the most part, and they have to be disposed of. And that is why we need operators like bees recycling, SBRC and the other operators in the area. If we do not have them, what it means is that we will end up having to contend with the management of organic waste plus the management of metal and other types of recyclables. That's what's going to happen.

So I want to say to the country today that what we understand by what contribution is being made by the recycling program of this country, and I must give kudos to the solid waste project unit of the Ministry of the Environment, because they have been in the forefront of driving recycling in Barbados every year. They have a four-hour sphere that generates more than 100 exhibitors. They have a massive education awareness program going. It is all to help people separate the waste at source and bees recycling. The same outfit here has a fleet of over 20 collection vehicles that go around this country and collect recyclables every single day. Why persecute these people? I almost feel like what was captured in the book of Romans - why persecute us? Why lead yourself into believing that, because you call somebody's name often, that will redound into somebody being torn down. We don't work so. But Barbadians are not fools. They're sensible people. They can analyse for themselves. They can deal with the issues themselves.

Mr. Speaker, and therefore I want to go on record today and say that this government is committed to ensuring that the physical space is created for the purposes of recycling at the same integrated solid waste management site at Bob Lewis. This government is committed to that. And in very short dispatch, Mr. Speaker, the necessary paperwork will be brought to this House so that we can advance further acquisitions of land so that recyclers and Barbadians can be safely placed out of harm's way. So that when the latter-day saints come out and start to propagate their message, they would not have to be pelted with the kind of rocks that they've been pelted with in recent times.

So, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the regulators were around and the fact that bees recycling was contemplated to operate by CATEL - there was no mischief involved. It was simply a matter of seeking to manage our solid waste

program as it related to metal. We haven't heard yet that story. Although a fellow called me to tell me, Madison, I got a story to tell with the affidavit. There's a story about that, the affidavit that kick-started the injunction. But I can't speak on that matter because that is a matter that would be best discussed perhaps at another time, in another place. But I want you to know that I

wheel my pen very carefully. Whether it's full of ink, half full, or whether it's empty, the wheel don't drop off. I still really. And I don't wheel him at no cost. In other words, you don't have to pay me to sign anything. I do that at my free will. I want you to understand that. I do that freely. I do that as a civic duty. I am now enter fountain pen. I love a fountain pen. I haven't mastered the art of it yet, but I just love to see the smear on the paper. And it reminds me of something else that I could mention in the presence of these honourable members in here. Violet could be in my pen. But when I use it, I use it. Advise thee, you understand? So I am not going to advance one system for purposes other than the goodwill of the area that we are trying to build out. I am not going to do that. This minister has never on any occasion found it necessary to coerce or to mislead anybody or to manipulate anybody as it relates to the business of the Ministry of the Environment. I can say that here with boldness. Because one thing that I'm learning as a minister of government is that files don't tell lies. And sometimes people just do things and forget. And it's only when you start searching for it you realise what they did. They don't tell lies, no.

So what emerged to me as a revelation was that Bees Recycling existed from 2000, intended to grow carrots and beets, cucumbers and so. And then morphed into what it is. But that is not all. That is not all, Mr. Speaker. That is not all. Let me tell you something about Bees Recycling. You see, if there is one thing that Jesus in his days of walking the earth never ever looked with favour on, it was the act of hypocrisy. That is why he always criticised with a level of behemoth the actions of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Never ever, Mr. Speaker, sir, did he look upon with any grace the actions of hypocrites. And I choose to walk as closely to those standards as I possibly can. None of us are perfect by any stretch of the imagination and we are subject to mistakes. But when a mistake becomes a crusade it goes from mistake to deliberate act. And that is what we have to be aware of.

Would you believe, Mr. Speaker - you see the same noise that's being kept in the quarters of the Barbados Labour Party about Bees Recycling? Mr. Speaker, I have a document I want you to listen to. What is this document, please? It is a caption. It will be made a document of the House, Mr. Speaker. It is a caption of an important award. The Ministry of Energy and the Environment - Minister of the Environment Awards 2007 - towards Barbados Green Economy Awards - this to Bees Bottling Depot, a business

which has contributed to the environmental health and green economy of the nation through its recycling brokerage. The year 2007. You understand me, Mr. Speaker? Do you understand what I'm trying to communicate? This is a simple message. I don't mind each other. I don't mind each other in 2007 but before - yes, ma'am. Please continue. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. But that's not all. You know that is not all. During that era the senior Minister of the Environment then took a team from England to King Ireland, the same site, and did a grand tour of Bees Recycling. Telling the whole world - not part of it - the whole world, Mr. Speaker, sir, that Bees Recycling was in operation, to be envied, the only of its kind in the Caribbean.

Well, that was the time when the award - the Mother Earth award - was up for grabs. The old hair and Mother Sally was too, and paraded around the plant, all over the plant, telling Barbadians and wherever the message could have gone forth that Bees Recycled. This is 2007, after it morphed into the recycling programme that it is today. I want to know where was the MP? I don't mind them. Forget the offence, please, Mr. Speaker. I understand the disposition of the parliamentary representative, the honourable member, to tell us she loves her constituency and constituents, and I believe that she must have been somewhere around when this was happening. Must have been. Must have been.

But Bees, Mr. Speaker, sir, Bees was being touted as - not only that, on Tuesday, June 12, 2007, in an article, Bees Recycling was given another award. Another award. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not saying that Bees didn't deserve the awards. All I'm saying is that if you were so good then, if you were so prominent then, if you were so making a contribution then to Barbados, why at this stage - where a fire that was not the fault of the company, that did not result from any operational flaw, that did not result from any careless operations in the company, that was a result of arson, according to the charges laid against those who were arrested - why at this stage, why would you persecute? Why would you rally people to sue the man? Is it not the same man who the government of Barbados in 2007 gave an award - the Barbados Labour Party government? That's all I'm saying. That's all I'm saying.

And Mr. Speaker, at some point in time we have to wake up and we have to realise that every operation in this country may not work as it ought to work, but as policymakers on both sides of this aisle, our job is to find solutions, not instigate war among people. We can't do it, Mr. Speaker, we just can't. And I am saying again, as I said before, but there's more. I have to wrap up this debate, so I will come back later on that, because I know that somewhere out there in the land of St. Thomas, where the rain falls continuously and it's always in full bloom, somebody is saying, hey, what? I know that somebody is

saying - so somebody is out there saying today that we didn't understand the case to be such. Somebody out there is saying - I was in one of my areas, there was two Saturdays ago, sitting down at a shop and a whole bunch of people in there said, but minister, man, tell me the real story because I know there got to be a story. Tell me what going on. Tell me what going on. You know we will defend you. Tell me what going on. And I said, look, here is the fact of the matter. The government of Barbados today is only trying to facilitate the emergence and thriving of small businesses. We are only trying.

Look, I see people on the road with bicycles overlaid with bottles heading to St. Thomas or any deposit station. There's a man who goes there - I understand he goes there every Tuesday - and he now has a thriving business going. Those are bottles that would otherwise be dumped in the trenches, any drains. That's the connection. But yet we are to sit down and to join a choir, counselling upon this company and saying, yes, get out. Bees Recycling will be out of there very shortly. They will be out. Because again, I believe that government's role is to find solutions, to make sure that the best possible solutions are engineered and put in place for all recyclers. We're not seeking a solution for Bees alone. We believe in this industry. This has now emerged as a small business industry that is required, and the benefits of it would not only be employment, would not only be foreign exchange, but the benefits of it will also be intangible in terms of assisting us in managing our waste process. So let the people live. I've already instructed my people to ensure that they work closely with the relevant authorities to find ready solutions, not only for Bees Recycling, but for any other recycler who may have similar challenges.

The residents of St. Thomas in King Gardens, they have legitimate concerns. And those concerns are being addressed as we speak. The residents in Bagatel, they are no worse off today than they were before the injunction, because our intention was to clean up Bagatel, clean it up and to put a system in there that is an environmentally tested and proof system, you understand? So they are no worse off now. So what we are doing is putting systems in place, not only to clean it up, but to also create an environmentally friendly space and decommission the entire Bagatel method up. And that was the intention in the first place. But again, my approach to elective politics is not going around and harassing and haranguing people. My approach to politics is that you try to build sustainable relationships with the people. You advocate for them when you have to advocate for them, but you never leave them without solutions, because that's what people are in search of.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that as we go forward, we go forward with a simple template, a template that has four essential pillars. Whatever we do environmentally will

impact upon us socially, will impact upon us economically, so that as we look at, for example, our renewable energy sources, this government is deeply committed to advancing renewable energy because we are importing too much fossil fuel, and fossil fuel is not good for the environment. And we are on a path to ensure so that with landfill gas and solar power and wind energy, of waste energy, that will take care of that area, and there are some social benefits. We're going to train and employ people. Green energy complex can be modelled of a sustainable development for the Caribbean model. It helps to fulfil obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, which we are signatory to and we are working towards that. And of course, improve public perception of the whole mangrove landfill area.

I don't know when last you drove down to the highway, but if you drive down to the highway, you will discover that there's a remarkable and refreshing smell down there. Unlike what it used to be and what it was. Even after people got \$5 000 per household for the closing of the land. And it never happened. Never happened. I remember at a public meeting, somebody said that the MP then ran from the people running after a prisoner that was loose at the time, and they caught the prisoner, but he never returned. So he bequeathed that receipt to somebody else. And in all fairness to the MP, she has been a reservoir of noise for her constituents - in all fairness to her - and cannot be faulted for that. But I am imploring that when we begin to keep noise, that there is a ready solution.

Economic benefits - and how will the Mangrove Farm Green Energy Programme meet this pillar? Revenue can be generated by the sale of electricity generated from landfill gas, solar, wind, and waste to energy. And revenue can be generated through the sale of carbon credits. Even though there's some frantic fluctuation of the cost of these credits now - cover all landfill sites, will reduce maintenance requirements and less fuel oil will be imported for electricity generation. That's the economic benefit. Remember, there are four pillars: economic, social, environmental, and good governance.

The environmental benefits overall of our green energy programme will cover over the landfill and reduce leachate generation. And if leachate generation is not effectively managed, of course, that will have an impact on our water supply. Energy development from existing resources, reduction of greenhouse gases from landfill sites, and a reduction in odours from the site.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited about what this government is doing. Our government. I am excited about the vision of our honourable leader, the Prime Minister. I am excited about the total embrace of every member of cabinet for the government's programme along this continuum of green energy. And I intend to be out there propagating the gospel of this particular message, because I

believe it is where this country has to go. Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Seconded. Yes, Mr. [Inaudible.]

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker. Yes. I rise to make a contribution to this resolution of land acquisition at the Mangrove landfill. But at the outset, let me offer my congratulations to you on your legal achievement within the last few weeks. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, I wish I could offer my congratulations to the honourable member for Christ Church East, who just spoke, on his commitment to the environment in this country. But I will get to that at a later date. But let me also offer my sympathy to the residents of the Vaucuse and King Garden and all those who were affected by the fire caused at the Bees Recycling Company. And indeed, it was at the company's operating facility.

Let me again say I am offering my sympathy to the residents who were affected by the fire that was at this company's operating facility. And indeed, we have to be cognizant of the businesses that were affected. And indeed, we have to be cognizant of the schools and the residents who were affected. And we have a duty of care to the citizens of this country. And when we can get in this honourable house and say that we have people who can speak for us, then we truly do not understand that term called leadership, because it is incumbent on any minister where the portfolio is within his or her responsibility and such a fiasco occurred. He or she has a duty of care to the citizens of this country - to speak and offer the sympathy. Like I had said this morning, what I have offered on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party and the honourable members on this side, and I make no apology for that. Because if we can talk about 107 employees at Bees, and if we can talk about having the welfare of the citizens of this country and the employees at heart, then there is some dichotomy that is going on here. Because recently the honourable member for Christ Church East had to preside over an issue where people from within his constituency and members of his ministry were not paid on time. But yet he is saying that he has a responsibility to the 107 employees, the welfare of the employees in this country. And I am saying we have to be careful what we say in this honourable house. We have to be careful what we say in this honourable house.

But let me move on. Let me move on because this has nothing to do with who you think would have saved what, but this has to do with me as a dutiful caring member of parliament for the people of St. George South and the people of this country to speak up when I think there is a need to speak up. And we keep talking about Bees Recycling and the fact that we care about businesses and recycling and we have a duty of care to the environment. But we have really not demonstrated that. And what I want to say at the outset is that this Barbados Labour Party -

Bees Recycling, like you rightfully say, started in 2000 under the Barbados Labour Party. The scrap metal project started also under the Barbados Labour Party and also SBRC. And I have the document here that I can show you and I can read for you, that the Barbados Labour Party back in 2007 agreed to design, build and operate a transfer station, a chemical waste storage facility and composting facility which is a solid waste management centre at Vaucuse. And this was done under the Barbados Labour Party. So to get into this honourable house and to try to insinuate that the Barbados Labour Party has not been integral in driving the environmental management system and solid waste management system in this country, then we are not doing justice to this debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you cannot accuse the member of trying to fool anybody, so please just withdraw it.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: And I am an honourable man. If I say something that is not correct, I will withdraw. And I expect the same thing from all honourable members in this house. And I have no difficulty with that. But when you can make certain statements that can try to create the impression that the members of this side, the Barbados Labour Party, have not been integral in driving the environmental management system and solid waste management system in this country, then we are not doing justice to this debate.

Anyhow, we have here - back in 2007 we would have brought to the Cabinet. The Cabinet is well aware that back in 2007 we embarked upon an integrated solid waste management programme and it included the establishment of a solid waste management centre at Vaucuse. And that centre would have comprised of a transfer station with material recovery. It also would have comprised of a composting facility and it also would have comprised of a chemical waste storage facility. So clearly this has demonstrated that the Barbados Labour Party is critical and has shown that we are integral in developing a sustainable environmental plan for the citizens of this country. And Bees Recycling cannot be excluded because you rightfully said, the honourable member for Christ Church East, that Bees Recycling came into effect in 2000 under the Barbados Labour Party. And I thank you for letting the citizens of this country know that.

Now, my point though - I will move on from the Bees Recycling because I am happy to know that 38 per cent of the waste exported by Bees Recycling and that they have shipped some 27 540 tons of recyclables out of this country, thanks to the good work of the Barbados Labour Party. And I also want to thank you too for carrying it on. That is good. Anyhow, it is not about Bees Recycling really, because businesses must exist as well as the citizens of this country. Once we have good environmental practices and regulations, both businesses and citizens of

this country must enjoy a quality of life and a comfort of life. So I see no separation between having a Bees Recycling plant sited somewhere in St. Thomas, and our citizens of this country enjoying the quality of life that we all in here are supposed to ensure that they enjoy. And it has to do with leadership. Because first you have to demonstrate leadership in your chosen area. Because if you demonstrate leadership in your chosen area, then you will create the enabling environment for businesses to flourish and for people to be employed by the businesses and also for people to enjoy a quality of life. So leadership is very critical to having both businesses and residents and people of this country live in unison and enjoy a quality of life. And that is the fundamental point that I want to make this morning. It is about creating the enabling environment, having the policies and the regulations in place whereby to protect citizens and also businesses. So that if we had it in place - if we had the cart before the horse - then perhaps there would not have been a fire at the Bees Recycling plant.

You can sit there and you can say that the Barbados Labour Party spent 40 years over here without any environmental legislation, but you can spend that time and you can say that. But the reality is it has taken the Democratic Labour Party six years to go out for an expression of interest for a leachate plant and a landfill gas system. It has taken the Democratic Labour Party six years to go out for the expression of interest for the leachate plant and also for the landfill to gas system. And I am saying we need to stop sermonising, we need to stop all these fancy words and we need to deal with the issues because you are governing. And forget the 14 years under the Barbados Labour Party - what has not been done. I want you to implement and I want you to stop sermonising and say -

to the people and saying to this honourable House that we have spent so many times setting up these and that we can't show stones because we live in glass houses. That is not the point. That is not the point. I am summarising in essence, that is what has been summarised here. Because reference about this body getting this person, getting an award back in this time and another award - that is irrelevant to the point, that is irrelevant to the issue at hand. Put the necessary legislation, regulations and policies in place to ensure that bees and other dispatch people can exist and coexist and that people can live a decent quality of life in this country. I will get there because it is not just about collecting waste, it is about sorting the waste. And I am happy that the honourable member for Christ Church spoke about recycling because the day has to come. Very look at what is happening in the first world country. Not just look and talk, but look and act, implement to have a vibrant recycling system led first by regulation and policies as opposed to talk. Because when you put the cart before the horse, you would have another challenge, probably another fiasco which may be more detrimental to the

citizens of this country and also to the businesses of this country. So we have to put the horse before the cart and we have to deal with the regulation, we have to deal with the policy that will prevent certain things from occurring.

And stop looking at the Barbadian party. 40 years - we have passed 1994 to 2008. You are now six years into governance of this country. The people of this country have chosen you to represent them. And you spoke about the four pillars, which is good - economic, social, environmental and good governance. And I am saying to the honourable member for Christ Church, good governance, my friend, good governance is paramount. And good environmental policy will ensure, like you said, economic and social growth within this country whereby people can return to the glory days that they once enjoyed. And I say no more on that.

But Mr. Speaker, sir, cabinet approved the Mangrove Palm Green Energy Complex and I am appalled this morning. And I was told I have to respond to this land acquisition at Mangrove from an environmental standpoint. I sought to do a little bit of research and I went as far back as 2008, then I came forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have sought to do some research and I have gone back to 2008 and to 2013 - 2008 and 2013 coming forward. And I also looked at the Medium Term Development Strategy for Barbados 2010 to 2014. These are three documents that I would have looked at and I see nowhere in these documents any sound or solid solid waste management programme articulated by the other side in these three documents here. But yet, Mr. Speaker, I am hearing about all these grand plans, all these grand plans for solar power and wind energy facility to generate electricity, hoping to generate over 25 in total to be sold on the grid. I keep hearing about these massive Vesta energy plants at Greenland. But these are three documents that we refer to at times. And indeed there are some good things in them at times. I cannot say there is all bad, but the reality is when you look in these three documents, you see nothing at all on the waste energy management or policy implementation or plan implementation. It is limited. It is just two or three words. We talk about renewable energy - yes, which is good - but I see, and you will have to show me, because probably I cannot read a solid waste management plan in these three documents that I just referred to. And it is not about harmonising. It is not about showing speech. It is about action and it is about implementation. It is about demonstrating to the people of this country, by putting pen to paper and sticking to it, that this is our plan, this is what we intend as a government to implement.

So these are some of the things that I wish to comment on this morning. And the honourable member for Christ Church, he spoke eloquently, as he does all the time.

But he has not told me or articulated to me when this energy plant will be. He said he is over-optimistic, or he is very optimistic, or this other side is very optimistic. That is why he said we can be optimistic - all of us can be. And it is good to be optimistic. But it is also better to be implementers. That is where the rubber meets the road when we take all this optimism and turn it into an action plan and we implement. So I challenge you this morning, the honourable member for Christ Church, my friend, to tell us - to tell us when these grand optimistic plans will come into effect, whereby we can have sustainable development as you articulated it, based on your four pillars: economic, social, environmental and good governance.

I think all are lacking right now because we need to understand the whole aspect of recyclable and solid waste. What is going through our landfill today? We are not utilising the trooper at Mangrove landfill. We are not. And we need to ask ourselves the question why. And I keep saying it boils down to management. It is not just about leaving it to the EPD or whoever you have to lead. You have been chosen by the people of this country and by your members, your honourable side, to execute leadership in the area of environmental management. And that is what I would say this morning to you - the honourable members on the other side. Implementation is lacking. We need to put rubber to the road and put the horse before the cart and create the necessary regulations whereby businesses, not only in the environment, but other businesses can coexist. And that is only an example. And perhaps we need to take it as a learning and act swiftly because six years has passed and I will repeat, six years has passed and you have now only gone to look to express interest - go and look for an expression of interest for an elicit plant and a landfill-to-gas system. So clearly something is wrong with the environmental system or the environmental management or the governance of the Ministry of the Environment as it relates to solid waste management.

But I also want to mention that when I reviewed the three documents I saw no signs either of incineration, and it is one of the best ways to deal with hazardous waste and toxic waste, and perhaps there is hidden mention, but I see no mention of them. So these are some of the things that we have to discuss as we take this country forward to become sustainable in all areas - not only in the environment, in all areas.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is my challenge this morning and I know that this side is certainly committed to ensuring that the recyclable companies like BEES, the scrap metal companies, SBRC, operate in an environment that they contribute to economic development and also that they are socially responsible and environmentally responsible as we seek to ask you to put the necessary regulations and

legislation in place. So, Mr. Speaker, without further ado, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, if there is one common factor when we speak about environment, it is that whenever the Barbados Labour Party gets involved in the environment, we always have a problem. Mr. Speaker, we have had a situation where they went to Blackbass, then they went to Kingsland, then they went to Mangrove and then they went to Greenland and this story is the same, sir - wherever they have gone with a landfill, whatever you call it, sir, they have always seen environmental madness and those are not my words, sir - those are the words of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. And I want to say, sir, that in 1986, just before they lost the election, sir, they were kicked out of Greenland by the Honourable Member for Christ Church, Sir Harold St. John, because of the mess that they were creating at Kingsland, and they ran to Mangrove without any preparation, sir, and they created also an environmental madness at Mangrove. Then to solve the problem, sir, they went to Greenland and I do not have to say, sir, that even though \$100 million were spent at Greenland, not even the smell of garbage went to Greenland.

Today we are here discussing a matter, sir, about the aquarium at Mangrove, and it is because this government has recognised that we are committed not only to see what we are doing as collection of garbage, but we have turned garbage into raw material. And I want to say, sir, that this government has been able to lead the fight wherever it has gone throughout the world, sir, because we have been able to recognise that there is something called the environment and that there is a need to protect the environment. And I must say, sir, that BEES Bottling has played a major role, sir, in ensuring that the environment of bottles has been protected.

I was fortunate, sir, to serve as Minister of Environment. And when I went to Kenya and I saw what was being done with garbage, I felt proud that as a small developing country, we were not being taught anything by those larger countries. And when - the message that when I was Ambassador, sir, I went to, sir, [Inaudible.] and saw the number of PET bottles scattered across the beaches, I was shocked and appreciative, sir, of what the Democratic Labour Party had done when we decided to put a deposit for plastic bottles in this country, which allowed companies like BEES and other recyclers to clear all streets and beaches, sir. It is difficult now, sir, in Barbados to see a PET bottle any place else. So good is the programme, sir, that even when you are drinking a PET drink now, sir, that somebody is waiting for you to get rid of that bottle.

And today, sir, when you listen and see what went on in this country - where there are marches and all of this about a company, sir, that has been able to transform the environment of Barbados - one must ask the question, sir. Mr. Speaker, we have the SBRC set up by the Barbados Labour Party. What is that cost to the taxpayers in this country? The SBRC is doing a wonderful job. The SBRC is doing a wonderful job, but there is a cost to the taxpayers - that was set up by the Barbados Labour Party for that wonderful job. And the question must be asked: how come that everybody can focus on what BEES is not doing or doing, and some very negatively? Somebody declared a march on BEES, but BEES as a company is not costing this government one cent - furthermore, not costing the government a cent. BEES is putting money in terms of revenue into the treasury and in exchange it is bringing to the country. And I am saying, sir, that the recyclers, like BEES and other recyclers, must have a space in this country, sir.

And that is why, sir, that our environmental programme that is being placed in the Fortesque area - we cannot only look at the SBRCs, but we must look at all other recyclers, because they too are contributing not only in collecting garbage and recycling garbage, but they are also generating foreign exchange for this country and we should be grateful, not ungrateful. But the problem with us is that too many of us cannot appreciate, sir, when someone looking like ourselves is doing a good job, because we tend to believe, sir, that the only people that can do good jobs are when we import the talent. But when the talent is found among us, we want to bastardise them and say all sorts of things about them, fight and destroy them. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that is wrong, because if we do not lift up those persons, sir, then we will not be able to progress this country.

And the truth is, sir, people might not know this, but most of the developing states and developing countries have now recognised that they have made an error. And I want to proffer this because I have said it in the international forum and I have said it in this Parliament and I want to repeat it all. The green economy you hear people talking about is the admission that they made an error in doing what the forebears taught them, because the truth is what you are seeing is things that we blocked before and we were accustomed to doing - like taking the old things and finding other uses for them. And then the educated people who came and told you, do not get involved in import substitution, cut the comparative advantage - they cannot come and tell the world that they have made an error. So they come up with fancy terms like green economy and all of that. All they are doing is what the old people were constantly doing, and they cannot admit that they were wrong.

I was in this Parliament and I heard people telling people: man, do not produce these things, import them - it is cheaper to import. But what they did not recognise was the cost to the foreign exchange level of this country. And companies like BEES et cetera have been able to reverse that trend. And now to cloud Biden and make people look good, we speak about bringing it all - all we are doing is going back to the old days, and that is why we tell the story all the time. We are so smart in this country that we stopped the backyard - I mean backyard slaughtering. And then they told people to go to the many heights and territories and said: do not keep the fowls, not the chickens, not the chickens. And when the girl named the yard fowls too, isolated yards for yard fowls. And that is why every week when I got Colin [Inaudible.] determined people to treat houses, because what was yarded now was that the fowl was fattened and even [Inaudible.], but you told the people to get rid of them and they import the broilers, they eat the broilers. Now when I have the broilers to eat and the termites eating your houses, tell me which one is the most costly. So this is the type of society we are now living in.

Let us get real in here today and let us recognise - let us recognise - that this is the thought that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East can appreciate and understand, because he lives these things and he can appreciate these things. So what I am saying today is we really have to realise that we have allowed the textbook to fool us and we have moved away from the practical aspect of life and moved to the theoretical aspect, and everything that we see in the textbook. We put down what our parents have taught us and we gravitated to the textbooks and ignored the common sense of these things. I am saying today we are here to correct this problem. And I am saying that as Minister of Housing, with the permission of Cabinet, that whatever it takes to correct this problem and to ensure that we continue to live environmentally, we will do it and we will provide the necessary resources to ensure it occurs. And we are not going to allow fancy words like subdued care and injunction to stop the progress of works that are going on in this country, because when those words are carefully studied they do not mean anything as it relates to this matter. And I am saying, sir, you do not have to be a lawyer to understand these things.

Mr. Speaker, I have been able to watch in this country that we have been able to build up large numbers of tyres. When I was Minister of Environment, two gentlemen came through my door - one from BEES and one from C.O. Williams Construction - to deal with the tyre issue. They presented the case to me and I was quite prepared to go along with it, because the truth is we cannot continue to import tyres in this country and do nothing about them. Because I would have been failing as Minister of Environment to continue to allow something like a tyre to be a problem in the country when it can be used as a raw material and it can be used in the construction of material

to put on the roads of others to give us a better surface. And I am saying, sir, that we have to understand that we have to see everything as a challenge and not as a problem. The problem in this country is that we see everything as a problem and we do not set about to solve the problem. And that is why we have this government, because we have worked out the solutions to the problems and we have left the problems to the Barbados Labour Party, and we have seen everything as a challenge and we are dealing with it.

And that is why, sir, the economists in this country - that is why they are so powerful - that when the Honourable Member said, sir, that he is rolling out even an example like this, that he is rolling out his capital programme, they call it a stimulus. They do not even understand the difference between a stimulus and a programme that creates a stimulus. Imagine. So they lash on and say: oh, you are creating a stimulus. You are creating a capital programme that will create stimulus. And that is the difference. A stimulus is an ad hoc programme. A capital programme is a programme that creates stimulus. And they cannot understand that. They are the ones who write and go on the call-in programmes every day, enlarge enough and give the impression that they know everything in the world.

I am saying, sir, that today we are acquiring this land because we understand that we have to protect the environment above us. And we also understand, sir, that land is limited and that we have to put a programme in place - as I mentioned, sir, four locations the Barbados Labour Party were able to use in less than 14 years for landfilling et cetera. I am saying, sir, under our programme we should not have to move from Mangrove, because what we will be doing is doing a conversion, and instead of importing material into this country we will continue to use recyclers like BEES et cetera to take this material back out of the country and to create foreign exchange.

Also, sir, I said in this House already that one of the worst things that ever happened to Barbados was how we introduced [Inaudible.] in this country, because what we did by introducing that the wrong way, we created a throwaway society. In other words, the people that used to be employed to service equipment and service things, we got rid of them and we created a society that instead of servicing something, they dump and throw away. So today we are here discussing an issue that was clearly in the ambit of the mess everybody created by the Barbados Labour Party, and now they are masquerading as if they are innocent. In other words, if you have a refrigerator in your house, you do not repair that now, because of the system introduced by the Barbados Labour Party - you just discard it and buy a new one. By doing so, you are also keeping people unemployed. We are part of that. We were able to keep the refrigerator in the house and keep people employed.

And I am saying, sir, that all of that mess we have to correct and we will correct it because it is our job. And I have always said to my comrades - and the other member, the Prime Minister, the Member for St. Michael, will tell you - I have always said to my comrades: anytime you have a good idea and you do not want it bastardised, implement it before the other party puts their hands on it, because they are known for creating garbage and not raw material, because everything they do gets destroyed. And when they are finished, there is no use to it. And I am saying today, sir, that we have to understand that the topic that we are dealing with is much bigger than them. And we should not be surprised with the criticism that is coming from them, because the truth is they are still at the garbage stage, while we have moved on to the raw material stage.

And that is why today, sir, we will work with anybody who is prepared to say raw material, and to say it not only from the point of view of revenue, but more so from the point of view of bringing foreign exchange to this country. And everybody who has listened to me over the years will have recognised that we as people focus on revenue - I always focus on the ability to create foreign exchange, because you can have all the revenue in the world, but if you do not have any foreign exchange, you are in trouble. And that message is very clearly put by the principal government in the SSR Bank, who is always focusing on the foreign exchange of the country. And I am saying that we in this government have a lot to be proud of, because in difficult times in the world, we have been able to ensure that we maximise the uses of everything, and that we created the necessary environmental programme to ensure that this country can stand tall and can speak at any level on environmental issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt - it is not whether we are going to acquire land or whether we are going to have an environmental programme or not. The question is when and how soon. And I am saying, sir, that once the remit is passed, I will ensure that I drive the necessary directions to make sure, sir, that the wind is not yesterday, but it is the day before yesterday, because we have to understand that the world is not great enough on us. And there are too many people who are anti-Barbados. And they do everything within their power to frustrate. Only they pretend that they are frustrated - the Democratic Labour Party. The truth is it is not the Democratic Labour Party that they are stalling. They are stalling country Barbados, and country Barbados is the over 280 000 people. When they set about to sabotage something, they are stalling country Barbados. Only the disguise is that they are doing it to benefit a few members in the Democratic Labour Party. That is not true. If they try to stall us from getting foreign exchange, it is not only the members out here or our congress that will suffer - it will be the total country Barbados that will suffer.

So don't everybody believe that when they say they are doing it to frustrate the DLP, that they're doing it to frustrate the DLP, they are doing it to frustrate their own supporters also. And that is why we have to ensure that we put these programmes and that we argue them. And I am saying, sir, that the same way that the Barbados Labour Party came to this parliament sometime in the past and discussed water as a matter of national importance, we also have to do it on the environment. We have to build a resolution in this House and discuss the environment in the same manner because it is so important within the country, it's so important within the world that we have to put it there and discuss it. It's not an

issue to run away from. It's an issue that will push this country forward and is now a line item that is positive as it relates to national finance, because it's now a line item that is not only bringing revenue, but it's also bringing foreign exchange. So there is some significance to it and we cannot ignore it. We have to acknowledge it and we have to drive it. So no naysayer is going to stop us from pushing our programme because we understand where we have to carry it and we understand where we are taking it. And that's the most important thing - the only thing left is to ensure that the public understand where we are taking it and the reason why we are taking it there. It is no doubt that in 2007, the Barbados Labour Party came in here and spoke about the green economy, and at the same time they were pushing the green economy they were talking about oil. It's like when a gas station can make gas and diesel. So when you hear them programme that - they have this bring-the-coney programme - that's one of fossil fuels. They have got to recognise where we are going, and if you want to have a hybrid, save your brain for the hybrid, but don't come in here talking about a green economy and then talking fossil fuels in that corner and saying, well, you got tender bits - how much money we're making from tender bits. I was in here. So let us get a serious debate about this and understand that as brothers of a small developing country, we are far ahead of more developed countries than ourselves when it comes to environmental matters. And instead of punishing people who are trying to do good for our country, let us hold our hands on this issue and go forward. And you know the worst thing you can get? When I was a youngster, my father always said to me - it is not the policeman that reports you; check and see who the policeman protects. Have a nice day, sir. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, I move that this sitting be suspended until 2.00 this afternoon. I so move, and I ask a member to second.

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without

division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business, Order Number three, and that we shall continue. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, sir, I rise to make an ever so brief contribution to this resolution which is before the chamber. And in doing so, sir, perhaps I should preface my remarks by saying that having listened carefully to that which the Honourable Minister delivered today, I felt somewhat disappointed because I had expected, sir, that the minister would take the opportunity to expatiate on matters - more so on matters of policy. He threatened, sir, to be very solution-oriented and I would have hoped that we would have had more of a discussion which would have engendered a debate in this chamber on the policy dimension of the issues which are facing us, especially with respect to environment. More so, sir, than what was delivered.

And, Mr. Speaker, sir, outside of the little hiccup of policy aspects that the minister did touch, there were really, sir, many areas which I think should have been visited and I would want, in the course of these few submissions, to reflect on them to some extent. What I did not expect, sir, was that this chamber would have been treated to a stout defence of a private sector enterprise in Barbados, the business of which really has never been challenged by, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, anybody on this side. The usefulness and utility of which has never been challenged by anybody on this side, sir.

I think, sir, that it is really deeply unfortunate that an impression has been put abroad that there are any members of this chamber who have difficulty with the concept of recycling and that which in particular Bees Bottling does or Bees Recycling does as it constitutes the proper business of recycling. To set up that kind of straw argument, sir, only to knock it back down, is to do no good turn to either the substance of what this debate could properly be about, or further, sir, do no good turn to the people of Barbados who I think expect more.

The minister, sir, if I could just venture to offer a suggestion, would do well in his wrap-up to avoid the continuation of the impression that he sees this as a matter of singing for supper. This certainly is a matter which can allow us, for the first time in recent times, to be able to embark on a serious engagement on some of the policy issues that the minister chose to articulate in the very broadest way when he spoke of economic, social, environmental benefits and good governance, but did not go into in any detail.

Now, Mr. Speaker, sir, with respect to the question of good governance, that is perhaps the best point of departure. This chamber, I think, needs to be done the good turn of hearing the whole truth on some of these matters. This chamber, sir, has to be done the good turn. Because when we are going to speak about good governance, let us not just treat the matter as a purely partisan political one. Let us not treat the matter, sir, as people coming in here without any sense of responsibility, casting charges across the well of the House to the other side, because that is never what it was.

The good governance issue in this matter, sir, as with respect to what has been transpiring insofar as citizens of Barbados have been affected legitimately in their neighbourhoods, affected legitimately, sir, in the course of their daily lives, affected legitimately, sir, in their homes, on matters, sir, of environmental importance to them which none of us would want to be visited at our own domestic doorstep, sir. Those issues, sir, cannot be treated lightly.

And what are the issues? The issues, sir, have to be that we have a situation in which residents in Barbados are confronted, sir, in not one district only, more than one district, commercial investors coming into a neighbourhood, a residential neighbourhood and establishing their enterprise. Now, sir, in some instances the nature of the enterprise is one in which, although it can be seen to have some social and economic benefit to the wider Barbados, it is un- or improperly regulated, if regulated at all. Therefore, sir, you have the festering of rodents and vermin. You have, sir, in some aspects of the difficulties and challenges that are confronting people - water courses, roads.

In my own constituency, sir, one of the major areas of concern was damage to roads which had very recently been repaired, and damage coming as a result of this new visitation of heavy vehicles coming into the area, sir; the question of how we manage the assault of dust on people's homes. Noise. Noise pollution. The reality, sir, in my own constituency, sir, was that heavy equipment put to work causing tremors and vibrations that people were feeling in their wall houses. Not only the wooden houses - the wall houses too. 400, 800 metres away. A simple situation, sir, which could have been avoided if you were having properly regulated activity.

Now, the point I wish to make - and I thank you for reminding me about the meltings of tyres and storage of petrol. I talk about the combustibles - but the point is, sir, that what are the residents of districts such as these expected to do? Because I think this chamber has to understand the trap of hopelessness that some people in Barbados feel they live in.

Now, it is to my certain knowledge, in my constituency, when the matter became one for the residents of crisis proportion, that people would have written in their personal capacity to the Ministry of the Environment expressing their concerns. And while, sir, I can say that I know that to be a fact, I cannot equally say - though I wish I could - that the responses to the residents were forthcoming, not even satisfactory. Forthcoming. I am unable to find anybody who can produce a response to explain why it is that you wake up one morning and without prior knowledge or consultation, the nature of your neighbourhood changes fundamentally.

Notice, there are questions that go to the core of that which the minister articulated - the quality of your governance. That is not to attack any private sector entity that manages, by whatever means, to set up its business and start doing what it has to do, but it has to do so - I would imagine, sir - if you are going to talk about good governance, within a context that protects the rights of others who may be materially affected by the pursuit of the business. And that is the issue that the Ministry of the Environment - when people say the ministry is silent, or that the minister is silent - that perhaps is not the jocularity to which we retreated between ten and thirty-five minutes to eleven. But, sir, the serious core issue that affects the livelihood and the well-being of people in residences that are that way encumbered.

Mr. Speaker, sir, it goes to another dimension, because when once the residents have done that which they feel they should do in defence of their own personal interests, it stands to reason that when you are getting no response, you go to a Member of Parliament, because that is what he or she is there for. Now, in that which is now my constituency, I cannot speak to what happened with the outgoing Member of Parliament - that is a matter for him. And I think the judgment passed on him by the people reflects how they felt about him and his silence to this day, not parting his lips to speak on their behalf.

But, sir, I know, because I was in the other place, about what it was to have to make inquiries, to have to write off. I can understand that to which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas probably feels, because I know she too would have written off to make inquiries to find out what it is that can be done, what is being planned, when you have all of this drastic change taking place in otherwise previously ordinary residential neighbourhoods that are afflicted by a commercial enterprise or commercial enterprises that seem to be running out of control.

And, Mr. Speaker, sir, the point needs to be made that, again, it is not one of jocularity or anybody being a hypocrite. It is to say that it is a truth that not a word is written in response from the Ministry of the Environment. Nobody is going to stand up in this chamber - save with

great respect to the minister - and accuse and say to the minister that it is his fault that no response has come or that he should have written letters of response to each and everybody. But the fact of the matter is, sir, that there is a responsibility lying in the minister to ensure that the ministry is run and operated in such a manner that when legitimate concerns about serious challenges of an environmental nature take place in any neighbourhood in Barbados, that the common courtesy to the Member of Parliament, the common courtesy to members of the other place as I was at the time, the common courtesy to the people affected is that there should be an involvement by the ministry in their plight. The ministry cannot be seen to be above and beyond it all.

And then you hear this talk about how you are waiting and the hypocrites and your pen - how you like it. Specious. Nonsense. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, sir - I want members of the House, please. I require order, please. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the lack of effort to provide satisfaction to people who are voicing legitimate concern is the first question, the first issue that has to be dealt with in this matter, as far as I am concerned.

The false premise that was set up also has to be dealt with, because this is not about any private entity. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Barbados Labour Party, as the point was made, while in government recognised the importance of having recycling in Barbados. So it is not about any question of any private entity. It is, sir, a question, in my judgment, of the regulatory environment within which private entities of this nature should operate. And if there is a failing, sir, it is a failing on the part of the ministry and by extension the minister, who should give leadership to the ministry to move with alacrity to ensure that the proper regulatory environment is created in Barbados. The proper regulatory environment.

And, sir, it is unsatisfactory to seek solace in an argument that takes us back 14, perhaps 18 years, because the demand, the production of garbage today, the demand for recycling today, the culture, the environment, the willingness of a nation to embrace it, the willingness of the world to embrace it, is fundamentally different from what it was 14 to 18 years ago.

But, sir, what are the facts? The facts are that the company in question, in St. Thomas at Reece Road, sir, would have had initially set up approximately an acre of land on the periphery of the urban corridor. And, sir, when the minister says - as though he is holding something over the head of the Labour Party - that there is a history, well, in a big lot of history there is no mystery to it. There is no recent discovery, in fact, that having understood the importance of the business - as the minister uses the language - it morphed into a recycling business and took up

more and more space, much of, if not all, the additional space without the appropriate planning permission or the permission of the planning authorities. That the government of the day took a position that, look, this thing is important but we are not going to shut you down now. We are going to give you a reasonable period of time to get your house in order. That is no secret about it. You are going to get your house in order - and that applies there to anybody who has run afoul of the law and needs to sort themselves out.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, sir, when you come now to a point three, four, not even three or four, five or six years down the road and you have the same business going into a different part of Barbados, Mr. Speaker - and that is what caused the public disquiet in parts of St. James - when you have the same business going to a different part of Barbados in similar circumstances where they had sought to set up that which they did without having the proper authorities giving them the necessary support, then, Mr. Speaker, sir, it becomes a question, a time for you to challenge the appropriateness of what is taking place.

And Mr. Speaker, sir, I will be the first one to say that when you are going to talk about good governance, then let us do so in a realistic and serious way. Because when, Mr. Speaker, the Town and Country Planning Department, by way of its leader, the Chief Town Planner, has to write off to the minister responsible for environment and drainage and town and country planning - the Chief Town and Country Planning Officer, the Chief Town Planner has to write off to the ministry with responsibility for environment and drainage in order to point out, sir, that cabinet has given permissions even before the private sector company has applied to town planning. Do you understand what is happening in Barbados, sir? You cannot be heard on one side of your mouth to be talking about good governance and then on the other hand preside over a situation in which cabinet has -

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, I remember. The Member is giving the House the impression that cabinet would have given permission to something that was not being done at Bagatell previously. The only permission that cabinet would have given is for the continuation of work that was done previously at Bagatell. So it is wrong for the member to give the impression that cabinet gave more authority than what was previously happening there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. Please continue.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, sir, I stand on the point I was making. There was never a recycling facility at Bagatell.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, sir, on a point of order - the Honourable Member knows, sir, that is

not true. That when they were in government, they gave a person who was not responsible to any charge in Barbados permission to export metal at that site - Lanfield. So do not come in here with that.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, there was never a recycling facility in operation at Bagatell.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Everybody knows that at that location at Bagatell there was an operation. And the other member, who was previously parliamentary representative for that area - it was going on there when the other member was a member. And it was well known that metal was being exported from that location. And not one word was said about the operation there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. Please continue.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I stand on the point I made. There has never been a recycling operation at Bagatelle. And the point is, Mr. Speaker, sir, that after a decision was taken by cabinet on the eighth of March 2012, then subsequently, sir, on the 4th June in 2012, the Chief Town Planner - none lesser than the Chief Town Planner - had to intervene. I stood in this room, sir, today, sat here today and I heard talk from the Minister, no less, about an injunction, sir.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member must be fair. The Honourable Member cannot come into the impression that the only time that the Chief Town Planner intervened in any matter regarding recycling is after 2000. If the Honourable Member wants to speak about the Chief Town Planner, the Honourable Member will have to speak on the same matter too. So we cannot direct him on what to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please continue.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: All the more reason, sir, why I couch my remarks in the context of the importance of having the appropriate regulatory environment today. The time is right, sir, for us to have an intelligent debate on the nature of the regulatory environment that we need. Because there is no difference in this House, sir. There is no difference in this House about the need for you to have recycling in Barbados. But where the issue arises, sir, is the context within which the recycling must take place. And it is a deeply unfortunate thing. The Minister, who continued to interrupt me, sir, does not want me to say it, but I am going to say it nonetheless. It is deeply unfortunate that after cabinet has given permission for certain things to be done, that an important part of the process - i.e. the Chief Town Planner - has to say in writing: hello, I wish that I had been consulted first, because the people to whom you are purporting to give this permission have not even applied. It means, therefore, that the process was turned on

its head, and that before anybody could have divined - outside of the private sector agency and the cabinet - that which the private sector agency wanted to do, permissions were given. Not only did the Chief Town Planner have to intervene, sir,

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member is accusing us as cabinet members, sir, of giving permission of which we had no authority to. And I am saying, sir, that the only authority we gave was the authority that was in place previously, and the Honourable Member cannot make those statements. The Honourable Member is accusing the Cabinet of Barbados of something that has been dishonest - of giving powers that they did not have - and we never did.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order. He did not specify to me what specific permission was given. He is just talking generally. So I do not say I can rule him out for that. Please continue.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I am obliged, Mr. Speaker, sir, and I wish to say as well, sir, because I really did not come to this place to be contentious on the matter today. I honestly feel, as I said before, that there is an abundance of agreement in this chamber about the importance of recycling. But where the Labour Party, sir, will forever draw the line in the sand on this matter is if it is going to be done in an environment in which it is a free for all - it cannot be a free for all, sir. And sir, the point that I was making was not just with respect to the Chief Town Planner, because it became compounded. What is the citizen supposed to do when he or she, of his or her own private volition, decides to make inquiries about the nature of the transformation in their neighbourhood, to discover that the Chief Town Planner's office cannot help them? So they go to the Ministry of the Environment only to discover that the Ministry of the Environment stands equally unaware about what is taking place in the neighbourhood. And sir, it is a fact as well to say that on the 20th June in 2012, the Director of the Environmental Protection Department wrote in similar terms to the Chief Town Planner, expressing the same degree of concern and wishing that there had been, prior to certain decisions being taken at the top, that they who are charged with the technical responsibility of protecting the environment in Barbados - not just in Hoyce Village in Bagatelle, not just in Reece Road in Cane Garden, but of all Barbadians, sir - that they had been given the courtesy of prior consultation. And there is nothing wrong with that. I agree with the Minister when the Minister said that this must be done in an environment of good governance. Where I disagree with the Minister is when he says that the good governance issue has been satisfied. I also feel, sir, that if we are going to speak sensibly to these matters, then we have to ask ourselves the question: how does a government preside over a situation in which you are going to, for the first time,

have a highly technically advanced piece of equipment such as an automobile grinder at work in a neighbourhood which was previously residential only, but you do not have in place a legislative framework within which, sir, you can control the type of particulates that are thrown into the atmosphere? When we know that in the United States of America - and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, sir, who spent a lot of time in the United States, would be able to tell those who may not have known - that it is a fundamental part of the air pollution control laws out there for use of this same type of equipment, sir, that you must have certain things carefully in place. You follow carefully, sir, that which is said by the parties involved, because you cannot hear a word from the government on the matter. We have never, sir, in this country benefited from a press conference convened by the Minister to speak to the issue of what is confusing the people affected by the use of an automobile grinder. But, sir, we hear that you are going to have the normal water runoff as usual in the area. But there are no storm pollution laws that are in place in Barbados. There is no hazardous waste disposal legislation in place in Barbados, sir, to protect people in the circumstances of what happens in the aftermath of all the grinding taking place. But we know that in the United States of America and in Europe and other places in the world where the same equipment is being used, that there are those environmentally protective pieces of legislation in place in order to protect the residents. Those are the things that contribute, sir, to -

Mr. SPEAKER: You have three minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: - that contributes to the feeling that you are caught in a trap, sir, of despair. Now the Environmental Protection Department, sir, as well as the Town and Country Planning Department were, in my judgement, quite right when they intervened in the matter. I want to say to this House, because the House was misadvised by the Minister - who unfortunately to this day cannot say to the chamber that despite the citizen - yes, sir -

Mr. SPEAKER: I would prefer if you did not go there now, because you can mislead and you can do it innocently, and it is on the record of Parliament. You say that you deliberately misled, but I would still prefer if you did not say that he was unintentionally misleading.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: The House was misadvised. The fact of the matter is, sir, that a writ was filed in the courts of Barbados on the 25th September last year. And the fact of the matter is, sir - and if I may, Mr. Speaker, sir - yes. And the fact of the matter is, sir, that the Crown, since the 25th September, and in the face of repeated warnings from the High Court of Barbados - at least three judges before whom the matter has appeared - the Crown is yet to file a word, a word in response. That,

sir, could not happen with any ordinary citizen. And that is why I go back to the question of good governance, because, sir, you in another iteration have partners in the courts of this country. You and I, sir, know as well as all other counsel that it is impossible for an ordinary citizen faced with circumstances such as that to be for six months or several months in a state where you have not filed any response and not invite against you the strictest censure. But that is the way the government unfortunately has been treating the rights and the interests and the legitimate concerns of citizens in Barbados. So we cannot hear on one hand these laudatory statements from the Minister about good government practices and then, sir, the facts defy acceptance of them. Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to say simply in closing that with respect to the transfer from the waste-to-energy issue, again, sir, this is nothing new. We all know that landfills produce gases. We all know that you must capture the methane, sir, and you separate out the bad parts and you pipe the methane, sir, to supplement natural gas. That it has not happened to benefit people in Rock Hall, to benefit people in Arch Hall, to benefit people, sir, who have played host to the

nation's garbage for as far back as the memory of man doth run. Those are the people who urgently now need the intervention so that the waste-to-energy project could assist them in getting cheaper access to gas and utilities in their neighbourhood. To say that six years after coming to government we are now at a stage where we are talking about thinking about sending out invitations to tender is to say that we have done nothing and squandered time. I recognise that my time is up and I am obliged to you.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a contribution to this debate and to lend my support to the resolution before the House - the acquisition of some 6.48 hectares and 16 acres at Vacluse for the use of the development of what is now known as Cell Four of the entire Greenland solid waste handling environment. Sir, the debate so far has clearly set a divide in this chamber as to how the two parties see this question of solid waste development. And indeed, if I may say so, sir, how the government of today, the Democratic Labour Party, insists on the fact that ours is about good order and governance, ours is about honesty in the face of public comment, ours is about making sure that the voices of the people are heard. And it is not a flight of convenience which sees the members on that side support an arrangement for many, many years prior, both at Cane Garden and at Bagatelle, whether the entity performing the activity were a private sector organisation or an entity directly under the control of government such as the SSA. So the members on that side, sir - the member who just sat down - can talk about hypocrisy. Yes, because it is hypocritical to pretend in this chamber to be on the same page as the government insofar as its commitment to solid waste management is concerned and renewable energy, but then to go outside and try to

incite, or by convenience try to promote, a climate of uneasiness among a population who understand very well the pros and cons of development - the pros and cons of development of all kinds, and worst of all the development of this kind of project. All of Barbados is aware of the treatment meted out to the entire west coast of Barbados by that administration. We are not going there. The wastage - against the best advice - of some hundred million dollars by that administration. So we are not going there at Greenland. The point is that we have got a situation in Barbados where we recognise that we have, in a small island state, a small country, in which almost anything we do affects our neighbours. We have to set up areas in which this kind of operation can be properly and fairly managed. We have to protect our people, we have to protect our residences. And the point the Minister made at the beginning of his speech was the fact that the agencies who are supposed to be responsible for the management of these situations were present. They were advised. I have reports. Two surveys were made available to the Democratic Labour Party by the relevant agency in the Ministry of Health - information which they used to inform the Honourable Attorney General and his team. And the members of the town were there at the press conferences, were briefed. So to come in here and behave as if nobody is saying anything to the people - who will go down the street and organise protests and walk up and down Barbados just because the host held a meeting, so they had no way to vent, so they go there and try to create chaos in a land where people clearly understand the challenges we face. The reports made it very clear there was no threat in terms of health hazard as the direct result of the fire at Cane Garden, and that all arrangements were made to evacuate those persons who may have felt threatened. The health services were opened and hours were extended where necessary to make sure that those who were asthmatic would be treated either at the polyclinic, Mr. Speaker, or at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital if required. The situation was properly handled and that is the point. That is the point. And the Honourable Member for St. Thomas agreed to that. But you see, it is the hypocrisy -

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order, sir. The Honourable Member for St. James South - is misleading. Christ Church South, sir. The Honourable Member, sir, knows that the word hypocrisy was first used in this debate and I said it in my speech that I was responding directly to the Honourable Minister who started, who piloted this debate, sir, and who used the word hypocrisy in the same context that the Minister is now seeking to use it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, sir, I think though that we have made the point we want to make and

that is that if we are talking about a serious recycling industry in Barbados, if we are talking about any other serious area of development, business development, Barbados, we have got to be fair and recognise our limitations. We do not have these wide open spaces where we can necessarily locate these industries which have the potential to have these kind of impacts. But wherever possible - or not even wherever possible - at all times we must make sure that they are properly, adequately mitigated. And to that I give the Honourable Member of St. James Central credit. He did indicate that there must be obviously mitigation of any plant designed to carry out these activities.

We were concerned about the activities that came at Cane Garden too. That is why, Mr. Speaker, towards the end of the last term we introduced a scrap iron amendment bill in here, which dealt with the whole question of the handling of waste - what do you call it - the scrap iron and precious metals. And metals generally, because although the legislation is there, and it was there for a while, the point is you have sometimes to renew legislation. So to remind those who are taking part in these activities of the seriousness of it, because the practice has gotten, Mr. Speaker, in some cases, out of hand. People were losing cabling to their homes, buildings, properties were being stripped of the metal before they were even complete. Old buildings that had been abandoned for one reason or another were immediately stripped of the metal. I am not saying that they ended up at one metal recycling plant or the other. But the point is, we sought as an administration to make sure that the legislation was in place so that the arrangements for the handling of scrap metal were properly outlined. And the penalties, the penalties for mishandling were adequate enough, were severe enough so as to deter those who have criminal intent. So that, Mr. Speaker, sir, is a demonstration of a responsible and not an irresponsible administration at work.

So the Honourable Members on that side have got to understand that all during the period of 2000 to 2008 or 2007, when they were receiving the accolades, the international accolades for the Highlander scrap metal, the Honourable Minister made the point, the Member for St. Thomas would have attended these functions with the former Minister of the Environment and would have been one of the first and offered chairs to rousing applause, I am sure, when the award was handed over. So you cannot behave like this, Mr. Speaker. That is the point I want to make. You cannot only want and be supporting a project so vehemently, so eagerly, having the constituents employed in the same project, supporting the project, and then come up at the first side of trouble not to support, sir, because there is nothing wrong with representation. It is responsibility, sir, that we are talking about. And remember, Mr. Speaker, sir, had the members really owed this country a higher level of responsibility in this regard,

we have conformed with all of the requirements. We understand the disturbance, the nuisance which may be caused. And as the Honourable Minister has stated this morning, arrangements are in place to make sure that these metal handling plants are sited in areas which will have less potential, or the least potential of impacting on any neighbour, any adjacent neighbours. And this is important. This is important.

But having reached this stage, we have to recognise the role we play. All the players - your members in St. Thomas, your members in St. James Central, and all of us in here - have got to recognise the roles we have played in this regard. And I certainly recognise the benefits, the benefits of the programme to develop this metal handling facility. And I really wish the Minister and the team working on the project every success.

So the other important point about this debate, of course, and really the larger point in some ways, is the fact that Barbados is embarking on this entire green economy approach. And this entire green economy thrust. It is not new. We know it is not new. And there have been a myriad of attempts and there are myriads of activities which represent this kind of approach to our change in economy. The important thing is that at this juncture in our history, it is fundamentally required that we embrace the whole idea of the green economy. Recycling is part of it. The waste-to-energy plan, the management of our water, the protection of our water, and indeed, the entire consideration of our open green spaces. The point is, sir, that we cannot continue, we cannot continue to build an economy which relies solely on the imported fuels of the world. The prices of fuel are not going down. We have no way of, from this little island state, controlling to any large extent the cost of the fossil fuels that we need so much. So we need to wean ourselves away. We need to wean ourselves away from a total dependency on fossil fuel. And this kind of project which embraces waste-to-energy, which embraces the whole question of renewable energy, use of the sun to generate electricity, to support our businesses, to support our entities, this is an important step that the Honourable Minister of the Environment is taking. It is an important step as to where Barbados will be five, ten or 15 years from now. And therefore, it has to be embraced by all Barbadians.

The truth is that even as we look for areas to locate some of these plants, especially in the case of photovoltaic, large photovoltaic plants, again, the considerations will be the environment, the people around us, and the effects these plants will have. The whole question of wind energy, the whole question of wind energy brings with it its issues. We know very well the experiences at Lambert's with the wind turbine we tested. We opened the turbine. I opened the turbine on behalf of the Ministry of Transport and Works a couple of months ago at St. Lucy, at Chancellor. I

am not happy with it because I think the noise from the turbine has been a bit high. Chancellor happens to be, and I can be advised by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, otherwise happens to be a fairly open area, as it stands out. But it does not mean that we can leave that piece of equipment in that condition. But we need to seek to find the very best technology available to be able to apply these new areas of development, sir.

So this administration is clear in terms of its focus on renewable energy. It is clear in terms of the kind of footprint we want to create, the area at Vacluse where all this kind of activity will take place sufficiently away from directly impacting the residents of St. Thomas or anywhere else for that matter, but at the same time properly and adequately regulated and controlled and managed so as to ensure that the operation is completely safe and does not have a negative impact on the residents therein.

So the only point I really want to reiterate is that the Honourable Members on that side owe the country Barbados a fair presentation in terms of this entire debate. And it is not a presentation that is to be fair in here only. That is for the purposes of the record of the House of Assembly. But it must also be fairly presented out there in the public and not to give the impression - not to give the impression, sir - as though this is something which we have happened upon and the Democratic Labour Party is holding the hand of some unscrupulous operator in this regard. This is not so. The facts, the history of this project will not say that to you, sir. They have been fully supported by the Barbados Labour Party in the past and we have taken it and we are going to make sure it is brought under proper control. With all the negatives - they supported it with all the negatives that existed at Cane Garden and at Bible Tell, they supported it and made sure it happened. We are going to bring order to the entire operation, sir. And this is the object of this resolution, sir, to acquire land at Vacluse as part of that purpose. Mr. Speaker, sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I wish to add my contribution to this debate. And from the outset, sir, I would rather - in referring to some of the disparaging comments - my understanding of it, sir, not yours, that were mentioned earlier in the morning by the honourable minister. Disparaging comments about hypocrites and grandstanding and if it were white people being sued and so on. Well, I think it is incumbent to state that a message coming - so please withdraw the comment, sir.

I just want to say then, Mr. Speaker, that I would rather be a latter-day saint than to be a Judas Iscariot. I would rather be a Ruth in the Bible than a Delilah. I would rather be a Jacob than an Esau, because my spiritual upbringing - I do not have any doctorate as a minister, but I

have integrity, I have character, and I will live with that till I die. And therefore I will uphold the values that were instilled in me by my wonderful parents of the past, now excellent neighbours and friends, teachers, and in particular, sir, if you allow me to call the name, the late, great Lester Vaughan, who ensured that he moulded decent citizens.

I feel disappointed, Mr. Speaker, because from my childhood - and anybody in this honourable chamber or on the outside who knows me already knows that for my entire lifetime of more than three score years, I have stood on principle. I have stood. I have never been up on a house, stopped to jump down to commit suicide, because I serve a risen Lord who has guided me, Mr. Speaker. I have served my community where I lived. I have served my working community in the environments of Jackson, Shop Hill, Arthur Seat, and so on, with distinction. And sometimes I wonder why I left the classroom if I have to come into politics that continues to push every single politician into the ground. Because that is how the public perceive us, sir. They see us as people who are always telling lies, people who come in to get a big, heavy pocket, people who are in the rich people's pockets, and they go on and on. That is the image that we, the politicians, have set.

But I shall remain, Mr. Speaker, the humble individual who came into this honourable chamber from a classroom where I set rules and standards, and I engaged and I nurtured the population of those communities for more than 25 years. And I am still doing it, thank God. So I am a community ambassador, and I shall remain. And anytime, Mr. Speaker, that I deviate from being an ambassador of the people who sometimes seem not to have a voice, or when they try to have a voice, they are stained - I shall be in the vanguard of assisting them in their plight. Whether they are from Silversands, Olsteins, Moontown, Penny Hall, wherever they are from, I shall remain to be an ambassador for the people.

Standing on principle now, Mr. Speaker. I know, sir, that there have been other honourable members in this chamber, sir, who for years would have spoken out against what they consider to be injustices, or what they consider to be bad practices that would have affected the lives and the welfare of others. And as I said, not only in their constituencies, but across the length and breadth of the island. So I know of when a member of Parliament said that Greenland would have created environmental madness. I know of a member who said that taking the wind turbines to Lamberts would have deafened the residents there. And I know now of people living in Weiss Road and all the adjoining communities in St. Thomas, down to the northwest of the parish and indeed other communities spreading for a wide range of miles, that are suffering. And I shall speak for them.

For, Mr. Speaker, I have been there and I too have suffered the pain. I too have suffered the illnesses that some of those residents are experiencing, and I have only been there on occasion - half an hour, 45 minutes and so on. So it is a combination, Mr. Speaker, in Weiss Road and the adjoining communities, of noise pollution, dust pollution, air pollution, verbal abuse sometimes, Mr. Speaker, ill health, destruction of crops and property, loss of revenue, fear and disillusionment, loss of the beauty of the environment in that area, and indeed hope for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, sir, these are persons who have worked tirelessly in Barbados. Some of them have gone abroad - England and the United States and so on - to acquire properties, funds to build properties, and to live there in their twilight days in peace and comfort. It has not happened, Mr. Speaker, sir, in the last ten years, when those have to be buttoned down sometimes for seven days a week with all the noise and the noxious odours and the abuse on top of it.

And I shall continue to represent their interest, because I believe it is a matter that required attention before today. Before the fire, Mr. Speaker, the Louis Lynch School was closed and abandoned for less damage. Because when you look at where Louis Lynch is, sir, you would know that the gardening and farming people still live there. The Resident Holiness Church in Whitehall Road has never stopped functioning. The nursery underneath still has children. The communities downwind - Holland - they are all still functioning. And it was never as devastating a situation, Mr. Speaker, sir, as what is happening in King Garden, St. Thomas. Mr. Speaker, the damage and the danger in that community startled me.

I believe in adherence to rules and regulations, the rule of law, and I am ashamed that my society - that we all come in here as politicians and members of parliament and ministers boast about Barbados becoming a developed country - and many of us, Mr. Speaker, according to what I am seeing and interpreting, seem to be giving a blind eye to persons who breach the law. Breaching the law is something I will never want to be a part of. So when a society reaches the stage and we are hearing the Democratic Labour Party talking about building a society and not an economy, and people enter through roads that say no entry, they drive without a hotel licence and road tax and insurance and sometimes kill people, damage property and so on, and you cannot get any redress; dip their hands into people's pockets in banks and in other institutions; where there were set up houses on people's property as quarters; receive bribes; get paid for votes in an election; tap into water and electrical grids to source the commodity for free; handle firearms without a licence; sell drugs at schools and in environments, import it, invest it, whatever - and sometimes we seem to want to give a blind eye to that.

Mr. Speaker, sir, we are going astray when we are boasting of being a more educated society and we are losing sight of simple things that have made us a strong, proud people, where our forebears stuck to what was correct and upright and proper and have built this society thus far. So to erect structures, Mr. Speaker, without the proper planning permission - for businesses or housing - is wrong. And I support whatever efforts have to be made to speak to people quietly and let them make whatever adjustment by coming in, speaking to Town Planning, having the adjustment done, complying with the rules, or pull it down if that is what it calls for. When people are adamant - I am doing business, I am bringing foreign exchange, I am raising employment and all of that - I have a problem with that. Mr. Speaker, I will ever stand up for integrity, accountability, good governance, equity, justness, godliness. Mr. Speaker, anytime I do otherwise, I will withdraw gracefully from the public side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me get to the BEES bottling plant, because the honourable minister mentioned that, and the recycling plant there, the property, and he never went on the internet to do anything negative for money. He has never been there. BEES bottling and recycling occupies approximately 14 acres of good arable agricultural land. Let me say it again - BEES bottling and recycling occupies approximately 14 acres of good agricultural land where, in the late 1970s, it was recognised that the development of communities along the suburban corridor - so we came up to where we now talk about One Accord in Jackson and the industrial location there. We know of ANSA and CCC, the Caribbean Confectionery Company, BRC, Montgomery Distilleries. And so those are the areas as far as the industrial component came.

To the east of that, Mr. Speaker, is where those acres of agricultural land remain, where those residents bought them exclusively for agriculture - to rear the chickens, the pigs, the ducks, the cows, to grow vegetables and fruits. And to this day, Mr. Speaker, those residents have been working their agriculture, because we are talking about high import bills, wanting to feed ourselves and so on. And those hardworking Barbadians went out and worked to raise the money to develop their own properties and feed themselves.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have a tremendous difficulty maintain planning. In 2007, the Barbados Labor Party was the government because it was an excellent project for recycling, to be a part of ensuring that the environment is clean, that the materials will be sent for export, that employment will be generated, the Labor Party has always been the forefront and has achieved its goal, creating employment for more than 30 000 people between 1994 and 2008 when we demitted office. So we stand on the employment premise because people must be able to feed themselves and not sit back and wait on any welfare or

any handout. And I love it and the people of Barbados are proud people who want to continue to do that.

But this particular project, Mr. Speaker, has stopped those residents from pursuing their goals of agriculture and its development because of what has gone on in the area. They were asking for permission to offer a spot to their children. Town planning advised them it is exclusively for four acre lots. So you cannot build a house. It is for agriculture. You can build a shed and put your tractor in it. You can have a shed to draw your onions and so on. You can build some panes and put the animals in, but no second house must be put on the lot.

Now when I saw before Ethan Lot sprout, which is I believe lot 16, I was one of the closest neighbours to bees. The residents were asking questions but you know that they say, Mr. Speaker, not a word as I speak to you. Mr. Speaker, having been the member of Parliament for the last 12 years, I was never extending an invitation to both of you. Bees and CS operation - one of the closest neighbours. I kept the manager of bees abreast of some wrongdoings that I witnessed and how I advise them on the telephone how to manage it. That is what I did because I am a citizen and they don't hold any grudges for anybody. I support people who do things.

My problem is if there is no proper regulation on this site and there is no town planning permission, how do you start, according to the honourable minister in 2000, with agriculture, because you were planning to do agriculture. But then the honourable minister's language said, morphed into the bottle recycling and all the residents of those communities tolerated what was happening with the bottles exclusively, Mr. Speaker. It then went over to the other side of the road, another four acre lot further down the road, another four acre lot and as late as last September, another four acre lot on the property, sir, making it the 40 acres or so that I spoke about earlier.

Now I have no problem because the physical development plan outlines of 2003 outlines the solid waste projects and so on and the area where such projects can be established. But it also has to speak and has spoken to how it should be managed. And I feel, Mr. Speaker, that any project that develops in this country of that nature, there has to be community dialogue. That is how people make the buy in. That is how they perhaps could be a part of what is happening. And it softens the approach and it softens the language that is used.

But the residents have been writing, Mr. Speaker, since 2006 to the various governmental institutions responsible for the agency. Those persons there who received the correspondence sought to answer with a two page letter. There is information to show documentation. And ever since then, Mr. Speaker, they have been writing -

no word on what is going to happen to this place that started as a shed of agriculture that is now expanding beyond bottles. And therefore you are speaking, Mr. Speaker, sir, of canisters that had in gas or gas bottles. And therefore the honourable ministers who went there tonight would have witnessed the explosions in that devastating fire, lead in the batteries or acid, scrap metal, tyres.

Now, in August, when I started to take some photographs, because I kept calling and making my comments, the tyres were like a mountain. Bush started to ruin the tyres and in the middle of the beginning of September, Mr. Speaker, the tyres had on top of them scrap metal. So you could smell the gas, you could smell the hydraulic fluid, you could smell any of those things. And when I canvassed the residents - Cain Heights, Cain Hill Terrace, Whitehall Village, Cain Garden proper, where you used to live - all those communities said, Miss Forde, the odours, the challenges we have, the rats, the mosquitoes. And it was a litany of words.

Mr. Speaker, I was called by some residents one morning and when the ladies came out, the nose was being covered with the shirt, the flap of the shirt. Why are you doing this, Ms. Forde, your way. Mr. Speaker, I went home and I was of no help to myself. And I would not say that I suffer respiratory problems. I took the opportunity, sir, to call the general manager who agreed with me. He would have a meeting on the Friday of the same week - to this day. I set up a site and a time and a date. Mr. Speaker, to this day, not a word. And you know why I will get that disrespect, sir? Because we here as honourable members do not treat our own in the way we should. That is my conclusion.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I chose to write to the new spectrum ministries because I saw an ad in the newspaper. It was a full page ad that these recycling - or these bottles - they are not going to go to [Inaudible.] because of some challenge with the property owner and so on. And then I heard of the challenge at Dynatel and the court injunction. So the residents kept saying, we have to find a way. I told them, I will write on your behalf to the respective ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I did. I wrote to the Ministry of Environment, to the permanent secretary - to write to the minister to come here to read my letter, I think that is really below the bar, so I would not even try. But I wrote to the permanent secretary, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, I think that is what they call it. I wrote to the Ministry of Health, the permanent secretary. I even wrote to the chief fire officer and the chief medical officer because the situation was so adverse. And I said, noise pollution, large mountains of tyres, scrap metal, dust pollution seven days a week, noxious gases and odours from tanks and cylinders, discolouration of homes.

Residents have to wash their homes every three months. And they are well painted houses, most of them, except the one that is in the direct flight of that where the fire was, the destruction of crops.

The lady said before, if I plant two cassava sticks today, tomorrow the grass and the moisture from the tyres and the other areas are eating them. Poor ventilation. The houses have to be closed out all day because of the dust pollution. The destruction of the highway - NTW would have repaired that highway in 2011-12. All of the sidewalks, everything else is gone because there is heavy duty equipment in there. And when I know that can be repaired, the health of an individual that is destroyed, Mr. Speaker, is irreparable. And that is really where the problems are now with the residents there.

I also spoke, Mr. Speaker, sir, of a possible fire hazard. In my letter, nobody paid me any attention because I believe the officers in the ministry see me just how some of the ministers see me, as a hypocrite and all the other things that I would have learned that I am today. Mr. Speaker, the destruction of the properties of people by high winds - because there were hundreds of thousands of what I consider to be honey cane beer bottles that were stored on the highway from Cane Garden on the main that I complained about. My gratitude goes to the environmental protection officers or the health inspectors at Warrens, because every time they were called upon, they came and they did the investigation.

But Mr. Speaker, would you believe it? Every single bottle that was stored in that fenced area that I consider to be a missile - if there were any high winds or hurricane or anything of the kind, excuse me - they were relocated from that spot and carried to the newest cell or the newest four acre lot, which is directly less than 20 ft away from the nearest house now. And every single bottle has been crushed in what is a water course that runs through that area. God is our judge.

Mr. Speaker, immediately after the fire of March 25, the following Monday - that was Holy Week - the following Monday we had so much rain. Mr. Speaker, I can imagine now what has happened to what was considered by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the chief medical officer and the disaster emergency management people to be a chemical fire. Mr. Speaker, would you believe that the honourable minister spoke and to this day, nobody has said anything about the quality of the air that those people were breathing during the disaster.

And all I know, Mr. Speaker, from day three of the fire, the evening after, the morning after - the Tuesday which will be the 26th - there are photographs, Mr. Speaker, and videos of persons putting holes like garden holes on that property and men in there working, pulling

out the steel or the rims or the copper and digging out everything. And the things are smouldering. And those four people who were only told go to a classroom the day Monday evening now have to continue to exist in an environment that is full of all kinds of contaminants and it is making them sick.

Mr. Speaker, one of the residents returned from the United States on Friday afternoon for medical attention to come right back into the environment. We are all like Saturday, Sunday, today and yesterday - a tractor or excavator, whatever it is, is in the same site operating. This is not what I came here to talk about, Mr. Speaker, today. But when I saw the line that the honourable minister and his colleagues took, it really hurt me, as though I was out there parading and marching. I brought in bus loads of people to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker, I have felt the pain of the residents of Reese Road and it runs all the way down through after [Inaudible.] Melrose. I can only conclude - and this is what they say at one of the town hall meetings - that the government want to ignore St. Thomas. People did not vote for them. The residents are not me. But I do not support that. I do not support that. But the way things are looking now, Mr. Speaker, where nobody has sought to come to the residents to say, Mr./Mrs./Child, how are you doing today? The honourable minister found it fit to speak to his constituents in Silver Sands and to tell them about the challenges of the fire. But the honourable minister does not see the people of St. Thomas so worthy of even having a simple visit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in Silver Sands are not suffering the pain, Mr. Speaker, of the residents of St. Thomas. We spoke to you in your Johnny communities. They are living it every day for the past few years, but more so from the 25th March with that touring inferno - the plumes were more than 100ft high and black smoke enveloping the entire community all the way down to Holders Hill. Everybody knows about the gentleman who came from Holders Hill to say, my wife is a non-national, she had to go for respiratory help and now my bill is \$1 800. Who will pay it? That is the kind of real life hard situation with a man and his wife who are pensioners, Mr. Speaker.

So I am not acting because I want to. I am not talking because I have a big mouth. I am talking because these are genuine concerns that require responses. I will close, Mr. Speaker, because I would wish for my support for what was envisaged as a project to do recycling, to be able to function. There is no proper regulation. The Town Planning Department has not given permission for the first four to eight acres of the lot. Furthermore, the rest of the 14. But if it were my neighbour who had built a step nearest to the road up with a little chain link fence, my

neighbour would have to take it down. Town Planning would have instructed them that they will take it down because they have to conform with the law. But 14 acres being occupied - the soil, the topsoil in arable land has been scraped, bottles crushed up in it of the plain earth. Nothing in the line of agriculture could ever grow there again.

Mr. Speaker, unless we grass it, we sod it, whatever. And therefore I will continue to support the residents until the Ministry of Environment and the other respective ministries come together, work with the residents, and for BEES to be relocated to wherever BEES choose to be relocated by the Government's instruction. Because I think that the residents of King Garden and their joining communities have suffered enough - not only King Garden, but they have suffered enough over the past few years simply because their plights have been drawn to the attention of the agencies and nobody has made any effort to come to their rescue.

The Honourable Ministers were there. Not the Honourable Minister of Environment, but the other Honourable Ministers were there on the evening of the fire and a couple of them, I understand, were there the next day. But that is not enough for people who suffered that kind of fate over such a long period of time. And then with the devastating fire, all of that environment - I believe there should be some proper testing now of the entire environment, meaning the soil as well, to determine that those contaminants are not there and to be able to make sure that our aquifers are free of any contamination. I believe that health is better than wealth and while the residents want to work their land and want to live a comfortable life, they cannot do it with ill health. And so it is not to do with money alone, it is not to do with employment alone, it is not to do with foreign exchange alone. It is to do with proper regulation and a solution to be able to relocate BEES to somewhere else.

Wherever else they put it, they can carry it up and sell the sands because everybody in Barbados is generating garbage. St. Thomas must not be the dumping ground for everybody. BEES are no more extensions. There are other places in Barbados where refuse can go. With [Inaudible.] they can go to Vault Road. Yes, because the people who live in Vault Road are not dead. So I could go to Vault Road by you. But the problem is, Mr. Speaker, I am willing - I am willing to be able to work on behalf of my constituents with the respective Government agencies who have a responsibility to look after the needs of everybody, to make sure that they enjoy the health and the wealth that they have really earned as a result of their commitment to conforming with the law, working hard to achieve what they have, and drawing to the attention of the agencies.

The Barbados Labour Party started. The Democratic Labour Party had every right to continue and make sure

that there were proper controls, proper regulation, protocols put in place to avoid that dilemma, to avoid that travesty that took place up there - that we have in that community and is still ongoing. Lester Vaughan's school still has a problem. Sharon's school still has a problem. The businesses up there have a problem. I ask the Honourable Minister to act quickly to be able to ease the tension and the illnesses our residents have. And I know that the Honourable Minister is aware that somebody will have to be able to compensate these people for their tremendous losses in a situation where they were given absolutely no attention, no respect. Respect is due. And once that is done, we could all live together in harmony in this little society. I wish to thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I rise, of course, to join the support of this resolution before the acquisition of land, some 16 acres of land close in St. Thomas, principally for the purpose of the expansion of the Mangrove Palm landfill. And, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the officers in the Ministry of Environment, of course, those in the Ministry of Housing as well, for getting us to where we are today in this important matter. I don't think the point must be lost on us that the current landfill in operation under the management of the Sanitation Service Authority - the current trajectory would only last Barbados another nine months. It is imperative, therefore, that we move with a sense of urgency to address the issue of waste management and disposal of waste in Barbados via this acquisition of adjoining land. And I am advised that this decision, once passed, would allow Barbados to have enough land there for lawful purposes to satisfy current demands for the next nine years or thereabouts. And it really brings into light the importance of solid waste management and environmental issues in Barbados.

And despite all that has been said today, especially from the opposition benches, I believe that in their quiet moments commendation must be given to this Democratic Labour Party government for the way in which it has been addressing environmental concerns in Barbados. I don't believe in the history of Barbados that there has ever been a government that has placed as much emphasis on environmental matters as this Democratic Labour Party government has done since 2008. And let me, Mr. Speaker, go back a little bit because I am not one to spend a lot of time talking about what happened under the Barbados Labour Party for 14 years, et cetera, because really and truly the Democratic Labour Party has a good track record over the last six years and our commitment and our policies and programmes captured in our recent manifesto as well. But when members of the opposition can get up here today, Mr. Speaker, and behave as though we have committed some carnal sin in terms of our management of

environmental issues in Barbados, they must be reminded of the monumental disasters that were created under their tenure in terms of environmental issues.

And as we speak to St. Thomas, let us remind the people of St. Thomas and the people of Barbados that it was the predecessor to the current parliamentary representative for St. Thomas who created a lot of the problems about Mount Stinkeru. Why, serving as an opposition MP and talking about how they were going to close it, the hon. Member became the Attorney General of Barbados and offered the residents of Arch Hall \$5 000 each. He left that office as Attorney General, became Chief Justice and has retired, and Mount Stinkeru still lingers up there and has affected the people of St. Thomas at Arch Hall. Had it not been for the Democratic Labour Party and her decision to address that particular issue by way of the expansion at Mangrove Palm, likewise the people of St. Thomas and the entire nation were under serious threat from pollution caused by that monumental matter that is Mount Stinkeru. They call it the Barbados Labour Party. Their party did not place any serious emphasis on a leaching plant - this Democratic Labour Party government has done that. Let us not fool ourselves on these things.

And as I know, Mr. Speaker, I have heard all members of the other side get up and quote the Bible as though they have been washed in the blood of the lamb. I am not one to pounce on that. But what I do know is you can fool man, but you cannot fool God. And I don't care how much they quote the Bible. If they are Christians, they know there is a God above who will know that while the current Member of Parliament for St. Thomas sat in the Barbados Labour Party government, the people of St. Thomas were facing the same problem that this member got up here today and spoke so eloquently about. So all of the pollution - the metal project, the recycling with the metals and the tyres - only started less than two years ago. You know, Mr. Speaker, it is the bottle plant that was in existence all those other years, fought with a three-year period to move from where it was - not the metals and the tyres and the batteries.

Mr. Speaker, I can now understand why the hon. Member for St. Peter would have referred to the hon. Member for St. Thomas as having a termite-infested chapel on prime real estate. Because the truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that under the Barbados Labour Party, when that particular bees operation - or what is so called - was granted permission to operate as an agricultural project at the land, it was the same Chief Town Planner who the hon. Member for St. Thomas stood up here today and castigated, condemned, and accused of not acting appropriately. The Chief Town Planner under the Barbados Labour Party administration - when the hon. Member for St. Peter was the Prime Minister and the hon. Michael [Inaudible.] was languishing in the seat of Opposition Leader or something

like that - the Chief Town Planner advised that what was taking place at what is now called Bees in Garden was illegal. And it was the hon. Member for St. Peter who instructed the Chief Planner and those public officers to hold off and do nothing. So I want the people of St. Thomas to know that it is their current parliamentary representative who sat, aided and abetted the hon. Member for St. Peter in not addressing the issue at Reese Road in St. Thomas. This Democratic Labour Party government should be commended and applauded for attempting to correct the mess that was created by [Inaudible.] and her team.

Mr. Speaker, I am immune. I don't care what they say about me. I am not going to - you are taking it to court, pretending to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just keep your focus and address the Chair.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am focused on St. Thomas. Yes, Mr. Speaker. So when the hon. Member for St. Thomas speaks of the residents of Reese Road and Kian Garden being affected by pollution, being affected by rodent infestation, all sorts of wormy noise, Heineken beer bottles - and by the way, Heineken was the biggest sponsor of their campaign, Mr. Speaker. That is what I have there. Mr. Speaker, when the hon. Member for St. Thomas speaks about land that was approved for agricultural purposes being used as a refuse dump, I urge the hon. Member for St. Peter to come clean and remind the people of St. Thomas and the country that it was under her tenure as MP and as a member of the then government that all of that wrong was committed. So all of that mess was created.

And, Mr. Speaker - no, I don't like to speak of parliamentarians in their absence, but since the hon. Member for St. Peter does not frequent this House, I have little choice. The hon. Member, as Prime Minister and as the minister responsible for country planning, ignored the advice of the Chief Town Planner and all of the technocrats, including the Environmental Protection Department, the Ministry of Health, all of the technocrats - including the one, the minister who got the Mother of the Earth Award, the Mother Sally Award. Mr. Speaker, that member got all of these awards, yet all of these technocrats - the hon. Member, in execution of his role as minister responsible for country planning, ignored the advice of the technocrats and said, do not touch that operation. I did not hear the hon. Member for St. Thomas speak. I did not hear the hon. Member for St. Thomas speak so eloquently in defence of her constituents at that time.

And let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I commend any parliamentarian who will get up here or anywhere and speak in defence of their constituents and the constituents'

well-being. I also want to say that the residents of Reese Road, Kian Garden, Bagatelle and all other affected communities have every right to enjoy the comforts of their homes that they purchased and lived in for years. I expect that the residents in Reese Road or any part of St. Thomas or any part of St. James North ought to have the same level of comfort as my constituents in St. James do. I expect that the same way I can go out into a clean environment, those residents in St. Thomas can also do the same. But it is the Member of Parliament for St. Thomas who facilitated and supported the expansion of these operations at St. Thomas, being part of the then government. And it is only because the hon. Member for St. Peter is no longer one of their three leaders that the hon. Member for St. Thomas these days sees fit to speak so forcibly on this matter.

But once again, Mr. Speaker, this is a classic example of how this Democratic Labour Party has had to come and clean up the mess left by the Barbados Labour Party. We have had to find a solution and the solution has been taken in a very holistic manner where we have looked at the National Physical Plan, identified areas of refuse disposal, we have embraced modern technology - those available here and those available in the international arena - to look at it. We have sought to educate Barbadians about separating garbage, about managing the amount of garbage they are creating. For the first time we have looked at waste-to-energy as another industry, another way in which we can reduce our dependency on fossil fuel. These are the kind of enlightened thoughts that can only come from a responsible government that cares about people, not those who want to get into Parliament and participate and talk about things that they should have done when they had the opportunity to do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, my position is very simple. This issue and this resolution today is not exclusively about the bees bottling operation that has been dragged into this debate somewhat. It is about how a government can look at the challenges that confront it and find sustainable solutions. We apologise to the residents of St. Thomas and those in Bagatelle who have been affected. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, I know the residents in Bagatelle who have been affected. When the current MP for St. James Central was on this side of the fence, he had all the support - Mr. Speaker, I don't mind those who are wishy-washy and dilly-dally and talk a lot of fancy language. At the end of the day, the current MP for St. James Central, like the hon. Member for St. Thomas, sat in the Barbados Labour Party and encouraged all of the foolishness that has been going on around this country in environmental matters. But for the sake of -

of getting a few votes, you stand up on a soapbox and you talk a lot of fancy language. You run on the forest street, hopefully join the day and you file a wreck and you say, the government has done all this wrong. We know they

like to fire, my friend. Yes, we can talk immigration, lady, if you ever get me and talk again, Mr. Speaker.

So the residents of Reese Road, when that fire occurred on March 25, I think it was, I was in the company of the Attorney General, knowing the people's basis west the ball game. And I decided to accompany the Attorney General to the site. And unlike the member for St. Thomas, I would wish to commend the staff and directorship of the Emergency Management Agency, the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Environmental Health Officer and the team, the Chief Environmental Protection Department and their staff. Those public officers who went way beyond the call of duty to ensure that, including the fire department, that fire did not get out of hand. Are you witnessed? Despite the condemnation and criticism of the honourable member for St. Thomas who was also there, busy eating a roasted chicken sandwich on chiffette and drinking a plus in my petite at the fire, Mr. Speaker? Yes, I was there with her. I know, Mr. Speaker. While the member for St. Thomas was busy adding some calories to her body, those public officers were busy in the immediate area, advising the residents as to the risk, advising the residents that their facilities were open so that they could move to them. They were also going all the way down, even in my constituency of St. James, checking the air to ensure that they were not at risk. And I therefore don't know how the honourable member can come in here today and condemn those same public officers. The same public officers who, by the way, gave the Barbados Labour Party their best possible advice on how to avoid that very situation in the first instance. And it was ignored, I tell you. Ready? You can fool man, you can't fool God.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure those residents of Reese Road and Kia Garden that we are not playing party with their health. I would be just as passionate if it was my constituents. Their constituents are affected. We have done all that we could possibly do as a government to contain the situation and to find solutions to it, and I wish to assure them that help is on the way. We are still continuing to clean up the mess created by the honourable member for St. Thomas. We will find, and we are working diligently to find, a long-term solution not just to these issues but, more importantly, to how we can really create and sustain a recycling industry in Barbados where we no longer can just dump everything. I believe there are others involved in the industry - ten operators in the recycling business. We are now earning, Mr. Speaker, millions of dollars in foreign exchange by the exploitation of metals from Barbados of recyclable products. Period. There is a new industry that is quietly developing in this country where able-bodied men who otherwise perhaps would have been languishing in jail - because rather than focus on addressing the environmental madness like Mount Stinkeroo and Walk Clues and Bagatell, they were busy finding money to develop prisons because they felt that

young black boys should only go to jail. We recognise that, and that is why we can support the recycling industry in Barbados, because the young men who otherwise would turn to a negative life now have the opportunity to go around communities and collect recyclable products and deliver them to these plants and earn a dollar innocently. But they see the barriers - the scorn on these people. They are prima donnas; they are not the pedigree. They are from the Indian central. So therefore, scorn on them. Sorry to pick it, you sitting across from me, or y'all matter, Mr. Speaker.

So we have the potential to earn more foreign exchange, create more jobs, generate energy as we are saying there. So this government really must be commended for the work it has been doing. When I reflect, Mr. Speaker, on the Greenland landfill, for example, and that fiasco - the honourable member for St. Michael North East as leader should come and apologise to this country for \$100 million of taxpayers' money down at Greenland, and it was put there principally once again. Once again, technical, hardworking, and intelligent public officers gave the government of the day, led by the same member, the best possible advice - his then Minister of Environment, because he said it was monumental madness to put a landfill in his constituency. He did it. And after \$100 million of taxpayers' money, no solution had been found. And you know, Mr. Speaker, that the Barbados Labour Party planned to spend another \$140 000 000 of taxpayers' money to get it right at Greenland. It will not cost us a million dollars to find the solution to the problem at Reese Road in Kia Garden, St. Thomas.

And as for the Bagatell issue, let me speak to that, Mr. Speaker, because the honourable member for St. James Central, in his usual jocular style, has gone out there and given some false impression that he is the Messiah coming to save the issue. The fact of the matter is that Bagatell for years has been the prescribed dumping site for metal in this country. What we were simply seeking to do was to clean up the place - to simply say, let us have a professional company receive the product there, do whatever they have to do with it, and export it from Barbados, clean up the site, earn foreign exchange, create jobs. I support the residents in Bagatell who were very grateful that the fencing was put up around the perimeter. It felt safer. The place was a lot cleaner than it was when it was managed by the Sanitation Service Authority. Let us not fool ourselves about these things. Yes, in any activity, you will get one or two individuals who are disgruntled and who will make a lot of noise. I visited the same area by Bagatell and the same two women who cursed me for coming up there and speaking my mind on the issue were the same two who had cursed in the election before on behalf of St. James Central. Nothing has changed, Mr. Speaker. This government is also committed to tidying up the Bagatell site.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Now, the people in Bagatell, I am very sure, treated him very warmly when he went up there. There were only five people at the meeting, including the two gentlemen from Bees who invited him. He would have been three. The other two people, sir - one of whom was a man - so I know which two women he is speaking of cursing, and he spoke ill of all the residents of Bagatell and Hoyt Village, said the worst possible things about them, sir, as he is doing. Mr. Speaker, sir, I think it is most inappropriate that, having been warmly treated by residents who might otherwise have done him ill in the constituency, given the way he behaved towards them.

To come to Parliament now and say that the cursing is untrue and unfortunate.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Young man, St. James Central. I have been a creature with him now for about 35 years and I know he has the fantastic ability to be a perpetrator of terminological inexactitudes, and nothing has changed and nothing will change. I am not getting into any issue about who cursed me or whatnot. That is minor. The bottom line about it, Mr. Speaker, is that this democratically elected party government has set about to tidy up the Bagatell site. Because the truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker - and the honourable Member of Parliament for the area ought to tell the residents this - they don't know what lies on the ground. We have seen the challenges with the old dump above the airport in St. Philip. We have seen other former dump sites in Barbados where there may be gas emitted from time to time that may pose a risk to the residents. The residents in Bagatell and the surrounding communities are not necessarily fully aware of what has been buried in the ground. And all we are seeking to do as a government is to tidy up the site. Tidy up the site. You can't just go and bury it like that.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Misleading the House. The honourable member must know that they went down into Bagatell, sir, with excavators and started to excavate on the site. They have dug out over 50 ft, Mr. Speaker, sir. Over 50 ft at that site. That is not tidying up, sir. At risk - people who otherwise would have been excavated. Sorry, sir, please make your point. The point I am making, sir, is that the honourable member must stop. He must stop misleading the House. The matter in Bagatell was sufficiently serious, sir, that not the honourable member but the residents - this honourable member does not appear on the face of his name, does not appear on the face of any written court, sir. The residents' names appear. This honourable member did not bring the press down there, sir. The residents brought them. He did not call for any meeting with the MP or the minister as affected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. No point of order from our ma'am. Please continue.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: The honourable member for St. James Central said that the Bagatell site has been excavated by almost 50 ft. I wish the honourable member for St. James Central, who was then seeking to win the seat, to know that almost 30 ft of said excavation he -

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: - could not have been doing it, sir, with an excavator, sir. He could not have been doing it with a fleet of two or three excavators as was being done by the current - by the persons who were previously put in occupancy of these.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: I have about five minutes left. I am not going to spend any more time in cross talk, Mr. Speaker. Once again, that Bagatell issue is another classic example of this government's effort to clean up an environmental mess created by the former government. And even in doing that, we are still being frustrated in our efforts by the opposition Barbados Labour Party. They are no more concerned about the residents of Bagatell, Reese Road, Kia Garden, or any other part of Barbados than we are on this side.

And in which, Mr. Speaker, therefore, in closing, to do as I said at the beginning - this resolution is about the acquisition of 16 acres of land at Walk Clues, which is an integral part of our expansion of our landfill management programme to address many of the environmental issues that confront this nation. We also recognise that we have to embrace modern technology. We also have an opportunity to create an industry out of what is considered garbage, and we therefore will not be derailed in our efforts. I also wish, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate what I said at the very beginning. The honourable member for St. Thomas in particular has been a large part of the problem - the reason why this mess has existed up until recently - because the members sat as part of a Barbados Labour Party government that aided and abetted the creation and expansion of illegal activities at Reese Road.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Into the papers which have been circulated to us is a housing resolution for the acquisition of about 6.4 acres of land for the use, the public purpose of expanding the Mangrove Pond landfill to make more land available for the disposal of waste. That is what this debate is supposed to be about. Consequential upon it in the addendum is the very unfortunate date that on the third day of June 2010 the Cabinet agreed to the acquisition of the parcel of land. So almost three years ago the Cabinet of Barbados agreed to the acquisition of this land and it has taken almost three years and the operation of a cell on the very same land since almost a year ago. For us yet again in this Parliament to be ratifying decisions in circumstances where the simple task of the executive to get things done in an orderly manner in accordance with the law continues for the third time since this Parliament has reconvened - this

new Parliament, not reconvened, has established itself - to be the business of this House.

Now, sir, I start at this very point because I have always heard, sir, that the best form of defence is attack. And the Minister, not so much moved, in my view, by the comments of the Opposition alone, because he expects that in the play of politics - and that is how I have watched him play his politics - but the hard criticism of the editorial that accused him of a level of silence that was unacceptable for a member of the executive spurred him clearly into a level of debate in here that caused him to range far and wide. I would have rather, sir, that he stuck to the facts immediately consequential upon this. Like what is the position in relation to the length of life that we can expect for this Cell Four that will be on the 6.4 acres at Mangrove? Or what is the position, Mr. Speaker, in relation to the sustainable solutions for solid waste management in this country?

The Member for St. George South, appropriately this morning, addressed the issue - he went to the Democratic Labour Party manifesto of 2003, he found nothing. He went to the Democratic Labour Party manifesto of 2008, he found no further guidance. He went to the development plan, he found no further guidance. And what this country has had to deal with is a series of ad hoc statements in relation, sir, to the future of solid waste management in this country.

I am not, sir, going to be distracted by the other things. I want to deal with the facts. This Government indicated that it did not want to go to Mangrove. That was what it said when it was in Opposition. And we shouldn't be going to Greenland either. We said as a Government that we were going to finish Cell Two at Mangrove and that we were using it along with the reduction of waste in the contract that is now executed by SBRC - Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre - that would allow us then to mitigate and reduce substantially the volume of material that would go to Greenland, and that Greenland, therefore, would have a far longer shelf life than anything you would do if you don't have that mechanism to reduce the volume of garbage, be it construction material, kitchen or household garbage or whatever.

When I hear this morning a political speech become the substance of a minister's speech in here that ought to be telling the people of Barbados what are the prospects for the future of solid waste management, what are the environmental protections that we are going to put in place for the very unfortunate fire - not started by the recycler, but a fire nevertheless that went on the recycler's plant and that led to a level of black smoke all about Barbados that could be seen from almost any angle - but we didn't hear that. This became a diatribe about what the Minister perceived as latter-day saints and how dare they criticise

me and how dare they criticise the Ministry. This Constitution of Barbados still has the right to freedom of expression and this party has a responsibility to be the voice. But we will equally be balanced and all I am saying is that if you are coming to this House to ask for our agreement to acquire a piece of land that you are already using - without the permission of this House, acquiring it, that you have been using for almost a year - the first thing I would have expected that you do is to explain why you had to use it in advance of the parliamentary approval.

The second thing I would expect that you would do is to explain to the country where does the talk of an incinerator - which has been raised by this Minister and other Ministers of Government - stand alongside the use of a landfill, stand alongside the acquisition of a cell for Mangrove, stand alongside the abandonment of Greenland in spite of substantial public funds being spent to prepare Greenland? What is the future of solid waste management in Barbados?

And in addressing the issue, Mr. Speaker, of what is solid waste - the future of solid waste management - we would have expected the Minister to tell us why it has taken more than a year to award the bids for the leachate plant. Now, the leachate plant is a critical component of any solid waste management procedure. And therefore, why is it taking more than a year? Why is there no funding in these estimates for the leachate plant? Is it intended to be a public-private partnership and if so, inform the House of that? The former Prime Minister, Member for St. John, was the one who came in here and felt that there needed to be a framework of transparency for public-private partnerships, because even though the funding was off budget, it involved the use of public resources and ultimately a commitment to repay for a period of time from the taxpayers' money. But we didn't hear any of that today, sir.

We still have not heard either, sir, why it is that it has taken six years for expressions of interest to vote just only the other day on a waste-to-energy framework that was always seen to be the companion anchor to the SBRC transfer station and various activities that are currently at Fort Clues that have been operating for an excess of six years.

But then again, sir, I ought not have expected more, because it was this Minister who presides over the astronomical payment - contractual obligation, rather - of guaranteeing 1 000 tons of garbage a day for 360 days a year to SBRC. And he this morning, sir, the Honourable Member admitted readily that he concluded the contractual arrangements. The Honourable Member said it started under the Barbados Labour Party Government. That is true. And he equally said that they concluded the contractual arrangements in 2009. That is equally true. And what he didn't tell the Honourable House is that given the

commitment and the contract, this Government continues to under-provide in the estimate of expenditure every year by at least \$6.6 million, to the tune of the fact that now since 2009 there is a backlog of \$20 million owing to SBRC. Because year after year the Government comes in here and votes \$15 million, knowing that 360 days by 1 000 tons, by \$60 a ton represents a liability of \$21.6 million. So this adds to the untidy and onerous fiscal situation that has this country reeling. And the looks of some of the members of Cabinet on the other side suggest to me that they too are unaware that there is a carrying liability every year for the last four years of five to \$6 million that has not been paid. But the Minister didn't tell us that, sir. The Minister didn't tell us that at all.

The Minister did not tell us today, sir, to come into 2013, post-Easter. Nobody can blame SBRC Recycling for the fire because two men have been prosecuted for arson. But what we can blame everyone for - the Government in particular - is that the Barbados Labour Party Government took time and effort to put in place regulations for medical waste, the disposal of medical waste. The Minister of Health can operate now with the comfort that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in disposal of waste, has to follow the best practice as captured in regulations, and that best practice makes sure that the disposal of syringes, the disposal of blood, the disposal of all kinds of chemicals or medicines are done in a way that does not impair the health or the environment within which it is being disposed.

Now, what is the simple point that the members on this side who have spoken are strongly making - in the face of what I have considered absolute political folly coming in the latter part of the debate in particular, and comedy when serious issues are being raised? The Member for St. George South, the Member for St. James Central and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, all of them have simply said, look, we accept that in a country that is 166 square miles that you have to find somewhere and somehow to dispose of garbage. There is no divide on that issue. There is no divide on the need for a recycling industry because, according to the Honourable Minister and Member for Christ Church East, most of the recycling industries anyhow started prior to 2008. There is no divide on that.

Where the divide comes, Mr. Speaker, is that there is a need for the work in respect of regulations to be continued. Having put the regulations in place for the disposal of medical waste, the next major step has always been to put the regulations in place for the disposal of hazardous substances and noxious substances and scrap metal. The Member for Christ Church South spoke in this debate and made a great deal about the scrap metal legislation that they brought here earlier this year. It is a pity the Attorney General wasn't sitting next to him when he spoke because the Attorney General might have poked

him and said, don't do that, don't do that. Because that legislation specifically exempts under section three secondary metal recyclers. So you couldn't be referring to metal dealers - secondary metal dealers. And secondly, the Attorney General would have told them this has nothing to do with the storage of metals after acquisition and prior to disposal or export. This has to do with the preventing of crimes and maintenance of records to minimise the incidence of robberies in relation to metals and precious metals. So that was another red herring to which this Honourable House was treated today, instead of confronting the reality that Barbados has serious problems and limited financial resources with which to deal with them, and that similarly, the environmental issues that we will confront in the 21st century will be far greater than those in the 20th century simply because of the advanced technology used to make all kinds of materials, from cell phones right back down to a whole host of other things that we use in our everyday life, that heretofore would not have been used.

Now, what is it that the Member for St. Thomas is really asking for, and the Member for St. James Central and St. George South? That if a person is going to partake in recycling, they have to store the materials before they can either be recycled, disposed of, exported, whatever. And that there ought to be a separation of the storage areas for the different materials such that tyres are not stored with car batteries. Car batteries may have residual chemicals that when combined with the combustion of tyres, may lead to

substances being unhealthy for persons in the surrounding areas. And I can give example after example. If you are storing bottles, let that be separate from where you are storing plastics. Plastics are made essentially, sir, from gas. That is why the same partnered coke family that you hear about in the United States, they have an ammonia plant in Trinidad. The same thing, natural gas that makes ammonia and fertilizer makes plastics, so that when plastics burn, the fumes that go into the atmosphere are going to be different. And all the Labour Party is saying, sir, is that ensure that best practices are reflected in the regulations which have to be used. This is no political football and the nonsense of it is crazy. We acknowledge and cannot hide the fact that one of the principles of BEES Recycling was a Barbados Labour Party senator when we were last in government. So this has nothing to do with that. And our concern, sir, about proper regulations has nothing at all to do with the efficiency or the desirability of the enterprise BEES Recycling.

We are concerned, sir, about two things. The Member for St. James Central spoke to the governance arrangements. There are planning issues and what are the facts? Two prime ministers, sir. Two prime ministers, not one. Two prime ministers facilitated BEES Recycling

staying there, in my view, justifiably exercising a discretion on both of their parts that rather than send home people, they would be given a period of time within which they would be facilitated in a move. The Prime Minister, Member for St. Peter, and the former Member for St. John, who is no longer with us, both of them facilitated. Where this minister needs perhaps to account is that having facilitated and agreed, it was his desire that they should go to Bagatelle. That was his view. We may not agree and I will come to that, but if that was his view, then he ought to have proceeded in a way according to law. And that was all. The Member for St. James Central has been saying that KABLICK cannot supplant the Chief Town Planner in relation to planning decisions.

And let me tell you why. In December 2007, sir, this Honourable Chamber passed a Physical Development Plan. And I find it amusing that the minister did not even refer to it because, well, if he did, I did not hear him, sir, because at chapter five of the Physical Development Plan, a map is attached first and foremost, that sets out the location of every landfill, open or closed, in Barbados. And that map, when read in conjunction with chapter 516, which sets out the conditions under which those entities are to be operated in Barbados, established, operated or decommissioned, the situation is very clear. Where the minister failed was in anchoring this in its proper framework for governance. This was not a criticism of BEES. This is not even a personal criticism of you, the Honourable Minister. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, not you. But it is a criticism of the governance. And rather than coming and saying we made a mistake, rather than coming and saying that it is preferable for us to go to Vacluse, which is what the Physical Development Plan contemplated all along to be a location for this situation - the siting of solid waste management related industries. Yes, it did. With Greenland as well. But close. Look at the map here. And I mean, we cannot be a doctor in the house because this House passed it. Look at it here.

And what are the other conditions, sir, that these kinds of facilities can only go in zone three and zone four. So it is not that you are arbitrarily picking a location in Barbados. You cannot put it in a zone one area, you cannot put it in a zone two area because of the impact on the water table, but we can put it in certain locations. What is missing, Mr. Speaker, is the companion regulations for best practices. What this Physical Development Plan also speaks to, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that in making decisions that these sites - and this is the point I think that the Member for St. James Central was trying to make - these sites ought not to be within 200 metres of residential communities. Now that is the law of Barbados, that it ought not to be within 200 metres of residential communities. Now, mercifully, the land which we are talking about at Vacluse is not. And that is why that was always the location.

I never got into it because, Mr. Speaker, I hope, I pray that good sense would prevail because there is no doubt that any company that is operating and employing 100 people has a legitimate participation. But the minister has to recognise that it is equally correct for the Member of Parliament for St. Thomas to call upon him to speak to her constituents because they are not his geographical constituents. But there are people to whom his ministerial portfolio requires of him to have a relationship because they have a legitimate concern that was unparalleled in modern Barbados. Unparalleled because when Mangrove burnt, Mangrove does not have metals and tyres in the same way they had at one point. But the collection of hazardous and noxious substances are of greater concentration in a metal dump than they are in a household related dump and that is the point.

And then the comments about who was mining stuff at Bagatelle. There was nobody given permission to mine stuff at Bagatelle. The problem at Bagatelle, like most things in this country, was the absence of policing by the Sanitation Service Authority. And all I am saying to you, Mr. Speaker, is that we need to be able to confront the facts in a mature manner. The residents need to be paid attention to. The residents at Reece Road need to have a meeting with the officials. If they do not know what was the result of the air quality test, Mr. Minister, it is no big deal. Make sure that the officials tell them equally. If the Member of Parliament has been writing letters since last year, it is discourteous not to respond. Anybody - Prime Minister - will tell you, as well as all previous prime ministers I have known in this country, you have to reply, even if the reply is to say I am not in a position to help. I never said she wrote the minister. I am saying that functionaries were written and to date there has been no response. And all I am saying is that the lack of response is clearly what has allowed tempers equally to flare. I am equally saying, sir, that the Member for St. James Central made similar complaints too. So we have a problem there.

We also have a problem, sir, in relation to the length of time that it takes to get things done. The minister tried to make a joke about implementation deficit disorder. He can joke as much as he wants. But the reality is that three years after Cabinet makes a decision is when this House for the first time is being asked to approve this acquisition - almost a year after it is in operation. Craziness, not in Barbados that we know and want to be proud of. Let us go further. It cannot take six years for a waste-to-energy expressions of interest to be done. It cannot take more than a year, 18 months, for a government committee to decide who to give a tender to for the leachate plant. And part of the difficulty that we are facing, if we are to be honest with the country, is that the government is in severe fiscal straits.

And what is happening is that we need to pause because the amount of money that Barbados must spend in

getting the solid waste and liquid waste disposal correct, in getting our water augmentation and water distribution correct, we are talking about over \$1.5 billion. And when we therefore spend here and there and everywhere without dealing with the fundamental things that give us life and keep life for us, then we are misplacing our priorities because we are committing to things that cannot rank above the provision of an adequate and affordable safe water supply and a framework equally for appropriate disposal of waste, be it liquid or solid waste in this country, which depends on the quality of our environment to earn our living. And I therefore call on us, sir, to be able to have this kind of serious discussion about the way forward. The Physical Development Plan has given the government the ability to move BEES to Vaucuse from since 2008, when it was passed. Two prime ministers made the commitment. Let us get it straight and on top of that, it cannot take six years. An environmental impact assessment still has to be done by BEES Recycling because that is required by law. Get on with the business of doing it, get on with the business of getting this matter out of the way and let us proceed to deal with the fundamental issue.

What is the government's plan beyond cell four, which already has a year into it? And where next do we go for the disposal of waste in Barbados when cell four is gone and given the commitment not to go to Greenland in spite of the \$100 million in expenditure? Wherever else you go, I can assure you that an incinerator will cost you hundreds of millions of dollars and you will still have to prepare sites in the same way that Greenland was initially prepared wherever you go, and therefore there will be a duplication of expenditure in a very real measure.

I am also indicating, sir, that there has to be regulations as a matter of urgency, and it cannot take three years to do regulations in the same way that it took three years to do a resolution. I am also indicating, sir, that if money is an issue in keeping current with the people that you owe, if you cannot now keep up with the commitments you made and the SBRC, how are you going to keep up with the payments you are going to have to make for a leachate plant and a waste-to-energy plant? And these are relevant issues in circumstances where this country must find \$1.2 billion this year to finance a deficit. In circumstances, sir, where it is a herculean task for us to do so.

If there is one person in this government who should be sensitive to the lack of money in here, it is the Member for Christ Church East. Because as I speak to you, there are still workers from drainage who have not been paid as of this evening. It is a fact. And not only that, there are some, sir, but there is a bigger issue, and the minister needs to listen rather than to retract. What has happened is that those who had deductions, the deductions ought to go straight to the credit union or the bank. As you know, up to this

morning, the deductions have not gone down. And what has happened? I am not making any political points now. This is a real, genuine issue. What has happened, Mr. Speaker? The credit unions and the various banking institutions are not cashing the cheques because the deductions which were owed to them by the person who receives the salary have not come. And what they are saying is that we will not cash this cheque until government pays your part of the loan that you owe through the deduction. So that if there is a problem, then you have to fix it. Because when the people have gotten a piece of paper in their hand, there are a number of them who have not been able to translate that paper into cash to pay the rest of their bill. And I do not say this out of any malice. It is a fact. Now, if it is because government has a cash flow issue, then all of us are in this together.

We are not going to oppose the acquisition of this land, but we have raised some salient points in our view, which ought to be addressed as a matter of urgency. And we wait to hear what the government's solid waste management policy is because it is not good enough for us to hear about a cell four without knowing the lifespan. And what is the plan beyond the lifespan of this particular cell. I am obliged.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to conclude this debate. And indeed, I believe that the government has made its case relative to its intentions. I believe that the government has been clear in its purpose, has been clear as it moves forward to build out its sustainable solid waste management programme. It is easy, Mr. Speaker, for anyone to get up now and to say what should have been done, what could have been done, and what is to be done. But I remind the members on that side, they had 14 years to do it and lots of money, and they did not do anything about solid waste management. As a matter of fact, the only thing they have done is to leave a legacy of failure at Greenland. And from the member who just spoke, it seems that they are still fixated on Greenland as an option. It is not an option for solid waste, as I said in my presentation, because of the topography of Greenland itself. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that they stand condemned for allowing these circumstances to exist. And when they could have done something about it, they did not have any ideas. But all of a sudden now they are pregnant with ideas of what should or should not be done.

We are not going to discard anybody's ideas, Mr. Speaker. We will listen and we will go forward and we will take what can be taken to implement in the process. But the fact is clear, this government has a clear path of where it needs to go. This government continues to focus on the issues that must be focused on, and I am not going to be sidetracked by the utterances of nothingness that come from that side, because that is what it is. It is a pile of nothingness that they are trying to use to quiet the

government's voice on making its point relative to where it is going. We are clear where we are going. We are operating in a very difficult economic time, but still we are able to make progress on those areas where progress is deserving of being made.

And therefore, the member for St. Thomas should really stand down on this debate because, as I said before, when they were creating legitimate expectations for BEES by the fact of applauding, endorsing and advocating for what they were doing, they never questioned the Town Planning Department or the Town Planner. They are getting here today and the Town Planner was on his knees begging the Barbados Labour Party administration to set right the situation. You know, it is amazing. I really cannot get it, Mr. Speaker - on his hands and knees begging them to do something about Bagatelle. And they never did. They never did. As a matter of fact, the honourable member made his point. That is why certain people could not say anything. If the honourable member for St. Thomas was present, she would not have opened her mouth and said what she said, because she was there. She was there. The honourable member was there. So that you understand what is happening here.

Every time this government tries to go forward on a worthy endeavour in this country, the opposition party has a problem. But we are going to move forward. Look, the challenges of the people in St. Thomas are the challenges that this government is fully aware of and will continue to address. The challenges of the people at Bagatelle - we understand and we will continue to work. I am satisfied that the Ministry of the Environment, which I have the honour of leading, and that the regulators who are responsible for adjudicating on matters such as what happened at Bagatelle did their job, and that the Ministry of Home Affairs did its job. And of course, as the member for St. James South indicated, the member for St. Thomas was busy eating chicken and drinking a Sprite at the site.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: The honourable member is misleading the Chamber. The only role I played that evening was to take the residents from one household, small children, down to Tiffany Guest House and came back on the scene to assist. I ate nothing because the environment was not one in which you could eat. I lent my support to all that was happening there. I never ate chicken or anything. To trivialise this, where people's lives were at stake, is really very childish. Honourable member -

Mr. SPEAKER: Please continue. No point of order. Please continue. Thank you.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party started the work on the leachate plant as well as the work on the landfill gas energy programme, which they could never get implemented. So

when they now talk about an implementation deficit, they set the example for that. That is all. They set the example for it. So I do not pay that talk and I do not give any credence to that talk. It is rubbish, Mr. Speaker, sir.

So I am saying today to the residents of St. Thomas as well as the residents of Bagatelle that we are going to continue to work assiduously to find sustainable solutions to ensure that they are not put at risk in their neighbourhoods. They have the assurance of this government that we will continue to work on that. We will also continue to ensure that the decisions we take are decisions that are supportive of small business people like the recycling operators in Barbados, to ensure that an enabling environment is offered to them to carry out their work. We are not going to be distracted by the Barbados Labour Party because they have no moral authority to advise us as to what we should be doing on this.

As far, Mr. Speaker, as Bagatelle is concerned, the Ministry of the Environment took a Cabinet paper seeking Cabinet's permission to, one, allow BEES Recycling to go into Bagatelle to continue the work that was being done by the Sanitation Service Authority; and two, it also asked the Cabinet to engage the Ministry of Housing in a discussion with BEES Bottling about the exchange of land between those two entities. That is what we did. We did not send anyone in there to do any development. We sent them in there to carry out the work because we had to remove the criminals from Bagatelle. Yes, I remember what -

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Yes, tell us all.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: The minister, if he is going to give a breakdown of what Cabinet did, then the minister, sir, must give the entire breakdown. The minister, sir, was party to a decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Why would he do that? You were able to stand on your feet and you gave a statement of what Cabinet allegedly did. There was no difficulty with that. No, please continue. Give the intelligence.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: That is right. Because some of the metal down there - the remnants that would have been there during that time. Mr. Speaker, mining at BEES was going on for years at Bagatelle. For years when BEES went to Bagatelle. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that the equipment of the Sanitation Service Authority, including a Caterpillar, was mining at Bagatelle and no returns were going to the government. [Inaudible.] did that. You know, it is amazing, as though Barbadians are stupid and that they will listen and buy everything that they say. The fact is that mining was going on there and no piece of equipment that was moved there could create the kind of impact that a Caterpillar would create in a mine. All of this

has been attributed to this government as though we introduced something so scandalous. That is all it is. The fact is that is what was happening there, and what we said and what we will do is to clean up the Bagatelle metal dust and we will ensure that it is decommissioned at the end of the day.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that the government has made its case. I am satisfied that we have laid it out very clearly and cogently for the country to understand. I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, sir, that we are moving on the right path and we shall stay on focus with the work that needs to be done. And having said that, Mr. Speaker, I therefore beg that this resolution do now pass.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg that the House be suspended for 15 minutes.

The question that the House be suspended for fifteen minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Members, the sitting of the House is resumed. Order number three - we shall continue.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the National Insurance and Social Security Amendment Bill 2013.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the National Insurance and Social Security Amendment Bill 2013 be read a first time.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. CLERK: Mr. Speaker, revert to Government Business - Order number three in the name of the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands - to move the passing of a resolution to approve the publication in the Official Gazette of a notification under section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Chapter 228, declaring the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of

land situated at Vauxhall in the parish of Christ Church in this island.

RESOLUTION - LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228

ABANDONMENT OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT VAUXHALL, CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is seeking the abandonment of 11 165.7 square feet of land at Vauxhall in the parish of Christ Church, which was previously acquired from Mr. Archibald Canali for the purpose of housing development.

Mr. Speaker, Parliament approved the compulsory acquisition of this 11 165.7 square feet of land at Vauxhall, Christ Church, and it was completed on March 2, 2011, and His Excellency the Governor accordingly assented to the resolution on March 7, 2011, and the resolution was accordingly gazetted on March 10, 2011.

Then Cabinet, at its meeting on July 5, 2012, considered note 12/54 on the matter of Housing and Lands number 32, and approved the abandonment of the acquisition of the said parcel of land, and agreed that the land be returned to Mr. Canali, and it was also agreed by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel that instructions be prepared for the necessary resolution in connection with the abandonment of the land, and for it to be introduced in Parliament, and that it be agreed to the publication of notice in the Official Gazette under section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, declaring that the acquisition of land to be abandoned.

By virtue of the publication of section five notices, the Statutory Instrument 2011, number 93, published in the Official Gazette on August 11, 2011, the aforementioned 11 165.7 square feet of land became Crown lands, and it has been recently determined that this land is no longer required for housing development.

Also, sir, as you are aware, in the Throne Speech we have agreed that we will be putting numerous parcels of land available to Barbadians - some five thousand parcels - and that we will be selling that land right across Barbados. On top of that, sir, as you are aware, we are also putting out there over 500 lots of land at \$5 a square foot, sir.

With all that in mind, sir, the resolution for the balance of 11 165.7 square feet of land has been certified by the Attorney General as being in order for submission to Parliament. And that is where we are today, sir. We are bringing this before this Parliament for consideration. And with those few remarks I beg that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the first thing that we need to know is what was the rationalisation behind the acquisition of this land - in other words, why you acquired the land in the first place. And I think that you also have to tell us why you now abandoned the acquisition of the land. I think those are two fundamental questions that it is only just and honest for the honourable House and the people of Barbados to understand - what is responsible for this kind of behaviour.

This abandonment of land speaks to the general demand for housing in this society. It relates also to issues relevant to the homeless in the society. And we have always been known as a people struggling to address concerns of landlessness and homelessness in the society, and to just tell me that we are abandoning an acquisition of land - I would expect to hear more from the Minister on this particular subject.

Sir, housing in this country is a very critical issue, and that is why I said it speaks to a very broad understanding of the Government's housing policy. What can it be that the Minister is concealing that will cause him not to be able to give a justification for a Government moving from one extreme to the other, seeing that there is a need for land to provide houses for marginalised people in the society? But then a Government who boasted of its record - its outstanding record - in acquiring housing land and providing housing for low-income people, you are actually seeing what can be classified as a reversal within a short space of time.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: [Point of order.] The honourable member is misleading the House. Because surely, sir, the honourable member would have heard me making reference to the Government policy as it relates to the Throne Speech and the manifesto, and also of the 500 lots that we are making available, along with other acquisitions that we have been making. And we found that this, when you look at what we are doing, did not fit in neatly with what we were doing.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Please continue.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: When we acquire land. When we acquire land, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a common objective and I believe that there is always a sound basis for doing so because we know that based on our history there are so many people across Barbados in need of the opportunity to own and to possess land that when a government makes a decision like this it has to give this House and the people of Barbados an explanation for doing so. And to tell me that we are going to be selling

land. I am dealing with a specific case. The land at Vauxhall. The common objective here is to provide housing. It is not for farmland. It is land for residential purposes for poor people. So why did you acquire the land in the first place? What is the reason?

Now you have about 20 000 people plus in this country that are making their way down to the National Housing Corporation every week applying for an opportunity to get land to purchase, for an opportunity to rent land, for an opportunity to rent, to have access to housing units for rent and to acquire land in order to construct their own houses. You must tell me, and this Honourable House, as parliamentary representative of St. Michael East, you must tell me before you do that - respect the issue - you must explain to us what it is that you are actually doing because it speaks to a form of confusion that does not only reflect on you but it reflects on the entire government who actually came to this post before and used some level of logic and justification when they had to meet the demand for housing in this country. And since the Barbados Labour Party gave a party that was a government party to the DLP, they did not meet the requirements of the demands for those over 20 000 persons, and you are now putting a comprehensive programme in place to acquire land to build houses for poor people. And I am very concerned about this.

There are so many people in this society that are homeless today. Not only those few people who people identify as vagrant on the street. Because most of us, when we think about the homeless in this society, we look at people on the street. We look at people who are probably displaced from incarceration, what is described sometimes as ex-convicts. And we look at people who are sometimes living in private homes and are evicted by the court and cannot find land, cannot find a house to rent or even a place to squat sometimes. So I do not believe that we should ignore a decision like this and let it just pass - that you are just abandoning it. You have to tell us and to tell the Honourable House why.

I want to put an important case for a large category of persons across Barbados that are in need of housing. And that is why we have problems in zone one areas. Because when people apply to the government for assistance, the government cannot respond to the effective demand for housing in Barbados. And this is a new Minister of Housing and I am here to understand his response to the needs of the poor in comparison to the previous minister and to try to find out exactly what is the trajectory in addressing these issues - that I can look at and conclude is the government's mission and the government's approach to addressing these major issues in the lack of housing and homelessness in this society. This provides us with an opportunity to have an important debate about homelessness in the society.

I would just like to suggest that we need to have a policy that is extremely clear. As one of my colleagues on this side indicated before, I am not interested in just engaging people in discussion exclusively for any contentious debate, as though it involves any partisan competition across the floor. I am asking the minister if he is going to be discussing a housing policy and he is going to talk about the abandonment of an acquisition for land. The land was acquired for a specific purpose. Obviously, it is to address the lack of access to land and the state accepts its responsibility as providing land in cases where the private sector, although land is made available to our people. So I am asking you to tell me exactly what is the basis for the abandonment? What about the people who are going to the National Housing Corporation for assistance? Is this going to be a new trend in the government's policy?

What is going to happen to persons? For example, you have situations where there are persons who are at the UDC who are in need of house repairs and they are being told that the houses cannot be repaired because you have no transitory units to put these people in during the period of time that you are actually repairing their houses. But if you have a public issue of that kind, it should tell you that you need to put a housing programme in place where you can have a number of units which will be used on a short-term basis for persons who will be displaced for approximately two or three months. It gives you an opportunity to make a mark as a housing minister at strategic points across Barbados. Use the lands that are available to you to construct a number of transitory units - what some people call revolving door units - so that when you are repairing houses at the UDC, you can put those persons in those houses for a short period of time. You put them in the houses, knowing that they already own property and that you are demolishing the house only to rebuild. And that would be a condition.

You also have problems in this country where there are people who are described by some as ex-convicts. You are now looking to reintegrate people into the society after leaving prison. You have a social issue that you need to address. And you can also have those transitory units in place so that for a short period of six months or so, until that person is fully reintegrated and put in a job, that person can stay in these units. It also will help if there is any form of natural disaster in the country - you can have a housing policy that makes sense. So when you are saying that you do not - in other words, you do not sell a pen, a functioning pen, and not think about ink. So when you talk about land for housing, the ultimate objective is to provide this land so that you can construct housing for people.

You have some fundamental problems to deal with. I just want to suggest to you that we expect people in here to come and talk to us and engage in sensible discourse, not cloudily or hollow pronouncements, unless you apply some

kind of sensible discourse and clear objectives to the things that you want to achieve. We already have situations where there are many units I understand are already completed. I want to hear from you. When are the residents who are qualified going to be given permission to move into those units? I want to also hear from you - Brenton, those are some of them. I want to know what is the encumbrance? What are the encumbrances? I will be happy because my people sacrificed their lives over the years picking sugar cane at the Belle. And I have heard other ministers coming in here rejoicing at my people now cutting bush around the Belle as well. So I will be happy if those persons who are present, described as honourees, will be given an opportunity to move into the same units that I am talking about, Minister.

I want the minister - I am not going to stay until I die just to help people talk about Moses and how some people talk about all different characters in the Bible. I talk about people in the 21st century. And I want in this present conversation, sir, to urge the minister - at least use the opportunity to speak extensively. But I am saying to you that because there is an ultimate objective, you do not just acquire land and just say that you acquired it for agricultural purposes or for residential purposes and we no longer need this land for the initial purpose for which it was acquired, and shut down the discussion with mature men and women who are here to represent the interest of people, without saying to us this is the rationalisation for taking this decision at this specific time. Honourable member, it leaves us to continue to speculate. I say that this debate needs to be a little more extensive because I am concerned.

I do not know exactly where the location is in Vauxhall, but I am thinking in terms of that Vauxhall area. We were talking on some occasion about extending the senior citizens village there. We have an excessive number of persons in the mental hospital. We have a number of persons in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we are talking a lot about deinstitutionalisation of persons. One of the reasons why we cannot put that deinstitutionalisation programme in place is because we do not have the alternative units for those persons to live in. I think that is a good opportunity for us to be using land that we acquire. If there is no sound justification for abandoning the acquisition, I do not know if I want to support it. But I also need to know why the abandonment is being made.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to advance those few points in relation to the abandonment of this acquisition of land. And I am in the most genuine way asking the minister to give us a logical explanation for why we abandon the acquisition of land.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask a few questions on this particular head. The minister has sought to abandon an acquisition that came less than two years ago. At that time I recall the then minister said that this land was vital for low income housing. At that time, I recall the minister was praised by his side and of course we supported it. And he said then that there was a need to increase the lots in Barbados and it also tied into the Democratic Labour Party's programme of the 500 house lots at \$5 a square foot. At that time, Mr. Speaker, we supported this resolution and we felt then that it was vital for this type of development. I am hearing today from a new minister that land was abandoned in the past so he is now seeking to abandon this.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I never said anything like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, that is true. He is referring to your side though, but it is not part of the record so he did not say that. Let us continue.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: You are not supposed to hear a side, but I am hearing from the substantive holder of the office that other governments have abandoned. And I will explain because we have abandoned acquisitions as well. We came in here and abandoned acquisitions as well. But there are a number of reasons why an acquisition is abandoned. An acquisition is abandoned if the land is not now needed for a public purpose or for that purpose for which it was acquired in the first case. So therefore, that is not the reason. It is also abandoned if the government found out that they did not have the money to pay for it. If the government decides that they cannot pay for it, or if the owner has made a case to the government that this land was taken at a time and they would prefer to recall the land - and that is the case.

Now, we must look carefully at these lands because I am aware, and I have spoken in here over the last five years, especially to the government, that there are lands. And I am sure the former minister of housing would recall me saying that we had land at Cottage, St. George - Hamney's land - that the government acquired in our time. Now, I am sure the member for St. Philip North is aware of this, if not the present minister. And to my mind, this land has not been paid for yet. It was acquired in December 2002 and over the years has not been paid for. The owner has not been compensated. And the people of St. George North - as we speak to every housing matter here because we have a list of over two or three hundred people, poor people, under \$20 000 in income annually, that are in need of housing.

We do not want the government to build the houses like what they did at Constant. We do not want you to build any houses like what you did at Constant. Give people

land. We do not want you to give any contractor land to build houses and then sell them to the people - sell them to people for \$400 000. We do not want that. We do not want a situation like Coverley. We do not want that. We want house spots, genuine house spots at \$5, sir.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Yes, I remember - misleading the House, sir. The Honourable Member was Deputy Minister. The Honourable Member was Minister. And the Honourable Member never delivered house marks when he was in position. So he cannot be heard in this House talking about house spots, sir, when I was begging him for a [Inaudible.]

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: brother. That song like a St. Lucy logic. A St. Lucy logic. But never mind, Mr. Speaker. Never mind, Mr. Speaker. The logic from what I am hearing - logic. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that we are in need of house spots and remember, cannot say that we did not deliver house spots in our time. This government will probably deliver over 2 000 house spots alone across Barbados. Over 2 000 house spots were delivered all across Barbados.

I am asking the government, especially the noble Minister of Housing, the new Minister of Housing. I give him a little time because I believe you have not had time to read the files. You have not had time to read the files and I hope you could read the files. I have also asked the member responsible for town planning, which is the Prime Minister, to intervene on this matter because there are several people, according landowners, that have not been compensated for the land, including the owner of Carlton Estate, that have not been compensated.

The number of persons across Barbados - and the present minister is on record of saying - the present minister came in here in 1994 like myself. And from then he was talking about the Land Acquisition Act needed to be amended. He said so. He is on record of saying - I disagree with him about this - the honourable member agreed that the Acquisition Act should be amended to compensate owners at market value. You said so. The member said, Mr. Speaker, that owners should be paid because I remember when we acquired land in Christ Church at the time - in the member's force, the Christ Church East Conservancy - when people were paid at the market value at that time, over there by the airport, below the airport, land was paid - people before your time, owners were compensated. People were compensated at market value, temporary value. And the member for St. Lucy is on record of saying that people should be compensated based on market value and that the Land Acquisition Act should be changed. Now he is in a position to do so. And therefore I am calling on the minister to ensure all those persons that have not been compensated for the land, including all the hundreds of people across Barbados, because I believe that when you

look at the level of compensation, Mr. Speaker, it runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. Compensation for tons of land that have been acquired over the past 20 years that have not been paid for yet.

And we need to look at these lands. And if the government is not in a position to pay for these lands, then the government could bring them here and say, look, these lands have been acquired at a time when we had money, but now we do not. And if they do not need to acquire them, obviously they may have to pay the landowner some form of compensation because the Land Acquisition Act speaks that if you keep a person's land for more than a certain time, then you have to pay them some form of compensation for the use of the land. We need to look at this and the Minister of Housing must bring to this parliament all those lands that have not been paid for yet. You cannot just return this one. We need to have - and I am very concerned about this because in my constituency alone in St. George North, we have a number of cases, a number of cases where persons have not been compensated, the land has not been used over time and it is really an injustice.

The second point I want to make on this debate on this head is this, that there needs to be a level of fairness in terms of providing a lot for the people. You cannot tell me that in our time we were able to provide lots for people in our constituency, but now we are not getting any more lots. I am calling on the minister because there are about seven lots that have not been built on in Constant. I want to look at that very carefully. There are about 30 lots that have not been built on yet. And I would advise the minister, rather than putting additional housing at Constant based on his own theory, to give those 30 lots or sell them to persons within the geographical area at the stated price that you have agreed to. And that is important. So we need them.

And I want to look at also the leases, which also is important because a lease also is tantamount to a sale. There are a number of persons that have acquired for leases at the Glee Market. There are a number of persons who have acquired for leases all across Barbados that need to be completed, but they have started in my time, Mr. Speaker. I need to see these leases completed. I need the leases, Mr. Speaker, to be completed. I need these sales to be completed and I need persons who own land to be compensated for the long use of these lands, which is important.

And of course, the member for St. Michael East made a point. There are a number of persons all across Barbados, poor people, that are in need and looking for house spots and they want to build their own homes. I therefore agree that we will provide these lots to people at the stated price and give them time to pay. This will help the economy, this will help generate employment within

our situation. Because persons want to build a home, but they do not want to build a home by a contractor. They want to do so themselves. So I am calling on the minister to let us know.

Point of order.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Misleading the house by giving the house the impression, sir, that when he was Minister of Housing, that he was not the minister of joint venture, sir. Every project the honourable member did was a joint venture, sir. I know this honourable member wants this house to believe, sir, that he is in here speaking on stated policy, sir. I am saying, sir, that the other member is now reversing himself on everything he did in this house when he was Minister and Deputy Minister, and I will prove it.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Please, Mr. Speaker, I am not saying - because I believe that there must be a multiplicity of ventures by the government. I believe so. I believe there must be joint ventures. I believe there must be house plots, house lots. I believe that government must also provide high-rise housing for people. But the point is you have a number of lands that are now vacant because the contractors have not built on them. You have given them out to the contractors, for example, at Constant, St. George. You have 65 lots that have been given to Cleco. Cleco has only built on 20-something. I am saying to you, and they are not in a position to complete that. Rather than delay an estate, rather than delay this development for another four years - sell the lots. That is all I am saying. Sell the lots because we want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that we know that there are difficulties and in no sense are we pretending that there is no difficulty. There are difficulties they are having - rather than have a contractor complete houses which they cannot - sell the lots. That is all I am saying. This will also provide some revenue for the Ministry of Housing. I think this can happen. You have a lot of lots that can be sold where persons are allowed to move into lots and pay over time, similar to what other private developers are doing in Barbados and across the Caribbean.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the way forward must be seen in providing lots to people. I am not sure - I visited this site a couple of months ago. I am not sure. I think it is in a really highly dense area and it can be used for low-income housing. But of course the government has to govern and if the government decides to bring its view. But I am of the view that we still must provide a number of house spots for urban people, especially persons that want to have and build their own homes. Every person does not want to live in a high rise. And in Vauxhall, as I recall, where this is, is high density and it is suited for this type of low-income housing where persons can conceptualise their own home, not building the same size as you have in St. James or other places, but persons can build their own

homes and this will also generate employment for community people.

And I believe that this will advance the situation where persons can borrow money from the bank. The bank is liquid with money and the bank wants to lend, but it cannot lend at those high prices. There are a lot of people who cannot get a mortgage at \$300 000 but they can get a mortgage, Mr. Speaker, at \$150 000. Allow the people to build their own \$150 000 houses. That is all I am saying. And I am pleading for all the people not only in my constituency, but persons who want to get on with their life. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Honourable member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: And I think the member for St. George North should really state the full facts of the matter. I believe he was the minister at the time who acquired land. Yes, he acquired land - at that time it was under a minister, not the Prime Minister. Yes, I think it was the former minister, former member for St. James South, and he acquired the land for the public purpose of housing without getting any sort of - then the National Corporation applied to the town planning department for housing development. It was turned down because it was stated that it falls within the agricultural belt that is in St. George and they already had the land. The National Corporation did not appeal. Did not appeal. Now you administer the corporation - you are advising to take it. It was not like - well, how we do it in practice. When we go to acquire land, we take the town planning department, we take the Water Authority, we take persons from all the relevant agencies - environment, agriculture - to give us their opinion on whether this acquisition is suitable. So the member should have come out and really stated the full facts rather than come with a half-baked story. A half-baked story.

St. Michael North East - sorry for his - please. When he was in opposition, when he gave attack, he cannot get - he said, I cannot get a piece of land. The boy on the burning deck begging and pleading and trying to control the minister, the former minister, that he want a spot of land and not one single spot of land he got from the minister at the time. That is a fact. Yes. So the point is, Mr. Speaker - the point is, Mr. Speaker, that they know - coming here, coming here. He now comes back in here and now within two months begging again for house spots. You will get your spot and you will get what is due to you. But I also want to say to the members in St. George North that the minister acquired land and operations in St. George, in your constituency, and I believe that development has started - infrastructure - and you fail to say just so. You said that no spot is being made available to your locals, the member -

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: is missing. I did not say anything about the development because it is ongoing. It is going on. But I was asking specifically about the [Inaudible.] land that was acquired in this parliament in December of 2002. But he cannot be in the House when he said that. You failed to mention. And you admit that you failed to mention. Mr. Speaker, please. Thank you. Please continue.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: St. George North is not admitting that the Minister for Land - that he did not neglect St. George North. You said that no spot is being made available to your constituents in St. George North. You said that.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I said that there is a need for more house spots in St. George. The Ministry of Housing should apply at least another whole plan to provide house spots. Okay, continue.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: And there is no provision in an Acquisition Act that states when the state is abandoning any acquisition that they must state the reasons.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: But the honourable member is misleading the house. The Act in 2008 states that there is a reason for abandonment. There is a whole section there on abandonment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Justice, you did not bring the Act. I think the Act states the circumstances in which you can abandon. But I did not say anybody had to state the reason. No point from the honourable member. Please continue.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: I say that the government housing policy and particularly now in the hands of the member for St. Lucy, in the capable hands of the member for St. Lucy - of course we will continue to provide house spots for those constituents, particularly those MPs who make calls and who ask for whether it is a housing unit, whether house spots - and embarked on a programme between 2008 and 2013 fully supported by the member for St. George North. Fully supported by the member for St. George North. The provision of house spots, the building of houses and also the urban highways programme. So I just want to state, put the record clear, Mr. Speaker, because the member for St. George North cannot come in here and try to cast the responsibility on this government for what happened in the acquisition of land. No, you cannot say that.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I want to make it very clear. I am not criticising or saying that the government should not complete the sale. All I am saying is that it is important - we acquire it, you complete the acquisition, complete the acquisition and get on with the development.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thanks for the elucidation. Please continue.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: It is also my certain knowledge in relation to compensation, in relation to the acquisition between 2008 and 2013, those lots that form part of the \$5 lots programme - that most of them were acquired through private treaty and that most of the owners of those lots were paid. It is my certain knowledge that they were paid, not like previous years. I can recall instances - I remember St. Andrew. I can recall in a particular case what happened in St. Andrew in the acquisition of a particular piece of land and what happened to the owner. But I do not want to speak in his absence. I do not want to speak in his absence. So when there is another acquisition, we can speak to that because you raised the issue about timely compensation, timely compensation of acquisition for owners. And of course you, as Minister of Housing, I cannot say that you have a good record in terms of the provision of -

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: for St. Philip North in our records. He went to the Ministry of Housing after many years I had been there. What is the point of order, please? You have a good record. I am saying that he - he administered - will never have a record that I missed housing. Okay, we were building houses, we were building - okay. We were building houses at a time - he left the ministry at a time and caused a number of problems in his country, layoffs, construction low. I left the ministry at a time when your construction was high -

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, in relation to what the member said in relation to the acquisition, I believe that the member for St. Lucy in his wrap-up will state the full reason for the abandonment of the acquisition. But of course, the member for St. Michael East - he will be comfortable. In fact, you can now speak to the member for St. Lucy because before you had that luxury to make requests for your constituents, and I am very certain that your request will be fulfilled. And that is my intervention. Mr. Speaker,

Mr. SPEAKER: Please. Yes,

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, in wrapping up, I would like to make a point, sir, that on June 24, 1997 the honourable member for St. George North on the floor of this House, and I quote, sir: Mr. Speaker, I arise in this debate to put a few things straight. I want to say first of all, and in this debate, let me first point out to you, sir, is Order Number Seven - a resolution to approve the notification and abandonment of compulsory acquisition of land from C. O. Williams Farms, Excel, and Bewils - and St. James informed us that this abandonment, sir, had nothing to do with only land, but it was an abandonment, sir, where all the amenities were put into this land, sir, and then it was

given back. Furthermore than that, sir, C. O. Williams Farms had applied to the Chief Town Planner for permission to subdivide this land. They did not get permission, and the Government of the day went ahead to C. O. Williams Farms after putting in the amenities and did not charge them one cent - they got the permission, but then the amenities did not charge one cent. And the other member, sir,

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The member is misleading the House. The abandonment of this land was done before the amenities were put in. The abandonment was done. The abandonment was done, and the specific reasons were stated. And if the member is quoting he should quote correctly. I am making a point of order to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: He does not have to make the record - we have the record of the House. Yes, I remember.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: And I quote again - Mr. Clarke, I remember. For St. George North: the process of the acquisition has been completed. But when the land has been acquired then the services have to be put in - just quote - so that we can run electricity, water and other services, so that the process takes long. And then all of those things went in. And then the land was abandoned. Does that not mean, sir, that the honourable member for Christ Church - speaking in the same debate - challenged the Minister and the Deputy Minister on the abandonment, asking why they would put in all of these things and then give it back? And now the honourable member comes in here as if his hands are clean.

This land that we are dealing with, Mr. Speaker - we have not done anything to this land. Furthermore, it does not fit into the present policy of the Government, sir. Because what we are looking at is not only to give people 5 000 square foot lots as I mentioned, sir, but we are also looking to implement a policy, sir, that the other member for St. George agreed with me on in 1998, sir - where we will not only acquire land to put houses on, sir, but we would give people lots, sir, and we would also give them enough land so that they could carry out agricultural uses.

So the honourable member is quite right, sir, that I have been preaching for years, sir, that when we as a Government look to develop land we will look for large tracts of land and do the services, sir. This is not a large tract of land, sir. This is a small tract of land, sir. And this is exactly what we are doing, sir. We will be going up there, sir, as said this evening, Mr. Speaker. And you would have heard the honourable members for St. George asking us to take up estates in St. George. Hear that, Mr. Speaker? He asked us to take up and -

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: - to the House. Yes, to take up. Okay, fine. Very well. Part of the -

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: – third quarter. No, Mr. Speaker, sir. The other member would know why he said that, sir. Because he went to Concert, sir, and took up land at Concert and did not pay for it, sir. That I remember, sir. But he said acquire, sir.

Mr. Speaker, can you tell me which plantation in the St. George Valley - only the ecological groupings - will be suitable for housing, sir? You understand what the other member for St. George said - that we should go into St. George and destroy the best agricultural land and put housing on it? I am saying, sir, that is wrong. That is wrong, sir. What this Minister will be doing, sir, is looking at the ecological groupings that have degraded lands, and we will be looking at those areas in the Scotland district. When I speak about the Scotland district, Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking of the Scotland district as an area, but I am speaking of the Scotland district as a designation as it relates to farmlands and agricultural lands in Barbados, which means that those are lands that will not produce as well as the land that you will find in the St. George area.

So what I am saying, sir, is that what we are seeking to do, sir, is to ensure, sir, that the stated policy of the Government as stated in the Throne Speech and the stated policy of the Minister that has been stated for over 18 years is now being implemented, sir. But I also want to say, sir, you would hear the honourable member talking, sir, and you will get the impression that we have not been providing lots. I want to say, sir, that we have been providing lots at Pool in St. John, Chai Grove in St. John, Guinea in St. John, Kenley in St. John, Isles in St. Joseph, Brasbury in St. Joseph, Bradenton in St. George. I do not know if the other member does not want the small lots in St. Peter and St. George, or that he does not want his comrades to get any Blackmans in St. Joseph, or if he does not want land at Colleton in St. Lucy, Coconut Hall in St. Lucy, and other areas like Apple Hall, et cetera, sir. And also the lots that we will also be doing in St. Thomas where it fits the ecological groupings of the Scotland ecological groupings. But we will not be destroying agricultural land because we understand the importance of agriculture as it relates to the food bank and not the land bank.

Let us go to this land bank thing, sir. The honourable member for St. George North was the Minister of Housing and he was also the Deputy Minister of Housing. The honourable member deliberately, sir, put all the land on the land bank and created all joint ventures. Created all joint ventures, sir. Every single house. The other member ensured that the small builders in this country could not get a job. He put all the money, all the land in the land bank and had all joint ventures. And now the other member has the gall to come in here and behave as if he is Dennis Kellman talking about house lots. He need not pretend, because when I was begging him for years to deliver house lots he would not deliver house lots. Now he knows not

only that I will be delivering house lots but it is also the policy of the Democratic Labour Party as stated in the manifesto and as stated in the Throne Speech.

So he now must get glory and behave as if it is not the Democratic Labour Party's policy to provide house lots. He put all the land in the land bank. And you know, sir, if you withdraw something from the market, sir, it creates a demand and a deficit in supply and increases prices. So when you see high prices of land in Barbados you can honestly blame the other member for St. George North and the other member for St. Andrew for creating the demand for land while depriving the people of Barbados by putting the land in the land bank before delivering it to market.

I am saying, sir, we are not about to create anything for a land bank. We are about to create land for the people of Barbados and we have started with 500 lots. Furthermore than that, we are also looking at our policy, sir, that we are not only going to be putting out the 500 lots - we are looking at the possibility of financing a canned solution. And when I say a canned solution, not that we are looking to build the houses for the poor people, because the truth is, as stated by the honourable member for St. George North - and I am glad he is educated on this - after 19 years of teaching on one point he now understands that it is better to allow poor people to build the houses for themselves. And he has forgotten the policy of construction and politics. It is known now that he is another person who can understand this point, sir, and I have been trying to teach him for over 19 years the importance of giving poor people land and allowing them to build for themselves. But instead of doing that, sir, it is the honourable member for St. George North and St. Andrew that have been able to inflate the price of housing in this country by narrowing everything to Government and cutting out the small man and the private sector in this country. And now this honourable member comes to this House behaving as if he was born with this glory and this knowledge to give to the people of Barbados.

I am saying, sir, no - the honourable member should have delivered to the people and now he has failed. He wants now to be known for something in this country, and the only thing he can be known for in this country is for developing a land bank and starving poor people of land. So Mr. Speaker, sir, this abandonment, sir, does not fit - when you look at the demographics of it - it does not fit into the policy of the Government, sir. And that is why, sir, I beg that this resolution do now pass. And I thank you.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, we have come to the end of Government Business for the day. And I beg to move that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, 14th May, at 10.00 in the morning.

The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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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 correcting and preparing this report. Members are named as in the 2013–2018 Parliament.

Q1. Front matter. The source does not record the PRESENT list or the officiant at Prayers. The Members listed are those identified from the record; the time of meeting, 10.00 a.m., is as stated in the source. Please supply from the Votes and Proceedings.

Q2. Throughout. The bracketed time-checks in the source are out of sequence (for example '[12.30 a.m.]', '[1.00 a.m.]' and '[2.00 a.m.]' during the morning and afternoon debates) and have been omitted.

Q3. Papers. The announcement of the Accountant General's financial statements for April and May 2012 is headed Mr. CLERK in the source, but the recording shows the Clerk's 'By your honour' followed by Mr. SPEAKER's announcement 'Members, I am in receipt of...'. Printed under Mr. SPEAKER, and the Clerk's call-over of the stages has been omitted. Please confirm, and confirm the year of the statements.

Q4. Suspension of Standing Orders. The source reads 'Standing Orders 61(6), 18, 20(42), 54(3) and 44' (captions '616, 18, 2042, 543 and 44'). Printed as the usual list, Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44. Please confirm.

Q5. Order No. 3. The Clerk's reading of the Vacluse resolution gives no Order number; the number is taken from Mr. SPEAKER's calls of 'Order Number three' on both resumptions. The Clerk later also reads the Vauxhall resolution as 'order number three'; that resolution is printed without an Order number. Please confirm both numbers from the Order Paper.

Q6. Order No. 3, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman. The opening words 'Mr. Speaker,' are headed 'MR. PETER R. PHILLIPS, J.P., M.P. (St. Lucy)' in the source; he was not a Member of the 2013–2018 House. Mr. SPEAKER called the Member for St. Lucy and the speech that follows is headed Kellman, so the words are joined to the speech of Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN. Please confirm.

Q7. Order No. 3, Mr. K. D. Symmonds, first point of order. The point of order beginning 'Yes, I remember. The Member is giving the House the impression that cabinet would have given permission...' is headed Mr. SPEAKER in the source, with the Chair's 'Very well. Please continue.' at its end. The Member who rose is not identified; printed

under AN HON. MEMBER, with the Chair's words separated. Please identify the Member (possibly Hon. D. St.E. Kellman or Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe).

Q8. Order No. 3, Mr. K. D. Symmonds. The words 'Please continue.' at the start of two of Mr. K. D. Symmonds' resumed passages are the Chair's and have been printed under Mr. SPEAKER.

Q9. Order No. 3, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. The point of order 'On a point of order, sir. The Honourable Member for St. James South —' is headed Mr. SPEAKER in the source; it is the opening of Mr. K. D. Symmonds' point of order, in which he corrects himself to 'Christ Church South', the seat of the Member speaking. Joined to Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS' words. Please confirm.

Q10. Order No. 3, Miss C. Y. Forde and Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley. The Chair's calls of Miss C. Y. Forde and of Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley are not recorded. During Miss Forde's speech the source shows a brief interjection headed Mr. SPEAKER ('visit. Honorable thank you, Mr. '); 'visit.' is joined to her preceding sentence and the rest is printed as her 'Thank you, Mr. Speaker.' Any intervention from the Chair at this point is not recorded. Part of the debate may be missing; please check against the recording.

Q11. Order No. 3, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley. The source reads 'the Honourable Minister and Member for Christ Church West'. The Member for Christ Church West in 2013 sat in Opposition; the Minister who said that the recycling industries started before 2008 was Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, Member for Christ Church East (captions 'Christ Churches'). Corrected to Christ Church East. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley also refers to 'about 6.4 acres', whereas Hon. J. D. E. Boyce gives '6.48 hectares and 16 acres' and the Minister 16 acres; please check.

Q12. Order No. 3, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, reply. A name in the sentence '[...] did that' is unclear in the source, which marks it as uncertain; the captions read 'Kerry Simmers do that'. Printed as [Inaudible.]. Please check against the recording.

Q13. Order No. 3, suspension. The source gives Mr. SPEAKER's putting of the question to suspend twice, once before and once after the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce; it is printed once, after the motion. The Resolution was put and passed on resumption.

Q14. Resolution, Vauxhall, Christ Church. The source spells the place 'Vassel' (captions 'voxel' and 'vassal'). Mr. T. A. Prescod and Mr. G. A. Clarke both refer to the land as being at Vauxhall, Christ Church;

printed as Vauxhall in the headings, the Clerk's reading and the Minister's speech. Please confirm.

Q15. Resolution, Vauxhall, Mr. G. A. Clarke. The source reads 'the present minister came in here in 2018 like myself'; the captions read '2019 94'. Printed as 1994. Please confirm.

Q16. Resolution, Vauxhall, cross-talk. The exchanges between Mr. G. A. Clarke, Hon. M. A. Lashley and Hon. D. St.E. Kellman are fragmentary in the source (for example 'is missing. I did not say anything...', '– to the House. Yes, to take up. Okay, fine.' and '– third quarter.'). They are printed as recorded; please check against the recording.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, with Mr. SPEAKER presiding; he welcomed Members back from their break. The Minutes of March 6, 12 and 18, 2013 were taken together and confirmed on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. Mr. SPEAKER announced the Accountant General's financial statements for April and May 2012. Hon. C. P. Sinckler, Minister of Finance, laid the Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Report for 2011, the Financial Services Commission Financial Statements to March 31, 2013, two Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption Orders and the Customs Tariff Amendment Order 2013; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce laid financial statements of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for 2007 and 2008, the Grantley Adams International Airport Annual Report 2009–2010 and statements of Caribbean Aircraft Handling Company Limited, Club Caribbean Lounge and Caribbean International Airways Limited; and Hon. S. D. Blackett laid the National Policy and Agenda for Barbados – Stewards of Society for All Ages. Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended.

Under Order No. 3 Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, Minister of the Environment and Drainage, moved a Resolution under the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, for the compulsory acquisition of 16 acres at Vacluse, St. Thomas, from Eastern Lands Development Limited at a cost of \$523 000, to expand the Mangrove Pond Landfill. He said Barbados generated 1 000 tons of solid waste a day, that Cell Four had cost \$26 million, and that about 60 per cent of waste was now diverted from the landfill; he described the green energy programme at Mangrove, including landfill gas, wind, solar, waste-to-energy and a leachate plant, and said Greenland had already absorbed \$100 million. He defended Bees Recycling, which he said employed 107 people and had shipped 27 540 tons of recyclables in 2012. Mr. D. G. Sutherland said a 2007

Cabinet decision had provided for a solid waste centre at Vacluse and that the Government had taken six years to seek expressions of interest for a leachate plant and landfill gas system; Mr. SPEAKER required him to withdraw a remark. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman recalled the Barbados Labour Party's use of landfills at Blackbass, Kingsland, Mangrove and Greenland and spoke of recyclers as earners of foreign exchange. The House then suspended until 2.00 p.m.

On resumption Mr. K. D. Symmonds said that residents in his constituency had suffered damage to roads, dust, noise and vibration, that the Chief Town Planner had intervened on June 4, 2012 after a Cabinet decision of March 8, 2012 on Bagatelle, and that the Crown had filed no response to a writ filed on September 25; there were several points of order from Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, on which Mr. SPEAKER ruled that there was no point of order. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce supported the Resolution, citing the scrap iron legislation and the green economy. Miss C. Y. Forde spoke for residents of Reese Road and King Garden, St. Thomas, after the fire of March 25, said Bees occupied about 14 acres of agricultural land, and called for testing of the soil and compensation. Hon. D. O'N. Inniss said the existing landfill would last only another nine months and that the acquisition would provide land for about nine years.

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley said the Opposition would not oppose the acquisition but noted that Cabinet had agreed to it on June 3, 2010 and that a cell had operated on the land for almost a year. She said the Government voted \$15 million a year against a liability of \$21.6 million under the SBRC contract, leaving a backlog of \$20 million, asked about the leachate plant, the incinerator and the plan beyond Cell Four, cited the Physical Development Plan of December 2007, and raised unpaid drainage workers. Replying, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe said the Barbados Labour Party had had 14 years to act and explained that Cabinet had allowed Bees Recycling into Bagatelle to continue the work of the Sanitation Service Authority. After a suspension of fifteen minutes the Resolution was passed.

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce gave notice of, and moved the first reading of, the National Insurance and Social Security Amendment Bill, 2013. The House then took a Resolution under section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, moved by Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, to abandon the compulsory acquisition of 11 165.7 square feet at Vauxhall, Christ Church, acquired from Mr. Archibald Canali; he said Cabinet had approved the abandonment on July 5, 2012 and spoke of the Throne Speech commitment to some five thousand parcels and of 500 lots at \$5 a square foot. Mr. T. A. Prescod asked for the reasons for the acquisition and its abandonment, citing some 20 000 people seeking help from the National Housing Corporation. Mr. G. A. Clarke raised

uncompensated owners, including land at Cottage, St. George, acquired in December 2002, and urged the sale of house spots; Hon. M. A. Lashley replied on joint-venture housing and compensation. In reply Hon. D. St.E. Kellman

quoted Mr. Clarke's speech of June 24, 1997 on an earlier abandonment. The Resolution was passed, and the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.