
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, December 9, 2016

met at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, December 09, 2016.

PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B. (Speaker) Her Honour Mrs. M-J. MARA THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) B.A. (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. OWEN S. ARTHUR M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. GEORGE W. PAYNE, Q. C.
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.
Mr. R. St.C TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Leader of the Opposition)
Miss CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.
Hon. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. Ed., J.P., (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation) Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)
Mr. DALE D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.
Hon. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. RICHARD L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C., B.A., LL.M. (Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, The Public Service and Urban Development)
Hon. JOHN D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC, M.Sc., C. Eng. (Minister of Transport and Works) (Leader of Government Business)
Hon. STEVEN D. BLACKETT (Minister of the Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, and Community Development)

Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Dr. the Hon. DENIS S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A., Dip. Theology (Minister of Environment and Drainage)
Mr. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.) (Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs.)
Hon. STEPHEN A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon. DONVILLE O'N. INNISS, Dip., B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)
Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Mr. TREVOR PRESCOD, B.A.
Mr. KERRIE D. SYMMONDS, B. A., LL.B.
Lt. Col. JEFFREY D. BOSTIC, M.V.O., B.A. (Hons.)
Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. AGARD, J.P., D.Ds., B.Sc. (Hons.)
Mr. DWIGHT G. SUTHERLAND, M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), B.Sc.
Miss SANTIA J. O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)
Prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood.

MR. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am not yet in receipt of the Minutes of Tuesday, Tuesday 06, December, 2016 and I therefore ask for the usual Motion.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes referred to be deferred.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Ealing Holdings Exemption Incorporation Order, 2016.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Barbados Rally Club Order, 2016.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44, be suspended for the rest of this day's Sitting.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 26

On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, seconded by Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply on the Bill to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island. Mr. J. D. PAUL, Chairman of Committees in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$3 155 344 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2016-2017 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO.4, 2016-2017, WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 23

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

\$3 155 344

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to note that we are going to stay in Committee of Supply to consider both Head 23 under the Ministry of Health and Head 72 under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management.

Mr. Chairman, during the presentation of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2016, that would have been presented in this Honourable Chamber on August 16th by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, as part of his presentation the Minister spent some time, Sir, on the whole question of healthcare financing and how Barbados can prepare itself for a continued bulging healthcare financing regime.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have dealt with this topic so often in Barbados, both informally and formally, by way of the town hall sessions which the Ministry of Health would have sponsored earlier in this year, in preparation for the said budget. Out of that investigation, of course, has presented certain realities about the structure of the Barbados' healthcare cost. Mr. Chairman, in dealing with that situation, we recognised immediately that there is a tremendous linkage in terms of what we have to spend in healthcare and of course how does the country respond to the obvious areas of correction in which we could become involved, which we could accentuate so as to reduce the incidents of disease and suffering for our people.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados has already spent in the vicinity of 11 per cent of Gross Domestic Product on healthcare. In terms of per capita spend, we are certainly one of the leading countries in the hemisphere, if not in the world, in respect to the per capita spend on healthcare. This means, of course, that there is a tremendous financial burden associated with this treatment, and predictably we need to share with our people how best we can manage and control this process. The story of non-communicable diseases is regularly discussed and I think we can commend the Ministry of Health and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the way in which they have been able to educate the Barbados population with respect to our responsibility in helping to deal with these diseases and helping to manage this situation. It is, of course, the area of highest cost and highest spend in the treatment of non-communicable diseases. Mr. Chairman, it also has the impact of being responsible for most of the indices associated with the working population of

Barbados, and hence it has the cumulative effect of impacting on our productivity by way of absence from work because of illness.

Mr. Chairman, along with this of course is the regular spend on what we term communicable diseases. These are diseases which are largely controlled by vaccination in our younger population, with the start of inoculation about three months after birth and going on for three years in the first instance. Then of course, there are other inoculations for other disease threats, and these are available in our polyclinic system and private doctors' clinics which would see measles, rubella, mumps and such regular infections dealt with. We also have to be constantly on our guard with respect to what is termed the re-emerging diseases that the world, especially in our tropical environment, is seeing. There is an ongoing battle with the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, and the challenges which that pest poses in terms of the transmission of diseases to our population have become very familiar; such as the chikungunya virus, dengue fever and more recently and even more challenging, the Zika virus. Indeed, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and ministries of health throughout the region are working very hard to make sure that all aspects of the threats of these diseases are understood and that our private medical practitioners, our hospitals, our primary care institutions and our polyclinics are in a position to manage these diseases when they rear their heads. The unique threat of Zika, of course, is that the symptoms are in themselves so mild that they can sometimes go unnoticed by a lot of the population; and certainly the statistics in terms of the threat and the management of this disease are impacted by the fact that a lot of the cases are not necessarily reported. They are treated, the persons recover and that is the end of that. In the Ministry of Health we are currently looking at this situation in respect of notifiable diseases, and we are trying to work out a regime which we will probably attempt to include in our health information system, and which will allow us to have a much better handle on the incidence of these diseases. This will help us to inform the kind of approaches we take in relation to these treatments.

Sir, I said all that in introducing this particular Supplementary, which is asking that this House of Assembly approve the sum of some \$3 155 344 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund and be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2016-2017 under Head 23, Ministry of Health, subprogramme 451, Environmental Health Department. It is all under the account code, Operating Expenses. We can more familiarly refer to this programme as our annual or our regular debushing programme, which seeks in a very structured way to deal with the presence of overgrown lots in our communities; about which we do not have to state the obvious, Mr. Chairman, but which can hide very

distinct threats to the health of our nation. These can be havens for the breeding of mosquitoes and other pests, rodents, et cetera, and can cause the prevalence of these vector-borne diseases.

The debushing programme of the Ministry of Health is therefore a part of the intervention strategy to reduce the transmission of disease vectors and rodents. Vacant lots become overgrown with vegetation, especially during our rainy season. We would have just experienced some very heavy rains and we know what the results of that have been, such as the severe ponding around our communities; so that areas which have lain dry for many months are now serious areas for the urgent inspection of our Environmental Health Unit and, of course, urgent action to deal with these disease vectors. The situation has contributed significantly to rodent and mosquito-related complaints and incidences of illegal dumping. Regarding the illegal dumping, it is almost strange that you would clear a lot because you are trying to get rid of the same vectors and rodents, but then you would take that material onto your vehicle, transport it two or three miles down the road and feel quite comfortable throwing it into a corner somewhere because there is no-one watching, as far as you are concerned. This illegal dumping is an area which we continue to battle with in the Ministry of Health, and the officers of the Environmental Health Unit are constantly issuing notices to persons who are identified in these horrible acts. I really would like, in opening the discussion on this important project, to urge Barbadians to join with us in being responsible in this regard, Sir. Let us go that extra mile, literally, and ensure that when we have to dump, we do so in areas designated and managed for that purpose.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: ... go that extra mile literally and ensure that when we have to dump we do so in areas designated and managed for that purpose. There is every reason why this must become part of the Barbadian psyche and it must become part of our approach and any amount of toughness on the part of the Ministry of Health or our other policing agencies must be supported by our population to remove the scourge of illegal dumping in our society. The increasing use of plastics and Styrofoam.

I noted in today's newspaper, the print media, for instance, the Barbados Hotel Association, the president spoke to the fact that the incidences of plastics and Styrofoam is a serious matter and I do not think we need to repeat this beyond what is already known that is why it is so important for us to get our heads together and bring our thoughts together as to how do we manage these elements.

How do we move to an environment which allows us to see where plastics are in use or Styrofoam, they are properly collected and opportunities for recycling are developed. I say developed deliberately because this is a work in progress and for anyone to pretend that Barbados is has reached the point either in terms of the Government actions or for that matter, private sector operations which sees an effective and efficient recycling process need to tour our island a little bit and visit some of the dumps, the legal dumps that I am talking about, which have been set up around the country, whether it is Vaucuse, the area managed by the Government itself of the private areas that have been passed for the management of recyclable materials, we can see the kind of size, the magnitude of the problem which we face.

I want to use this forum too to urge that we continue that dialogue within the Ministry of Environment and Drainage and the private sector to make sure that we come up with a really sustainable solution to the question of the management of our, we like to call them recyclables but you know that a recyclable is only something which you can make useful use of after you have used it for the first time so yes, recyclables, Sir, but in a very limited format. Taking it from our communities on to a legal dump site cannot be termed recycling. Recycling is when we can convert this item or this waste, so to speak, into a useful material. There is an industry associated with it worldwide, obviously the limitations of small communities like Barbados is the same that we always refer to in almost every developmental model in that although we have a lot of waste and garbage being generated, in terms of making it into a viable recycling industry that is another question. I remember, of course, in my earlier career as an engineer at Bank Breweries Limited, this is particularly for the Honourable Member for St. Thomas' benefit, we were in a significant programme of the recycling of our plastic crates where we actually would grind our plastic crates and we would ship that material to the crate manufacturer in Trinidad who would then use it as part of the materials for making the same crates. We got credits for the plastic returns and that is probably one of the more effective recyclable projects that was in operation in our country and this is a little while ago. I have not worked as an engineer now for some time although I have made my services available informally from time-to-time.

Sir, I mentioned the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and I want to be the first to join in congratulating her, Mr. Chairman, on a recent media report in which she is associated with making sure that certain areas in her constituency would have been attended to. I think this is a very wonderful example and although we have to recognise the limitations of these approaches and I think the symbolic value though of that intervention is certainly not lost on myself, as Minister of Health. I know it is not lost on the team at the Ministry of Health and I am sure it is not lost on

the wider Barbados. I am sure that the Honourable Member made sure that it was not lost on the constituents of St. Thomas and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. It is almost as though here we are demonstrating what we are talking about today where we are saying to our communities, we cannot afford to continue the luxury of allowing our place to become untidy. First of all, it looks bad. It looks absolutely unkempt and we can see it in a lot of our villages now, we can see our roadways being almost reduced by half because of the overgrown bush in the areas but even more significant, Sir, is the damage which is being done to our roadworks themselves. There are instances where you see in front of private homes, Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about necessarily out somewhere in Chimborazo, St. Joseph or up in some remote area in St. Lucy or Christ Church, I am talking about developments, as we call them, where we have nice, housing stock and around these houses we have an absolutely unacceptable condition. We are destroying our roadways so that when we do clean it we have a situation where, not only have we got to pay the cost of disposal but we have now got to bring in MTW or a private contractor to repair our roads and this could be avoided with the timely intervention. I really believe that, as a first step we, as Barbadians, should clean our properties, the ones we live on, that is the first step and this cleaning should include the area on the sideways, the curve or the five foot verge which is not ours. It must be left available for the Ministry of Transport and Works and other agencies to utilise the utilities, et cetera, - and we can talk about that under another setting but that is also very important - but I think that is the first step. Then we move to the areas which this Supplementary seeks to deal with, that is the unused lots within these same developments which, for some good reason, a number of Barbadians believe they do not have any responsibility for cleaning. When the situation becomes unbearable enough, the onus, Mr. Chairman, then falls on the Member of Parliament or some community organisation or the Ministry of Transport and Works or the Ministry of Environment and Drainage to go in and clean these lots for persons who can afford, and this is the point, persons who can afford to clean these lots. The number of disused plots of land, the number of disused unoccupied houses and we hear the Minister of Housing referring to these habitat reports where there is a serious situation developing where there are a number of unused properties in Barbados which formed, regrettably, a haven for rodents of all kinds. It is a situation which we have to manage and which we have to take responsibility for. Again, I want to appeal to the owners of these properties, whether it is open lots in our developments or unused or disused properties with housing, to pay some attention to at least minimal interventions annually to make sure that these lots remained clear and clean and that the communities in which they are located remained safe.

Mr. Chairman, I say that to say that that the \$3.15 million that we are allocating is not for a new programme.

We have been doing de-bushing in Barbados, according to the team in the ministry, for many years now. The de-bushing programme over the last 20 years has been implemented through the Environmental Health Department of the Ministry of Health and facilitated through a process where the Environmental Health Officers serve abatement notices to property owners in the various catchments advising them of their violation of the Health Services Act 1969, namely the Health Services and Nuisances Regulations 1969, with overgrown vegetation on their property.

Sir, refusing to comply with the instruction in the specified time period under Section 11(2) of the Health Services Act 1969 permits cleaning to be undertaken by the ministry and this cleaning has as its primary objectives a reduction in illegal dumping, reducing the harbouring of rodents, mosquitoes and the giant African snails, of course we have become familiar with them now too, and reducing personal risks posed to residents and the general public by the overgrown vegetation. Now, this is the obvious threat to our safety. People will use these overgrown areas. We have had to intervene from time to time in areas and make sure that we at least push back some of the overgrown vegetation so that our children going home from school or our people leaving home in the dark of night probably to pick up some essential items from the little grocery shop in the corner of the village are safe or at least relatively safe, so it is these kinds of obvious interventions which are required.

The programme has the unique structure in that we have in all of our polyclinics our environmental health teams who make sure that these areas are properly managed and that is where the focus of our programme is. It is not an arbitrary programme where somebody calls in and says I have an overgrown lot down here in Speightstown next to Noel Roach and or something so and I want you to come and clean it, it is not designed like that. It is a programme which is informed by inspection by the Environmental Health Unit. Of course, we can be assisted by calls from our population.

We collect data in terms of the incidents of these diseases which I spoke about, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and the Zika Virus, in our polyclinics and we use this data to identify addresses where the mosquito would be most prevalent, so we have a number of challenges in this regard. It is a massive programme. For example, I want to go back to the 2012-2013 programme. In terms of the Randall Phillip Polyclinic, which would be the polyclinic there in Oistins, we had a total of some 93 lots de-bushed, from Maurice Byer Polyclinic, which is in St. Peter, we had 51 lots cleared, from the St. Philip Polyclinic, 74 lots were cleared, from Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic, we had 56 lots, from the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic, 51 lots and from the Branford Taitt Polyclinic - Mr. Chairman, you are very

familiar with the Branford Taitt Polyclinic and its catchment area - some 78 lots were cleared, so there would have been some 403 lots which were de-bushed and that is just scratching the surface in terms of what we need to have happened.

Mr. Chairman, this is very important and that is why I quoted the legislation in respect of cost recovery because Barbadians have got to be aware of the fact that the Ministry of Health has in its authority the power to collect payment for this work. In terms of cost, a total of 2 670 000 square feet would have been cleared at a cost of something like \$627 000, so that was the cost of a much shorter programme than the one we have contemplated here but it can give you some appreciation of the magnitude of our programme.

This programme is envisaged in the first instance to take us up to end of the financial year of 2016-2017 and will be managed by contracted workers to the Ministry of Health. There will be two coordinators, seven supervisors, truckers as we deemed necessary and general workers as the programme rolls out. Obviously, there will be opportunities for employment in the different areas. Truckers who have small businesses are invited to contact the Ministry of Health and see how they can help and certainly we have already made sure that our population is aware of the opportunity for employment for general workers.

The programme I am referring to - and I am going to wrap up with this - has already commenced. It started on December 5 with teams assigned to the Randall Phillip, Maurice Byer and St. Philip Polyclinics, so we have already started. The Branford Taitt, Eunice Gibson and Sir Winston Scott Polyclinics as well as the David Thompson Social and Health Services Complex teams commenced work on the December 07. All polyclinics have been assigned with about 12 to 16 general workers as well as some supervision. We are doing this programme in clear cooperation with the Sanitation Services Authority so that the materials from clearing the sites will only be placed on legal dumping areas assigned and under the schedule of the Sanitation Services Authority.

Sir, the \$3.155 million associated with this de-bushing programme up to and including March 31, 2017 will be well spent in terms of mitigating the incidents of disease in our country, helping to beautify our country and making sure that while contributing to this useful work some of our population can also look forward to some level of remuneration that would help to satisfy some of their needs.

Mr. Chairman, this is a brief introduction to the topic. I certainly will listen for other contributions by Honourable Members and certainly will take any

opportunity to come back later or even at wrap-up to sort of put the icing on this wonderful cake we are contemplating.

Sir, I want to commend this project to this Honourable Chamber. I want to commend it to Barbados. I think we have an opportunity to share the responsibility of this important activity, but bear in mind it does not mean we sit back and wait for the Government to come and clear X lot or the other. We still have a responsibility for clearing them, and as I advised, the Ministry of Health will be aggressively pursuing those persons whose lots are cleared under the programme, with a view to collecting the cost of the programme.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you and I look forward to closing this debate discussion at the end of the other contribution, and I beg to move that Head 23 stand Part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George South.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this important Head 23 Supplementary to approve the \$3.155 million in the Ministry of Health for the debushing programme, as articulated by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in his opening presentation.

I want to begin my contribution by saying that the Barbados Labour Party supports the programme. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that we in this country, in all 30 constituencies across the length and breadth of this country, are affected by overgrown bush. Whereas one can argue of the timely nature of the intervention, we in the Barbados Labour Party welcome it. We are hoping that the programme will be distributed, and only concentrated in certain areas, but the entire Barbados benefits from the debushing programme as outlined by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

I want to go a little further, Mr. Chairman, and reference the World Health Organisation 2012 Report called Preventing Disease through Healthy Environment, a Global Assessment of the Burden of Disease from Environment Factors. This Report, Mr. Chairman, I will make a document of the House for those who wish to read it. This report lists the infectious and parasitic diseases and associated key environmental interventions and some of the stats from the World Health Organisation state that in 2012, 12.6 million deaths occurred globally, representing 23% of all deaths which were attributable to the environment. This is a serious report and indeed a serious statement, and we ought not to take it lightly. We in this country are not shielded from some of the diseases listed in this report, Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, skin diseases and respiratory tract infections are not just from bush, but from water and

how we store and the whole aspect of garbage being disseminated in areas that are not designated for garbage collection. So you have both air pollution and water pollution issues. Water pollution can cause gastro intestinal issues. These are some of the issues that have been listed in this report. Of course, we cannot forget when we speak about the overgrown bush, leptospirosis. This reinforces the point that an unhealthy environment can lead to infectious diseases and certainly public health issues in a country.

Sir, going on further from that, they also have cost implications because when you fail to implement certain programmes, and a country becomes affected with these infectious diseases, then there is a cost.

I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church South speak about health care financing. When we allow our country to reach the state that it has reached, because in my view I think this programme is a bit late. I think a programme like this ought to be rethought. When we talk about greening the environment, it is not about growing bush, but it is about dealing with the issues of beautification and ensuring that Barbados is not overlaid with bush and things that are beneficial to us. So greening the environment, let us not think about overgrown bush and overgrown trees. Greening the environment is indeed certainly different. We had a greening the environment debate in here, but what we have seen and what this country has been relegated to I would say we have moved from beauty to bush, in my view.

Mr. Chairman, I agree that Barbados should be kept clean at all times, to prevent the risk of diseases and this debushing programme when it is executed, or when the Government sits down to plan a debushing programme we have to think about sustainable development, which is all part of greening this economy. We have to think about sustainable development and just a one shot of debushing.

Sir, this brings me to the point of the Beautify Barbados. These workers were sent home at a time when Barbados became overgrown with bush. I am saying these workers, when we go around Barbados selecting many persons to execute this debushing programme, I would like the Government and the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, to include these persons who were sent home. Indeed, in our opinion, the Barbados Labour Party believes that they were done an injustice under the Democratic Labour Party's austerity measures that have been implemented over the last four years.

Mr. Chairman, we call for this programme to be distributed across the length and breadth of Barbados, and we are asking that the Government does not seek to politicise this programme to gain political mileage and use

it as a programme for electioneering. That is what the Barbados Labour Party is asking. I am not saying that you are doing it, but we are saying that we are hoping that you do not engage in such tactics, as we seek to bring some respectability to the landscape of this country.

Mr. Chairman, I also hope that St. George South gets its share of the debushing. I want at this time to compliment the members of the Operations Response Team in St. George South who go around St. George South, and indeed some aspects of the North and seek to clean areas where think we can have challenges, as it relates to public health. These are some of the areas -- on Sunday you can come and witness us cleaning Ellerton Housing Area. We have adopted a section of the Housing Areas that we seek to be in a respectable state. Indeed, when that gets out of hand we know rats go through that area. We have a lot of young children playing in a park that is adjacent to that area and the threat of Leptospirosis, Zika and Chikungunya, we have to seek to prevent those in our areas. I will call on the other Honourable Members of this Chamber to follow the lead of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and indeed my lead as well, because this team I have was created in 2010. It is called Operations Response Team. We, indeed, go around St. George and seek to debush.

I heard the Honourable Member say that the whole aspect of cleaning, he does not want to put any weight on what we are doing as Members of Parliament, because he sees that as a job of the Ministry of Health. I am saying when we have resources being mobilized in the 30 different constituencies, we ought to recognise the work that our citizens do without calling Government. For him to downplay the efforts in that way, I think is not a good thing. We need to compliment the citizens of this country who go out there and seek to keep Barbados clean, with the limited resources and at no cost to them. I see that daily and weekly in St. George South.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to speak to other aspects of health care. We came to this Honourable House, this is a Supplementary. This is one aspect of health care, the whole aspect of beautifying and debushing, but when we speak to the whole aspect of health care one brings to mind the Estimates debate earlier, when we said to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that the \$146 million allocated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital facility was grossly underfunded.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member I do not want you to stray from the subject motion. I really want in the speeches coming forward to establish early, relevance to the core resolution. If it is not towards the core resolution I will not permit you to continue.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, I am just using the whole aspect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a preamble to speak about infectious diseases as it relates to public health. In our view the failure to be proactive as we have seen in the debushing programme can affect the public health situation in this country. Sir, I do not think I am going off track. We are in a health debate under Head 23. I am not speaking about transport, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking about health care, public health, Head 23. There are certain aspects of health care that intertwine with the whole debushing programme and the failure of a Government to recognise certain issues proactively. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I am being out of place. I am just seeking to explain to you where I am going. So I leave you to make your comment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member I would just indicate to you the Resolution relates to the heading that talks about debushing. So that is where it is. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, while I accept your ruling of the Lower Chamber, I wish at this stage, Mr. Chairman, to make it known that infectious diseases not only generate from failure to carry out certain debushing programmes, but water pollution and the contamination of water can lead to certain infectious diseases, and in the case of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital we would have seen the whole aspect of the dialysis system being compromised by the failure of clean water, what I call hard water, as opposed to treated water. I am saying these are some of the issues we are seeing in the health sector, not only the debushing programme but with respect to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, some of the challenges we are seeing. I am saying that our challenges are not only limited to overgrown bush in this country. Overgrown bush ties into the lack of a maintenance in this country. I am saying the same issues we are seeing coming up from time to time at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital speak to a fundamental deficiency in our maintenance system as it relates to governance in this country. We cannot underscore that, Mr. Chairman. A debushing programme is a maintenance programme where we seek to address our landscape, and there are other aspects of maintenance programmes that we as Members of Parliament and as a Government, the Members on the other side, ought to implement to ensure that certain assets in this country, and I mentioned Queen Elizabeth Hospital, do not deteriorate like our bush has taken over the country. We have seen a deterioration in the actual landscape of this country as a result of failure to implement a proactive and detailed maintenance programme. Hence, we have seen challenges with our dialysis system at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a result of failure to implement a proper maintenance programme.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member your time as expired.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, thank, but I will be back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Of course, I rise to give full support to this Resolution before us, which speaks pointedly to the issue of the State providing some financial resources to undertake a debushing programme in Barbados. The last speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George South, of course, as per usual would spend the time very critical of the Government but not in a constructive manner. We continue to have this situation where Members of Her Loyal Opposition would spend their time in and out of Parliament...

Mr. CHAIRMAN; Just a moment please. Honourable Member for St. George South, what is your point of order?

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: The Honourable Member for St. James South is misleading this Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member I would posit to you that the Honourable Member has not been given the opportunity to mislead the Chamber. Honourable Member would you please take your seat? The Honourable Member has not been given the opportunity to mislead the Chamber. Please sit down.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: The Honourable Member said that I...

Mr. CHAMBER: Honourable Member I have ruled.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously the Honourable Member is annoyed that I said that he has criticized the Government, but that is what oppositions are expected to do, but expected to do it in a rather constructed manner because much time is spent in this Chamber and elsewhere lamenting the fact that the State has limited financial resources to undertake the myriad of things that it is expected to do in the country. So I do not understand exactly what your desires are. You expect a spanking new hospital. You expect everything to be working perfectly. You expect all of the roads to be fixed. You expect all of the bush to be cleaned. You expect everybody to have the best possible education, from kindergarten to university. You expect the police to turn up spanking new vehicles every time there is an incident, but at the same time you are the ones who are also saying we do not have the money. So I think it is a case where we have to determine what the priority areas are in this country and I want to start on that point, Mr. Chairman.

I have always been concerned when I was Minister of Health and now, but as a Parliamentary Representative at the fact that a number of Barbadians who are in a position to help themselves and to keep their lots clean do not do it, but sit back and take an attitude that the Government has the money, or Government ought to have the money to take on their responsibility. That is the point I wish to start from.

I fully support the Resolution. I fully accept the role of the State in maintaining clean and healthy environment, but let us not run away from the fact that it is first and foremost the duty of each landowner to keep his or her lot in a clean condition, in a manner that does not pose a threat to themselves, to their neighbours or to any other law abiding citizen in this country. Let us reflect upon exactly what a large number of unkempt lots mean in this country.

The Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has pointed out and it needs to be reiterated. When you have a parcel of land that is overgrown, therein lies opportunities for rodent infestation or breeding of rodents, therein lies opportunities for containers to harbour water and breed mosquitoes, and we all know the consequences of such.

The public health care system continues to be challenged as a result of issues that perhaps can best be avoided if individuals would start to take greater responsibility for own environment and such like. Therefore, then we have to look for money to spend for those who may have leptospirosis, jaundice or whatever else developing from these illnesses, or the incidence we had recently of Zika or even dengue. These things have real cost to the State, that is why, Mr. Chairman, the State invariably, almost on an annual basis, has to find a couple of millions of dollars to embark upon a specialised short-term cleanup programme, what we call debushing programme where we employ individuals, because we know that if we do not do that we may end up spending ten times the amount in the polyclinic system, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or all aspects of the public healthcare system. Mr. Chairman, not to mention added to that is absenteeism in the workplace for those who are ill and cannot make it out to work because of these things that could have been avoided. Mr. Chairman, therefore, there is a major economic cost or risk that can be quantified in terms of dollars and cents, in terms of its impact upon the economy if we do not make this intervention or injection at this level.

Mr. Chairman, what we also need to reflect upon is the fact that each polyclinic has an Environmental Health Department and Officers and support staff who on either a daily or weekly are around the island helping to do some work such as inspections. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we cannot scoff at this.

Mr. Chairman, this morning before I came to Parliament I took the time to take a drive through my constituency specifically with the intention of looking at the lots, for example, Crystal Heights, Husbands Heights, Warrens, Durants Village, West Terrace, Wanstead, Oxnards, Paradise Heights, that I thought that are in dire need of being cleaned up. These are all areas where individuals have lots and in many respects they have not looked back at them.

Mr. Chairman, obviously, out of concern for my constituents I identified them. I have provided a list to the Ministry of Health that I deem to be priority areas and I hope that they can have all of them cleaned up or that they would at least make an effort. I also know that once they get started, whether they use the bobcat or manual labour, that it may inspire individuals who have not been keeping an eye on their lots to start the process of doing their own cleanup.

Mr. Chairman, I can only encourage fellow Members of Parliament to take a similar approach and try and make contact with those who own lots in their constituencies and to encourage them to first and foremost do what they can do to have those lots cleaned up, including many landowners who live outside of Barbados, who have bought land here as an investment maybe 10, 15 or 20 years ago and have paid the land tax bill, who for some strange reason have the view that if they pay their land tax bills that Government would clean up their lots. Mr. Chairman, that is not the case.

Mr. Chairman, what are we speaking of here in terms of this debushing programme and environmental health cleanup programme. Mr. Chairman, it is not just the cleaning up of the lots. I know that is the focus, that is what we are going to see with the eyes, it is the State's work in trying to maintain a clean and safer environment. Mr. Chairman, Barbados does not look very sightly, as far as I am concerned we need to do better. This island needs to look a lot cleaner than it currently does. Let us not bury our heads in the sand about that. As you drive around the island you can see bush growing in the road or you are trying to avoid hitting somebody else's car rearview mirror. Quite frankly, it does not look the way that it should, that is why we have allocated that moneys must be allocated from the Treasury to help clean up the place but it must be done in a sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman, there was a lot of criticism coming from the Honourable Member for St. George South in particular when decisions were taken to embark upon a programme with the private sector to maintain the ABC Highway. Now you are seeing signs on the highway. I am sure there is revenue being earned by the private entrepreneurs in that respect, but the highway looks clean. Generally-speaking, it is well-maintained and perhaps that

is a model we can approach for some public spaces around the country.

Mr. Chairman, if it is costing the State \$10 per unit to provide that service but that private enterprise can provide that service at \$7 per unit, then let the private enterprise do it. They are still going to employ people but the bottom line is that the job gets done, it costs the State a lot less and it is done in a very sustainable manner. Mr. Chairman, what was happening hitherto was not sustainable but was very costly and so we have to recognise that there are other options available.

Mr. Chairman, the highways are now beginning to look a lot tidier. I certainly would wish, though, that the coconut vendors who ply their business on the highway would get their act together. I know I am going to hear about the small black man making a dollar and that kind of thing but that small black man with his level of irresponsibility is also contributing to the high public health risk too in this country, and many of them do not pay National Insurance Scheme or taxes either, that needs to be addressed. Mr. Chairman, the broader issue of the environment weights into this in the sense that there is an effort on to clean up this environment, physically it does not look right.

Mr. Chairman, the other issue that relates to this too is our drainage system. Last week we had a lot of rain falling in a short period of time and parts of my constituency were affected, including Crystal Heights. The main boulevard had just over two feet of water that was settled. Mr. Chairman, do you know what? Sir, part of the drainage system was blocked. Yes, there was a lot of rain, perhaps too much in just a short space of time for the wells to accommodate them, but the reality about it is that we all need to do our part in keeping the drains much cleaner.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, when people would throw their plastic bags through their windows, or toss the Styrofoam cup around the place, or cut their grass and do not rake it up and bag it and let all this debris fall into the roadside, these are the things that block the drains, then we complain and we expect Government to deploy resources immediately to fix a problem that each one of us as responsible citizens ought to be avoiding in the first instance.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a simple matter of getting a weedwacker and a cutlass and cutting down bush, as the Honourable Member for St. George South in his intellectual limitations has alluded to, the reality is that it is about a broader issue of how do we get Barbados to being a cleaner and safer environment. Mr. Chairman, the drainage system can also be assisted if we pay closer attention to what we dispose and where we dispose of them in our society.

Mr. Chairman, the other point that is critical in relation to the issue of the debushing programme is safety and security. I do represent a constituency that has a lot of these affected lots. There are people who go walking early on mornings for their exercise. We need people to go out, walk, get fit and to stay healthy. We have students who go to the university. We have ladies who take the bus and have to walk through some of these neighbourhoods and it is very risky and scary for them to have to walk through a street where the bush is growing over two feet on either side. These ladies would not know who or what is lurking there and there are some very sick minds in our society.

Mr. Chairman, so that even on that basis alone, taking the interest of our citizens in terms of ensuring a safe environment and space for them to walk and to conduct their daily lives and work is also very critical, that is why we need to ensure that these areas are all cleaned up. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Transport and Works would come and maybe clean up a few feet at the edge of the road but oftentimes that is not enough.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the message goes forth that, first and foremost, individuals have to take a greater sense of responsibility for their personal space and their health outcome in this nation. Mr. Chairman, everything cannot be left to Government to do. If we really and truly, wanted to do the debushing programme in the manner that it ought to be done to have the whole country clean all year round, I am afraid that we may probably need another \$40 million or \$50 million. My question is, where would that come from? What social services would we have to cut further to make that happen?

Mr. Chairman, I really hope that the message would go forth that Barbadians need to take a greater level of responsibility for their environment. Barbadians must stop passing the buck and believe that it is somebody else's business.

Mr. Chairman, as I conclude, I hope that at the end of the couple of weeks when we would have completed this debushing programme that the owners of these lots would take it upon themselves to maintain them. That is part of the problem. The Government goes out there and spends millions of taxpayers' dollars to clean people's lots, and then people pass and say, "My lot never looked so good," and they do nothing about it. They would not even pay a fellow \$75 every two months to maintain the lot. They would spend \$75 every two weeks on a cellphone talking people's business, but they would not spend that amount every two months to maintain a piece of land while at the same time giving a fellow a little job. However, 12 months from now they will make the lives of people at the polyclinics miserable, saying "My lot needs cleaning again." Also, some of us who have the wherewithal need to be able to maintain the lots around our properties. Do not

say, "That is not my lot and therefore I have nothing to do with it." I have always maintained the lots around my property because I take a simple position: If a rat gets out of that unkempt lot, it is going to affect my children. We therefore have to pay close attention, Mr. Chairman. I am fully in support of this money Resolution before us here today, Mr. Chairman. It is not a lot of money, but at least it can start to send a signal that the State is playing its part. I only urge fellow Barbadians to pull their weight as well. I am obliged to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I take the opportunity to speak immediately on the heels of my neighbour. I use the word "friend" advisedly, but he is my neighbour in St. James South. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James South has touched on a point that is of deep concern to me as I see the evolution of this problem of debushing, as it is commonly called, in St. James Central. Sir, perhaps I will speak a little bit more candidly than the Member for St. James South spoke, because I yearn -- and it is not the first time I have said this on the Floor of this House -- to be part of a Government which will finally bring about the much-needed solution. Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to have in Barbados people investing a hundred, two hundred and in some cases, more thousands of dollars in acquiring a piece of land in a "middle-class" or "lower middle-class" community. St. James is full of these developments, Sir. Christ Church is full of those developments. The truth of the matter is that St. Michael has its fair share and so too does St. Philip, and the reality is, Sir, that you bring 200 or 300 houses together in some instances in a community as we have in Bagatelle, for example, or in Prior Park, and there is an owner who is in a position to buy a piece of land but is not going to build on it today or tomorrow. He puts it aside for his son or daughter, and in some instances that owner may not even continue to reside in Barbados but, because Land Tax is paid, Sir, there is this view that all is well; and I presume that in all cases the Land Tax is paid, but that may be another issue that we will have to look at.

Sir, where the problem arises is when that piece of land becomes so overgrown with bush that the house next door sometimes cannot be seen. The bush is as tall as the house next to it, and then you have the mosquitoes and, as the Honourable Member pointed out, the rats, et cetera, Sir. It is a plague upon the people who have made an investment in what we call "a piece of the rock" to live in a neighbourhood that has been their life's dream to be able to acquire ownership of. Sir, the time has come in my view -- it has long come -- when the State must step in. If it is necessary to do the cleaning of the lot, then do the cleaning of the lot, Sir, but make sure that the bill is attached to the owner of the land so that it is part and parcel of that

obligation which will fall due when the Land Tax is due. Sir, the neighbours cannot continue in small developments like this to be plagued and blighted. If the bill for cleaning is not paid, then the State must exercise its right to take further steps. I know that there seems to be unwillingness to put the foot down, but the reality is that you have a right to own land in the country but you do not have a right to own land and to so control, own and operate it in such a way as to be a nuisance to everybody else around you, Sir. There is no such thing as a fundamental right that is not checked and fettered in some way. That is the jurisprudential evolution of the law. I have a right of freedom of speech, but I cannot speak in such a way as to malign and smear the character of each and everybody.

Aside.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I have to be constrained by the law and bear in mind my neighbour who may be offended by those things that I have to say. Sir, the same thing applies with respect to the way in which you own and operate land. I am glad that the lawyers on the other side understand the point; all I do not want for them to do is to understand it and remain mute but I want them to understand and to use the legislative power which has now been vested in them to bring much needed relief to the people, not only those I represent but also the ones you represent as well.

Asides.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say something else.

Asides.

Mr. J.D. PAUL: Allow the Member to speak please.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: I want to say something else, because this is not a light matter. We also have to be very careful in Barbados about the issue of duplication of effort. I would be the first to say that the country looks nasty; I agree with the Honourable Member for St. James South. We have to clean it up. The word "nasty" was not his word, it is mine, but better has to be done and we would all agree on that, I hope. Mr. Chairman, we also have to cast a critical eye on the fact that the mandate for debushing and removal of bush and other material from around Barbados has fallen through the years on the National Housing Corporation, the Soil Conservation Department which does it up in the north of the island, the National Conservation Commission, Beautify Barbados, the Ministry of Health which has a debushing team, and the Ministry of Social Transformation which I remember was involved in it; because it was under Social Transformation that we heard about trees getting cut down for \$13 000 and so on. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works also did

debushing and removal of material. Parliament must understand the duplication of effort, because with six, seven or eight different public entities charged with doing this kind of thing, we should never come to a point in Barbados when you have to scramble, hot and sweaty, coming to Parliament to ask for \$3 million in a Supplementary because the work that should have been done has not been done.

Mr. Chairman, I was part of a Cabinet which capitalised the depots. Every depot is charged to some extent with a responsibility for debushing, and the depots had been capitalised under the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: They may have been cannibalised now. I do not doubt that the cannibalisation took place since 2008, but I know of a Barbados when vehicles were on the road and I saw something that drove alongside the curb and it had a blade, and it used to trim the grass verge on the side of the roads, Sir. It had an arm that could reach in. Mr. Chairman, I remember seeing two or three of them at work in my constituency at one point. I see none today. I do not see them on the road at all, and I would have to hear from the Member who has responsibility for Public Works whether they still function. Mr. Chairman, I am saying to you that there is no lack of capacity in the Government departments now, and no lack of a mandate in the Government departments for this type of work to be done. It is a crying shame on the management of the situation that we have come to a point where we now have to have a Supplementary for something like debushing when you have so many people who are supposed to be going to work with that as their mandate of operation. Mr. Chairman, I want to go further because that brings me to another matter that I have some serious concerns about. Sir, I have been around this place long enough to understand the smoke and mirrors that takes place with a \$3 million commitment for a crash programme whether that programme is three months or six weeks. The rush, Sir, the appearance of doing something, also translates itself into making sure that that which used to be called by another name of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) "the fatted calf" is looked after. We do not kill the fatted calf, Sir, we look after the fatted calf in Barbados and I have a sneaky suspicion that as dirty as Barbados is and as overgrown with bush as it is and as urgent as it is to have things done and all the Government departments that I just enumerated that should be doing the work have not been doing it, this \$3 million is not about that. This \$3 is about small contracts, small contracts that will no doubt go to people to come and do the same work that all these Government departments that I just enumerated are not doing. Mr. Chairman, I want to make my position very clear on that because nobody consults with Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Members of Parliament when the vote

has been given for the money to be released. Not the Member of Parliament for St. Thomas, somebody will show up from St. John to do work in St. Thomas. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas is not going to be consulted to say, is there any group of people you wish to put together here so that they can get a little work and what I want, Mr. Chairman, is that the Honourable Member for St. James Central be put in a position where he can say to whomever the Minister is responsible, because there are several of them now who could be doing the debushing, there are eight Government departments. I want to know, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member for St. James Central will be written and requested to say, could you name 10 or 15 people who you know are unemployed, have been dislocated as a result of the difficulties facing the country over the last four or five years and be in a position to put them into the mix as well. It has to be something that is not just about engorging the pockets of the faithful of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), it has to be about equity and fairness in the distribution of opportunities for people to get a little bit of employment. Sir, I say this very seriously because I know the politics that is practiced over there. I understand the rhythm. I have had the perfect experience of working with them and I know them well. I look across there, Sir, and I see the Prime Minister shake his head, I know that is not the Prime Minister saying that it cannot happen under his watch. The Prime Minister is shaking his head because he is agitated that I am alerting the country as to what will happen under his watch. Mr. Chairman, I will also hear, because I have been long enough in here to know it, I will also hear that there were Members who were in here for 10 years and so on and they will alleged that few things have been done in the area where they represent. I want to remind those Members they hoist themselves on to their feet to speak that Barbados has gone through, what by the governs on claim is the worst recessionary period and Barbadian who have been dislocated financially, Sir, who have been put on the unemployment line, not only 3,000 of them but more, are Barbadians who have come from all across Barbados. If there is an opportunity for us to be in a position by way of this programme to bring a little bit of economic relief then, Sir, it must be an opportunity that is felt by all Members of Parliament who were sent here to represent all the people of Barbados.

I am going to go further, Sir, because you would soon tell me that my 15 minutes is up. I also want to challenge this Government because I was asked by people in the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) to read Errol Barrow's Mirror Image Speech, it is the greatest speech a politician ever gave in Barbados. Sir, when you read it he tells you of a friend of him, called Lee Kwan Yew leading Singapore and he makes the point that Lee Kwan Yew did not have any vision about people cutting bush as part of a developmental path. This Government asked us to be happy not that they came into St. James Central and seek to

retrain the people or create facilities for the training of people who need employment opportunities in order to develop themselves or, Sir, to go into St. George South or any of the constituencies in Barbados and create those training and retraining opportunities so that Barbadian young people can have skills to market and sell but they seek to ask us to be contented with a debushing programme because the politics and the economic development issues are not all to be obfuscated by cutting bush. Mr. Speaker, there is a need for us to understand that if we are going to ever come to the point where we get past the embourgeoisification of this country's economy and keeping pocket money in the pockets of people who already have money that we need to make sure we follow through on the mandate of building out a class of people who are able to stand on their feet independently. Sir, I am concerned that a six-week programme is far from satisfactory and indeed, Sir, I question the necessity of the money being spent when you have Government departments that have already been mandated and financed to do this work. What is important to remember, Sir, is that there are Government departments financed and mandated to do this work. We need to see the \$3 million put to develop the skills and lead to the employment of people across Barbados who have been left unemployed as a result of the hardship on the land and cutting down bush for six weeks will not feed anybody's family over the years. We need to give them better because they deserve better and that is an approach to Government that has to be brought to the table. It pains me that we have gone through this debate so far and I have heard two ministers of Government spoke and I am not hearing, Sir ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, wrap up please.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I noticed that my time is up. I am not hearing a serious engagement on the fact that this must be an opportunity for us to make sure that we so distribute and allocate the resources that Barbados is on the programme and a path towards the development of its citizens in the best manner possible.

I am obliged, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to hold a little while before I came back into this debate but the Honourable Member who just sat down has set a broad certain ridiculous statements that need to be refuted early in the proceedings. Sir, in outlining this programme I made it clear that first of all, this programme will be from 5th December, I think, was the first starting date and it will continue in the first instance until 31st March, 2016 the end of the financial year. Is that six weeks? That is the first

question we have to ask ourselves. That is the first inaccuracy that the Honourable Member is trying to ...

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman the Honourable Member is misleading the House. My exact words were "whether it is a three-month programme or six-weeks programme". If the Honourable Member did not hear I can understand that but he cannot accuse me of an inaccuracy although I know that the money will not be available before January anyhow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have given the clarification Honourable Member for St. James South. Please proceed.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, the only value I can draw from the comments of the Honourable Member, Sir, is that I will certainly urge the Administration which I serve to continue the programme because any opportunity to keep employment going will be very welcome within our communities. I do not want to hear the Honourable Member get up in here in March next year when the Estimates of Expenditure are presented for 2017/2018 and we include a specific amount for debushing in Barbados, I want to hear the Honourable Member supporting that programme. I am giving notice that the Ministry of Health will be presenting within the Estimates 2017-2018 an expansion of this de-bushing programme. This is at the urging of the Honourable Member for St. James Central and we take it on board.

Sir, the Honourable Member sought to make heavy weather that he hopes that the constituents of St. Thomas will get to work in St. Thomas and that the constituents of Christ Church South will get to work in Christ Church but any sensible management approach would tell you that a very intelligent strategy would be to deploy the workers in areas with which they are not necessarily familiar.

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member will not understand sensible management strategy so the Honourable Member has a problem already because there is then no familiarity and hence less opportunity for malingering. People who get to work in new areas get to know new areas and make new friends. It has value, Mr. Chairman, so that is a non-point. The Honourable Member must embrace the idea that a good management strategy would actually be to deploy these workers in areas with which they are not necessarily familiar. It would not happen all the time.

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Thank you. We can certainly depend on the Honourable Member for Christ Church East

for that kind of appropriate intervention to assist and I am grateful.

Sir, the other point I made in the presentation is that this programme is managed by the polyclinics which are set up all over Barbados and I called the names: Maurice Byer, Branford Taitt, Six Roads, David Thompson, Randall Phillips and Sir Winston Scott. That is deployment, that is spreading the management because obviously it will be too much to ask the central Ministry of Health to control what goes on in St. Thomas, Christ Church and in St. Philip and at the same time in St. Peter and Bridgetown. Sir, that is so obvious in terms of how the process is managed that it is not funny.

Sir, it is this kind of innuendo about this is jobs for the party, for the fatted calf and all kinds of irresponsible comments that will not allow projects of this value because we have so far had a very intelligent conversation going about the value of this project in terms of disease control, in terms of impact on our healthcare in Barbados and these kinds of values... To drag it into the mire of the kind of areas that the Honourable Member for St. James Central is familiar with is non-productive. If that is what he knows, well we know what we are in for for the rest of the afternoon but, Sir, this is the last time I am getting up to answer this point because I have made it very clear how the programme is structured and I have deliberately done so so that Barbados can understand the structure. The little side comments and the snide remarks and the familiarity the Honourable Member has for that kind of behaviour because the truth is you can only talk about what you know... The Honourable Member is so familiar with that kind of approach to the process that is what he is going to mouth. He is the only Honourable Member so far who has gone down that road and I pray, Sir, that he will change his ways and recognise a programme for the value that we are trying to demonstrate, for the impact it will have on our healthcare, for the challenges we have to deal with and for the fact that even as we contemplate laying out some \$3.15 million in this project that there is a responsibility on the part of landowners to make sure their lots are clean and recognise that if we clean the lots they are responsible for paying the Government of Barbados for that intervention. I made all of those points.

Sir, another side comment was made. Well, you did not allow the presenter to continue down that road so I will not go there but if it is repeated I will come back to it but I think in all seriousness we need to give this programme a chance to work. We need to recognise the value and the kind of management control that is going into the programme. In other words, we are offering opportunities for people to work. I am not going to be baited into calling any names in here, I am more responsible than that Honourable Member for St. James Central, so if that is what you are looking for keep looking, you will not find it

here. I know how responsible officers in the Ministry of Health are operating and I keep track of what they are doing and I make sure they understand our responsibility to the nation.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, just focus on the matter.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, we do not talk about any Christ Church South or St. Michael West Central when we talk health, about disease management or the equitable allocation of funds to make sure that healthcare is held up high in this country. The wonderful standards which we have a record for and which we are proud of and the leadership we give not only in Barbados but in our region and in our hemisphere will not be diluted and will not be sacrificed at the altar of any Barbados Labour Party operative or the Honourable Member for St. James Central. We are bigger than that. This programme, Sir, is bigger than the Honourable Member for St. James Central. It is being led by responsible persons in the Ministry of Health and I will make sure that kind of management is maintained.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish Sir, at the outset to indicate that I will support this Supplementary. I believe strongly that the de-bushing programme which existed in the past never should have stopped because we recognised that the sugar cane industry was dying and we knew that more land would have been lying fallowed and therefore the overgrowth of bushes and so.

We have grown, Mr. Chairman, to the landscape of Barbados being always aesthetically pleasing and the way Barbadians carry their properties really and truly lent to the whole local and tourism outlook. People say Barbados is clean. Anywhere you read anything about Barbados in the past they said Barbados was clean and the people were always friendly with a smile and so on.

I can speak, Sir, to people in Barbados not only in rural Barbados but across Barbados who always play their part in helping to keep around them clean as well as the other properties of property owners who did not come. We will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that the financial situation is so dire that many of us now can no longer continue to do it except to work with our own. Mr. Chairman, I commend all those persons who continue to keep their surroundings clean, and I have a tongue-lashing for those who clean their

surroundings but would deposit whatever their clean onto other people's properties, whether it is in a remote environment or wherever. Mr. Chairman, this is wrong. We know there is a saying, do unto others as you would have them do unto you and I condemn those who do it, even though they try to clean their own.

Mr. Chairman, I note that in our Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2016, that a \$5 million amount was allocated and approved to go towards the initiation of a national cleanup and debushing programme to be implemented over the next five months, which I understood to mean from August perhaps up to the beginning of January, to clean up the country. Mr. Chairman, I would want to find out from the Honourable Member who did the introduction to please indicate if that \$3.1-odd million is an addition, thus bringing it to now \$8.15 million. If that is the case, where has the money been spent?

Mr. Chairman, none of that money was spent in the constituency of St. Thomas. I do not know about the other constituencies but I know that none was spent in the constituency where I live and have been given the privilege to represent the distinguished people of the constituency of St. Thomas. Therefore, if the Honourable Member could answer that, then I would be happy.

Mr. Chairman, do you know what pains me? Sir, we have just celebrated our 50th Anniversary of Independence and \$7 million was allocated to that budget, while Barbados remains dirty. Barbados is now worse with the amount of debris on the streets caused by the flooding. Mr. Chairman, an Honourable Member here said that when the Drainage Unit was established that flooding would be a thing of the past. Mr. Chairman, I have tremendous difficulty in understanding what this Government is doing in respect of that. Mr. Chairman, what even hurts more is that it is two weeks before Christmas and Barbados remains very, very dirty and unsightly.

Mr. Chairman, I have a problem as a resident of the parish of St. Thomas to have to pass Reece Road and to see the bush and the junk that is at B's Bottling Recycle Plant, that we were told would be relocated to Vauxcluse. I have a problem, Mr. Chairman, with the illegal dumping that is not only across St. Thomas but is across the length and breadth of rural Barbados in particular, and the challenges that emanate from that. There are plantation owners and persons with large tracts of land in the country who refuse to clean up those tracts of land. Sir, but do you know what? Mr. Chairman, the Government is one of the biggest landowners that have property that is dirty, overgrown with bush and are creating tremendous challenges.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that as a people we can do better and that the Government can do better to be able to make sure that Barbados is safe. Sir, if you go to St.

Joseph, there is a now defunct school where the grass is so tall that you can hardly see the building. Sir, that is the same across the length and breadth of Barbados, for example, at the Louis Lynch School is in the city the conditions there are horrendous. Sir, what about the residents who live downhill, in the Garden Land and other communities when the vandals, rodents and everybody else go into that building to live? It is really killing Barbados, it is killing us as a people.

Mr. Chairman, when I look at roads... In fact, let me step back because over in Lancaster near the School Meal Centre and indeed before the Lancaster houses were upgraded for distribution or when we had gone through Constant and saw the conditions... Mr. Chairman, I can say perhaps that folks of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development have been doing their part to clean up and to prepare those houses for people to inhabit. Mr. Chairman, do you know what? Sir, I am an unhappy woman who is now moving into my senior years when I past Vauxcluse, Dunscombe, Highland, Spring Farm, Content, Dukes, Cane Field, Hillaby, Jack-in-the-Box Gully, Clifton Hill, Walkes Spring... Sir, I can go on and on and on, the bush is just destroying the country and the whole panoramic view that we all enjoyed in the past.

Mr. Chairman, traffic is also reduced to zero, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would have mentioned how the bush was caving in, but I would want to thank the Bagatelle Depot, as I usually do, because of the efforts they try in borrowing equipment from other depots and from the Ministry of Public Works, to be able to do a number of small things to help to have those areas all cleaned up. I also want to thank a benefactor from Christie's Village who has cleaned up all of Bucks area and the section of Grand View which leads into Christie's Village because he too felt unsafe while having to travel that route. Mr. Chairman, personnel from the Bagatelle Depot also went with them to show them where the water mains were, to make sure that no mains would be ruptured. Mr. Chairman, we do not have any water in sections of St. Thomas over the past five days, so that it looks as though they would want to annihilate the few constituencies that represent the Barbados Labour Party in this country. Mr. Chairman, it is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I believe and do support what the Honourable Member for St. James South has said when the Honourable Member made mention about using the legislation to be able to impose a fine on those persons who do not clean up their environments, that every year the funds be placed on their land tax bills as a penalty to be paid into Government. Sir, there is no point in buying land, going overseas and leaving it or having land bequeathed to family and not having it cleaned up to make your neighbours happy.

Mr. Chairman, I too am concerned about chikungunya, Zika and dengue fever. Mr. Chairman, to make it even worse, Barbadians are still dying from leptospirosis, because the bushes are so heavy, people are dumping illegally the food, clothing and everything else and therefore the rodents are taking advantage. Further, when the rodents either do not have enough or have eaten enough, they are somehow still attracted to what is in the homes, or they go into our gardens. Mr. Chairman, I advise Barbadians that when they buy vegetables or ground provision they should wash them properly before use. Sir, there is a high incidence of leptospirosis where rats and other rodents are urinating onto produce. Therefore, as a health matter, it is very, very critical that these vegetables should be washed before use.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I know that the overgrowth is affecting a lot of the social lives of people of Barbados. It is unfortunate that when someone has to get off a bus at the roundabout in Welchman Hall, they then have to walk into the bosom of Lion Castle, a place where there are hardly any streetlights, because I cannot get the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who is responsible for rural development to install any streetlights. Mr. Chairman, with the overgrowth of bush impacting upon them they are afraid of vandals, or to go to church as they would like. They cannot go to the cinema and come back home at 10 o'clock at night because they are all afraid of being choked and robbed.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I do support what is in this particular Supplementary and that I trust it will come to light. Sir, before closing I would want to find out from the Honourable Member who piloted the Resolution and whichever team that is responsible to be able to indicate to us and to the Honourable Members on their side, because sometimes Honourable Members on their side do not get the amount of the cake that they should get either. I hear them because they talk to me at times. Mr. Chairman, I would want them to indicate how the selection of these individuals will go. Mr. Chairman, would the workers of Beautify Barbados, many of whom were from St. Thomas, would those workers from the National Conservation Commission or from the Ministry of Transport and Works, including others who have been sent home unceremoniously by this Government that says it cares, be all given a chance to be reemployed to be able to feed their children?

Mr. Chairman, there are persons who have five, six or ten children within their households who have not worked since they were dismissed in 2013, 2014 and since then. Would these people be allowed to put food on their tables, at least for the New Year? Mr. Chairman, it would be such a wonderful thing because the fact is that

Barbadians want to work, many of them are not too concerned about the kind of work, once it is honest work that would put food on their tables and to be able to educate their children. They will go into the debushing programme, because for years we had people who saw it as a seasonal project and they waited with the unemployment that was in their faces, but when they heard “debushing programme” they knew that they would not have been segregated because of political reasons or because they were not carrying somebody’s card. My vision for Barbados is not to separate our society to become like some of the Caribbean, where because you are wearing blue you are one person and because you are wearing red you are another person, and you are pushed aside and shunted in a corner. It must not happen in our society if we are so educated as we declare we are. I am growing tired of the segregation that I pick up day by day, and I want for this project to be able to touch the lives of people, to turn it around despite whatever timeframe it will occur in. I also want for the project to make Barbados clean again, because I am sure that if visitors who have been coming here consistently -- some for 25 years, some for longer and some for shorter periods, and the Right Honourable Prime Minister entertains them and so on -- had the opportunity to speak with the Prime Minister and the Honourable Minister of Tourism, they would tell of their dissatisfaction with how the landscape of Barbados has changed and how dirty it is.

Mr. Chairman, the final comment I want to make is that when I passed on the morning of the day before yesterday by the Natural Heritage location at Sturges, which always hosted the ‘Heart of Barbados’ project that was a fantastic tourism earner which incorporated the communities across the parish of St. Thomas and adjoining communities, that site has not been touched or cleaned. It has expansive lawns, where people would keep weddings and other activities to entertain, particularly the people of Welchman Hall and its environs because they have been disenfranchised from being able to build new houses and to expand and engage in certain aspects of agriculture. Do you know what, Mr. Chairman? That place has not been cleaned for more than six months. It is full of bush, and yet the Right Honourable Prime Minister was able to come to speak to us in June this year to tell us about Barbados’ system of parks and open spaces. The Honourable Minister of the Environment would not know; he did not turn up. Perhaps he had his other reasons and commitments; I am not questioning that, but when you look and see the ‘Heart of Barbados’ and the possibility of working in an open space, the S2 zone of special environmental control and so on, the people of St. Thomas are suffering. I know that the staff who were associated with the Natural Heritage location were sent home because they were the ‘Beautify Barbados’ staff, but at least for our national period of Independence and for Christmas that location could have been cleaned. It is obliquely opposite to the entrance to

Harrison’s Cave. Those are the kinds of things I thought to talk about.

Mr. Chairman, I wish that the Honourable Minister would be able to explain to us how the selection should be done, because about three weeks ago I would have been bombarded by persons who said, “I have been to the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic, or the Warrens Polyclinic, and I have asked about the debushing programme because I was one of the people who were dismissed, and I have been told, ‘go to your Member of Parliament for a letter’.” Mr. Chairman, the only letter that I can give them would be a letter to say that they are decent citizens and that they work honestly, because I know most of them more intimately than most people know their constituents. Do you know what I told them? “Make sure that is true,” because I had tried before with this Government and the persons’ files were dropped in File 13. Mr. Speaker, I therefore want for the equity, the fairness, the transparency and the good governance to take place in this country again so that the confidence of Barbadians will again be built; and I want that they understand that each individual matters. Whether they are cleaning the streets, cutting the bush, putting food on somebody’s plate, washing clothing for somebody or babysitting, they know it is honest work. Once people get to work honestly, they will be able to improve the quality of their lives and ease what is happening in the Ministry of Social Care, where persons, because they are not working and not getting the maintenance and so many things, have to rely on the Welfare Department that does not have a bottomless pit of money. Therefore, I support this Supplementary and I just wish for those small questions which I have posed to be answered so I can get clarity in my mind. Is it \$3.15 million allocated or is it \$8.15 million? I would like to know how it will be expended, and how we in St. Thomas will benefit by this project that should serve the entire Barbados. I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Chairman report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, this full Sitting is resumed. Members, your Chairman of Committees has reported progress and asked for leave to sit again.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, notice was given of the following:

A RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$10 363 838 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2016-2017 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 5, 2016-2017, WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP 225, THE SALE TO THE BARBADOS NATIONAL TERMINAL COMPANY LIMITED OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT COVERLEY IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2 p.m. today.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2 p.m. for lunch was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MR. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

12.26 p.m.

Seq13 blank

Friday, December 06, 2016

House C 45 Seq 14 2.32 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now resumed. Before the Suspension we were in Committee of supply and to that we shall now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Cont'd)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to enter this debate on this Supplementary which essentially as the Honourable Minister of Health has indicated is our annual debushing programme which is designed, of course, on an annual basis to have a systematic approach to how we could rid the country of the kind of overgrowth that occurs immediately after the fairly heavy rainfall that is usually very seasonal. I would like for us, Mr. Chairman, of course, to compliment the Minister for bringing this matter before the how, I think, essentially because it is such a standard bit of housekeeping, so to speak, in the House. It provides four Honourable Members and opportunity to examine what is really a very important aspect of our environmental protection safety net and, of course, particularly at this time of the year when we would have had fairly heavy showers, much of the overgrowth in all constituencies can be understood in the sense of creating the kind of environment that we would want to manage in a way that does not create health hazards. We could only therefore welcome this particular measure and I believe that so far in this debate would have heard a number of concerns raised in relation to maybe having a more systematic programme, a longer programme and, of course, that will be a question of the resources of the Government to provide that. The Government continues to be focused on ensuring that you can control some of the prevailing issues in terms of the mosquito borne as well as the whole question of rodent control.

This programme, of course, is aimed not only at ensuring that we could tidy up our neighbourhoods but also creating very much needed employment for those persons involved in the programme. To that extent, Mr. Chairman, it could only be hailed as welcome, certainly in my constituency like all constituencies we have several open lots that we have this continuous problem of owners of lots not paying the kind of attention that they should pay to ensuring that these lots are kept clean and free of refuse. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that while we can appeal to property owners to keep their lots clean and by and large I believe they had been cases of good compliance in some areas there are a number of defaulters who are like recurring decimals. I think, Mr. Chairman, the time has come when we have to adopt more robust measures. There is, of course, existing legislation that allows for the health authorities to take certain action against land owners who have defaulted but I believe that we perhaps need a bit more reinforcement of those mechanisms. I am of the view, Mr. Chairman, that we have tried, I know for sure that the public health officers served notices on delinquent owners of properties whether they have on their property water that creates a kind of a home for vectors and so on or they have

refuse garbage or overgrown lots, but I think it is really important for all Barbadians to understand that they have a vested interest in ensuring that we can keep the country free of disease but if it requires a more robust approach to ensure that home owners pay attention to compliance issues then, in fact, I think we need to do that.

Mr. Chairman, I also believe that this particular issue in relation to the programme of debushing we maybe need to also include in that how we activate a more robust scheme of recycling bush and cut trees that obviously would be as a result of the work of this programme. I feel that rather than dumping the grass bush or trees, river tamarind and so on, that we should be finding a creative way of recycling this material. I know that, for example, the persons in the agricultural field had been looking at ways in which you could transform this material into animal feeds of various kinds and I think that this is perhaps an opportunity for some kind of entrepreneurial focus in terms of how we could actually utilise all of the material that would come out of this debushing programme rather than dumping it at Mangrove or wherever, that we are disposing of it in a proper manner. It could be that we could find a useful mechanism of recycling this material that comes out of the debushing programme.

Mr. Chairman, I also believe that at this time of the year we have to pay more attention to our drainage systems. I have certainly had a number of areas in my constituency that would have suffered significant drainage and the effects of the rain would have created a lot of issues in terms of drainage in some parts of the constituency but I know, Mr. Chairman, that, in fact, in many respects we have the drainage unit doing certain works in various area but I believe given where the pockets of drainage occur and the run offs, we are going to have to deploy more resources to doing some very technical studies in terms of water flow. Water, of course, is going to flow from various areas whether they are in developments, concrete surfaces and so on particularly new housing developments, they are going to move from that area into other areas that either are valley areas or areas that of course are road surfaces that are not necessarily drained as well as they ought to be and this is creating some challenges.

Mr. Chairman, in talking to the people in the Drainage Unit, they have had to do some studies even outside of areas that are prone to flooding. Given the last amount of rainfall and the kind of flooding that ensued particularly in the southern part of Barbados and of course traditionally in the western part of the island, there has been an unusual collection of water which I think it is not only attributable to blocked drains or blocked wells and I think we are going to have to look more carefully at doing some surface studies in adjoining areas to be able to find ways to manage this huge amount of water. Of course, we are still encountering significantly heavy rainfall.

Mr. Chairman, I happened to be of the view, and I have mentioned this to the Minister responsible for water resources, that we perhaps are going to have to be looking at ways of damming water because there is much water that is actually coming down. Of course, we know that it takes quite a bit of time before the water percolates through the limestone and into the aquifers and so we probably should be looking in the direction of damming water and creating the capacity to actually pump that water directly through filtration systems into our reservoirs as a creative means of conserving water.

This particular matter before the House, Mr. Chairman, is really a deliberate attempt by Government. I have heard the Minister indicating that it is part of his ministry's plan to extend this programme and I think that should be welcome in an environment where the continuous amount of rainfall will continue to pose challenges even outside of those areas where persons are owners and occupiers of land and are not taking their responsibility seriously.

Mr. Chairman, all of us traverse the highways and byways of Barbados and we recognise that there is an overgrowth of the Khus-Khus grass and so on along the roads making it very difficult for vehicular traffic to manoeuvre along our roadways and I hope that this programme will be systematic enough to be able to address several of those critical areas that are very difficult to actually manoeuvre particularly around certain corners. I hope that this programme will be targeted in the first instance in those areas to ensure maximum road safety.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard some of the contributions coming from the other side. There was a clarion call, I think, from the Honourable Member for St. George South asking the Government not to use this debushing programme to politicise, as he said it, the programme or to use it for electioneering, and I think that is something that would come from Opposition parties. Opposition parties believe that every time we have these kind of programmes that behind the programme is some benefit to the Government. If there is a benefit to the Government the benefit would be that we are able to create some short-term employment for Barbadians and I think that is something that the Opposition should really welcome. The process by which persons are hired into the programme is not based on which political party they belong, it is based on who is willing and ready to work. I have seen certainly in my constituency that there are persons who have different persuasions who are involved in the de-bushing programme. It is never this Democratic Labour Party approach to only hire people because they are the members of the Democratic Labour Party, we are not that kind of party. Of course, the Barbados Labour Party tends to feel that is the way to proceed because that perhaps is the way they operated when they were in Government.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome this programme and I hope that as we continue the debate that we would come up with some other ideas that we can share with the Minister who is responsible in terms of how we could even expand this programme to the continuous benefit of Barbados.

I will come back again, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to take a second bite of the cherry as it were on this very important matter which touches on the ability of this country to adequately manage its environmental resources and to do so in a manner that directly impacts for the benefit of the public and the public health well-being of the country.

Sir, when I first spoke in this debate, I referenced the desire, and I have said this in this Chamber before, of being part of a Parliament which begins the process of giving life to the letter of the law which exists in Barbados to help to mitigate the effect felt by people, for example, in Bagatelle in my constituency in St. James Central, in Prior Park and in every middle class enclave across Barbados... As I think right now of my constituency, Appleby Gardens comes to mind because of the number of lots there which are substantially affected by high overgrowth of bush right next door to people's houses encroaching into the backyards of people's houses.

Sir, let me be frank. All of us know of situations where in good economic times Barbadian property owners were prepared to pitch in to cut the grass next door to them or were able to do so but in harder times a chap is going to find it very difficult to find the extra gasoline for the weedwhacker, the parts and so on for the weedwhacker if his weedwhacker is giving trouble or if he has a gardener as an old person to pay that gardener to do the house next door to him. Sir, the law exists in Barbados today at Cap. 44, the Health Services Act, to make sure that those circumstances of hardship do not continue to be visited on communities where we have this type of difficulty existing.

Where you live, Mr. Chairman, in Bagatelle there is that issue. Happily for you, Sir, to the very back of your house there is an open lot that is well maintained but where you live what we need to have is a Minister of Health who is prepared to use the Health Services Act at Section 11 (1) where it says and I quote:

"Where it appears to the Minister that for the protection or in the interest of the public health any works in or on any premises are necessary, the Minister may serve or cause to be served on the owner or occupier of such premises a notice in writing signed by the Minister or by

any person authorised by the Minister in that behalf requiring him to execute such work as the Minister considers necessary."

Sir, after you have done that you affix a copy of it to any prominent part of the property or you advertise in the newspaper if the person, as I said in my last intervention, may be living overseas and cannot be found in Barbados. Having given notice then, Mr. Chairman, a process unfolds in law that takes you right up to what Section 11C of the Act contemplates where there is the power of sale of the property for recovery by the Crown of any costs incurred in the execution of the work, so that if a man is devout in his intention to be derelict in the duty he has to look after the property he owns, he is committed to not pulling his weight, then, Mr. Chairman, this law can allow you to go so far as you can even to sell the property when once the Crown has had to intervene in order to mitigate the effect for the betterment of public health in the neighbourhood.

The point that I make to the Chair and to the Parliament is that we live in a Barbados today where we have the legal framework in place but for some strange reason we are not prepared to use the law to protect the people who are taxpayers and who have legitimate expectations in their own right that the circumstances that they live in will not be so horrendous that they feel as though they are deprived of the ability that they have to enjoy the property they purchased. Mr. Chairman, for me that is a bad thing and it should be corrected. Sir, I come back because I want to make my concern about this matter very clear. The Minister of Health, I have often said and I really sincerely feel, is not a bad person at heart.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James Central were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. Chairman.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, therefore, it would have been, in my view, better for the Honourable Member to seek to engage me on the substance of the core issue. The Honourable Member rose to give assurances about the concern I raised politically, that is, as I have just heard the speaker before me saying, every Opposition must have a concern as to where a programme that is going to be involving \$3 million of spend is going to unfold, an Opposition must say that there must be fairness in the spend of the public purse.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central understands that and I hope and pray that the Honourable Member can lien on the understanding of his colleague, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. Chairman, I go beyond that because, you see, this Opposition has come to the point where the gloves are

going to come off. We have heard assurances upon assurances given in this Honourable House repeatedly. I sat in this place and heard the same Minister of Health gave assurances about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the treatment that would be meted out to the hospital on the first occasion that members of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners withdrew their services. We were that never again would there be an issue where there was a shortage of gauge, bandages, surgical gloves, sterilized equipment and so on, and that the money was on its way as we are speaking. Mr. Chairman, then low and behold in two or three short months members of Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners had to come back and do it again, so that I hear the assurances but I am a little too long in the tooth. I have been in town too long to be assuaged by these assurances.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, earlier today I indicated to another Honourable Member that they needed to stick to the Resolution. I see no connection between what you are now discussing. It is a Money Resolution on drainage, so that if you continue down that line then I will have to say that you are introducing irrelevancy into the debate, so come back on stream.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, to the extent that I have strayed, if that is the judgment of the Chair then I apologise, Sir, and commit myself not to doing so any further. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I saw this as part of a demonstration of concern on the part of the Opposition that this was not just a debate about hearing assurances from the Government but more substantively, it was a debate about the ability of the Government to satisfy the country of its willingness to be all-embracing in a national programme.

Mr. Chairman, what I did not hear from the Minister of Health, if you asked me to speak specifically to the Resolution, is a commitment given to the Opposition in this place that the Barbados Labour Party would be involved in the process of the recruitment. I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central saying that the criteria are who is willing and ready to work. Well, let us not pretend that we have misunderstood that, I want to say for the record in this place that I know people in St. James Central who are willing and ready to work. I want to say in this place that I know people in St. James North who are willing and ready to work and so I am inviting, Mr. Chairman, the opportunity on behalf of the Opposition Members for us to be given the benefit of being able to submit the names of those people.

Mr. Chairman, no one has written to me and said that that is a criteria. No one has written to me and said that when this \$3 million programme unfolds, would you be so good as to indicate because there are people we know in your constituency who had been sent home among the workers of the National Conservation Commission and

Beautify Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure, I am just stating as a fact. Mr. Chairman, so that if I hear that somebody is to get the benefit of 100 names, I would want to know that I too am given the opportunity to put in a few names. Mr. Chairman, that is what I want to hear and I would want to be able to hold up the letter sent to me by the Minister of Health in Parliament, so that I can say to the country that the Minister of Health has offered. Sir, that is the point.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James South spoke to the issue of vending. I believe that if the Honourable Member could speak to the issue of vending in this context, then I feel that there are one or two things that should also be said. Mr. Chairman, it is not necessarily about debushing but I do feel that Barbadians must now come to the point where we cannot just beat up on the vendors, these are people too, they are working too. Mr. Chairman, I genuinely feel that Government must facilitate this issue. I am who also feel that there are too many coconut shells that are left about the place where coconuts are sold and that they have a potential for attracting insects, rats, et cetera. Mr. Chairman, what perhaps this country and perhaps more importantly this Parliament, because Parliament must lead and that is what we are not doing... Why do we not, as others do, have zones along the highway, so that you would know that this is an area of the highway that is earmarked for vending? Mr. Chairman, not that whosoever will may come and put down wheresoever they feel like, but that if you are going to sell coconuts, eggs, papers or whatever that you are doing it within this space along the highway. Mr. Chairman, therefore, if you that you are going to have vendors dealing with things that people are going to drink and eat sometimes on the spot, then let us make sure that there are portable toilets and also waterborne facilities.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you can come back, your time has expired.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, if I can just wrap up. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West has introduced into this country waterborne facilities that are suitable for that purpose but Sir, we have to do things that help to empower the working-class people of Barbados. That is my concern in this debate. Thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I too rise to speak on this Resolution and to make the point that what we are discussing here is nothing new to the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Chairman, since the 1960s we as a party have led the world as it relates to the environment and looking after the environment. Mr. Chairman, we had the

Parks and Beaches Commission where we felt that it was very important to keep our environs clean, especially along the parks and beaches of Barbados. Mr. Chairman, some people speak as though this is some modern thing, without recognising that the Democratic Labour Party has always led the way not only locally but also internationally.

Mr. Chairman, fortunately for us we are now in our second phase and our Right Honourable Prime Minister not too long ago was fortunate to declare a policy on parks and open spaces. We are now dealing with phase two of the environmental thrust by the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Chairman, phase one was first started by the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow in the 1960s who had the vision and recognised that you cannot have a country and not keep it clean. Mr. Chairman, the present Right Honourable Prime Minister has now taken it to a different stage where he has recognised that parks and open spaces, if treated in the right way, could be areas that could be used for developmental purposes, where people can create employment for themselves. Mr. Chairman, this debushing programme must be seen not only from the environmental point of view but also as an opportunity to create areas that can be parks and open spaces. It can also be seen as an opportunity to help look after the environment of the country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that we as Government cannot ignore this when one considers that we have now taken tourism to another level, when one sees the number of people now coming to Barbados, when one sees that out of the 50th Anniversary of a country we have been able to make a tourism product out of it to such a level that when one sees the amount of advertisements and publicity that is given, one cannot doubt that it would have a positive spinoff for us as it relates to our present tourism season. When one sees the number of people coming to Barbados, and that we have been able to make a tourism product out of the 50th anniversary of a country to a level with high advertising and publicity, one cannot doubt that it will have a positive spinoff for us as it relates to our present tourism season and that it will have an atmosphere that will push us into future tourism years. I want to say, if we had done this programme earlier, we would have been accused of only cleaning Barbados because the prince was coming. It is very instrumental that this programme came after the prince, Sir, and he came here and enjoyed Barbados without this programme. Yet, the naysayers would want us to believe that things are so bad that one could not enjoy Barbados. You could see the tears in his eyes when he was about to leave Barbados. We live here in Barbados but we want to badmouth our country and not appreciate what we have, but the prince could leave England and come and enjoy our country more so than we do. What is rather interesting is that we go on beaches, the byways and sideways and we badmouth our country.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that this country is 166 square miles and it is a blessed small rock. People love this country and they do not own a piece of it; they love it more so than the ones who own it. We feel that we have a God-given right to badmouth this little rock when we should be praising this little rock. One should consider that it is only 166 square miles and surrounded by a mass of water, but the mass of water -- the second largest mass of water in the world -- cannot dominate 166 square miles of rock, neither can all that mass of salt water dominate our fresh water. When one studies the environment of our country, one can only say that we should be blessed. Under one big wave, the whole country can be washed away, but we are so blessed that we have all the water that surrounds us, yet we are not threatened by that water. We should be grateful, Mr. Chairman. If we only understand how blessed we are, we should be grateful. We should not be in here trying to badmouth Barbados. Instead of badmouthing Barbados, we should be praising this little rock that is so small but can dominate things much greater than it.

I heard people talk about damming. In the constituency which I am proud to represent I have people who dam. I also have a farmer who is very successful and who uses the environment in such a successful way that it seems that once you are from St. Lucy and do anything well, people have to badmouth you. It seems to me that if you grow papayas, nobody wants to buy them because they have come from St. Lucy. If you have a good body, you cannot show it off because people are jealous. They go into the sea in their suits because they do not want anybody to see their bodies, but if you are proud of your own, you cannot show it off. Nothing good apparently comes from St. Lucy, but as we speak on this environment, Mr. Chairman...

Asides.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we hear a lot about the WHO (World Health Organisation) Report for 2012. It is all right to quote from a report but what you need to quote is how 166 square miles can do so much; that is what we need to quote from. We always have to go outside of the boundary to tell people about what is happening outside, but we never point to what is happening in our own country. We are never proud of how to dress in our own country. Mr. Chairman, I am saying that in good economic times such as the time between 1994 and 2008 was the time we should have been building reserves. If the times were so good, why was it that in 2008 we had deficits? If the times are good, one expects you to build up surpluses, and when things are bad, you use the surpluses because you will create deficits and the deficits would reduce the surpluses. What do you have? Things were supposed to be good but still you had deficits, and because you have deficits now in deficit times, people are complaining.

We are amazing people. You hear in this House today that we support the programme, but as soon as the few words, “we support the programme”, are finished, the badmouthing starts. Mr. Chairman, I am saying that yes, we need some debushing but it will happen. The important thing is that we are doing the debushing. I will ask the Minister not to allow the debushing only to be in Christ Church and St. Michael but remember that the area which the tourists visit most is rural Barbados. Let it get there too, and I have no doubt it will get there. I honestly believe that the first places that we should tackle are the highways and byways of Barbados. Do not only listen to what people are saying, about what the Opposition badmouths; do not forget that they talk as if there are no good examples. Just take a look from the airport down as far as Mile-and-a-Quarter and you would see that highways have been kept in very good condition, including the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. James North who will not say it in this Debate because he wants to badmouth everything. It does not stop there, Sir. It goes down to Cave Hill.

Aside.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Do not care what assurances or instructions you give to the Honourable Member for St. James North, he still badmouths people; even in times when they are dying. A man is dead but instead of him giving sympathy to the family, he is in a newspaper trying to get votes from it. Mr. Chairman, the programme does not only run from the airport to the north; the programme runs also to Bridgetown on the Spring Garden road.

Asides.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the environment of this country is such that we must be proud. One gets the impression that the only programme which this Government is entering into in debushing the country of Barbados is this programme before me. That is not true. The Ministry of Public Works is still doing cleaning, the Ministry of the Environment is still doing cleaning, and the private sector is still doing that programme called ‘Cleaning the Highways’. Do not come in here and give the impression that we are not doing anything in keeping the highways and byways clean. All we are doing is that we are now launching the programmes spoken about by the Prime Minister previously and spoken about by the Minister of Finance, and we are putting money in this Supplementary to ensure that we could deliver the goods.

Sir, I want to say, had the Barbados Labour Party followed the programme under the Parks & Beaches Commission, we would not now have the problem with the monkeys in this country. Had their Minister of the Environment gone and replanted the gullies -- that Minister was told so in this House -- the monkeys would not now be

raiding and controlling Barbados. Instead of them accepting wise educational views -- the Honourable Member was in here too -- they said that if we plant fruit trees in the gullies or on the highways, Bajans would eat them. That was said in this House. They cannot appreciate anything called environment, that is why I had to remind them that the Barbados National Trust planted fruit trees.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The fruits on the tree, Sir. I know that you like to be negative on everything and that you would eat the tree and not the fruit, I know, but Mr. Speaker, I am saying that any environmental problems that we have in this country were created by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) because they did not understand the policy of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP). When we came here with Parks and Beaches we advised them that instead of planting all the ornamentals to plant some fruit trees so that you would allow the monkeys to have their habitat. Instead of allowing the monkeys to have their habitat they allowed all the fruit trees to be destroyed in the gullies and it was not logical to them that if the fruit trees in the gullies are not there that the monkeys would have to move from the gullies and they would come to the backyards and the orchards and so on to get food. The same thing goes for the birds. The birds will come wherever there is food and the logical thing is that they do not believe that these things have senses of their own. These are the only human beings that believe that the only people that have common sense in this world are the people who support the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). Mr. Chairman, I am saying that this is a lesson, a Biblical lesson and a lesson that they should have known from school day when they had Noah and the Ark. It was not only about man it was about every reptile, bird, animal and everything. We have to make provision even in our food stock for the birds, the monkeys, et cetera, along with the human beings.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that support this, I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has a proud record which started with the Parks and Beaches in the 1960s and we are now into a new thrust with the parks and open spaces and pushing the environment of Barbados. We have nothing to feel ashamed of. We have a programme and this programme is continuous and it will ensure that the environment of Barbados is kept in good stead.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James North. Just note that we are going to start to limit the time because we are getting to end of three hours.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to intervene in this debate on the Resolution to approve certain funds for a debushing programme. This particular

programme was first mentioned in this Parliament in the Budget by the Honourable Minister of Finance in mid-August this year. At that time the proposal was for \$5 million to be granted towards this initiative, the clean-up national campaign and debushing programme. It has come down now to \$3.1 million and I do not know if that is a sign of the harsh economic reality that right now unfortunately besets Barbados in the last nine years since the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has been in office but the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) had one of its mantra in the 2013 Election campaign to make Barbados environmentally sound, that certainly has not been the case. The Honourable Member for St. James South has joined with Honourable Members on This Side of the debate here today to concede that Barbados environmentally is in a bad state of affairs.

The Honourable Member who last spoke, of course, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, he gives the same speech every time now whether it is on facebook, bareback or in Parliament that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) is badmouthing Barbados. We are certainly not doing that. We might badmouth the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and their mismanagement of the socio-economic life of the ordinary citizen of this country but we certainly do not badmouth a country of which we love so dearly and of which we have made sacrifices for in terms of coming into politics so we have to draw that distinction and make it very clear.

Mr. Speaker, a visionary Government of the day would certainly have used the yearlong 50th anniversary, because they started celebrations on January 6, a big launch in Bridgetown spending millions of dollars which really did not need to be spent whatsoever, but a visionary Government of today would have used the 50th anniversary celebration to mobilise the population of the country into a national effort clean up Barbados and to make it "environmentally sound". That is what happened in Uganda when they celebrated their 50th anniversary of independence. No big feting, partying and millions of dollars on fetes and fairs and all of that, they mobilised the population and said let us get together and clean up this country making this country a better physical State. That is what ought to have been done in terms of bringing our people together, unifying our people, giving our people a stake in this country from the young right through to the elderly once they are physically fit but that was not done.

It has been mentioned, Mr. Chairman, on Both Sides of the Parliament about the correlation about the issue of drainage and the debushing campaign and I have the honour of representing a constituency that every time you have 10 minutes of rainfall a large part of it is flooded. Yes, I give credit to the Minister of Environment and Drainage after tremendous probing. We had to sign petitions among the communities and send numerous letters but eventually

some work has been done in some parts of the constituency, Mr. Chairman, therefore it held up better than normal last week Tuesday, but still you have a situation where trench is like a lake. Money has been voted on since I came into this Parliament, I think in terms of the climate change aspect by the International Development Fund that I understand some of it was to be used to the trench but nothing has been done. I could only urge the Government so to think on these things when using this money do not only use this money that has been voted on in this Parliament for Democratic Labour Party (DLP) held constituencies and not use it on constituencies of which they feel that they have no chance of capturing next election. Everybody pays taxes and if I am to refer to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that includes what he is talking about. His departments, whether Rural Development Commission or National Housing Corporation, need to also put money in St. James North and not only in St. Lucy repairing wall houses of people who could afford to repair their own houses.

Again, Mr. Chairman, an error of this Government was to dismantle Beautify Barbados and dismantle the drainage programme. The Drainage Programme Need, I think it was called, dismantled almost three years to the day. The last date of the year 2013 people were given letters saying you are fired so from 1st January you do not have a job. What a way to start a new year but some of the problems that we are encountering now in terms of drainage and in terms of the state of Barbados physically in terms of now having to vote \$3.1 million for a debushing campaign, spend from that? The four or five thousand people who were laid-off in 2013/2014, many of them connected with the environment and in terms of beautifying Barbados. Many of those from my constituency, Mr. Chairman, Beautify Barbados employees gone home with only one week's wage if so much and no vacation pay saying that their contract said so and up to now they cannot get it resolved. This is supposed to be a caring Government that cares about people and all of that and that is not so. This Democratic Labour Party has lost its way and bears no resemblance to the Democratic Labour Party of 50 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, there was no well-thought out programme to replace the work that was being done by these thousands of environmental workers who were laid off because the private sector could not automatically step in and fill the breach, the private sector is under pressure economically in this country too, and therefore the country suffered as a consequence.

Mr. Chairman, we on this side agree as others on that side have agreed that citizens need to take responsibility for their own environment and we on this side will certainly support any initiative by the Government to enforce the laws against those who do not keep their own properties

clean and tidy. We have been hearing for too long now about how you would clean the lots and attach the costs to the land tax bills and all of that. The laws are there as my colleague the Honourable Member for St. James Central has pointed out. Let us enforce the laws. This is one of the problems that we have in Barbados. We are a country of many laws but a lot of them are not enforced.

Before I end, Mr. Chairman, I would wish to wholeheartedly support what my colleagues the Honourable Member for St. James Central and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas have said that we do not want to see this new initiative being politicised on a party basis and being used to augment the fatted calf of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you should wrap up.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: If the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is serious about this programme I would expect to hear in his wrap-up that he intends to write all Honourable Members on this side inviting us to submit names of persons to be employed in this programme because we have people who are willing to work. I could sit down right now and write 100 names. Many of the people who were laid off from the National Conservation Commission, Beautify Barbados and the Drainage Division in the Ministry of the Environment in this country ought to have priority in terms of this employment.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a brief intervention in this discourse. I realise time is limited, Mr. Chairman, and I want to zero in on a couple of accusations made not only by the Speaker who just sat but by others on that side.

It is not a fact, Mr. Chairman, that the Government of the day has excluded any constituency in Barbados in its contemplations of and introduction of this health programme. Indeed, Sir, it is not a new programme. As the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has indicated, it is the continuation of an annual ritual where the Government introduces this programme to supplement the work that is being done by other agencies of Government. Including in those agencies would be the Environmental Health Group from the Ministry of Health, the Drainage Division, the National Conservation Commission, the Ministry of Transport and Works and the like. They have all contributed to the beautification of Barbados on an annual basis.

Mr. Chairman, it is not true to say that Barbados is in this nasty state. That is what you hear all of the time and it needs to stop because what the Honourable Members on the other side must realise is that Barbadians are not blind and they move around the country perhaps more widely than they do and they see Barbados at a more panoramic view to understand what is happening. I made clear before in this House that for the first time Highway 2A from Warrens to Mile-and-a-Quarter is now being cleared on both sides of the street and that is before the other party was in office and that is when Beautify Barbados and all the agencies they talked about was in place. Mr. Chairman, I know why they are upset about Beautify Barbados. There are two reasons why. One is because when they put Beautify Barbados in place they did not make provisions for the continuation of that programme. In fact, the file would reflect that it was the vision of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter that the Beautify Barbados Programme was to run for a period particularly around the Cricket World Cup and then it was to be overtaken or supplanted by the same programme that we have now put in place which the private sector took over and is now doing a very fantastic job around the island.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot have it both ways because to talk about the introduction of this programme as a means of punishing Members of Parliament that are not Democratic Labour Party Members of Parliament is absolute folly and should be punished with excessive laughter, that is the reality because when Project Oasis was put in place, let us not forget, it was put in place while the Ministry of Transport and Works, the Drainage Division, Beautify Barbados and the National Conservation Commission were still doing work. Project Oasis was basically a method of handing out things to people: Weed-whackers, lawn-mowers and small drive mowers which the guys on the block ended up being true entrepreneurs and selling them. They traded them for a better deal. The Honourable Member for St. George North understands what I am saying because he is now punishing that idea with his own laughter. It is a fact, Mr. Chairman, so let us not try to pooh-pooh the Government's programme by suggesting that all of a sudden this Administration is doing something untoward.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time when the Urban Development Commission called in by letter all of the Members of Parliament in St. Michael to roll out a special programme and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was excluded. I was the Minister responsible for the Urban Development Commission and I saw it and the letter forbid anybody from inviting him to the meeting although he was the sitting Member of Parliament for a St. Michael constituency, and the meetings were held here in Parliament, so let us not really reduce a debate that is supposed to be on a certain intellectual level to some

mickey mouse conversation about nothing. I mean, come on.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James Central made what I thought was a fair and balanced speech indicating in his presentation that he too was calling upon people who own lots in Barbados... If Barbados is indeed dirty, it is so because there are several persons many of whom are not even living on the island who have purchased land and left the land there for the Government to keep clean. I have made the point before even when the National Environment Enhancement Programme (NEEP) was in place that it is unfair and unholy for anyone to have that kind of situation. The National Conservation Commission has to spend thousands and thousands of dollars per year to clean the lots of persons who refuse to clean their lots and some of them are civil servants, let me make that point. I can point to specific lots in my constituency that are owned by persons who can do better, but every time they call and persecute the Member of Parliament of the specific constituency suggesting that the National Conservation Commission or the Drainage Division Unit should come out and clean it.

Mr. Chairman, this programme is intended to enhance the presentation of the country. Mr. Chairman, it is intended to clear roadways within communities. It is intended to ensure that the conditions that may pose risk to the safety and security of residents are addressed. This debushing programme is intended to provide opportunities to enhance the socioeconomic status of individuals. What it does is that it complements existing services aimed at protecting and enhancing our environment.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke very glowingly of the environment. The Honourable Member for St. George South got up and linked this debushing programme to the Green Economy Scoping Study. I do not know how the Honourable Member found the link, to criticise bush and water. Mr. Chairman, this is the season for rain and this seasonal rain has been more prolific than it has been in years. It is not that drains are not being cleared, I applaud the Drainage Division because it has been doing its work, but when you have rainfall coming at the extent to which the rainfall came recently, and it overwhelmed the system. If you check, two hours after the water disappeared because it takes the time to get through the drains because the drains' capacity to receive it is sometimes less than adequate.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot come here and criticise the Drainage Division, the Environmental Division, Ministry of Agriculture and all of these places when in truth and in fact, what is actually happening is that we are now beginning to deal with rainfall, which we are happy for, in spite of the difficulties because we need the rainfalls to recharge the aquifers.

Mr. Chairman, I wish I had more time to get into this discussion but I thank you sincerely for the time granted.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak briefly on this important debushing and cleanup Christmas programme, as it is called. I believe it is important for several reasons, it is important because it really puts money into...

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. I do not know if the Honourable Member is trying to be funny or is just kind but there is no reference to Christmas in this programme.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed, Honourable Member.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I call it a debushing cleanup and Christmas programme. I have always called it that, Mr. Chairman, because I feel it is a Christmas programme to put money into the economy. Mr. Chairman, there was a time when the Democratic Labour Party used it to put money into the economy. We have used it from about October to February. I believe that the Government needs to have a programme every year to put some money into the economy at Christmas time and that this is one of the ways that Government usually puts money into the economy, by encouraging people to clean up at Christmas.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank God himself for Christmas because without Christmas a lot of people would not clean. Without Christmas people would not be cleaning their homes. If there was no Christmas people would not be cleaning their lots or their yards and therefore it is good that we can have Christmas. Mr. Chairman, it is good that Government recognises in a Christian community that we need to set aside some time to have the society cleaned.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that I think it is a bit late, I think this Government should have started at least six weeks ago in order to clean up some of the tourist attractions. We have, in my area of Gun Hill, for example, there is still a lot of overgrown bush, in Bath and on the east coast. I recently traveled across the east coast and there is bush on both sides of the road that needs to be cleaned. Also, around Harrison's Cave to be cleaned.

Mr. Chairman, it is important for us to ensure that areas that are in derelict condition... I am not saying that the country is in a nasty position as one Member was saying but the country needs to be spruced up. I have a lot of friends who I have not seen for a long time who is here

in the country, for example, a Dr. Alleyne who is here from Georgia. There is another family from London. I have a group of people in from Canada. I met a group at the 8-Ball Lounge yesterday who are in from Canada. We have people all over Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet have done a wonderful job. I must thank the Minister of Tourism for inviting thousands of Barbadians here but by inviting them here, the Honourable Member seemed to have invited them to their homes but did not give them anything to eat; you invite people to your home and you have not given them the tools either to eat or you have invited them to a dirty place, which is not good and so you are spending the money after the fact.

Mr. Chairman, can you imagine this? It is so selfish that the Government has now brought a programme that they should have brought since October, this is a Government in reverse. Mr. Chairman, I am saying that this programme should have started six months ago. We would want to ensure that in future years that the programme would start a bit early.

Mr. Chairman, I am not telling this Government who to employ but a sensible Government would ensure that they would give the Opposition some consideration to employ some of their people. After all, you want to be able to encourage all people, so that a good Government would ensure that all 30 constituencies would have a few names on that list. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Government will take advice on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I would also want to thank my community at Charles Rowe Bridge. If you travel across St. George today you would see that the folks at Charles Rowe Bridge have not only cleaned up the area very nicely but they have also painted it, without Government's assistance. They went out and bought their rakes and hoes and have cleaned up that environment.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, they have painted it in the colours of Barbados. I must tell you, that wall was erected several years ago by C.O. Williams Construction Limited without Government's finances. It was a gift to the people in that area because the land used to wash down into the street. I want to thank those persons who have done it and to thank the community for becoming involved continuously. Mr. Chairman, if you pass there any weekend you would see that those guys take it upon themselves to clean up that area. Mr. Chairman, I want to encourage communities across Barbados to get involved and to ensure that their community is the best. Mr. Chairman, there was a time when we used to have Christmas competitions; I do not know if you remember

that. There used to be Christmas competitions in St. John and St. Philip. We had a garden competition. At one time there was a lighting competition, and all of these are important for Christmas because I believe Christmas is a special time. I do not see these competitions anymore, and I think that the Government and the private sector need to get involved in some of these things.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to make a plea for the gullies. The gullies need to be cleaned, as well as the pathways and so on. I also feel that the Government needs to keep its own land in good shape. That is why the Ministry of Health should prosecute the Ministry of Housing which has a lot of derelict properties all across Barbados. I would want to hear from the Minister what his intention is regarding the Government-owned lands all across Barbados. Prosecute the Minister of Housing for keeping a very dirty space. At Walkers and Constant, St. George, you still have some land that needs to be cleaned. You need to clean your land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to detain the House too long in this summary because I think that Honourable Members have largely tried to cover all the areas which indeed this programme has set out as its objective. I think I attempted in my opening remarks to certainly connect with the financial ideas and the financial underpinning of the programme, the potential for saving money because of improved efficiencies and human output, management of the environment, reducing diseases, et cetera. As we went along, there were all kinds of suggestions being made. I think one Honourable Member wanted to know if we should add the \$3.1 million to the \$5 million. I do not know why we would want to do that. In the Budget Statement, the Minister of Finance said, on Page 49, "Indeed, Sir, not only are we going to use part of the resources from this Levy to bring relief to the capital needs of the agencies (the areas related to sanitation, et cetera), we will also set aside at least \$5 million to go towards (this is the part to which we have to listen carefully if we want to understand how the money is being allocated) the initiation of a national cleanup and debushing programme to be implemented over the next five months to clean this country up." Mr. Chairman, I therefore submit that clearly indicates that we would have set about putting this programme in place knowing that the allocation for the remainder of the Financial Year -- that is what the Budget speaks to -- we would set aside as much as \$5 million for the programme. We are proposing to ask for \$3.1 million so that we have even come in slightly under the allocation. That is the thinking behind the programme, and I hope that explains the amount that is intended to be spent over the next period to deal with the programme. It is \$3.15 million and not 3.15 plus five, so I thought I would clarify that.

The Honourable Member who just sat down -- we know the Honourable Member for St. George North very well -- always tries to pretend that he does not understand what is happening and starts to put his own spin on these events. He says it is a Christmas programme to put money in the hands of people for Christmas and that kind of thing, and then says, "maybe spruce up the place." I want to submit that a programme that runs from now until the end of March cannot only be a Christmas programme, Sir. It has to be a New Year programme, an Errol Barrow Day programme, a Valentine's Day programme and an Easter programme. Then we will come back next year in the Estimates Debate, as I said, and we will include another \$5 million or so for the programme, because as things improve you will not have to put as much resources behind it. We think that as the situation improves, it will get less and less, so the \$5 million then would probably be enough to run an all-year programme which would then give us a summer programme, an Independence programme and another Christmas programme for the Honourable Member for St. George North. You can see where the thinking is.

I think the important thing to remember is, yes, I take the point from Honourable Members that it has to be a national programme. I want to invite all Honourable Members to submit areas in their constituencies that require debushing and which they think need some attention, so as to assist the polyclinics in managing this programme. If you submit those lot numbers in areas to us, we would be happy to make sure they are included in the cleanup programme. It is a national programme. Yes, from my sighting of the participation so far, which is managed by the staff of the Ministry of Health, they are including persons from all over Barbados. This is something that I support fully, and I believe that the Permanent Secretary and the team at the Ministry of Health will make sure that such inclusiveness takes place. We are not only including areas from all of our constituencies that need attention, but we are also making sure that persons from all over Barbados can benefit from any remuneration or any gains, and can participate. It is not only about earning some money, but it is about also giving of your best, and one of the things we have to share with the persons who are in this programme is that it is important that we work for our programme and that we do not shirk from the task that we have set ourselves. Nobody is pretending that it is easy work, and I know that the supervisors associated with the programme are experienced persons who know when to push and when to give easement. I am satisfied that, in my examination so far, these important considerations will be part of the entire programme features.

I therefore want to thank Honourable Members for the very generous support given to the programme. I believe this is a winner for all of us, and I want to thank certainly the Ministry of Finance for finding the means by which this money could be made available for such a

programme to help us improve our environment, clean our countryside, clear some of the rubbish, get rid of the disease-causing vectors in our communities and in our villages, and be able to look forward to a healthy and indeed wealthy Barbados over the immediate future. Mr. Chairman, with those few words I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

The question that Head 23 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER No. 22

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$600 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2016/2017 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES No. 3 2016/2017 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 72: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600 000

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution proposes to deal with a sum of money that really is set up under a virement arrangement and is the new policy of the Ministry of Finance that when you are introducing virement from one capital vote to another capital vote that has to be done not but internal management processes but it has to be done via a supplementary. The original vote would have been done under "Assets Under Construction", but what the supplementary is proposing is that the funds that we are asking for are funds to be used to do some retrofitting and some upgrades. As a result that particular classification would not be useful. The Resolution therefore purports that a transition of the funds would now be required under the new classification of funds being used for retrofitting and as a result the Supplementary is asking for that \$600 000 that would have been under "Assets Under Construction" for assets only for to be now transferred to that for assets under For retrofitting and upgrades. Sir, the sums are being used essential to upgrade three areas. The first area is the Old Onion Bond. The second area is the managers' facilities at the Home Agricultural Station and in addition also the Bullens agricultural facility is under consideration in this regard. Those funds are essentially therefore, to be used for those particular. As I said, the Home Agricultural Station, the Bullens Agricultural Station and also that of the Old Onion Bond. Mr. Chairman, I think that clarifies quite readily the rationale behind the Resolution and what

the funds being required are to be utilised for. Mr. Chairman, I therefore beg that Head 72 Stand Part.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 72 Stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER No. 27

Resolution to grant the sum of \$10 363 838 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2016/2017 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates number 5 2016/2017 which forms the schedule to the Resolution.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, Head #35 deals with two matters, one for \$5 million to pay the legal representing for Barack and Company Limited versus the National Housing Corporation and as you know this is moneys that would have dated back prior to 2000 when the previous Government would have entered into an arrangement for Barack and Company Limited to construct a property at Warrens and then refused to pay and it had to go into litigation. We are now settling the legal aspect in terms of the legal costs and we are now part paying a very substantial bill after having to pay substantial sums to Barack and Company Limited. In terms of settlement, we are now dealing with the legal aspect and this is only part thereof. This is only a part payment and I can assure you that the legal bill is very substantial and it might even come to more than if the bill was settled when it was first presented to the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) we would have settled nearly over \$70 something million in cost to Barack himself and we expect the legal bill can be very substantial when one looks at what we have to pay to the lawyers who represented Mr. Barack from the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and the lawyers who represented the National Housing Corporation and then there are also some other lawyers who would have also represented Mr. Barack, there are another two sets. What we are dealing with is only about one thirds of what we would have to pay for what we know so far but there will also be other legal bills which we cannot speak to because they have not been settled as yet. This is a very messy affair. This is a matter that surely when one considers the substantial costs to this country, now one can understand why when we have to deal with certain matters we do not have the cash because the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) refused to take charge of this matter and now we are faced with substantial moneys to pay. The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) would not have had to account for this money because, as I keep saying to this House, the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was

fortunately to deal with the cash basis and that is that they only accounted for what was paid. Now that this Government is faced with the accrual system we have to account not only for what we have incurred, paid in cash and due but we also have to pick up the substantial amounts left on the books by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). When you hear me speak to these matters, when you hear me speak to the cash basis versus the accrual basis, now you should have a better understanding of the problems that we have been confronted with as a Government because here is a good example of the cash basis versus the accrual basis. Even though judgment was given on this matter and they knew how much they were expected to pay even though they did not know the full length amount, you have a situation where we now have to account for all of the money, over \$70 something million to Mr. Barack, substantial sums for legal costs and it means that even though we did not get the benefit of the doubt that we now have to pay the cost to the country for this mess that was left for us. This is not only all because you have the highways, you have other litigation and this is all to say that when you hear me talking do not think that I do not understand what I am talking about. The Barbados Labour Party was fortunate because they only paid the money they had in hand but all of the other expenditures they did not pay for. Mr. Chairman, this is a matter we found in the desk that was not accounted for and that was not being paid for, and now that we have the accrual system we have to account for it and show it. Mr. Chairman, we had a situation where we had \$5 million that we did not get involved in but yet still we have to account for it so now when the public hears that we do not have money to spend as we should or that the money we earned in the current year that we now have to find that money to pay expenditures that were committed many years ago, they understand what we speak about.

Mr. Chairman, what is interesting is that we are expected to find not only current expenditures but we also are expected to find money for accrual expenditures so when you hear about problems at the Graeme Hall Swamp and you hear people blaming the Democratic Labour Party, the public must understand what we have inherited. We hear of a situation where a plant was built at the Graeme Hall Swamp that was not even primary... We get in here and call that plant at Graeme Hall Swamp a primary plant but it is not a primary plant because it was never taken to the primary stage furthermore to the secondary or tertiary stage.

What is interesting, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not going to run away from these problems even though we have inherited them. We are going to solve all of the problems left to us by the Barbados Labour Party, and all of the problems we see on the landscape we will solve them too because we are a Government of problem solvers. We will solve every single problem. Do not care what it is,

we will solve it because from the time we came to this country as a Government we have had to solve the problems. From 1961 to now we have always had to correct the problems of the Barbados Labour Party. We are not going to run away from the problems, we are going to stand up like men and women and solve them, so do not care how they run from the Public Accounts Committee Meeting to run up to Worthing to create an issue we will solve the problems because it is our job to solve the problems.

Mr. Chairman, this is a supplementary under the Ministry of Housing and Lands for \$5 million to pay for something we are not guilty of but that we have to pay. We now also have to pay another \$5 million which is ours, \$363 838, where the Treasury of Barbados has taken charge of the expenditure to help service the debt of the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I have been in this place for over 20-something years and every time they brought a housing project to this House I warned the Barbados Labour Party that they cannot continue to come in here and undersell properties, build up large deficits and then expect an organisation like the National Housing Corporation to have money. Every joint venture the Barbados Labour Party entered into they have lost money even when they did it with the Republic Bank in St. James so when you see us now having to come and ask the Ministry of Finance to help us to service this debt it is not because of what we are doing now it is because of the accumulated deficits that were left on the books. The cash that I am earning now I have to use it to liquidate the debts of the Barbados Labour Party left under the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I make this House one solemn commitment. Once I am around and once I am given the leverage I will ensure that we use the resources in such a way that we differentiate between social projects and we will also create commercial projects to have enough surplus to subsidise the social cost while at the same time making the National Housing Corporation viable. There are a lot of people who say to get rid of people. People fly down here and talk about get rid of this and get rid of that but they do not understand that when you get rid of this or get rid of that that you still have the cost to service.

Mr. Chairman, I intend as Minister to ensure that I create viable projects that will earn a profit because now that we are dealing with the accrual system we cannot be talking about surplus we got to be talking about a profit so that we can liquidate the past debts. Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the day when we are able to wipe out the whole debt of the National Housing Corporation but we can only do it if we are prepared to segregate the lands where we have some for social housing and some for commercial

housing and where we can sell some at a profit where we can liquidate that debt.

Mr. Chairman, while I am this, I also want to deal with an issue that was taken up by people who do not understand these issues. Some time back you saw an article in the newspaper where the National Housing Corporation was paying \$10 000 at The Grotto for security, and somebody called me and I said that we were not only paying for security for The Grotto but at other housing projects and they ran off with a story and said that I said that the \$10 000 was the totalled cost for everything. I never said that. I said that we were paying it at The Grotto because we had problems elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when people were vandalising our houses and stealing from the sites it would have been irresponsible of me if I did not take action and protect the property of the taxpayers of this country. When the Chairman and the Board reported to me what was happening and sought to have a discussion with me, I said to them that we cannot have a project that is valued at over \$34 million and not expect that the same way they are treating the other sites that they will not treat that site. When one looks at the type of action that was occurring where people were moving in and breaking glass windows, taking off doors and carrying away fittings we could not send a simple watchman to that site because we would have been putting a watchman in danger and we would still not be protecting the assets of the country. I told the Chairman and the Board to put the necessary security in place because this is a serious matter and it has to be dealt with in that particular way and that was done and people are telling me to pay \$10 000 to protect \$34 million is irresponsible. Mr. Chairman, I want to say to all those who thought it was irresponsible that if they were in position and did not do it they would deserve to be locked up for not protecting Government so I am not apologising to anybody for looking after and safeguarding the assets of the country because at the end of the day had I not done that the Brigadier or the Colonel on the other side would come for me because he would have been the first to say let me get him because he was being irresponsible. Mr. Chairman, now that I have done that I know he cannot accuse me of being irresponsible but if he wants to play politics he is free to do it on this particular matter.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we are here today to look after the debt of our time that was incurred from 2008 and we are here to incur debt that was committed prior to 2008 that we have to bring to book because we are using the accrual system. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to say that whenever we are discussing the deficit of this country we cannot discuss the deficit today unless we go back and prorate the figures used by the Barbados Labour Party because if we are talking about our debt and the deficit et cetera, we have to go back and tabulate them using the

accrual system. Mr. Chairman, that is why sometimes you would hear me saying that the international agencies are not being fair to me or this country or to this Government because they cannot come and tell me that they are measuring me today the same way they are measuring. Mr. Chairman, it is because they cannot come and tell me that they are measuring me today in the same way that they would have measured the Barbados Labour Party, when the Barbados Labour Party was being measured on the cash basis system, only when money was paid. Today, it is not only done when money is paid but when money is incurred and also the amount that was due previously by the Barbados Labour Party that is now coming to book, so that it is not apples and apples, but apples and oranges. Therefore, if you want to measure you have to measure us using the same basis. If you want to have a comparison, it has to be done using the same basis.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying to you that this Government has been unfair, that is why sometimes you might hear me say that I might forgive the economists but I do not forgive the accountants because I know that they know better, because the cash basis is for a club and that if we have accepted ourselves as a business, then it must be treated like that. I am calling on those to be to go back and measure the Barbados Labour Party using the accrual basis and then we would not talk about how many downgrades that this Government has been able to have registered against it, you would be shocked to see how many downgrades that the Barbados Labour Party would have had. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now beg to move that Head 75 do now pass.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention. I do not understand why at this time in our history that we should still be going down the blame game exercise the Honourable Member for St. Lucy seems too often to want to be pursuing. I want to say that I am glad to learn that Government is making efforts to settle the bills that are due to Mr. Barrack and his lawyers. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member would have made mention of \$5 million as only a fraction but it would be useful not only for this Honourable Chamber but for the public of Barbados to be made aware as to how much is due to this whole project.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member knows fully-well that when the High Court had given its ruling on the Barrack Building and the whole project that there was an appeal. Mr. Chairman, I am not a legal person but I know that if there is an appeal, then one cannot settle the debt that was owed and so as a result of the handing over of this Government in 2008 to the Democratic Labour Party Government, the Government in present existence, they

reneged when the final judgment was given to pay Mr. Barrack and to settle with his lawyers.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Honourable Member may want to tell us how much is due to Mr. Barrack now that decisions were made two or three years ago for a settlement, when Mr. Barrack painted his face white and chained down the doors there. I understand that an amount was given to him. I also understand that even a property in St. Philip and perhaps elsewhere would have been offered to him, where people were paying their dues, paying their bills, paying their mortgages for the spots that were there, and I understand, Sir, that that is now in a whole lot of confusion because the land was given to Mr. Barrack in exchange for some of what Government had owed him.

Mr. Chairman, as a layperson I would want to know exactly how much is due to Mr. Barrack and to his legal luminaries, so that we can have a better understanding. Mr. Chairman, yes, it is a Supplementary for \$5 million but the public of Barbados needs to know. The Democratic Labour Party said that they will not conceal any information, especially in relation to the taxpayers' money. They have made those various pledges in their Manifestos and as a layperson, Sir, I would like to know how much is due so that when I speak, I can speak from a background of truth and knowledge and not just from speculations. Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the taxpayers of Barbados would want us to be speculating.

Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me to make a few more queries of the Honourable Minister. It would be tangential but it would be useful if at this time the rest of the public is speculating, if the Honourable Member would give us an idea as to how much now has to be paid by this Government and the taxpayers for the water to flow up to the third and fifth floor of The Grotto because we understand that those three floors are not now receiving any water. I do not know if a pump has to be put in, I do not know what systems would have to be put in place but we would want to know because we would like to lend support to a project of this nature because we would like for people in Barbados who are hungry for somewhere to live, to be able to occupy those expensive facilities that are built there.

Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member can tell us, because I believe by now the Honourable Member is managing the Ministry and not the former Minister, what is the budget so that we can have those blown tiles in The Grotto replaced to be able to have them made habitable again. Mr. Chairman, I have constituents who are hungry to buy properties but they cannot because those facilities are not available to them, those facilities are available at very high cost to the taxpayers of Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I would really want for the Honourable Member to tell us.

Mr. Chairman, the final query I would want to make through you, if you would allow me, is to find out from the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development what is the status of Government buildings and the insurance policies for those buildings, especially at this time when last week we saw some schools being flooded out and other Government departments having serious problems. If the insurance policies are not paid, just in case there are any injuries such as people falling, damage to furniture, et cetera, I would want for the Honourable Member to be able to give us some sense of assurance that the buildings are already insured or that there is a plan to have them insured so that when people enter them, either to work, to recreate or whatever, that those insurances are already paid for so that people would know that they are safe and that they are ready to move forward.

Mr. Chairman, I know that in relation to Constant, Lancaster, River, among others, they were in such a bad state. There were bushes, repairs had to happen, wood had to be taken out, windows had to be changed, particularly in Constant. I know of those because I took photographs of them. Perhaps the Honourable Member can give us a brief status report in this Supplementary so that any other Supplementary the Honourable Member comes with in relation to housing and making sure that the H.E.L.P. programme can become the reality that the Democratic Labour Party wanted it to be, because once people have somewhere that is comfortable and people are given that opportunity where they are able to pay their bills through employment from this Government that promised nobody would be sent home, I can leave here this evening feeling better about what is happening in my country, especially at this time of Christmas when people want to be empowered with the ownership of a piece of this rock.

Mr. Chairman, that is my brief intervention. I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I want to spend a few minutes speaking to this Resolution, Head 75, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development in the amount of \$10 363 838. I want to commend the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development for the explanation which the Honourable Member has given. Of course, the Honourable Member who has just spoken does not want to hear that explanation, that Honourable Member wants to hear about blown tiles in some buildings, that is part of a construction hazard that we always face. Mr. Chairman, the truth is that when you start wrong you finish wrong. The Honourable Member does not want to hear this story but I am here to tell the story. The people of Barbados must know what this \$10 million is about, and I say when you start wrong, you end wrong. The Barbados Labour Party,

and I want them to come out of the holes now and talk about this money, changed the mandate of the National Housing Corporation way back before the Election in 1999, so that they stopped building houses for poor people and built buildings for Government offices. They changed the mandate. They came into this House of Assembly and changed the mandate. The Honourable Member was around. It was no blown tiles in the Grotto, Mr. Chairman; the Honourable Member knows that very well. Then the sweeping election victory in 1999 was coincidental to one of the largest mobilisation payments ever given to a contractor in Barbados for the construction of this same building that now hangs over the necks of Barbadian taxpayers. Who were the two or three players? The Honourable Member for St. Andrew had a junior who sneaked out earlier because he knew this was coming. The Member for St. George North was the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Transport. It was a combination never heard of, constructed carefully by the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter. It is a configuration of coincidences, Mr. Chairman. It was not blown tiles. It was not leaking gutters. We are witnesses today to the results of this work, Mr. Chairman. It is only a few more months or so before we start having issues at that building in Country Road. It is the first example. We pass and we look at it every day and we see how the outside is looking.

Aside.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: We know. Then we move from that building to the famous Warrens Office Towers, familiarly known as the Barrack Building. This is a part. Do you want to know who the \$5 million is for? Do you really want to know who the \$5 million is for, Honourable Member? I know who it is for. It is a Supplementary provision. It is written down here; read it. It is a Supplementary provision required to cover part of the outstanding debt due to legal counsel in the court case of Barrack Construction Limited versus the National Housing Corporation. Do you want to know what the legal counsel's name is? Do you want the name too?

Aside.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: It is \$5 million. You cannot read? That is the \$5 million. I made the point because we come in here and the Honourable Member especially, and other colleagues of the Honourable Member, pretend that these days are done, but the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Minister of Housing, was careful to point out that even with this, we have only begun to scratch the surface of payments that will have to be made because of this. I said when you start wrong, you end wrong, and the Honourable Member was there when the Barbados Labour Party changed the mandate of the National Housing

Corporation. I was a Member of the Senate for a brief period; about 18 months.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Yes, I am getting to that too. Mr. Chairman, it is strange that you would think that we are looking to use... We asked for \$3 million this morning, and the whole place was full, because we were going to give some people a little work cutting down some bush and cleaning up Barbados; so the whole Labour Party was in here beating up on me and the other Members on this side about this cleanup programme. All of a sudden, we have \$5 million for them and only two Members are in here. I want to see the Members. I want to hear them. Come and talk to me, Mr. Chairman. I want them to come and talk with us. Explain this to me and the Honourable Members on this side, and also explain to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas because she does not know. She thinks this \$5 million is to fix blown ties in the Grotto; it is not for that. It is legal fees for the counsel in the court case of Barrack Construction Limited; a horrible catastrophe wrought on this country by the Barbados Labour Party.

Aside.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Yes, repetition is good so that we can understand. When the Chairman is fed-up with my repetition, he will stop me. The Rules of the House deal with those matters. The Rules of the House deal with senseless repetition, but everybody in here knows that this repetition is important. I have never seen the Honourable Member so rattled and involved in \$5 million that has nothing to do with her. She is not going to get any of this; not in her arm. I know that come soon there will be a public outcry about the sewage plant at St. Lawrence, and we will have a chance to talk about that too, because I was around then too.

Mr. Chairman, the important thing is that we recognise what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Minister of Housing, has told this Chamber. I do not begrudge anyone their fair earnings but I believe that we as a Government...

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for quietening the noises of the Member for St. Thomas, but I really want us to understanding that this is only the beginning. The Minister was careful to say that there are many issues related to this project. We have now safely paid for the Warrens Office Towers about ten times. We paid Barrack Construction a substantial amount of money at the mobilisation of the project; the project was then turned over to the Chinese to complete and we paid them, and then we had to face a court case which the

Barbados Labour Party Administration refused to defend, and it landed squarely in our laps to deal with the issue. That is where this is coming from, so we are going to finish up paying anywhere in the region of \$150 million or \$160 million for that building. Not "we"; it is the taxpayers of Barbados. Then you are going to come and tell me about fiscal deficit and balance of payments and downgrades and all these kinds of things. How can you avoid it when you are accumulating these kinds of inefficiencies and incompetencies under the Barbados Labour Party and its Administration? The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter has made the point, and I do not want him to forget it, that he was a spending Prime Minister or rather a spending Minister of Finance.

Aside.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: No, he is not with 'wunnah'. He is out from you for the time being until things get reorganised, so you hold on. Hold tight. It may happen in your time. The plot is not finished, the story is not complete; so if you believe that the story is complete, you can go down that road, Mr. Chairman. I am not buying it. The Right Honourable Member was the spending Minister of Finance, he said so in his own words and this is another example of the spending Minister of Finance. All that happen is this Minister of Finance now is the one that have to account for it so we have to come in here and face the bullet. We have to come in here and tell the people of Barbados that here goes another \$5 million and did not hear any quarrelling about this. I did not hear if it is adding on to anything. The \$3 million we asked for this morning was supposed to add on to something that we have read in some note, Sir, it was not \$3 million, it was \$8 million and we were telling lies. Do you remember? I want to know if we are telling truth now. Are we telling the truth now? Is this \$5 million for your legal counsel or do we have to add something to this? I know that I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made the point that this is only the beginning so I believe that we have something to add to this. We are going to hear it regular in here. We are going to hear it between now and the next 18 months very often as we set the picture in Barbados for what is really happening. What is really happening to the finance in this country? What caused us essentially to be where we are and this is part of what has caused us to be where we are so, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this Resolution I felt that I need to stand and put my support squarely behind the Minister of Housing to try to help to explain why we are where we are with this and why the country has found itself burdened with this extreme payment or repayment or multi-payment for that building at Warrens. When I go pass it I break the speed limit, I drive fast and go pass that building because I do not like to see it. I shows me the kind of inefficiencies with which I do not want to be associated. The legal mix ups and the deliberate misappropriation of resources and movement of responsibility of the National

Housing Corporation from providing housing for the poor people of Barbados as was its mandate when it was first established, to one in which it got itself caught up in this kind of exercise and the rest is history and the rest will be the future. This is a burden which this country now has to face as a result of the deliberate actions of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) way back then in 1998/1999 and now in 2016 at the dawn of Christmas at the end of the celebrations of our 50th year of independence we have got to face this kind of payment responsibility and we want to make it very clear. We understand the responsibilities of Government but we believe too that there needs to be an expedition.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that helps to explain where we are in respect to these payment and it is almost with a bleeding conscious that I have to support the Administration's position and make sure and beg to move, Sir, that this Head 75 Stand Part and hope that the skills of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy will allow us to reach a conclusion which we can handle and which the Ministry of Finance can handle. This is an important revelation. It introduces yet again the difficulties which we face and we need to understand, as a public, the reasons why we have got here. If you start wrong, Mr. Chairman, you will end wrong. When you shift the responsibility of the National Housing Corporation from building and providing housing for poor people in Barbados and move into an area deliberately in which you are not skilled and when you are flavoured with the tender rules of Government in the allocation and awards of contracts - and we have not gotten to that yet because that detail have to come out too -- associated with this same project, when everybody in Barbados, all the technical people said no, the contractor being contemplated by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is not competent to do this task.

Aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, wrap up please.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I have it in writing. Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to close this Head 75 and to make the point that any of us who are property owners know that blown tiles are nothing new to any housing. All of us who have houses would know that we have blown tiles so if ... I am not here to tell lies so if all of you want to ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am doing that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No you are not. I am hearing cross talk.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am. I am not in here to tell lies. If there are blown tiles at Grotto, there are blown tiles at Grotto. It is no secret. As I said, all of us who are property owners who know that once you have ceramic tiles that some will blow so if that is the situation, so said, but I am also aware that there have a housing project at Apes Hill and there have a housing project at Mount Poyer and that before the people move into Apes Hill and Mount Poyer, they had to change all the doors, the windows and in the case of Mount Poyer, they had to change all the siding so one gets the impression that all of a sudden a few blown tiles is a big issue when people had to rebuild whole houses under the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). They had to change all the doors but all of a sudden their hands are clean and nothing like this has ever happened. You would hear them talk about water and nobody would believe that when the people bought the houses under them at Apes Hill that the people were not able to get water. So do not let us be hypocrites. Let us be fair and recognise that as long as you are in this business that there are going to be problems and the thing about it, once there are problems and I am a Minister, we will solve the problems.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for ensuring that this mandate was given to me. He has allowed me to serve this particular mandate and I am going to do everything within my power to ensure that total closure is brought to this particular issue and that we put it behind us. You speak about Rices and everything but we need not solve all of that. The same way that I am not going to allow you to treat me like a Blue Peter shark whereby because you said something that you are allowing me to spill my guts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: You cannot hear asides, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, address the Chair.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am address the Chair, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: What I will say, Mr. Chairman, is that I will give information to this House how I want to give information and the Honourable Member for

St. Thomas cannot believe that because she gets up and say something throwing out a piece of bait, thinking that I would bite at it. I would give information everything I come here for a supplementary to deal with the matter. If it comes by a piecemeal realisation I will deal with piecemeal realisation. Mr. Chairman, the insurance I would have to check to see if we still owe and once the financial year has not ended, our financial year ends on 31st March, so if the money is due between now and 31st March it is no big thing because it is for a financial year so if we pay some and we owe some ...

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: You do not understand insurance. If we pay some and we owe some, once we do not go past 31st March that is my problem and I will ensure that it does not go past 31st March by asking the necessary question so if people want to, so If people want the leaks and they do not understand when they get the leaks what they are getting, that is up to them.

I am not aware of any water problem at The Grotto, and I will check it because on Tuesday I heard about leaking roofs in here - it is a good thing that I had the sense to understand a piece of bait thrown across the water - and I denied it because I knew if we had problems with the roof I would have heard about it because with all of that rain that was falling the newspapers would have had it already. Mr. Speaker, when I checked, there was one simple crack in the verandah in Number 2 which is no big thing but when you could come in this House and say that the roof is cracked...

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Well, if the roof is cracked that means that everybody should have been flooded out because it comes from the top and it comes right down. Mr. Speaker, when I investigated the matter it was not true, so I do not know but then...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I expect you to speak to the Head. I am speaking to the Head, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no, Honourable Member. I am hearing the asides and it has nothing to do with the Head, so please speak to the Head.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. All I want to say to you, Sir, is that if another Government building has a problem with water, do not come in here and make it sound like it is another building. I think this House has to be very careful how it receives information because now we are hearing from the Opposition that it was not Valery that it was another building, and I beg to ask why

could that other building not take the charge but Valery had to take the charge.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 75 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 75 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Her Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of three Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER assumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the Money Resolutions were read a first, second and third time and passed.

ORDER No. 19

RESOLUTION THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE (GENERAL) ORDER 2016 MADE BY THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE ON THE 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2016 UNDER SECTIONS 13(1) AND 14(3) OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, CAP. 29 BE APPROVED.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise to move the passing of a Resolution to have this Honourable House approve the Public Service (General) Order of 2016, an Order that was made by the Minister of the Civil Service some time in the month of October.

This General Order is intended to replace the Public Service (General) Order of the year 2008 when the last Public Service (General) Order was made. The Minister with responsibility for the public service is empowered under Section 13 of the Public Service Act, Cap. 29 of the laws of Barbados to do a number of things under the Act. He is empowered to establish offices in the public service, he is also empowered to determine the number of persons who may be appointed to those offices, he is empowered also to prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by persons appointed to those offices, and finally he is empowered to determine the emoluments to be attached to those offices.

Mr. Speaker, it is within the context of the powers conferred on the Minister of the Civil Service who happens

to be the Right Honourable Prime Minister on this occasion that I rise to seek this House's approval for the General Order of 2016 which as I said is intended to replace the General Order of 2008. The Order, of course, is subject to affirmative resolution which means it does not take effect unless passed by this Honourable House and of course passed in the Other Place as well.

From time to time General Orders have to be made because the public service is a very dynamic place. Changes are always taking place across the public service and if one is to keep current and the public service is to be responsive to the needs of the society at any given time, one has to make sure always that the offices established, the emoluments paid and all of the other requirements necessary for the effective administration of the country are in keeping with the objectives of the Government at the time.

The public service of Barbados is, of course, the largest organisation in Barbados. In the public service of Barbados can be found the largest concentration of trained human resources to be found anywhere in this country. There is nobody else in Barbados who has to manage any organisation larger than the Barbados public service and therefore when from time to time you hear pundits speaking with antithetical authority about what the public service should or should not do, or what should happen or should not happen in the public service, you always have to hear that kind of punditry, bearing in mind that any organisations they run are miniscule by comparison or by contrast with the public service they are talking about, its complexity and its vastness are unique in the organizational life of Barbados. Yet if we do not have a properly functioning public service Barbados can grind to a halt because every facet of Barbadian life is touched daily, directly or indirectly by what happens in the public service of Barbados. I really think that I need, just a few days after we have completed 50 years of Independence, to place on record the Government's gratitude and certainly my personal gratitude to the public servants of Barbados for the contribution which they have made to the stability and the development of Barbados for the entire period of its Independence. If we did not have the kind of public service we have had over the last 50 years, our Independence story could not have been as successful as it has turned out to be. That is a fact no one can dispute.

So it is important that from time to time we look at the establishment of posts in the public service and we look at the qualifications that are appropriate to the posts that exist in the public service. So the qualifications order that is usually made is really a derivative of the General Order because only after you have a General Order in place, with which you are satisfied, that you can have a look at the qualifications that would be necessary to fit the posts which have been established in the public service. The

Qualifications Order, of course, the last Qualifications Order was laid in this House in 2001. So the Qualifications Order of 2016 is replacing the Qualifications Order of 2001, but this General Order is replacing the General Order of 2008.

The Public Service General Order of 2016 will obviously take into consideration changes to be made since the enactment of the 2008 General Order. The 2008 General Order is important from the point of view that in the last quarter of 2007, for the first time in the history of Barbados a Public Service Act was passed, and it was not only passed but proclaimed before the end of 2007. In fact I think it was proclaimed on the last day of 2007. For the first time we had a piece of legislation, and we still have it, governs recruitment to the public service, promotion in the public service, transfer in the public service, secondments in the public service and of course dismissals or terminations in the public service. Before that we did not have a concentrated piece of legislation covering all of these issues. That was proclaimed in the last quarter of 2007 and, of course, then a General Order was put in place in 2008.

The General Order we are dealing with today is doing a number of things. It is taking a number of posts that were temporary and now establishing them. That is giving them a permanent character. Then it is creating a number of supernumerary posts. From time to time in the public service supernumerary posts have had to be created. In this particular case, as a result of the passage of the Public Service Act in the last quarter of 2007, and as a result of the provision of Section 7, I think it is, of that piece of legislation which entitled persons who were acting in certain positions for three years or more to be appointed. What in fact happened was, when the provisions of the legislation were examined and when the realities in the public service were examined it became clear that they were more people who were entitled to appointment than there were posts at the time to appoint them. So a few persons were appointed and therefore those persons who could not be accommodated because no posts existed to which they could be appointed, even though they were entitled to appointment, a number of supernumerary posts had to be created for their accommodation and the Public Service General Order of 2016 is dealing with that.

It also deals with corrections of errors and omissions from the Public Service General Order of 2008. Obviously these General Orders are not made in heaven and we cannot apply the standard of angels. We have to apply the standard of men, ordinary men and women, and from time to time errors and omissions will take place, and therefore what errors and omissions were detected in the 2008 Order are being corrected in the Order of 2016.

It is also dealing with the reassignment of posts transferred from ministries and departments because the actual day to day functioning of the public service is at a dynamic affair and because the public service always has to be responding to the exigencies of the moment and the challenges thrown up by the evolution taking place in society, from time to time posts have to move ministries and departments to other ministries and departments and that requires regularization from time to time, and that is what the Order of 2016 is doing.

Also, as a result of ministerial reallocations, very often departments under one ministry are moved to another in a ministerial reallocation. There were a few ministerial allocation since the year 2008, and therefore the Order is streamlining those changes that were made as a consequence of the reallocation of ministerial portfolios. It is also dealing with changes made in ministries and department necessitating the redesignation or and or the upgrade of posts. These requests come through from time to time where, in order that the requirements of ministries and departments can be satisfied, requests are made that certain posts be redesignated, rechristened or upgraded so that the public service can always be seen to be responsive to the needs of good administration and, of course, the pursuit of developmental objectives.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Order is also dealing with that and obviously it is also dealing with the abolition of certain posts because again, as changes take place across the service, it is discovered from time to time that posts that you needed in an old situation are not needed in a new situation and that posts have to be abolished. One good example taking care of in this Order relates to the Department of the Supervisor of Insurance. Once you establish a Financial Services Commission which took over all the functions of the Supervisor of Insurance, you no longer need a Supervisor of Insurance or the persons who would have been functioning in that department because the Financial Services Commission has taken over those responsibilities and therefore posts have had to be abolished in those circumstances.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is that kind of situation which we are dealing with in the Public Service General Order, 2016, and as I said, the Qualifications Order is a derivative of the Public Service General Order. This is always a big challenge, Madam Deputy Speaker, because given how our Public Service has evolved, and let us be reminded, I said it in this Honourable House already, I need to say it again because sometimes we tend to forget, ministerial government, government by ministers was really effectively introduced in Barbados in 1954 but before ministerial government was introduced, we had a Public Service, so public servants were here before ministers and the coming of ministers, of course, presented

its own challenges in terms of the relationship between ministers and public servants.

In fact, in the early years ministers were seen as trespassers because work that was being done for all the years by public officers and being done quite well, but of course a society was evolving, all of a sudden some of these responsibilities became truncated or chiseled down and so on and reporting relationships changed and the history of public administration in the Caribbean... and Professor Gladstone Mills, Jamaica, and Professor Edwin Jones, Jamaica, and a few other people have written well on the evolution of public administration in the Caribbean. But the literature brittles with these conflicts, the conflict between ministers and senior public servants still exist today. We try to manage these things and manage them as well as possible and of course the relationships between the technical arm of the Public Service and the administrative arm of the Public Service, that leads to conflicts as well, because sometimes where power really resides is an issue that has to be resolved and sometimes if the wrong personalities are involved these relationships can become very conflictual, so when we are looking at the Public Service we always have to view it contextually and be conscious of how it has evolved here in the Caribbean.

Madam Deputy Speaker, that is the context within which I just want to say a few words very briefly about qualifications, because some of the best public servants we have had in Barbados who have reached the level of Permanent Secretary and whom we have celebrated as some of the best public officers the country has known, could not be Permanent Secretaries in the year 2016 because they became Permanent Secretaries and did not have university degrees, or never had university education. They might have had some minor bits of training, but they came through the service and learnt the service very well and did their work very well. But in today's Barbados, given how the society has changed and the expansion of educational opportunities and people parading Bachelors' Degrees and Masters' Degrees and Doctorate, those persons could not become Permanent Secretaries today, although we remember them fondly for the contribution which they have made.

Recently the Office of Public Sector Reform had a 50th Anniversary event at which I did the feature address. It was a very well organised event and a properly organised event from the point of view that it sought to say thanks to some of the great public servants that passed through the Public Service over the last 50 years, and many of the names we heard that day have left mighty reputation behind them, but there were a few of them who never had a tertiary education, but were great public officers. Even today when you read the files and the quality of their Minutes and you see the quality of their handwriting and so on, you feel proud, but they belonged to a different age.

Today, qualifications now matter and as posts are established, as posts are created and so on, it is important to ensure that the qualifications required fit those posts, so that you always get the right talents to do the jobs that you want done.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Public Service Act, 2007, has created an environment or an ethos, I should say, of competition in the Public Service. Under the old Order it was age and experience that counted for a lot, so that who was here longest or who was here first usually could count on the preferment. But the Act has changed all of that and now we have an environment, an ethos, that is characterised by competitive encounter and therefore most of the senior posts in the Public Service now have to be advertised, everybody has a chance to apply as long as you have the requisite qualifications and based on how your interviews and your reports and so on go, you may or may not get appointed. That is a dramatic change from the old seniority long-stay approach to promotion and preferment in the Public Service.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the truth is that eight years is a very short time to change any culture and therefore even though this ethos has been created by the legislation, the mind set of seniority and who was there before and who only came in later and so on, those issues still agitate the minds of people in the Public Service. That is going to take a little time to change because as I said, eight years is a very short time to change any culture, but we are doing the best we can. Of course, it is now eight years since we have seen the Public Service Act in operation and what we have done is to have a very expert Committee looked at the legislation seven years later. The Report, I think, is ready and we have to take some decisions on it, to see what have been the challenges ever since the Act came into existence and what changes need to be made to make it more user friendly. In the fullness of time, not too long from now, we will be coming to the House with a wrath of amendments to the Public Service Act, of course, to take account of all the challenges which people have said that they have encountered with its operations and we intend that those amendments should make it a lot more user friendly. Qualifications and the Qualification Order are now very important and the Qualification Order of 2016 has sought to make the qualifications required for posts as relevant as possible to the demands of the society, the demands of the public service and a good example, Madam Deputy Speaker, would be the recognition now being given to Caribbean Vocational Qualifications.

There is a cohort of employee in the public service that renders important and critical and strategically necessary service to the public of Barbados but what they do does not necessitate the possession of academic qualifications but necessitates the possession of certain competencies therefore, the Caribbean Vocational

Qualification is now getting formal recognition in the new Qualifications Order 2016 and that is a great leap forward. Of course, the national vocational qualification will eventually get the same kind of recognition but we will be monitoring equivalencies as we go along and making sure that important competencies are given the kind of recognition that they deserve.

Another significant change that the Qualifications Order is focussing on is a change that, I think, coming as it is in the 50th year of our independence its significance cannot be underestimated. For some considerable time, managing this large and complex organisation, we have tended to focus on the management of personnel and therefore we have focussed on getting the system to work by how we manipulate and move people around, personnel management. The focus therefore was not so much on the personnel as on the system itself. The new Qualifications Order is effecting a transition from that mind-set of personnel management - and I have spoken publicly about this already and the need for it in Barbados -- to human resource development where the focus now shifts to the officer and how he or she can be developed, made a more complete person within the context of the public service workplace so that he or she can give more than a crude personnel management ethos can create and that is very important. In fact, I think, that both in the public sector and in the private sector in Barbados and in the Caribbean generally, I have to say, this focus on personnel management rather than on human resource development has had a retarding effect on our development.

I have had occasion to say elsewhere and I say it because I verily believe it, that a good indicator of the importance attached to human resource management at the workplace is the fact that the financial controller at most of our workplaces takes higher and is better rewarded than any human resource manager although the workplace could not function without its human resource component. The Financial Controller is somewhere near the apex and the Human Resource Manager is more at the middle although the Human Resource Manager is doing what the workplace cannot do without in terms of making sure that the human resource is properly managed and develop and the public service in making this transition through the Qualifications Order 2016, I think, will be setting the tone for the entire society and we hope to see the private sector come along with this and that greater focus be given to human resource development rather than employees being treated just like atoms that are floating around in the atmosphere and may or may not collide with one another and just there to perform functions but have no value in and of themselves. I think the new Qualifications Order 2016 and the Public Service General Order 2016 together have the potential and are intended to develop a public service ethos in Barbados that can accelerate our development and, of course, make employees in the public service even prouder than they are

today of being employees in the public service of Barbados.

This Resolution, Madam Deputy Speaker, is an important Resolution. As I said, it is not the first time a General Order has come, one came in 2008 and it is not the first time that we are dealing with a Qualifications Order, one came in 2001. They have come in the past and they will continue to come in the future because the public service has to be constantly responding to changes taking place in the environment, changes that sometimes the public service itself inspires but changes that sometimes may press themselves on the public service and require the response of the public service in that regard. The passing of this order will now facilitate the making of a number of appointments in the public service. It will also accelerate the recruitment process in terms of the Qualifications Order because they were departments and heads of departments and so on who preferred to wait until these formalities were out of the way so that they could better determine what resources they had to look for therefore, when they advertised they would be sure that they would be advertising for the right skill sets to do the work required by the Government of Barbados.

This Public Service General Order, of course, will now establish 555 posts that are now temporary and that is no small achievement. Of course, as we know, we have had similar achievement in the teaching service where the Teachers General Order and Qualifications Order were put in place so we are trying to modernise our public service

and make it more responsive to the needs of the society and making sure that the gap between aspiration and the realisation of those aspirations by public officers is narrowed and of course the road made more certain. The ultimate beneficiary of all of this would be the society as a whole once we have a properly functioning public service as we have had over the last 50 years. In fact, for the better part of Barbados' modern history, we could count on a very high quality public service and we were able to export human capital to other parts of this region and of course even to the North Atlantic. Madam Deputy Speaker, I think that what we are doing here today would solidify that process and of course position us to develop Barbados even more impressively over the next 50 years of our independence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I just thought I would try to make those observations on the Public Service (General) Order of 2016 and its derivative, although its derivative is not formally before the House because that is done by negative resolution but this is done by affirmative resolution, but the two are related. Having said all of that, it is now my pleasure to move that this Resolution of the Public Service (General) Order 2016 made by the Minister

responsible for the civil service on the 21st of October 2016 be approved.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit I just have to say that although we have a Public Service Act and we talk about the public service, quite perversely, I think, the Minister is still called the Minister of the Civil Service and we have to decide whether we want to have a Minister of the Public Service or a Minister of the Civil Service, that has been something that has happened. Although we have been talking about the public service now and although the Public Service Act defines public service and not civil service we still have a Minister of the civil service looking after the public service, and that is an anomaly that we have to get removed.

Having said that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I am obliged to you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a brief intervention and a few comments on the Public Service (General) Order 2016. Mr. Speaker, I will open by saying that the Barbados Labour Party welcomes any intervention by the Government that will benefit our hardworking civil servants. We know that in this country we often praise ministers for things that have been done properly or things that have been done positively and some of us often forget the hard work of the civil servants, our public servants as we would rather have them called in accordance what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Barbados Labour Party support the initiative to address the whole aspect of appointments and the acceleration of the recruitment process in terms of the Qualifications Order in the public service. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, this is in keeping with the budgetary proposals laid in this House in August 2016. Mr. Speaker, at that time in the Budget presentation we notice that a special committee would have been appointed to oversee the appointments. I do not think I hear that coming from the Right Honourable Member. I may be wrong but in his presentation I did not hear him allude to the fact that the committee has been put in place and is indeed a working committee, and I seek clarification on that in his wrap up.

Mr. Speaker, some of these initiatives in relation to the whole aspect of the Public Service Order 2016 were in place since 2007. The whole aspect of public servants

being entitled to appointments was made since 2007 under the Public Service Act. Those persons who would have been in the service or acting for three years at the end of 2007 had a legitimate expectation to be appointed.

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, said that he would have looked at the Public Service (General) Order eight years after the fact. Again, Mr. Speaker, we understand why at this time it has become so urgent for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South to look at the Public Service (General) Order and the Qualifications Order because we know that within the next 15 to 18 months an election is in the air and it is in keeping with the Honourable Members on the other side to make right what they had made wrong with the public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised that this has come to the House after the budgetary proposals in August of 2016. Mr. Speaker, I would say to this Honourable House that I think that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is a bit too late because this is something basically to say to the public servants who would have endured those harsh measures that the Democratic Labour Party would have introduced over the past five years, hey look we recognise you are here and we want to do something, but I do not think this is enough for the pain the civil servants would have endured especially over the past five years.

We have in the public service a number of persons who would have acted in temporary posts which we are now seeking to establish and who were returned to their substantive posts. Mr. Speaker, we have in the civil service persons who have been recruited into the civil service who have also superseded those persons who have been acting in these posts for over three years. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the civil servants in this country are intelligent people, they are bright people and they understand the whole working with politicians and how Government operates because it is often said and it is known that the civil servants are the ones who runs the Government, they advise all ministers with respect to the technical details on their ministries, and I will even go as far as to say that they advise the Right Honourable Member too who is the highest order in this Lower Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, our civil servants would have had to endure no wage increase since 2010 and I am asking the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South to ensure -- I would never say that the Right Honourable Member is a dishonest person -- but I would want the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South to ensure that the appointments in the Civil Service are transparent and that we do not see a situation here where Democratic Labour Party faithfuls are being appointed to posts, while other persons are reverted to substantive posts. Mr. Speaker, more often than not, when we see those persons

being reverted to their substantive posts, it speaks to a reduction in their salary and take-home pay which impacts upon their families at a time like this.

Mr. Speaker, I would go further to say, we in this country, especially Members on the other side often speak about this whole aspect of economic recession and about challenges in the economy. This is the only country that we are hearing about those things. Recently we heard that the economy has turned its corner, yet we have not seen a salary increase for the civil servants. Mr. Speaker, on top of that, what we are seeing happening in the statutory corporations is that negotiations are being push back, put off, the latest being the workers at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, even though that is a branch of the Public Service, it is a statutory corporation, but we still think that these workers are due their fair treatment. They should be treated the same way that civil servants are treated. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that both of them are not treated properly by Government. I am asking that as we look at the Public Service Order, that the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South would consider the issues and the challenges that the statutory corporations are being faced with at this time.

Mr. Speaker, the workers of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, and I do not want to speak on that because that is a matter that is before the law courts but these are things in which the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South should intervene and resolve, because those statutory corporations workers are workers like the public servants. Mr. Speaker, the workers at the Grantley Adams International Airport need their salary increase, that 3.5 per cent promised them some four years ago, yet they are seeing negotiations being off and put off and put back. I am asking the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South to ensure that negotiations become the main item of Agenda, after the Honourable Member would have established the posts based on the Public Service (General) Order, 2016. The next order of the day is to give the public servants a wage increase. I am asking that the Right Honourable Member seek to bring that as a priority issue to the Lower House.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, this whole aspect of non-political appointments, I would want to give the Right Honourable Member the benefit of the doubt that the Honourable Member would be as transparent as the Honourable Member ought to be as the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and that I know he would, of ensuring that no public servant is being disadvantaged, especially those persons who are acting in temporary posts for years prior to 2007.

Mr. Speaker, we know under the Public Service Act that these persons who would have acted for more than three years are eligible for appointment, based on the 2007 Public Service (General) Order. We are now relooking it, making these necessary emoluments and changes to established posts, but I am asking that those persons who would have been in the system prior to 2007 that they are given favourable consideration and that partisan politics do not dictate appointments in this country. Mr. Speaker that is my request on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, that partisan politics do not dictate appointments in this country.

Mr. Speaker, regarding this whole aspect of Public Sector Reform, I heard the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South mentioning the whole aspect of devaluing. The Honourable Member did not use that word, but talked about the devaluing the role of Human Resource Managers, as opposed to Finance Managers within the Public Sector. I probably used the wrong word, I did not say it in a facetious way for the Right Honourable Member. I am having an above-the-board discourse because in my view, coming from the Public Sector -- and the Honourable Member for St. James South who always seek to jump in when the Honourable Member is not required to -- but in the private sector the whole aspect of job evaluation and reevaluation often dictate whether the Human Resource Managers are seen more important, for want of a better word, than a Manager of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, it has to do with the function or the organisation because, for example, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South can tell you that in an engineering company we recognise that Operations Managers and engineers are compensated at a higher category than Human Resource Managers. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has seen it fit to speak to Public Sector Reform, which is more looking at job evaluation and job reevaluation. Mr. Speaker, I am one who would want to ensure that in this process full transparency is the order of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move onto this whole aspect of recognising the role of the Trade Union Movement, recognising the role of Presidents of the Trade Union Movement in accordance with the International Labour Organisation rules and ask our Right Honourable Prime Minister to ensure that the duties of his Cabinet are such that the Social Partnership continues to be recognised as an important partnership in driving this country's development. Mr. Speaker, what I would have seen regarding the treatment of a president of the Trade Union Movement over the past two months and the comments that would have been leveled at the Trade Union Movement, I am asking through you, Mr. Speaker, that the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South would ensure that we both recognise the role and respect the role of the

Trade Union Movement and their Heads and do not allow it to be a case that whenever the Trade Union Movement speaks out against the Government that there appears to be some form of victimisation and derogator criticism and trying to minimise the value that the Trade Union Movement would have brought to this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into any name calling this afternoon but the Members on the other side do understand what I am speaking about. Mr. Speaker, we know that the formation of the Trade Union Movement came about after the fight for workers' rights. The Trade Union Movement is here to protect workers and in protecting workers we have to respect the Trade Union Movement. Mr. Speaker, what I am seeing happening in this country and is being displayed by the Government, whether it is the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Tourism or any other Minister, we are seeing that the workers and the Trade Union Movement are being treated with scant respect. We have seen that the workers and the trade unions are being treated with scant respect, and I am calling on the Government to lift the bar as we seek to enter a critical phase of establishing posts within the Public Service and as we are on the brink of negotiations, whether it is in the Public Service or in statutory corporations. I am calling for them to be treated with respect, and for the trade unions, because they are not the Government, not to be spoken of in derogatory terms like "fanatics", "armed with guns" and these things. Mr. Speaker, I am one who does not believe we should come to that level. We have to work in harmony with the trade unions for the sake of the workers in the public sector and statutory corporations. You cannot be asking for a high level of deliberations and respect from the private sector, but when you come to the Public Service we are seeing scant respect being dished out to the workers. You have to lead by example, so even though we look to the private sector to drive certain growth initiatives and to lead certain aspects of our development, we expect that the Government must set the standard. That standard must be set because our people are our greatest asset, and we have to set that standard through the partnership agreement that has been established between all the key stakeholders in this country; this is the tripartite agreement.

Mr. Speaker, while we on this side embrace the whole appointments and establishment of temporary posts, we are asking that for these 555 temporary posts these public servants have security of tenure for the years which they would have put in. Based on the Right Honourable Member's point about the whole aspect of public servants being so important to this country's development and how he revelled at the whole aspect of some public servants not having qualifications, we just want to make sure that security of tenure for our public servants is being recognised and that transparency is also recognised; not

only in the Civil Service but for our teachers, Mr. Speaker. When we look at our teachers and the treatment that would have been given to them, they could not even get an audience with the Member for Christ Church East Central, Mr. Speaker. These are things that we have to examine and re-examine, because we are supposed to be the leaders in this country, and our teachers cannot get an audience. They fought long and hard. The Honourable Member for St. James North spent days and days discussing these matters. The Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union would have requested an audience with the Member for Christ Church East Central, and he refused. He was a former head of a union. Mr. Speaker, while we are here trying to be as honourable as we ought to be as a Government, we still have some issues to be addressed as the Government of the day in terms of how we treat civil servants; whether they are teachers or port workers.

Mr. Speaker, when I mention the port workers, this whole aspect of the Customs Department comes to mind. Why can we not resolve the issues with our Customs officers? This is taking too long, Mr. Speaker, so I am calling on the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South to intervene and address these long outstanding issues with the Customs officers and the Barbados Revenue Authority. It is taking way too long. I am calling on the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South to intervene in the whole aspect of pension for being BC workers. These are things in which we ought to intervene. Mr. Speaker, while I speak to the whole aspect of the Public Service Orders and accelerating the recruitment process in terms of the Qualification Orders, I am calling for a high level of transparency in this process and I am calling for the return of some level of respectability between Government and the Public Service. Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. F.J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I rise to just make a few concluding remarks on this Resolution. I did not know that the contents of a Public Service General Order would have been such an acid test for the intelligence of the Honourable Member for St. George South. I really did not know. I thought this was so simple a matter that it would have secured his approval and the House could move on. Mr. Speaker, I used to come to this House from the time I was a teenager, and I know when Mr. Russell Lowe used to be the Member of Parliament for St. George South. Mr. Russell Lowe, like those Permanent Secretaries I talked about earlier, had no university education. He was a highly respected shopkeeper in St. George South. He was no engineer, he did not have any tertiary education but he was a respected shopkeeper in St. George South, and he talked much more sense than I heard from the Member for St. George South today. I urge the

Honourable Member, as he is urging me to intervene in all these things, to ask the Clerk of the House to let him see some of the interventions of Mr. Russell Lowe from St. George South, so that he can see the standard which he has to follow.

The Honourable Member raised questions about the timing of this Order. If the Honourable Member really got to know how much effort and how much work has to go into the preparation of a General Order or Qualifications Order, he would thank the public officers for getting it to us today. This is hard, hard work; painstaking work, and I really want to say thanks to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Civil Service and his officers for the stick-to-it-iveness, the steadfastness and the commitment which they continue to show in these matters. It has been tough, tough going for the officers to get these Orders completed.

The Honourable Member talks about the timing of it is to coincide with a General Election and trying to make peace with public officers. That is really a slur on the people who prepared the General Order. It is a slur and an unfortunate slur, because it really has nothing to do with the Minister of the Civil Service; it has nothing to do with the Prime Minister; it has nothing to do with the Democratic Labour Party. When the Orders have reached me, I have tried to treat them with the despatch which they deserve. We are debating this today because the officers in question pleaded with me. They said, "If we do not get it done before the end of the year, our hard work begins all over again. This is the Order for 2016. Do your best to let us get it out of the way." That is why we are here today, but the Honourable Member cannot seem to get past the narrow partisan, political trajectory. I do not understand how a young Parliamentarian who should be more idealistic in his outlook and trying to raise people's gaze to new horizons cannot get past this low partisan, political trajectory. Read Russell Lowe please.

The next point he raises is about people in the public service who have been acting in positions and who have a legitimate expectation. For all of my sins, Mr. Speaker, I have been a lawyer since 1984 and I am therefore familiar with the expression, legitimate expectation. It is not an engineering term, it is not an industrial relations term it is a legal term. The only person who can decide that anybody had a legitimate expectation is a judge presiding in a matter before him. The judicial committee of the Privy Council just made that clear to the CLICO policyholders in Trinidad and Tobago, I think it was Lord Neuberger who did the judgment and Lord Conrath who did a special piece on legitimate expectations. It is not an engineering term, it is not an industrial relations term. In order to establish a legitimate expectation you have to prove that an express promise was made either by or on behalf of a public authority to the aggrieved person that a state of affairs will continue to exist or will not continue to exist or that there is

a settled practice upon which the aggrieved person was expected to rely. You cannot just throw these terms around as though they have no meaning. I do not know, nowadays as long as you do not know what else to say you say legitimate expectation. It is a legal term and only a Court can say whether an expectation was legitimate or not that cannot be determined on the Floor of the House.

The Honourable Member talked about a threat to trade union movement. I have been following Barbadian politics from the time I was age nine. The only time in my memory when there was a threat to the trade union movement by any political party in Barbados was sometime around 1978 when the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) tried to pass the Emergency Powers Bill in this House to circumscribe the activities of trade unions and the trade unions, under Frank Walcott and others, had to rise up and stop them in their tracks. Never before that and not since that has there been any threat to the trade union movement in Barbados, yet we hear from the Honourable Member that there are these threats to the trade union movement and so on. Only once, the Emergency Powers Bill that was brought by the Tom Adams Administration. Go and read Francis Alexis' book on changing constitutions, yes, he deals with it. I do not know.

Security of tenure for public officers, the rules are there. Appointed public officers can only be removed in a particular way and the only person who can sign off on that is His Excellency the Governor-General. You cannot dismiss public officers at whim and fancy. He talked about salaries for public servants. Salaries for public officers have always depended on the state of the economy of Barbados and that has always been so and Parliamentary salaries are tied to public servants salary increased as well. It is not that Parliamentarians are getting salary increases ... in fact we had salaries reductions. Those processes follow a particular course and that course will be allowed to follow. He is coming here and talking about giving public servants and increase, that does not do it. There are procedures we follow for salaries negotiations, there are persons designated to do that, the Ministry of the Civil Service negotiates on the behalf of the Government and that is what will happen. At the appropriate time, I will be made aware of what is on the table and I will either give it my exequatur or say go back and try again. This thing about appointing DEMS, I do not know where this comes from, Mr. Speaker. I said in my opening remarks that we have a Public Service Act that has set up an ethos of competition in the public service. You apply for the job, you are interviewed by the Public Service Commission and unless the Honourable Member for St. George South is impugning the integrity of members of the Public Service Commission, I have an implicit faith in the objectivity of members of the Public Service Commission and when they make recommendations to His Excellency the Governor-General for appointment, I have an implicit faith in the

objectivity of His Excellency the Governor-General as well. There are few appointments that come to me, like Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries and one or two other people and when the Public Service Commission make recommendations to me, based on what is recommended to me, and I have questions to ask, I ask them and once they clarify them, I accept the recommendations. I do not know what it is the Honourable Member is talking about. It is not as though you apply to the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) if you want to get into the public service. There are procedures to be followed. There seems to be some time warp in the thinking of members on the Other Side that Tom Adams is still in office, he is not.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we have a good General Order before us. I think we have a credible Qualifications Order that has been laid and I think that the offers of these documents, the people in the Ministry of the Public Service, the Chief Parliamentary Council's Office that gave important advice along the way and all those others who made an input, I think they are deserving of the highest commendation for their discipline and having said that, Mr. Speaker, therefore, I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

ORDER No. 28

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH
SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING
AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 THE SALE TO
THE BARBADOS NATIONAL TERMINAL
COMPANY LIMITED OF THE PARCEL OF
LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN,
SITUATE AT COVERLEY IN THE PARISH
OF CHRIST CHURCH

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, before us is a Resolution to sell 14.27 hectares of land which includes .101 hectares of road reserve for the cost of \$15.2 million. Mr. Speaker, as this Government reinforces its renewable energy policy, it is quite clear that this Government understands what it has to do. We are now back to a stage, as used to be the practice in this House, where as you move to a new project you allow yourself

elbow room because previously as soon as the private sector showed interest in a particular project we would offload that project to the private sector and then we will use the resources to expand the economic base of the country. This is a good example of what used to happen before, that is, where previously we were involved in the fossil fuel element of it we are now moving to the renewable energy aspect of our energy policy and we are allowing ourselves to have the necessary elbow room because as you would appreciate, Sir, in these times you cannot be running two policies at the same time and then you need the necessary finances to build out the new policy, so what you are seeing here is an opportunity for this Government to get the necessary resources to reinforce our renewable energy policy. Sir, as you drive around Barbados you would have seen that this renewable energy policy is an acceptable policy not only by large companies but also by smaller players like the individual householders who are buying photovoltaic and putting it on their homes and getting involved in the renewable energy policy.

What is rather strengthening to the economy of the country is that this policy allows us not to have to pay large fuel bills. As you know we spend millions and millions of dollars buying fuel, but what we are doing is tapping into the natural resources of Barbados which is the sunlight of Barbados. We have always been able to build this country using the natural resources. Over the years we have used the people of Barbados to build the country and now we are not only using the people of Barbados but we are also using the next natural resource we have and that is the sunshine.

What you see here today, Sir, is the land aspect of it where we are selling the land for a tidy sum of \$15.2 million which will allow us an opportunity to move on to another aspect of it so that this country is allowed to maximise its energy base. Sir, on one hand we have the fossil fuel aspect of it and on the other hand we have the renewable energy aspect and it is only but fair for the Government to drive the renewable energy sector because as we speak we can appreciate that there is climate change going on in the world and that we cannot ignore it, we all part of the world, and we have to ensure that we too are on the cutting edge and that we lead in this. Too many people believe that because we are a small developing country that we cannot take the lead in these matters. I want to thank the Government for having the foresight in taking the lead on these matters and demonstrating to the world that we are not only going to look at renewable energy from the aspect of sunshine but that we are also going to use wind and all other types available to us. Today is a demonstration that we are pushing forward with our policy and that we will be leaders.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are very fortunate because as I speak we have a good example of this in the parish of St. Lucy which I represent and I look

forward in the not too distant future to opening that plant. I must say that plant is already operational and is already contributing to the development of Barbados and has put us on the cutting edge of the renewable energy sector. I also look forward to the day when we are able to go to Lamberts to have the second phase of it so that we can truly brag that we are not only looking at the sunshine but we are also looking at the wind aspect of it.

I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that this started with the Barbados Labour Party. They started with a windmill that was located at Lamberts even though it did not work but I must say that as far back as the 90s they looked at it even though they chose the wrong equipment and created an atmosphere in St. Lucy that when next we spoke about windmills the people of St. Lucy did not want to hear about it. As parliamentary representative for the area I took the word of the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited when they said that the turbines they were bringing were not going to be the same turbines. I remember well standing up in a church in Josey Hill defending the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited because I thought that it would be nonsensical of them to bring something that would have been worse than what the Barbados Labour Party brought to St. Lucy and placed at Lamberts Hill where the blade flew off and threatened the lives of people and there were noises at night and so. Fortunate for me when I was the Minister of the Environment I went to Kenya and I was able to tour some windmills in Kenya and I recognised that what the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited said was true that they would not be the same noise factor. I remember the Permanent Secretary and myself under the windmills in Kenya having a conversation and all you heard was a woof. On top of that, what I observed in Kenya is that not only was there not a noise factor but there was a situation, because of the blades it operated, as if we were having a situation as if you had a fan in your room, and the areas where you have the windmills were very green so much so that the persons on the tour were very happy that they had the opportunity to be on that tour and nearly every man to count wanted to buy a piece of land in that particular location because they recognise that the windmills were not anything to worry about but that actually having windmills near to your house would make you be in a location where the area is not only green but is much cooler, so people need not worry about having windmills near to them because it creates a coolness and greenery in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I totally support this 14.27 acres of land that is being sold for \$15.2 million and that I look forward for the Government's policy to continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that with a combination of sunshine and also using the sea, considering that we are surrounded by the sea, that one day

I will see where Barbados will be able to operate by having electricity on a 24-hour basis from renewable energy. I believe that we are in a good position and I want to congratulate the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited for accepting the point that I have always made to them, that their contributions for renewable energy was too low and that they needed to raise the bar.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that they have accepted that point and that they are now prepared to recognise that there is a possibility that we might be able to have 100 per cent of our sensors coming from renewable energy. Mr. Speaker, this means that even if we were to find oil offshore Barbados or if we were to find oil inland, we will be able to save the foreign exchange from which we are accustomed to buying the fossil fuel and that we will still be able to export our fossil fuels elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when we are able to get 100 renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that we have come to the end of Government Business for the day. I now beg to move that this Honourable Sitting be adjourned until Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question the Honourable Sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, December 13, 2016, was put to the Honourable the House and was resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. Speaker adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)
CHAMBER, Mr.
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
ESTWICK, Dr. the Hon. D. C. (St. Philip West)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)
INNISS, Hon. D.O'N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R.D. (Christ Church East Central)
KELLMAN, Hon. D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. S. A. (Christ Church West Central)
LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)
PAUL, Mr. J.D. (St. Michael West Central)
SEALY, Hon. R. L. (St. Michael South Central)
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
SUTHERLAND, Hon. Mr. D.G. (St. George South)
SYMMONDS, Mr. K. D. (St. James Central)

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Opening. The opening sentence reads only ‘met at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, December 09, 2016.’, without ‘Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly’. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Minutes; take-slips. The Speaker refers to ‘the Minutes of Tuesday, Tuesday 06, December, 2016’, and two take-slips are dated ‘Friday, December 06, 2016’, although the Sitting was held on Friday, 9th December. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Take-slips about 10.48 a.m. and 12.26-2.32 p.m.. Some take-slip references (‘House C 45 Seq 3 10.48 a.m.’, ‘House C 45 Seq 14 2.32 p.m.’) are typed as ordinary paragraphs, and one line reads ‘Seq13 blank’, which suggests that sequence 13 was not transcribed. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 26, Head 23, point of order. The Chairman’s intervention ‘Mr. CHAIRMAN; Just a moment please. Honourable Member for St. George South, what is your point of order?’ is typed as part of Hon. D. O’N. Inniss’s speech, and the Chairman’s next ruling is labelled ‘Mr. CHAMBER’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 26, Head 23, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce says that the programme will continue ‘until 31st March, 2016 the end of the financial year’; the Supplementary Estimates are for 2016-2017. The Chairman then addresses Mr. K. D. Symmonds, Member for St. James Central, as ‘Honourable Member for St. James South’. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 27, Head 75. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman opens ‘Head #35 deals with two matters’, but the Resolution is elsewhere referred to as Head 75, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development. Later, a passage labelled ‘Mr. CHAIRMAN’ reads ‘Honourable Member, I expect you to speak to the Head. I am speaking to the Head, Sir.’; the second sentence appears to be Hon. D. St.E. Kellman’s reply. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Order No. 28. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman describes the land as ‘14.27 hectares’ at the start of his speech and as ‘14.27 acres of land’ near the end. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, 9th December, 2016, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 6th December were deferred. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, Leader of Government Business, laid two Orders under the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Act, for Ealing Holdings and the Barbados Rally Club, and Standing Orders were suspended for the rest of the Sitting.

The House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, on Order No. 26, the Resolution to grant \$3 155 344 under Supplementary Estimates No. 4, 2016-2017, for Head 23, Ministry of Health. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce explained that the sum was for the annual debushing programme of the Environmental Health Department, to reduce disease vectors and rodents on overgrown lots, noting that Barbados already spent about 11 per cent of Gross Domestic Product on healthcare. Hon. D. G. Sutherland said that the Barbados Labour Party supported the programme, cited the World Health Organisation’s 2012 report on the environmental burden of disease, and was twice told by the Chairman to keep to the Resolution. Hon. D. O’N. Inniss supported the Resolution and criticised the Opposition, and the Chairman ruled out Mr. Sutherland’s point of order.

Mr. K. D. Symmonds described lots so overgrown that neighbouring houses could not be seen and questioned whether the programme would run for three months or six weeks; on a point of order he said that the money would not be available before January. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce replied that the programme ran from 5th December to the end of the financial year. Miss C. Y. Forde supported the Supplementary, raised the overgrowth at Welchman Hall and at Sturges, and asked how workers dismissed since 2013 would be selected. Progress was reported, notice was given of a Resolution to grant \$10 363 838 and of a Resolution for the sale of Crown land at Coverley, and the House was suspended until 2.00 p.m.

After the resumption, Hon. S. A. Lashley welcomed the programme as a source of employment; Mr. K. D. Symmonds apologised after the Chairman ruled that he had strayed; Hon. D. St.E. Kellman spoke on the Democratic Labour Party’s environmental record and the policy on parks and open spaces; Mr. E. G. Hinkson criticised the dismantling of Beautify Barbados and the drainage programme and asked that the initiative not be politicised; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe denied that any constituency had been excluded; and Mr. G. A. Clarke called it a ‘debushing

cleanup and Christmas programme', drawing a point of order from Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. In reply Mr. Boyce invited Members to submit lot numbers in their constituencies, and Head 23 was agreed to.

On Order No. 22, Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick explained that \$600 000 under Head 72 was being moved by virement from 'Assets Under Construction' to retrofitting and upgrades, including at the Old Onion Bond, and the Head was agreed to. On Order No. 27, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman said that \$5 million of the \$10 363 838 was a part payment of legal costs in Barack and Company Limited versus the National Housing Corporation over the Warrens building, dating from before 2000. Miss C. Y. Forde objected to 'the blame game', and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce and Hon. D. St.E. Kellman exchanged words over the condition of Government buildings. Head 75 was agreed to and the three Money Resolutions were passed.

With the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, moved Order No. 19 to approve the Public Service (General) Order 2016, which replaces the 2008 General Order. Mr. D. G. Sutherland supported faster recruitment but questioned the timing and the position of acting officers. Replying, the Prime Minister rejected the suggestion that the Order was timed for a General Election, said that only a court could decide a legitimate expectation, and recalled the Emergency Powers Bill of about 1978. The Resolution was agreed to.

On Order No. 28, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman moved the Resolution to sell 14.27 hectares of Crown land at Coverley, Christ Church, to the Barbados National Terminal Company Limited for \$15.2 million, linking it to the Government's renewable energy policy and a plant in St. Lucy; it was agreed to. The House was adjourned until Tuesday, 13th December, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.