
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

PRESENT

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON, Q.C., B.A., LL.B. (Speaker)
Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON, B.A., M.Sc. (Ph. Ed.) (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Leader of the Opposition)
Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.
Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)
Mr. D. D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.
Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. R. 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. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc., C. Eng. (Minister of Health) (Leader of the House)
Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Dip. Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. (Minister of Environment and Drainage)
Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.) (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC, MVO, B.A. (Hons.)

Mr. E. G. HINKSON, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., LL.M.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.).

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)

ABSENT

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)

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

Hon. R. D. JONES, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), M.A. Ed. (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)

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

Mr. Speaker took the Chair at 10.15 a.m.

Prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood.

MR. SPEAKER: Good morning, Honourable Members, this House is now in Session.

MINUTES

MR. SPEAKER: The Minutes of meetings held respectively on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, and Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meetings of Tuesday, January 26 and

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

MR. SPEAKER: If there are no objections or reservations, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

Hon. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Grantley Adams International Airport Incorporated for the year 2014.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bill:

1. The Savings Bonds (Validation) Bill, 2016

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 14 – SECOND READING OF THE SANITATION SERVICE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am moved to start my presentation by reflecting on a very popular portion of Scripture that talks about being glad, when they said unto you “let us go into the house of the Lord”, and referred to His people as not only His people but also the sheep of His pasture, and understanding that the words “sheep”, “pasture” and “shepherd” undeniably fall in very tight sequence. As I drove into Parliament this morning, I was really forced to acknowledge the

handiworks of God in giving us a beautiful day. Not only that, but watching the activity as I moved along the highway, and saying “thank God for allowing our country to stay afloat in these very difficult times”. I know that some people are apt to forget but, of course, having come through -- I say, having come through the storms -- and having arrived at this point, simply not our destination but at a point where we can reflect, regather ourselves, retool ourselves and move forward. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure that you would agree that we cannot ignore the importance of being thankful to God for His goodness towards us and for the blessings He has allowed us to enjoy. I am a product of those blessings, and I am happy to be here. Yes, there are those out there who are challenged across the world, but we continue to be hopeful because I know that following a time of famine, there is always a time of plenty.

10.29 a.m.

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Hon. D. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, there are two out there who are challenged across the world but we continue to be hopeful because I know that following a time of famine, there is always a time of plenty. I believe that we are going into our post-famine years and that there must be some gladness now and ahead of us. The order of business that I am asked to lead this morning is the amendment to the Sanitation Service Authority Act, Cap 382, an amendment that seeks to address Section 2 of the Act. We are proposing that Section 2 will be amended to delete the definition of Minister and replace it with Minister, which means the Minister responsible for solid waste.

Mr. Speaker, previously, the Sanitation Service Authority fell under the Minister responsible for Health and the Act of the Sanitation Service Authority is embedded in the Health Services Act. Since we came to office in 2008, the prime ministerial decision was taken to reorganize the Cabinet and portfolios of the Cabinet and one of the portfolios affected with the portfolio which now is the Ministry of the Environment and drainage. Of course, with that being done, it has become necessary for this tidying up to be done.

Sir, what may have caused the delay in doing this is the fact that the Sanitation Service Authority and the Ministry of Environment have recently agreed to a new Act called the Solid Waste Act and in that Solid Waste Act, all of the responsibilities related to solid waste management at all levels of the country would now fall under this new Act that would give rise to a new set of regulations relative to who is involved in waste management, how waste

management is delivered and how the country must repond to the disposal of their waste.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be part of the process because, sir, the Sanitation Service Authority was established back in the 1940 and the first Act was established in 1975 and since the inception of what is now known as the Sanitation Service Authority because I chose to take the House through the history of the devet of this instin. Let me point out at the onset that I certainly want to give full recognition to the staff, the manat and the Board of the Sanitation Service Authority ably supported by the Ministry in how they got about under difficult times executing their responsibilities in seeking to keep Barbados clean and tidy. Of course, I should also take this oppy to say that keeping Barbados clean and tidy is not just the remit of the Sanitation Service Authority. It is the remit of every citizen of this country to ensure that they pay their way in keeping the country clean. I know that there are those who are very quick for reasons sometimes unknown to man to blame the Government for everything that happens particularly everthing that goes wrong and in their messaging they often fail to indicate to the country that the responsibility of a clean Barbados is not any Government whether it is the Barbados Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party or any other Government for that matter, that responsibility falls on every citizen who has the opportunity to reside in this country as a citizen of Barbados. Sir, I say this, since Barbados is a tourist destination that every visitor to this country also has a responsibility to ensure that their behaviours and their conduct is commensurate with our aim and our objectives of keeping the country in order and clean.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is necessary because the Minister of Environment has the ministerial responsibility for solid waste management and the Sanitation Service Authority and, as have said before in the current Act, the Minister of Health is the one so cited with that authority but beyond that, the Government of Barbados has set on a sustainable development path elements of which preceded this Government, and it is our belief that in order for Barbados, as a small island developing State to be competitve at all levels, economically, socially, environmentally and as it relates to its governance that we have to look at how we are going to reorder our national priorities and polices to reflect on that driving commitment to because a sustainable lighthouse in this region.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that we have made a significant amount of progress in that regard and our Government has been extremely diligent in ensuring that all we seek to do, we do it within the context of sustaining our development. Sir, the reason why sustainable devet is important is because generations to come but be able to find in our tracks those rudiments and templates that would allow them to continue to enjoy a peaceful and well-

ordered nation and that whether we are black or black or any other designation by creed or by practice, we all must enjoy this island of ours. We must all be able to put as part of our footprint, a legacy of continuous progressive development that secures the ambitions, the hopes and the dreams of all Barbadians irrespective of where is their points of beginning may have been. Sir, as a matter of fact, so etched in our national DNA is that philosophy that persons like myself and others in this room will be able to benefit although we may not have had the starting point of others as illustrious as those starting points may be view, many of us because of that abiding philosophy all of us have been able to rise to a level that we all can be proud of and that we can all leave our mark of history in this country as a result of.

Mr. Speaker, the sustainable development belief also brings us into contact which the need for creating a sustainable integrated solid waste management programme. Sir, what does this require first of all. Sir, an integrated solid waste management programme requires the optimization of existing collection and disposal system.

Sequence 2

I recall the last time the Honourable House met we did a supplementary for the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA) and of course my learned friend Honourable Member for St. George South raised an issue about the world standard for waste management and sanitation and in his point - and it was rightfully placed - he made note of the fact that world standard on sanitation services require any State to be forceful in its commitment in developing practices that ensure the health and safety of the nation and we certainly agree with that point. I would go further and say this, when we talk about sanitation services I do recall that one of the preoccupations of this Government and the previous Government was the old issue of the eradication of pit toilets because it is know that any protraction of that practice will result in the breaking down and deterioration of the health standards of our society and with no great progress. The Ministry of the Environment, the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA), the Ministry of Health and the Urban Development Commission (UDC) and the Rural Development Commission (RDC) have all been a part of the Ministry of Housing and the NHC have always been a part of seeking to move the country forward as it relates to how we practice our sanitation in this country. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the South Coast Sewerage project is one of those projects that speak to the management of waste. The impeding West Cost project is also one of those projects that speak to the issue of waste, so that we understand the optimization of the system. We also understand there is a requirement establishing standards for waste management and also options for formal treatment, promotion of energy sources from waste, the development of a business strategy for cost recovery and local

application of modern technologies. Mr. Speaker, that is where we are and as a small Island Developing State as one know, with part and parcel of the Paris deal that was just struck in Paris, the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. Mr. Speaker, we have committed ourselves of ensuring that we continue to advance this journey to make sure that we have in place a sustainable waste management platform that would allow us to be able to maintain the health and safety of our citizens. The retention of revenue generated would contribute to the Sanitation Services Authority operations and programmes. Let me say this, the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) depends on Central Government for in excess of \$60 million a year to run its operations and we in the Ministry of Environment are holding hands with the Ministry of Finance in ensuring that we put systems in place to reduce that dependency on Central Government and to allow the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) through its various revenue generating arms to be able to generate some of its resources. I believe that all statutory corporations are on that journey to ensure that there is a reduction in the level of dependency on Central Government. In 1945, the Refuse Collection and Disposal Services were born. At the time, contracts were given out to the private sector by the vestries. During July in 1945, the Commissioners of Health, a section of the Bridgetown Vestry, undertook with the responsibility for the collection and disposal of refuse in the great Bridgetown and St. Michael districts.

Between 1945 and 1958 the Scavenging Department which was headquarters at Church village, Bridgetown, continued under the egest of the Commissioners of Health with the responsibility of managing the collection and disposal of refuse. That was a time, of course, when the refuse trucks were those semi-opened back trucks, the workers worked with large shovels, the trucks had lids on other side so depending upon what side the garbage was, the lid would be open and they would shovel the garbage in to the lid. That garbage was loose garbage, of course, the bags and so on went into the receptacle. As I recall, in those days - I think perhaps one or two of those old ones somewhere parked - those lorries were manned mostly by a driver and a collector and I remember a guy, the late Leonard Springer from Boarded Hall in St. Andrew who was one of the stalwarts of the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) at the time, and there is a whole coalition, what I call the coalition of the woman, those persons who still embrace those values of collection and from time to time I hear residents complaining about how the garbage is collected and emptied in the cans are tossed all over the place and that sometimes once you pick up the bulk of the scraps of waste left in the streets and so on and so forth.

Let me say this, I believe that the team of workers that the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) has today are a team of individuals who are committed to keeping this country clean and that is why sometimes in the wee hours

in the morning, some people go to work at midnight and hit the streets. They begin the cleaning of the streets and they do not sit around and say we need more trucks or because we do not have enough trucks we are not going out. They get out there, they do their work and they deserve the accolades and the praise of this country for the work they do. It is not easy. I remember during the Christmastime last year we had a situation where there was an unusual accumulation of garbage around the country and I remember the now Acting General Manager who was then the Financial Controller, the Chairman of the Board and members of the Board, we got out there along with teams of individuals from the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA), from the Drainage Division, from the Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) and some private people who pitched in and volunteered to assist. You would recall this situation happened when members of the staff, unwittingly, perhaps went on strike, or were invited to go on strike on issues that had nothing to do with them were promised that they would be paid and at the end of the experience, the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) was asked to foot the Bill, and this Minister to a decision, instructed the Board that we will hold up our end of the bargain. Our end was that those people who work should get paid, and that those people who are sitting and idling should not get paid. That is a common standard in this county and I believe that is a standard that we should hold to.

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I further believe that what was demonstrated in this country at that time was the fact that there were several persons in the society, young and not so young, who came forward and say look we are not going to let Barbados look untidy, we are willing to come and be part of the process.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that somebody said in here some time after that we could find money to pay private haulers and why we cannot find money to do this and do that. The truth of the matter is that people came and volunteered. I remember that one guy from The Ivy brought his truck and workers too and told us at the Sanitation Services Authority: "Look, I am willing to clean up my area, I do not want any payment, I do not want any diesel, all I am going to do is to buy the tickets to take the waste to the landfill", and we offered him some passes to get into the landfill. That is the kind of spirit we have and the kind of Barbadian that we are used to.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Barbadians not to be caught up with this propaganda that the Government should be punished for everything that does not go right in their view. To make Government work, people must work. A Government does not exist as an institution separate and distinct from the society, it is part and parcel of the society. As a matter of fact, Government grows out of the society and therefore I believe that we are on a good path when we

say that we are moving towards this new template for waste management.

In 1958 there was a change in Local Government arrangements and the Mayor and corporation were introduced for the main town while Chairmen and District Councils were introduced for the north and southern districts. This assembly represented a three-part division under the Refuse Collection and Disposal Service which had been developed in the island.

Mr. Speaker, people just get up and talk. People join in to a conversation without knowing where the conversation started, without understanding the context, of the conversation, and in their usual opinionated fashion offered nuggets of nothingness to the conversation. I believe that it is important to educate the society to allow the society to understand that every standing point started with a journey and if you are talking about the development of a society, the development of a society started long before we were and will continue after we will be. What must be sustained is those standards, those morals and those principles that are sustainable and that register the continuation of progress.

In 1965 the Local Government arrangement was discontinued and replaced by an interim Commissioner who became the policymaker for the three separate sections as determined by the Local Government setting for the collection and disposal of waste. I am sure that the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown would know this because the City fell within that sphere as my learned friend would know.

Mr. Speaker, that continued until we get to 1969 when on the 2nd of September 1969 the Government of Barbados passed the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board Act and the Town Hall in Cumberland Street, Bridgetown became the headquarters and the administrative offices for the new Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. The Sanitation and Cemeteries Board Act joined the three refuse collection disposal departments together and those public cemeteries for which the councils were responsible. Then on March 1975, another milestone, the Government of Barbados passed the Sanitation Services Authority Act, Cap. 382, which is now the subject of this Amendment, which established the Sanitation Services Authority under the Ministry of Health which strengthened the autonomy of the statutory board.

The Sanitation Services Authority is a statutory board comprising of a Chairman and nine Board Members. The Sanitation Services Authority was established on March 01, 1975 which, when the Government passed the Sanitation Services Authority Act, also brought an end to the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board Act, which was previously in effect from 1969 to 1974.

Mr. Speaker, what are the functions of this Sanitation Services Authority under Act Cap. 382? The functions are as follows:

1. To remove refuse from any premises as authorised by the Minister; and
2. To sweep, clean and water the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you would recall that there was a time when Bridgetown would be washed down ever so often, and that still happens, it is still part of the routine I should say, and then there were mechanical sweepers that would sweep the precincts of Bridgetown. Only recently I have asked the Board to ensure that the sweeper that we have is fully functional in the shortest possible time so that that service can be reintroduced.

Mr. Speaker, I must confess that when I drive through Bridgetown I cannot say that Bridgetown is a dirty city - I am sure the Honourable Member and my friend from the City would say the say thing - irregardless of the time because very often I might be out and about in the west and my way home might be through the city on Highway 7, so I might pass through the city at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning and I am always pleased to see how clean the city precincts look.

Of course, we have the issue with vagrants who go into the receptacles searching for their own treasure and end up scattering what they do not want all over the place. From time to time I stop and say we do not mind you getting the bottles and so on and so forth, but please when you are finished do not leave the area looking untidy. From time to time we get a humane response and there are times when the response is not so humane I must admit, but the city in my view is generally a clean area.

I have gone to other cities including New York City. I hear some Barbadians, those persons who do not have or have not had the opportunity to travel abroad, talk about how dirty this country is. I have been in New York City and on more than one occasion in New York City I have seen mounds of garbage taller than myself - of course, that is not really a challenge to have anything taller than I, let us admit, but the truth is I have seen it - and I have never seen anyone sweeping. I suppose they sweep at hours when I would be out and about.

I have gone to Poland, Singapore, many of the European cities, Africa, Guyana and Jamaica and I am telling you that in comparison to our island, Barbados is not doing too badly and for those persons who do not know they perhaps should allow themselves to benefit from having some international or regional exposure to see what the practices are and then judge their own because sometimes I think we judge ourselves way too harshly.

Well, what we tend to do is to judge the Government too harshly and not necessarily ourselves.

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11.00 a.m.

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Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do is to judge the Government harshly and not necessarily ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the role under the Sanitation Service Authority Act to sweep, cleanse and water streets, it also sets out:

(b) to provide and maintain in a sanitary condition

suitable places, buildings and appliances for the deposit, disposal or destruction of refuse;

(c) to provide and maintain public baths and public

sanitary conveniences.”

Mr. Speaker, I know there was a time when there were many public baths all around the place. I believe that the Sanitation Service Authority still manages a public bath on Reed Street, a pretty new one too that we placed there, but I remember one time throughout the precincts of the city that there were public baths scattered all over the place. One of the challenges of maintaining these public baths is that the public, really, never treated them with any graces and it fell on the staff of the Sanitation Service Authority to keep them clean. What we found happening in more recent years is that people would steal the fixtures, break off the pipes, move the showerheads and so on and so forth. We are still trying to find a remedy. Mr. Speaker, I know I have travelled and to use a public bath you had to pay. I know that for a fact, and the toilet paper would only be handed over after you have paid the dollar or whatever the fee might be. We do not do that here, we maintain these facilities on our own, using our own resources, including both human and financial.

The remit of the Sanitation Service Authority is also to:

(d) to provide and maintain cemeteries, burial grounds and crematoria” around the island.

Mr. Speaker, we know of course that the Sanitation Service Authority deals with Westbury Cemetery, the Christ Church Cemetery, Bushy Park Cemetery, et cetera. As a matter of fact, Bushy Park Cemetery is just about to

undergo a refurbishment programme that we intend to turn into one of pristine burial facilities in the country.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: In order to implement the above functions, the Sanitation Service Authority employs approximately 700 employees. The overall administration of the Sanitation Service Authority is carried out from the Headquarters and Administrative Offices located on the 2nd Floor of the National Petroleum Corporation, Wildey, St. Michael. The top-level management includes the Acting Manager, the Deputy Manager of Operations, the Deputy Manager of Administration, the Deputy Manager for Engineering, the Financial Comptroller and other management personnel.

Mr. Speaker, in moving towards this integrated system, during 1984, 14 acres of land at Mangrove Pond, St. Thomas were identified as a suitable location for a sanitary landfill operation. The impression would be given that Mangrove, “Mount Stinkeroo,” is the brainchild of the Democratic Labour Party. The truth is that waste has to be managed and it has to go somewhere, and that is why I say those persons who are crying out about modern technology and waste management, where do you want the landfill to go? It cannot go to Greenland, we have already spent - and I will talk about that a little later in my presentation - \$100 million and what is on the table now for the building-out of the Greenland is \$148 million. On recent visits to Greenland have seen that all of infrastructure has been broken down; the light poles have fallen in; there are places up there that you have to scale over because what was said from the beginning was that it is not a good place for a landfill. Mr. Speaker, I ask the question, where do you want the next landfill to go? Do you want it to go in the City of Bridgetown? It was there years and years ago. It cannot go back to Kingsland because the property owner at Kingsland has said no, so that has been shut down. The pulverisation plant that no longer exists in its form. You cannot go to the one there in Bagatelle because Bagatelle has been closed down and is now the subject of an injunction led by the Honourable Member for St. James Central. Where do you want it to go?

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Honourable Member for St. Philip North if he has any place up there for one to be located, I am sure that the Honourable Member is going to say no. I would ask the Honourable Member for Christ Church South if he wants a landfill in his area, I am sure that the Honourable Member would say no. I would ask the Member of Parliament for St. George South and I am sure that the Honourable Member would say no. The Member of Parliament for St. Thomas has already said that it needs to go. The Members of Parliament for St. John and St. Joseph do not want it there, so where are we going to put it? Are we going to put it at Fort George? No, we have to look for

waste treatment and management alternatives sites and we do not have them. Further, to create a landfill will cost the Government about \$31 million minimum.

Mr. Speaker, what is my point? My point is that we have to find ways driven by global standards to treat waste in this country because of the limited land space, because of the exorbitant cost of creating landfills, because of the fact that landfills are direct sources of greenhouse gases and it stands at number three in the country for the production of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, it comes behind transport and the generation of electricity. Mr. Speaker, where do we put it? Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you today that part of the vision of this Government is to find a way of utilising the land that was designated in 1984 originally but then that is embedded in the Physical Development Plan as the area most suited for solid waste management activities. Sir, it cannot be put in the Belle, that is too close to the water table, it would also be in direct violation of the Town Planning Department rules and therefore you cannot put it there in the Belle. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting to you that the Government's vision is on track.

Mr. Speaker, previously we operated at Kingsland and it was either Kingsland or Black Bess. By mid-1988 the Mangrove site was facilitating the disposal of over 200 tons of waste per day. Today it is facilitating the disposal of up to 1 300 tons, notwithstanding the illegal dumping which did not start because of my tipping fee, because the record would show that there has been a decline in the waste quantities going to the landfill long before any tipping fee was implemented and perhaps that is why the last Administration did not implement that tipping fee that they took to Parliament.

No.C23 (5)11.15 a.m.

By the end of 1990 the available space at the location was exhausted. The Sanitation Service Authority then acquired 22 acres of land at Mangrove Pond, St. Thomas, in addition, for a new landfill. Excavation work for this landfill commenced in August 1991, and Phase 1 was completed in September 1992. The new landfill was scientifically engineered, being fitted with a leachate collection treatment plant, a thick liner, leachate collection pipes and a leachate storage tank. Leachate is the material that is generated once waste sits in a location. The material breaks down on the one hand, and then with rain and so on, it generates this leachate which is very dangerous for our water supply. By the end of the second month of operation, it had become evident that the site could not accommodate the disposal of refuse for the estimated period. This was due in part to the closure of the pulverisation plant and the increase in private vehicles disposing refuse.

Private vehicles' involvement in the disposal of refuse was really long before now, and as I said earlier in the beginning of my presentation, as far back as the beginning private trucks were involved in the haulage of waste. Consequently, an area approximately 1.23 hectares on the east side of the landfill and another area of one hectare on the west side were identified. Our work commenced in 1993 and was completed in September of that year. Mangrove Pond was identified as the ideal location for a waste management centre because of its proximity to the waste sub troll, land use compatibility - as I said in our land use policy, it is identified - transportation access, aesthetics, and the minimal impact on natural and cultural resources. However, there was a need for additional landfill space and the reluctance to carry the Mangrove Pond higher in the air; because there is a recommendation at one point to raise it higher, so we would have gone from Mount Stinkeroo to Mountain Stinkeroo, I guess. However, after a while the thinkers said, "No, we cannot do that", and we had to cease operation. That gave birth to the construction of Greenland Landfill; what I call the Greenland Option, in 1996. The first phase of the landfill was completed in 1997 at a cost of \$100 million, handed over to the Sanitation Service Authority in August 1997, but was never used. \$100 million in Greenland, only enjoyed now mostly by the monkeys and the grasshoppers and other vermin up there.

Therefore, when I hear people talk, they like talking about what the Government is spending on a plasma gasification, and that Government intends to spend \$300 million on this plant, and that the taxpayers should be riled up so let us march, let us walk about and keep noise, let us write in all these letters and let us try to make a point. I keep making this point: Where were these people when the last administration was spending \$100 million in Greenland? Where were they? Where were they? At the behest of the late Rugged Williams, an old gentleman who lived up at the extreme end of Shorey Village who went to his grave, and I believe his last words were "no Greenland. No Greenland".

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: The Honourable Member for St. Andrew, to his credit, lamented over the wisdom or the lack thereof, of that decision. \$100 million. Listen, Mr. Speaker, that is not all on Greenland. You know what was proposed for the continuation of Greenland that saved the taxpayers of this country by the skins of their teeth? The leachate plant was to be built, and that was going to be a \$46 million tag, and I have a laundry list here of other items that were to be put in place including repaving of the road from Farley Hill to the landfill; a road where you will never be able to control land slippage. No matter what you do, that area will slip. The items included the widening and drainage for that road. Do you know what the price tag

was, proposed and accepted? It was \$149 360 800. This is what was supposed to be spent, and had not God looked down on this country and smiled and delivered us from the hands of those who would have done this -- who would have done this - we would have been stuck with a bill of \$249.3 million for Greenland. You understand? Taxpayers' money. Not developers' money, taxpayers' money, and that is the difference between Greenland and any option that we have at Vaucluse. The option is that \$100 million was spent, Honourable Member for St. Joseph: \$100 million spent of taxpayers' money. Are you talking about Cahill? The Government has not spent a cent, and we are not purporting to pay a cent either. The developers are the ones responsible for building the plant, once all of the requirements are met. Therefore, when I hear this talk and some of the people who are running around and keeping noise in Barbados about that, I want them to come to the table with clean hands. Tell us where they were when this \$100 million was spent in this country. Where were you, and why were you so silent then?

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Where were they? The Government does not have anything to hide. The Government is not doing anything in the backyard. What I want to know is about the monies spent belonging to the taxpayers that the taxpayers will never be able to recover, because there was no recovery plan. For the Government, there is a recovery plan, though. I guarantee you that, and when I take the troll from Vaucluse to Greenland, you will find out where the recovery plan is.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: One hundred million dollars is no bluff.

11.17 a.m.

Are you calling it a bluff. I want the people of St. Joseph to know that you call \$100 000 a bluff.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a bluff because if you are going to accuse this Government of unwisely spending the tax payer's monies on a waste action that is universally accepted as a modern day option for the treatment of waste, you lay that accusation at feet of this Government. What I also want you to do is take a very clinical assessment of your spending in this country \$100 million and a proposal to spend another \$149 million and the taxpayers have not benefitted in any way, shape or form from that expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, that is the point and that I why I did not just simply want to come lay an amendment and sit down. Sir, the Opposition know the history well but I want to take the country through the process so I am saying to all

Barbadians out there regardless of your institution of affiliation, and those want to get up scream and shout about money not spent, I want you to get up and scream and shout about moneys spent.

Mr. Speaker, I sent a team to Greenland about three weeks ago, to give me a pictorial example of Greenland now. Mr. Speaker, I am telling you that you would swear that ISIS pass through there. There are things that are unbelievable, all the fences is broken down because the poles have given away. The light poles are broken down and everything down there is in a mess. Sir, this is really what the Apostle Paul would the hypocrisy of the situation. Sir, the same people who were the vanguards of that kind of mismanagement and mis-spending want to now take the Government to the guillotine only because the Government has said that it is considering a waste option treatment that is suitable for the country and that no tax payers dollars will be use. I do not know what is so difficult for people to understand that except that they do not want to understand.

Mr. Speaker, that is what it comes to in this country among certain people. I am not in the Democratic Labour Party and anything the Democratic Labour Party does is wrong. The 50th Anniversary of Independence is now some demonic thing that I have heard recently, that the Government is going to foist on the people, all be you are celebrating 50 years of Independence. Sir, Jamaica has done it, Guyana has done it and Singnapore has done it but Barbados has some untowards demonic agenda for this to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I just do not get it. Sir, in 2007, the Government constructed a transfer station and a waste station in what was term the Solid Waste Management Complex. Sir, the difference between that iteration is that it was the solid waste management Complex and in our iteration, it is the integrated because they are taking all elements of waste and you are finding a treatment modality to ensure that all waste is treated at the same location.

Mr. Speaker, Vauxcluse, St. Thomas next to Mangrove Pond. These facilities are operated by a company call Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre Incorporated, which is a private sector company in contract with the Government of Barbados to implement the solid waste management functions of the operation and maintenance of the waste station and the transfer station. (5:13)

Mr. Speaker, I do not come in here and just talk. I want to have my research and there are some people who feel that they are the only ones who can find files. They are not in the Government but they believe that because some unfaithful public servant would sneak out information and attempt to embarrass this Government that they have a

heads-up but, Sir, I have a heads-up too because the files are in the Ministry and when I ask for the files to come, they do come. I tell my officers that any time the Minister requests to review a file on any matter, to give it to the Permanent Secretary as soon as possible and that he will get it to me.

Mr. Speaker, I hear this talk in recent times about the Government and the deal it made with SBRC and the Government doing this and the Government doing that. Sir, SBRC is a creature that predated this administration. Phase 1 construction and drainage was paid for directly by the Government of Barbados. The contractor was one C O Williams Construction Limited and the supervising engineers were Caribbean Design Architects and Engineers Limited. The work was completed on November 30, 2007. It was a PPP but all a sudden now PPPs are gaining the attention of some very curious people in the public service system as though they are new but, Sir, PPPs are not new. When this Government came into office they had to look at the PPP structure and clean it up and, Sir, that is a fact and I know that.

Mr. Speaker, the SBRC issue is not a new thing. I have nothing negative to say about SBRC. They do a fantastic job in diverting waste from the landfill and had they not been functioning, this new landfill would have been full already. The contract for the landfill was signed in 2009. We came into office and find a drafted approved contract. We have two options (a) to say that we are not going to go with that and therefore all that money and time would have gone down the drain, which would have been a foolish idea or embrace it as a good idea and move forward.

Asides.

Hon. D. LOWE: I am standing on the same platform as that. Sir, the tipping fee for SBRC was not determined by the SSA and embedded in the agreement was that tipping fee. The initial consolidated tipping was calculated at \$53.25 and as of December 31, 2013, the consolidated tipping fee was calculated at \$69.50. They applied something the "reference price index" to determine the fluctuation and settle with the price. Sir, I really have no problem with that because SBRC is a modern component of ... waste management and if we believe that you have limited land space and you cannot continue to build out landfill, you need an intermediary system that will extract from the waste those commodities that can be recycled or shipped out, most of them are shipped out, and only what goes into the landfill would be what is called MSW; municipal soil waste.

Sequence 7 (Done)

The impression given is that this Government walked into some nefarious being with these individuals. These were set long before us, all terms and conditions, as a matter of fact, so much so imbedded in the contract that there are three phases of review. Phase 1 which is 10 years, phase 2 which is 15 years and phase 3 which is 20 years. Based on the pricing structure, if the Government goes to 15 to 20 years you know how the Government has to pay, \$394 million. I do not need all the talk. That is why I love my Prime Minister, he does not just talk to air his mouth, he speaks only when it is necessary to speak because sometimes there is more virtue listening than there is in chatter. The history on SBRC, but SBRC is not on trial here, SBRC is not up for any scrutiny in the sense that some wrong, SBRC is a credible institution that provides an on-the-job service for the Government of Barbados that has now caused us to experience over 60 per cent diversity of waste from the landfill, SBRC in conjunction with what is happening at households. That is what it is and as they say, it is what it is. The Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) in going forward has to decide what kind of waste management operation will be required and it is our considered opinion, advised by our technical staff that the way forward is waste to energy which will delimit the amount of waste going into any landfill because as a matter of fact once that option comes on board there will be no waste to go to the landfill. The landfill will just become a waste handling operation and that is where we need to go and that is why we are moving in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, do you know that I have heard how Sanitation Services Authority (SSA) staff have been looked down on by many people. I am not suggesting anyone in here but by many people. They pick up garbage so they are equated to that but we in this in the Ministry of Environment that I have the honour of leading do not share that view.

The SSA is currently housed in a building owned by somebody else. We took a decision approved by the Cabinet of Barbados that we will build a building in Vauclose. Do not forget we are creating a consolidated process. We are building a five-storey building there and once that building is completed and occupied by the staff we will save the exorbitant rent we pay now, the utilities there, because they are no renewable energy lights there and will be able to move a couple departments that are being housed in other people's buildings not the Government buildings at that same location, it is a consolidation of that and that has become the subject of criticism by some people so we must just leave the SSA out there. It is not going to happen, the building is going up, there has been a couple glitches in the process that are now being worked out and the building will be restarted very shortly, end of story. Nothing new, nothing fancy nothing so and it will be an ultra modern building which the staff of the SSA, deserves. There will also be a modern mechanical

workshop and service bay there which the workers at the Sanitation Service Authority mechanical workshop have been complaining about the fact that the conditions to provide the services are the very worst. There are no service bays, you have to go down in the yard which is unsanitary, you have to wash down garbage trucks and all the water and the mess goes down in there so we are going to put them in a place where they deserve to be and there will be a modern, I believe an operating vehicle bay, there at Vacluse where all of that will be done. The Government has made that decision. Again, I do not mind the talk, you know empty vessels really do keep a lot of noise and the truth of the matter is where there have emptiness from which you speak you have empty noise. That is the bottom line, that is where we are going and the Authority will be willing, once we put these things in place, the Authority will really be well on its way to becoming a first world sanitation authority.

I go around and I see sanitation operations because I look for them when I travel around. I visit the plants and I ask questions about the plants, all that I have gone through we have been through, the whole modernisation, it is a process which has to happen. We really know that as we go forward, we either do it now or we do it in the future when it is more costly to do. The Government position is that we do it now. The Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) has a number of commercial activities going on, one of course is the burial certificate fees and the cost of the grave digging at its five cemeteries. Commercial refuse collections services where they collect from commercial companies and then, of course, there is the tipping fee that everybody crying and quarrelling about, which the Government continues to take a careful look at to ensure that no Barbadian operator is disadvantage and the Government is big and bold enough that if in the final analysis, it needs to make further adjustments the Government will make further adjustments, end of story.

Do you believe that the real standard is driven by what is call the ???8:10? paying principle and that is that every waste generator should be asked to pay something for the collecting of community waste. Right now, only the waste haulers are being asked to pay something and we believe that there is a lot of viability in the capacity of waste haulers but there is one particular waste hauler who at the initial meetings at the discuss of the tipping fee said to the small waste haulers, well you guys may suffer but I am going to make money. That is what he said and I have witnessed how he has crept into an extremely dangerous domain because now he is in full violation of the law and I have given instructions to the SSA, to wherever they can act to bringing it back in line with the law to do so. I know that the Ministry of Health is doing the same thing and I know that the Town Planning Department is doing the same thing because the same individual among others is now charging people more than what the Government is

charging for a tipping fee and he is charging individual households and then rather than paying the fee at the landfill he is going and dumping the waste on other sights. I made this point yesterday to the press, if your remedy for addressing something implemented by law is to go and break the law, then you should have to pay for breaking it.

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It is a kind of a villain, vagabondish - I know the Clerk would have problems with that word - disposition that if it is not done my way, then I will do it my way, in a country that there are supposed to be laws, it cannot work. As a matter of fact, in the new Solid Waste Tax Act there will be a certification process of every single person who handles waste. They have to register and they have to pay for a licence to do it. That is coming with the new Act which is now with the Ministry of Finance being commented on and then it will work its way back down from the Ministry to the Cabinet then to the Governance Committee and then over to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for drafting.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot just handle waste in Barbados because there are waste handling standards governed by the Ministry of Health and the Health Services Act. You just cannot go out and play that you is a 'big bad john' and decide that you are going to just do whatever you want to do, it does not work like that.

A member of the Press asked me yesterday: "So tell me something Minister, what are they supposed to do if they do not agree with the tipping fee." I said: "Listen to me, there are people who do not like wearing clothes - they do not like wearing clothes at all, they hate clothes, there are people I know who hate clothes, they would rather be free - but if they do not want to wear clothes, let them go down Broad Street naked and see if the police officers would not arrest them for indecent exposure or some kind of exposure. You cannot do that. Your response to the law cannot simply be a flaunting of it, you lawyers in here. It cannot be. If you have a problem then bring your problem to the right forum but do not just decide because I do not agree... They are blaming me. I do not deal with that. It is not my policy, it is the Government's policy.

I heard somebody recently complaining to a bailiff that the reason he is losing his stuff is because Dennis Lowe brought hardship onto his business because of waste-to-energy. Waste-to-energy is not even a thing yet and I am getting blamed. I put out my waste like anybody else and I encourage people to put out their waste the way they are supposed to put out their waste.

If the Government in its wisdom is moving towards a direction where the Government is saying that in order for us to be able to have a progressive policy that would

allow us to manage waste... Listen, waste production in this country is unbelievable. Just the other day it was 500 tonnes a day and I will tell you it is creeping up to 1 600 tonnes a day now. Why does waste goes up? It goes up because of people's consumption patterns. If you are consuming more international goods you are going to generate more waste.

Once upon a time when I was growing up we ate more potatoes, breadfruit and stuff like that. When you pick a breadfruit, you eat what you wanted and what you did not want the pigs and the ducks got. As a matter of fact, I remember it was a ritual at my house that we would stew a big pot of breadfruit in the skin once a week in the backyard and when that was done...

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I am proud to say so. I am not afraid to say so. I still love a piece of stewed breadfruit or a stewed potato. We did not generate any waste except what we put in the toilet. You ate the breadfruit. You cut out the heart, you mash it up, and if you had ducks you gave it to the ducks or you mix it up and put it with the mash and gave it to the pigs or you just give the pigs so, pigs eat anything. You peel the skin and that goes in there too. Are you with me? We consumed more of what we grew. Do you know what my cereal was in the morning? My cereal was corn pap. It made you strong too. I know the Honourable Member for St. James... had a lot of corn pap. It is very evident as you look at him. The Honourable Member has consumed a lot of that.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, that is the way how it was and that is how we grew up. If you went to the shop in those days the only thing you would find in a bag in the shop was if you bought a small bag of BA Feed or whatever. In those days you carry your own bag, you carry your flour bag and you put your things in it, you tie it up and you carry it home and so on.

Mr. Speaker, pampers generate more waste in this country than just about any other commodity. I was going to say ask the Honourable Member for St. James South but he is gone. In our day we used the flour bag or the corn meal bag material and cut them out as diapers and we had those big pins with the duck heads on them. You wash them and put them on the line or you bleach them and put them on.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I know people would say that we have a modern society and we cannot do this, but why can we not. My question is why can we not go back to

those days when we control our environs. I do not know why and that is why I applaud the Minister of Agriculture because what the Minister of Agriculture is doing now is trying to reintroduce Barbadians to a lot of the commodities that used to be eaten then, the cassava and the sweet potato. Nowadays, we want to buy cou cou and instant yam in a tin and they are not canned here in Barbados, they are canned somewhere else but that is what we are doing now. We are buying sweet potatoes in a tin now.

We have to understand what is happening. We have created part of our challenges ourselves. If we continue to have these exorbitant taste for international goods that come in a box or bags or whatever, we are going to generate waste and the Government cannot accept the full responsibility for managing that waste. It is part of our collective responsibility. That is the message that I want to send forth as the Minister of the Environment and Drainage. If we are going to be able to protect our environment and to save our environment from the hazzards of bad practices we are going to have to put the standards in place now.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that when used cars came into Barbados everybody said it was a great thing, anybody can own a car now, cars are cheap and so on. Mr. Speaker, that may well be true but what we did not understand is that every used car that comes into the country comes with four tyres half used, half good, so the first thing you got to do with a used car is to change the tyres. We are now getting tyres at the landfill in the amount of 200 plus almost a day. The Government got to deal with that you know. There is no environmental levy. The environmental levy was removed not because the Government wanted to remove it but because we kept our restrictions in law that we signed on to. The environmental levy is gone, and the Government is going to have to pay to treat those tyres out of its own coffers.

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Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the polluter must pay principle has to be applied and that it is not a hard asking if the Government asks citizens to help share in the treatment of the waste that they produce. Sir, to bring this society out over the years the Government changed all of the pit toilets through a cost. Mr. Speaker, I remember the days when the Government used to provide pit toilets, what we called 'thrones' where people would build a shed over it, Government still does. I am saying that our society is moving, we cannot just move on the basis of philosophy, we have to move on the basis of practice. We just cannot go forward on the basis of ambition or admiration for First World standard countries, we have to move on the basis of First World practices right here at home. Sir, that is my point.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, we have to move there, so that any Government, a Democratic Labour Party Government, a Barbados Labour Party Government or any other Government that is really serious about the maturation of a society, the fulfillment of Independence, has to be committed with moving independence from a claim to a practice. We have to embrace it, as we say we want to free the country from colonialism, then we have to free our minds from colonial thinking and that is important.

Mr. Speaker, the current policy then is to move the Sanitation Service Authority to seeing waste as a resource and the Government of Barbados began planning a decision-making for solid waste management. We have to look at the economic viability, we have to look at the environmental integrity of our policy, and we have to look at the capacity of the policy to improve quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this now because I know that it is bound to come up, we accept that there are some stark inefficiencies in the Sanitation Service Authority, not because of a lack of good staff but because of a lack of good equipment. Mr. Speaker, I know there is a lot of talk in here from time to time about trucks and so on, but I have a history on the issue of trucks. Sir, the problem that we have with vehicles today did not start with us, when the country had a lot of money that they could have made informed decisions to set things right, it did not do so in some cases. I did not say in all, but in some cases. Listen to me carefully, in the purchasing of trucks, anyone who has a fleet of vehicles under his or her charge has to understand that when you are doing a fleet replacement programme you have to stagger your fleet input in order to make sure that when the fleet goes down that the whole batch does not break down.

Mr. Speaker, in 1999, 22 Leyland compactor trucks were purchased at one time to augment the existing Sanitation Service Authority fleet. Although this was seen as a solution to the operation's difficulties, problems started in a very short time thereafter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, within two years of the acquisition of this fleet, in 2001, there were significant problems related to the differentials and the axels in these vehicles. This purchase generated that infamous story of the Minister with responsibility for the Sanitation Service Authority going somewhere in Latin America to buy trucks with differentials as light as net. This was the Minister of Health, so they forgot to take it off or someone purporting to test the engines to see if they were running.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, this is two years hence, and let us understand that the problems with

the vehicles did not start with us, two years hence there were 22 vehicles and most of them had problems with significant parts. Mr. Speaker, if those trucks did not have differentials then they could not be able to move waste, as the trucks could not move. Further, connected to the lift is the axle so that you could end up with a lot of broken axles, snapped axels, et cetera, and things like that.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, let me go on to 200. As a matter of fact, by 2003, with these 1999 brand new vehicles, all of these components had been replaced. I want the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to keep a calculation for me for those 22 trucks. I will come back to the cost. In 2005, there were significant problems relating to the fleet in relation to the springs and the rear of the vehicles. The Assistant Transport at the time indicated that the weight distribution on the chassis when loaded with refuse compromised the flexibility of the springs and so the springs had to be replaced at least twice a year. Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs puts money up front to buy these vehicles but the maintenance cost is what has been striking down the Sanitation Service Authority for a long time, and I will get to that too. Mr. Speaker, by 2006 there were significant issues relating to the injection pumps of the same vehicles which were leaking diesel, in most cases the injection pumps had to be replace. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in most cases and injection pump costs over \$14 000 each.

Mr. Speaker, I should hasten to say this, that the only period in the recent history of the Sanitation Service Authority where there has not been a frequent replacement of injectors is recently where we sourced those injectors out, first of all, to find out if they could be repaired, because there was a replacement process, not a repair and replacement process, and in the recent seven or eight months we have not had a request for the replacement of an injector pump because we realised that they could have been repaired at source, in the shop, but that to keep vehicles moving on the road, the downtime has to be minimized and therefore perhaps it was more expeditious to buy a new one.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of maintenance, the mechanical division has indicated that approximately BDS\$200 000 has been spent on each of these vehicles since the acquisition. Sir, do you see where the money went?

No.C23 (10)

In terms of the cost of maintenance, the mechanical division has indicated that approximately BDS\$200 000 has been spent on each of these vehicles since acquisition. You see where the money went? That is a whole loan. That

costs more than the vehicle costs, so when I hear people run around and talk about, “Man, the Minister would not buy trucks and this thing happen, and this thing happen,” before you move to a new-truck policy, you have to correct these internal challenges. If you do not, you will end up buying 22 brand new trucks, and in two years you will be spending over \$200 000 on them, and parts are more expensive now. The marketplace for parts now is far more exorbitant.

When the Minister of Finance in past discussions asked us to explain what is happening with these trucks and so on, I really did not understand it fully until I asked that a Paper be done by the SSA to generate the information to explain these things. In addition to the Leyland fleet in 1999, six Nissan trucks were also acquired as part of the augmentation of the fleet, so 22 plus nine. There were problems on these trucks now; problems related to the clutches, and they had to be replaced frequently. It was indicated that within two years of the purchase of these trucks, these problems would occur. They are some of the problems that were inherent in the machinery. Some of the problems, as pointed out in this Paper, were due to operator error. That is one of the reasons why I have asked that all drivers be evaluated on annual basis, because when new vehicles come, only the best drivers will drive those vehicles. Are you with me?

Freightliners. When you talk about Leylands, you are referring to freightliners. Between the year 1999 and 2005, no additional vehicles were acquired, but by 2005, due to the problems experienced by the Leyland fleet, the ability of the Authority to execute its mandate in relation to the collection of its portion of waste had been significantly impacted in a negative way. It is interesting that the author of the document put a reaction and not a response. In reaction to the significant problems experienced, the Government authorised the purchase of another fleet of vehicles to augment those. Tenders were issued for the acquisition of equipment. By 2005, the SSA Board had entered into a contractual agreement for the purchase of 20 new freightliners, Mr. Minister. This is between 1999 and 2005. In a six-year period, over 50 brand new vehicles were bought. Understand that.

The problem with the freightliners, Mr. Speaker, Sir, was that the freightliners were not purpose-built vehicles. They tell you when you are purchasing a compactor, you should purchase a purpose-built vehicle built by the same persons from the mace to the tail. Here is the anatomy of the freightliner: They were assembled utilising components from several different manufacturers from different locations. The compactor body was made by McNeal's, the engine built by Caterpillar, the chassis manufactured by an American company, and the transmission was from Allison.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Do you understand? That is one of the reasons why, when a vehicle breaks down, we cannot take it back to the people who sourced it and get it fixed, because the people who sourced it now have to go and source the parts from five different operators. There are five different people, so your vehicle sits there on the line, a vehicle that is required to be on the road, for several weeks, waiting. I am not going to call the name they were sourced from. If something goes wrong with the PTO (power take-off) which is part of the compacting mechanism, you have to try and get that from somebody. If something goes wrong with the engine, you have got to go to Caterpillar, and Caterpillar has one agent in the region so you cannot get a Caterpillar part from anybody else. I personally believe that is bad practice. There is one agent in Barbados, the one agent that handles Caterpillar parts, so you are stuck with that engine regardless. No price comparisons, nothing. You have to go with that person because Caterpillar will not release the parts unless that person requests it. If the transmission goes bad, you have to go to Allison. Do you understand? That is the dilemma, so when people start talking about trucks, I would like for them to educate themselves on what becomes of the process of putting a truck on the road.

In today's Barbados, a truck costs just under \$500 000; one truck. One of the reasons why that price tag is so high is because it is a multiplicity of parts from different places.

Aside.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: The freightliner was often in trouble. I have the listing with the numbers. When you see them on the road, you can now look at them and say, “Ah, that is a freightliner. I know a Caterpillar. I know an Allison”. It has so many body parts that you do not know which part is down, what part is running, and what the problem is; and that has been a perennial problem. That is why institutions of Government must be driven by a vision, a vision that expands beyond the institution that gives it its guidance and direction on how policy should be formulated in that institution. People talk about how you micromanage this and so on. I do not know what that was, anyway, because my thing is that if you have an estate and you are not hands-on, your estate will run to ruin and then you have nothing but yourself. You have to keep your fingers on the pulse.

However, since 2005, there was and still is a long list of ongoing problems being experienced by these vehicles. Brake issues, electrical issues, ongoing injector problems, injector pump problems, PTOs, slack adjuster problems, hydraulic issues, shocks and shock absorbers issues, compactors, compactors starting and deteriorating and

breaking down. Over an average of \$300 000 have been spent on each of those vehicles in maintenance. That is more than the cost of the vehicles. The point I am making is about bad policy. If the purchasing policy was informed, there is no way the last Government could have gone and bought 40-something trucks in two tranches and saddle the institution, especially after the first tranche of trucks in less than two years were breaking down all over Barbados. You went back and bought another 20 trucks, and want to come in here and lecture this Government about responsible governance.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, refrain from shouting across the Chamber, especially when you are on your feet, Sir.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In between there, there were some Mitsubishis and, Mr. Speaker, I am going to tell you that the trucks will come.

H:No.C23 (11)

We have cut down the maintenance to cost significantly from \$4.4 million so we have these issues. Sir, I can give you the litany of issues as the reason why it is important for Barbados to move on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue is that in order for us to advance -- and this amendment to this legislation is just the beginning of that process -- we have to come up with and advance a new waste treatment modality. Sir, that is the whole purpose. In order to get our fleet on the road, we have just engaged the Korean Eximbank who has furnished the Government of Barbados with a grant and that grant project is now being executed and it is doing a fleet and management study. Sir, this has never been done before.

Mr. Speaker, the reason for that is that before you buy trucks, you have to know what is your route consideration, you have to know what the density of each route is, how much collections per week is required based on the density, you have to study the distance in travelling from one route to the landfill and back to that route and how you to organise your week distribution and that is why we are going through this process. Sir, I took the decision that we go and buy 20 trucks that we need to know what these trucks are going to be doing. How has Barbados changed since 1945 because the other Government sailed through Government for 15 years in the last instance and they did not even look at that. Sir, all they were interested in was in spending money down in Greenland to the tune of \$100 million and not a toffee paper can go down there and have the absolute temerity to come here and try to lecture the Government on how it should transact its business relative to waste management. You cannot be authority on

that. I heard a body in this country the other day mouthing that they have to go up to the SSA and decide what the SSA is spending on repairs and who is doing the repair. Sir, tell them to come because they cannot run Government policy. They may be workers representative body but they cannot come into the Government and tell the Government how to make decisions as long as the employees are protected and well looked after. Sir, they were interrogating the SSA, persecuting the SSA and trying to make the SSA the slave drum of their institution and have not offered a single idea as to how to create and administrate a modern Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. Speaker, through the generosity of South Koreans, we are doing this fleet management and group management study that will help us to understand what are the drivers of adequately and efficiently collecting waste in this country and how many trucks are necessary to do it, whether they be 47 something trucks or 56 something trucks. We are not interested in buying trucks, we want to outfit the institution to become as nimble and an efficient institution because we have very competent workers to carry out our mandate. Sir, that is the position of the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, the study is ongoing and they have been working for seven weeks working to get the analysis done. When this is completed, this will help to inform how the SSA will remodernise itself but part of that modernization is also our commitment to restructuring the organisation which is now on the table and the Cabinet of Barbados will be treated to the new restructuring plan shortly.

Mr. Speaker, they can talk and talk but they have to say something. You cannot just be sweating like a nimble fowl, you have to say something. Sir, do you know that the SSA has a population of 700 persons or thereabout and never had a Human Resources Manager. Can you imagine that? You are running an institution that is complex with several domains of services at all level, a customer driven business, a national service and for 15 years you do not have a Human Resources Manager. Sir, for 15 years, they on the other side spend millions of dollars on truck and all kinds of things but never thought it was important to put a HR Manager in place. They never thought it was important and that is one of the reason why ever time the wind blew, you would find that the SSA was on strike because there was no systemize process to work with the employees. Sir, since I have been here, we have appointed more persons under this Government that have been appointed at the SSA than ever before. We went and found people working for 20 years but were never appointed and yet they come in here and want to lecture us. Sir, on what?

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that if we are talking about fixing a problem, you fix the problem from the root. Sir, a

tree that is burnt at the root, it is a waste of time pruning it because it is dying and you may only hasten its death. You have to get into the institutions, study the institutions and you have to work on them and sometimes under severe pressures to improve the institutions. We have a new template for the modernization of the SSA and we are going to hit it from the top all the way down to the bottom. Sir, we are giving our people retraining.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this to you that under that programme more persons within the SSA have been trained and promoted than ever before.

Asides.

Hon. D. LOWE: You hear a lot of people talking like Joe Tudor and you hear all the talk and cannot say a word. I am telling you that we have done more to bring the institution up to its level than ever before. Sir, I do not mind the talk. It is a waste of talk, a waste of air and a waste of space.

Mr. Speaker, we have to move on and the board of directors have been given a mandate. I want to compliment the Chairman and her directors for sticking with the task and moving the system forward. We are at a place now where within a matter of months, we are going to roll out a brand new institution that is far more effective than ever before.

Sequence 12

12.40 p.m.

Insert s13 Juliette

Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: We also fought for the principle of loss and damage. The policy agreement has also adopted a standard on loss and damages without holding any developed country ransom for helping a small developing state to recover from its devastations.

Finance: We have committed to a post 2020 finance with \$100 billion as the floor with the capacity to raise higher capital. We also fought for countries like Guyana and other Caribbean states that have appreciable forestry, and that was included as a special circumstance for funding for countries like Guyana. We fought for a legally binding document that was outlined by a commitment to implement, a commitment to mandatory inventory, reporting in core agreement and consequences for failing to implement and report on what they call no backsliding.

Each country of the 190 plus countries that signed on to the Paris Agreement must come back to the United

Nations in five years and report on the progress made on those particular areas. Barbados is one in that group of nations, developed and developing, that have committed to this programme. In five years we must have realised some of the goals we established. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that once we keep online and enshrine with our commitments we will be alright.

Only yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I did our first climate impact tour. We went to the south and the east of the country to examine the devastation caused by climate change impacts and what we discovered are new are the ravages that are being caused by the impact of road action, the erosion of the shoreline shelves, the damage to our reef systems in the area which is a barrier to the veracity of the waves as they come ashore, the erosion of the sand dunes and a number of other impacts where people's path to the beach, the window to the sea, has been disrupted significantly and beaches like Crane Beach have now practically disappeared from the east, and we have got other important things up there.

The Government, through the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage and the Coastal Zone Management Unit, has been working very hard to keep up with the stabilisation of our shorelines since some of the country's critical economic assets are on these shorelines. The cost that it would take to repair some of these things is in the millions of dollars and we are committed to ensuring that our response is a first and fast response in reaching out to these. There are citizens' homes and business persons' properties that are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not begin to engage in practices that will minimise or walk back the production of greenhouse gases on this island we are going to have, if not us, future generations, to pay exorbitant amounts of moneys to recover some of our assets. Some of them would be gone forever. I saw in the east yesterday a rock face with a small island that fell off of it into the sea and now the home is sitting on the edge, you cannot walk between the guard-wall of the home and the edge of the rock face. I have seen other areas where the wind action is so severe especially at high tide that it is now eating under the rock face so that some homes are sitting over the ocean as a result of that kind of devastation. We have to do something.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about fixing these issues, people only see a label or only a ministry but this is the environment we are talking about, this is what this country is becoming well-known for doing in terms of the protection of its environment. I am saying that through this institution, which not only deals with waste disposal but waste management, because one of the high areas of greenhouse gas production in Barbados is electricity production and that is why we are shifting now to renewable energy and that is why renewable energy is so

important to the whole template of Barbados going forward, so we have to look at these things and we have to look at them in their context to understand why the Government is so passionate about how we go forward...Mr. Speaker, we are therefore comfortable and resolved that treating waste and converting it to energy is the way of the future. We are settled on that, that is a policy of this Government.

We are also settled on the fact that the only technologies of waste-to-energy are no longer suitable technologies because they themselves generate either a lot of emissions in the air or a lot of residue from the treatment of the waste. We want an option that when we put the waste in the option that waste completely dissipates and disappears and that the emission is zero emission coming out, that is the vision that is driving us and that vision is not so far skewed away to what is happening globally because many countries now...

As a matter of fact, the European Union and the Euro Zone have only recently said that in a matter of 20 to 25 years they want to do away with all landfills in that domain, that is a policy of the group of nations. Another list that Barbados was ahead of that declaration in declaring that by 2020/2025, we want to completely do away with landfills and we have people who are going to jump on a bandwagon and talk about Cahill this and Cahill that and Cahill do not do this and Cahill and the Government is not doing that.

Mr. Speaker, I will say again in my conclusion that anytime you have a question about Cahill, let the preceding question be one of Greenland. The Greenland option is not the option this Government has chosen because 100 million taxpayers' dollars have already been spent and there is a proposal on the table that we completely scratched to spend \$149 million more, that is not our option.

I say to those persons who have been around Barbados since the planters, those people who believe that they could jump behind a facebook page or behind twitter or behind something and cast these aspersions on the Government's programme come out from hiding and show your face and let us have a discussion because I am of the view that any time you are pursuing a policy and you study the parameters of that policy and you realise that policy lines up with a global standard, then why should we be walking back or anything.

We promised the country that we are going to engage every regulatory agency before we plant any plant in Barbados. We promised the country that the Barbados taxpayers would not have to foot the Bill for the plant because it is a PPP investment programme. The Government does not have to put up any money, the investor comes and say here is the evidence of my

resources, I want to build a plant, I will recover my money on the sale of electricity. It is as simple as that and you have some gaulins running about the place keeping foolish noise and when you sit them down and you corner them and you ask them to justify what they are saying they cannot justify it.

House C23 Sequence 14

Mr. Speaker, I hope that inasmuch as an aisle divides the two sides of politics in this country, the one thing that will never separate us is ignorance, I hope that we are always able to apply intelligence and commonsense to our analysis on issues. We will not agree on everything and we cannot agree on everything but at the end of the day our quest is to build out a Barbados that we are proud to pass onto the next generation and that in passing the baton on, that nobody has to look for Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party but for a Barbadian who has made his or her contribution to the upliftment and building of Barbados. Sir, that is all we want, therefore, when you apply that kind of sensitivity to your programme, then only one party could be in Government at one time. Mr. Speaker, the dictates of how long that party will govern does not rest on any of us in here, it rests on the people out there who decide that. Let the Government do its work and stop creating all of these machinations and distractions. It reminds me of Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite when Nehemiah was trying to rebuild the Jerusalem wall and only because they did not give the command, they walked around the place giving all kinds of discouragements but Nehemiah refused to get down because he had a vision for Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, we have a vision for Barbados and no bickering, yapping, no scrabbling, nothing of the sort will deter us from pursuing that vision. We have a vision for this country.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, we have a vision and nobody can stop us off that track. Mr. Speaker, we are socially balanced and that social balance often gives rise to having a heartfelt care to the people among whom we sit. We have a heartfelt commitment to ensuring the goodwill of our friends and colleagues, instead of trying to destroy people's lives, then wanting to shout across here trying to tell people how to live. Mr. Speaker, we are not going to do it, that is why I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Honourable Member for Christ Church West well and pray that the Honourable Member returns here, as I heard the Honourable Member is not well.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I remember some months ago when I was here thanking my constituents for praying for me when I was ill an Honourable Member on

that side shouted across and said that it was not an obituary speech, I remember that. I will say this now, no ill-will, no bad-mindedness, no witchcraft, nothing of the sort can come against this man, for the steps of a good man are authored by God. They said it is as good as an obituary speech, like my days are numbered by you, you are wishing for people's death? Sir, that is what we have to deal with in here and that is what is showcasing itself as the alternative Government of this country. Sir, if Barbadians sit down and listen to that rubbish, if Barbadians are to get drunk enough to do that, crapaud smoke not only the pipe but crapaud smoke weed.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, this is serious business in here. I did not come here by proxy, I have the right to speak my mind according to the wise, I came in here with a strong majority and my seat was not bequeathed to me because of the favours that I had done, I earned it. I cannot sit down and make a speech in peace without having to listen to the nonsense coming out of the orifice of that person. Mr. Speaker, this is serious business, we are trying to move this country forward, we have to look at the policies that we know are important and we do not have to sit down and listen...

Mr. Speaker, I am going ask for an amendment to the rules of this Honourable House, I am going to propose that people who cannot keep their mouth shut when another person is speaking, unless they are saying something that is important, they should be taken out of this Honourable House by the Marshal. Sir, you are trying to make a speech in this Honourable House, you are trying to give people understanding about an institution, you are trying to help them to move forward in their understanding and you have persons who could not convince a 'pea chink' that it was a 'pea chink'. Sir, it was that level of ignoramity.

Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that this Bill we read for a second time.

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

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now suspended for Lunch, to be resumed at 2.15 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Honourable the House and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting accordingly.

No.C23 (15)12.54 p.m.

RESUMPTION

MR. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 14, and to that we shall return. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on this Bill to amend Section 2 of the Sanitation Service Authority Act, CAP 382, and I also rise on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party to lend support to the Government, which is in dire need to be saved from the seemingly entrenched commitment of bungling; bungling even the most elementary principle of good governance. So I rise to support the Government, and to save them from their repetitive failures in this area of solid waste management in this country. This failure of long delay to correct this administrative breach is a clear example of Government's irresponsibility, and I say that because we, for the past eight years, the Barbados Labour Party, have pointed out that the SSA has always been referred to "the Minister" as the Minister of Health and should have brought this Amendment years ago. They have now brought it eight years after. We have had the Minister of the Environment signing as "the Minister", when in fact the Act recognises the Minister of Health as the Minister responsible for Sanitation Service Authority; so you are signing in breach of the Act as the Minister of the Environment. You are signing in effect as the Minister of Health. I am glad that you have finally reached the stage to bring this Amendment before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say this to mention that in addition to the tardy and irresponsible behaviour, this Government that has become lawmakers and lawbreakers as well. I must clarify what I just said, Mr. Speaker, because you have within this Government the Transport Board, and I start with that. The Transport Board has been selling fuel to minibuses; not only the Transport Board but we have created at the Barbados Water Authority an executive chairman when such a post was not established. That is what I am speaking about: lawmakers and lawbreakers. Mr. Speaker, I also mention the Cahill agreement being signed before coming to this Honourable House by four Ministers, and I can go on and on, Mr. Speaker, about the breaches by this Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Philip West, do not get too loud, please. Let us have some order. Just a minute please. Let us have some order, though. Thanks. Continue please.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you. I can go on and on, and I can list the litany of woes and the issues that this Government would have created by not seeing that you enforce the law. This example today, this Bill here that we are debating, is an example. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I sat for two-and-a-half hours and I listened to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, and we the Barbados Labour Party recognise that the management of solid waste, and indeed the environment, is not an easy task. Principle, we buy into that, but Mr. Speaker, even though the task is a difficult one, we still believe that it is not an impossible task, and I wish to be easy on the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. I am not going to be like him, getting in here and calling people “pee chinks” and destroyers, because he spent the whole afternoon being defensive, and he has not given an account of his stewardship to date as the Minister. He has not.

Let me speak about the issues that this Government would have bungled, and I am going to start from the whole financing of solid waste management. This whole issue of the environmental levy, the Solid Waste Tax, the Government of the day would have gone into the National Insurance Scheme trying to solve the whole issue of financing in that area. Last but by no means least, the tipping fee. We have had at least four shots at trying to finance solid waste management -- this Government in this country -- and they have not come up with a good solution as yet, and it is easy. I said it is a difficult task but I say it is easy because we have people in this country. Let us go to our people. I heard the Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, saying that the people put him there and the people voted Government, but our people in this country have solutions to most of these issues, so I do not see why this Government can keep kicking about the whole financing of solid waste management like a football, moving from one strategy to the next and none has succeeded thus far.

I want to debunk this myth, though, from the Minister. I am laughing because when I sat and listened to him, I was in humour, because we need to debunk this myth that the Barbados Labour Party signed the agreement with SBRC (Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre). It was signed by the said Honourable Member for Christ Church East. The final agreement was signed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, and the liability to pay the \$22 million per year to SBRC, whether you meet the garbage quota or not, was agreed by the Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. We know that since the introduction of the tipping fee, the tonnage going to SBRC has dropped nearly by half. I do not have the figure here right now.

Aside.

Mr. D.A. SUTHERLAND: We know that that figure has dropped by half. Mr. Speaker, the Minister behaves as if he is the lord and master. He does not value others' opinions, disparaging and offending people because they have a difference of opinion to him, and I do not think that is fair. We keep talking about empowering people, we keep talking about the people who put us here, but yet when it comes to finding solutions, it is either his way or the highway. Since the Honourable Member for Christ Church East claims to be a man of the cloth, I really would like to see him stop calling people “pee chinks” and destroyers. He started out quoting the Bible. When you are quoting the Good Book, we need to focus on the Commandments; those will guide us in our day-to-day behaviours.

H:No.C23 (17)

They need to focus on the commandments. Those will guide us in our day to day behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party and the Minister in his presen spoke the entire afternoon and every chance the Honourable Member for Christ Church East got he referred to Greenland landfill. Sir, Greenland Landfill has not been a feature of solid waste management for over 10 years but every time he comes to this Honourable House, the Democratic Labour Party sees it fit to keep mentioning Greenland Landfill as opposed to moving off.

Mr. Speaker, we need also to debunk this other myth that the Barbados Labour Party spent \$100 million in maintenance over the years at Greenland because from our recollection when we left office that figure was \$40 million. Mr. Speaker,

INCOMPLETE S18 VELDA

INSERT S19 JULIETTE

Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Again, I feel for the Minister because the Minister was rambling all over the place this morning, and what I took note of though, and let me file it, is that the Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, my friend, mentioned this whole aspect of a Fleet and Group Management Study. I think it is the Koreans who are looking at this Fleet and Group Management Study and after eight years the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has come to this Honourable House and has told us that there have been challenges with equipment and as recent as yesterday he spoke about the purchase of trucks alone cannot solve the problem.

I would like the Minister in his wrap up to tell this Honourable House and the people of this country what are

the issues at the Sanitation Services Authority because I have all of them pinned down to poor governance, bad governance, lack of accountability, lack of fairness and ineffectiveness. I have it down to poor governance at the Sanitation Services Authority that is responsible for this.

Let me go on because the Honourable Member for Christ Church East mentioned... I can quote the Barbados Government Information Services Media Release dated November 12, 2010 which speaks to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East making the statement that he would like to first admit that we have had challenges - and I agree, that is fair, we have had challenges and we all would have challenges - and that many of those challenges did not result from a lack of commitment on the part of the Authority or a lack of dedication on the part of the workers. Let me pause by saying that the Sanitation Services Authority indeed has good workers.

The Honourable Member went on to say that some of these challenges are equipment specific and that we have been trying to address them in a consistent and aggressive way. This is since 2013 when he bought nine trucks for \$4.5 million to improve the Sanitation Services Authority service to the households bringing the present complement to 23. This is 2016 and the Honourable Minister does not have that fleet of 23, but he bought the nine trucks.

The Honourable Member spent the entire morning, two and a half hours, discussing the Barbados Labour Party stewardship and not his, and he never once said how many trucks he bought. I was listening carefully. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East did not at any point in time tell us how many trucks he bought. I have a complement of 23 and he is saying that he would like 45 trucks to address the problem but yet he is saying now in 2016 that the problem is not the trucks, so I do not know what the problem is. In 2013 it was the trucks, equipment issues, and now in 2016 it is not the trucks. Back in 2013 he wanted 45 trucks, so the goalpost keeps shifting and certainly he is not scoring any goals.

Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that despite all of the foul up that would have been created this morning, maintenance plans are vital. I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East touched on a maintenance plan and I will give him the kudos because maintenance plans are very important to maintaining the fleet because if you are going to tell me now that after eight years you are now doing a Fleet and Group Management Study and you are looking at a new template for the Sanitation Services Authority, modernisation and retraining after eight years, then the Honourable Member has admitted that he has had that problem for eight years because after buying nine trucks...

Mr. Speaker, we have to recognise that the problem with our trucks lies predominantly with the management of the Democratic Labour Party which lies with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, so again he is responsible. You cannot blame and talk about buy-in from this body because you said you have good workers but if we have failed to implement our maintenance programme over the eight years and we are now going to look at a Fleet and Group Management Study, then we would recognise that the problem cannot be the workers, the problem has to be with the management. It is poor governance and leadership at the ministerial level, and I do not apologise for that statement.

Mr. Speaker, the Government have been driving around the country collecting garbage using the Ministry of Transport and Works trucks. It is an effort yes because when everything else fails you have to try something. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North has assisted the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in picking up garbage at night. I do not have any difficulty with that but when we are going to have television advertisements leading up to the last election putting a lady on a bus talking about if the Barbados Labour Party win the next election they would have privatised several entities such as the Transport Board...

The list was created by the Democratic Labour Party, what I term political propaganda, which I do not think they are going to win the next election anyway because the people of this country understand now what the Democratic Labour Party did. The Democratic Labour Party is talking about privatisation. The Barbados Labour Party told the citizens of this country that we may have to look at privatisation if we win the last election, which we did not, but now I am seeing privatisation through the backdoor by the Sanitation Services Authority because you are using private haulers to collect garbage in this country. I am saying that is privatisation through the backdoor.

I call on the Honourable Minister to truly put some effort into the situation. He has to purchase some trucks. Let us forget about the eight years you have failed the country. There is no proper maintenance programme in place, you have said that. While the grass is growing the horse is starving, so we have to put something in place in the short term to address this garbage collection problem. I think the quickest thing we can do is to get some trucks in this country and stop saying that the trucks cannot solve the problem. Accept responsibility for your failings and buy some trucks. Yes, people will buy into the whole aspect of the tipping fee, whether it has been revised, and you promised to address the whole tipping fee issue, but in the interim we cannot allow this country to run to its waste, it is near there, as it relates to sanitation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, in the interim we cannot allow this country to run to waste, and it is near there. We cannot allow this country to run to waste as it relates to sanitation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to my next point. Sir, we have had serious misplaced priorities by this Government over the last eight years. This Government has chosen to build a five-storeyed building at the top of Vacluse, St. Thomas, before dealing with the basic fundamentals of garbage collection in this country and without having sufficient trucks to allow the workers to go to work, yet we are here speaking about a five-storeyed building and with these inefficiencies. Why are we so bent on building a five-storeyed building in the middle of nowhere when our landfill has a stench emanating from it? These are the issues with which we should be dealing: garbage all over the country and trucks that are not working, yet you are building a multi-storeyed building for workers on land that was cited for plasma gasification. Mr. Speaker, do not get me wrong, I am all for having decent accommodation for workers in this country, contrary to what was said in the last debate, but it must be done wisely and sensibly. Regrettably, we have other issues in this country to address, in terms of sanitation, first and foremost, that impacts the public health of this country, than to be looking at five-storeyed buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to spend a few minutes now on the five-storeyed building because all is not well there either. Last year in this Honourable House the Government approved 3,354 hectares of land to lease to BOLT Solutions Inc. for the construction of this Administration building. Let me give you the facts, including the facts of the Honourable Member for St. James South. We recall that the groundbreaking for this multi-storeyed building was in January 2014 but the Agreement was not signed between BOLT Solution Inc. and the Sanitation Service Authority June 2014, six months after the groundbreaking. Let me repeat that, the groundbreaking for this multi-storeyed building was on January 2014 but the Agreement was not signed between BOLT Solutions and the Sanitation Service Authority until June which is six months after the groundbreaking. The work then began in August, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, the facts on this building that we have, and I think that all of us should have it because it is nothing to hide, but it is an embarrassment to the Government. The Agreement between the Sanitation Service Authority and BOLT Solutions Inc. was for a \$20 million building. BOLT Solutions Inc. was supposed to inject one-third equity which is about \$8 million but Mr. Speaker, neither the land lease nor the facility lease has been signed, nor has the financing been put in place on this project. Sir, I will repeat, neither the land lease nor the facility lease has been signed, nor has the financing been put in place for this project.

Asides.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, I am going to get to the issue. Mr. Speaker, worse yet was that the work was stopped in February 2015, six months after it had started because BOLT Solution Inc., had expended the \$8 million in equity and it is now 12 months since this work at Vacluse has stopped and the financing has not been put in place by this Government to complete the building. Sir, we are being told that the Government had given BOLT Solutions Inc. a sovereign guarantee and is now telling BOLT Solutions Inc. that they would not now be able to provide that sovereign guarantee anymore.

Sir, that speaks to good governance, again, it speaks to this whole aspect of fairness and trust, effectiveness and accountability. You cannot enter into any form of contract... Let me say you cannot enter into any form of contract because it has happened with the Democratic Labour Party. It is not good business ethics to renege on your responsibility to provide the sovereign guarantee for BOLT Solutions Inc. This is totally unacceptable, this is how Governments get themselves in trouble with financing. Mr. Speaker, I have done a lot of project management in my time, you do not approve, far less start a project unless you have settled and have signed off the financing for that project. Where is the money going to come from? How are you going to pay for it? Sir, the Right Honourable Prime Minister should be answering the country. How are you going to pay for this? How do you deal with cost overruns for having to mobilise, then demobilised, then to mobilise again? Mr. Speaker, the other question to ask would be, what would the interest rate be at this time without the sovereign guarantee that Government had proposed? Mr. Speaker, these are serious issues and again this speaks to fairness.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just a case of misplaced priorities or a case of poor governance, it is one also of fiscal recklessness, again what I call bungling, and it fosters tremendous mistrust between Government and the private sector. This is a case study of how not to do any project, in addition, it is the taxpayers who must pay for this, yet the Honourable Member is telling me about good governance when this is poor governance. Mr. Speaker, what is worse yet is that the Minister has admitted in his speech this morning that the Cabinet of Barbados has approved the project for the building. Therefore, if you have approved the project for this building without financing, then you and the citizens of this country can tell me if that is good governance? If this was approved by Cabinet, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said this morning, where was the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in all this? You must have known what you could have afforded, you could have known whether you could have added to the liability of the Government. Mr. Speaker, how does a Government entity agree to a

guarantee, then to renege on it? I want us to answer that, the people of this country must know these things. How could they do that? This is why people do not have any confidence in this Government.

Asides.

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It is not reckless. Where is the sovereign guarantee? I want the Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, in his wrap-up to tell the people of this country, since this project was approved in Cabinet, where the sovereign guarantee is and how this project will be financed. This is fundamental. I feel for you, Mr. Minister. You are under pressure. You are under tremendous pressure, and if there is anything I can do to help, feel free to consult me.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please, do not let them get so loud please. These asides; please keep them down.

Asides.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand. When I speak in this Honourable House, I do not use curse words. I deal with issues, and I stay focused on the issues of the day. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is a man of the cloth, and I have several pastors and preachers at home listening to me. I have 42 churches, and I will not come to this Honourable House to call anybody any "pee chink" or destroyers. I am dealing with fundamental issues and when those issues are over, I shake hands. I have no issue with the Honourable Member. I have an issue with the way the Sanitation Service Authority is being run, and we must understand these things.

Mr. Speaker, I am not finished. I keep hearing this whole aspect. I am speaking on this issue with respect to governance, because we believe we can run around this country with a Broken Trident for a whole year and fool people, but it cannot happen. This is relevant to poor governance, because -- why I am going there -- we have not yet brought to this House or discussed the cost of the 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations. We have not seen any budget for it, but let me say openly, we in the Barbados Labour Party governed this country 24 years out of the 50 years that we are celebrating. That is 48 per cent. The Barbados Labour Party would have governed, over the 50 years, 48 per cent. I am saying that if you want to tell me that this project is apolitical, why were no Members on this side invited to form the committee? No Members, but that is not all. I am getting personal on it now, Mr. Speaker,

because we ran around St. George with a Broken Trident recently, like I said, on Errol Barrow Day. We the members of this country respected Errol Barrow and we as Members of the Barbados Labour Party supported the Democratic Labour Party in its celebration. However, what I have a fundamental difficulty with is that you can bring the Trident -- forget Dwight Sutherland -- to St. George South, go to St. Luke's Anglican Church, you have gone to Ellerton Wesleyan Church, Ellerton Primary School next to where I live, then Workmans Primary School yards from where I live, and you have not seen it fit to invite the Member of Parliament for St. George South. I think that is so distasteful and disrespectful. Yet you are talking about the 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations being apolitical. I am saying to you, the Members of the Democratic Labour Party, this is the Democratic Labour Party political electioneering, and the eyes of the people of this country are open. They are watching you.

Asides.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: You need to bring a budget for the 50th year celebrations to this Honourable House. Bring a budget to this Honourable House. Bring the programme and let me see it, and do not tell me you are going to invite me via text message. Who am I? You cannot tell me you are going to invite me via text message.

Asides.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, save me.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, let us have some order please.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me carry on.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Members. Let us have some order. Continue please.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have been very much disrespectful in our execution thus far of this 50th Independence Anniversary celebration, and I want the public to know that. I have no difficulty being a part of the 50th anniversary celebration because, like I said and I will repeat in this Honourable House, the Barbados Labour Party governed this country for 24 of the 50 years that we are celebrating, and I think respect ought to be given to every Member of Parliament in this Honourable House as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. We need to, and do not send any invitation or tell anybody, "We have moved from Boarded Hall to Ellerton Wesleyan Church." How could you send me a text message? The Democratic Labour Party, I think you all owe me an apology. The Honourable Member for St. George South. You owe me an apology for not seeing it fit

to include me as a Member of this Lower House in your celebrations. It was indeed an embarrassment.

Asides.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Let me move on because we have some other issues that we need to discuss. Mr. Speaker, on August 28 last year the Honourable Member for St Michael North East and our political leader laid a Private Members' Resolution in this Lower House, that in the interest of transparency again and good governance, the Chairman of the Cabinet should produce and lay in Parliament three documents that speak to the following:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding dated March 15, 2014, between the Government of Barbados and Cahill Energy Limited to construct a plasma gasification waste-to-energy plant.
2. The Implementation Agreement between Cahill Energy and the Government of Barbados.
3. The Power Purchase Agreement between Cahill Energy and the Government of Barbados.

These have been signed by Ministers and representatives, and these bind the Government and the people of this country. This Private Members' Resolution calls on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to produce and lay in Parliament the comments as well, with respect to the Memorandum of Understanding, the Implementation Agreement and the Power Purchase Agreement of all other entities within central Government and statutory corporations. This has not been laid thus far, and has not been discussed. Again, I keep reiterating the point: This speaks to poor governance, fairness, transparency, effectiveness and accountability. When I spoke, I used the old phrase from Alfred Lord Tennyson in his poem, 'Charge of the Light Brigade', to describe the actions taken by the Minister of the Environment who led the Cabinet to slaughter on this project, despite its dubious nature.

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Lord Tennington said:

Sir, that came about as a result of the Crimean War of 1845 where 600 British soldiers were ordered to stave an attack on a prepared Russian army. The Honourable Member for City is shaking his head and one-third of the British soldiers were killed. Sir, that battle became famous for stupidity for following order and leading a charge to defeat a Russian army who were fully armed and had artillery. Mr. Speaker, in this Honourable House we must be praised for being good stewards of public funds and not for following people because when he is going to take up \$700 million... I am not speaking about dishonesty, I am speaking about good stewards of public funds. If people want me to speak about dishonesty, they are free to speak

about that but I am speaking about being good stewards of public funds as a Government. It is only fitting that the documents signed on behalf of the people of the people of this country committing them to billions of dollars annually should come to this Parliament and, Sir, we have said so before.

Mr. Speaker, this project has failed thus far on a number of counts. The earlier study that was submitted to the Town and country planning Department was set back because it did not have sufficient information. The question is being asked where did we get the water from for this process, temperature of 500 degrees celsius. Where will we get the water from? I am saying that we will be burning and it has implications for the workers. When you put a five storey building in the middle of no way next to a plasma gasification plant, you have to look at safety issues with flammable gases, the carbon monoxide, the hydrogen and such issues.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the things that we have to look at, the water content. I know that at the Barbados Light & Power to cool water 10 degrees, you need 15 000 gallons of water per minute. Sir, I am saying that these are some of the issues with this Government, accountability; effectiveness and fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I understand they are forging ahead with plasma gasification plant. I must call on the Government to rethink this. The Government must rethink it because you are not being good stewards of public funds and you are taking decisions not in the best interest of this country.

Mr. Speaker, poor Governments have led the Cahill issue where Cabinet members have not seen the agreements. Sir, it is clear from my presentation thus far that this Government has serious issues with misplaced priorities, fiscal recklessness and we have issues as it relates to poor sanitation in this country and we must address these issues because all are lumped under poor governance.

Mr. Speaker, I end by calling on Government through our Minister of the Environment to address the issues at the Sanitation Service Authority and of poor governance before we seek to put money into fancy building and unproven technology at a time when this Government can least afford to do so.

Mr. Speaker, continued display of poor governance, misplaced priorities, fiscal recklessness and bungling of projects will leave the Democratic Labour Party like the proverbial emperor without clothes, naked and empty and completely unaware that people are seeing for what they really are, they are naked and empty.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER took the CHAIR.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member St. James South.

Hon. D. INNISS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to join this debate here in respect of the amendment to Section 2 of Sanitation Services Authority Act. Madam Deputy Speaker, at first glance it looks like a simple matter because we are simply here today seeking to bring clarity as to the definition of Minister. The amendment state that the Minister means the Minister having responsibility for the Sanitation Service Authority. This is important because for the last seven years, the Sanitation Service Authority has been really been under the Ministry of Health because some parts of legislation it specifically says Minister responsible for Health. Sir, when I served in that Minister, it was very evident that quite a number of the bodies and the functions that are now being performed under the Ministry of Environment by law, may very well have been the responsibility of the Ministry of Health but needless to say they was understanding and full cooperation. Madam, the State must continue to address some of these niggling issues because we have to appreciate that under our system of Government that the Prime Minister is within his power to allocate and assign Ministers to different portfolios, to take different departments and statutory entities and place them under a reconfigured Ministry. Sir, the law does not always keep abreast of these changes and what we are seeking to do, generally speaking, across the system is to have a definition of Minister that really would enable the Prime Minister, when making adjustments to allow for departments and statutory entities to come under the Minister who has responsibility for his portfolio as allocated by the Prime Minister and the Governor-General.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this ought really to be a simple matter of ensuring that the Sanitation Service Authority is in no doubt as to which Minister they are accountable to in the Cabinet. However, the debate has risen so far even to the point that we have got into a conversation albeit one side about the 50th anniversary celebration and who received a trident in St. George and who go an invitation by test message but really and truly, one may argue that it is the epitome of political garbage, since we are having a talk about sanitation really for the conversation

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Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: We must ask ourselves what can we do at the individual level to generate less garbage. We would not have a problem of this magnitude if Barbadians were generating less garbage, so at the individual level we must ask ourselves every day what is it that I do not need to throw in the garbage and what is it that I perhaps need to pay a little bit more attention to in my purchasing disciplines in terms of the quantities I buy. There are people who buy things in large quantities and then at the end of the week they have to throw so much away, they are not even thinking of cutting them up in small pieces and freezing them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the other aspect at the household level reflects upon our disposal patterns, I would say. We need to take recycling in Barbados a lot more seriously than we are taking it. I follow the work of the Future Centre Trust, for example, and I want in this Honourable Chamber to give praises to them for the excellent work they have been doing in Barbados to educate Barbadians on matters such as recycling and all of the other environmental issues and to go a step further in terms of finding practical sustainable solutions that would allow us to have a better physical environment to pass on to the next generation.

At the individual level we must ask ourselves what are we doing to get more involved in recycling. Do we need to throw away everything. Can we take the pep bottles, for example, and use them to grow peppers or seasoning. There are things that may seem very simple.

When I was Minister of Health on a couple of occasions we had the issues of fires of tyres at the garbage dump and the serious environmental concerns there. We had the issues of mosquito breeding in the tyres and the containers around this country. Madam Deputy Speaker, it seems like it is only at the primary schools, like the West Terrace Primary School, for example, in my constituency, that you see tyre gardens, but why can we not have some of those at our homes.

People are very contented. Barbadians today are very contented to go every year and change two tyres on their vehicle hopefully two to the front and two to the back for maybe \$800 and never think of where those tyres end up because as far as we are concerned, I have two new tyres on my vehicle. Those two old tyres could be used to plant some vegetables around your home in Barbados. You do not need 4 000 square feet of land to grow a little seasoning or a little pepper or what not to feed your family. I do not know about making shoes because you might slip and slide.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the fundamental issue is in relation to what we dispose in this country, so we need to ask ourselves at the individual level and the household

level, do I need to generate so much garbage and what are the little things I could do to recycle. Madam Deputy Speaker, if each one of us is able to generate one pound of garbage less per week in a country of about 80 000 households, I think it is, that may be 80 000 less pounds of garbage that is not going to a dump. Madam Deputy Speaker, while these things may seem insignificant, each little contribution that each one of us make would make a fundamental difference on the whole, so that is one issue I wish to address.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the other issue within the broad area of sanitation in Barbados and environmental concerns - because when we speak of sanitation it is not just about the garbage we generate, recycle or dispose of in this country, it is about the broader environmental issue - is that we have to ask ourselves in this society, it is not a political issue, to what extent do we genuinely care about the environment that we live in, and I do not sense that. It is an issue that a lot of Barbadians are really concerned about, but then I look around and I see the number of Barbadians who today are suffering with asthma and when you look at the amount of money the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a public healthcare system is spending on addressing health issues that arise in some great measure from the environment that we are living in today, we must all stop and take stock of it. I mean the environment in the general sense of the term. I remember that when I was Minister of Health and we said that we have to ban smoking in public places the Opposition bitterly opposed it, that too was part of the environmental concerns that we were addressing. When we look at what we throw in our gullies and what not these days...

Right above where I live the National Conservation Commission recently clean up and I thank them on behalf of the residents of Husbands Heights, Husbands and the surrounding areas. I think they are working and cleaning the watercourse in Wanstead all the way down and I want to thank them very much on behalf of my constituents for the work as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, you see old fridges and old stoves dumped in the watercourses. People pass and throw bags of garbage out through the windows and I say do these people really care about the environment, but the attitude is I can generate garbage, I can toss it anywhere, it is somebody else's responsibility to clean it up.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Barbadians need to take a stronger sense of ownership of their circumstance including their environment. The issues of the environment are not just for the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, every one of us has a role to play in asking ourselves what kind of environment we wish to have for Barbados and for Barbadians and what is our role in creating that kind of physical environment we are speaking of.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is much more we have to do in this country. I will say this to you, this issue, as the Honourable Member for St. George South spoke about, in respect of the Sanitation Services Authority building a five-storey building in the middle of nowhere, et cetera - he called St. Thomas nowhere several times but that is alright - and started to drag into any allegations of wrongdoings and no guarantees from the Ministry of Finance and this and what, the Government has decided that the Sanitation Services Authority employees ought to have the best possible physical office accommodation to work in, but you see there are those on the other side who would object to that because as far as they are concerned the Sanitation Services Authority is just about the fellows behind a stinking garbage truck collecting our garbage that we generate. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is the unfortunate perception that came through when I heard the Honourable Member for St. George South object to the construction of a new office facility for the Sanitation Services Authority staff.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let me make it abundantly clear, I work in international business, finance, commerce, small business, et cetera and the majority of my staff have nice air-conditioned offices to go to work in every day, so why cannot the administrative staff at the Sanitation Services Authority have similar accommodation. Do you believe that because the agency is responsible for the collection and disposal of garbage that they cannot have proper office accommodation? No. That is a fundamentally flawed thinking.

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

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. When I spoke in no way did I say that the Honourable Members on this side or the Barbados Labour Party do not want the members of the Sanitation Services Authority to be housed in decent buildings and accommodation. When I spoke I said that I agree with finding adequate and decent accommodation for the workers, so the Honourable Member for St. James South is misleading this Chamber. We did not disagree with finding accommodation. Our challenge remains a five-storey building next to a plasma gasification plant without the necessary authorisation, authorities, signatures and procedures being followed, that is our fundamental difficulty.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I know exactly what I heard and I have no doubt in my mind as to my understanding of the perspective of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in respect of the Sanitation Services Authority employees, that they should not be allowed to have a priority in terms of accommodation but

that the moneys should be spent out there collecting garbage from Barbadians.

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Madam Deputy Speaker, if an organisation or staff is not comfortable it is not going to function, then we would have all sorts of issues emanating. Ma'am, it is a not so subtle perspective in terms of how some Honourable Members on that side think of some workers in this country, that some of these blue-collared workers are not fit to have an air-conditioned office in which to work.

Madam Deputy Speaker, though not to digress too far, I want to say that is why in spite of a deep and prolonged recession that has impacted negatively on this economy over the years, this Government has provided far more suitable accommodation for public officers than the previous Government did in 15 years. Madam Deputy Speaker, I want my friends in the Sanitation Service Authority to know that Government understands their plight and that we are addressing those plights and so the building has to be done. I am not going to stress on it being a five-storeyed building or what-not, because the prison is only one-storeyed and it costs 50 times as much as the Sanitation Service Authority building will cost.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Madam Deputy Speaker, let me make the fundamental point, a new building for the staff of the Sanitation Service Authority Headquarters is in itself not going to solve our issues with respect to garbage management in Barbados on a whole, that is why I want to go back to the point and stress that there is so much more that we can do at both the individual and community levels. Madam Deputy Speaker, shortly I intend to work with the Future Centre Trust and many others in the constituency of St. James South to provide occasions when there are recyclable materials and those things that do not have to go to the landfill could be collected on special days and that or other entities could make use of them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have gone as far as saying and I will do so again, as we go forward dealing with the issue of solid waste management in Barbados we have to redefine the role of the private sector, and there is big business in garbage, and it does not have to be for Government. Madam Deputy Speaker, Government cannot do everything and there are some things that are more efficiently done by the private enterprise. There is a lot of creativity and innovation that can permeate the garbage and solid waste management industry with a small economy like Barbados that we must in no way hinder. Madam Deputy Speaker, you will see that under this Administration, in spite of the rumblings and noises that people keep every now and then and the attacks that we

will get, the truth of the matter is that we have seen far more Barbadian entrepreneurs engaging in the business of recycling, the issue of solid waste management and garbage collection. I am even seeing some pretty garbage trucks around the island now, they do not belong to the Sanitation Service Authority and I commend those entrepreneurs who are involved in such, in terms of collecting and recycling materials. Ma'am, for example, B's Bottling and Recycle Center has been doing an excellent job over the years in terms of collecting recycling materials, compressing them and exporting them. Therefore we have actually been earning significant foreign exchange from the export of what people hitherto would call garbage in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, our garbage becomes somebody's else gold, that is why I have to commend those entities in the private sector who have recognised a business opportunity, while at the same time generating jobs, earning foreign exchange and also helping to solve some environmental concerns. Therefore the State has to continue in that vein where we are facilitating greater entrepreneurship or enterprise in the issue of solid waste management or garbage generation and disposal in Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, I would want to say to those of our friends who are involved in the private sector who are involved in the industry to see the Government as partner, as I am sure that the Minister of the Environment and Drainage sees them as partners as well and so certainly Madam Deputy Speaker, we have to move forward.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there has been some hullabaloo about the decision to purchase new trucks for the Sanitation Service Authority. Ma'am, the same people who would try to cast aspersions, who would drop all sorts of innuendos about the arrangement, like the Honourable Member for St. George South, who has just left the Honourable Chamber to receive the Trident somewhere...

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Madam Deputy Speaker, those persons who may take pot shots at Government's decision to acquire new trucks for the Sanitation Service Authority must realise that the discussion cannot be just about how many trucks they bought as against how many we bought, et cetera, but that it is about making a business decision. Ma'am, there is a point in time when it makes no sense in continuing to invest in maintenance and repairs on these vehicles, we have to change them, there has to be a fleet management system that allows for the change-out of vehicles over time. We are not going to change all of them at once, like how the former Government bought 54 trucks and in two months' time they all broke down, we are taking a position that a proper fleet management system must be in operation to allow for the Sanitation Service Authority to have a rolling stock that adequately meets the demands of

Barbadians, but buying more trucks for the Sanitation Service Authority is in itself not going to solve the garbage issue in Barbados, that is why, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I say it must be a multifaceted approach to the issue.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am going to close by reiterating what I think are fundamental points which are: Each one of us Barbadian must ask ourselves what can we do to resolve the issue or challenge of garbage disposal and management in Barbados. Do we need to generate so much garbage at the household level? Are our purchasing and consumption patterns the right ones to allow us to give effect to such? Are we doing enough recycling in Barbados, at the individual level? At the community level are there more recycling projects that can take place? Ma'am, you see the open spaces around, some of which belong to Government, but the expectation is that the Government will clean and maintain the areas but I would like to see in some communities where you are able as residents in adjoining areas where they can come and create tyre gardens or some green spaces for relaxation and take stronger ownership of this space and not to sit and depend on the Government to do everything.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I go back to the point, I said that today the Sanitation Service Authority is costing this country \$60 million and if we do not start doing things at the individual level to reduce that cost of operation, we are the persons who are going to complain if there is a small increase in taxes across the country to be able address these costs. Ma'am, I say I do not want to have to pay any more money in taxes, the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs on my right and my friend for many, many years knows my views that I do not have another penny to pay in taxes, but if I do not do something at my own household level about the Sanitation Service Authority challenges then I am going to have to pull my pocket a little bit more. I cannot ask the people of St. Lucia or Grenada to contribute towards the Sanitation Service Authority in Barbados, because it is not their problem, neither can I keep asking the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to juggle and find more money for some of these agencies, we as citizens or taxpayers must do better to help to reduce the cost of operations of some of these things, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the other point I want to stress is that we have to redefine the role of the private enterprise in relation to the issue of garbage management in Barbados. I believe that there is an excellent opportunity for a partnership to evolve between the State and private enterprise that will lead towards enhanced level of education in respect to the environment at the very macro level and then breaking it down to the issue of garbage management, solid waste disposal, et cetera, in Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe that we really have to thank the Sanitation Service Authority for the excellent

work that they have been doing under very trying circumstances, some of which are due to internal issues but generally-speaking to how we as John Public treat to some of the issues that exist within the environment. It is not a Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party issue, there is only one environment we have here and each one of us must simply do our part to ensure that it is the best possible environment that we can pass on to the next generation. Madam Deputy Speaker, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

No.C23 (26)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I wish, Ma'am, to continue with this Debate and to indicate that I have tremendous challenges with a number of issues that I experience daily, and so too do many thousands of Barbadians. I believe that my country which I have grown to love, and which I believe all the Honourable Members in here and the people of Barbados have grown to love, want to see Barbados being kept clean and tidy. That is just not the case now, Ma'am, as compared with the past. I noted with interest, Ma'am, that the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party of 2008 would have only given a sentence or so about the environment. It was very little that they said. A paragraph generally, but then it went on to a number of other areas to do with land, agriculture and things of that nature. I want specifically, Ma'am, to refer to what was highlighted in the Manifesto of 2013 by the Democratic Labour Party at Page 5, talking about the pillars of our future success, those four pillars:

1. Socially balanced policies,
2. Economically viable development,
3. Environmentally sound practices,
4. Good, honest Government.

I believe that all of these, Ma'am, are needed if we are to have a fair and just society to live in. However, I have tremendous difficulties when I look at the promises and performances, I call it, of the Democratic Labour Party between 2008 and 2012. This document, I assume, would have been prepared just before the General Election of 2013. At Page 24, "Projects Undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Drainage", there is a first bullet that says, "The achievements of the Ministry of Environment and Drainage include (first thing) the construction of a \$400 million waste-to-energy plant at Vaucluse under the Bolt, Operate, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) arrangement." The other aspects of it are more peripheral when it comes to going to a conference with the United Nations Development Programme, and recognition from the United

Nations, which are all good; because in order for the country to be properly managed, officers and Ministers and others, non-governmental organisations and so on, need to go to other countries and conferences, to be able to become familiar and up-to-date with policies and programmes that are for the betterment of the country. Therefore, I have absolutely no problem, but this first bullet that speaks of an achievement of the Democratic Labour Party, for me, speaks of poor governance and lack of transparency. I live in St. Thomas and have never lived anywhere else, Ma'am, and do not know of any construction of any \$400 million plant. I would have to say, Ma'am, that that is related to the Cahill project, but I would like the Honourable Minister when he responds, Ma'am, to give us an idea as to what project this is. I know not of what it is.

Asides.

Miss. C.Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I know that the Honourable Minister for Tourism would have just returned to his seat, perhaps having imbibed something that is not the norm that would keep him aware of what is happening here, but I will ignore the aside and try to keep my focus. Ma'am, I consider what is the first bullet in that document of the Democratic Labour Party's performance to be outright misleading to the public of Barbados and the people who dwell therein.

Asides.

Miss. C.Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Tourism is on a roll, but the Honourable Minister of Tourism knows not to trouble me. He knows. I will not say now because I want to maximise the time that has been accorded me to speak to these issues, because I have constituents, Ma'am, who are suffering as a result of what is happening in the Ministry of Environment and, of course, the Sanitation Service Authority. I understand and I recognise that the Honourable Minister yesterday would have had his public relations high, and he spoke about the assurances he would give to the suffering public, but no amount of talk, no amount of persuasion can change the attitudes of Barbadians who are suffering. We are suffering in a very serious way across the length and breadth of Barbados, but more particularly in St. Thomas when it comes to a lot of bad practices taking place in the area. No amount of apologies by the Honourable Minister can make a difference to the suffering householders in Barbados or the suffering businesspeople who are waiting for their garbage or their refuse to be collected in a proper and timely fashion. It is a public health issue that needs to be addressed.

I am not surprised at the Honourable Minister's action, Ma'am. The Honourable Member for St. James South is referring to B's, and I would urge the Honourable Member for St. James South to go by B's Bottling in Cane

Garden, St. Thomas, and see the level of confusion and destruction in that community, where there are fridges and other forms of household equipment that are catching water that will help to impact the island's image. The Honourable Member needs to go. I have got photographs, Ma'am. I will not be given the privilege to show them here but I will have the opportunity on Sunday evening at my branch meeting, Ma'am, for the residents of St. Thomas and all those who come. The Honourable Member for St. James South is invited to come and see what is happening, because there is little activity happening at that area where there is a collection of fridges and deep freezers.

Aside.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: I beg your pardon, Ma'am. The Honourable Member is trying to put a little thing here but I will speak to him otherwise. He knows that he is not very fair to me while I am here, but that is another story.

No amount of apologies over the last two years for the poor collection of refuse in the parish will suffice or satisfy anybody in that constituency. Ma'am, I often say, and I shall continue unless I see improvements, that it seems to me as though the people from the north who have given strong support to the Barbados Labour Party over the past 25 to 30 years are being targeted by this Government and being punished in a number of ways. We cannot get water sometimes for two consecutive weeks, Ma'am, not a drop. They have put down a few water tanks in communities that go dry and then people are without water. That is a health matter, Ma'am. We have no proper transportation, Ma'am. Buses are breaking down all the time, the conditions of the roads are so bad and nothing is being done to address it. We have problems with the Rural Development Commission. Nothing is being done about it, Ma'am. We have problems with the collection of refuse that comes under the Sanitation Service Authority, and I wonder how the Minister could have the gall to go to Vacluse yesterday. In what needs to be the wash-down home now, a five-storey building should be reconstructed, because of the length of time it had started and has now been closed off or abandoned without anything happening there in the concrete jungle for more than a year. It speaks volumes of the poor governance by this Government in a number of areas. That is not the only one.

If I can refer to the Rock Hall Freedom Village where there are shops that were completed and shut up. Since September 2011 they were open, and I am showing the neglect that seems to be very deliberate -- it may not be -- but it seems to be very deliberate in the constituency of St. Thomas and others in the north. Ma'am, if I had been aware that there was a visit by the Minister, I would have gone to Vacluse and I would have asked the officials to come with me and show them the destruction of the most beautiful parish in this country; the heart of Barbados. The

garbage is killing every artery in the heart because of poor collection, and then, people are getting into their vehicles.... The Honourable Member for St. James South really does not understand what is happening. It is not the locals who are dropping their garbage or their refuse in their water courses or the gullies or have them strewn all across the street.

H:No.C23 (27)

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is not the locals who are dropping their garbage or refuse in the watercourses, or the gullies, or have it strewn all across the streets in St. Thomas, those are persons with vehicles who come through those lonesome roads in the day and at nights and just throw their garbage along the street. Sir, I can carry the Honourable Minister of Environment and show him that there thousands of tyres dumped in Vauxcluse Road coming off Dukes Tenantry. I can take him into Butts and let him see the destruction and the devastation in there, all the dead animals, the household construction, or construction material from builders and so on. It really is not good enough. Madam, I can go on and on through the cane fields to Dunscombe, Stony Gully and the other communities and Honourable Members can understand the gravamen of the situation. Madam, it is really frightening, it is dangerous, and it will have a deleterious impact on the lives of the people in the parish. We cannot say that we have eight to ten places of interest in the parish and that people will leave the west coast and the northern communities to come through St. Thomas to be able to visit Harrison Cave, Welchman Hall Gully, to go to the Flower Forest on the outskirts, to go on outdoor tours, to go to Cove Cave, where the 'zip line' thing is not working anymore because of challenges in tourism but there are so many places people want to visit and if visitors and local have got to use those roads, it is extremely disgusting to see the illegal dumping. Madam, without anybody inviting me, I have gone through the constituency with the media but without the media I have got my photographs already collected to let people see that this situation is now getting out of hand and I know that in sections of St. Joseph and St. George, St. Andrew and so on that there is a high level of illegal dumping as well. What will happen to our aquifers when there consistent dumping in the Jack in the Box Gully where the bulk of water comes through from Harrison Cave and goes all the way down to Bridgetown. We are living in a very dangerous time. I agree with Honourable Minister about what transpired in the past, where everything took responsibility for their own backyard, their own environment and people look after themselves and found creative ways of disposing of their garbage and not putting it on anybody's land or creating any problem for anybody else. I think that Barbadians need to be a bit more conscious because at the end of the day whatever you do that is wrong may not impact on your life and your families' lives directly but down the road it will

have an impact on every Barbadian because it will affect the water table of Barbados. Madam, I think that is where the whole coming together and doing unto others as you would have them do unto you should be practiced all the time.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I left St. Lucia about a week ago and I was amazed at the cleanliness that I saw along the streets. Madam, that is where Barbados was eight years ago. What has happened over the eight-year period? Madam, most Barbadians are not all conforming with rules and regulations but the biggest challenge for is the lack of proper refuse collection through the Sanitation Service Authority. I am not blaming any of the workers, some of the nicest workers you could ever want. They have more manner, Madam, than some of the people in this Honourable Chamber. They are warm and affectionate and if they do not see your garbage outside because you have put it away from rodents, animals and so on, they will tout at the house, or call you by your name if they know you.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam, despite the Minister saying that they are blue collar workers I find some of them have an evilness to work and to work honestly for their money. Madam, I think it is important that we thank them but problems will come when there are limited trucks, limited equipment for them to use that would cause them to turn up at the Sanitation Service Authority and they are told that there is not truck available, or that the truck they would normally work on is out and they have to wait for another shift. Madam, that is not productivity under the Minister of Industry.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I am not to offer any solution, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member for St. James South is the brightest person in here. Madam, he went Harrison College and he knows much more than me. Madam, I wish the Honourable Member would leave me alone and go to the Haynesville Area and so some serious work with the challenges those residents have done there with their garbage collection. Madam, the people in Haynesville are people too.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say that those people who kept the streets clean unfortunately were unceremoniously sent home by this Government that the former late Prime Minister, the former Honourable Member for St. Jon, may he rest in his grave, told the people of Barbados, I do not lie, I do not cheat, I do not steal, and the people of Barbados were told by this Democratic Labour Party that nobody would go home an I can tell you, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe about 10 000 people in Barbados have gone home. Madam, they

were sent home in 2013, when they were expecting that they had voted for a new Government and that they would be able to continue to work to feed their families. Madam, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East talks about more people getting appointed under them, the Honourable Member should step back and bring his facts. Madam, the Barbados Labour Party in 2007, and previous to that determined that those persons who were termed casual workers in the Government were then given the position as permanent employees, so that they would have security of tenure, that they would get their severance and that they would get their pension because previous to that as a casual worker they could be given on month's notice on either side to vacate the job that you were in but the Barbados Labour Party corrected that and that is why the Honourable Minister could speak to people being appointed. Madam, it is good that people have been appointed because some of them are targeted and victimised by this Government until they have become afraid. Madam, every day we hear of the victimization so I am glad they have got their appointments and I encourage them not to sit on their laurels, to go into their workplaces and work honestly, to get their early because they have their families to work for.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is interesting that the same persons who have been sent home, who have been waiting for an ease from this Government are still waiting, especially those National Conservation Commission and so on. They have received no severance and a tribunal that was set and paid hundred and thousands of dollars cannot to this day, February 2016, let those people have a dollar bill in their pocket. Madam, those former workers from MTW, Beautify Barbados and the Drainage Unit are all suffering, waiting for the Welfare Department to give a stipend, or a hamper, or their families to help feed them as some of their families are reeling under the high taxes of this Government but somehow the Minister and the Honourable Minister would have engage those people since 2013, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has shed some crocodile tears and did not follow the policy of last in, first out. Madam, there are people who have in one year and two years from Christ Church East are still working and persons with 15 years and 20 years have been sent home. It is a wrong step forward. If there is going to be transparency and if there is going to be equity, if there is going to good governance, the public should be able to judge us and determine that is the correct move or it wrong move.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let me go a little further because having sent home those persons who worked in the environment department have been sent home and they hardly have anything to eat, waiting on welfare and becoming mendicants and some of them are begging politicians to survive because they can do no better. However, they have their pride and want to work.

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Miss C. Y. FORDE: I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, that if at least \$300 000 from what would have been spent there or from that budget, that none of us over here on this side knows what the budget is - but I had an invitation on parchment paper and everybody in my household who is of voting age inviting us to these activities, that is a high cost - I got mine last Thursday - or a \$500 000 amount had been aside for the debushing campaign... The people in the north may not have gotten any employment in it because I know how selfish some of the Ministers can be when it comes to engaging their people, and I am happy for their people to work.

A debushing programme to clean up Barbados to make it safe for us, our family and our visitors would have made a tremendous difference and it would have reduced the mendicant behaviour that some of our people have been reduced to because once they can work for a three-month period and carry home a little \$250 and \$350 a week, it would put back the pride and joy in their hearts of working to maintain themselves. There is nothing more important and more gratifying than people being able to help themselves. Very few Barbadians would sit back and beg or ask for help. They would rather work and suck salt doing the work to be able to feed their families.

I think that a \$300 000, \$500 000 or \$250 000 could not kill because if we spent \$2.5 million to build a crossover or walkover that hardly anybody uses, and a pedestrian crossing was painted there since then on that highway opposite the Pine Hill Dairy last year - and I am not going to reflect on what happened on the weekend - which, and in respect to the Honourable Minister, defeats the purpose of building that monstrosity because that is what they have to call it now. That \$500 000 or that \$350 000 for a three-month period, which was the annual debushing period, would have made a tremendous difference not only in the lives of those who would have been working with it but in how Barbados is presented to us and to those visiting among us.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think that we need to give a second thought on how to minimise the Zika Virus.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have two minutes left.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you. I know that last year a businessman had a saucer on his property that had in water from the plant and apparently the larvae from the *Aedes Aegypti* Mosquito was there and that man had to pay

\$500. There are some Government properties that have so much rubbish on them harbouring mosquitoes and all of that including sections of the Ministry of Health and the hospital and not a fellow... The Government is the biggest dumper and the biggest collector of any of the vermin that we see around the place. The Honourable Minister of Health and the Honourable Minister of the Environment and Drainage need to pay attention to that.

As I close, Madam Deputy Speaker, let me please say that I believe that the five-storey building on Vaucluse being constructed in an area for industrial use where the scrap man is to one side, the SBRC on the other and so on... Workers need good working environments in order for them to function to the maximum in order for them to be as productive as possible but to put them in that kind of environment that is specially designated by the physical development plan for industrial use says that this Government has been limited in its planning in the construction and the business of planning for that particular structure in St. Thomas.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say that regulation is important. In the same way we are doing with the Broken Trident carrying it from here to there, we need to put some educational programmes in place so that people can learn better on how to dispose of their garbage.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you. We follow the rules when we travel overseas and I believe that Barbadians would follow and make sure that they do the best they can to be able to keep their country clean and free from any encumbrances when it comes to ill health or vermin and aspects of diseases that would impact on their health. I wish to thank you.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to enter this debate to make the point that it is rather interesting also to hear the Opposition speak on matters that they know full well they are very guilty of. Anybody knows that the Democratic Labour Party has always led as it relates to environmental matters because as far as the 1960s when the world was not involved in the world or did not understand what were environmental matters, the Democratic Labour Party was able to introduce to this country the Parks and Beaches Commission when others did not care about such matters. We were able to use the Parks and Beaches Commission to ensure that our

environment in Barbados was kept in such a way that it was being grudged by many other countries and used as an example.

In the 80s when there was nothing called a sanitary landfill, it was the Democratic Labour Party again that introduced the sanitary landfill to Barbados. It occurred at a time when the Barbados Labour Party was chased out of Kingsland by one of their senior members of Government who threatened to take them to court because of the environmental madness that they were creating at Kingsland and they had to rush to Mangrove in St. Thomas. They were so hasty that they even went and started dumping on a hill. They had no time to prepare the surface to accept garbage and in a short space of time they created an environmental mess where the people of Arch Hall stood from their houses and saw trucks dumping sewerage on a hill in St. Thomas.

Today, we are hearing people speaking as if we are not conscious of those particular environmental problems that were created by the Barbados Labour Party. The question is asked today: Which one of us wants to have a landfill in our constituency? It is clear that no one in here wants a landfill in their constituency but yet still when the Democratic Labour Party introduced a system to solve the problem, all of them are complaining.

Mr. Speaker, you would always hear these problems. You would hear the criticisms from the Barbados Labour Party, and the Democratic Labour Party will find the solutions. When they had the problem with Greenland, it was the Democratic Labour Party that had to find the solution. In 1986 the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, and he was not then that, said to Barbados that what we should do is to use the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to recycle our own cars. By 1994 instead of recycling our own cars, we then an educated people of Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party, introduced recycled cars to Barbados to create an environmental problem so what it means is that at every turn the Democratic Labour Party has to solve the problem created by the Barbados Labour Party.

The Honourable Member for St. James North is always polluting the House and we would also have to find an environmental solution to solve that environmental problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Rules of the House clearly say that no offensive language shall be used against any Honourable Member in this House. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has been in this House now for 22 years and well knows...

Mr. SPEAKER: Point us to the infraction. What is the infraction of which you complain?

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Mr. E. D. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member said that Honourable Member for St. James North is... Sir, that is offensive in any nature and in any language of English, which is the language of this Honourable House and I beg, Sir, that that be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, by that I might have thought that the Honourable Member meant that he was 'passing' air, but I think the Honourable Member should withdraw it and let us move on, please.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, are you saying that noise pollution is not an environmental problem, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please withdraw it and let us move on.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, what I heard coming from the Honourable Member is noise and therefore that is an environmental problem. Sir, everybody knows that too much noise creates an environmental problem for you. Mr. Speaker, there is another rule of this Honourable House that says when one Honourable Member is on his feet speaking the other Honourable Member should not rise to speak, therefore, that was what I was complaining about, the environmental problem.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please withdraw the comment.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the comment.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy were ordered to be expunged from the Record by Mr. Speaker.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is clear, Sir, that the Honourable Member must understand that this Government will continue to correct any environmental problems that we find in this country, never mind where it comes from we will correct it. Sir, if it means that we have to use the Rules of this Honourable House to correct those environmental problems, then we will do so. Sir, I also hope that whenever you hear an explanation that affects another Honourable Member, that you would also do it, Sir, just in case it occurs from anybody.

Mr. Speaker, they even went so far as to bring something called the pulverization plant and I would like them to speak to that point. Sir, I have heard the Honourable Member for St. George South speaking about that plant, the Honourable Member spoke about all other environmental problems, without even recognising that the Honourable Member was even criticising his own Government for bringing the pulverization plant to his own constituency.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that the Honourable Member for St. James North asked me just now what the pulverization plant was, I am saying that it is clear that a lot of people come to this Honourable House and 'larging' off as though they know everything when there are certain things on which they have to be educated and I am quite prepare to educate the Honourable Member on that particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, today you would have heard from the Minister of the Environment and Drainage how the Barbados Labour Party, during their tenure between 1994 and 2008, bought 52 vehicles. Sir, I would want to ask this Honourable House, out of those 52 vehicles, how many of them are still in service. Sir, you would have heard the Honourable Member speaking also about the freight endings, the Honourable Member said that the freight endings were constructed using material from five different company. Sir, do you know what freight endings are? They are vehicles built from five different companies that the companies could not sell but a particular company in Barbados was able to get a company overseas to remove those parts, then assembled those vehicles and then send those vehicles to Barbados as if they were new vehicles. Sir, that is why when they came to Barbados they were new to Barbados but they were not new because they were already dated, that is why they did not last in doing the service for which they were requested. Mr. Speaker, that not only occurred at the Sanitation Service Authority but also at the Transport Board because they too had new buses and when those new buses landed in Barbados the people in the tyre department had to change the tyres because the buses were new to Barbados but they were not new.

Mr. Speaker, when you hear them talking about the fact that we did not purchase many vehicles, yes, that would be true but they bought many vehicles which were outdated, that is why they did not last in the system. If one checks at the Sanitation Service Authority one would see a vehicle I think marked ML214 which is probably one of the oldest opened-back vehicles. It is very dated but is still working. I can tell you that today that truck ML214 still operates but that the ones that were bought by the Barbados Labour Party cannot be found. Sir, even though ML214 is older than those other vehicles, it is more road worthy than the ones they bought. Mr. Speaker, therefore spending all of that money and buying 54 vehicles, while posing about

the number of vehicles that were bought does not give you the quality of service and delivery. Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is known for spending a lot of money but when it comes to the delivery of service, you do not get that delivery of service. Sir that is why whenever I speak, I keep making the point that the Democratic Labour Party is the party for correcting the problems in this country and that now in our 50th Year of Independence we are demonstrating our capacity to do so.

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is again misleading this Honourable Chamber. Mr. Speaker, some of the trucks that were purchased by the Barbados Labour Party in the year 2005 are still in operation. In fact, that is what is still saving this country and this Government, the trucks that were purchased in 2005 are still in operation and collecting garbage.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, that is not a matter on which I can rule. You can make the point when you address us. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, what the Honourable Member is saying is that they bought 52 vehicles in 2005 and that by 2016 there are only six of them that are working, because they claimed that all we bought were nine vehicles which are still in service, so that if we have 15 serviceable vehicles it means that it has to be nine plus ML214, which makes 10, so that only five of the 52 trucks they bought would be still working. Thank you, Sir, for that information. Sir, ML214 of which I speak is a vehicle that outdated me when I got on board in 1986, which shows you the length of service that you can get out of a vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. James North for confirming that there would have bought many vehicles but that they did not last and that they were not of good quality because the Honourable Member is saying that the 52 vehicles were bought in 2005 and that after 10 years you could only get 10 years' service out of those trucks. Mr. Speaker, that is what Honourable Member for St. James North has just admitted and so I want to thank the Honourable Member for that.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that what is interesting is that we bought nine vehicles that are still working and they bought 52 and have wasted the taxpayers money, that is why in the 50th Year of our Independence we have to continue to demonstrate to this country that we are here to solve the problems left by the Barbados Labour Party and that we are going to solve them one by one.

Mr. Speaker, before I came to this Honourable House I heard about squatting all over Barbados.

No.C23 (31)

Mr. Speaker, I saw the amount of money every year in the Estimates, but I have not seen one solution coming from the Barbados Labour Party on how to solve the squatting in this country. Not one solution. They prefer people not developing and not growing, but I keep making the point that this is the Government that will create the solutions for all the problems in this country. We will create the solutions.

Asides.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: I understand, Sir, that I have done you wrong with the solutions. I personally do not have a problem with that. The problem is that the debt which we have will not increase. It will not increase under my watch, but people will be receiving housing solutions. The Honourable Member for St. James North is with me. He opened his mouth and said that I have not created one housing solution, which tells me that he has no respect for the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, because what he is telling me is that when anything at all is within St. Andrew, he is not interested in it once the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is involved. I am going to add, Sir, because everybody can see the solutions for St. Andrew, but the Honourable Member for St. James North is so tepid about the Honourable Member for St. Andrew that he cannot even see solutions in his own constituency.

Mr. Speaker, after 50 years of Independence, we will continue to ensure that we find solutions and we will ensure that the solid waste problem in this country will be solved. Mr. Speaker, as soon as we are going to find a solution, they can go all over the world and try to badmouth Barbados. Mr. Speaker, for years when the Barbados Labour Party had an opportunity to buy the land at Sandy Lane that could have belonged to Barbadian firms, they refused to buy it. I told the Barbados Labour Party that instead of allowing Sandy Lane to buy the land to the west going north, that they should buy it all and start Arch Hall. They refused to do it, and they allowed Sandy Lane not only to buy nearly all the land, but they also allowed them to buy the land to the west going north and to keep Arch Hall at a slow rate of development, when they could have given Arch Hall the opportunity of expanding. Instead of them doing that and creating pressure for Sandy Lane, what they did is that they left Arch Hall to be picked off by the rich and famous.

Magistrate Greaves, who objected to the suggestion when I first made it, was the first to correct himself and to admit that there was an error by the Barbados Labour Party and that they should have taken my advice to expand Arch Hall by buying the land to the east. Then, the environmental problem in that particular area would have been solved and there would have been house spots for the

people of Arch Hall instead of allowing Sandy Lane to pick choice of all. They were so blinded in their environmental solutions to problems that they did not recognise that there could be a solution for solving the problem at Mangrove. They saw the environmental problem but they did not see the solution, but the Democratic Labour Party, as usual, saw the solution. That is why we proffered that in the interest of the masses of people in that particular area for the land to be purchased and to protect from the large pocket people.

However, we will solve the problem. There is an environmental problem up there and we have to solve it. We are not going to run away from it. We do not care what badmouthing goes on, but on the other side, we have a responsibility in our 50th Year of Independence to ensure that whenever there is a problem in this country, we can find the solution and deal with it. That is exactly what we are doing and what we will continue to do. The problems are what we have found, and we will find the solutions, and we will continue. When the record of this Government is judged based on the economic situation of the world between 2008 and whenever we leave in the next 20 years, the record will show that this Government had more difficult times to manage but we did not run away from the problems. We stuck to the problems and solved them. That is why I am happy to see that we have been able to deal with all the environmental problems that came in front of us, and we did not run away, we did not act in an ad hoc manner; but with every problem that occurred, we found a scientific solution to solve it. You bring the problems, we will find the solutions.

Mr. Speaker, speaking on the 50th anniversary, I know that Honourable Member, in this modern-day approach, said that he did not receive any invitation for the 50th anniversary celebrations and later admitted that he had misled the House and that he actually attended one of the events at the parish church. He also said that he received a text, Mr. Speaker, and he will not be accepting any invitation by text. Everybody knows that the most modern, fastest and most accurate way to get anybody in this day and age is by using technology, since the letter can easily be misplaced in the post. A text comes directly to your phone in a second or less, so I cannot understand how any parliamentarian could say he did not get an invitation and then in another breath say he received a text but will not be accepting it. I only hope that the Honourable Member will not text anybody, or want anybody to accept the text that he has sent to them. Mr. Speaker, we have to decide if we are going with technology.

Then again, Sir, that same Honourable Member is the same Member who is speaking on the behalf of the Barbados Labour Party on environmental matters. If the Honourable Member is speaking behalf of the Barbados Labour Party on environmental matters, it means that the

Honourable Member will not support anything modern. How can we accept the Member not being prepared to use technology but being prepared to support plasma gasification?

Aside

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: It is clear, Sir, that the Honourable Member is still operating in the Dark Ages and he wants to remain there, Sir. Mr. Speaker, with those few words I want to say that I support the Amendment and I am proud to be part of this Government that is quite prepared to accept technology and is quite prepared to move the country forward, and is not prepared to sit down and say we cannot do it, but is quite prepared to say, "we will do it." That is the most important thing; that we are not only talking but we are doing it, Mr. Speaker. I thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER. I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for the City.

Lt. Col. J.D. BOSTIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really happy to join this Debate at this particular time. It is a Debate that is a very important one, in my opinion. It is an important one because it deals with an issue which is critically important to Barbados as a country. It is critically important to us as a people. I represent a community, a constituency, like all the others in St. Michael, where the houses are close together. The population density is indeed very high, and so issues relating to the pile-up of garbage or the illegal dumping of solid waste, issues related to vector-borne diseases and so on, will be of greater impact on the communities that I represent and the St. Michael communities in general.

H:No.C23 (32)

Mr. Speaker, this particular issue is one of great importance. I do not think that any amount of trivialising about trucks and so will help us to solve the issue. I think that it is a national issue and that we really need to spend a lot of time debating how we can resolve the issue. I spent this morning as I have done on several occasions listening to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Honourable Minister responsible for the Sanitation Service Authority and my former parliamentary representative since I live in that constituency. Mr. Speaker, in the past, before I came into this Chamber I admired the pastoral eloquence in which the Honourable Member delivered his speeches within this Chamber and this morning I sat and I listened and made a few observations. I thought at several times that several things that were said were kind of reminiscent of some part of the Bible and at one stage I said to myself, "The Archbishop is on", because he went back to the beginning of this entire issue. He took us back to Genesis and not that there is anything wrong with that.

He quoted a lot of number and he gave us the historical evolution of the problem, the numbers and the chronicles, there were lot of woes and lamentations and then he proceed even to judge and castigate the past administration in Judges but I would have wished it to be Exodus. I want to actually start my presentation with just a few lines from the National Anthem of Barbados as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Independence:

“These fields and hills beyond recall are now our very own.”

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Member for St. James South and that says to me that each and everyone of us in this country need to take ownership of the preservation of our environment. It is the responsibility of each and every single Barbadian, each and every single community, every family, every organisation within this country because we have 166 square miles of terrestrial space along the marine and maritime environment and what we do with this now will have a significant impact on how our children and grandchildren enjoy that in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the whole question of sanitation and solid waste in this country is something that must be view in a comprehensive way with a comprehensive solution and the blame game and all of these things may not solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a second point about environmentally sound practices, which was part of the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto 2013, I believe that it is the third of the four developmental pillars that they cited in the Manifesto which suggest that the Democratic Labour Party as a Party has a commitment to safeguarding the environment of this country and that the Honourable Members on the other side have an obligation of ensuring that the environment is protected as the Government of Barbados. Sir, that is responsibility that only the Honourable Members on the other side can have because they form the Government at this time, and so that they do not get any solutions or recommendations from this side because at this moment because they are the Government and the ultimate responsibility falls with them.

Mr. Speaker, when I was doing a little bit of reading a couple of days ago, I came across something which ought to have been obvious but I really it was not as obvious as I thought it is. Sir, someone ask me a question, which is the most deadly animal on this planet. Sir, you would tend to think of big animals but, Sir, it is the tiny mosquito, a mosquito that the World Health Organisation says kills a million lives every year. Sir, out of that million, 500 000 dies from malaria. Sir, we do not have the issue of malaria but hundreds of million of people experience pain as a result of mosquito-borne diseases. We have malaria, the West Nile virus, yellow fever, encephalitis and those other

diseases but we have a history, and I believe that we have been given chance after chance by the Almighty to correct this problem and I am not sure that we are really dealing with it with the level of intensity that is required by those responsible for sanitation and public health, that is my contention. Sir, if we look at the mosquito borne diseases resulting from the *Aedes Egypti* mosquitoes, the primary diseases that have hitting us for the last seven years, dengue has been around for a long time but recently, we have also seen another manifestation of dengue, I do not recall the correct medical term, whether Type 2 or whatever but there was another strand that started to attack our people over the last two year and it went from that to chikungunya, which is even more debilitating and now we are at Zika. Sir, each time there has been a escalating degree in terms of the effects of the mosquito borne diseases , and this is something that I think that we should be seriously concerned with as a country. What is it going to be next, after Zika. When are we going to wake up and smell the coffee, when are going put all of our resources and efforts into trying to combat this problem before it reaches catastrophic proportions.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot of talk in here about the construction of the ultra modern facility on both sides of the House and I want to reiterate what was said by the Honourable Member for St. George South. He did say that he thought that proper facilities for the workers at the Sanitation Service Authority was a necessary thing. He said that and I agree with and we on this side support that because that is important. Sir, there is also another side of this and I put this to the Honourable Member with responsibility for the Sanitation Service Authority. There are is a military term called “mission essential task”. Sir, a mission essential task is a task that is of critical importance in terms of being able to successfully execute a mission. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that it is an essential task for the Sanitation Service Authority for the most part has to deal with those who are working in engineering, on the outside, on the trucks, with the carts and all those places, those persons who will not spend a lot of time in the building, and so it is important, yes, that we give proper facilities to those who work in the office but I think equally or more importantly, we ought to be providing, as far as possible, those things that are required by those who are doing the work on the outside to make their job more comfortable. Sir, that is something that we need to do, the equipment and so on.

Mr. Speaker, we are living at a time when the economy may not be able to sustain a lot things.

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Insert s34 juliette

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Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Like I said, Genesis, Lamentation and all of those, but the Honourable Member stopped short of Exodus, where he was supposed to reach, that is, the land of milk and honey which really is the environmental state that this country and the people of this country would like to reach, that is, where we need to see where we are getting, how do we get from where we are to where we want to be, not only the long term solutions, important as they are, but immediate relief to the existing problems, that is what the people of Barbados are expecting from the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Speaker, with that I am obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the debate and to support the Amendment to the Sanitation Services Authority, Bill. Mr. Speaker, I want to say first of all that in listening to the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, he said one thing which I think that maybe we need to reflect on, which is, that the primary responsibility for solving the very difficult problems and issues that we face as it relates to sanitation lies with the Sanitation Services Authority. The Sanitation Services Authority provides a service. The service that it provides is demanded by individuals. In truth and in fact it is the individual who is the determining factor in terms of determining the effectiveness of the service that the Sanitation Services Authority provides.

Mr. Speaker, I just look at the constituency that I represent, which is St. Michael West Central, and when I look at the various issues that residents face as it relates to sanitation, it tells me in a sense that we also at the same time need a level of cooperation from individuals in the society that would help to at least pave the way for the Sanitation Services Authority to be more effective in its strategies that it would develop to solve the problems that we have in our society as it relates to sanitation and the impact it has on the health of Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, for instance, in St. Michael West Central, there is a road called Worrell Road which is a place where you should dump garbage but if you pass along there at any point in time during a week day you are likely to find a spot at the bottom near to Black Rock Road at which you would find garbage. We tried before to put a sign there and the Sanitation Services Authority is very cooperative in which they indicated to residents that persons would be prosecuted if they are found dumping garbage in that particular locality. Well, the sign disappeared and the dumping of garbage resumed, that is one. We laugh at these things but the point that I think we need to understand is that unless we have an understanding as to the type of behaviours we want Barbadians to exhibit

and that we constantly project that type of behaviour in the way we speak and in the solutions that we provide, we are giving mixed messages to Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, another case in point. Mr. Speaker, we have a quarry which is located along Clevedale Road at which again dumping occurs. Essentially what we have to understand is that really the effectiveness of the work that the Sanitation Services Authority does is impacted by the behaviour of the individuals that we have in our society. One of the points I wish to make is that unless we find a way to change behaviours, to change the way we look at our approach to garbage and its disposal, we will not be able to make the work of the Sanitation Services Authority effective.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I think again, to the sentiment that was stated by the Honourable Member for St. James South, that merely building a headquarters would not be it because at the same time if people are not prepared to follow rules and regulations in terms of the disposal of garbage we would still really find ourselves finding it very difficult to achieve the objective, which is to provide Barbadians with a clean, safe and healthy environment.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the last speaker spoke about the fact that we need to do more, but let us face it, the truth is that even with the best legislation... I could tell that we have constantly called the Sanitation Services Authority and we have called different places to try to see if we can prevent persons from dumping garbage in different areas. I want Honourable Members to know that their localities are not the only place that people drive from wherever they are to dump garbage, it happens all over Barbados. People take garbage from where they are, whether or not an animal has died or rubbish that they do not want around them... I can tell you that in some cases people would come to me and say I just saw a car, T so and so, came in a St. Michael neighbourhood and dumped garbage. It happens so it is not a behaviour that is exclusive to any particular community in Barbados.

We have to recognise that we have to develop a programme supported by good regulations and enforced by those regulations. People have to be prepared to enforce them because when I listened to the Minister this morning he spoke to the fact that they are looking, for instance, to ensure that in future all persons who are engaged in the collection of garbage - correct me if I am wrong - are registered, and that in itself is a positive move. I know that in a sense we need to get the cooperation of the Opposition on this matter because generally we always try to stop these things by making the argument that we are trying to stop the poor black man or the poor black person from making a living, but that is not true.

We talk a lot about building a sustainable growth path for Barbados, about trying to create a developed society and about trying to create a safe environment for our people but the fact of the matter is that we do not at the same time speak to the fact that unless we are able to accomplish behavioural change on the part of our people in the way we do things we might not achieve it because by and large what we are seeing today is the results of the actions of past and present Barbadians who in some cases... Look at our gullies. They are a sore sight to see in many cases with the rubbish that is there.

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It is unfortunate, really, again, that we sometimes do not understand what we are supporting when we are saying that persons themselves should be allowed to operate without a license. In a sense, what we are doing is that we are trying to bring, at the same time, greater regulation and better organisation to what is happening so that we can better understand how we need to approach the whole question of the collection of garbage, and we also need the cooperation of these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I really think that we need to understand that the individual in the community plays a very important part in terms of ensuring that the Sanitation Service Authority can provide a more effective service to Barbadians, it is as simple as that. There are many instances in communities where, for example, people have old stoves and old beds to be disposed of where in many cases instead of calling the Sanitation Service Authority and arranging for that collection of that particular items they would look for a vacant piece of property and will dump that bed or stove there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say this, there are persons in the communities who actually engage in good practices. I can tell you now that within the area of St. Stephen's Landing Scheme there is a gentleman there who on his own undertakes the cleaning up of that community on a regular basis. I would call him an unsung hero, Mr. Speaker, because he goes out to ensure that the area in his community is kept as freely of garbage as is humanly possible. What I do agree we need to do is that we need to find a way to get into communities to see how we could deepened the process. Mr. Speaker, that is where I want to go to the point about the cooperation of the private sector, a suggestion made, I think, by the Minister, that is why companies such as SBRC, B's Recycling and other companies that might come into the business of recycling all have a critical role to play. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we have a situation where people think that unless they can see an actual or direct gain by the action in which they are engaged, then they are not going to it.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what I mean. Mr. Speaker, when B's Recycling was paying "X" amount for the recycling items that were coming in people were bringing them but they served a valuable purpose because what they were actually doing was that they were taking off a lot of that material that was going to the landfills. Now we have a little difficulty... In fact, I want to say that I practice garbage separation at home as is required, but the point I am making is that despite the fact that you might not get paid, it is still useful to do it because at the end of the day, even though those persons who have transportation want to do... Mr. Speaker, what is the sense of putting those tins or plastics for the Sanitation Service Authority to collect when there is somebody there who can recycle it and can get it out of Barbados?

We talk about being a developed nation and in developed countries like the United States of America and Canada there are some Districts that tell you that they will not touch your garbage unless of course it is separated. Also, in some cases you have a situation where consumers and individuals are fined if they are found putting things in their garbage that they are not supposed to put, so here it is we say that we want that status but we also have to encourage our consumers...

Mr. Speaker, we should not have to go to the point like that of the United States of America or Canada, but certainly I want to encourage individuals to let us see if we can continue that garbage separation process in the home. Mr. Speaker, it must start in the home, it cannot start anywhere else because somehow we have this concept that Government can do all on its own, Government cannot. We also forget in a country that all of us are part of the process, that Government outlines the way we have to do it. Therefore, if we as individuals do not play our particularly, then by extension the Sanitation Service Authority cannot perform the role that they are supposed to do properly. Also by extension Government's policies will not be able to be implemented properly because it is part of Government's policy that persons practice garbage separation in the home. Mr. Speaker, if that happens that means that the home now is limiting the effectiveness of Government's policy. Sir, I think that is an issue that we need to address.

I also want to speak, Mr. Speaker, to the role of the schools. I believe, and we always say that if we do not train up a child in the way that it should go, that as it gets older it becomes difficult to change. Mr. Speaker, that is why I believe we need to start programmes in our schools that start to speak to garbage separation; that start to encourage students in schools that instead of just throwing rubbish on the ground, when they are finished with it to put it in a receptive bin; that encourages them when they have a glass bottle, to put that glass bottle into a recycle bin for glass bottles; that when they have plastics to put that plastic

inside a collection bin for plastics. These are the kinds of initiatives which, if they take root in our communities, will then the work of the Sanitation Service Authority easier, it would also increase the effectiveness of the role of the Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot expect that we should encourage Barbadians to behave in the way in which they currently do and in some cases be reckless in the disposal of garbage, then to expect the Sanitation Service Authority at the same time to be effective, in circumstances where we would then hear the Opposition saying that the Sanitation Service Authority is not doing what they are supposed to do, Mr. Speaker, but they cannot, because in the absence of cooperation by individuals themselves at homes, they will not be able to be effective. Sir, I really think that we must stop misleading Barbadians as to the role that they have to play in the process of change in this country. That is one of the things, Mr. Speaker, that I think we need to do. Another point I wish to make, Mr. Speaker. We import into this country a whole array of drugs and services from overseas, while being oblivious of the impact of the importation of certain goods that we so like to consume and their impact on the environment. Mr. Speaker, I want to address especially the issue of plastics, the fact that in Barbados we seem to have a love with packaging to the point where to do not know what to do with the packaging when we are finished with it. As a matter of fact, when you examine the contents of garbage in many cases, a significant proportion of that content is packaging. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago we had the Environmental Tax, of course, which we had to rectify in order to ensure that we comply with World Trade Organisation regulations but in a sense, I think the reason we should have environmental tax because the very businesses that bring in these products, whether they are barrels, plastics or whatever, assume no responsibility to get ahead of the menace to the environment.

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They expect that at the same time they should bring in their products, but when it comes to the question of the disposal of these products, nobody is paying any attention to them. As a matter of fact, they are saying that right now if you are not careful, there will be a cellphone for every Barbadian around. We have to ask a question regarding the kind of disposable society that we have now; because everything that we have now in Barbados today we do not try to fix. As soon as it is gone, we immediately try to look for something else. Brand new. However, the issue across the divide that we have to face is really what type of policies do we need to encourage among our people to avoid the future, when our plastics in the environment can basically make Barbados an unsafe place to live? We seem to think that the environment which we are in can continue to take the garbage ad infinitum, can continue to take the batteries and the chemicals that are going down into our

water supply ad infinitum, and have no impact. Then when Government tries to do something, we have the push-back where you try to stop me from doing business. We do not cooperate. We push back. We say we are trying to do something and you want to interfere, but whenever the mosquitoes are ready to bite, the same people complain, and when Government tries to do something about it, then you step back.

Mr. Speaker, in St. Michael West Central we have a number of properties which need debushing badly. Believe you me. I really believe that, again talking about governmental and individual responsibility, we need to encourage persons who have lots such as these to be more responsible in their management of the lots. We can no longer continue to have persons, especially in the residential communities, buy lots and go away. They disappear for five, six, seven years or so without managing the lots, and there are people, I could tell you right now, in the Pillersdorf Development, when you go along sections of Clevedale and Grazettes, there are plots there which are nuisances to residents in those areas but they do not know who the owners are. You do not know. I really want to urge the Minister to hasten the legislation, so that when Government goes in and has to clean up the plot, the burden for doing so should be attached to the Land Tax bill. What we do not understand is that many of us feel that when we buy a property, that is it, but the fact of the matter is that we live in a society in which what we do impacts on our neighbours. If we fail to look after our properties in a safe and responsible manner, then it has an impact on the person who is next to us. We need to have that community responsibility, and you cannot have a situation where people go away, leave their properties, you do not see them come back, and they are causing a nuisance to the neighbours. Sometimes the hands of State are tied in terms of dealing with the issue, and it is costing Government, because many times, people do not understand, the person that is sent to clean up the property has to be paid from somewhere. Money has to come from somewhere. Somehow there are these people who always feel that the money will come, but it has to come from somewhere. I really think again if we are talking about Barbados being a fully developed society, and if we are moving in that direction, it means that the behaviours of people in Barbados must change.

We need to go into our communities to help educate those persons. That is why I suggest that the schools have an important part to play in that respect. They have an extremely critical and important part to play. We have an event coming up at the end of the month, and I want to compliment the Sanitation Service Authority for one thing. At that event, Agrofest, they are going to place garbage bins and ask patrons attending the event to "Please, when you use things, put them in the separate containers that are there available for you." So if you drink from a plastic cup,

there are containers for plastics. If you use paper, put it inside there. If you use bottles, put them inside there. It is something that we need to start to teach our people so that we could make the work of the Sanitation Service Authority reasonable. I heard the Honourable Members for the City of Bridgetown and St. Thomas praise the work of the sanitation persons, but I get the impression in Barbados that they only praise you when they work you hard. In Barbados we seem to think that unless a fellow is sweating and under pressure constantly, he is not working.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honbournable Member has three minutes.

Mr. J.D. PAUL: Thank you very much, Sir. He is not working, so I understand why they would say what they had to say. What we want to create in Barbados is an environment where we facilitate the work of the Sanitation Service Authority worker. Not only that; what you would see as a result of that is that the ability of the Sanitation Service Authority to cover more effectively the areas that they are responsible for will increase. I believe that is something that we need to start to work on in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, that is why we need to strengthen our community initiatives. We need to do more of that in our communities. We need to get into our schools and encourage the teachers and the school administrations to start to do garbage separation programmes in the schools, so that we can train children in the schools in the practices of garbage separation. That is where we need to go, because the older persons are already set in their ways. Certainly, with the younger people we have an opportunity to effect change, because if we do not effect change at the level of the individual, the work of the Sanitation Service Authority will be burdensome because they would not be achieving their objective.

As they say, in the schools now the children are telling you that if you do not litter the place then the janitor has no work to do. That should not be the approach. We need to have a different approach in our society. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on this basis I want to indicate that I support the measure. Thank you very much, Sir.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 6 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend was put to the Honourable House and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

5.46 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 14, and with that we shall continue. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Speaker, I know that we have touched many different aspects of this amendment. The representative for Christ Church East has spanned a wide area on this issue but even when we have had a discourse, there is always some fundamental elements of the discourse that is not included in the debate and I would like to say today that one of the areas that I really wanted to hear some more about is one of the most pressing public issues at present not only occupying the thoughts of people in the St. Michael East communities but also newspapers and radio commentators and other person. We would be doing a disservice today not to tackle an important issue relating to the environment, relating to housing...

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Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Every time we express a view in giving some level of hope to people who live in despair, you hear these little things. I personally believe, and this is the historic side, that if you understand social policy well, you do not break up families unnecessarily. Those families grandparents served on that estate that used to belong to the Lascelles and the Royal family, one of the biggest sugar producing factories in the Caribbean. I believe that even if you think about that, although some people do not like to take the historical point, we would do anything we can to ensure that those people remain.

Mr. Minister if you could have a word with the Minister of Housing and Lands, I would be grateful if you could have an alternative arrangement to the houses you have wasting at Coverley so that you could house some of my people in those houses. Mr. Minister do you not think that everybody in Barbados would be very proud of you if while you are having the houses close down at Coverley you could enter into an arrangement with the representative of St. Michael East so that I could get those houses at Coverley and move the people, who now live on The Belle that some people believe do not deserve to live anywhere on any land space in Barbados, and the entire community out together. People pooh-pooh these things. If I had it my way and I found it difficult to raise the required US\$30 or so million to put a plant in place there, it probably might look very radical, but I believe that most of them would be willing to move to St. Philip especially if the Government takes the responsibility to finance the transfer of people if you are saying that there is such a great threat. This thing

was a great threat from all in the 1970s and three or four representatives before me had to wrestle with this issue.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: The Minister of Finance can make the cash available. You found money working in collaboration with others to put a sewerage plant on the South Coast and one on the West Coast. My brain or my thoughts might go a little different because you all do not want to face realities. Nobody had any serious discussions about finding ways of disposing sewerage and garbage around those belts. You got problems with the sugar belt but you do not have any problem with the tourist belt.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I understand his behaviour well. You are not the only victim in these circumstances because it is a particular frame of mind, so when I press for a civilised way of doing things, these people can be moved out if you believe that you cannot find the solution to having them there. You can find alternative land and the Government can finance the bill, they grant concessions in other areas, and at least my people will sleep and live happily. Basically that is really part of the conversation that I am interested in.

Other people spent from 10 o'clock this morning straight down to discuss other issues but the issue that is more pertinent and important to me is what is happening to the people in The Belle.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I have no problem with the contributions that were made from this side or from the Government side. I was a little surprised and taken back, as my colleague from the City of Bridgetown said, because I know how saintly you behaves. When I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East tarnishing the nature of his own contribution, I said I know him well, this is what you call role playing, he is not made up of this type of material. I know he can do much better than that. In recent times he seems to be accepting the role on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, there is a necessity for us to address these issues. I honestly am not supportive of people doing things illegally but I understand the circumstances in which things occur, and I am saying that we need to find ways of doing things but do not do it in the rough neck style. We can put in a sewerage plant. We had over 950 prisoners living in Zone 1 in Glendairy Prison and dumping sewerage in a well directly in the Zone 1 pocket.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I am not quarrelling with anybody. We now have those 1 000 persons up in St. Philip and still I am hearing that the situation in The Belle is even more severe now than it was then. I have seen then grant permission for people to establish additional institutions with great numbers in St. Michael East and still the situation is more severe now than it was then.

I question the scientific judgement of the hydro-geologists. It sounds strange to me. I do not believe that the administrators should even accept those opinions. There was a time when the same scientific individuals were arguing that the Zone 1 area covered as far as Two Mile Hill, Government Hill, coming down through Chapel Gap and come across by Bussa Roundabout and end up going all down to Waterford, but three years after another study cut off part of it. I believe that even if the people were living directly on the water table, that in 2016 we can do better without removing those people from there. Lots of people would not want to take that position but I am suggesting that we apply ourselves to looking at that kind of approach to resolving the problem with the people in The Belle who are in the Zone 1 area including as well the people in Howells Cross Road.

Sir, I believe that is the nature of my contribution to this discourse on this Amendment. I must say that the Amendment is an imperative. It might be after but it does not matter we are here now and I support the Amendment in the circumstances, but those are the issues that I want to put on the table.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I enter this debate to make a short contribution to this discussion introduced this morning by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in his position of Minister of the Environment and Drainage for the responsibility for the activities associated with the Sanitation Service Authority. Mr. Speaker, the amendment, in truth, is a simple amendment which seeks in Section 2 of the Sanitation Service Authority Act to amend by deleting the definition of 'Minister' and substituting the words "Minister, means the Minister having responsibility for the Sanitation Services Authority."

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by, yes, associating myself with the amendment but more so congratulating the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage for his presentation which took Barbadians through a chronicle of the changes in which the management of garbage... We used the term garbage earlier on in dealing with the

situation but which has changed now to speak to almost an opportunity of solid waste management.

Mr. Speaker, of course, the Honourable Members on the other side, in varying measures, have also associated themselves with the amendment, yet even as they express appreciation for the work being done by the workers of these institutions, they must find ways of extracting the Minister from this group and must find ways of blaming the Minister for some aspects of the Sanitation Service Authority operation or the entire programme of solid waste management in Barbados which is not being satisfied.

I was glad when the Minister, for instance, was able to indicate when and by whom the decisions were made at the different stages of the evolution of this industry and indeed how we came upon the location at St. Thomas. I must say too that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas must be commended, Sir, because in truth, as has been pointed out, the operation of solid waste management has to be located somewhere in our environment. The fact that we have an acceptable, though not satisfactory in our waste arrangement in St. Thomas and that is largely supported by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is, in truth and fact, something for which we should be grateful and I commend the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for her leadership in this regard. Mr. Speaker, indeed, as the Minister went around piloting the question, the Honourable Member was not expecting answers, as to where else do we locate a solid waste management programme in Barbados, Members turned their heads when he pointed at them or otherwise evaded completely to be interrogated.

Mr. Speaker, there are always reasons for the decisions that are made, they are largely technical decisions based on the locale, and I think the Minister was at pains to give the reason for the location at St. Thomas as was put then and I think that everybody has accepted that that is a thing of the past.

Of course, the Honourable Members on that side do not want to talk about Greenland, they have indicated the lead spokesperson on that side who threatened the Chamber to match the time of the Minister, thank God that Honourable Member exhausted his material long before that and we were relieved after about 45 minutes of that otherwise noisy interaction, so the Honourable Member did not carry out his threat to speak for the two and a half hours which the Minister so effectively used, but wrapped up the written speech which he had prepared for him in 45 minutes, so we are grateful for that. Sir, the point is that we have always had to grapple with the hard decision of solid waste management.

Mr. Speaker I think I have spoken to this matter before, because in the frenzy of opposition politics, since I have been a Member of this Honourable Chamber, I have

constantly warned Members on that side that the things they say in here, in attempts to discredit either a particular Minister of Government or to discredit the entire management of the Democratic Labour Party in Government, can push residents of Barbados to do things which are either illegal or totally unacceptable, if not illegal. Mr. Speaker, I make this point all the time, whether it be references to the proliferation of unlicensed guns in this country or the co-operation in the application of either Municipal Solid Waste taxes or tipping fees and so they will have to live with that reality. Mr. Speaker, we will continue as a Government in Barbados to work and to forge out solutions with respect to question of solid waste management.

Mr. Speaker, we now speak of a business called solid waste management and all of us constituencies... Mr. Speaker, I was particularly grateful for the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central who pointed out that the question of illegal dumping occurs not only in the pristine hills and valleys of St. Thomas, but in every area of Barbados where people who should know better and people who know better, some of whom are paid by institutions to take solid waste away have found it more convenient to use shortcuts and to throw the waste for which they have been paid to take away, including tipping fee, to take to Mangrove, they find a way of dumping it either in St. Michael West Central, somewhere in St. John or in Christ Church South.

Mr. Speaker, I know and this is the reality, that is why I support the view that we must move to a stage where severe penalties are put in place for those who breach these laws. Indeed, as Minister of Health, I am aware that even as we speak, we are dealing with a number of very serious cases of illegal dumping which must be put right. We are going to be fair and firm, and we made this announcement during our recent public announcement on the incidents of the Zika virus in Barbados. We made the announcement that in executing our duties we were going to be firm and fair, so I am aware that those perpetrators of this heinous act have been given appropriate time periods in which to correct their folly and to correct their transgression, after which the full weight of the law will be brought to bear on those illegal dumpers.

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We need as Members of Parliament to use our office to make sure that wherever we identify this scourge of illegal dumping in our constituencies, we make it known to the perpetrators that we do not support this kind of activity. Sir, the Minister of the Environment, therefore, has made the point about the larger problem, and he has said that we need to find a solution which takes care of the entire waste of Barbados. Right now, the best application is the one being carried out at SBRC (Sustainable Barbados

Recycling Centre). SBRC does some level of separation and creates some level of recyclable material, but the reality is the material is not being sold. No-one is buying the material so they are piling up great heaps of the products of their process which no-one subscribes to.

We made a fleeting reference to the period when there was an operation in Bagatelle, St. Thomas. I do not want to call the party's name but we all know what happened in Bagatelle and it went on for a good, long time, supported by the Government in power at the time; fully supported by the Government of the day. The landfill at Bagatelle became known as a metal dump, and there a private operator was allowed to distill metal and a number of persons in Barbados benefited from that operation, Sir. A lot of money was made, I will tell you. A lot of business places and a lot of private people lost useful materials too, because this situation got entirely out of hand, where there were persons who would do one set of work in the day and do that same work in the evening for a different purpose. Metal became a priority. It was no longer waste metal alone, but entire installations, new installations in homes and businesses were under threat by persons who only knew about short cuts. It is not only illegal dumping that we find happening, but even in the activity of the recycling of metal persons were taking advantage of the rather loose law; although in my view the law is very clear about how scrap iron is to be handled in Barbados, even at this stage. There must be a licence before the scrap iron is sold, the police must be involved and must establish it is not stolen but has been procured by rightful means. However, we always feel that the laws that exist are too difficult to police or to administer so we need to change the law before we can prosecute. I have had a look in my small way. I am not an attorney, Mr. Speaker, and you are well aware of that, but to my way of thinking, there is quite a lot of capacity within the laws that exist in dealing with those who procure scrap iron illegally and then seek to make even more monies out of it.

This is a long stint. I remember many Ministers of Health ago, indeed when the Sanitation Service Authority was under the Ministry of Health -- so you can understand what kind of time frame we are talking about -- we went to different institutions and different supermarkets and set up green buckets, green drums and yellow drums and white drums, but at the end of the day, as they say, we put all those drums together, either on the truck that was collecting them or we put them together at Mangrove. So we really have not achieved anything. We are now toying with the technology. We are now looking into a technology which has been referred to as a plasma gasification, and already the Opposition has engaged in a country-wide scare tactic about the technology; that the temperatures are over 3 000 degrees and we do not have the water to cool it. This administration has made it clear that many technologies will be applied in Barbados until they have passed the

regulators, whether it is Town Planning, the Environmental Protection Department or any other agency, which includes the Ministry of Health, that is set up to do it.

The truth is you must ask the question. I believe the Minister asked the question: Is there anything wrong with being on the cutting edge of technology? Is there anything so wrong with breaking new ground? If we listen to the Barbados Labour Party in truth, even the celebration of the 50 years of Independence which we seek to do now, the Honourable Member for St. George South did a great job in trying to close down the celebration. I hope he does not succeed. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I know he will not succeed. The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Barbados' Independence will happen. Your predecessors spoke to Independence itself, and it happened because that is how Barbados has become the proud island state that it is today, Sir. A leader in this Caribbean, Sir.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. D.A. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, on a Point of Order. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is misleading the House when he said in his presentation that I am seeking to shut down the 50th Anniversary Independence celebration. In no way during my presentation did I indicate anything of that sort and, Mr. Speaker, I said in my presentation that the Barbados Labour Party ran this country or governed this country for 24 years of the 50 years that we are celebrating, and I support the 50th anniversary celebrations while I have some challenges with the way it is being executed. Let the record reflect that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thanks for the elucidation. It is a matter of how he interpreted what you said, but I understand the concern. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I thank the Honourable member for the break. In 1966, I was young man and I know how hard your predecessors worked on Independence itself and what the view was of the Barbados Labour Party. You would probably tell me now it is nothing to do with you; what the Barbados Labour Party position was on Independence itself. You worked hard to stop it. You must face that reality, and we must not be afraid to say it. The institution, the Barbados Labour Party; that is the reality. There is nothing wrong with that, so if the Honourable Member for St. George has a problem with the way he has been treated at the celebration of the 50th anniversary, it is not surprising. There is no surprise in that.

I got to the point, Sir, of re-use, reduce and recycle, and I spoke to the attempts that have been made, and indeed the Honourable Minister has spoken to the fact that

we are going to go back there again. The Sanitation Service Authority is going to seek to distribute different coloured bags to be used in different ways in the collection of our waste materials so that we can get to a separation of glass, I suppose, and a separation of plastics. We can deal with the question of a lot of the vegetable waste in our homes ourselves. We do not have to get anywhere near a garbage bag with our vegetable waste. We can do composting. We do a lot of the composting at home where I live, and indeed when we peel fruit and we use vegetable material, we have a container which we collect it in and take it outside to a little composting project. It is not the best composting project in the world, but it works, and it serves to reduce the amount of waste that we have to put in the garbage bin outside. I therefore want to commend the residents of Atlantic Shores who have got into a strong programme of recycling, where I think every second Saturday now, along with private sector cooperation, we are getting involved in putting together all our plastics and glass bottles and making sure they find the way to the correct place in Barbados.

H:No.C23 (43)

Mr. Speaker, I want to also join in commending them and in commending our schools in which they have developed a number of environment clubs, who do the same thing at the schools.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I happen to be married to a teacher and I know about these programmes and how involved they are in making sure that programme at St. Michael School works, and I know that many of us in here on this side are associated with different programme in our constituencies, in our schools and in our families to recycle and to reduce. I say reduce because the Honourable Member for St. James South raised the point about not only the volume of garbage but about the variety of garbage. I think the Honourable Member St. Michael West Central made the point about the types of things that we dispose of now. Madam, if our cellphone stops working and we throw it in the garbage and we do not even know what are the components, for all we know there could be a bomb, as they say, in the cellphone. They say that the people who know how to use these cellphones can even wake them up when they are sleeping, Sir, if you know what I mean. You can throw what you think is a finished cellphone and some man somewhere, some Wikileaks or whatever it is can get on his little device and next thing you know your cellphone walks back into the house. Sir, that is the way it works and that is what technology is about, we have our school project and we have our community projects. I commend the leaders of that project in Atlantic Shores and in so many communities in Christ Church South, who have developed appropriate projects for the area and hence reducing the kind of waste. Madam, I go back to the kinds of impressions that we give people and I remember the

introduction of the Municipal Solid Waste Tax in here. I am half way through my second term and looking forward to my third term as Member of Parliament for Christ Church South. I was in here when Honourable Members on the other side encouraged Barbadians to put out their mattresses, put out their roofs and they did so. Madam, if they want me to search the Hansard Debates, I will search the Hansard Debates and bring the actual verbatim contributions from the other side.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Madam, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is holding her cheeks because she is saying. "How true is the man that is speaking, how true".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the impression we give people is important. When you seek to criticise and you seek to bring down, you have to check out what you are bringing down unless you have a plan like Sampson to get to heaven, you cannot bring down the entire race unless you have a plan about what to build up afterwards, so let us be careful, (3:23) Mr. Speaker, and make sure that our message is always responsible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important responsibility, this type of management of solid waste, management of waste and garbage, et cetera, is properly controlled. I do not have to tell Barbadians from this position today about the threats of chikungunya, dengue fever or even now Zika, which we are seeking to manage in our environment. I really want to commend the staff of the Ministry of Health here in Barbados and, of course, the regional body, the Caribbean organisation which makes sure that all our countries, including Barbados is so well looked after.

Mr. Speaker, I was interesting in the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, my friend, who just spoke. I thought he was getting close to a topic which is very dear to me but he then veered off and got distracted about how built houses where and that kind of them. Sir, poverty and the solution for the homeless et cetera, separate to squatting and illegal construction of facilities, that is a different matter. I thought the Honourable Member was going to get the Barbados Programme the IC Bridge Programme, which seeks to stabilise families. Sir, first of all, it seeks to identify families and create enabling environment and to empower them finally. Sir, I thought he was going to get there because very often at our international meetings, either in Geneva or London last year, we spoke to this question. The Minister of Health in the United Kingdom introduced the topic of troubled families, indicating that troubled families was the source not only of the threats I spoke about, homelessness and poverty but it was also researched fact that the incidence of ill health in poor families is higher than in families who have access. Sir, it

is a fact. Sir, either we have the I.C. Bridge Programme here in Barbados or we have the Troubled Families Programme in the United Kingdom but we have to tackle -- I am on all-fours with the Honourable Member for St. Michael East in this regard, we have to tackle the question of health and poverty and that real association. Sir, as long as we focus on this very important social consideration I think that we are on the right track.

Mr. Speaker, when we put monies into the areas of social care to look after housing the poor, welfare to look after making sure that the poor are fed and are able to eat meals et cetera, in truth and in fact, we are helping to eradicate not only poverty but we are helping to make sure that we have a healthier nation.

Mr. Speaker, I really felt urged to be part of this discussion today to recognise that we have come to a stage in Barbados where we need to make a decision in terms of the next step in solid waste management. We must not be timid and try to pretend that some major solution is going to do it for us. We must not be afraid to spread our thoughts and indeed our scientists. Sir, even as we are leading the region now for deliberate developmental approach in renewal energy, we need to look including the use of waste, or waste generally as a resource. The Honourable Minister made the point that solid waste is no longer waste that it is a resource because one man's waste is another man's treasure so, Sir, you see where we are coming from. We have many threats to talk about. I could have spent my time talking about the South Coast Sewerage Project but the Honourable Members on the other would have quarreled with me for going back to their project. I have refer to it as a project which is neither fish, fowl or red herring. It is a compilation of all kind of hog hodgepodge technologies. It is a customized plan that is impossible to replicate, so we now have to go back to ground zero as we seek a solution at the South Coast Sewerage Project but, Sir, in the meantime our responsibility as an administration, and my responsibility as a Member of Parliament is to make sure that we get in there and correct any areas that affecting lives of so many people living in the area. Sir, even as we seek to find hundreds of millions of dollars that would be required to sort that problem out, we have to make sure that the people in that area do not continue to be under the kind of severe threat that they are facing now. I am hearkened by the introduction made to this amendment made by the Honourable Minister. He spoke to the tour yesterday of our coastal area and we need to do more of this as representatives and remember how serious the threat is as we continue to living in our Small Islands Developing State.

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Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: It does not make political sense anyway, so I should not have bothered to respond, so I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, on that score.

Mr. Speaker, we had a situation where today the Honourable Member presenting and leading this debate has clearly revealed himself to be a Minister under real pressure. The Honourable Member is normally cool, calm and collective. As the Honourable Member for St. George South in his admirable and commendable response to lead the Opposition's argument in this debate has said, the honourable presenter of this debate has a spiritual voice that reminds me of the Black Spiritual Baptist in the southern part of the United States of America. The Honourable Member normally speaks eloquently and forcefully but today he revealed himself as a man under a lot of pressure, and well he may be, and you could understand that because he is only human.

The Honourable Member has spoken in a very adversarial manner. He...everybody from those who sought to give other ideas because this Government has shown itself to be incapable of consecutive thought and vision as to where to lead this country after our 50th year of Independence and people who are out there making suggestions on the disposal of solid waste and management of our sanitary conditions and called them pea-chinks and gaulins. These are Barbadian citizens.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James North were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, the word pea-chink was used and in the interpretation of some people that is an offensive word. There was a lot of adversarial language used by the presenter of this Amendment. Really and truly I, and certainly this side certainly, do not believe that is the tone and manner that a Honourable Member of the Cabinet of Barbados should be speaking into the people of this country because he was not only speaking to those of us in here who have the privilege of being in here but he was speaking to the whole of Barbados. In fact, he was speaking to the outside world, to the international agencies that he goes and represent Barbados before because he spoke about the Paris Meeting and he would have gone of course down in the South Seas close to Australia. Honourable Members of this Parliament especially Cabinet Members have a duty really and truly to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is becoming of their office and we really and truly did not see that today.

On the issue of good governance, Mr. Speaker, we have a situation where it cannot be acceptable that no annual reports of the Sanitation Services Authority have

been brought before this Parliament in the eight years that the Democratic Labour Party has again taken the reigns of office of this country. Seven reports certainly should have been laid within that time. The last report on the Sanitation Services Authority to be laid in this Parliament was for the years 2005 and 2006 on August 10, 2007. I do not want to know from the other side about how Government operates, the law is the law and efforts have to be made to comply with the law. As the Auditor's General Report has said... The post of Auditor General is a constitutionally appointed position.

Mr. Speaker, the last time the Democratic Labour Party was in office in 1991-92 it cut all public servants salaries by 10 per cent and they would have done it again this time but for the fact - by 8 per cent - that the last Barbados Labour Party Administration made it unconstitutional for them to do it. The Auditor General along with the judges and the Director of Public Prosecutions are prime positions so they could not cut their salary. The Auditor General is not a two by two public servant like the 4 000 who they dismissed after the elections.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: They dismissed them ferociously.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: That is how the Democratic Labour Party considered them because when the same presenter of this Bill...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute. I do not like to interrupt Honourable Members and so on but we have some rules which we have to follow.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James North were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I thank you for that, Sir. Sir, they could not touch the salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the judges and the Auditor General in 1991/92 but they touched all of the rest.

Sir, the Auditor General, in the last Report which is available for 2014, again speaks to the accounts of the Sanitation Services Authority being outstanding. In December 2014, the financial statements for the years 2010 and 2011 were now being submitted and they were to be audited last year, and I would like to know if those statements for those financial years have been audited as yet because that is five to six years ago.

The Auditor General makes the statement, which I fully agree with, that the financial statements submitted long after the period in which the activity occurred is of little benefit to management or to other stakeholders and represents a breakdown in the process by which the Board and its officers are held accountable by Government. For the other side in an aside to say I do not know how Government operates, it is clear again we are talking about good governance which the Democratic Labour Party has pledged in its Manifesto, which is a social contract as far as we on this side are concerned, to observe accountability, effectiveness and efficiency. All of these are just rhetoric if not followed by action, so let us be serious about the responsibilities that we have as elected representatives of the people of this country and let us be fair to the people.

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Mr. Speaker, the consensus on this side is that solid waste management is not easy and that there are no ready solutions to it. We also agree, as the Honourable Member for St. George South said, to let the polluters pay, but Mr. Speaker Government has to facilitate everything. Yes, let us agree, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central has said, we need to educate our people about the disposal of solid waste, starting from our young children. I believe I have said earlier in this Parliament that when driving behind vehicles, either cars or buses, it is despicable to see to see people throwing their garbage through the window. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East referred to that and sometimes I too feel like I would blow my horn and overtake the vehicle and ask those persons to go back and pick up the garbage that was thrown out because that is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder how people who claim that they love their country, people who say that they are patriotic and all that could be doing that kind of thing. Yes, let us agree that the citizens of Barbados have a responsibility to dispose properly of garbage and also to minimise the amount of garbage, including its sorting. We agree that education would help Barbadians on these issues but a Government must also be the facilitating agency for all of this. Mr. Speaker, when you can have a Government that really and truly has no set policies on the issue, as was said by the Honourable Member for St. George South, a Government who has at least made four attempts in terms of taxation of waste management in this country in the seven years that it has been in office, where it moved from a Municipal Solid Waste tax, I believe brought in for one year but was retroactive, where it was said that tax did not collect all that it was expected to have collected, then in midstream they then came to Parliament and changed that to exempt pensions who had properties valued over \$190 000, it went then to a tipping fee where by the admission of the Minister of the Environment and Drainage only collected about \$2 billion so far, and was estimated

certainly in the last budget to collect between \$8 million and \$9 million, so that you have a Government that really has no direction in terms of the financing of disposal of solid waste.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard today that the Sanitation Service Authority takes up \$50 million of Government's budget every year out of the Consolidated Fund, et cetera. What is the position of Government in terms of the privatisation of the collection of garbage? We heard from the Minister of the Environment and Drainage earlier today that in some cases there are voluntary collections by private citizens. We understand, though, that in some cases there have been payments made to the private sector for the collection of that garbage, certainly in some constituencies. Let us see a definitive statement on this because privatisation has to be an issue. On the last General Election the Democratic Labour Party, certainly the Right Honourable Prime Minister, said that there will absolutely be no privatisation whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, that was in contradiction to what the Minister of Health had said earlier when the Honourable Member spoke about privatising certain statutory corporations, including the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and Transport Board, et cetera. Let us hear a definitive policy, if it has to be from the Right Honourable Prime Minister as Head of Cabinet, then let it be because the Right Honourable Prime Minister should not recoil from his responsibility as Head of the Cabinet to clear these issues up, if his Ministers are not capable of so doing.

Mr. Speaker, what is the position with it? We heard today in this debate from the Democratic Labour Party about Greenland. Again, we see their harping back to issues of Greenland. Greenland has not been a feature for about 15 years but again as usual, Greenland is once again being pelted about. When I first came here less than three years ago the Democratic Labour Party spoke about \$60 million being spent on Greenland by the Barbados Labour Party. Mr. Speaker, that figure then rose to \$80 million and now these days it is at \$100 million, and soon it will be US\$100 million. As has been said today on this side, our documentation and record shows that it was no more than \$40 million. As the Honourable Member for St. George South said, if you have workers from certain constituencies working at Greenland, then you must tell the public that, you must let the public know the reason these workers are at Greenland, even as we speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has five minutes left in which to conclude.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we have a garbage collection problem in Barbados today and it is not good enough for the Minister of the Environment and Drainage to say that when it comes to Cropover and to Christmas you have a pileup of garbage.

The fact is that there is a Cropover season in Barbados and there is a Christmas season in Barbados and we have to find a solution for it. The Minister of the Environment and Drainage said that under the Barbados Labour Party at one time there were only seven garbage trucks but that is not true, the least amount as I understand it was that there were 11 trucks and that there was never any garbage collection problem under the Barbados Labour Party. We found a solution and the Democratic Labour Party as the governing party at this present time has to find the solution. It cannot be that in St. James North for two weeks on end that there has been no garbage collection, and not because there was any negligence on the part of the workers of the Sanitation Service Authority who happened to be described as some of the best public workers in this island but who are operating under such trials and tribulations. It cannot be that I have to call up, in some cases, departments of the Sanitation Service Authority and tell them that garbage has not been collected in Lower Carlton or Sion Hill for the last two weeks and therefore it needs to be collected. Mr. Speaker, it should not come to that, the fact of the matter is that there are some fundamental problems in some of the Ministries the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has a mandate over and they have to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, really and truly, I have to commend the Ministry of Health at this time, maybe late but better later than never, for having some town hall meetings. I believe one is going on as we speak, on the financing of the health sector in Barbados. Why has there been no such initiative by the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage in terms of garbage disposal, solid waste management of Barbados? Mr. Speaker, the ordinary citizens of Barbados in many, many cases have the solution to some of these problems for which the Cabinet of Barbados cannot find.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation last year, I think in the budget speech of June/July said that the Ministry will soon be bringing town hall meetings on the financing of the education sector in Barbados and that has not been done yet either, so that we have promises being made but not being kept. Mr. Speaker, there has been no initiatives by Cabinet Ministers and town hall meetings should have been had.

No.C23 (47)7.28 p.m.

They said they were town hall meetings on Cahill before four Ministers, in between a flag of Barbados on the Ides of March, signed whatever agreement they signed, and even though the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has since June last year made a Resolution calling for those agreements to be disclosed et cetera, nothing so done. Talk about freedom of information in the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto of 2008, and accountability and transparency and all of those fine words in their Manifesto of 2013, and no such disclosure of agreements. No town

hall meetings on the issue before those agreements were signed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up. Your time has expired. Just finish this sentence.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Yes, Sir. So, Mr. Speaker, this debate really and truly reveals an opportunity for the Cabinet of Barbados to go back to the drawing board and try to come up with solid, credible solutions to solid waste management. The Barbados Labour Party and the people of Barbados are willing to help the Government with this issue. We are all in this together. We all have to live on this small 166 square miles and, let it be known, yes, we are prepared to lend our support to any policy of Government on the issue. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. My colleagues are laughing but I promise not to be too long. There are just a few things I wanted to say in relation to this matter because we had a debate only, I believe, a week ago or some time recently anyway, less than two weeks ago, on this matter and a lot of these issues were canvassed in relation to solid waste management and the issues confronting the SSA. We spoke about the need for trucks, we spoke about the challenges with financing which, of course, is a difficult issue for many of these social services which we provide literally free of cost to the public, certainly at point of delivery, or highly subsidised. We know that even outside of constraining circumstances financially, because the last Government experienced it when things were supposedly flush or lush with money and so forth. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas say in her speech that at one point in time we went down to 11 trucks and then you had to intervene to buy new trucks and/or to do repairs to get them back up, so we know that the situation, even when money was available in abundance, would always be a challenge. Indeed, if you give the SSA 50 trucks and those 50 trucks are not handled properly, if they are not appropriately articulated in relation to what people collect and put in them, how much mileage they do, what pressure goes on them in terms of their capacity, particularly if they are not purpose-built vehicles for the particular task, you could have 50 trucks on your fleet and if the fleet management and care is not good, you could very well be down to 20 because of the situation that you are dealing with.

In fact, having spoken on a number of occasions, either by myself or with colleagues - and I know the Right Honourable Prime Minister was present at one those meetings - we heard from the Sanitation Service Authority people that the challenge is that you might begin a day with

25 trucks, and by afternoon, the 25 are down to eight or ten because of damages that occur on the day itself. That is routine. That happens when you have a growing amount of waste being disposed of by all sections of the public. You have a very small Authority, which is pretty much relatively the same size as it was ten, 15, 20 years ago. The volume of waste has doubled or even tripled, so you are dealing with basically the same amount of resources, relatively the same numbers of staff members, but you are having the volumes increasing. If you have that situation, pressure will abound on those resources, and for all of their flexibility and nimbleness but for all of their shortness, resources will eventually break under the pressure.

Therefore, it makes no sense in my view having this abstract -- and I am not speaking about intellectually abstract but I mean abstract from the reality of what takes place on the ground -- constant political harangue about waste management in Barbados. Neither political party, given the limitation of resources in or outside of Government, is going to be able to effectively deal with this problem in a way that causes it sustainably in the short term to dissipate and disappear. It is not just going to be possible.

I made the point in the last debate that once when the last Government saw that the waste situation was getting out of control, they intervened in certain ways. We know which ways they intervened in. They intervened first by attempting to do a landfill. Against the best advice, they proceeded with doing the landfill at Greenland. That did not come off. Whether it is 50, 60, 70, 80 or \$100 million, it is a whole lot of money that has not produced an effective result. You cannot hide from it. That is just the reality of what we are doing in here. Having done that and not being able to produce that particular result, the last Government decided that they would also have as part of their integrated policy a waste treatment facility. I made this point the last time. I am not going to go over it. The waste treatment facility added \$30 million odd, if you really look at it, effectively to the Sanitation Service Authority's budget. The year before I became Minister of Finance, the Sanitation Service Authority budget was \$32 million for what the SSA was doing: collecting garbage, taking it to a landfill, doing landfilling processes. In the following financial year, it was \$62 million, and everybody was on the back of the Ministry of Finance in terms of the international financial institution as to why we were increasing transfers to statutory corporations by this amount. Why was it this large? It was because you had to do the transfer facility, and you had to do the transfer facility because the volume of waste was increasing, the landfilling space was decreasing, and therefore you had to find an effective way to reduce the amounts of waste going to the decreasing landfilling space so you could extend the life of the landfill.

The last Government, when they were in Opposition at the time, made a big stink -- no pun intended -- about Mount Stinkeroo, with the promise to the people in St. Thomas that it would be closed once they got into office. Fourteen years later they left office and there is still a landfill up there. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government, because of the increasing volumes of waste and the very quick dissipation of landfilling space at Cell 3A, we had to come in and do an additional cell, so-called Cell 4, at a cost of nearly \$30 million to the Government of Barbados.

Therefore, not only did you have to put \$30 million into waste separation, sorting and so forth, at the transfer facility; you had to build another landfill at a cost of another \$30 million. Understand what you are dealing with. I heard the Honourable Member for St. George South, and I forgive him because the Honourable Member believes the notes that are given to him, and sometimes they come so late that he does not have the opportunity to ask questions on what is written. He therefore got up and blamed this Government bungling the environmental levy; but it was not this Government that put an environmental levy in place.

H:No.C23 (48)

It is the last Government that put an environmental levy in place and, Sir, if I can co-join them to what the Honourable Member for St. James North was saying because he was blaming this Government for acting illegally. Sir, the environmental levy was put in place by the last Government against the law of CARICOM, against the Treaty of Chaguaramas by sheer discrimination against products from CARICOM countries coming into Barbados and it is this Minister of Finance who had to repeal it on the Floor of this House by way of the Budget and then bring the subsequent Act, so when we are talking about Governments acting illegally, we know these things happen. Sir, they knew it was illegal, the Jamaicans wrote about it, the Trinidadians wrote about it, the Grenadians wrote about it and they continue to collect it as though it was legal. Sir, when we get to these things to try to create this political divide and go to a Manifesto and talk about governance and the rule of law... The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is no rule of law. She was chased out of the Barbados Labour Party without the appropriate hearing and all kinds of people in the Barbados Labour Party have been making excuses ever since it happened.

Mr. Speaker, if they want to talk about waste... Sir, I had the choice of chasing anybody out, I would keep her. If I had to choose from others over there to chase out, it would not be her. Sir, the point of the matter is that we have to get serious and be honest with people in Barbados because that is the problem. Sir, people like to talk out of two corners of their mouths. They want to give the

impression that we can do all of these things, collect all of this waste, treat all of this waste, dispose of all of this waste and that the State is going to be able to provide what now clearly more than amounts to more than BDS\$100 million a year effectively in dealing with. Sir, you are going from \$30 million in 2008/2009 to \$100 million Barbados and climbing by 2015, which is the current financial year. We have to let people know it is no longer possible for the State to do it. Sir, I am not saying the Government because get mix up with Barbados Labour Party and Democratic Labour Party but I am saying that it is no longer possible for the State to continue to carry that burden outside of an effective financing, whether you call it an environmental levy, Municipal Solid Waste Tax, land tax, whatever you call it, some charge has to be taken specifically to deal with the issue of waste in Barbados, as it is for many other things but in particular for waste. I am satisfied that Honourable Members on both sides believe this is a serious enough issue but the problem is that whenever you make a suggestion, whenever you come up with a proposed solution everybody jumps all over it because they want to get political curry or political favour, so you organise a march and you go up to Government Headquarters to give the Prime Minister a letter because you want to be on the side of whom you think are opposing something so you can get political value out of it.

Mr. Speaker, now you know that principal is the political purse, but when we try to get the Committee to pay, they are arguing against it because they want to curry favour and get into the hip pocket of a particular person. When you charge the tipping fee, they oppose that too. I have heard the Honourable Member for St. James North saying that the Barbados Labour Party is prepared to work with the Government. I do not know when that is because certainly it has not been done before. You have this situation here, you put in a tipping fee because they do not want the Municipal Solid Waste Tax, that is too burdensome. You put in a tipping fee but now the tipping fee is a big problem. The Government says to the haulers, we are going to put on \$25 tipping fee, not on the haulers but on the people you are collecting the waste from, and the haulers are protesting as if they have to pay it. Sir, now they say that methodology in terms of collection and so forth needed to be sorted out, I can understand that and I can accept that but the haulers are not paying because you do not believe you should pay. You should collect waste, take it to the waste transfer station and that is somebody else problem. Whoever pays for it, they do not care, to the extent where people collect waste and the \$25 is paid by the person who gives the haulers the waste and they carry and dump it, as the the Honourable Member for St. Thomas says all over St. Thomas and other parts of Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINKLER: Yes, I have seen it and it is ridiculous and disgusting, and we should all condone it. Sir, people want to hedge the argument, again for political value, to say that it is the Government that caused this problem. Sir, do not want to call a spade a spade and so you are wrong. Sir, do you know what is one of the problems that I detect, it is that people in Barbados do not like organization. Sir, not the majority of people in Barbados but a few people in Barbados do not like organization, they like free for all, so imagine that we have a situation in Barbados where anybody can get a truck and decide they hauling waste. Sir, do you know there is no licensing regime for people who collect waste. There is no licensing, there is no registration, there is nothing. You can get a truck and you can haul waste whether you know how to haul waste or how to deal with it. there is absolutely nothing in place and I told my colleague, the Honourable Minister, that situation has to change, people should be made to register, we should know who is hauling waste and they should all be made to pay some fee for doing it because that type of slackness cannot be allowed to continue in Barbados because that is why you get the illegal dumping because you do not know who is collecting it and where they are carrying it at the end of the day. Sir, those are the types of changes to the regulations that need to take place. Sir, if it is registration under the Traders and Professions Act, or whatever the case may be or some other separate piece of legislation but some rule has to govern that situation that obtains in Barbados because it is unacceptable and we have to deal with it. Mr. Speaker, when we are dealing with these matters, we have to be very serious. It is extremely costly to deal with waste in Barbados right now and I know the average Barbadian, once the garbage truck comes and goes around the corner with their bags at the back, you wash your hands of that. It is only a problem if the truck does not come but once the truck comes, nobody cares what happens to the garbage after that, some of them do not know where it is going or what happens to it but my problem is solved because the garbage has been moved from in front of me but, Sir, that is not the end of the process rather that is the beginning of the process, the end comes much later and that is the challenge that we are going to have because, as the Honourable Minister said this morning when he spoke, nobody wants a landfill in their backyard. Sir, there is no member of this Parliament who would willingly stand up -- very few of them, if any, and say, yes, I have space in my constituency where I want you to put a landfill. Sir, they probably would not be a Member of Parliament for very much longer if they did that. Mr. Speaker, if we are land scarce society and there is no space to put landfill, so what are you going to do with the waste and the volumes of waste that we are talking about. Sir, that is why I tell people that we have a lot of people in Barbados who live in Clyde Cou-cou Land as the Prime Minister would call it. they are giving you the impression that there is this hidden agenda by the

Government of Barbados to suppress the context and practice of recycling waste in Barbados. Sequence 49

Insert s50 juliette

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Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I say to him, as I conclude my speech, alas there is somebody in the Democratic Labour Party Government who is going to rescue the poor people in The Belle because we believe that they deserve to live in Barbados too like any other citizens in Barbados and if we have to find a solution we will put our heads together and find a solution. I am not doing it because I want him to come over here. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East is my very good friend but he has abandoned certain phases of the revolutionary cause that we all fought for. He is now fighting alongside the Sandy Lane crowd. I know in your old age you get better sometimes so I am not going to kill him for that. He is in the roaming days. He is now a toothless bulldog. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is not chewing bones anymore, he is lapping up milk and not even genuine whole milk. He is now suffering from political lactose intolerance so you got to give him...

Sir, I understand the Honourable Member for St. Michael East's problem, but I give the assurance to the Minister of the Environment and Drainage that this is a good Amendment he is bringing, it is effective. Yes, it might be a little late but it is something that needs to be done and we should all by approbation give it our support and lend the Minister the support that he requires in very difficult circumstances that he is dealing with.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 8.45 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 8.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

House C23 Sequence 51

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension

was taken we were on Order No. 14 and with that we shall continue.

ORDER NO. 14 (resumed)

Sanitation Service Authority Bill, 2016

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

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I know it is a long hour and that Honourable Members have had quite a long day in the course of this debate but I wish to enter at this point in time because I do believe that this is a relatively important discussion that we have been having thus far. Mr. Speaker, while speaking to this Sanitation Service Authority Act, I believe that Members on both sides would agree that it is a very simple amendment that is being made to the legislation, one which I think while we all accept, it should have come a lot sooner. I think we are both grateful that any errors or omissions that are made by this Administration are corrected when they are drawn to the attention Honourable Members on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Honourable Member for St. James North would have mentioned in the last debate his concerns about this particular provision and the fact notice had been given some time back in May last year and that this would have been on the Order Paper for quite some time. Mr. Speaker, that notwithstanding, it is important that we are here today to rectify the omissions that would have been made over the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to take the opportunity, first of all, to thank Honourable Members on this side who would have entered this debate and would have spoken prior to my speaking. I say that because each of those Honourable Members who have spoken have, in a sense, a vested interest in the issues of waste disposal in this country, as do other Honourable Members on the other side. Mr. Speaker, I believe that, for instance, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who would have spoken, this issue is near and dear to her heart because the issue of waste disposal has been at the centre of the people and residents of St. Thomas whom she represents and certainly the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has been one of the strong advocates certainly in politics for the last couple of years with respect to the rights that persons and residents in her constituency have as it relates to Government entering into policies that will affect people in those constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the Shadow Minister on this side, the Honourable Member for St. George South, who would have spoken at lengths to explain to this Honourable Chamber and to the people of this country the vast number of issues that are affecting not only the people

in his constituency but across Barbados. I think the Honourable Member has given a very wide-ranging presentation which I hope that the Honourable Minister would certainly respond to a number of the questions that the Honourable Member would have raised during the course of his presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think we cannot underscore the importance of the presentation of the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown because each of us traversing the city, whether coming to Parliament or otherwise, would recognised that the city oftentimes is not as clean as we would like it to be. It is one thing to say that the City of Bridgetown is at times spick and span but the reality is that when you go in the areas surrounding the City of Bridgetown you find that there are streets littered with garbage over and over and that there are serious problems in densely populated like that of the City of Bridgetown. Mr. Speaker, I have certain concerns in St. Michael South East where there are densely populated areas, and I am sure that many other Honourable Members would share the same concerns, because we had a situation where a number of the open spaces are overgrown with bush. In a lot of cases, some of the open spaces have been utilised for illegal dumping as well because as we well-know, as much as we can say in this Honourable Chamber that efforts are being made, the reality is that there are more efforts that need to be made in order to ensure that garbage is collected across the length and breadth of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I think that all Honourable Members who spoke would have spoken from different perspectives. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East would have reiterated his concerns as it relates to squatters, which has to be a concern to each and every one of us because the problem with the squatters, regardless of where they are and how they got there, is a concern to us if the waste is not disposed of correctly, as eventually it would become a problem for each and every one of the residents in this country. Mr. Speaker, I have listened attentively to all of the presentations but I just wanted to comment on the Honourable Members on this side specifically because I know that they have been very vocal over the past few years as it relates to concerns of waste disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Minister this morning in his presentation. I remember a lot of things that the Honourable Member said but one thing that stood out was a question that the Honourable Member asked of the Honourable Members on the other side, about the issue of zero waste. Mr. Speaker, the way that the Honourable Member asked the question suggested that the concept of zero waste in a sense almost does not exist. Mr. Speaker, I was a little taken aback because the thinking across the international community, across the world, is one that is placing tremendous emphasis on the issue of zero waste. Mr. Speaker, while for some it may seem or appear as

though it is a concept that is a little far fetch, I would want to take the opportunity certainly to enlighten the Honourable Member that it is a concept that guides administrations across the world in trying to combat the issues of waste disposals.

Mr. Speaker, it therefore means that perhaps the Honourable Member is not aware of what the policy direction is supposed to be, not only for this Administration for certainly the Ministry as it relates to waste disposal. Mr. Speaker, when we speak of zero tolerance towards building, we do not that there would be no building in the country but that we have an approach towards the issue of things that we feel should be stamped out, that sends a message to the country and to the world that we are intolerant to certain behaviors. Mr. Speaker, I would want the Honourable Member to perhaps pause and reflect on his comment because I would hate to think that the Honourable Member does not understand the concept but that perhaps the Honourable Member may fall within that narrow bracket of people who take the view that you cannot get rid of all of the waste that exists in a country, and that would be unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, if, however, the Honourable Member is not guided by what is now obtaining in the international community, it would perhaps explain the misguided policies of the Democratic Labour Party Administration today. Mr. Speaker, I say that because a lot of the policies that relate to zero waste require of any administration that they take an aggressive approach towards educating the people of their islands and countries as it relates to what is acceptable in relation to disposal. It means that there has to be an aggressive policy as it relates to recycling; it means that garbage collection, if you say it is going to happen one or two days a week, that it happens at those times and on those days; it means that you have to lead from in front, that if it is that you are going to say that the people in a country have to dispose of waste in a particular way, that you at the top also have to be able to lead by example, whether in your respective constituencies, community groups or communities as well. Mr. Speaker, therefore it is not just about telling people that they are littering and that they need to keep Barbados tidy, it is about an extensive public relation campaign that sends a message from the very top that more has to be done if we are going to stamp out the level of waste that we are seeing across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I think that all Honourable Members appreciate that waste is going to have an impact on our tourism, whether it is in the form of diseases that are contracted because of mosquitoes and waterborne illnesses, but regardless of what perspective we have, I think we agree on both sides that we have to take action to be able to combat that.

Mr. Speaker, taking an approach towards zero waste has been taken, for instance, by the Mayor in New York. When we can think of a city like New York, the Mayor has announced that he aims to cut New York's trash by 90 per cent by 2030. Mr. Speaker, that is what I am talking about, that you are not just making pronouncements but that, in fact, you are actually taking action in the territory to be able to stamp out the illegal dumping of waste.

No.C23 (52)9.05 p.m.

What they have done in the United States as well, Mr. Speaker, is try to stamp out the polystyrene foam because they felt that this was one of the steps toward being able to eradicate a lot of the waste and the issues of recycling that exist in their territory. They have increased their curb side collection, and they have focused a lot on local community programmes as a means of ensuring that people are aware of what they have to do in relation to their waste. In Barbados, we have a lot of community centres where oftentimes you do not see garbage cans. You go to playgrounds and playing fields across the island and there are no garbage cans. When you speak to people, one of the concerns people have is that even if there were the garbage cans, oftentimes the garbage is not collected on a regular basis. We have to face the reality that in a lot of our densely populated areas, we have to find spaces where people can take their garbage. It is not going to be a case that you may be able to get down into small avenues to be able to collect the garbage, but we have to find ways and maybe revisit the population expansion in a number of our communities to determine where we may have to relocate persons in order to create spaces where our litter can properly be disposed of.

It is going to require obviously that this administration spend some money on its social marketing and education of its people. I have heard the Minister mention nothing about the public relations exercise that he intends to undertake as it relates to having the country be made more aware of any of the programmes that he has indicated he is introducing. I think that is particularly unfortunate. There were pronouncements made by the Honourable Minister in the past as it relates to the separation of garbage, as it relates to the ordering of trucks that would allow for the separation of garbage. There were also pronouncements made that in the future, you would have trucks coming on specific days to collect the garbage. If this already exists and it is working in communities, then perhaps we should know about it, but if it is not working, as I suspect, and has not been implemented, then I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that the time has come for us to stop making these pronouncements and actually put some resources behind educating the public that these particular programmes exist.

I believe it was last year that the Honourable Minister would have indicated that there were going to be the separation bins and, on this occasion, he says that there are going to be separation bags, which members of the public can now obtain from the Sanitation Service Authority. When he spoke of the separation bins previously, the Honourable Minister would have indicated that those were going to come at a cost. We have not heard what the cost is going to be. There are people who may be able to take advantage and who may become excited at the idea of being able to come forward and purchase the recycling bins, but we are not hearing any information that would allow people to be fully informed and make decisions as it relates to how to dispose of their garbage. If it is that there are going to be bags available, I think the Honourable Minister owes it to us to tell us how many bags are actually going to be available. Where are the collection points? Where are the vehicles going to be coming to the various communities to collect the garbage? It is not sufficient anymore knowing that we have a serious problem on our hands as it relates to the disposal of waste to simply make pronouncements as to what is likely to happen or what is in the pipeline, but then we are not seeing the things that are supposed to happen to be able to allow a lot of these very good ideas to be actually implemented in a short space of time.

I am pleased to hear that a fleet and wipe study is being done, but this is now just over seven years into this administration's tenure. If it is that all the issues that they have said in the course of this debate have existed under a Barbados Labour Party administration, I would have expected that this study would have been done much earlier. I have no difficulty with studies being done in this country, but I think on each occasion Minister after Minister likes to say studies are being done, we are entering into discourse with various segments of the community; but the reality is that from a lot of these studies the recommendations are never implemented in a short space of time. What happens in the interim is that we find ourselves in a situation where, because of a lack of implementation, as the Honourable Minister of Finance indicated, the budget for disposal of waste continues to rise. We are not having all of the things that need to be put in place put in place all at the same time. While we appreciate there may be constraints on resources, it is also about choices that this administration has to make as to what is important.

This administration has attempted on several occasions to try to fiddle with the whole solid waste issue. In 2013 the Minister of Finance announced that he was going towards a green levy, and then he said he had to retract the green levy. Then I believe he went to the Municipal Solid Waste Tax in an effort to raise money for the Treasury. Obviously the people of this country, being wiser than the Minister, recognised that there were

fundamental flaws in that approach. If that was not enough, Mr. Speaker, the next step that was taken by this administration was to then enforce the tipping fee, which then again was wrought with total confusion, and led to people across the length of this country protesting against the tipping fee. It is not that people, whether on this side or otherwise, have a difficulty paying, but the difficulty that people had is when an administration does not fully appreciate the implications of its policy; so when you implement a policy but you have not consulted with the very people that you are affecting, that is where the people will rise up and they will start to protest and they will have concerns and they will criticise the administration. An administration that was on top of things would have known that any introduction of a fee would impact on the small businesses and other businesses in this country who are in the business of moving waste from site to site. They would know that a businessperson who is in that industry has to invoice the person whose waste they are collecting, and sometimes they do not receive the payment until 30 days later. In some cases, they do not receive it until another two months. Therefore, in order for them to remove the waste which all of us would want removed when the introduction of this tipping fee came into effect, a lot of persons had to expend money that in a lot of cases they did not have, to be able to remove the waste in a quick manner.

This administration can twist the facts and make it appear as though the Barbados Labour Party has a problem with people paying a fee or contributing to the disposal of their waste, but the people of this country are wiser and smarter than that, and they understand what the dynamics are that would have played out when the tipping fee was introduced. People did not just protest because they could; people protested because it was affecting their livelihood. With all of the other measures that this administration has introduced, it was just one more measure on top of all of the others that had come before that stood to affect the livelihood of the people of this country. For that, this administration needs to recognise that better can be done; that you cannot introduce these types of things without thorough consultation with the very stakeholders who are being affected.

Having failed in all of the policies which this administration has introduced to date, it is interesting that the next thing that the Honourable Members on the other side tried to do is introduce this blame game. I say a blame game because it is a case of pointing fingers across the Floor. If it is that they have been the administration for the last seven years, I would like to suggest to this administration that they get on with the job. To go back to Greenland and to things like Cricket World Cup, it is almost as though the Democratic Labour Party has a list of things that they keep mentioning about the Barbados Labour Party. If it is not the World Cup cricket, it is the prison, but I want this administration to appreciate that the

figures cannot keep changing about what was spent on Greenland. One minute in the other place, you hear it was \$200 million that was spent on Greenland, then you heard in here today that it was \$100 million, and on other occasions you hear it was \$60 million and \$150 million. I say to this Chamber, it does no-one on either side any good if you do not come with, first of all, the facts, and if you are not consistent with the facts, because the public is well aware that the figures keep changing. My understanding is that it cost \$21 million and another \$18 million to retrofit, and this was dealt with in the other place by one of the former Ministers who held the portfolio. I say, Mr. Speaker, that those on the other side who are armed with information that may be of benefit to this Chamber and that would contradict anything that I say are free, in accordance with the rules of this House, to stand and interject while I am on my feet but if it is, that they have information they are free to do so.

9.12 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the public of this country deserves better. I would be interesting in the next five years to read the Auditor-General's reports on each of the Ministries held by Honourable Members on the other side because much of what I have heard today on Greenland is in the Attorney-General Report. The Honourable Minister himself has not disclosed anything that is in his files and I am happy if he does so. If he has the information, Mr. Speaker, I would like him to disclose it because I think we would all be better if it is that we can put the trust in our Ministers, or Members of Parliament, so that when they come here to disclose certain things as though they have something that nobody else has, that they are able to disclose it. Sir, I would ask if there is information to contradict what I have been advised, well I would suggest member on the other side do so.

Mr. Speaker, having failed in all the policies, having brought about this whole blame game, what I have noticed is that this administration has embarked on a solution, for want of a better word, to the issue of solid waste. Sir, much has been said on this side about persons in this country having concerns about the Cahill Project. The Cahill Project was announced about two years ago and it is a project that has project that has caused some concern across Barbados from various interest groups, certainly from Honourable Members on this side as well and I believe Honourable Members from the Democratic Labour Party as well who have not been apprised of the full fact.

Mr. Speaker, this administration came to office speaking about accountability, integrity in public life, they spoke about transparency but what has been disclosed and what has been put on the record by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has not been discredited by Honourable Members on the other side. Sir, the facts are, Mr. Speaker,

Sir that we have heard in this Chamber announcements about projects that would assist in the disposal of our waste. We have heard of a project initially that was supposed to cost US\$240 million, a project that was supposed to be placed at Vauxcluse in St. Thomas. We then later learned that the figures then rose to, I believe that it was \$480 million first, then \$512 million, then it went to \$600 million and in June 30, 2013, the total cost of project to \$700 million.

Mr. Speaker, I heard this morning Honourable Members on the other side stated that in the case of Greenland that it was the taxpayers' money that was being spent but in the instance of Cahill Project, it is not the taxpayers' money that is being spent but, in fact, it is another entity that is spending the money and, therefore, there is cost to Barbadians. Sir, I want to dispel that because I think that we have to be honest with the people of this country. Sir, nobody has a difficulty with finding a solution to the disposal of waste but what the people of this country have a difficulty with is the lack of information that this administration wants to provide for something as serious as a plasma gasification plant, that is the problem. When you have a position where this is perhaps the largest project of its kind in the world, in a 166 square mile island, I think that the people of this country deserve a proper explanation as to what this project is actually about. Sir, what is it that four Minister have signed off on that Cabinet could not have been made aware of before hand, the the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General never saw the contract to be able to advise of the validity or the enforceability or any of the credibility of the parties that were involved, those are the concerns that the people of this country have. They want to deal specifically with the issue that the Cahill Project will not cost the taxpayers of this country any money.

Mr. Speaker, the implementation of Greenland speaks to a number of things which the Government of Barbados has to do to give effect to the Cahill Project. Sir, one of those things would include that the Government of Barbados has to supply water infrastructure to the plant free of charge and that includes the pipeline, the construction and the commissioning as well, so there is a cost to the people of this country, there is a cost the Barbados public and to the taxpayers of this country. Sir, there is also the fact that the Government of Barbados has to deliver the environmental impact assessment on the facility. They have to provide the leachate treatment plant adjacent to the facility and I can only assume that it is going to come at a cost because a cost is involved in the waste disposal now that requires that to be done.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, the Government of Barbados also has to provide municipal waste and biomass waste each day which must be made of 550 tons of municipal waste and 450 tons of biomass waste, which is

the grass that is locally known as the elephant grass. They also have to collect, transport, sort and deliver all the municipal waste. The Government of Barbados must purchase and/or cultivate, harvest, store, dry, crush, collect, transport and deliver all biomass waste, which has to come at a cost. It is not the Minister's money, it is the people of Barbados' money that has to be spent to do all of these things, whether it the Cahill Project or it is any other entity that enters into an agreement with the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that an implementation agreement suggest that the Government of Barbados still has to spend money, so what is the amount of money that the Government of Barbados has to spent. I think that is what the people want to know. Sir, for you to enter into this agreement, what do you have to spend.

Mr. Speaker, what is also a concern is the fact that there is mentioned that there is a certain quota that has to be taken to this facility and if this quota is not met basically there are other methods through which this can be sent to the site. Sir, I give the example of, for instance, tyres because there is a provision in the implementation agreement which specifically provides that if the cal.. (6:52) value of waste falls below the target of 12 to 14 kilograms, the processing fee may be increased from 5 to 13 per cent, again, a further cost to the Government of Barbados and to the people of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have four minutes in which to conclude. MISS S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Sir, I know that the Honourable Minister has said on previous occasions that tyres will not be imported from any other territory around the region or around the world but, in reality, it is a provision in the actual agreement and so long as it is a provision in the actual agreement, if we do not meet the amount that is required by the contract, what is going to be required of us is that we are going to have to find the waste from somewhere else to be able to place in the plant to be able to dispose of it. Sir, that is the concern that the people of Barbados have. Sir, I do not think it is a concern that is unjustified, I think that this administration has been called on to be transparent. It has been called upon to be accountable. It has been called upon to give the people of this country freedom of information and this is platform upon which the Democratic Labour Party came to office. It is not by chance that the people of this country are calling on this administration to provide this information. It is not by change because they have made a social contract with the people of this country that that would be the legacy left by the Democratic labour Party administration and, to date, not one meeting has been held by the Ministry or through the Minister with the people of this country and the issue of the Cahill Project. Sir, before I take my seat, I say that it is not good enough that a project of this magnitude could be

introduced into this island that is going to affect future generations whether negatively or positively and no discussion is coming from the level of Minister, the Prime Minister or any of the Ministers who sit on that side. It is simply not good enough. Mr. Speaker, we accept on this side that we had a problem with waste in the country but if mistakes were made before on our part, then we accept mistakes were made but we say to you that if an environmental impact assessment is to be, if it is that people are supposed to be taken into their confidence in order to know that is happening in the country, then do so because in the end, all of us stand to suffer if something goes wrong as it realtes to this particular treatment plant. Sir, that is what I believe each of the members have to consider in this debate as we consider this amendment. It has been a live debate and I do believe that a lot more needs to happen within the Sanitation Service Authority to be able to ensure that not only the disposal of garbage on a day to day basis is done but certainly we need to also look at the long-term disposal of garbage across this island. Mr. Speaker, I am mindful of the time, so I will take my seat at this moment. Sequence 54

Sequence 54

Insert s55 juliette

Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Hon. F. J. STUART: He had not been 20 minutes into the meeting when he got a call from the secretary saying that one of his constituents was on the line. He insisted he could not take the call but the secretary said that the constituent was so insistent that she could not get this constituent off of the line. He eventually capitulated and took the call. The constituent's complaint was that a dog had been struck by a car outside of her house the Friday night before, had died and the body had begun to disintegrate over the weekend, the smell is coming through the house, and she therefore was calling him about that. He said that he tried his best to control his rage and he asked her very politely if she called the Sanitation Services Authority, to which she angrily responded: "I did not vote for any Sanitation Services Authority, I voted for you, that is why I call you", and there is that kind of attitude to these matters. The Honourable Member therefore, of course, said that in order to end the conversation he called the Sanitation Services Authority, got somebody to go there to burn the remains and so on.

Mr. Speaker, there is this attitude that garbage is somebody else's problem. The hardworking people at the Sanitation Services Authority who work all hours of night and have to expose themselves to all sorts of risks in terms of what they have to collect from the sides of the streets are treated sometimes by our own people like lesser breeds beyond the law and any kind of thing is put out there for

them to take up because we think that it is our right to generate garbage but it is somebody else's responsibility to dispose of it for us.

I know that the Sanitation Services Authority sets schedules in accordance with which garbage has to be collected. Let us be very frank, Mr. Speaker, vehicles break down, workers get sick and other things can happen to prevent the Sanitation Services Authority from being able to meet a schedule at this or that time. The same thing happens with the Transport Board buses. They are supposed to be running at certain times but buses break down or people take sick. The same thing happens with us, sometimes we have commitments and anxious though we are to keep the commitments, sometimes we can take sick too.

I well recall going to a Magistrates' Court in Hometown one morning and not meeting my client there. He had been there on every other previous occasion and when his case was called I got up and apologised for his absence and said he must be on the way and a very wrongheaded presiding officer insisted that he was going to issue a warrant for the arrest of my client. I pleaded with him not to do it because on every previous occasion he was there and there must have been some special reason why he was not there on time that morning. He insisted and he issued the warrant for arrest but as it turned out the man was dead, so he was the first presiding officer in the Commonwealth that issued a warrant of arrest for a dead man, and it is because we adopt these inflexible attitudes.

Mr. Speaker, if the Sanitation Services Authority is supposed to come out a Monday night and it does not come out we use that to extrapolate from that that the Sanitation Services Authority is inefficient or that people are not doing their jobs when these things happen, and they happen in our own lives as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think on balance the Sanitation Services Authority has done and has been doing a very great job for Barbados. Those workers have placed us everlastingly in their debt. We are not here dealing with a problem that admits of easy solution as the other side would have demonstrated. Greenland failed, and that has been admitted, and we are now trying to see whether we can find a solution that is not Greenland and hope that that solution will be more successful than the failed Greenland experiment.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an occasion to be hurling the kinds of criticisms that I have been hearing hurled in here today about not dealing with things now. These things have a history and they have a future and Barbados' future is well known in the context of what kind of future we are planning for the country in terms of a sustainable development agenda. We have committed ourselves to

creating an advanced green economy in Barbados where we have an integrated production, consumption and distribution system that at its core takes account of Barbados' fragile ecosystems and so on, that is where we are, and solid waste management has to be a part of all of that. The plastic bags, the Kentucky Fried Chicken boxes, the Chefette boxes, the other kinds of boxes, the beds are all things that households use. The garbage in Barbados does not belong to the Government and householders have to take more responsibility for the waste they generate.

The Sanitation Services Authority will do its job but we have to be a lot more sensitive in terms of how sometimes I see our streets lined with garbage even though it is known that the Authority's vehicles may not be passing there that day because it is alright for us to pursue all of the conspicuous consumption that we want to pursue but once we generate the garbage the quickest thing we want to do is to get it off of our property and to dump it on the public. That cannot continue in Barbados.

This business of people driving and throwing things through the window, I experienced it recently on my way home to St. Philip driving behind a vehicle going through Sterling and all of a sudden a box was thrown through the window to the side of the road and I gave the person driving me the instructions to put the siren on and to have that vehicle stop and the person get out and go and take it up because we have to pursue higher standards than that in Barbados. This idea that we can generate the garbage but everybody else is responsible for it has to come to an end.

I therefore want to just place on record my own support for the efforts of the workers of the Sanitation Services Authority. I want to counsel the country to accept the fact that it is not Government or the Authority that generates garbage in Barbados. What garbage the Government generates is properly disposed of and what we have to do in Barbados is to accept a greater responsibility for our consumption patterns and the waste that we generate. It is alright to top up a cell phone three and four times per day to talk, but just a small sum of money can be spent buying a can into which garbage can be put so that employees of the Sanitation Services Authority are not exposed to some of the things that they are exposed to from time to time when they come to pick up garbage that dogs and cats have been rummaging through, or bags that have not been properly tied and all sorts of scents emanating from the garbage put out.

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Mr. Speaker, we have to be more sensitive to the people who work at the Sanitation Service Authority and who are doing a job that many of us would not want to do. They are human beings too, they have children, they have households and they have a sense of dignity and we have to

respect that and be a little more sensitive in our consumption patterns.

Mr. Speaker, I give this Bill my full support and hope that in this 50th Year of Independence that we can say goodbye to the Barbados of entitlement and try to welcome in the Barbados of personal responsibility, assuming greater responsibility for the things we do and try to make Barbados a better and a stronger place over the next 50 years. Let us try to pass on a Barbados to future generations that is better than the Barbados that was handed to us. Mr. Speaker, sustainable development means looking after our needs in the present while not compromising the future of those who are come after us. Mr. Speaker, this Bill has my full support and I am obliged to us for the opportunity to speak. I thank you very much.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise just to make a few points but I would like to start where the Right Honourable Prime Minister has left off. I was not intending to speak but I believe that it is important for us to send a singular message from this Parliament that there has to be an acknowledgement of the need for all Barbadians to take responsibility with respect to the management of solid waste and waste generally in this country. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt, and it has been said throughout this debate, and I want to use the opportunity to commend in particular, the Honourable Member for St. George South for his speech in this debate, but also other Honourable Members who have spoken as well, who I think struck the right tone acknowledging first and foremost that the management of our solid waste problems is a serious and complex issue that has bedeviled this country for in excess of 25 years. I believe the Right Honourable Prime Minister went as far back as the early days of the problems when the then Minister of Health, the late Sir Branford Taitt, would have started to put into place a project that was to have been financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and which, in fact, was the project that raised the genesis for the tipping fee.

Mr. Speaker, the difficulty has been that even with people taking responsibility there is still a way for the State to be able to manage the entire problem. I believe that therefore this debate has a number of components and I want to make it absolutely clear that we in the Barbados Labour Party believe that the time has now come for greater public education and greater advocacy to encourage Barbadians at all levels and from all sources to, (1), seek to minimise the level of waste and garbage that they generate and, (2), to do what they can within their own households to be able to separate and to facilitate the reuse and recycle wherever possible of what we consume.

Mr. Speaker, in difficult economic times, I believe the Minister today spoke about pampers, and those in my constituency hear me all the time telling them that when we are seeking to adjust your budget one of the first things that you can do, particularly if you have children, is to be able to take responsibility for those things that you do not have to buy on a weekly basis. Many of us will know as babies our parents never had the benefit of Pampers, Huggies or whatever else you want to call them because they are all generic names of disposable diapers, and cloth diapers are other forms that were used. That did not harm any of us. I am saying to you that there are certain things -- and I believe I said it before in the debate in relation to climate change - that there are certain things that we will not be divided on because there is nothing to be gained by taking an adversarial approach on the change of behaviour that we want for our people and this is a clear example of where there must be a change of behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I will never, and the Right Honourable Prime Minister said, interestingly enough, that he told his driver to put on his siren and tell the person to go back and pick up the box that they had thrown through their car window. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get in this Honourable House and criticise the Right Honourable Prime Minister for that because I believe that littering, wherever it comes, is wrong. I believe that we have a responsibility to teach our children and to remind our adults what they should know and about how they should behave better as it relates to that.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe, as has been said by everyone in this debate, that the Sanitation Service Authority workers work beyond the call of duty in difficult circumstances and that yes, we owe them a debt of gratitude, but I recognised as well that the management of solid waste has also other aspects. Mr. Speaker, I will speak to those aspects in a manner that asks this Parliament to step back and to reflect on why it is that this issue has bedeviled us for in excess of 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that first and foremost it is a case of setting priorities and as I just said, we all agree that there must be greater personal responsibility with respect to this matter to reduce the volume of garbage that is coming. I believe equally that the Government has to recognise that in the way the government, security and then public health, in my view, is the next second most important claim of public expenditure, because on 166 square miles the failure to treat to public health renders every one of our citizens vulnerable to outbreaks and diseases to which they might not otherwise be vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, it is for that reason that I believe that Barbados in this 20th Century developed and exported the greatest and most recognised public health experts in the Caribbean: Sir Kenneth Stanley, Sir Kenneth Stuart,

gentlemen who trained almost all of the public health professions in the region from the mid-20th Century. Mr. Speaker, I see the Right Honourable Prime Minister smiling because the Honourable Member would be aware of the great esteem in which those gentlemen were held regionally. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it was by accident but the recognition that when we live in a small land space especially, the rate of contagion is likely to be far greater and quicker than if you live on a huge land space where there are buffers. Indeed, I point out to many people that there is a space in Lower Carlton with which I am very familiar that prior to the early 20th Century was a cholera burial ground, it is right there on the beach.

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It almost seems impossible sometimes for me to contemplate that in the lives of my grandfathers, both of them, cholera was still something that could be found in this country. I make this point because I believe that even in the difficult economic and fiscal circumstances that this country is facing, there has to be a commitment for us to prioritise expenditure in certain areas. Therefore, this side makes the point, as the Honourable Member for St. George South did this morning, that we believe that it may be a case of misplaced priorities. Everyone wants a better office building for the sanitation workers - of course we do -- but what cannot happen is that the purpose for which the workers are employed in the first instance cannot be rendered obligatory, cannot be absent because we do not have sufficient trucks for the garbage to be collected. If there is a Supplementary in this Chamber to facilitate expenditure to meet the minimum demands of the collection of garbage, which I understand to be 35 trucks a day, then the Opposition would have to support it.

The unsightly collection of dumping of garbage is not just unsightly in terms of aesthetics. There are public health implications to which all others in the House on both sides have spoken, and the major one in relation to vermin, in particular mosquitoes, decimated thousands of our people last year with chikungunya. I know because I got it, and to this day, if I am tired, I get pains in my shoulder, my knees and my feet. Far less an older person who is already suffering from arthritis. What would that outbreak of chikungunya have done to them if they were one of the victims? Now you have Zika, and I accept that no-one really knows the true story with Zika. I want to commend the Chief Medical Officer in Barbados for very sensible, stable and solid statements and approach that he has made which have not led to any sort of hysteria. I really do, because what we have at stake is a medical community and a scientific community that cannot tell us definitively the linkages between Zika and the microcephaly that has been found in a disproportionate number of babies in Brazil. Having said that, what is clear is that none of us wants Zika.

There are some things that I am appealing to the Prime Minister to be able to revisit in advance of the Estimates. I believe that there has to be an approach that allows us to see appropriate debushing in this country again. I truly do. Barbados has become unsightly and overgrown with bush. I start, like the Right Honourable Prime Minister, on the premise that householders must first start. A notion of a Barbados where people kept in front of their house clean is one that I am familiar with. A notion of a public health inspector moving from house to house to house with a ladle is a sight that regrettably we no longer see sufficiently in this country. A notion of plantations taking responsibility for their lands and keeping them tidy is something that needs to come back in place. Equally, the sight of the environmental health department taking down derelict houses and placing the charges on the Land Tax of those who caused the derelict house to be there in the first place, in accordance with the law, has to take place again.

Regrettably, the environmental health department and the officers have said that they have not removed houses in a number of years. I think we need to return to it because, however much a person may take responsibility for their own property, if there are two or three derelict lots next door, then regrettably they still become the victim of potential public health outbreaks. In the wet season it is mosquitoes, and in the dry season it is rats. Leptospirosis is as awful a disease as you could possibly want, and if jaundice sets in, you risk death. So I would like to see the debushing resume. I would like to see the Government Information Service embark on a programme, Right Honourable Prime Minister through Mr. Speaker, that allows us to speak with one voice to Barbadians. In the same way as I have said on child abuse, there are certain matters that must be above partisan politics in this country; and I commit publicly here today for this side to speak to these two issues together with the Government. I am equally saying that there must be a commitment to re-prioritise some expenditure to protect our public health in relation to debushing, in relation to derelict houses, and in relation to sufficient garbage trucks to collect the garbage. I think that if we can do those few things together in this 50th year of Independence, that we will have shown that there are possibilities that go beyond the adversarial Westminster system of politics that allow people to have faith again in those who represent and govern them as a class of people.

I believe that the Government ought to pause, Mr. Speaker, in relation to some of the things that have happened equally in relation to the Sanitation Service Authority from a fiscal perspective and from a governance perspective. There is no doubt that we have said this before. I am not trying to be contentious in this debate at all. We have asked for a review of clear practices that in our view have put the Government at risk of liability and exposure. The Honourable Member for St. George South

spoke at length today about the multi-storey building. The anatomy of how not to do a project is to start it without being assured of its financing, and whether circumstances have changed or not, it is not a good thing when you have a situation where in an agreement you set out to give a guarantee and then you are not in a position to deliver that guarantee two years later. To have a groundbreaking at the beginning of 2013 and not to sign the agreement until six months after the groundbreaking, gives the impression to the innocent bystander that you are more interested in the optics to be gained by the speech delivered by the Minister than by the substance of the delivery of the project.

I could use far more muscular language. I am not into that tonight. I do not want to, because I genuinely feel that the issue goes deeper. The Ministry of Finance has to be in charge of signing off of expenditure. We did not have an infrastructure committee in Government. We had a public planner and a priorities committee, but I would imagine that all capital projects must go to the infrastructure committee for sign-off, and that one of the things that the infrastructure committee, a subcommittee of Cabinet, must satisfy itself about is that the financing is in place, and that the finances in place has to be done after a comment, not from the Minister but from the Ministry, because the Ministry has to put it in a public sector investment programme if it is funded by Government and if it is a public private partnership (PPP) as this one is, they must know what is the current... and what is recurring expenditure of Government and if necessary as was the case of the offer of the guarantee, if there is a contingent liability to be added to Government because of it offering a Government guarantee on behalf of a statutory corporation, or a publicly owned company, wholly owned by Government.

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Mr. Speaker, the notion that you could sign an agreement six months after a ground breaking, start construction then in the August, two months after you sign the agreement. The developer in good faith, spends \$8 million, which is their obligation to pay a third of the equity and then construction stops, and has stopped ever since February 2015, and we are now 12 months to a stalled project. Sir, the Minister said that hopefully things will start soon and I trust and pray that it will because the consequences of it not starting, in fact, the consequences of stopping for the 12 month already causes a demobilization fee, and a remobilization fee and then if we are not given the sovereign guarantee... The Honourable Member for St. Peter will be free to tell you that the absence of a sovereign guarantee means higher risk, and higher risk means higher interest rates, and higher interest rates mean if the developer is going to want to recover or recoup what he has invested to get the later return that they want. Sir, we simply say that the Government cannot in the middle of a

fiscal adjustment strategy because the ground breaking is six months after the fiscal adjustment strategy was announced. Sir, the agreement was signed 12 months after the fiscal adjustment strategy as announced by the Minister and, indeed, six months after we had sent home 3 000 people and, therefore, the ability to start the project required that the Government be sure-footed and it would not be an exercise in making appearances or to incite expectations that would be difficult to satisfy.

Mr. Speaker, the next point that I want to make firm from that is that as much as that has fiscal consequences, there are also Government consequences and this is the point that we made with the Cahill Project. I say to the Prime Minister that I sense the public outcry, not the outcry of the Opposition, the public outcry is such that we need to pause and have the conversation, not just as to the technology, not just as to the fiscal implications because the Minister keeps making the point that the Government is not borrowing the money. Well, let me tell everybody yet again that the allegation has never been that the Government is borrowing the money to build the Cahill Project, the allegation has always been that the Government is contracting to pay for the (3:59) the delivery of this and contracting to pay for electricity to tune of \$4.8 billion over 30 years, so as to give the developer of the project a rate of return and it is an excessive rate of return and it bears no relationship to electricity prices that even oil is 80 per cent higher, at its highest, made sense far less now that oil is being sold at \$30 a barrel.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that having ran off and signed agreement in advance of the appropriate studies and the appropriate Government mechanisms being signed, that we are at risk of litigation and the litigation has been stated to be subject to English Law in the English courts and anyone familiar with English courts and English law fees know that the cost is likely to be prohibited far less anything else. Sir, if the Government can find a way out of this in the interest of the people of Barbados, it must do so. Sir, regrettably it cannot be at the cost of serious damages. Sir, similarly, there are those who would have been deprived the opportunity in the procurement process who would now feel aggrieved if the project is sold to a third party because that third party leapfrog the procurement process even if it comes and say we will do it, we will scale it back and we will pay less money, so the companies that were in the abandoned procurement process will legitimately feel aggrieved of having been deprived of the opportunity. Therefore, we find ourselves in a Government muddle, a system muddle, a procurement muddle and we simply say to the Government that on some of these issues it required now putting the interest of the country first and letting us getting together if that is the only way.

Mr. Speaker, I say with all sincerity to the Prime Minister that I did not ask for the documents just to be

contentious. Sir, those documents were not signed by Ministers in their own names, they are signed on behalf of the people and taxpayers of this country and if we have a problem, let us get out of it and protect future taxpayers of this country together because we are not going to do anything that brings down the name of this country or places on this country additional liabilities because we are well in the evening of our days as compared to those children who are now coming up and in whose interest we must bequeath this country pursuant, as the Prime Minister said, to a programme of sustainable development. Sir, there are fiscal issues and there are governance issues that bother us.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing I want to address, I am sorry that the Minister of Finance is not here because I truly do believe that he needs to get the financing right for the solid waste problems. The Barbados Labour Party put an environmental levy in place which the Minister of Finance indicated. I think it was in place for almost a decade and we have difficulties within the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which we accepted and we announced and it fell to this Minister to dismantle it in 2010 because I do think we left it a little longer than at first when we initial it. Sir, that environmental levy palced the burden on all improted products which meant that imported products had an anti-competitive obstacles, and disadvantage in respect of imports as compared to local products and being within the CARICOM engine, we have committed to remove those obstacles that would differentate on a price basis between local and regional manufactured products from within CARICOM. The Minister then sought to put in place a ... levy. Sir, at the time we indicated to the Minister that we did not think that the greening levy was the appropriate thing to do because he was attaching the greening levy to the National Insurance payments of employees and that to begin with, not only was there a limited class but it was not the purpose for the which National Insurance Scheme itself was established. Sir, for whatever reasons the Minister moved away from the greening levy and it was never implemented -- effort number one. Sir, then there was the solid waste tax and we felt strongly that to place the burden on landowners alone that it offended the polluters payers principle which the Minister of Finance and the Minister speak about all the time.

Sequence 59

Insert s60 juliette

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Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Honourable Member proceeded to lecture the Government on a plethora of things, none of which the

Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is qualified to lecture this Government on.

Mr. Speaker, let me start with the statements made during the day because I have them all here. First of all, the Government was accused of the ill treatment of people. You are running, you go along and run, you got to face it some time.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please direct your comments to the Chair, please.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member be very careful of the utterances especially when you are on your feet.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government was accused today of the ill treatment of persons by the Opposition, and I would like for them to define what they mean by ill treatment and to showcase on this side an example of anybody who was ill-treated. I stand all amazed in the presence of these Honourable Members trying to put together sense out of what other people would determine as nonsense. How could you come and accuse the Government of ill-treating individuals when we have just watched on that side the devastation on the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. They should choose their words. If they believe that because they would want to say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East got up and as somebody termed was trying to quote the first five Books of the Bible and misquoted them, unfortunately I know without intention, to say that I started with an Exodus led by Moses and that Moses never entered the promised land where there is milk and honey...

Mr. Speaker, unlike the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, the Man Friday, I did not come into this Parliament on a half pack of cigarettes or anything else that could not make up a pack. I came in here because I was sent here by the people of Christ Church East with a significant majority, and I am not going to get up in here and prance around like I do not know who, trying to lecture the Government on issues and matters that the Honourable Member does not even have any knowledge of. I promised her father that I would never trouble her in this House and I am going to keep that promise after tonight, because let me tell you something about the tipping fee. The tipping fee was not started by this Government. The Sanitation Services Authority (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 1996 was laid in this House by one H. E. Thompson on the 14th day of May, 1996.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I do not understand for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, how you could come and then talk about how unreasonable this Government is to put this tipping fee in place. The tipping fee came to this House through the Sanitation Services Authority (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 1996 which was introduced by H. E. Thompson, and that is not Her Excellency Thompson, on the 14th day of May, 1996. Part II of the Regulations says that a refuse disposal site \$25 per tonne or part thereof. They just said in here that it was an unreasonable burden on the small waste haulers. Tell the country, sound the guard and sound it loud that the persons who put this unreasonable burden on the small waste haulers in the first place would have been the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of order. It is regrettable that the Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. The Barbados Labour Party has never indicated that the Regulations had not been introduced under a Barbados Labour Party Administration. What the Honourable Member is seeking to suggest is that it had been implemented by a Barbados Labour Party Administration and that is not the case.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order found. Honourable Member, please continue.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let us go to Greenland because there are persons in here... This is a place to contend over issues not to grumble and mumble. This is a place to contend over issues and if the contending over issues is vigorous and muscular, which the Leader of the Opposition said she did not want her language to be muscular, an appropriate term used, I want mine to be muscular because the Honourable Members on that side send these statements across the air wanting to confuse the public, sounding sanctimonious at best when in truth and in fact they know that what they say may not represent the best of what the truth is in place of the statement because the truth is that Greenland...

I heard a Honourable Member get up and say that we take 10 per cent from the public servants, the public servants that the Honourable Member for St. James North called two by two civil servants, some at CBC, that is what he said in here, some of whom have been returned to work and that are in the public service today. The Honourable Member for St. James North called public servants two by two public servants. It is simply wrong. Greenland is a reality. I am on record as saying Greenland costs the taxpayers \$100 million and I stand by that. If you want the facts to it go and find them where you left them. On the

table was a proposal by a company called Burnside International to put another \$149 million on the table to wash out again.

Aside

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Mr. Speaker, nobody takes pride in recounting these things, but when you come to the Government and want to lecture the Government on transparency and on what should have been done then and on what should be done now, let us speak from the record.

Mr. Speaker, \$100 million. I heard somebody saying that the Minister of the Environment and Drainage has 12 persons from his constituency at Greenland. Let me say this first, I warned the constituents of Christ Church East not to listen to the Barbados Labour Party because they will lambaste them, they will say that they should be out of work, they say all other things about the members of the constituency of Christ Church East and I hope that the next time they go up there trying to buy them out, that they would throw something stale on them, and I do not mean stale beer. Honest to goodness, that is what they said.

Mr. Speaker, when we took the Government there were workers at Greenland. The reason additional workers were put there was because it was being overrun by bush and the ponds that were established there were catching only water and were beginning to become a health hazard, and we deposited persons who were already in the system and additional persons were added to that system to take care of it. There is nothing unusual about that, the fact is that the Greenland fiasco is not an option that this Government chose, and if this current Opposition Party wants to tell the Government how it should choose and execute projects, let them tell us why they did not do the same thing too.

I heard them in here talking about public funds, my good friend from St. George South, who always takes up scripts from somewhere and comes in here, because they want him to curse me. Listen, we are friends and we will always be friends and do not let him or her to get between us. I am not ashamed of my friendship with you.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, let us talk about public funds, the insinuation that this Government has been involved in squandering public funds. Sir, that is what really rocked my boat, the innuendo, fancy at that but innuendo... Well, I heard somebody said that they want to like zero waste to bullying as an analogy, bullying to

explain zero waste and the poor Honourable Member has not succeeded at that either.

Mr. Speaker, let us talk about funds, if the Honourable Member wants to know about any public funds that were used under nefarious perhaps circumstances, let me give you a list: The Crab Hill Police Station, St. Leonard's, World Cup. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown would tell you that during World Cup they painted the faces of some houses and the backsides of the houses were left unpainted.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I continue, Sir: Greenland; the Prison; Silver Sands "golden" shower; the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation building at Newton, and they want to lecture this Government on how to spend the public money.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: And the police described him as having a den of criminals associated with his house: drug lords, people who probably manufactured guns. All of that was going on before the contract and then the contract was offered to the man who built the building there at Newton. I have the information here.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: They were accused of embezzling their own money, they 'tief' from themselves. As a matter of fact, that pronouncement came in a legal document by a Member of that Party. Sir, do you know that they always find a problem with everything that this Government does? Do you know that they always find a problem for a solution? We provide the solution, they provide the problems. They complained about the Sanitation Service Authority building; they complained about the Barbados Water Authority building; they complained about the Barbados Water Authority Mains Replacement Programme. We are trying to fix 100-year-old mains to give Barbadians a chance to have consistent and persistent good drinking water and they complained about that. They complained about the Water Augmentation Programme; they complained about the molasses tanks; they complain now about the 50th Anniversary Celebrations, as though that is something new to us because the Barbados Labour Party has opposed Independence from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I want all and sundry to understand that I will stoutly defend the actions of this Government, my political Party the Democratic Labour Party and myself as the Honourable Member of Parliament for Christ Church East. I do not know what the people will do next time, but

if I am not returned, I have done well for them, so do not misconstrue my evangelical fervor for anything other than wanting to tell the story.

They talked about Resolutions that have been laid in Parliament and that we have not answered. They say that we have not answered this, we have not answered that, that they have raised this, that they have raised that and that the Government has not answered. When the Barbados Labour Party was ran out of office by the people of Barbados, they left a list of questions as long as this aisle here that they never answered. Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, some of their own Members asked of them questions that they did not answer. The former Honourable Member for Christ Church West left a number of questions on the Order Paper that he asked of his own party and they were never answered.

Sir, I left some too, I asked a question, I do not know if it has gotten onto the Order Paper yet but I have a question to the Leader of the Opposition to present to this Honourable House her LEC's and she has not even responded or has given us the courtesy and comes in here and telling this Honourable House and this Government what it should do. The Honourable Member has no authority to do it. I would like for the Honourable Member to answer the public that question. I answered the question on my education, I brought my certificate here and made it a document of this Honourable House. I would like the Leader and I am making a new call, the next time the Leader of the Opposition comes here, the Honourable Member should tell the country whether or not the Honourable Member has a Legal Education Certificate...

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East were ordered to be expunged from the Record by Mr. Speaker.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I have another question to put on the table, I would like to know what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has done that is so unforgivable that the Honourable Member could be treated in the way that she has been by her own Party.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, the final question for now, but there are more to come, because as long as I am in this Honourable House I will defend myself and my Ministry. I am not going to throw the officers of my Ministry under the bus, as they would like me to do, I will defend them against any allegations made and I will defend my constituents at any time, day or night.

No.C23 (62)

I would like the Leader of the Opposition to explain to this country how a significant debate on domestic violence could have happened in this House and the Honourable Member could have excused herself. If it was sinusitis, obviously the medication worked tonight because the Honourable Member was allowed to come in and make a speech. I would like to know why, because the whole country wants to know, the church wants to know. What are your views? How do you stand? You want to lead this country, and the former Leader of the Opposition, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, is on record as saying that he does not want his grandchildren to grow up in this country and be led by the Leader of the Opposition. He is on record as saying that.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: I think it is wrong. There is something fundamentally wrong when hypocrisy is the journey that you take. You have to come to the altar with clean hands, or at least before you leave the altar, get them cleaned up. That is the reality.

My good friend from St. George South called me incompetent.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: My good friend called incompetent, but I understand in his exuberance to read the script he was given that he slipped up, and I would take it as that. The situation in Drax Hall; now the Honourable Member knows that he and I had a conversation about Drax Hall. We both agreed that the problem at Drax Hall was not the refusal of the Sanitation Service Authority to pick up the waste; it is that there are a number of houses up a narrow, unpaved cart road. What the residents have been asked to do is to bring the waste down to common point. If my honourable friend knows that I am not speaking accurately, then I would like to have him say so. The issue is that the persons who bring down the waste need to set down the waste orderly and not just come and toss it. I understand that the poor people almost at the mouth of the gap come and set their waste down. My honourable friend has indicated that he has family up in the gap, so I would like to admonish my honourable friend that he admonishes his family and friends and all other persons to just set down the waste, just set it down, and we will collect.

Mr. DWIGHT A. SUTHERLAND rose on a Point of order.

Mr. D.A. SUTHERLAND: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East is misleading the House. At the mouth of Drax Hall Woods, the garbage is lain down in a decent and proper order.

MR. SPEAKER: No Point of Order for the Honourable Member.

Aside.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not entertaining that. That is just a difference of opinion; that is no Point of Order. Honourable Member, please continue.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: The problem with a skip is that when you put a skip there, persons from all over the valley will come and fill it up and then the Honourable Member was investigating it. Once we investigated it, Mr. Speaker, we discovered that it would really be a further dysfunctional situation to put a skip there and then the residents cannot have the best space in the skip to put their stuff.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: All I want to say is, and the Honourable Member knows, as I was told reliably from a resident from the same gap, that during the Christmas period that the former Member of Parliament for the area, the Honourable Senator in the other place, and a gentleman associated with her working in the constituency, went through the area handing out hampers. The Honourable Member was not there, and it was reported that even during the Christmas period, the place was not untidy. Obviously, if you are setting waste down and you are not putting it in drums or in a skip, chances are that it will be scattered. However, I want to give this House the assurance that I will ask the Sanitation Service Authority management to pay more attention, if it needs to be paid, so that my honourable friend can have that problem alleviated.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: In relation to the Ellerton issue, I know that the Honourable Member made heavy weather out of the invitation, but my information tells me that the Honourable Member could have been there but his challenge, as I understand it, is that the beers were being offered on sale at four for ten, I understand.

Asides.

Mr. D.A. SUTHERLAND: I take extreme offence to this. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. At no time, Mr. Speaker, was I associated with any four for ten with respect to the event that was held on January 21, Errol Barrow Day, and I want that to be struck from the records because I am not in this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker, making any joke or for people to be casting negative aspirations on my character.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Member.

Asides.

Mr. D.A. SUTHERLAND: Aspersions. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, as I have said before, a Point of Order must be something on which I can rule. I was not there. I do not know whether the beer was four for ten or three for ten, or whether it was beer. No Point of Order. Please, Honourable Member. Please continue.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard the allegation that the Government may not be clear on its policy and that there is a distinction between long term and short term policies. At the end of the day, what could define the policy of Government is the policy's responsiveness, and obviously on a sustainable development track, things will happen over time and across time. The issue with the trucks that has been documented, and it is funny because only last week in this House, we did a Resolution as I recall, a money Resolution for the Sanitation Service Authority, and we addressed the issue of the audited financial statements. However, the Honourable Member for St. James North, his learning rate and the ability to internalise have demonstrated itself here to be lacking in the statements he made about that, because I brought to this House information suggesting why the audited financial statements are late.

10.50 p.m.

It is clear that it is the intention of the Honourable Member to try to cast not aspirations but aspersions on this Government. Sir, I want to make it clear that I can boast of the competencies of the person who run the SSA, of the Board and the members of the Board, the management and the staff. Sir, everybody does not always see things the same way but we try to work on things, around things and at things to make sure that at the end of the day the service is delivered to the people of this country. Therefore, I concede that the Government may not get everything 100 per cent right because we are not perfect and we are still working at situation when we try to advance the country, we are still trying to correct things that were not done in the best way. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about a Select Committee getting together, who wants to get together with an individual who always tries to drop innuendoes and hints that the Government is engaging in behaviours that are inconsistent with its pursuit of good governance. Sir, personally, I do not want to sit on any Committee her. I will tell you that because it is my view that all of us supposedly have the same intention of moving

this country forward and this Democratic Labour Party's Government will not be held back because somebody believes that rather than doing A that they should do B. I hear the Honourable Member St. Michael South East saying that part of Cahill that a commitment is to build a legit treatment plant. Sir, the legit treatment plant was on schedule to be built long before any discussions on a waste-to-energy plant and, as a matter of fact, the contract has been drawn up and the challenge is now that the interest rate that is being asked for by the proponents is 12.5 per cent and the proponents are saying that because of the economic circumstances they are going to have problems raising the finance and they are also saying that until the Government of Barbados pays them what the Government owes them, they are not willing to start the plant, so the Government is to be held hostage. Well, Sir, let me say now that the Government will not be held hostage because we will find a funding solution that is manageable for the Government and that the Government can handle. The legit treatment plant will be built because it is vital to the overall process at the landfill situated up there relative to the protection of the ground water.

Mr. Speaker, the waste-to-energy facility. Let me say this tonight. The problem is not about any technology. The problem for the Barbados Labour Party with the waste-to-energy plant is not about any technology, it is not about how hot anything will get. It is a reversed psychology that they are trying to work in this country because they do not want this Government to take on the responsibility of leading Barbados up a road that is far advanced of where they may have taken it themselves, so they can say all the bad things they want to say and the Leader of the Opposition is talking about if somebody else wants to buy out the contract those who are part of it should be part of it and this body would be jealous and this and that.

Mr. Speaker, I assure you that this Government will follow a path that, at the end of the day, no one could point a finger and say that this Government has done anything wrong. They claim that we have not had any town hall meetings and that we have not engaged the public. There were two town hall meetings held and the town planner prescribed what is required in terms of public sessions around projects but most important, Mr. Speaker, the Government has not executed any contract on type of plant because the regulatory requirements even in the proposal of the waste-to-energy plant has not yet been completed and whenever they are completed and the Government gets the bids to go ahead, we will go ahead because we are not going back to Greenland.

Mr. Speaker, the landfill gas to energy facility is also on the cards for up there because there are four decommissioned landfills that have trapped gasses beneath and we believe that the extraction of that gas can do two things for the country (1) it can reduce the amount of

greenhouses gases emitted into the atmosphere and (2) it can give us another energy source. There is also an area for a solar farm up there and once again, we will go through the system and what we will do is that we will cover the entire landfill with vegetation, landscape it completely so that when you look across to Vauxcluse, you will see nothing but a very nicely manicured areas under a landfill cover and then what we will do is that we will place on that cover solar panels once the project has been approved and given the go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, then there is also a proposal for wind turbines but take a little bit more time because the wind speed studies have to be done and the structure has to be tested to ensure that it can bear up the turbines but, Sir, that is an option. If you believe that this Government is not aware where it is going and under this Minister, more has been done for the environment in Barbados under this current administration than any that came before. Sir, it is a fact and it has nothing to do with going to international meetings. Yes, that is important because Barbados has to lend its voice to the different international fora, so that country's interest will be saved and that the country can have a voice in those important circles but most important to us is that we have to keep on the front line because this Government will not leave Barbados the way it found Barbados whenever the time for departure has come, and that is not any time soon, by the way.

Mr. Speaker, the sustainable integrated solid waste system requires the establishment of two separate entities. I made mention today that there is a new solid waste management Act to be introduced in this country and that it is now in the Ministry of Finance getting comments on the financial piece of it. Mr. Speaker, the SSA will remain as the Government entity responsible for solid waste management, i.e. collections and transportation and disposal of waste. However, they needs to be a reorganization of the Sanitation Service Authority and I made the point earlier, here is the reorganization plan for the Authority.

The proposed reorganization of the Sanitation Service Authority is now completed and will Barbados taken to Cabinet in a short time. It has to go to Civil Service for comments and it has to go to the Ministry of Finance for comments to make sure that it is line with the policies of both institutions.

The functions of the proposed solid waste regulatory entity are: solid waste planning, solid waste policy and legislation formulation, licensing and permitting for solid waste management activities, enforcements of law relating to solid waste management, contract management and administration, procurement, public education, policy implementation and

Sequence 64

Insert s65 juliette

Tuesday, February 09, 2016

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Sanitation Services Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, we have come to the end of Government Business for today and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Friday, February 26, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Friday, February 26, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

House C23 Sequence 66

11.35 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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BRADSHAW, Miss S. J. O. (St. Michael South East)

BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)

D.S.LOWE, Dr. Hon.

FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)

HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)

INNISS, Hon. D. O’N. (St. James South)

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

LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)

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

PAUL, Mr. J. D. (St. Michael West Central)

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

SEALY, Hon. R.L. (St. Michael South Central)

SINCKLER, Hon. C.P. (St. Michael North West)

SINKLER, Hon. C.P.

STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)

SUTHERLAND, Mr. D.G. (St. George South)

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 14, Mr. J. D. Paul's speech, take-slip House C23 Sequence 35. The source carries the same paragraph on the tipping fee and unlicensed operators twice, once either side of the take-slip. The second, fuller copy is printed and the first (about 90 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. Order No. 14, Mr. D. G. Sutherland's speech. The source breaks off mid-sentence ('Mr. Speaker,') and then carries the reporters' notes 'INCOMPLETE S18 VELDA' and 'INSERT S19 JULIETTE', which print as headings. Part of the speech appears to be missing. Printed as in the source. Please confirm.

Q4. Order No. 14, Sequence 54 to 55 (Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw and Hon. F. J. Stuart). After the note 'Insert s55 juliette' the Prime Minister's speech begins mid-story ('He had not been 20 minutes into the meeting...'), with no call by the Chair and no opening; the end of Miss Bradshaw's speech and the start of his appear to be missing. Miss Bradshaw's closing passage is also run on under the label 'Mr. SPEAKER' ('...you have four minutes in which to conclude. MISS S.J.O. BRADSHAW: ...'). Printed as in the source. Please confirm.

Q5. Order No. 14, Sequence 64 to 65 (reply and Committee). Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe's reply breaks off at 'policy implementation and', followed by the note 'Insert s65 juliette'. The putting of the question, the Committee stage and the motion for second reading are not in the source, which resumes at the Chairman's report. Printed as in the source. Please confirm.

Q6. Order No. 14, opening. The source records 'The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division' immediately after the Minister moved the second reading, before the rest of the debate. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 14, speech labels. One Opposition Member is labelled both 'Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND' and 'Mr. D. A. SUTHERLAND', and the Member for St. James North both 'Mr. E. G. HINKSON' and 'Mr. E. D. HINKSON'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Order No. 14, reporters' notes. Several reporters' notes stand in the text as ordinary paragraphs, for example 'H:No.C23 (17)' and 'Sequence 7 (Done)'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 9th February, 2016 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood. The Minutes of Tuesday, 26th January and Tuesday, 2nd February, 2016 were confirmed. Hon. R. L. Sealy laid the Annual Report of the Grantley Adams International Airport Incorporated for 2014, Hon. C. P. Sinckler moved the first reading of the Savings Bonds (Validation) Bill, 2016, and Standing Orders were suspended on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce.

The whole of the day's business was Order No. 14, the second reading of the Sanitation Service Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which amends section 2 of the Act to make clear which Minister the Authority answers to. The Minister of the Environment and Drainage, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, gave a history of solid waste management, noting that the Authority employed approximately 700 people, that 14 acres at Mangrove Pond, St. Thomas had been identified for a landfill in 1984, and that some \$100 million had been spent at Greenland. He said the consolidated tipping fee payable to SBRC had risen from \$53.25 to \$69.50 by 31st December, 2013, and went through the history of the Authority's vehicles, including 22 trucks bought in 1999.

Mr. D. G. Sutherland supported the amendment on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party but accused the Government of poor governance at the Authority, disputed the \$100 million figure for Greenland as \$40 million, and raised the Memorandum of Understanding of 15th March, 2014 with Cahill Energy Limited for a plasma gasification waste-to-energy plant. Hon. D. O'N. Inniss, with Madam Deputy Speaker in the Chair, argued that the private sector's role in garbage had to be redefined, and Miss C. Y. Forde criticised spending on the 50th anniversary celebrations. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman claimed the Democratic Labour Party's record on the environment, including the first sanitary landfill; after a point of order from Mr. E. D. Hinkson he withdrew a remark at Mr. Speaker's direction, and he said that of 52 vehicles bought in 2005 only six were working. Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic called solid waste a national issue on which every Barbadian must take ownership of the environment, and Mr. J. D. Paul,

who supported the amendment, described dumping on Worrell Road in St. Michael West Central.

After the afternoon suspension, Mr. T. A. Prescod spoke of conditions at The Belle, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce congratulated the Minister on his presentation, Mr. D. A. Sutherland rising on a point of order. Mr. E. G. Hinkson objected to the Minister's language, and certain of his own remarks were twice ordered expunged by Mr. Speaker; he cited the Auditor General's report that the Authority's 2010 and 2011 financial statements had been submitted only in December 2014. Hon. C. P. Sinckler said that the Authority could start a day with 25 trucks and be down to eight or ten by afternoon, and argued against political harangue over waste management.

After a further suspension to 8.45 p.m., Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw questioned the costs to the Government under

the Cahill implementation agreement, including the supply of 550 tons of municipal waste and 450 tons of biomass a day and a provision on tyres. Hon. F. J. Stuart spoke of the attitude that garbage is somebody else's problem, and Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley said that the time had come for greater public education and advocacy so that Barbadians would generate less waste and separate it for reuse and recycling. Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe replied at length, listing Greenland, the Prison and other projects; Miss Bradshaw and Mr. D. A. Sutherland rose on points of order which Mr. Speaker did not uphold. The source records that the Bill was reported from Committee, read a third time and passed as the Sanitation Services Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, the House was adjourned until Friday, 26th February, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.