
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LLB. (Speaker) Her Honour Mrs. M-J. MARA THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) B.A.(Deputy Speaker) Mr. GEORGE W. PAYNE, Q. C.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.

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

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

Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B.

(Leader of the Opposition)

Miss CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.

Hon. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. Ed.,

J.P., (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)

Mr. DALE D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.

Hon. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)

(Minister of Transport and Works)

Hon. RICHARD L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

(Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C., B.A., LL.M. (Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)

Hon. JOHN D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC, M.Sc., C. Eng.

(Minister of Transport and Works) (Leader of Government Business)

Hon. STEVEN D. BLACKETT

(Minister of the Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, and Community Development)

Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, B.Sc.

(Chairman of Committees)

Dr. the Hon. DENIS S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A.,

Dip. Theology

(Minister of Environment and Drainage)

Mr. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.)

(Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs.)

Hon. STEPHEN A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B.

(Hons.), L.E.C.

(Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc.

(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Mr. TREVOR PRESCOD, B.A.

Lt. Col. JEFFREY D. BOSTIC, M.V.O., B.A.

(Hons.)

Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. AGARD, J.P., D.Ds., B.Sc.

(Hons)

Mr. DWIGHT G. SUTHERLAND, M.Sc., M.B.A.

(Dist.), B.Sc.

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

Prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood.

MR. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am not yet in receipt of the Minutes of Tuesday, October 25, 2016, therefore I ask for the usual Motion.

Hon. John D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes refereed to be now deferred.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I am in receipt of the Report of the Special Audit on National Housing Corporation High-rise Apartments at the Grotto and Valery, as prepared by the Auditor-General.

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to do two things, one is to indicate that on the last occasion we met we would have laid the Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statement. We did say it was for March 31, 2016. That was an error, Sir. I am now commanded to withdraw that and to lay instead the Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statement for the year ended March 31, 2015.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Public Service (General) Order, 2016;
2. Public Service (Qualifications) Order, 2016;
3. Barbados Investment and Development Corporation Annual Report, 2013-2014.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution:

“THAT the Public Service (General) Order, 2016, made by the Minister with responsibility for the Civil Service on 21st day October, 2016, under Section 13(1) and 14(3) of the Public Service Act, Cap. 29, be approved.”

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 14

Green Economy Scoping Study (Resumed)

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

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my contribution on this particular Resolution where Parliament is being asked to accept the Green Economy Scoping Study as a national information document, something that I wholeheartedly support. I would want to start off by saluting and commending the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for his effort, of course, in introducing this Resolution at our last sitting but of course for all of the work, the tremendous service and the leadership the Honourable Member is giving this area. It is a new and exciting area but one of tremendous importance for us. Of course, I was moved by the content in his treaties with the nation, it was a genuine invitation to the people of Barbados to get on board and to see all of the opportunities that exist in respect to the Green Economy.

Historically when we have had these discussions on the environment it has been usually about how to protect it, how to preserve it, that is an important discussion and something which I think we have done relatively effective over the years. As a small densely populated country it has always been a challenge. As a small, densely populated country, it has always been a challenge but I think that it is fair to say that a lot of good work has been done over the years to identify the importance of our environment and of various ecosystems, particularly the marine ecosystem. I thought, again, that the Minister was at pains to make that point and to understand that all of the great work which he is leading at the Ministry of the Environment has had a sound foundation. At the level of political leadership, again, he spoke about Sir Lloyd and his work at the Rio meeting 20-plus years ago; work for which he was ridiculed. Of course, other people turned around and tried to build on that foundation, and that is a good thing. The Democratic Labour Party is very familiar with that, of course, where you start something, you are ridiculed for it, and then the head critics are the ones who try to embellish and benefit from it. As I always tell my colleagues, when you are being criticised by the Barbados Labour Party, you are in a very good place. That is okay.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, there are those other individuals who over the years have practised renewable endeavours, and I thought again that the Minister was able to make that point; that even though this is a new, exciting area, in many ways it is anchored in a lot of our traditional practices. These practices include harvesting, water, our animal husbandry, and the manner in which people debush

their yards while helping to rear animal stock; practices that have been going on for eons. In many respects, we are talking about something new only in the approach and how we harness it as a nation, and that is why I think describing it as a national information document is indeed quite important. Even beyond the community level -- just as an illustration, Mr. Speaker -- Barbados, as you know, was built on a sugar industry for a couple hundred years but do you know that the brunt of the energy that was used in the sugar industry was actually renewable? There was a time when there were almost 500 windmills in Barbados, grinding the cane for the sugar cane juice that was used to form the crystals and, of course, to make rum. Indeed, our main industry was renewable. There are stories that even when you were sailing into Barbados, you could just see windmills from the top to the bottom. Imagine 500 windmills in a country the size of Barbados, and you would see that, again, we had renewable practices from back then. I, of course, just would say apropos to that and take this opportunity to salute the Barbados National Trust. At tremendous expense and otherwise, the Trust has preserved the Morgan Lewis Mill. It is internationally recognised, I believe, as a monument on the global list of special monuments, and I think that the National Trust has done great work with that particular facility. Indeed, generally, apart from the built heritage the National Trust has been doing its part as well in helping to preserve the environment over the years. Even before it was vogue to talk about the environment, you had people at the Barbados National Trust doing everything, including of course Welchman Hall Gully, Turners Hall Woods and so on, so they have done good work and we salute them and know that they are fully on board with embracing the Green Economy as an entity for some serious national development.

Mr. Speaker, regarding this particular document and this particular approach, again while we understand the environment is something to be cherished, we only hold it in trust for future generations. At the same time, we have a very real opportunity at improving the livelihood of the nation by a whole set of industries that can be spanned in conjunction with the environment. What we have before us is a very practical roadmap that speaks to these opportunities. I think the effort at renewable energy, specifically the whole question of using photovoltaic systems to generate electricity, is something that provides very real opportunity to save the mega-money, \$800 million or so, which we spend importing fossil fuels. We can save that. Of course, that will have serious impact in terms of creating some more space in our foreign reserves, along with maybe some other activities. We have to do that. Apart from that, of course, there is the reduced costs from carbon emissions, and the fact that solar water heaters, 35 000 of which are in Barbados, we are told, save us something like \$100 million in foreign exchange.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the approach that this Government has taken of being environmentally sound indeed fits right in with what is before us today. We have real opportunities, and only recently we would have amended the Electricity Act to, in essence, democratise opportunities for the generation and provision of electricity, creating very real jobs, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and, as I said earlier, saving cherished foreign exchange. These renewable practices can themselves lead to very real economic activity. Mr. Speaker, this is why I think this Debate is so important, and why it is important that the Minister has brought it to the House; that the national attention must gaze properly on this subject area to see where opportunities can be honed out.

The tourism sector, of course, has featured in terms of preparing this Scoping Study and in terms of working along with the Ministry of the Environment, and as you would imagine, there is a natural connection between the Green Economy and the tourism sector. Many of our visitors come here to enjoy our environment, and we have to have an environment which they would want to enjoy. Traditionally, the relationship between tourism planners and environmentalists has been antagonistic over the years, but I think that both have come to realise that they can achieve so much more by working in conjunction with each other. The truth is that both sectors need each other, and there is a point at which visitors will not come to a destination if it is that the environment is being hacked. Of course, there are very real attributes in this area as well. The Minister spoke of thermal warming. This discussion about greenhouse gases and their impact on climate change is one that you will hear politicians from some North Atlantic countries, especially the United States of America -- I am talking frontline politicians -- questioning this. That would probably explain why the United States will take the positions it does on Kyoto and those types of things. We do not have that luxury down here. Climate change is real. If you talk to any surfer or snorkeller or scuba diver, they will tell you that reefs are dying all over Barbados, and that issue is one that we have to, again, work together with. The Coastal Zone Management Unit and other private sector interests have been doing some good work, the Marine Park has been preserved in Carlisle Bay, and there have been efforts at transplanting coral so that it can survive, but that type of symbiosis is the sort of thing that we need to continue to encourage.

The interesting thing about the Carlisle Bay area that is protected is that the busiest beach in Barbados is right there and it is just outside of our capital city yet you have a marine system that is protected, juvenile fish are to be found in their numbers, turtles move around freely and it is a wonderful thing. Our fishermen are not disadvantaged because the juveniles do not stay in that protected area, they grow and become adults and move outside of the area

so they can still earn their keep by providing fresh protein for all of the households of Barbados so again we have to work together, all of the households and all of the visitors as well.

Again you would start to see that symbiosis that I speak of where tourism and the environment can work together, but I was talking about not being in a position to take global warming lightly because we came face-to-face with it. Since 2011 the Sargassum seaweed that has come into this region in a far larger quantity. It is not anything new and most people will tell you that they were having to deal with Sargassum for years and, in fact, some agriculturalists are looking forward to it because it can be treated and incorporated into making soil more fertile but what has happened is that as a result of global warming, the seaweed is now spawning, not only in the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic where it got its name from but also off the West Coast is an area which is much larger than the Sargasso Sea where the seaweed is coming from and we have had these deluges of Sargassum sometimes several feet high. I need not say that the impact that it can have on the tourism sector is obvious but even the quality of life and people who take for granted having a sea bath but having said that it also provides an opportunity because there is some value for the seaweed and it can again be treated and that in itself is something that has the potential to be a cottage industry of sorts, albeit a seasonal one, but that is where we see very real examples of how the global warming phenomena is impacting us but again, how through creativity you have an element of the green economy coming to the fore because you do not want it on the beach, it can be treated and used for other things. It is not surprising that at tourism, even at the global level you will see a lot of emphasis being placed on the green economy. As a matter of fact, there was an open letter that has been presented to several Heads of State and Government all around the world. The Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South received his only last month in September, well the month before because we are now in November, at the State of the Tourism Industry Conference where the Head of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation Secretary General Taleb Rifai and the President of the World Travel and Tourism Counsel David Scowsill would have presented an open letter to the Prime Minister. In essence, it was just an open letter seeking support for the global tourism effort but the very third rubric in that letter is headed Travel and Tourism Supporting the Green Economy. This is a piece of correspondence signed by the head of the private sector body at the global level for tourism and the head of public sector body for tourism as well, the UNWTO and they, in essence, are trying to entreat leaders around the world to come on board and support travel and tourism through supporting the green economy, specifically what that paragraph says and I will make this a document of the

House. It is an open letter and a public document available on the internet and elsewhere.

As tourism activity continues to grow, travel and tourism is increasingly intertwined with environmental sustainability. Environmentally responsible tourism is one of the new growth poles of the green economy providing sustainable infrastructure, business opportunities, jobs and income. That is to tell you were the global thought process is on responsible tourism and tourism development so Barbados is leading this effort. Again, I do not speak lightly when I say that the Minister of Environment and his officials should be saluted for taking this trail blazing role in this particular activity. The green economy scoping study, I believe was the first done by a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Barbados was the first and when you say SIDS again Barbados' leadership is approaching the stuff of legends so I do not need to go on and on. I think the House gets that picture and we do not need to go on but I think it is good to see precisely where we are.

Coming right back home, I would say that naturally, if we are going to support a green economy in Barbados and matters relating to, I mentioned the reefs and diving opportunities, the national park system that was recently unveiled by the Prime Minister as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, it is very heartening to hear that the Environmental Management Act is actually about to become a reality or should I say the Environmental Management Bill, based on where I am speaking, it will become a reality and we will have an opportunity to put that in place so that we can have the correct governance mechanism for what we are talking about. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East and, of course, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South are working apace to make that particular piece of legislation a reality so we would have the enhanced protection of those natural resources that the tourism sector heavily relies on but equally that all of us as Barbadians want to be able to enjoy our space so again, we look forward to that.

I also wanted to make mention of the reality that there are very real opportunities at the community level for us to function within the context of the green economy. I have to reflect a little on something I was involved in as a young MP. Over 10 years ago, I was actually sitting on the Other Side and the GEF programme, the Global Environmental Fund had something called a Small Grants Programme and I am happy to hear that they still have it because I will give you a very real tangible example of how modest sums of money,... The overall project was done with a view of encouraging sustainable farming practices, and it was interesting to see how these young primary school children were impacted. Many of them went home and tried to do a little bit of farming and rearing at home. Of course, some of the rabbits got away too, and I am sure that they still got some wild rabbits running around

Brittons Hill from that project. The rabbits have gone feral as they say.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of a small environmental project like that where people's lives can be changed is what I am talking about, and therefore with the green economy now on board we can perhaps see that the GEF Small Grants Programme that I am hearing about is still going strong, and it can go even stronger and maybe even more resources can be found that we can impact our primary school children especially at that impressionable stage. If you start to appreciate the environment, appreciate the need to protect it and appreciate the fact that the natural contest between developing our space and reserving what exists is one that can be balanced, then I think we are on course for something quite special. I sincerely hope that effort at involving our young people can be encouraged and indeed taken to new levels.

Mr. Speaker, you might ask what happened to that particular project, well unfortunately we had the Arch Cot incident and St. Paul's Primary was temporarily relocated to Bay Primary School, Mr. Rochester retired from the school system, then some other teachers retired and the champions were not there and other useful activity supplanted that, so it is not to say that people were wasted, but going to Bay Primary and so on the programme did not continue but again it sparked something and again people's lives were changed from it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that all in all we can say that the Government is coming here with a very progressive programme. Some may question that whole idea of thinking green, people who are focussed on the environment, the traditional view, tree huggers and people in pirogues trying to stop whales from being fished out of the sea and so on, but it has gone way beyond that. There are some very tangible opportunities that we can improve our wellbeing by harnessing in a responsible manner the environment.

I think therefore that the Green Economy Scoping Study is very visionary and it is precisely the type of thing that we need to pull it altogether. If I can succinctly sum up the reason I so strongly support this effort it is again that we are effectively pulling all of the strands together, all of those traditional practices have served us well, all of the various initiatives of late, conservation efforts, and at the same time confronting our issue of that huge \$800 million import bill and reducing it. All of the strands are being pulled together and we are inviting the entire nation not just the large power producers but other entrepreneurs who are power producers and not just households that have to start to even look at their garbage differently because garbage is not garbage, garbage is a resource, it is a raw material that can be used to produce energy and other things, that too is an element of again the green economy that we are

speaking of, to come on board. This particular information document is another strand being pulled into the mixed and that is why this is so important and why it must receive the attention of the House and must receive our wholehearted support.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Green Economy Scoping Study is something that has served us well. If you look at the other things that we have been doing, amending the Electricity Act, the planned Environmental Management Act, and the efforts at recycling, et cetera, we are definitely going in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, when we came to Barbados in 2013, we spoke of the importance of good governance, the importance of being economically viable and about being socially balanced, but we did speak about being environmentally sound and understanding that the natural contest is one that we have to be aware of. Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me, taking this highly responsible and visionary approach, that the contest is one that will ultimately be won for all Barbadians particularly those generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, once again I salute the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and his entire team at the Ministry of the Environment for the work they are doing for this very progressive Government by presenting such a far-reaching document to this House of Assembly.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would want to lend my support to this Resolution as the Barbados Labour Party has over the years and the efforts that took place to be able to bring us thus far.

Sir, I am indeed very disappointed with some of the actual situations that are going on in my country because I consider it to be erroneous to be disputing situations that are real life situations in this place. We know that Barbados has been one of the most beautiful countries in the world, and I believe it is, because of the layout in our landscape that helped to endear visitors to be here, hence the building of our tourism sector. Some of the panoramic views we see from almost every point in this island, certainly in the past, are going now with the overgrowth and so, but I think more particularly in central Barbados, northern Barbados and indeed the southern aspect of it as well. Mr. Speaker, we always were able as young children growing up - well, I say we acknowledging that you would be so much younger and perhaps were not raised in rural Barbados but I am speaking more so of a perspective of rural Barbados - where our sugar cane fields dotted this island and the landscape was so beautiful especially coming closer to

Christmastime when those sugar cane arrows were up. They were not just arrows being up and blowing away in the wind but those arrows were being used to make pillows and to stuff beds and so on so we were able to enjoy almost every aspect of the growth of the sugar cane. Sad to say, our industry is going and I believe that more efforts should be made to ensure the land which is lying fallow be put to some productive use, particularly in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the unkempt way in which many of our properties in Barbados are kept, and it is painful to pass through some communities, rural Barbados I am referring to in particular, again, although there are some unsightly things happening in urban Barbados. In rural Barbados almost every other lot is overgrown with bush or derelict buildings. It really does not add to the life we knew and enjoyed as young people growing up, and even as adults, where every Barbadian was proud to look after his or her own little space on this rock. Sir, when we were young we would clean all of the road adjoining our houses. We would help our neighbours. We would sprinkle sand and marl around the house and make sure our environments were clean. We did not use all the pesticides like what is now used by people. We did not have to use rat poison and other pesticides. Of course the rats and other rodents would have used some of the sugar cane for their own living, but I am so sad to see what is happening. The lands are not just lying fallow, I believe, because the owners want that to happen, granted some people overseas have bought the land and would not look back. I understand there is some aspect of the legislation where the Ministry of Health and the Environment would have that capacity to be able to bill those persons, who refuse to clean up their properties, on the land tax bill. I do not think that has been happening for a very long time. So people sit back and wait for the Government workers to do it, or for persons living in the adjoining properties to have them cleaned, because they know whatever happens on the land next to them would impact on their own living.

I therefore implore all Barbadians to come together and make sure that the environs around them are kept clean and healthy looking, esthetically pleasing to the eye. I really think we have fallen down as a people. We cannot allow for the good education we got and has brought us thus far as a developing country to lose it by being a he and I person, it is not my backyard therefore. Mr. Speaker, it is said many persons who are doing illegal dumping in Barbados are not the ordinary man or woman in villages. They are persons who put their garbage in their car trunks and drop it in open spaces across the island. It think that the education has failed us in that respect, and we really must get back to the basics of simple forms of cleanliness and simple ways of remembering, especially as we approach Independence, no man is an island. My garbage, yes, is somebody else's aspect of life for gaining funds and so on, but none of us should be moving our garbage from where

we live and taking it to somebody else's property, making it a challenge for others. Or none of us should be sitting in our lofty towers, if you want to call it that, overlooking all the other things that are happening around us, because we have put up our gates or we have put up our cameras. Something is wrong with the psyche of some of our people in our society. I hope they will come to reality sooner rather than later. All villages in Barbados were the best kept ones. Everybody had a kitchen garden. There was not much space, but they capitalized on it. Everybody had a flower garden and whatever they had they shared it. All of this is related to the green economy and building our communities coming back to basics. That is where we need to do at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that in the 2008 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party at Page 42, there were... I would call them pledges, but there was a commitment to the preservation of the natural environment. I know Barbadians bought into that because all of us want to live in a clean fresh space. The Manifesto said it was committed to changing and creating a new policy. I would like to know where that new land policy is at this point in time, eight years later. It stated in the first hundred days of Government, it will introduce an Agricultural Protection Act, at Page 43, where two-thirds of Parliament would be required to change the land use. We have not seen any of those resolutions or any amendments to the Act come here before us at this time, but we are seeing so much development going on, and we are asking how all these acres of lands are being used for housing and commercial projects and so on, and we are not enforcing the Agricultural Protection Act to make sure we do it right every time. There is no point in doing wrong and everybody saying 'awh', we should have done this, or we should have done that.

Sir, the Manifesto said it will reserve 30 acres of land for agricultural use, but day after day we are seeing hundreds of acres of land coming out of production in this island and few people are saying anything at all, sometimes we even want to question the authority of the Town and Country Planning Department. Another aspect of it says it will give maximum support to all organisations committed to environmental preservation. I know that one or two agencies may be getting assistance, but I do not think enough is being done if we really want to preserve our dear land, Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I also know the 2013 Manifesto as well, placed some emphasis on some pillars of development, particularly making mention of what I call a mantra of the Democratic Labour Party, which I believe could have been applied to any other political party where it would be socially balanced, economically viable, development would happen, it would have environmentally sound practices introduced and there would be good

governance. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that, but for me, Mr. Speaker, there are all words. I am not seeing not seeing the outcome of these pledges manifested, but then I remember the Democratic Labour Party Government once said that the Manifesto is not a social contract and some aspect of that manifested itself every day.

I was disappointed and I am disappointed where I see the Barbados I love, you love and all of us in here should love dropped to a level of morass, if you want to call it that, at this juncture of our celebration of 50 years. I wonder how much we have to celebrate. Yes, in the past we were able, that is why I speak about the Community Independence, the PIC's, because without them I am not sure how much Barbadians would have cared about Barbados and volunteered their time as ambassadors and committees to help to sensitise the rest of the country about where Barbados is, what is good for Barbados as it progresses. I have some concerns, Mr. Speaker, about that. To tell the truth, I am not seeing the cleanliness we have grown accustomed to. I am not seeing the sharing and caring and the barter that existed among us which was a real critical part of our culture. For me, all of this is related to building out this green economy and building out the Barbados we know would make a difference in the. I am not seeing the pride and the industry flowing through the veins of my people, but the nonsense some of them do when they dump an old car anyway. They go into the woods and light a fire, just to see fire. I do not know. It is a madness or something. Almost everybody burns fire now and as soon as the crop season is near, everybody seem to want to light a fire. We have lost many tonnes of sugar last year and a few years back as a result of the burning of sugar cane, even before the crop season started. We know every year the amount of acreage is diminishing. What will we substitute that with? According to what I am seeing, hardly anything is happening in the expansion of the growth of crops and so forth that would help to build out this society and help us to ensure there is food security in this island.

I am really very upset with those good virtues that seem to be going through the window. Those good tenets that we held so dear, and we repeat them in our Pledge and our Motto the good things we have done, the good life we have lived and what we would like to see happen for many generations to come, for our children and our grandchildren. I really think, Mr. Speaker, there are some challenges with the governance of this country at this juncture in our history that really require urgent attention even if it calls for more money being spent and more resources being put into community education. We know GIS plays its part. We know Community Development does a few things. We know that the Youth Affairs Department does a few things, but I believe more need to be done with the sensitization, because too many of us have

become pompous, haughty and arrogant, forgetting from whence we came and the good this country has done for us.

I know there is not much for us to boast about now, Mr. Speaker, and I am speaking for me. I am not speaking for any political Party. I am not speaking for any specific group. I am talking for me.

Asides.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Your age may not be near mine. The Right Honourable Prime Minister may be in that category. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East may be, but the life we live caused us to be proud. Everywhere we went in Barbados, everywhere we went all over the world, we say we are from Barbados, the Gem of the Caribbean, the little island, Bim, and we call ourselves all kinds of names because we were patriotic, but I do not think we are doing enough in our schools to teach our children about their allegiance to their country to say the Pledge and the Anthem is not enough. It is a callousness towards Barbados that frightens me coming from some of our youth who know no better because schools, homes and other institution responsible. That is lacking in our system.

What are we celebrating? High levels of unemployment? People want to work in the land for the Landless Project. Many of those who have become unemployed want to do vending, but the police run them here, there and everywhere. Those people who own land are not releasing any land that they can get a chance to grow some cabbages, lettuces, carrots, to rear a few rabbits and chickens and so on, because they have no space and nobody is giving them the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, the easiest thing for persons to do, if they lose their work, especially those persons at NCC, National Housing Corporation and Beautify Barbados, is gardening or landscaping because it is easy for them. Many of them have the skills but they do not have the land and they do not get the resources coming from the entities, both Government and provide help in assisting them to the good citizens they want to be. They do not want hands out. They do not want to be mendicant. Many of them have been reduced to going to the Ministry of Welfare to get help because they are not seeing any avenues opening for them.

Mr. Speaker, I hurt a lot especially with that Beautify Barbados Project, which for me kept the entire Barbados clean. When I learned of an Adopt a Kilometer Project I said from the beginning, Barbados is going to be a dirty community again. The Adopt a Kilometer might be doing some highways, but what about Content Road, St. Thomas? The MTW staff at Bagatelle has been cut by more than 65 percent. So three persons are weeding the road. The grass is encroaching on a road that should be carrying traffic in one direction or the other, two directions at a

time, but people now have to stop on Content Road because the grass has now blown inward because of the high winds and so on during the tropical storm Mathew, and as a result there is absolutely no assistance to clear the roads. Community persons will do it, but they do not have the monetary resources. They cannot get the weed wackers. When they call on the Ministry of the Environment asking for assistance they can get nothing, no gloves, nothing, in harsh economic times when people can hardly feed themselves. They are not going to take up their money to buy gloves and so forth, when they are doing something voluntary. Therefore there has to be synergies taking place in order for us to get those things done and done well. Mr. Speaker, every quarter acre of St. Thomas has illegal dumping going on. Bucks was the worst I have seen in a long time. People are so criminal-minded with their dumping because it is not in their backyard, they are putting it even on the Mangrove road, nearest to the dump. Do you know what is responsible for that, Mr. Speaker, the tipping fee?

Asides.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Yes. Oh Lord, it is not Oh Lord. It is reality, and the Lord is real. Therefore you can say Oh Lord Honourable Member. The tipping fee is what is helping to cause a lot of the illegal dumping. So people leave wherever, to make St. Thomas the dumping ground, and it bothers me when I see the dead animals, when I see the large amount of commercial refuse in the place, in somebody's property, on a plantation that appears to be abandoned, and alongside the road. I have photographs, Mr. Speaker, of business houses refuse. Barrels with the names of institutions that are leading institutions in this country. Those persons who may have been hired to dispose of it may have received the money for the tipping fee, but dropped it anywhere else along the way. We saw some examples earlier in the year of persons who were not forced to pay a fine. They were told to go back and clean it up. There should have been a fine as well for that. If I park my car the wrong place and the police gives me a ticket I have to pay for it or they move it. If persons do not have to pay for the wrong they do, then they are going to wait, and in the dead of the night drop their garbage all over the place. It is killing the whole society, but the rural parishes St. Thomas, St. Joseph and sections of St. Andrew, we feel it worse than ever because a lot of our villages are remote. Therefore there is nobody to see. Putting up a camera will not help. It is like pradiar larceny, almost everything you put into the ground. When the monkeys do not do it, and we can understand they have to survive, human monkeys are going in the night time stealing chickens, pigs, and cows and slaughtering them in backyards, gullies and so on. Something is wrong with the psyche of our people. Unless we start to reeducate them, they have no interest in anybody but themselves. Who eats the cow that is slaughtered in the cane field? We do not know, but there

are people receiving them. Those are the things impacting on our country going forward.

Mr. Speaker, the disrepair of our roads ... I hope they will do us some justice and will come to St. Thomas because Harrison's Cave is there. Welchman Hall Gully is there. Highland Outdoor Tours and the zip line and the road that takes us up to the Flower Forest are there. Not a single highway is good. All of that is as a result of our environment. The built environment as well as the natural flora of this country, the layout of our houses and so on. All of that is as a result of the environment and its preservation.

Sir, from Bridgefield Road that never had water flooding because it is on a slope, is now flooding because there are no road works. Three people weeding the road and hardly anybody to clean the drains and the gutters from the Drainage Unit, because their staff has been scaled down too. What are we celebrating?

I have never seen the parish where I live fall into decay and the roads into disrepair, as I have seen over the last two years. The Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said, when that Ministry of the Drainage Unit was taken from MTW, flooding would be a thing of the past. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry you did not take a visit to St. Thomas on Sunday afternoon, to your extended family there to see not only the Bridgefield flood, the bottom of Ashford hill flooded. I visited Vaucuse yesterday, because when I speak I like to speak from a background of knowledge. That race track at Vaucuse that has no permission yet from Town and Country Planning, some time ago something went wrong with the construction and the wells that took water off Dukes Tenantry for many centuries have been capped and the distance that the water has settled is from the ground here on this Floor to this counter and nothing can pass for about 30 to 40 feet across the road.

Sir, what hurt me more - and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was correct - is that in the same way that there is degradation of the soil and deforestation in Turners' Hall Wood, if you go to Vaucuse today... Mr. Speaker, unfortunately Parliament has not yet been able to make adjustments so that we can use the technology here but photographs of what I witnessed yesterday evening hurt me to the core, because of the ATVs and four-wheel drives that went in and on the land that does not have water they skidded and turned about. The top soil in Vaucuse is now gone because that land is lying fallow and that is in a remote area.

Mr. Speaker, those are the things that hurt because when I call the Ministry of Works, the poor gentleman said to me that he does not have the equipment, neither does he have a patching truck or a bobcat. Mr. Speaker, Minister of

Public Works and Transport there is absolutely nothing and that area is one that has produced so many crops such as potatoes, carrots, cane, et cetera. Sir, something is wrong with us.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the element of lawlessness and crime. I talked about another element of crime, praedial larceny that is really impacting on what farmers do to help to feed themselves, this country and to bring food security to our country. I am saddened at what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, transportation is another big problem and people are afraid because of the tall grass where vandals are out hiding wanting to snatch people's money or jewellery. Sir, people are afraid but transportation is limited because this Government has not bought any buses since 2006-2007 and therefore the fleet of buses is getting down. Mr. Speaker, a bus broke down at the corner of Welchman Hall, by "Sally" last Sunday; another bus broke down at Bridgefield; there was another bus breaking down this morning, while the ordinary folk who does not have a vehicle or the resource to buy anything or to rent a taxi are the ones who are suffering. Mr. Speaker, what are we celebrating then?

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, let me come closer to the end. Mr. Speaker, Cahill was brought into the system when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2015, declared to the people of Barbados that Cahill would start in September, 2015. Mr. Speaker, a session or so ago I was hurt when the Right Honourable Prime Minister said that the document I wrote about Cahill and the concerns of the residents of St. Thomas whom I have the proud privilege to represent, that the signatures looked alike. To this day the Right Honourable Prime Minister has not even sent me a letter of acknowledgement, my having written 21 Governmental agencies that Cahill would have been impacted upon. I attended five or six town hall meetings, but it seems as though St. Thomas is a dumping ground so that anything goes there, including a five-storeyed building that does not even fit into the landscape, where the workers of Sanitation Service Authority would have to come there to work, in a situation where there is no buses in that general area. Those are the things that bother me.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what? I wish to say that Barbados does need open spaces and a Barbados Labour Party Government would have acquired land for a botanical garden. Barbadians need more space, there are many people now living in housing areas, et cetera, there are few recreational facilities and so people want to go someplace for peace and tranquility, people want to camp out, people

want to have a merry-go-round where the children can sit and can be away from the noises, for example, the motorcycles that are being ridden up and down with riders doing 'wheelies' on the highway. I do not know why the police would not do something about it. Sir, this is destroying the culture and life and is driving fear into us. Sir, that is not the Barbados that we know, but I would want for the Right Honourable Prime Minister to at least send me an acknowledgment so that I can let the people of Barbados know that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has responded to my letter regarding queries about Cahill.

Mr. Speaker, I got an answer from the Town Planning Department. I got an answer from the Minister of Public Works and Transport. Nobody from the Ministry with responsibility for Energy answered, because Cahill was to do with energy; nobody from the Ministry of Health answered, so that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South cannot look around.

Sir, I think it is discourteous that in here we are on the same level working towards the same objectives of empowering Barbadians and making this country the special place where the Minister of Tourism can boast of the high levels of people coming here, the recreational facilities, the built environment that people can enjoy, including the heritage sites, yet we are pulling against each other in a way that young people seem to think that to come into politics now is to destroy your own character and that of somebody else's. Mr. Speaker, I felt disappointed through the Right Honourable Prime Minister for not even giving an acknowledgment to the thousands of people whose life, if Cahill had come aboard for the US\$350 million project, would have been impacted upon.

Mr. Speaker, I have some recreational facilities in St. Thomas, one at Welchman Hall where if you look at it now you can tie your young calf in it and you would not be able to see that young calf. Further, we are talking about beautifying Barbados and about open spaces but the equipment there is no good, it is now corroded. I had asked the General Manager to remove those parts that would have impacted on them and to this day...

Mr. Speaker, the grass at the Post Office is cut every month. The property of the Post Office adjoins Welchman Hall Recreational Centre, yet nothing is happening for those poor little children who are there. The Holy Innocents Primary School, which is across the street from the pavilion, had to take their sports down to Bridgefield this year because nobody would cut the bush or the grass at that pavilion.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I would say that in 2013 a couple of acres of land were donated to the Government of Barbados by the Edgehill family from Dukes Plantation for food security, agro-business, training and entrepreneurship.

At that time there was a massive feast there but they did not even had the courtesy to invite me. I did not want to come because of the food, because I do not eat any and everything. I do not even eat in this Honourable Chamber. Mr. Speaker, it hurts that to this day, more than two years later, all that you can see on that land is grass. The plantation owner has cut off the hedgerow to allow people safety. It is for food security under the aegis of the University of the West Indies. The whole of St. Thomas requires urgent attention when it comes to Government getting land and giving to the landless, using up those 20 or 30 acres of land and giving those young men and women who want to work in agriculture, who want to be able to feed themselves or to reduce the import bill, they want food security for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Resolution. I am willing to work with this Government, I am willing to work with community groups, as this is my life, to be able to change Barbados but I do not think that we are doing enough, neither are there enough synergies with the agencies to be able to make this project become a reality. I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, I rise in this debate and to congratulate the Honourable for Christ Church East Central for bringing this Resolution. Mr. Speaker, the issue of sustainability and development is something that is very relevant in today's world because the current global climate that we face and the rapid changes that we are seeing across the world are impacting on Small Island Developing States like Barbados. Therefore, the issue of sustainable development is not one that Small Island Developing States should really look away from but should treat to in a very serious way. Mr. Speaker, the extent to which we chart a path that allows the country to embrace sustainable development as a model going forward would also impact on the extent to which we are able to offer our people a standard of living and an environment that is conducive to their well-being and I think we need to recognise that. It also is very important at a time when the world is facing issues related to climate change, because very often when we discuss climate change in this environment, we sometimes do not appreciate that it is already beginning to impact on countries in the Tropics in the same way that we are seeing it impacting on countries in the Northern Hemisphere. They are seeing the impact of climate change from the point of view of the American ice-caps, where you are seeing a difference in the seasons. Even in respect of Barbados, you find that people, including farmers, would tell you now that in terms of the rainy season that we are noticing more differences than before. Therefore, it underlines the reason why the issues of sustainable

development and sustainability are something to which we need to pay very careful attention.

Mr. Speaker, I also just want to refer to the last Central Bank Report in which it was stated that for the nine months ending September 30, 2016, the renewable energy-generating capacity was around 13 megawatts, and that by the end of December it is anticipated that the renewable energy-generating capacity should actually go up to around 30 megawatts. I believe that we need to congratulate the Government certainly on the fact that, in terms of embracing the whole area of renewable energy, particularly in terms of the Caribbean, Barbados appears to be probably the most successful jurisdiction where renewable energy generation is making the kind of impact on the economy that we are seeing right now. In this regard, we need to recognise that Barbados is a leader in that respect; in terms of the adoption of renewable energy generation methodologies. I think that is extremely important.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we need to build on this, and that is why this whole discussion which we are having on sustainability and sustainable development becomes extremely important. We are recognising that fossil fuels and their increased use as economies experience development, represents a danger in terms of the emission of greenhouse gases. We are also recognising the contribution that fossil fuels themselves make to global warming. It also says at the same time that we in Barbados, at least in upholding our responsibility of maintaining a healthy environment around the world, should try to ensure that we maintain a healthy environment for future generations. I think that, in that regard, again, the Debate on the whole question of sustainable development becomes extremely important. Therefore, we have to recognise that if we want to achieve sustainable development, the responsibility for change must, yes, rest upon reasonable Government policies. I think that this Resolution and the importance of the Resolution show clearly that we are thinking seriously about preserving an environment for future Barbadians. That is extremely important. Also, we have to educate the ordinary Barbadian as to his or her responsibility in terms of maintaining that environment.

I listened very carefully to the Member for St. Thomas just now when she spoke to the fact that we have a situation where, in Barbados still, we have people who are prepared to engage in reckless dumping of refuse when they do not have to. It was unfortunate that we attributed the reason for that to the presence of the tipping fee. I think that we have to be brutally honest on this one, because the same Barbadians who cannot in many instances observe the laws of the country when they are here, are able to observe the laws of other jurisdictions when they travel abroad, and they do that with very little difficulty. Therefore, I think that we need to stop making the tipping fee a reason or an excuse for why we cannot observe the law, and why we as

ordinary Barbadians cannot recognise that it is our responsibility to ensure that we dispose of the refuse we create in a responsible manner. I think that it is sometimes unfortunate that we as political representatives give persons a reason or an excuse for not observing the law, and that does not do well in an era where we are talking about celebrating 50 years of Independence and, at the same time, trying to emphasise the behaviours among ordinary Barbadians that made us the people who we are.

Generally, when we travel to other parts of the Caribbean, we have to admit that Barbados is among the cleanest countries and jurisdictions in the Caribbean. I do not want to make disparaging remarks about other capitals, but certainly we still manage to maintain a clean environment. However, we can only maintain that clean environment if each and every one of us recognises that we have a responsibility for doing so. I want to make the point that every Barbadian, therefore, has a role in terms of creating a sustainable Barbados for the future, especially in relation to the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to agree that in truth and in fact, the temptation that we have to alienate agricultural land in this country is something that we need to really take a look at. I really agree that we need to look at some form of legislation that would at least remind Barbadians of their responsibilities. We cannot continue to compromise the very substance of the land and expect at the same time to be able to sustain the same type of environment which we currently experience. Clearly, when we look at the fact that today we are experiencing a drought, what we do not want to admit is that in many ways there are other jurisdictions which have less rainfall than Barbados but which have also come up with ways of trying to ensure that they actually manage the amount of rainfall they receive and try to engage in measures so as to make maximum benefit of that rainfall. In that regard, one of the things that we need to look at -- and I think that the Government has spoken to it before -- is the whole area of water harvesting and the responsibility that each and every Barbadian has to actually engage in the practice of water harvesting. There are other jurisdictions which actually receive much less rainfall than us, but are able to benefit from their rainfall because they have designed the landscape in a manner that permits them to be able to harvest rainwater when it comes. Mr. Speaker, I went to a school compound the other day -- I do not want to mention the school -- and in that school compound the amount of concrete that you saw there was amazing. I wondered to myself if there was any attempt made in designing the school to ensure that rainwater falling in that particular area could be captured in some type of underground tank or receptacle. The way in which we are still designing buildings suggests to me that a lot of architects still seem to feel that Barbados is a country in which we have plenty of water and that it is not a water-scarce country, and therefore in the design of builders even

today, we do not take into consideration how we ensure that we also capture water.

The other point I wish to make too is that we seem to have an enthusiasm to actually place around buildings in general, place as much concrete as possible therefore what we do in the way in which we construct our buildings and not only that, in which we construct our developments, is that we seem to aid water runoff instead of trying to ensure that we provide to capture as much water as possible at the same time. We cannot view the whole question of water resources to be just the responsibility of the Government alone because the Government does not make water. What we need to do though is to design policies that would ensure that we, as a nation, engage in practices that helps us to capture water when it falls for reuse. I think that is something that we need to pay careful attention to so we have to look at the homes, we have to say to Barbadians that we have to take the opportunity to place tanks around our homes so that when rain falls we can use the water to either wet our gardens or in some cases, as was suggested, use in our toilets to flush them. These are things that we need to pay attention to and we need, of course, to insist that Barbadians when they are looking at future buildings that they will erect to take these things into consideration. This is extremely important because we cannot continue to build buildings in a manner that facilitates run off therefore when the underground aquifers are not being replenished as rapidly as they should be and they fall short and the Barbados Water Authority sometimes have to shut off the pump or something like that in order to make sure that they give the underground aquifer a chance to refill we want to say that we have a problem, but the truth is that each of us individually has contributed to the creation of that problem. Unless we, as Barbadians, change our habits the problem will be aggravating as we continue into the future.

I represent an urban constituency which is St. Michael West Central, a most beautiful constituency, and I also want to appeal that we need to beautiful our urban constituencies. Too often now, I hear people thinking that we do not need to make sure that the people who live in our urban areas want an environment in which they can feel relaxed. I hear people talk about that people want to feel as if they could walk down the road, go under some nice trees and we can create these things in our constituencies and I think really by community action in the constituencies added by Government, in itself, making some strategic inventions in certain communities that we can achieve this because I see pockets of persons actually in the St. Michael West Central who do things to their surroundings. I know there is a lady in Marshall Parkinson Road, I do not want to call her name, but if you go by her anytime she has some wonderful gardens. As a matter of fact, I say that she is giving the National Conservation Commission competition. What she has actually been able to do is extended the reach of those gardens.

When we talk about the environment and we talk about sustainability these are the issues because what we do not understand is that the presence of nice looking vegetation in a community gives people a different mindset. What we do not understand is that it is a careful link that we see especially when we talk about the ghettos in countries like the United States of America (USA) and in other cities, that sometimes the presence of concrete brings forward a harsh behaviour on the part of people. I really think that we need to pay attention to our urban constituencies to ensure that we create a different environment that is why actually I am impressing upon the Minister of Environment that we need, especially in that area just below where they had the Polytechnic Agricultural College, some beautification of that area to create a nice area and an environment in which the community can go out there, we can play some strings and give the children and area in which to play. Not only that but big people too, an area that the vegetation looks pleasant.

I want to talk also about the aspects that have the vegetation looking pleasant. Let us again be frank and admit that many Barbadians today prefer to keep dogs than to keep a sheep. It is amazing that some of the same people who tell you, I am impoverished, all you have to do sometimes to keep a sheep is to give it good grass and water. I was reminded that you have to give them water, very essential. The point I am making is that there are greater benefits from keeping livestock than from keeping pit bulls. We have Barbadians around the place who are encourage to keep all kinds of animals that bring no economic benefit to them when we can encourage those same people to keep animals that can bring at least some economic benefit to them and they reside in urban areas. The point I wish to make is that it relates to how we manage our environment in urban areas because we are at a time in our country where we need to manage the environment in a much better way and we have to encourage our people to be able to engage in activities which, and I will tell you this, a lot of Barbadians seem to look down on.

A lot of these Barbadians that we have today were raised on the same things that I am talking about, pigs, sheep and keeping lettuce around the house. In Lennox Avenue my mother actually did that and every six weeks or so we had lettuce to go out there and sell to the neighbours. Today, they have the same space around the house but instead of putting a kitchen garden there, what we want to do is put concrete and the concrete does not help us. Not only that, I see we spend lots of money to go into the gym and get exercise and do you know where the exercise can come from, going into a garden. These are the things that we need to speak to our people about because when we talk about sustainable development we are talking about the environment.

I know the Honourable Member for St. George South has an interest in concrete that is why he is keeping noise there right now but I am not promoting any concrete around the place. What I am saying is that what we want to do ...

Asides.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: He is finished with that, I did not know that. The point I am making though is that what we want to do is to encourage behaviours among our people that would help them in terms of facing the challenging economic times in which they live. That is the essential point that I am trying to make. One of the points I also wish to make is that we cannot continue to make our people feel that the way in which Barbados proceeded in the past that it will continue for the future. The world is looking at it differently, as we always say. There are different responsibilities. Government's ability to provide the resources that are required and the things that are needed and compromise because of the fact that the revenues that used to come in the way they used to come before are not coming so we have those challenges and we have to be creative. We cannot be creative if the very thing which is the environment that we have, we do not manage responsibly. As a matter of fact I continue to plead to the University of the West Indies (UWI) and I speak about that land at Dukes in St. Thomas. Up to this day, 1) there is no active consultation in the Agriculture Sector on how we should proceed and 2) I get the impression that all they think about is that they got a facility and all they want to do is to put buildings on it. We have to be careful that when we get agricultural land... Even the institutions that are supposed to set an example turn around and do the same foolishness. Mr. Speaker, in truth and in fact what is needed in Barbados are what we will call field research stations for agricultural crops. It does not take billions of dollars to go on there. If they go to Trinidad and watch the field research stations that they have in Trinidad it would tell them what is going on. What you need are actually crops on the ground not buildings on the ground.

What we need to see in Barbados is a more responsible attitude to managing the environment. The thing about it is that we do not understand that the less agriculture we have in this country, the greater the problems of water that we have because, we do not understand it, trees facilitate the penetration of water into the soil. What we need to do is to manage the landscape.

What we do not understand is that when we had sugar - in fact we still have sugar - the landscape was well-managed and the tourists would tell you that their tie point was when they see the well-managed and well-groomed canfields. Mr. Speaker, that was an attraction for Barbados and I think it still is in some areas. The point is that we are letting it go.

Mr. Speaker, the whole question of sustainability cannot be just put on the lap of the Government because the landowners in Barbados, who is not only the Government, also have a responsibility to maintain the lands that they are responsible for. The problem that we have is that there are too many landowners who are prepared to allow the land to go derelict largely because they see it as an opportunity to sell off our real estate. We need to find a way to deal with this issue because again the question of the sustainability and a sustainable environment becomes extremely critical at this stage.

We need to have a partnership between Government and the private sector where both are moving in the same direction. Clearly, you have a behaviour in some parts of the private sector which suggests that Government has one objective and the private sector has another. We should not allow persons within the private sector to come and undermine the development policies that we have. Again, the question of maintaining an environment which is conducive to the health of Barbadians and the development of the country is one that certainly we must give great priority to, and we should not encourage behaviours that undermine that at the same time. These are some of the things we need to do.

I also want, Mr. Speaker, to make the point that the impact of climate change on the type of crops that we are going to plant in this country is going to be extremely important. We sometimes do not appreciate the connection between maintaining a good environment and at the same time the crops that we plant because when we allow activities in an unplanned way, that can contribute to compromising the environment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: I heard about the fact that in some areas, I think it is in Turners Hall Woods or something like that, we have a situation where people come in and encroach on what they perceive to be forest areas but they go in and actually destroy the forest. We need to actually increase the number of wardens that we have monitoring what we call these protected forest areas because Barbadians see it as bush but they do not understand that it is more than just that. If we were to go to the point of taking away all of the bush from the landscape, we will have a situation like Haiti, which we would not want, because Haiti has suffered from severe soil degradation largely because of deforestation.

We have people here who bring in all kinds of these large high-wheel vehicles and want to say that they engage in these motorsports and we need to tax them because they do not contribute in any way to maintaining the natural vegetation and they destroy the land. The reason sometimes

why we are seeing the floods that we are seeing in some areas is because of the fact that they compromise the ability of that area of the land to absorb water, so what happens is that we have increased water run-off, and what it does is provide a problem to those who are downstream. These people who are walking around the place want the largest vehicles and they want to go on these off terrain vehicles through the forest and they pay no attention to the fact that they are destroying the environment that forms a very important part of the ecology of this country, and in many cases they are destroying plants which actually could be used for medicinal purposes because people would tell you that a lot of the cures for a lot of the common things that we have in Barbados come from all kinds of plants like the Circee-bush and the aloes, that we have around the place. In fact, the Circee-bush is the cure-all. These are the things, but we have people behaving in a very reckless manner to our environment today.

I will say this too, we have this thing that we are saying it is for tourism but I am telling you that the type of tourists that we are getting today is very concerned about the environment. They want to know that when they come to a destination that that destination is managing its environment in a sustainable manner. As a matter of fact, we have now the whole feature of what we call sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism being where tourists want to experience going to a location... Some of them want to go on a farm and they want to milk a cow and feed some chickens. Not only that, they want to see some food that come off the farm just there. These are the things that we should be looking at today. Not only that, they also have a great deal of importance for the economic viability of this country. These simple ways also offer a way that the ordinary citizens in this country can also participate in the economic activity that we tend to develop around the whole area of the sustainability and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I really want first of all to compliment the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, for bringing this Resolution at a time when we do need it. It is fortuitous that he brings it now because if we truly understand the implications of it, we will recognise that it also offers Barbadians a tremendous opportunity to also create other ways of maintaining their economic viability and participating in the economic activity that we have in this country.

With that, Sir, I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to lend my voice to the debate on this particular Resolution in respect of the Green Economy Scoping Study. I listened attentively to the Honourable

Minister as he presented last week. He gave a very comprehensive and detailed journey on not only his ministry but also calling on Barbadians to have a call to action to work towards improving the natural environment of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party, I will say, have no difficulty with the Green Economy Scoping Study. I think we can acknowledge that there are several stakeholders in the industry particularly in the ministry who would have worked very assiduously to ensure that this document was prepared. I think that the Barbados Labour Party has a strong record of putting together proposals to enhance the green economy and certainly to improve policies in this country as it relates to the natural environment. During the 90s the Barbados Labour Party would have been at the forefront of introducing fiscal incentives in relation to the solar energy sector and providing tax allowances to households to be able to provide those solar heaters within their households and certainly within their businesses. I think the Minister of Tourism would have mentioned that now today we have several thousand solar heaters across Barbados, so there is no difficulty, I believe on this side, in acknowledging that the research that has been done is necessary, the sectors that have been identified are of particular importance to moving this economy forward and certainly building out the Green Economy.

Mr. Speaker, however, I would want to say that as I look through the more than 200-odd pages of this document I ask myself how do the people of St. Michael South East, certainly how do the people of Barbados relate to this particular document. I say that, Sir, because if you put the document aside for a minute, I believe that across Barbados you have a situation where, not that people do not appreciate what needs to happen in relation to our environment, but I do believe that there are a number of issues that are affecting households in Barbados and certainly businesses that are of concern to certainly all of us on this side and I would hope that it is of concern to those on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister speak about the fact that there is a hotline for recycling and the Honourable Member gave that number which I thought was useful. I also heard the Honourable Member referred to and showed several pamphlets in this Honourable Chamber which speak to the issue of how to deal with waste management. Again, I commend the Ministry for being able to produce such information. However, my difficulty is, Sir, that I would want to know what steps the Ministry is taking to disseminate this information to the general public, because I represent the largest housing area in Barbados. I have a difficulty in the constituency of St. Michael South East where being one of the most densely populated areas in the

country we are faced with a situation in the area where garbage collection is an issue.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency is right next to the Sanitation Service Authority, yet you would see scattered across the communities several skips which for weeks and months on end are left unattended, allowed to pile up with heaps of garbage and then in a sudden flurry after there has been an overflowing of the garbage you have a situation where instead of removing the skip, you may have I think some kind of tractor that comes, turns over the skip in the road, allows all the garbage to be strewn all over the ground, a few of the workers may attempt to sweep up the debris but what is left when the Sanitation Service Authority workers leave is that the residents and children in the community in particular are left in a situation where there is a foul odor and perhaps a worst odor than what was there before when the skip was overflowing. They are left with a situation where they then have to combine resources, through no fault of their own, to now disinfect the area and attempt to hose it down. As I think most of us would appreciate, Government has the resources to be able to utilise, through the Barbados Water Authority, to be able to hose down these areas when it reaches point where garbage has accumulated in this manner.

Mr. Speaker, this situation took place quite recently in the area of Regent Hill. There is also the situation where in the area of Golden Rock, for instance, there is another skip, it is a very densely populated area in the community. I have had numerous calls from residents in the area to request of the National Housing Corporation, the National Conservation Commission and the Sanitation Service Authority to remove the garbage that continues to pile up there week after week, after week. Several of the residents have even approached me about trying to development a play park in the area. One young lady asked if it was possible for her to develop a lagoon in the gully, to be able to generate income for her but also to be able to allow the children to be able to play in the area, to have persons come from outside, because this area has become so unsightly and unattended by this current Administration that it has left members in the community in a situation where they feel as though they are being left behind when it comes to dealing with public health and public health issues.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the Minister repeatedly say that this is an issue for which the households need to take responsibility for their garbage but I want to remind this Honourable Chamber and this country that the housing estates in this country, in particular the St. Michael South East areas, particularly the Pinelands and Wildeys areas belong to the National Housing Corporation. It does not belong to the Member of Parliament for St. Michael South East. It does not belong to the residents in St. Michael South East, it belongs to the National Housing Corporation and

therefore, Sir, I would take this opportunity to say to persons who are concerned about the garbage collection in the area, about the general health conditions and the unsanitary health conditions in the St. Michael South East area that attempts need to be made to address these issues with the Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development, in conjunction with the other Ministries which include the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a Green Economy Scoping Study but we cannot speak about a study in isolation. These are real issues that people are dealing with and if it is that we are going to come here to consider this document, we have to start talking about the linkages between Government institutions where they need to work hand-in-hand to be able to alleviate some of the conditions that people in the communities, particularly in the Pinelands and Wildey areas are facing.

Mr. Speaker, I heard a caller, I believe it was last week, calling in on one of the call-in programmes complaining about again the state of uncleanness in the community of the Pinelands area. Sir, I want the record to reflect that as the representative for St. Michael South East, I have called on the respective Ministries to be able to remove garbage not only from the community, I have called on the National Housing Corporation to remove overgrown bush. I have called on the Ministry to clear the drains in the area, to stop the flooding when the rain falls. Mr. Speaker, I have even taken it on myself to engage the services of private individuals, some of them from within the community to be able to remove overgrown bush in the various communities across St. Michael South East.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that on one occasion when I attempted to remove garbage from the surrounding area of the Wilkie Cumberbatch School, because I was responding to complaints from the residents that their children were traversing areas that were generally unhealthy, that there were issues of several rats running around, there were issues of leptospirosis, there were issues of illegal dumping, I was told by an officer of the National Housing Corporation that having hired someone, having hired the bobcat to remove the overgrown areas and also hiring individuals living in the community who also in some cases volunteered their services to come and assist because they could not take it anymore that I was, in fact, encouraging squatting in the area when the areas were then cleared and that I should therefore desist from enabling the residents to come together to clear the surrounding community without the necessary approval from the National Housing Corporation and the powers-that-be.

Now, Sir, I also want the record to show that I paused because I felt that if it was that as representative I

could not take it upon myself to mobilise persons within the community to green up their community, to do things for themselves which this Administration is constantly saying that the people must come and do for themselves, at the end of the day I would pause and I would write the letters to the National Housing Corporation.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. What the Honourable Member is speaking about is people occupying the land that belongs to the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development through the National Housing Corporation and not allowing the officers to do their work. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is fair for the Honourable Member to blame...

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

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, that is certainly testimony to the fact why we cannot get anything in St. Michael South East is clear, because the Minister himself is unfamiliar with what the circumstances are that the people in my constituency are facing. These are the facts, I do not have to come here to make them up but I am concerned that the residents in communities across Barbados, particularly the housing estates, do not appreciate that the housing estates are the responsibility of this Administration, particularly the National Housing Corporation working in conjunction with the various Ministries to ensure that the areas are green, that the open spaces are clean, and that if there is, in fact, any illegal dumping that the illegal dumping is removed or that the persons are fined for dumping in those areas.

Mr. Speaker, I have a situation in Rock Close where residents got together and decided that they were going to green up the community and ensure that they put down some park benches and remove a lot of the garbage that was there; but the fact is that unless the agencies of Government are working together with the communities, you have a situation where not too far from the same area there are several old trucks and old vehicles remaining. Here is a community trying to take it upon themselves to do what the Government has now neglected to do for the last eight years, but they find themselves in a situation where the officers clearly are not being sent out to do what they are supposed to do; which is to ensure that these unhealthy conditions which exist in these communities are abated in constituencies like St. Michael South East. Sir, I believe this Administration has a responsibility in debating this Resolution, and they owe it to this country, to give some commitment that these Ministries are going to now start working together. It is clear that they are not working together, Mr. Speaker, and the people who would want to come forward to engage in greener policies in communities need to be able to have the information that the Honourable

Minister alluded to last week. That needs to be trickled down. I would love to come here to hear that this Administration or the Minister is implementing some pilot project in the St. Michael South East area or any area across this country; a pilot project that encourages recycling and that acknowledges that, in the Golden Rock area, for instance, you have a situation where you need small garbage trucks to traverse a number of the areas out there. The large garbage trucks cannot traverse the areas properly to collect the garbage, so a lot of people end up dumping in the Golden Rock area in a very unsightly manner because attempts are not being made to ensure that those smaller trucks can traverse those areas and collect the garbage from the citizens of this country.

Sir, I believe that we are seeing the frustration from our people, because if the general surroundings are not being kept clean, there is very little incentive on average Barbadians to keep their own surroundings clean, because there is frustration when you put out the garbage. Government has the ability to set days of the week when particular garbage collection will take place. It is nothing new. It happens all over the world. You choose a day, set it bi-weekly or two or three times a week, and people will know when they can put out particular types of waste matter, when they can put out things from their garden, when they can put out plastics, and when they can put out bottles. This is not something that you have to legislate per se, but if you are the Government it would mean that you could start to put the mandate out there to people, whether through legislation or not, indicating that these are the policies which we want to see implemented. There is no point talking about this 200-and-something-page document when, at the end of the day, basic households are not recycling their waste matter in a way that allows this particular document to take effect.

Mr. Speaker, Members on the other side take this situation lightly, but you cannot come here and expect that people are going to digest the information in this document when there are real issues relating to garbage collection and real issues relating to the open spaces in communities that are not being properly cleared and where debris is being created. You cannot come here and pretend as though you have laid a document which started in 2012, which has only been formalised in 2014, and has then taken another two years to come to this Parliament, and now want to pat yourself on the back and behave as though you are championing something that has fallen from the sky. Mr. Speaker, let us be real. People in this country need the assurance that their garbage will be collected. They need the assurance that the Ministries will work together to ensure that if you contact them to say you would like to clear the area, as I have been doing with National Housing Corporation and they do not respond to me.... If they do not respond to the representative, I do not know who else they will respond to. Sir, what I will say is that on the occasions

when I have made contact and have asked them to come out to repair a broken well, for instance, what they have done is taken the patchwork approach of this Administration and put some caution tape around the perimeter of the actual well, so it is still a risk to young children in the community, and it is still a risk to elderly people in the community, but they have taken the patchwork approach of the Administration. I maintain that if the head continues to be bad, the rest of the body will be failing. We have seen the patchwork approach at the top, so I am not surprised that at the level of the persons who have to execute the policy we are seeing the caution tape being put around wells that are a danger to people. Sir, I had a situation in Parkinson Field, where I believe it was a Barbados Water Authority truck or Sanitation Service Authority truck that had broken one of the wells; again, the same situation. When I called, it is not that they did not respond but when they responded, caution tape was put around the broken area which, as most of you in here know, is a densely populated area. We are not solving the problem if we simply put caution tape around it, because at night, when a lot of people in the community are there, there is a risk of persons falling into the well. Sir, I therefore appeal on the behalf of my constituents that these matters be addressed.

Another issue has popped up lately with the recent Budget, and in that Budget the Minister of Finance indicated that there was going to be an allocation of money for a debushing programme to clean up Barbados. People across this country have become excited, particularly the persons whom this Government unceremoniously laid off; the over 3 000 people. They got excited because they felt that, yet again, there was going to be an attempt to provide some kind of employment for them. I have been bombarded by persons in my constituency who have been told time and time again to contact the Member of Parliament (MP). I think Members on this side have had the same issue. They are told, "Contact the MP, the MP will write a letter for you, send it down to the Ministry and you will get the job." This is what the people are being told. Now I am asking the question because I believe it was about \$5 million that was allocated by this Administration. I want some questions answered. I am not here to chastise the Government, but I keep saying that you cannot educate a people and believe that they are to be taken for fools. You have \$5 million to allocate to clean up Barbados. How many people are going to be employed with this money? How is the allocation going to be made across the 30 constituencies of this country? The Honourable Minister of the Environment has not had any consultation with any Member of the Barbados Labour Party, to the best of my knowledge, to advise us as to how this programme is supposed to work, to seek our input, or to find out how these persons are to be selected. Sir, I even had a family who visited the Ministry and was told that when the MP writes the letter -- and she produced the note written by the

officer -- that I also should write her national registration number on the paperwork. This is a Rastafarian family living in the constituency but they were told they had to put down their national registration number and that I had to provide that for them. I had to ask the question if it had got to the point where, before you even got the job, you had to supply your national registration number. She said they asked for the full name, the identification number, the national registration number, the address, and all of this information, and they said the MP must provide this information. What concerned me was that I had to wonder -- I am only asking because I can only report what I have been told -- and I have to ask about the concern over the request for this information, because I have never had it before. I write letters all the time recommending people for work in the Public Service and otherwise, and I have never had to put down this information, but here I was being requested this information of this Rastafarian family who, I could only draw the conclusion, Government or these officers were trying to figure out if they had voted or if they qualified in some way for these positions. Obviously, you do not know how people voted but you know whether they voted, and it concerns me because we cannot lead people to believe that they must supply information but we are not telling them what this information is supposed to be used for.

I would like to be in a position, and I say this to the Minister and to Members on the other side, where I can say to St. Michael South East constituents, "This programme is going to provide work for about 50 people in the community. It is being done on the basis of the persons who either held the position before in the debushing programme who were laid off, they would be given the priority or persons who are, as they requested on This Side, that the young people must be moved off of the block. If it is going to work and it is going to go to the young people on the block, well I would be the first to submit the names of all the young people on the block who want work because if this Administration understood why the young people were on the block in the first place they would know it is because most of the young people want work and they cannot get the work from this Administration. There are suffering and even if they have the skills they are unable to secure the work.

I hear the utterings from the Other Side about ask the former representative for St. Michael South East, ask the aspirants of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) who were once Barbados Labour Party (BLP) members about St. Michael South East and I say this to you. This Barbados Labour Party (BLP) hired the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South East as to lead a Poverty Alleviation Bureau. We did so because he understood the issues in St. Michael South East and all of you would, perhaps do well to ask him about the issues that I have spoken about. It is not enough to just simply have him heading constituency

football tournaments. Ask him about the real issues in St. Michael South East because perhaps that is a conversation you must have and the two aspirants who are seeking St. Michael South East, with all due respect, have lived in St. Michael South East. They do not now live there but at the end of the day they too would appreciate the concerns that I have raised here today because this is not about who seeks position in St. Michael South East, this is about the concerns of the people that I represent and that I have been put there to represent. If it is that this Administration is going to pick and choose how they distribute work across the St. Michael South East area or across this country, Sir, I will not be silence, I will not be backed into a corner, I will do not care who you bring, at the end of the day I am there to represent my people and I will continue to do so.

What concerns me is that there is a constant rhetoric by this Administration believing that this four year old document is now the avenue through which you are going to take this country forward. That is what concerns me, Sir. This is only relevant if the ministries are working together to ensure that businesses and persons who are interested in whether it is landscaping, whether it is greening Barbados, whether it is developing projects that allow water to be able to be circulated to various communities in this country because, I was reading an article about a business in Jamaica which a young entrepreneur created as a result of the water woes in that country several years ago. I say that Government has to create the enabling environment for persons who are creative and innovative to be able to find ways to be able to help the Barbadian economy. It is not simply enough to say well you are going to create a debushing programme. There are people out there who have ideas in the business sector, young people who want the opportunity to be able to help the Barbados Government to be able to move Barbados forward but if you do not create the opportunities for them or the platform for them to be able to introduce measure or proposals, that is where the problem is going to come.

Sir, if this Administration was serious we would not have even had a situation in this Parliament where we had to debate the issue of CaHill and the CaHill Energy Plant. I believe that is testimony to the fact of what everything in this document speaks about, consultation with the people. When you fail to consult and you fail to recognise that the power has come from the people, you have forgotten the people and the fact of the matter is that when you can go off on a tantrum and sign documents in the name of the people of this country without consulting with them and then pretend as though nothing is happening anymore and we have moved on to something else but you still have not come back to the people and talk to the people of this country about it, putting them to worry and be concerned about their environment, to be concerned about the fact that something is being done that is not being done in any other part of the world or any other developing country, but it is

coming to Barbados and poses a potential threat to the citizens of this country, Sir, that is not what this document speaks about. This document speaks about consultation with all the stakeholders. It talks about consultation with communities. It talks about involving people in the decision-making to green their communities to ensure that their households are green, to ensure that their businesses recognise the importance of doing it. If this Government was serious, this Government would recognise the issues in relation to zero tolerance towards waste and that we should be having those kinds of discussion. If we are serious about these things we should be looking at banning plastics, the polystyrene plastics in this country. New York has just done it, they did it last year. They took a position to ban the plastic containers so if we want that people of this country, we are passing the buck, as this Administration likes to do, do not accept any responsibility on our part, but blame the households for now doing what they should do but let us not provide the enabling environment to enable them to take advantage of these opportunity. You could have tax incentives for people who comply and punish those who do not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to succeed.

Miss. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Sir. Not this broad brush approach that you have where you tax everybody and then you make it difficult for persons to then access the financing to be able to take their waste to the respective landfills. That is what has been created in this country, Sir, and I would appeal to this Government as I close to just be mindful of the fact that it is great to have these documents, it is great to do the research but I think it is a lesson to all of us on Both Sides. We have to recognise that these documents and the research that is done need to be brought to Parliament and implemented in a timely manner. Things are changing everyday so what may have obtained in 2014 may not be the case in 2016 and it may not be the case in 2020 so we have to be constantly looking at how do we re-evaluate what has been researched and what may be able to be implemented. Sir, I again want to close by appealing to this Administration to answer the call of the people of my constituency who would like to take advantage of the opportunities in relation to greening in this document but also who would want some proactive measure taken to remove the garbage in their community to be able to ensure that the open spaces are kept clean and tidy and that their children, particularly, can move freely across the community without fear of public health issues. The public health becomes an issue for us all if the households do not look after the disposal of garbage so it is not the households' problems, Sir. It is the problem for all Barbadians in this country. With that, Sir, I thank you.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2:00 o'clock this afternoon.

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

The question that the House do now suspend until 2:00 o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. Let us now revert to the Minutes as I am now in possession of the Minutes for our last meeting.

MINUTES (RECOMMITTED)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its Meeting of Tuesday, October 25, 2016, be confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, when the suspension was taken, we were on Order No.14, and to that we shall return.

ORDER No. 14 (RESUMED)

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

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to intervene in this debate on the Resolution, the main part of which is to accept the Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study. I have to support what my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. George South, said on the first day of this debate last week when he said that this study as important as it is has really and truly taken over two years to come before Parliament having been formally completed on June 05, 2014. Really and truly if the environment and the management of it is as of prime importance as the Government has made it out to be, this has taken too long

to come here to this Parliament for debate and for reference then to the public libraries of Barbados and hopefully for the reference of the wider community.

One of the significant points as you open the study, Mr. Speaker, is that it reveals that two of the Barbados Labour Party candidates in the next general election, Mr. Ryan Straughan and Mr. Colin Jordan, were prime stakeholders and have been congratulated for their enthusiastic participation in the stakeholder consultation process. Mr. Speaker, that really emphasises the quality of the team of new candidates who have come into play for the Barbados Labour Party in our now completed line-up for the next general election whenever it is called.

As the Honourable Minister of the Environment who led this debate last week pointed out, both parties have had a place in whatever area of development we have reached as a country in terms of the green economy. The Barbados Labour Party in 2007 developed the first national green economy policy in the Caribbean and one of the first in the world. In fact, the then Minister of the Environment, Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, went on to become an Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and received a global award from the United Nations for her role in advancing the environment and the green economy in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, there is clearly a link between the creation of green jobs and employment. Of course, in a day and age where the economy and society in Barbados is under stress as it has been for all the eight and a half years of this Democratic Labour Party governance, this is very important. We as lawmakers and policymakers in this country really have a duty to our electorate to advance the link between the creation of green jobs and the economy to lower our unemployment rate. We certainly agree that we have to encourage this, and one way of encouraging it would be for the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to give more Special Development Scholarships in this area. What we found is that the year before the last general elections, in 2012, I believe there were as many as 21 or 22 National Development Scholarships that were given out.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: My colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, tells me I am being generous to the Government, that in fact 23 National Development Scholarships given out the year before the last general elections, but suddenly and mysteriously and inexplicably the year following the elections there were only six or seven. Certainly, this is an area where I would think that the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation led by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central ought to be increasing the number of

Special Development Scholarships and National Development Scholarships in these areas of national development for Barbadians. Clearly, the economy, energy enhancement and water resource management are some of those areas that need advancing and the encouragement of our young people to go into these areas for the benefit of the development of our country and beautiful nation state over the next 50 years.

Again, we cannot let this debate conclude, Mr. Speaker... In fact, I believe that my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East referred to it in her speech just before lunch, that it was the Barbados Labour Party Administration - I thought in fact it was the Tom Adams Administration that first did it, she felt it was the last -- that incentivised the creation of a new industry and area of the economy of Barbados, the solar water-heating industry by providing tax incentives for persons to install solar water-heaters on their homes. If I recall, up to \$3 500 was given as a tax allowance for the installation of solar water systems under the Tom Adams regime. This is the kind of thinking and vision that Barbados Labour Party Governments always bring to the table as opposed to that by the Democratic Labour Party Government, the last two Administrations of which have both removed the vast majority of tax incentives which would help grow the economy rather than continue its reduction as has been happening under the Democratic Labour Party rule within recent times.

We have to be concerned, Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, have said in their speeches earlier today, about the decline in agriculture over the years under the Democratic Labour Party Administration. I do not want to go back to the excellence of the Right Honourable...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. At no point at all in the statement I made this morning did I talk about or say that the agricultural sector declined under the Democratic Labour Party. I did not, so I would like the Honourable Member really to be clear.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is noted. I am sure that the Honourable Member would be guided accordingly.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, my interpretation of what the Honourable Member said was that he agreed that there was a decline. I mean he might not have said that in so many words, but...

Mr. SPEAKER: Make good use of your time Honourable Member, please.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I do not want to toil on the excellence of our National Hero, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow because I know that the Democratic Labour Party would say that his no cane blades speech was misinterpreted and taken out of context, but we have a situation now of course where I do not even know if we have been given the figure of the amount of tonnes that were reaped in sugar cane in Barbados this year. I do not even know if we have been given the figure of the amount of tonnes that were reaped in sugar cane in Barbados this year. I certainly might have missed it, but I have not heard a figure; whether it was 7 000, 6 000 or 8 000, but certainly we have had a tremendous decline in all aspects of agriculture, including the sugar cane industry under the Democratic Labour Party Government over the last eight-and-a-half years. This really and truly is contrary, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas pointed out, to the rhetoric delivered in the Democratic Labour Party Manifestoes of both 2008 and 2013. The 2008 Manifesto at Page 42 promised the creation of a new land use policy and that, American style, in the first 100 days they would lay an Agricultural Protection Act which would require a two-thirds majority. The amazing thing, Mr. Speaker, is that the Democratic Labour Party Government had the two-thirds majority upon coming into office in 2008 and could easily have passed that Agricultural Protection Act as promised in their 2008 Manifesto within the first 100 days of its Administration. Thirty thousand acres were to be reserved for agricultural use. I know certainly that is not the case, as we speak. There was also to be, according to that Manifesto on whose basis the Democratic Labour Party was elected, a change of zoning of land. Any change of zoning of land was to be approved by this Parliament of Barbados, but that has not been the case either. Sir, this would without doubt have been the input of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that, at Page 42 of the Manifesto under "Amendments to the Land Acquisition Act", that Act was to be amended to require Government to pay compensation on the replacement value of the land rather than the market value of the property being acquired, but that is not the case. That is right out of the book of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I do not think he would mind me giving him credit for that. He speaks about that regularly on the Floor of this Parliament. He obviously has not been able, however, to make any impression whatsoever on his fellow Cabinet colleagues in that respect; needless to say in other respects either. Instead, we have a situation where -- as previously, Sir, and I would not be insincere to say otherwise - people whose land have been acquired continue to be deprived of monetary compensation for years and sometimes decades in breach of all rules of natural justice, both nationally and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, these are the areas in which the Democratic Labour Party has really and truly brought rhetoric, as usual, to the table rather than action, and not followed through on its promised word, both spoken and

written, as outlined in its Manifesto and on the political platforms in its successful attempt to gain the Government of Barbados in 2008. Again, in the 2012 Manifesto, the last Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party Government, a Document of the House, it states "The Democratic Labour Party Administration will expand the water supply in the south and east of the island." Sir, my geography tells me that the east of the island is St. Joseph and St. Andrew, St. John even, and many parts of those three parishes have been without water on a daily basis for the last 18 months. Sir, my whole point is that we have a Resolution before Parliament which sounds good in terms of words and rhetoric, but that does not really bring any joy to any of the people we represent at the constituency level where these words have to be put into action and real meaning. That is what I would like to see the Cabinet of Barbados, led as mandated by the Honourable Minister of the Environment, bring into action so that this makes a real difference in terms of our constituents; in my case, persons in Sion Hill, Ashton and Trents. Sir, if I am to talk about Trents, the Democratic Labour Party, in its book entitled 'DLP Performance 2008-2012', speaks about the launch of two flood relief projects in 2009, one of which was the Hometown Flood Mitigation Project in St. James. Sir, I do not know who is the author of this document which, of course, is a Document of the House as well, but when I drove through Trents which is part of Hometown on Sunday night at about nine o' clock on my way home from the Barbados Labour Party conference, I was a bit petrified and apprehensive driving my sports utility vehicle (SUV), a very good vehicle, a Fortuna, through Trents in case I got stuck in one of the four lakes that were there because of the rainfall that day. I really do not know what we are talking about in terms of relief projects in Hometown. Sir, these are the issues that I speak to when I speak to making a real difference in terms of the lives of the people of Barbados. As far as someone living in Trents is concerned, I stopped at a lady who had a birthday over the weekend and I spoke to her, and she could not get out of her house in ordinary shoes. She would have had to wear boots to go out, and that is Hometown; so, Sir, we are talking about translating the words of this Resolution into something positive, because that is what we are here for. We are not here for pretty words and language and Latin phrases and quotes from the Bible, as sound as they are, but we have to make a difference positively in the lives of our people on a daily basis. This is my tremendous concern, Sir.

We have a situation where we need more green spaces in this country; what is the Government's policy on the creation of green spaces? This would be environmentally sound if we talked about environmental soundness. Some of us have had the privilege on both sides of this Parliament to go to Singapore, and we see the green spaces on a land mass not that much bigger than Barbados', yet five million people live there and green spaces are all about Singapore. We do not have that in Barbados. Where

is the policy on creation of green spaces in this country? I agree, even though he may not want me to credit him with it based on his intervention earlier with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central who spoke about agriculture being needed for the enhancement of the aesthetics in Barbados and for the rainfall. We know that. One does not have to be a scientist to know that, but yet as I said, we have not seen an agricultural policy to increase the agriculture in Barbados after the Honourable Minister, mandated with the responsibility for agriculture, I believe, said in this Parliament that he was going to plough up Barbados from north to south and from east to west, and even plough up the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter if he got in the way. We have not seen that in real action, Sir. Instead, we hear excuses from that Honourable Minister that he cannot bring down rain and that is the reason why we are not getting water. He cannot bring down rain, but as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central said, agriculture, trees and so on help with the rainfall. Where is the Government's guidance at the policy level on these issues? The people of Barbados gave the Democratic Labour Party the mandate to govern Barbados for five years, yes, and they have to take responsibility. It cannot be a situation where four, five or six Ministers say, "Do not blame me. That is not me. I am not taking responsibility for that." We are big men and big women, given tremendous responsibility for 270 000-odd people in this country. Let us accept the responsibility and get things done, and not only deal with words and Resolutions and flying about the world to these big environmental conferences and taking the photo opportunity pictures and making our big speeches. We need that but we need real difference among the people of Barbados as well.

Mr. Speaker, again, the water issue is tied up with the environment and the Green Economy Scoping Study speaks about water. This is and has to be a serious concern where almost one-fifth of the people of Barbados are waking up tomorrow morning without knowing whether or not there is going to be water flowing when they turn on their taps. We have a situation where the Ellerton Primary School had to be closed yesterday because of not having water. The Deighton Griffith Secondary School had to be closed early today because of not having water. Mr. Speaker, what is happening with us?

Mr. Speaker, what is happening with us? After 50 years of political Independence we cannot even bring water to a school now? We do not even have management regarding the water tanks that could ensure that if the water goes off, that the water tanks can supply water to the school. We have to take responsibility. Sir, in the constituency of St. James North we are beginning to experience water problem in terms of distribution over the last three weekends. This was blamed on the breakdown of a pump at Molineaux. I do not know if the part has come as yet but what we are having is brown, dirty water for the last

18 month. This is unhealthy, we have to take a handle on this, we cannot continue to say that the problem is too big or that it was there for some time. The Democratic Labour Party is an Administration that has been in office now for 8½ years, time long enough for them to fix problems that the ordinary citizens of this country encounter.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution also speaks to the issue of the National Conservation Commission, one of the primary agencies of Government in terms of the environment enhancement of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, how the National Conservation Commission has been treated by this Government is something which is shameful and which if you did not laugh you would cry. Sir, it has moved from a situation where 200 workers were dismissed unceremoniously and without just cause, where the Right Honourable Prime Minister by his public statements made in May 2013, clearly from his legal background understood that they were being unfairly, that they were wrongfully and unfairly dismissed, yet we had reference of that matter to an Employment Rights Tribunal that had been passed by both Houses of Parliament but could not be found anywhere in real or practical terms in any part of Barbados. It had not been established so that the workers were carried through a whole set of mental turmoil for 2½ years.

Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART: On a point of elucidation. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member as the Honourable Member oscillates between dotage and anecdote, but the Honourable Member is misleading this House. Mr. Speaker, the reference of that National Conservation Commission matter to the Employment Rights Tribunal was at the written request of the Trade Unions with whom I met at Government Headquarters on that now famous Sunday. It was at the written request of the Trade Unions, it was not the Right Honourable Prime Minister referring anything. The Trade Unions said that it would put them in a very invidious position if they had to decide which of their members should work and who should not work and that therefore the best persons to decide that would be a tribunal, and that request was made in writing by the Trade Unions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you for the elucidation. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, while I have no doubt not to believe my learned friend of many years, I was not at the meeting but certainly the Trade Unionist as was reported by the Press said that the matter had been referred to them. They did not say anything about a written request and that, in fact, the matter would have been decided on in a matter of five days. That was the report given, that by the end of the week the matter would have been decided upon, but the five days turned out to be 2½ years. Mr. Speaker, when all was said and done the decision that was given was already known, it could have been decided upon on the

same day of that infamous last day of May, 2014, to which the Right Honourable Prime Minister referred.

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

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, whether or not we agreed that a letter was written, really and truly, if that is so then that letter ought to be made a document of this Honourable House, but as hard-pressed as the Barbadian taxpayers were with 35 new or additional increases in taxes since the Democratic Labour Party came to office in 2008, it cost the Barbadian taxpayers over \$3 million of our hard-earned money that have to be paid out, yet the taxpayers cannot even get back their income tax returns from two years ago, neither can public servants get an increase in salaries now for seven years under this Democratic Labour Party Government.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is that there is case law precedence coming out of the highest Court of Appeal of this nation State, Barbados, that is the Caribbean Court of Justice, where a minister of government abuses his authority he should be financially bound to repay the taxpayers that money. Therefore, the question arises whether the Minister of the Environment and Drainage has made the decision...

Mr. Speaker, it was reported that the list of who will go home and who will not go home was in the hands of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. Therefore, the question arises as to whether there was an abuse of authority as defined by the Caribbean Court of Justice in a case arising out of Belize, such that the Minister of the Environment and Drainage should be financially liable to the people of Barbados to the tune of \$3 million, because the Cabinet of Barbados as was announced by the Minister responsible had decided on a last-in/first-out policy, yet we found that employees with 10, 15 or 20 years' service were sent home from the National Conservation Commission and to the detriment of the taxpayers of Barbados who now have to find \$3 million in an era of severe economic recession to pay to these workers, but that is Democratic Labour Party governance.

Mr. Speaker, though the Resolution speaks to characterised by good governance, this Democratic Labour Party Administration rule has been anything other than characteristic of good governance, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, their commitment to good governance has only been rhetorical, there has been a tremendous lack of transparency, accountability and good governance in this Democratic Labour Party Administration, whether it has to do with Cahill, whether it has to deal with how much these private haulers are now being paid to collect garbage. I mean, the \$411 or whatever it is per load had to come from one of the private haulers rather than from any Government

minister, as it ought to have been done. There is a total lack of good governance by this Democratic Labour Party Administration, but we understand as the public does that this characterised by good governance in this Clause 5 is just really and truly pure rhetoric because it sounds good. I agree though, Mr. Speaker, with the Right Honourable Prime Minister and in consonance with Clause 4 that we need to remind Barbadians of the importance of continuing to be good stewards of our country's natural environment and I am at all fours with the Right Honourable Prime Minister on this, a speech which he delivered earlier in this session of Parliament. I would have love to have been able, like him, to have somebody on many occasions hone down people that I see in front of me throwing garbage out of a mini-bus or a vehicle on to the street and these are Barbadians who call themselves patriotic.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up, your time has expired.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Yes, Sir, I will do that. We really have to come together as one on this issue and try and educate Barbadians. That is not the thing to do. In some countries, in fact, that is a prison sentence but we have people who think nothing of doing this.

Mr. Speaker, this is an area where we would like to see action on an enhancement of environmental policy and the creation of jobs for Barbadians in the green economy to help sustain the development of this country both for our nationals, residence, Barbadian citizens and also in terms of our tourism development. I am obliged, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a very brief contribution to this Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber this afternoon.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Environment and certainly its staff but in particular, I want to congratulate the Minister for his nearly five hours presentation last week. It surely points to the way that he is again in fine fettle. He proves that he is as fit as a fiddle and with God's help he is back to his good self. He displayed certainly a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter which is before this Honourable Chamber today and he brought a degree of scholarship to the presentation before this Honourable House. I also want to congratulate the Ministry for producing this fine document that is before the Honourable House, the Green Economy Scoping Study. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, it is a comprehensive document checker blocked with information. I consider it a treasure trove of good information, data and, of course, statistics and facts. The

kind of that is providing us with a blue print, a road map and I would dear say a template which this Government will use to chart the course of our green economy policy and our green economy planning.

The Barbados Labour Party (BLP), on the other, so far, Mr. Speaker, all of the contributors on the Other Side, they clearly show that they absolutely have not grasp of the subject matter that is before us. I do not believe they took time to go through the Scoping Study document page by page or leaf by leaf to see exactly what is contained in this document. Certainly from the presentations that we have heard so far, it shows that they are bereft of any knowledge of what is contained in this document. The brought no debt to the debate whatsoever. It was a clear departure from the course set by the Honourable Minister in exactly how we should address this particular debate and they dealt only with some peripheral matters concerning garbage collections and, in some cases, water issues. They even touched on poor tropical Matthew. Of course, all of these issue before us this day, Mr. Speaker, the solutions could be found in that document. In the case of the Honourable Member for St. George South, he made a bold claim, when he made his contribution last Tuesday, I think it was, that the DLP is treating the staff of the SSA, he says we, "are treating the workers badly". Those is his comment. He says there is absolutely no social equity whatsoever displayed by the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration towards the workers at the SSA. He says that we want to privatise the SSA and that, of course, is supported by several commentators in this House and outside of this House and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Honourable Minister of the Environment made it clear that this Administration has absolutely no plans to privatise the SSA but the Honourable Member for St. George South still maintains that we want to privatise the SSA and send home workers.

I want just to ask this Honourable Chamber, Mr. Speaker, do we have a garbage collection problem that everybody in this country knows about? Does the SSA have the requisite number of trucks at this time or are there areas in Barbados that are not being serviced by the SSA as regularly as they ought to? If the answer is yes then this as a responsible Administration, we will have to make a decision to correct that ill. It is as simple and as straightforward as that. If the answer is yes, we have to engage the private sector haulers if we do not have the requisite number of trucks within the SSA as an Administration. The more we try, as an Administration, to address some of the ills that afflict this society the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) through one corner of their mouth are accusing us, as an Administration, of not doing the things that ought to be done. When there is an attempt to correct the ills ...

Aside.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: We have to start from somewhere but we are achieving this because the garbage collection problem at this time is not as adverse as it was a few weeks ago. The water problem as it was is much alleviated, certainly in some of the areas that were affected previously, but the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) does not want to see any problems corrected in this country. They want these problems to linger on. All the talk they are running all about the country, length and breadth of Barbados from St. Lucy in the North to Christ Church in the South, talking that they want problems alleviated, they do not really want to see any problems alleviated. That shows that they are really not concerned about the individual constituents or the individual constituencies, they want these problems to linger on as much as possible because they want to use the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration as some whipping boy. The problems are being corrected and we have applied ourselves to the task and we are saying that there is a problem in garbage collection. Yes, this Administration has admitted that and we have applied a solution to it. There was a problem with servicing water in certain areas and we are addressing that problem also.

The last speaker on that side, if there are burst mains, which they should have serviced, Mr. Speaker, they had 14 years in Government and awash with money. They did not apply themselves to correcting anything along the lines of the new mains lane. We have mains in this country, everybody admits, that are 100 years old. Certain corrective measures should have been made under the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Administration between the year 1994 and the year 2008. Did they do it? Absolutely not. Now that they have some burst mains every now and then throughout the island ...

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Absolutely, the Main Guard is falling down around the people. They are even blaming us for the burst mains in Barbados. If a school has to close or a few schools have to close and it is because they have burst mains, well then they have to close. You would think, Mr. Speaker, that the first time schools have been closed because of burst mains or disruptions in the water flow in Barbados is under this Administration. I cannot understand it.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Yes, that is right, they shut down the whole island when they congregated all of the school children in Barbados at the gymnasium a few years ago. These things were neglected by the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the debate I heard a Member of the Barbados Labour Party questioned why is this Administration spending so much money and time in celebrating Barbados. According to the Barbados Labour Party, there is nothing at all, absolutely nothing, zilch, to celebrate in this country. We should all be walking around in long black clothes with saddened faces, draped in sackcloth and ashes, there is nothing to celebrate. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph even proffered that he will have nothing whatever to do with the celebrations of Barbados' 50th Anniversary celebrations. A guest speaker turned up at their conference, a good Reverend, and cooperated what the Honourable Member said. He too is joining the link saying that he is not celebrating anything about Barbados' celebrations. A member of the delegation who led the delegation up to the Barbados Water Authority in protestation over the lack of water is also telling people that he is not celebrating anything. The confirmed candidate to run against our colleague from Christ Church South went further and said that he would kick down the Trident, mash it up.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: He says he has nothing to do with the Trident, imagine that, a symbol of our sovereignty as a country and that he would kick it down and spit on it, that it is made out of cardboard and some old iron.

I will tell you something. I hope that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South when he traverses Christ Church South reminds the good constituents that this is a candidate who is presenting himself to represent their interest in this Honourable House who has absolutely no respect for the symbols of this sovereign nation.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Absolutely. He turns up to rub shoulders with the average citizen, the average constituents in Christ Church South, but he is fully clothed in a long sleeve polka dot shirt trying to make a case for himself.

We have a lot to celebrate in this country, Mr. Speaker, without doubt, and the Democratic Labour Party will lead the charge in celebrating what we have to celebrate in this country with or without the Barbados Labour Party. They can stay home if they like, who cares. As a matter of fact, they would make room for more Barbadians to come and join us in this celebration of our 50th year of jubilee. Let them stay home. We care nothing about them if they present themselves or if they do not. We have a lot to celebrate, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Oh, the good colonel's turn would come. He understands patriotism. He is wrapped in patriotism. He is cloaked in patriotism. This is why I like to call him out because I believe he is the conscience of the Barbados Labour Party. He stands head and shoulder above all of them. He is the conscience of the Barbados Labour Party. He is the shining light, the north star of the Barbados Labour Party. We like him a lot on this side. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we could find some room for him because he is out of place on that side.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, what do we have to celebrate on this side? I am amazed at the Barbados Labour Party. They say that philanthropy is on the wane, that sharing and caring is no more and that vending and entrepreneurship is almost at nil. All of that I heard from the Barbados Labour Party. Mr. Speaker, our experience on this side is quite different. In terms of philanthropy, philanthropy is alive and well in this country. It is on the increase I may add. We have as organisations out there, the Maria Holder Trust, the Children's Trust and the Sandy Lane Trust. We have overseas organisations throughout our diaspora who are breaking down the doors of Barbados trying to come to Barbados to offer areas of philanthropy in terms of the United States of America, Great Britain and Canada. We have the Carrie Layne Trust and the Robinson Smile Trust. We have several trusts of people in our diaspora who are willing to make philanthropic donations to this country. We have people breaking down the doors to offer the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a service in terms of philanthropy.

When it comes to sharing and caring, the churches and the schools in Barbados are always in the business of sharing in caring. Every single school year we have schools and churches participating in contributing to the school items, wheelchairs and all of the assisted devices. People are coming on board and making a worthy contribution in terms of sharing and caring in this country. We also have our service organisations. The Kiwanis, the Rotary and the Optimist Clubs are still in the business of sharing and caring. Our non-governmental organisations are also on board when it comes to sharing and caring.

There is no waning or there is no dearth of sharing and caring in Barbados according to the Barbados Labour Party. They always want to paint Barbados as this backwater failed state society where nothing works and everybody is up against the Democratic Labour Party and up against this Administration, and how the people in Barbados are suffering and their bellies are to their backs. All of that kind of pejorative nonsense is being uttered by the Barbados Labour Party. I cannot understand them. Vending and entrepreneurship in this country is alive and well. It is flourishing like any other time in Barbados. Coconut vendors, vegetables vendors, food vendors are proliferating throughout this country. I had an occasion to

drive up the highway from the Bussa Roundabout to as far as Bailey's Primary School and it is littered with small business people providing foods, fruits and all kinds of things; entrepreneurship. People are displaying thrift and enterprise in this country in this time because of course we are going through some economic downturn and people are finding other means of supporting themselves not like the Barbados Labour Party talking. Anyway. Along the highway from Walmer Lodge down to Weston in St. James again a lot of entrepreneurs are on board making things better for themselves. When you drive through every single village and community in this Barbados on weekends, on Friday nights and especially on Saturdays, people are selling stuff, selling foods. Some Saturdays you have pudding and souse vendors and all kinds of vendors doing all kinds of wonderful things. People are alive and well in this country, Mr. Speaker.

What else do we have to celebrate? We can celebrate our tourism numbers going north in every aspect and every respect. Spending of long stay visitors is up by 10.3 per cent bringing an additional \$104 million to the economy of Barbados. Stay over arrivals grew by 5.6 per cent with some 24 000 more people coming to our island through the Grantley Adams International Airport and the Bridgetown Port.

What do we have to celebrate, Mr. Speaker? The number of infected persons with HIV/AIDS are on the decline in Barbados as I speak. There is absolutely no mother to child transmission of HIV or AIDS in this country of Barbados

Every single infected HIV/AIDS person in Barbados can access the antiretroviral drugs through the Ladymeade Reference Unit or through their private practitioner. Is that not something to celebrate, Mr. Speaker? I hope that the Barbados Labour Party and its Members are listening. Mr. Speaker, the Awareness programme through the National HIV/AIDS Commission is making a difference in Barbados. What do we have to celebrate in this country? We have to celebrate several hundred new houses built by this Administration since we came to office in 2008, and a lot of them being occupied, with more of them to be occupied. On the Greenfield spots where those houses were built, this Barbados Labour Party Administration for 14 years where those houses are now built and constructed bush was once on those spots, mosquitoes were once on those spots, empty lots and rotten steel were all on those spots but you can now find houses for Barbadians. Is that not something to celebrate? This country has to celebrate. Every single child who wants to attend school can attend school in this country and they can get there by free transportation if they so choose. Can we not celebrate that? Pensioners are paid on time every month, while public officers are paid every 25th or 26th day of the month. They can turn up at their bank of choice and can get their

salaries. Freedom of association, so free is the association in Barbados that confirmed candidates of the Barbados Labour Party, public officers, can freely associate with the Barbados Labour Party without suffering any kind of consequences averse. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, so free is the association in Barbados. We have freedom of worship in Barbados, Mr. Speaker. We have freedom of assembly, and every single beach in Barbados can be accessed by the average member of the public in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make those points in support of the Minister of the Environment and Drainage and Honourable Member for Christ Church East. Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central I want to recommend this Green Economy Scoping Study to this Honourable House as a national information document and commend it to the good people of Barbados. I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the Green Economy Scoping Study sets out a broad agenda, a vision of what we all hope in Barbados, and I believe on both sides, would be a framework for the changeover of what we would have known historically: how we operated, our economy and society, how we conserve on one side and use on the other side the resources which are provided here in Barbados and those which we bring into the country to help feed and clothe our people, to help with our infrastructural development both in our buildings and road works, how we are able to clean our streets, our gullies, our beaches and every other part of Barbados. It says as well that it is part of a new or extended thinking about how we would want to see the general economy of Barbados and the performance within that economy. It also says that we recognise that (1), there is major climatic changes in the world and that Barbados is, in fact, a vulnerable country located as it is in the Atlantic and touched a bit by the Caribbean Sea. It says as well that from time to time tropical storms, hurricanes and other natural disasters can visit Barbados and how we are able, (1), to sustain those natural disasters or how we are able to recover from those natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, we have not had any major hurricanes or tropical storms in Barbados since, I believe, 1955, but we have had brushes with torrential rains. Sir, an Honourable Member from the other side spoke of flooding as part of the western side of Barbados, but one can remember one of our calypsonians being swept out to sea several years ago as a result of a massive amount of water moving from inland towards the coast and sweeping all that was before it in to the sea and as an island we are totally surrounded by sea.

Mr. Speaker, we know the mighty rush of water as it gains momentum, as it picks up boulders and other debris and sweeps them all before. They all become battering rams and the lives of persons, including animals, our homes, et cetera, can all disappear.

Mr. Speaker, we are also aware of major land slippage in the Scotland District of Barbados. Though a unique and geological formation, we know that it is extremely fragile. Mr. Speaker, that is also part of our Green Economy Scoping Study: How do we cause persons to live in that area? How do we cause flora to grow? How do we protect that land space for persons who want to see it and for persons who want to live there?

We know as well that in that area some of the most beautiful parts of Barbados as well exist, but we view that area with some trepidation because one does not know at what time you will see or feel the movement of land in that area. Only in the last two years we had to close one school in that area because of the drift and the movement of land. Thankfully, we were able to locate those students to a school not too far away and to put on board transportation to help move those who needed transportation to A.DaCosta Edwards Primary School. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note the tremendous work of the teachers, parents and the students. In fact, the profile of that school has so substantially changed that it is amazing, because of bringing people from a given area together to share and to exchange knowledge and information.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want, as was done by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, to get caught up in the parochial argument. This is a macro study and we know that out of macro would then flow the micro initiatives to really bring flesh onto this Green Economy Scoping Study. Sir, I can get up and say that as part of this the housing areas are owned by the National Housing Corporation and so there is no responsibility on the part of those who reside in those areas and who inhabit those houses for them to ensure that their environment is clean. I was wondering what the Honourable Member was talking about. Wherever we have human habitation and if we are conscious of our environment, it is our responsibility to assist in maintaining our environment and as pleasant a condition as possible. Some of the foolish statements you hear, and I am not ascribing that to the Honourable Member but sometimes you hear that: "We have a Sanitation Service Authority so I can throw my garbage out through the window or I can bring my garbage from another area and deposit it in another area because they are there to remove it." That is Neanderthal thinking. Barbados belongs to all of us. This is not a political issue, or should I say a partisan political issue. It is political action in order to get the Green Economy Scoping Study being effected across Barbados, but what we have been having, particularly over the last eight-and-a-half years, is some of

the most partisan political talk and argument from the other side, as though they do not also exist in Barbados. Is this kind of behaviour simply to get into Ilaro Court or into Government Headquarters? Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, the citizens of Barbados decide, regardless of how pretty you sound, how pretty you look, like the Honourable Member for St. George South, or any of these things. Regardless, they make the final choice within this great democracy. Yes, some people might cry, some people might shudder and whatever, but that is the reality. We have gone through this reality every five years or so, and we have continued as a country. We have to stop simply blaming. It gets us nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time when citizens of Barbados used to clear a few feet away from the entrance to their homes, and if homes were lined up you would find that the whole strip became cleared as a result of action of the citizens. Today, I pass and I see dunks trees hanging in yards, bush growing a few feet from the entrance to homes, and persons just passing and saying that there is either a National Conservation Commission, which really should be working at the beaches and parks and so on, or a Ministry of Transport and Works and things like that. This is not the Barbados or the Barbadians I know, so somewhere along the line there had to be partisan political talk getting into the minds of the citizens of Barbados to suggest "You pay taxes so you do not have to assist in the development of Barbados. You do not have to assist in the cleaning of Barbados." I mean I just do not understand it. I have seen a bit of goodwill, especially when we had the Sargassum seaweed around, where some citizens got involved; that is good. I have seen young students in our schools, in the Girls' Guides, Boys' Scouts and others, doing cleanups along our beaches. I have seen that, and that is good for Barbados, and it must be more encouraged. We live here.

Mr. Speaker, I have been extremely distressed over the past few months. I became very concerned with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, because he had to carry on his back as Minister responsible for the Environment and Drainage and so on, because Ministers are held responsible; it is our portfolio. However, it was the burden of a country that did not respond well to the movement of garbage. We knew that there were restrictions as a result of not having enough; and I do not know when Barbados has ever had enough of everything that it needed, but we have had co-operation in trying to move garbage. The Sanitation Service Authority, I know, would historically say, "We are coming through on Wednesdays. You can put out your garbage then, let us say, the Tuesday night for movement." Today nobody any longer adheres to these kinds of things. They bring it out at any time, put it in some instances anywhere, so the co-operation has disappeared. In order to deal with that, the Sanitation Service Authority said, "We will bring on board interested parties from the private sector to help move this garbage, to

bring Barbados back into the kind of sightly and clean state that we know. We know that this will cost a few cents.” They were brought on board; persons with compactor vehicles and other means of transportation, working in harmony and in collaboration with the Sanitation Service Authority. We have seen, Sir, much of that. It is not all yet finished but a substantial improvement has taken place in Barbados; and rather than celebrate the achievement, the partisan political diatribe had to be inserted wickedly and maliciously into the process. I want to repeat that: The partisan political diatribe had to be wickedly and maliciously inserted into the process. They were saying, “You are going to privatise the Sanitation Service Authority.” Where are we going? Not everything can be boiled down to partisan politics. If that is what we fight to get into the House for, then let us all move out en masse; simply move out.

We were put here by the people to lead, to give them confidence, to assist in their motivation; not to undermine them in their own country, but that is what we have been having. Then others who know better join this merry parade of lies, of sabotage; because part of it is sabotaging the work and the efforts. Then there are persons who wake up in a stupor from their beds and climb onto the call-in programmes and spread this same level of wickedness. I do not want to live in a country where partisan politics determine every single thing that we do. I do not want to be part of that country. In other words, I want to be in a country where -- regardless of how we fight the political battle, as we did when I, as a new parliamentarian, was sitting on the other side --when the Government of the day brought legislation which demanded our support, we gave that support. When we wanted to have the issue of free movement of people during the World Cup, we could have taken a partisan political decision and frustrate the effort. That was not our posture. What we did was that we worked and co-operated with the Government of the day. When the now Member for the City was given millions of dollars leading up to the World Cup to improve the conditions near to Kensington Oval, millions of dollars....

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I do not want to get partisan on it. He knows in his conscience what he tried to do. He knew that failed in several areas, but he had good intentions. He failed in several areas. He could not predict everything. He could not predict as much rotten wood as would have been found, so he just painted right through; you put on a gloss on the gingerbread. We understood that. We did not quarrel and fight and get into a furore or anything like that, but what we are having now is unfortunate for Barbados. Barbados needs to be cleaned. Barbados needs to be cleaned, Barbados needs to be debushed and it is resources that have hindered all of this. We need greater cooperation. You have the Honourable

Member for St. Michael South East trying to tell either the Minister of Health or the Minister of Environment and Drainage who will deal with the project of getting some of that bush off the streets and stuff like that, oh you must hire A, you must hire B, you must hire C, those decisions are left to the Government. This has always been the case but all of a sudden they now have already become the Government. In truth and in fact, they were the Government since 2008. That is the problem. They no longer want to serve in the Parliament as part of the process of democracy they want to be the Government and the Honourable Member for St. James North, in his usual uninspiring tirade, gets into these verbal convulsions and trying to suggest to all and sundry and even though corrected, somehow the denseness of his thoughts cannot be penetrated by what is right. How can we govern in circumstances such as this? If you open your eyes at some time you must see light because there is darkness and there is light but it seems that all that surrounds the Honourable Member for St. James North is darkness. He would not open his eyes and see. You must give to Jill what is Jill's and to Jack what is Jack's and the people that you serve or that you are looking to serve will be pleased with you rather than your contributions which are so negative and sinks this Honourable House into the kind of mire that you do each time you speak.

I support our initiatives and I do not think that even on This Side -- let me be frank with you -- we are doing these things, we are seeing the growth in tourism, there are things happening in education at the tertiary level. We now have six offshore medical universities, Mr. Speaker, being established here in Barbados. There is a changing pattern in our economic fortunes. We are re-planting and planting structures so that we can have another good run for 40 to 50 years beyond now and the Green Scoping Study is but a part of this initiative and a part of this effort. It all has also to tie up with the issue of agriculture. Are we going to go into a remote over field agriculture or are we going to be a little more conservative and into greenhouse technologies with greater production, production from weeds and pests and all of these things. All of these things are happening. Maybe we have to speak more to the country, maybe we have to educate the country more, maybe we have to provide more information to the country and maybe we have to have the partisan voices silenced for national good. Maybe that is what has to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot call for the Honourable Member for St. James North or the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to be silent this is part of their DNA and regardless of what you do this is what they will say and this is how they will behave because this is how they are, you cannot change them anymore. There will always be some difficulty that they will find. We have to recommit ourselves as citizens of Barbados to the efforts of Barbadians, to the efforts of our brothers and sisters within

the Caribbean. We have been a fortunate people and not the only people that God has blessed because when we say that God has spared us but hit Haiti there is something sacrilegious about that, but nature act sometimes to spare us and we have not really been thankful.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in another place that when Matthew passed by if we had the lashes of Matthew in any significant way, not just some water today we would still be fighting and struggling out of the degradation of our country. Then somebody could be talking about Cholera that has not been seen in this country, I do not know, Mr. Speaker, for what, 100 years? We had Cholera grounds in Barbados not within the last 50 years. I heard my grandmother speak of Cholera grounds, some in St. Michael, some in Christ Church but yet you are hearing from the partisan political divide notions of Cholera. The people in parts of Haiti within the last years have been affected by Cholera, not developed in that but brought in by one group of United Nations people and it does not disappear easily. We have good health standards in Barbados. Our water supply has been excellent but what has happened now is that when you do not pay enough attention to something, when you take things for granted, we took our water supply for granted.

During the months of June to December, historically we get most of our rainfall and we get that because of the turbulence in the Atlantic Ocean coming off the coast of Africa, storms, hurricanes and tropical depressions, all of that, and we get rain as a result of that not as a result - even though as attractive as the Honourable Member for St. James North said -- of bush growing around Barbados.

I have been to Bermuda, Sir, and when I was going in I saw all of these roofs painted white so you know, in my curiosity once I landed, my question was: why are all of these roofs painted white? Acts, bring rain so it creates a thing you call convection heat up and brings some rain because it is also a water-scarce country and they all have places or storage for water that comes off the roof, treated and used within their homes and they are only replenished by the water from the central authority if you have had drought or you were not able to collect water, and in several parts of the northern Caribbean this exists. We are at a stage now, as a result of drought conditions, as a result of the displacement of mains, as a result of having taken too much in an expanding habitation where more and more people are here. We are putting up more and more facilities using more and more of our water. If you hear the Honourable Member for St. Philip West you have to understand the point. What we are doing now, and we can argue and that can become partisan, but it is a fact. We can argue that the last Government should have been sufficiently conscious that they should have started to work on this process and they did but then they abandoned it. We came in, put into place, not only 60 or 70 per cent of the

water from Ionics but put in additional mains to bring the 100 per cent out to service Barbados. We recognise that major housing development was going to take place in the south and east of Barbados so we looked at finding water in St. Philip and water was found in St. Philip. We then had to divert that water from St. Philip to help with the issues in St. Joseph, St. John and St. Thomas. I felt the pain of the people of those areas because I also knew how it was coming up in Barbados. We were surrounded by sugar cane and there were several cane factories and during that cane reaping period where you had Bulkeley, Searles, Woodbourne, Foursquare and all of those factories grinding, we had no water between 6 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Speaker, what we have to do is to stop this fighting. If you have a good idea put that idea in the pool. You know what happens in the partisan political divide that we exists in, you choke on a good idea for five years and then you would say I am going to put it in place now but by that time you are dead and the good idea is dead.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have three minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thank you, Sir. I want to see genuinely a change in this level of behaviour. We have a whole group of young people growing up under the Broken Trident who have had hope in the past, we have had that, they have benefitted substantially from health and education and we have sent them to all parts of the world and they have been exemplars and ambassadors for Barbados, and now what are you getting? Some of those who benefitted more than others are talking about kicking down the Trident. I felt the pain because I said I know this gentleman and it cannot be like that, but again the partisan political divide.

I remember that when this House celebrated 300 and something years when the other Government was in power and they had all kinds of parades at the National Stadium, we did not say we are not going to participate and we are not going to be involved, we said this is Barbados where two political parties exist in this way and that we must work together and harness the resources of Barbados for the best of this country. The resources of Barbados would be harnessed not only within its physical environment but within its emotional and cognitive environment as well where good brains and good hearts can work together and cooperate, and the Green Economy Scoping Study with its macro intentions can truly be a benefit for Barbados.

I hope that the young people of this country use their intellect and their good senses to work through the various issues that are presented to them every day within a partisan political complex. They must hang their hats

firmly on those positions or on those postures which say that Barbados is important to me.

In my final minute, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Honourable Member for St. James North, that yes, 23 National Development Scholarships were given in 2012, the previous year 11, but that those 23 were given not on the eve of any election, they were given because the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central had come up with the cultural industries initiative and as part of the movement of looking at culture as an economic sector more than 50 per cent of those National Development Scholarships were for that exercise, that is what happened because you did not have the amount of resources. In fact, sometimes you fluctuate between six and 10, most times 10, this year seven. If that is the way the Honourable Member thinks, I feel sorry because if the Honourable Member truly gets in the Cabinet of Barbados crapaud smoke our pipes because that is not how I think, we function in relation to programmes.

If the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown calls the Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation today and says Minister I need help with John Browne, it is given without hesitation because they are citizens of Barbados. Barbadians must not live across a river pointing spears and daggers at each other. If that is what the Honourable Member for St. James North wants, then let him live alone on Culpepper Island, but I am not sure the people of St. Philip would welcome him.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I support the Green Economy Scoping Study. Long live the Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join this debate in support of the Green Economy Scoping Study first of all to commend the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, for being able to pilot before this House a very important Resolution whose importance really should not be distracted by some of the machinations I have heard coming from the Members of the Opposition Barbados Labour Party.

I think this is a very pivotal point in terms of the national discourse of Barbados where indeed there is a requirement for men and women of great vision to come forward and to re-ignite the political, economic and social thought processes of Barbados. I think this debate, Mr. Speaker, has occurred at a very important juncture in our history as we are poised to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Barbados. My hope would have been that none of the

Members of this House would have missed the opportunity of being part of a discourse that would be very significant and certainly a turning point in terms of the focus upon which our journey not only started 50 years ago but to map before Barbadians who are listening to this debate a path that calls for new thinking of a dimension never before seen in the history of Barbados. That is the context, Mr. Speaker, in which I see this consideration of this Green Economy Scoping Study. It is not just a study.

I happened to hear some of the contributions in terms of dealing with some of the pressing matters of the day, whether they be issues pertaining to garbage collection, the burning issue of the availability of water and many of the present matters, which I am sure, Mr. Speaker, this Government would never be so naive as to deny required swift and corrective action. Indeed, that is the platform, Mr. Speaker, on which we came to Government in the first place to be able to level with the people of Barbados at every juncture and to prescribe and to embark on an action plan for deliverance in relation to issues that impact on their livelihood. What must be said, Mr. Speaker, is that we cannot bury our heads in the sand and preoccupy ourselves with narrow political interest which take the country's attention away from very important, what I call, core matters that are germane to even the very issues that the Barbados Labour Party spoke about in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, this Green Economy Scoping Study has the potential to transform the economic and social wellbeing of Barbados forever. It is not just a study which, as someone said, is pie-in-the-sky and words. In fact, when you go through the pages of this study... Mind you, the Minister did say in his introduction that there was significant contribution from the University of the West Indies on this Green Economy Scoping Study, which means that we would have had the collective intellectual capacity not only in terms of the technocrats, but the intellectual capital of our country has been utilised in crafting this Green Economy Scoping Study to create a new avenue upon which we can build the new Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I am certainly under no illusion, I believe that the Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development did a very good job in telling the Barbados Labour Party what it is that we have to celebrate, because at one point in the debate they were embarking on a message to suggest that do not let us focus anymore on this Green Economy Scoping Study because there were such larger issues and that Barbados, on the cusps of 50 years of political independence, suddenly has nothing to celebrate. Therefore, I must congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central for really putting the Barbados Labour Party in its rightful place.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago the Barbados Labour Party never really imagined that Barbados would have had the kind of focus to chart its path. In fact, had we relied on the Barbados Labour Party, Barbados would have never had the opportunity of being in charge of its own foreign affairs or being in charge of anything and that we would still be a colony of Great Britain had it been left to the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, I do not think that we need to demystify ourselves, the Barbados Labour Party will always continue to be a party that focuses on retrograde actions. I do not think that they believe even in themselves, that they can do anything that can uplift Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as I was crisscrossing the yard in relation to getting back to this Honourable House, I recalled that if we had to turn this debate into a partisan debate that the Barbados Labour Party wishes to embark upon, which it should not be, all of the things that they would have accused us of not doing.... Somebody said to me, but have they not forgotten that they left the Government with a debt that we had to pay, for example, Barack? Have they forgotten that they built a prison in circumstances that no new prison was required in Barbados, with millions of dollars of which they argued among themselves were either United States of America currency or Barbados currency but all of this, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. The Standing Orders relate to relevance. Therefore, I do not know what building of a prison has to do with a Green Economy Scoping Study.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is why I said that if we had to turn the debate into where the Barbados Labour Party was turning it... Mr. Speaker, I do agree with the Honourable Member for St. James North that 99.9 per cent of their contribution to the Resolution was really irrelevant. The Resolution, apparently, is pitching the debate a bit too high for the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I took the time to go through some of the critical elements of the Green Economy Scoping Study and to capture the vision that the Democratic Labour Party would wish to move Barbados towards. When you speak of a vision of transforming Barbados into the most economically advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean, when you connect with that vision first promulgated by the late Prime Minister, David Thompson, which we have continued relentlessly, when you speak to that vision you are talking about a significant shift in focus, you are talking about how we could transform Barbados in

terms of what we currently do, along a completely new paradigm, it is a paradigm shift.

Mr. Speaker, when you recognised that, for example, in 2010, the Government being one of the largest users of goods and services in Barbados would have utilised about 20 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product in consuming products and services, we are saying that if that is the extent to which the Government has that significant buying capacity then, in fact, if we are talking about a green economy, the Government by its very policy can shift the patterns of consumption in Barbados and save for Barbados some significant revenue, revenue which can then be utilised in dealing with some of the same issues that I heard my colleagues from the Opposition Benches talking about.

Mr. Speaker, Government is no longer as simple as some people would like to make it out to be, Government has become particularly in an age where we are threatened by climate change, where in fact all of the issues... Mr. Speaker, if you read the Green Economy Scoping Study you would see that it spoke to a number of key sectors. I did say to the Minister that, in fact, I thought that the Green Economy Scoping Study should have also embraced the very important area of culture. The very creativity, the innovative strengths and elements of the Barbadian society must be part and parcel of this revolution, this movement forward as we seek to achieve something that even the most enhanced industrialised countries have not been able to achieve. Mr. Speaker, that is why within the context of the United Nations family in terms of the international discourse that Barbados is seen as a leader on the issue of climate change, on the issue of dreaming and daring to become such a champion in relation to green economy and that Barbados is striking very large. Mr. Speaker, in fact, the same beneficiaries of billions of dollars in education over the years are some of the same experts who are emerging in the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage and in other Ministries who can put their heads together and come up with meaningful strategies and policies that will change Barbados for ever.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what we are dealing with is really a very significant debate. We talked about waste management and about how we are going to deal with the question of refuse disposal, et cetera. Mr. Speaker, all of these are caught up in calling on Barbados through a significant policy shift to move beyond our current level of thinking. In fact, when I went through the Green Economy Scoping Study, I recognised that perhaps every facet of our being is caught up in this.

Mr. Speaker, we are still trying to grapple with a huge and in my view an unsustainable import bill. Our level of imports, Mr. Speaker, in relation to what we are producing is really unsustainable and therefore this Green Economy Scoping Study is calling on a different approach,

it is calling on the diversification of the Barbadian economy, our energy policy, how we can utilise our natural gas, how we can transform our industrial processes, how we can better utilise our solar energy to save valuable foreign exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that if you really dissect this is a way that the man, woman, boy and girl who are listening to this debate can understand, then you would have to say that the Barbados Labour Party has again lost a pristine opportunity to add to this national dialogue. This is not, Mr. Speaker, about electioneering, the time for that will come. In fact, I believe oftentimes when you hear the Barbados Labour Party speaking and you go out there and hear young people telling you how disinterested they are in terms of some debates from this Honourable Chamber you will not be surprised, because unlike what the Barbados Labour Party is saying...

Mr. Speaker, I heard somebody saying that we do not have entrepreneurship in Barbados anymore and that our young people are misguided, that they do not know what they are doing. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if this is the same Barbados that I am living in. It cannot be, Mr. Speaker, not when I am responsible to the Cabinet for a Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth that has transformed the whole focus in terms of how we deal with creativity. We brought a Cultural Industries Development Act to the House for the first time in the history of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, and this has served to empower our cultural practitioners. We have revolutionised the whole business of youth entrepreneurship, Mr. Speaker. I made a point recently that between 2008 and 2015, we have had the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme so benefiting a number of young businesses to create revenue of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. These are young businesses, Mr. Speaker, and many of them are involved in various areas in relation to the whole question of how we can transform indigenous businesses to become net earners of foreign exchange in a manner that would help to diversify our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we have to consider that this particular Study has got to be the fulcrum by which we transform the thinking in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, all of the issues that we have to face are all pertinent. We have had to deal with a very serious issue in relation to our fiscal circumstances that has to a large extent created some challenges in relation to our social services. We have not denied that, but at the end of the day while we battle to deal with those issues, we have got to make some big decisions, Mr. Speaker. We cannot talk about how we are going to meet the transformation in terms of how energy is being transformed to meet the new reality of alternative energy users. We cannot do that without recognising that we have to create that meaningful shift and that change in order to be able to reposition the Barbados economy. As simple as

it sounds, Mr. Speaker, I think we have a mission and a purpose in this House to educate Barbadians, and gone are the days when we are going to spout this old traditional politics of saying to Barbadians, "No matter what you want, we will give you. Just say it and I will give it to you if you elect me to office." Mr. Speaker, that kind of politics has gone through the windows. Mr. Speaker, we have got to build a politics based on empowerment; the empowerment of our people. Showing them that they can do things to help to transform their own reality must become the new reality, the new shift in intellectual thinking. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping and I know that Barbadians, young Barbadians in particular, are looking to us in this House to champion that shift. Therefore, when we come to the House with this Study, which really is aimed at causing us to shift our thinking even in this House, even in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, we as leaders of the people must shift our thinking, and that shift must not only reside within the Cabinet of Barbados. It must not only reside within the private sector, Mr. Speaker. That shift must be translated and it must be placed at the heart of our communities, Mr. Speaker.

That is why we know that we have to embark upon strategies that will help householders in our communities not to see waste in the traditional sense, Mr. Speaker, but to see it within the context of a new way that thinking Barbadians can convert waste into streams of revenue. Mr. Speaker, when you look at the Study, for example, one of the things it connects with in a big way is the fundamentals that inform the fiscal position of Barbados; how our trading preferences have assisted in creating for us over the years.... This is something that has occurred over time. Mr. Speaker, we have had over years an issue in relation to our fiscal imbalance: How we are going to manage our balance of payments, and how we are going to so position the key engines of our economy to be relevant to the international arena. That is why there is the whole question of creating green economies; particular small, open states, Mr. Speaker. The reason that makes us so vulnerable and, in a sense, that makes it a particular challenge for us to overcome is because Barbados, being a small, open economy, is able in a better way than most to quickly transform the key planks upon which we can make this happen. Mr. Speaker, we have in our annals the ability to do this; being the most advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Speaker, it requires buy-in from every single Member of this House, because I am saying that without that shift, all of the things that I hear coming from the Members of the Opposition.... You do hear it because they spend most of their time -- I think they had about 14 years in office - spinning around these critical issues. They did not come with a Scoping Study in terms of a Green Economy, and I am not saying that they did not at some point in time talk about the move or the need to get there; but like anything else, each time I speak to this, they

obviously accuse me of being partisan but sometimes I have to say it.

This Government, taking the reins of office in 2008, inherited a very bad wicket. We inherited a situation where the Barbados Labour Party would have brought in a system of accrual accounting, moved it away from cost accounting in which they placed all of the huge debt elements off the Government's balance sheet, and therefore robbed the country of significant revenue that would have been necessary to transform the infrastructure of Barbados. The planning that would have had to go into the transformation of Barbados into a Green Economy would not have been given the chance that it had to be given to move Barbados forward. Let us be clear on this, Mr. Speaker, that it has to happen. When we are talking about a Green Economy, one of the most important areas we are talking about is how we can create green jobs, because I heard a Member of the Opposition saying that we have not provided an answer to the high unemployment level. If you had to analyse that statement, Mr. Speaker, we recognise that the issue of unemployment is something that we have to confront, but the question is: How do you confront high unemployment without looking at your economic bases, the whole structure of your economy, what has happened in terms of the shift in the provision of energy and related services, and how we can position our young people to get jobs that are different from what they are accustomed to getting? If the Members of the Opposition had read the document, they would have recognised that a very critical element of that is creating green jobs. We have to tackle our transportation system, and I think in that Study is the whole question of how we are going to transform the provision of transport into creating green jobs, and how we are going to move away from fossil fuel-propelled engines in our transportation system to be able to deliver green vehicles. Green vehicles, of course, and with green vehicles we are going to have to have green jobs, green engineers, green mechanics, green electricians, all of these people are going to need to be trained and therefore we are position our young people to be able to take these jobs that we call green jobs. Mr. Speaker, alternative energy is now going to be the order of the day and I have to credit the Ministry of Energy for championing the move towards ensure that we can have the legislative platform upon which we can move Barbados into the whole question of alternative energy. Of course, we have seen the transformation at Trents in St. Lucy where the Barbados Light & Power Company Limited has manfully moved towards utilising the sun's energy to convert into electricity. Of course, I would have to say and I want to say this because I think, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about the green economy and we are linking that to culture, to heritage, to innovation and creativity, we cannot in any way lose sight of the fact that our environment, our built heritage is going to be very critical to this transformation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I say this because we have seen a significant neglect in Barbados of our historic structures and I say this because it has been a tragedy because given what happened over the 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) in office and average growth rate of between 3 to 4.5 per cent that they were boasting of, none of the areas of neglect that we are talking about, that we have to fix should really be existing. We have, for example, the gymnasium which some persons accused the Minister of closing and so on. We had to close it to renovate it. Nothing happened to the gymnasium in its 20-something years of existence. Now we are moving along with the help of the Government of the People's Republic of China to creating a green gymnasium where we are placing quite a bit of the energy consumption into photo-voltaic panels system where we are going to propel that through the creation again of alternative energy. That is the pathway. If that pathway had been embarked upon by the last Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Government, consider the millions of dollars that we would have available to us to be able to transform all of the sectors that they are talking about whether water, the SSA and it is a tragedy. We have had in the ground in Barbados tonnes of pipe that was used to channel water across the distribution system that have never replaced in many, many years so even while they were boasting of a growth of 3.5 per cent average over their 14 years, they were neglecting to deal with some of the critical issues that are now coming to bog this Government. We have not said that we are not going to deal with it, we have approached it manfully. We have said we will deal with them but I believe that honest in debate should be the order of the day therefore, let us now "mamaguy" the people. We have no choice, Mr. Speaker, but to move Barbados toward a green economy because the world has shifted. The rules upon which we have to function have changed therefore, Barbados cannot be left behind and it is our determination as a Government to make the decisions that are necessary to ensure that Barbados is not left behind.

Mr. Speaker, as we are about to celebrate another lighting ceremony in a couple of hours in symbolic recognition this year of having achieved 50 years of independence, we are doing so, Mr. Speaker, as a proud people. We are doing so, Mr. Speaker, very cognisant of the huge responsibility that we have to making decisions that are purposeful and that are relevant for the interests of Barbadians and that is why I am saying that this green scoping study has been able to do a number of things. Mr. Speaker, it speaks to creating social equity, to protecting the environment, to creating a new paradigm for economic development and that is why we cannot use blinkers to deal

with our economic circumstances, it is all a potpourri, a complete circle of events that we have got to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am predicting that once we get it right, once we are able to propel Barbados toward being a green economy that we will be able to make a variable. Once again, we can save tonnes of foreign exchange, we can save tonnes of revenue that would make some of the challenges that we have go away with a blink in the eye. They are temporary as we seek to shift the Barbados' economy to become an economy that is propelled in a different manner from what we have known it to be. Mr. Speaker, I believe that those are the elements or the key issues in this debate, notwithstanding the critical areas that we have to face. I am a Member of Parliament too, I represent a constituency but my force in my constituency is to build pillars of empowerment and to use the issues that are critical to transform the thinking of my people in Christ Church West Central.

Mr. Speaker, it is with those words that I really have no hesitation whatsoever in commending the Minister and his team for dreaming big, for taking Barbados along the lines that the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, said that we are a country that always punch above our own weight. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to move, Sir, that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that we come to the end of Government Business for the day. As you know, we have to make way for the Lighting Ceremony this evening at 5.30 p.m. and we have made prior arrangements in the Sitting of the House at this time to clear the Parliament Courtyard which forms an important significant backdrop to the entire ceremony. I beg to move, Sir, that the Sitting therefore be adjourned until Friday, the 11th day of November, 2016 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until Friday, 11th November, 2016 at 10 o'clock a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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

FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)
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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, point of order. The point of order during Hon. S. A. Lashley's speech is headed 'Mr. E. D. HINKSON'; the Member is elsewhere 'Mr. E. G. HINKSON'. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 14, Mr. Paul. Mr. Paul congratulates 'the Honourable for Christ Church East Central for bringing this Resolution'; other speakers credit the Minister of the Environment, the Member for Christ Church East. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 14, Hon. R. L. Sealy. The speech reads 'when we came to Barbados in 2013', where 'came to Government' may be meant. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 14, Miss Bradshaw. The Speaker's time warning reads 'you have five minutes in which to succeed'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 1st November, 2016, with Mr. Speaker presiding; prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 25th October were not yet available and were deferred, then confirmed after the luncheon suspension. The Speaker announced receipt of the Auditor-General's Report of the Special Audit on National Housing Corporation High-rise Apartments at the Grotto and Valery. The Leader of Government Business, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, withdrew the Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statement laid on the last occasion as for March 31, 2016 and laid instead the statement for the year ended March 31, 2015. The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, laid the Public Service (General) Order, 2016, the Public Service (Qualifications) Order, 2016 and the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation Annual Report, 2013-2014, and Mr. Boyce gave notice of a Resolution to approve the Public Service (General) Order. Standing Orders were suspended.

The House resumed the debate on Order No. 14, the Resolution that Parliament accept the Green Economy Scoping Study as a national information document. Hon. R. L. Sealy commended the Minister of the Environment, the Member for Christ Church East, and spoke on the links between tourism and the environment and the GEF Small Grants Programme. Miss C. Y. Forde, the Member for St. Thomas, said the Barbados Labour Party supported the Resolution but deplored overgrown lots and the loss of agricultural land, raised the Cahill energy project and complained of neglected recreational facilities at Welchman Hall. Mr. J. D. Paul cited the Central Bank's report that renewable generating capacity was around 13 megawatts and was expected to reach around 30 megawatts by December, and appealed for greener urban constituencies.

Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, the Member for St. Michael South East, said her Party had no difficulty with the Study but asked how her constituents could relate to it while skips lay uncollected at Regent Hill and Golden Rock; a point of order by Hon. D. St. E. Kellman was not upheld. The Sitting was suspended until 2.00 p.m.

After the resumption, Mr. E. G. Hinkson, the Member for St. James North, noted that two Barbados Labour Party candidates had been stakeholders in the Study, criticised water shortages and the handling of the National Conservation Commission, and was interrupted by the Prime Minister on a point of elucidation stating that the Commission matter had gone to the Employment Rights Tribunal at the written request of the trade unions. Hon. S. D. Blackett replied to the Opposition, citing a 10.3 per cent rise in long-stay visitor spending bringing an additional \$104 million and 5.6 per cent growth in stay-over arrivals, and the decline of HIV/AIDS infections.

Hon. R. D. Jones, the Member for Christ Church East Central, spoke of flooding, land slippage in the Scotland District and the need to end partisan fighting over good ideas. Hon. S. A. Lashley commended the Minister and spoke on Government procurement, the import bill and entrepreneurship; a point of order on relevance was not upheld. On the motion of Mr. Boyce, further consideration of the Resolution was postponed.

To clear the Parliament Courtyard for the Lighting Ceremony at 5.30 p.m., Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the House be adjourned until Friday, 11th November, 2016 at 10 o'clock a.m., and the House was adjourned accordingly.