
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

PRESENT

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B. (Speaker)

Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON, B.A., M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) (Deputy Speaker)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B. B.S. (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Transport and Works)

Hon. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc., C. Eng. (Ministry of Health)(Leader of the House)

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Dip. Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. (Minister of Environment and Drainage)

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. M. M. AGARD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., D.D.S

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

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

Prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning Honourable Members, this House is now in session. Of course, let me welcome you back from a much needed break. I am sure that we are all refreshed and rejuvenated and ready to continue, well I do not think we have stopped, in Parliament with the people's business.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, August 16, 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, August 16, 2016, be

confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of January 2016 to March 2016 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Leader of the House.

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

1. Sugar Industry Sugar Workers Provident Fund Order, 2016;
2. The Financial Management and Audit (Financial Amendment Rules) 2016;
3. The Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Annual Report 2015;
4. The Report of the Judicial Council for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015; and
5. The Police Complaint Authority Annual Report 2015.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. The Caves of Barbados Limited Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the years 2010 and 2011; and
2. Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2015.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

1. The Holidays with Pay Bill, 2016; and
2. The Labour Department (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the following Bills were read a first time:

1. The Holidays with Pay Bill, 2016; and
2. The Labour Department (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, you will note that we just did the First Reading of the new Holiday with Pay Bill 2016 and the Labour Department Bill, and I therefore beg to move the withdrawal of the existing Orders No. 14 and 15 on the Order Paper of this Honourable House.

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

The question that the Bills mentioned be withdrawn was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

House C39 Seq 1

10.35 a.m.

Insert Jackie 1

Insert prince 2

,

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 3

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... The Green Economy Scoping Study is a result of the collaborative efforts of a number of stakeholders, both governmental and private sector, that allow us to be at this place today. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I believe that this discourse in this House at this time, given that we are now celebrating 50 years of

Independence, puts down an important marker on the progress of development in this country and the contribution of Governments to ensure that this development continues. I am sure that countries around the region are still lagging behind in terms of how they have approached the business of the environment. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, Barbados was one of seven countries, developed and developing, that presented the first group of scoping studies to the United Nations Environment Programme, and Barbados continues to be applauded for its voice on the global front, where of course it continues to be a leader on matters related to the environment and sustainable development.

The Ministry of the Environment here in Barbados is one of the leading voices in negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals and in negotiating the 2030 Agenda. The Ministry of the Environment is now a key player in the United Nations Assembly, which is the global assembly for environmental matters. Barbados sometimes is not given the credit by Barbadians, maybe because they are not aware of the work that it does and the leadership it provides across the globe on matters such as the ones we will discuss today. This Green Economy policy seeks to identify three important policy domains that include a clear and definitive policy space; the policy space being where it is placed on the National Development Agenda. It is a policy focus dealing with this whole Green Economy drive and our policy commitment dealing specifically with the country's commitment to pursuing this policy. The policy further seeks to reflect the relationship between the development model of Barbados and the global context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. That roadmap is the roadmap that the entire world is following relative to development and sustainable development, and it is worthy of note that as the leading small island state in the world, Barbados has etched its own contribution in the interpretation and fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. It is something that I hope the country is listening to, because when we talk about the environment, some people want to reduce the environment to garbage, but that is not what the environment is; that is one aspect of our environment. Our environment is a vast landscape of ideas that cannot be reached by ordinary minds, and by no stretch of the imagination are we suggesting.... As a matter of fact, I believe that those persons out there in the public domain sometimes have a better grasp of what the country's commitment to the environment is about than some persons who are given the honour and privilege of being policymakers. Therefore, I believe that we have a duty to continue to push our agenda on the environment.

The Sustainable Development Goals, as are articulated by the United Nations system, highlight five principles, all of which the Barbados Government embraces: The principle of people, the principle of planet, the principle of peace, the principle of prosperity and the

principle of partnership. Those are the seminal principles that, as they say now, are built into the global policy on sustainable development and a Green Economy. These policy markers, which I talked about earlier, must guide how our country should go forward with its development endeavours, and must recognise the inherent, integrated, interdependent nature between the environment and the society, among the environment, the society and the economy, and among the environment, the society, the economy and governance.

Speaking of governance, only recently Barbados was highlighted in a global index as the leading small island state on matters related to social justice, matters related to our anti-corruption standards, matters related to the rule of law, and matters related to the broad practice of social and human justice. This is Barbados. Sometimes if you hear the detractors, whose intent is to shape public opinion, you would think that Barbados is doing so badly on these important global indicators. Barbados is first among Caribbean islands, first among Small Island Developing States, and ranks very highly in the pecking order in terms of developed countries. That is the country we have. That is the country we want. That is the country and the standards we are pursuing, and that is the role and the commitment of this Government to doggedly pursue these practices and standards in spite of all of the naysaying, so as to ensure that they become the core of why we are and who we are in this society. It must therefore recognise the role of the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication for achieving sustainable development. The definition of the Green Economy is reflected in the document. The Green Economy is characterised by a definition that includes what I call the concept definition, and here is the definition: The Green Economy is an integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system. At the heart of its core reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems as the basis for natural resource protection policy intervention, business and innovation, business investment choice, human development programming and the facilitation of export market development strategies.

One of the commitments we made when we became the Government was to take a hard look at the economy; to look at its weaknesses and put forward a stabilisation plan that would lead to the restructuring of our economy; a restructuring that would include many of the standard global indicators going forward. Mr. Speaker, I give the Government, in particular the Minister of Finance, all of the accolades he deserves for his effort to continue to prod forward in correcting the weaknesses of our economic system and creating an economic system where all Barbadians, as they have been promised, regardless of their position in life, would have an opportunity to pursue their dreams and see self-actualisation as an attainable endeavour. Self-actualisation, as is defined by behavioural

scientists, is not a one-time, all-embracing achievement where you reach a pinnacle and then go nowhere from there.

10.54 a.m.

Insert Juliette 4

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Sequence

Hon. Dr. D, LOWE: ...therefore no notion should go abroad that the Government of Barbados is trying to ditch 600 workers and privatize the institution, because once you privatize the Sanitation Services Authority, it now becomes a commercial activity because nobody is going to buy the Sanitation Services Authority. I heard somebody talking about buying the Sanitation Services Authority and then giving back the Government a little 'trala'. Sometimes you would rather your dog come and sit down and belch, than to hear some of the rubbish some people are talking.

If you privatize the householders will have to pay to get their waste collected, and the Government will not subsidise any privatization of the Sanitation Services Authority. Let me make that clear. Government is not going to subsidise it that is why we believe garbage collection in Barbados is best kept in the hands of the State, because the State sees it not as a commercial endeavour. The States sees it as an essential social service, and the study talks about that. So we believe that we must ourselves become...we cannot become a throw -- every single thing we throw away. We have become a throw-away society. Sometimes people throw away so many things that sometimes they have to go back and check, because they realise they have thrown away the wrong thing. It is a fact of life. You notice that, if you are in the buildings of reality, you know that. We throw away everything.

We are into package commodities. Package commodities generate waste. Even now the organic waste we generate at home, we are throwing it into the garbage. Once upon a time that would have become an important part of our home composting, but the Sanitation Services Authority is not saying so. The Government is not saying anything. The Government is educating the public, Mr. Speaker. I want to make documents of this House some of the literature the Government has been putting out through the Solid Waste Management Outreach for Barbados. We have been handing out for years now brochures on recycling. This gives you a step by step understanding of how to recycle, irrespective of the type of waste you have.

We have a Solid Waste Management Outreach Programme for Barbados called Home Composting, and this gives you a step by step direction and pictorals of how

to home compost. It is here. I make them documents of this House. We even have gone as far as to do a Solid Waste Management Outreach Programme, 101 Ways to Watch Your Waistline. Now you may ask what the relevance is. The relevance really is about what you eat, what you consume, the benefits of your consumption to your health and the reduction in the production of waste. These are documents, Mr. Speaker that any Barbadian can have access to. The Sanitation Services Authority puts out its own messages and those messages are there, because we understand that if we are going to experience and realise the virtues of a green economy, we have to have a functional understanding of how we deal with our waste. It is called in the economy study Waste and stimulation.

We cannot be a throw-away society. We cannot see waste as a nuisance. We have to see waste as a value. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy says that repeatedly in this House. So we do not see the value beyond the consumption of the content of our packaging. In other words, we eat the cereal and there is no value so we throw away the box. You have bottled beverages both glass and plastic. We do not see any value. We consume the content and we throw away the container.

Now let me put in a plug for B's Recycling. They collect the majority of plastics, bottles and so on in the society and they have done over the years a very good job at that. We are consuming beyond our capacity to manage the waste we are producing. What that means, Barbados is only 166 square miles on a good day, and now with the rapid erosion of our coastlines we have probably lost some of that land space. Okay? If we continue to consume the way we are, there will come a time when there is no physical land space on Barbados to accommodate it.

Now when we begin to talk about waste to energy, there are those who would sound force their nuggets of nothingness on the issue of waste to energy? The Government recognizes that you have to ensure you have the best possible technological advantage. The best designs and so on. Let me say this, we cannot fully develop without the inclusion of waste to energy technology because we do not have the land space for landfills. Not only that, landfills produce the majority of ... the second in the production of greenhouse gases. We have a document called The Barbados National Determine Contribution, NDC, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I will make this document a document of the House as well. This documents includes Barbados' commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gases. In order to be able to achieve that, we have to deal with waste management in Barbados. We have to. We cannot go to Greenland because Greenland will not work. Greenland was an idea hatched somewhere that was a bad idea from the beginning.

As a matter of fact, a Member from the other side referred to it as environmental madness, to even contemplate that. Greenland is now -- I would like Barbadians to seek permission from the Sanitation Services Authority to go down to Greenland and see the state of Greenland today. The land slippage, the deterioration of any infrastructure that was there. The roads are impassable. Go down there and see it. We threw over \$100 million in there. When you begin to talk about these things, man that is the past. Do not talk about the past. Well sometimes the past is your perfect reference point. It is a useless place which the last administration wanted to use it for.

I know the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter had his misgivings about it. I know that for a fact. I know that. I know also the entanglement of Greenland project and SBRC. I know that too. Somebody said the other day, how could your Government tie yourself to that? Well if you come into office and there is a project completed, do you know what would have happened if we said to abandon it? Then we would have been the worst Government in the world. Are you with me? We would have been the worst Government. We accepted the value that could be added by that system, but it is now a \$30 million millstone around the head of the Government. That is what it is. Every time it raises its ugly head, you have people trying to blame this Government for that fiasco, but that will be addressed at a later time, I am sure.

How can we assist with the management of waste in the island? Education and awareness. Barbadians have to understand that the garbage problem on the island is not the problem of the Government. They have to understand the accumulation of waste begins in the household. That must be understood. If they take the education offerings that we are providing...

Sequence 5

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Sequence 6

Hon. Dr. D. LOWE: ...that the accumulation of waste begins in the household. That must be understood. If they take the education offerings we are providing, they might be able to turn their waste into a value added for their own advantage.

I hear a lot of talking going on, but I am telling you there are some important institutions that can assist in that regard, not only the Government's education programme. The Solid Waste Project Unit is there for that purpose. The Sanitation Services Authority can make its contribution. The media can also ... you know, I see sometimes photographs in the media, and to make a point to try to embarrass the Government they take old pictures and create

new stories. Ordinarily when you see a file photograph in the media, there is a date attached to it, or there should be a date, but I see pictures that I have seen a long time ago returning claiming that the same waste pillage is in the same spot. It is not true. The media must become involved. It is not that I am criticizing the media, I think those who lead the media need some help, not the field journalists. They are doing their best. They would tell you sometimes they come in the field and write a story and when they get back to the paper, it is the editor who decides what is told and what is not told, not them. They will do an event, go back into office and then somebody sitting at a desk decides, this story should be written this way, not that way. Lets turn this around here. Lets create a headline and so on and so forth. The media needs to be more responsible.

Watch the US elections and see what is happening. There is a gigantic fight between both of the candidates at one point and the media about coverage, and the telling of news, et cetera. I spent some time watching it. I had some time to watch it and I watched it.

The Sanitation Services Authority, the Solid Waste Project Unit, the media and the church, the church also has to become involved in helping to educate their public about good practices in waste management. They need to. The church cannot only be about preaching the word and teaching the concepts of the Bible. It should be also about teaching people about lifestyle practices and lifestyle habits. That is important.

Civil society must become involved and the business community. Do you know that a large amount of waste we collect around this country, free of cost, is generated by business houses and restaurants? They put out enormous bags of garbage. They are making their money at the counter but the Sanitation Services Authority must pick it up free, and sometimes when you finish clear the garbage at a business house, you hardly have room in the compactor to put in the household waste from other places. I am of the view, and let me go on record saying this, I am of the view that business houses who are making money should be asked to pay something for the collection of their waste. That is my position. It is not the Government's position yet, but I hope to campaign it.

When you pass down Bay Street, there are a number of shops on Bay Street. There is one opposite the NCC property and sometimes in the morning when you go down there, especially after the weekend, you see enormous pile of garbage. Go up Highway 7 and you see the same thing. It is not fair for the public to expect the Government to chase down their garbage and many of them put it out irresponsibly anyway. Do you know what they are adding especially now the rain is falling? They are adding all of the green grass now. They are cutting their lawns, stripping their bush and putting out sometimes 15 bags of grass.

I remember when you had a piece of cut grass in your yard - I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Peter would know this -- you would take it and use it for mulching. Sometimes you kept fowls. I do not know if you remember you used to feed the fowls grass. I remember that as a little boy growing up. I always make this headline in here. We had a mule named Prince and he used to work in the road board with my old grandfather. When the people weed, he would collect. Sometimes when Prince finished eating the grass there is nothing to put in the cart. It is a fact. I will tell you this. He made a contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases. He was not burning off any fossil fuel. Occasionally he would release his own gases.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member you cannot turn your back to the Chair.

Hon. Dr. D. LOWE: I am sorry, Sir.

At the end of the day that is the reality.

I am saying there are areas that can be improved and what we want to say to the public is, start separating at source. Get into recycling. The Sanitation Services Authority has a hotline and you can call for information, 430-5006, for assistance. Understand there is an important partnership basis that we can operate within the society, but there will be more to be discussed about the Sanitation Services Authority. I am satisfied our team there is doing their best.

As a footnote to this, what is amazing to me is, when waste builds up people are out there quarrelling, Barbados nasty. I hear that in here. It is the nastiest place in the world. They have not gone to Columbia. They have not even gone to New York, because when you walk through New York on mornings you see garbage taller than yourself, piles and piles of it. Barbados is the nastiest place in the world. Listen, Greece was trying to get the Olympics for 2024 and they had to pull out. Do you know one of the reasons they had to pull out, because of garbage? Too much garbage on the street, too much garbage on the road. They pulled out of the nomination. The other issue was economics.

I am just making the point ... I have gone to Columbia and to Latin countries and let me tell you something, there is waste on the road that is unbelievable. Some Caribbean islands too, I would not call any names, have challenges. All their coastlines are full of waste. Barbados is not like that. It is a pity there are people, who would join their voices with those who try to make people believe that Barbados is the worst place in the world when it comes to cleanliness.

Mr. Speaker, here is the thing. The same people who would come in here and persecute the Government, or go out there and persecute the society about waste, when you begin to do something to correct the problem, they are the first ones to hollow against it. Think about it. They are the ones who would jump up and criticise and want the body to sue that body. We are a small island developing state but we must not be smallminded people. The two must never collide. We are a small island developing state, but we must not harness ourselves by small small-mindedness, Mr. Speaker, Sir. So if the waste is out there and the Government has to do something. The Government decides to put a programme in place in conjunction with conscientious private sector people, some of them, then they are hollowing again. That is why our leader always advise that if you are looking for praise from certain quarters you are never going to get it, and if your actions are driven by dependency upon who praise you, you will never get anything done because they are not going to praise you.

Waste assimilation, we have just spent a little time on that. Why the green economy is critical for small island states, it addresses the key ...

Sequence 6

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: We just spent a little time on waste assimilation. Why the green economy is critical for small islands developing states is because it addresses the key constituents of environmental soundness which is one of the principles of our development model, and that soundness includes air quality protection. For example, the World Health Organisation just put out a study talking about the relationship between air pollution and the millions of deaths per year globally, so we have to get involved in pollution prevention. I know that there have been conversations between the Minister of Transport and Works, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment about putting some systems in place. The Environmental Protection Department in the ministry is also doing some very good work on air quality surveillance and the enforcement of existing regulations. We have to enhance the capacity of that institution so that it can do more of its good work to help us with the walking back of polluting air quality.

We have to also support sustainable transport systems, for example, the introduction of emissions testing which can be a public/private sector partnership. In truth and in fact, emissions testing is a global practice in the north. In North America, Canada and Great Britain, emissions testing is an important part of the regulation to have your vehicle roadworthy and if the test is done and you do not pass it the vehicle is taken off the road. There

are some vehicles on Barbados' road that I think we need to do something about because the kinds of emissions that emanate from those vehicles is not good for our health. The World Health Organisation has just delivered a study that focusses on matters related to that.

The sustainable transport system which is also embedded in our green economy study deals with the promotion of electric vehicles. We know that there are some challenges with the electric vehicles to date but there is now a growing fleet on the island which is very, very good. As a matter of fact, the Government of Barbados has a couple vehicles that are alternative energy vehicles. They use natural gas. I know one is at the ministry. The building project has also brought along with it an electric car. I think the Government needs to lead in that regard and wherever possible in the Government purchases they need to look for opportunities to buy renewable energy vehicles.

We also need, in the same context, to look at the development of land in the area of landfilling. Now, I understand that a commitment was made to Sandy Lane that in the event of the change of Government the Mangrove Pond Landfill will be closed, and I just want to advise them to be very careful with any such promise because we recall that a promise was made before relative to the same landfill at Mangrove. Suffice it to say, once the Government accelerates along the continuum of its rules and regulations, the provision of a waste-to-energy plant at Vacluse is the only way that we will be able to shut down the landfill, and it has to be a kind of technology that does not force - because back in 1994 at the Summit here in Barbados when they talked about renewable energy that was on the platform at the time... They said that incineration was not the best option because incineration leaves residues of toxic ash and then once you have that you still have to continue landfilling and they pointed the world at the time to look for technologies that are advanced to incineration to ensure that the options are available for small islands developing states. They did say however that the cost at the time would have been prohibitive for many small island states.

Mr. Speaker, let me sound forth the call that if you have a viable waste-to-energy idea that you are prepared to fund, because there are a lot of people out there talking about the Government giving opportunities to people from overseas and they are not giving locals none, that is not true... The locals want to come for opportunity but they want to bring a cost that is prohibitive to the Government. They want to ask for guarantees and they want to ask for interest on loans up to 10 per cent and the Government cannot do that but then there are those who bring their package and once they bring a package and they bring their idea and it goes through the system and the Government is satisfied that it is something that they want to take on, the

Government will do so, and that is the intent of the Government.

The green economy promotes clean development in that it includes clean technologies like renewable energy. Renewable energy is a new sectoral imperative. The acceleration of the development of this sector is critical. One of the guaranteed sources and natural sources that we have in Barbados is sunlight. There is a variability about wind but we have sun almost every day of the year and we need to maximise every opportunity to bring on board the fullest realisation of our renewable energy sector. Our goals and objectives must be ambitious. The Government took steps in recent months to bring on board new legislation called the Electric Light and Power Act. What that did was to examine a 100-year old arrangement with the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited and decided to refurbish that legislation for the purposes of modernisation and easier access to all.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Trents on Sunday. I went to look at the plant up there. The Barbados Light and Power Company Limited has an elaborate solar farm and they tell me that it is placed on 72 acres of land. If you have not travelled to places that have mammoth solar farms you would be overwhelmed at the site there at Trents. It is an impressive location at Trents. The Barbados Light and Power Company Limited has taken a quantum leap forward to be ahead of the game in the provision of reliable electricity called the reliability of supply. Their plant is there as a beautiful example of what can be done in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, let me challenge us and say that the Government of Barbados does not have to be shy about being ambitious about its renewable energy sector. As a matter of fact, the Minister responsible for energy in the Prime Minister's Office has done a fabulous job in moving forward our advancements in terms of taking advantage of the offerings of the Inter-American Development Bank and other lending support agencies that are pushing renewable energy. Barbados is looking by 2035 to have a complete switch over from electricity as it is known now to renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, part of this document that I have made a document of the House speaks to Barbados' targets for the advancement of renewable energy

House C39 Sequence 7

11.34 a.m.

Insert s8

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 9

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... The innovation of our Ministry of Agriculture and the vision.... Yes, there are challenges and Barbados is having challenges with water, and we will talk about that later, but I do not know why it is taking people by surprise. Barbados is listed as a water-scarce country. We have had problems with drought, yet you have people running around. It is not only that, but St. Joseph and St. Andrew have always had problems with water because of the nature of the land, land slippage and the disruption of the 100-year-old pipes. This Government has made great strides in correcting that situation. Great strides, Mr. Speaker. Let us understand again that we are a small island state but we must not be small-minded people. We have to think big, and one of the things to the credit of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter is that he always advised Barbadians to think big. That was one of his messages as leader of this country.

We have to change our style. We have to look at sources of renewable energy. We have to look at disposal practices. We have to look at waste minimisation. One of my officers, the head of the engineering department in the Sanitation Service Authority, has done a lot of research on matters related to waste minimisation and collection. We have to look at recycling. We have to support recyclers, but they must understand that the Government cannot be expected to subsidise their profitable operations. In regard to climate change, any contemplation on a green economy must look at the issue of climate change. It is the single most urgent threat to the human community. Our Prime Minister, and the late David Thompson as well, were recognised by the United Nations system as persons who were capable of making a decided contribution on the sustainability panel. Only recently at the Climate Change Summit in New York, our current Prime Minister delivered of himself a speech at the signing of the Paris Agreement. By the way, Barbados is one of the countries that have signed that agreement already. We signed before the United States. We signed before Great Britain. The truth is that our contribution to that particular agreement, the Paris Agreement, was stellar both on the floor of the COP21 as well as in subsequent meetings that were held.

Climate change is a reality. Let us not believe, as Donald Trump believes, that it is a Chinese hoax. It is not a Chinese hoax. The science verifies that climate change is real. It is real, and the science verifying the climatic phenomenon is definable, it is verifiable and it is defensible. The fifth report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change outlines qualitative and quantitative scientific evidence that climate change is a real phenomenon and is evident in sea-level rise, in thermal expansion or global warming, in the melting of glaciers in

the extreme north, and in the compromise of our coastal protection systems. Climate change is evident in the loss of wetlands, the rapid rate of beach erosion and the erratic nature of weather systems. Right here on island, if you take a close examination, you would see the evidence of climate change. There is therefore a need for an urgent national response. One of the things that Barbados has been doing is protecting our coastal assets by building structures to save our beaches and protect our buildings on the coastline. The restoration of coastal protection systems we have been engaging in. There is an investment in conservation. There is the protection of coastal assets, as I said before, and there is the work that has to be undertaken relative to our coral reef systems. Our coral reef systems around the island have been hit hard by climate change factors. There is an exacerbation of coral bleaching, and if you take a dive in the public areas around the island, you would see the devastation that has occurred.

Aside.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: The lack of sea eggs, one of my colleagues says. You cannot get many of them, even if you live in Silver Sands, although I would like to hail up my Silver Sands fisher folk who put their lives at risk to go into the deep waters all around the north and get some sea eggs. It is the legal system. It is the legal time, so they can afford to get some for me. They are seeing a deterioration of the sea egg stock, not simply because of over-fishing or over-harvesting but they are catching some that are just devastated. The roes are very black, they are full of water and they are hardly suitable for consumption. We therefore do not have any question, and that is why we did the NDC (nationally determined contributions), and that is why we contributed to the framework convention on climate change, because we understand as a small island state that we stand at peril to erratic weather, we stand at peril to a reduction in rainfall and we stand at peril to the compromise of our biodiversity; and the truth of the matter is that these are important elements in our natural resource base.

I do not know why people want to persecute the Minister of Agriculture, as though the Minister of Agriculture is purposely going out there and not supplying communities with water. It is amazing, Mr. Speaker. We know. When I was Minister responsible for the Barbados Water Authority, we were losing 60 per cent of our pumped water because of leaked mains, and the current Minister has taken the bull by the horns and has been implementing a mains replacement programme while at the same time doing other mains-related and metre-related projects. The problem is that we are water-scarce to begin with and there has been a reduction in rainfall, therefore we are having challenges with the water supply, but that too shall pass because the Honourable Minister has a plan where he is implementing new measures to supplement the

water supply around the island. Whether it is in St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Joseph or St. Peter, wherever it might be, this Government has set on a pace to correct those issues once and for all. The people are getting water. Water tanks have now been dispatched. I understand that the Water Authority has just brought on board a number of new water tankers and they have been dispatched, but listen: Water shortage is nothing new. There is this hullabaloo and mischief-talking as though this is the first time in Barbados that people have had experiences with water supply.

11.52 a.m.

Insert s10

Insert s12

,

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 13

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... A set of policy recommendations to address policy and capacity gaps and needs is to be done through specific policy reforms, programmes and projects, along with the contribution to the formulation of a national strategy to build a resource-efficiency Green Economy for Barbados. What I am laying out for you is to give you a clear understanding of the kind of ground work that would have gone into the programme of planning out this Study. This Study was not just the pursuit of an economic opportunity, nor was it just the pursuit of a funding opportunity. This was a concerted opportunity to really turn around the way we do business in Barbados, and how we restructure and reform our systems to accommodate that endeavour. I am proud, as I said this morning and I will say it again, I am very proud of the work done by the Ministry officers who were in the forefront of this effort.

In order to fulfil the above objectives, an integrated assessment approach was employed which involved integrating three related elements: analytical modelling and analysis preparatory methods, participatory methods, and the decision-making process. This approach, therefore, required the expert decision-makers and industry experts to interface with each other to arrive at an integrated assessment of the particular sectors of problems. I have had a conversation with my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth, and we have agreed in principle that we are going to have a national consultation with the youth of Barbados on this whole area of the Green Economy and their role in the process. I believe it is going to be a strategic effort, because in order for this to work, every segment of the society must participate in the process; not

only tourism and agriculture, fisheries, housing and so on, but education has to help drive part of the education and awareness programme. It must also carefully analyse curriculum issues that can give space to the inclusion of some of the issues that we need to bear out in the process. The Ministry of Health has to also be a prime player because, as we green our economy and green our society, obviously one of the knock-on benefits will be to create a cleaner and safer environment for people to live, move and have their bring. That is what we want to do in the process.

The Cabinet of Barbados on October 16, 2010, examined the proposal and in that decision the Cabinet agreed, among other things, to reaffirm the Government of Barbados' commitment to making Barbados the most environmentally advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also agreed on the definition of the Green Economy in the context of Barbados and noted the initial discussion which took place under the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Scoping Mission in the mission report entitled Partnership for a Resource-Efficient Green Economy in Barbados, and a number of other areas of agreement that were had under the Study.

The contribution of the UNEP was US\$247 825. The contribution of Barbados to the programme was US\$75 000. The Scoping Study comprised the following: The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; the Ministry of Industry and Small Business Development; the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resource Management and Drainage; the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Urban and Rural Development; the Ministry of Transport and Works; the Ministry of Tourism, the Energy Division in the Prime Minister's Office, the Barbados Investment Development Corporation, the Town and Country Planning Department, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Barbados Sustainable Finance Group and the University of the West Indies. They agreed that the Government of Barbados would partner with UNEP in hosting the regional Green Economic Conference on the completion of the Green Economy Scoping Study, at which the results of the said study would be presented. As I told you earlier, that meeting was held and it was an extremely successful meeting.

I should also like to point out that part of the group of individuals who were involved in the programme -- as a matter of fact there were over 350 persons involved through consultation -- were the unions which endorsed the programme, and we also had the other interested parties in the private sector and civil society. The study really sought to bring to bear the full transformation of a small island green economy and sought to really put in place a movement in development moreso than a shift; a

movement in development that brings us today to what is now being celebrated as 50 years of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, you can comb this region from way in the north to the south, the east to the west, and you will not find another island state in this region as progressive as Barbados is in the pursuit of the advancement of our people, our society or our nation. That seems to be the mode that drove the founding fathers, because as we look back to where we started on this journey 50 years ago, and as we examine the annals of history, the writings and the utterances of those who led the charge, there is no wonder that we are where we are and moving forward, Mr. Speaker. Deeply embedded in their philosophy was a commitment to build out a society; a society that was progressive and a society where its identity was unmistakably linked to social progress and social development. You cannot miss it, Mr. Speaker. Unlike other island states, not only in the region but other island states in the Pacific and other places, what Barbados has been able to do as a Small Island Developing State is to set a trail of how business can be done. We have had our challenges like everybody else, Mr. Speaker, but we have had great thinkers who believed and grounded their thoughts in a philosophy that a society is only a society when its members look ahead with hope that better will be done in successive generations. That is what gives us a great sense of gratification, to see that now 50 years later we have been able to adopt a global standard in how we move from strength to strength, economically, socially, environmentally and with good governance.

2.12 p.m.

Insert s14

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: We amended the scope of the study and extended the time-frame and the budget support by US\$15 000. The University of the West Indies' team submitted the interim report in October 2011 for review and of course based on the feedback received the interim report was refined and resubmitted in December 2011.

We talked about the Cabinet's involvement in this, and I want you to know that I have some very brilliant officers in the Ministry of the Environment and very often their technical work is not lauded with any loud applause because it is not something on the ground that people seek quickly but they spend a lot of hours in the engine room, a lot of hours researching and a lot of hours interfacing with international agencies. There was a time when the Ministry was accused of only flying here, flying there and flying everywhere but since I came to the Ministry I understand the importance of Barbados sitting at the table to be able to

have discussions with global players about the way the world is going. Mr. Speaker, now that I hear conversations, for example, as I made reference to this morning, in the United States of America about the tussle between the environmentalists, those who still believe in fossil fuel generation and those who believe in coal and those kinds of things, I know that we have a group of professionals here who are very familiar with the global conversation. The Minister of Health, for example, is involved in a number of discussions not at the lower level where most people feel comfortable but at the highest level of global conversation about the impact of health and the impact on climate change on health and those kinds of issues. This is the business of a progressive Government. You cannot get locked down and pinned down by cockfighting and hen-fighting over small issues. In order to be able to build a robust developmental platform you have to get involved in the conversations that the world is involved in, and again I believe it is very important.

The draft report, upon review by the Scoping Study Group, was submitted and forwarded to international agencies for further review. In other words, this document was also submitted to international agencies so that they could review this document and so that they can give guidance and their own views on whether or not we were on the right track. Here are some of the agencies that were involved in the review: The United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, CARICOM, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission, The Organisation of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Labour Organisation and the British High Commission, so that what we have here is a document that scoped these very important areas in our development strategy and that was fully vetted by our domestic agencies including the labour unions and the like, but beyond that this document was also submitted to the international agencies that we just referenced in here so that I believe that one of the reasons why this Resolution is so important is because it represents a body of work that has met the approval of a number of local and international agencies.

Mr. Speaker, note that the estimated budget to support the Regional Green Economy Forum was \$110 187, with the UNEP providing \$40 000, the University of the West Indies provided \$24 500 in kind support and the Government of Barbados provided \$45 687. It was agreed that the Government of Barbados should at the time provide US\$45 687 in support of the Regional Green Economy Forum through existing budget resources from Head 45, Ministry of the Environment, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, we came to a point where the synthesis report was completed in March of 2012 and agreed to by

Cabinet on March 20, 2012 and the Forum entitled “The Caribbean Green Economy Forum” was hosted by the Government of Barbados, UNEP and the University of the West Indies. At that particular forum the Right Honourable Prime Minister delivered of himself a speech drawing from the Rio+20 dialogue on the future we want. Of course, among the things said by the Right Honourable Prime Minister is that he assured the audience that the policy investment and research proposals contained in the Green Economic Scoping Study final report will not be confined to a shelf and committed Government to continuing to work assiduously to ensure that Barbados stays on the path of sustainable development. Mr. Speaker, also making representation at that meeting would have been the Principal of the University of the West Indies and, of course, the Minister responsible for the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage. Approximately 135 persons participated in the Forum and the key outcomes of the Forum included the following:

1. There is a need for a comprehensive valuation of fisheries as the current approach does not consider the value-added it provides and fisheries cultural heritage value. Of course, during that particular time the Ministry was also conducting some work with the Consett Bay fisher folks which yielded a tremendous result that we will refer to a little later;
2. An ecosystems-based management approach is necessary to holistically address the issues associated with fisheries management.

I am happy to say that the fisher folk in Consett Bay took on board their own manifesto in how they wanted to proceed to treat to that particular aspect of their livelihood in a managed way that would not result in the depletion of their resources. We would have noted earlier that because Barbados has limited natural resources that you should never get to a place where you are tapping those resources beyond their capacity to continue, and sometimes matters of overfishing becomes an issues. 3. Opportunities to engender resource efficiency in the fisheries industry must be undertaken. As a first step these may relate to water use, viewing waste as a resource, energy use and intra sector collaboration;

4. Optimise the application of legislation to provide a sound base for green economic principles in industry;
5. A regional approach

House C39 Sequence 15

2.34 p.m.

Inset s16

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 17

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... Mr. Speaker, do you know that there is something happening in Barbados and it has been happening in the last few years, where there seems to be a renewed interest in agriculture at all levels? While on the one hand there may be a concern about the sugar cane industry, we have noted that a number of small farmers in Barbados have now been re-engaged and that the Barbados Agricultural Development Management Company, for example, has created a significant enabling environment to allow persons to get involved in agriculture. Across Barbados, there seems to be a revitalisation of this important sector. It has been reinvigorated, according to the Leader of Government Business. Thank you for that word that you found somewhere wandering around in your space. The truth is, again this is nothing new, Mr. Speaker, because I well recall the 1950s, '60s and '70s when small farming was the thing of the country, and individuals who had an acre or half-acre, or two or three acres, would make their contribution to the sugar industry. They planted some canes, but in the off-season they would grow potatoes and cassava and other types of crops right there. I was reminding one of my very good friends in the Ministry of Agriculture only recently that we have a piece of land down Baxters area in St. Andrew, beginning at the mouth of Bruce Vale and coming all the way up to Baxters to the school where the church is now. I well recall there was a river, which does not really run that fluidly anymore, than ran down to Long Pond but ran straight in the middle of our land. On the one side, we had land and on the other side we had land, and we had an appreciable amount of cattle that we also herded there on that land. I remember there was always something growing in that land. I know that crops are seasonal, but it seemed as though my old folk at the time just planted stuff and it grew, whether it was peas or potatoes or sorrel or whatever, they were involved in that. I also recall that sometimes that land became the breadbasket for our village, where people could always get something there. All of a sudden, we have become so sophisticated that we have departed from those mores that really made us a unique society. Mr. Speaker, we must never get to a place where we abandon the things that worked well for us in the name of modernisation while we leave the values and virtues of good living behind. It is imperative and it is important that that is not missed. Therefore, the whole area of agriculture was a thriving business in Barbados. As a matter of fact, I would argue, although I do not have the statistics to prove it, that our food import bill at the time was much less than it is now. I would argue that we were suffering less effects from processed foods than we are now. I would argue that we were importing less meats than we are now. All of these things obtained, and they added to our quality of life, not

only from a health perspective but from a social perspective.

Therefore, under agriculture, public and private sector investment can enable the sector to meet domestic demands for fresh produce, conventional and/or organic and other value-added products. I know that the leader of the Barbados Agricultural Society is a very strong and evangelical advocate for ensuring that we maximise our capacities domestically to supply many of our food-related needs. That is very important, Mr. Speaker, because if we are going to be able, within a revised economic system, to march back the size of our food import bill as we want to do and as we are doing with our energy import bill, we must grow more of what we eat or what we consume in Barbados. I join any advocacy, any crusade, to empower persons. We plant more flowers and grass now than we plant food. Once upon a time around the house there would always be what we call a kitchen garden. Nowadays we want the big pretty lawn and all the beautiful flowers, and we do not grow a yin around the house anymore, at all. I am saying that a lot of those values that influenced how we lived then are some of the same values that this Study seems to be promoting among our population. Therefore, it is important that we do that.

We have grown in our hotel stock, but we have not grown in our food production stock, and hotels are now a high-demand entity in the society for foods, and tourists who are used to eating processed food where they are coming from want to come and indulge in local dishes and fresh foods. If you doubt that, come through the South Coast and watch them going to the supermarkets and buying the fresh herbs and different things. We have to understand the connection, and there is connectivity. This is not just a scientific, theoretical document; it is a document laden with examples of how we can march back to some of the standards that made us a great Small Island Developing State and that is where we are going, Mr. Speaker.

We talk about shrimp, and we go and we buy bagged shrimp in the supermarkets. I remember the days when cray fish and cockles were part of our fish diet. Now the same prawns -- they call them prawns now -- you have to go to a supermarket and pay a lot of money for. There are just a few people now who go in the river and fish. I remember the days when you would come out of there with buckets of cray fish, including eels, mullets and loggerheads and those things. Some of you do not know about those things.

Aside.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: A loggerhead is a fish that looks like a mullet with big eyes and a broad mouth. I have consumed a lot of those things and I am better for it. I believe so, I believe I am better for it, but again we

discourage our offspring from going into those domains because they are so common in terms of areas that they are not good for status, if you will. We have to get back to some of those mores.

The opportunity for forging stronger linkages with tourism and hospitality and processing and distribution sectors should contribute to the strengthening of the economy through foreign exchange earnings and savings, new employment opportunities and skill enhancement. There is a need to develop medium- to long-term strategic plans for the agricultural industry, and I know that our colleague, the current Minister of Agriculture, is working on a number of those areas that we can enhance. Fisheries play a major role in food security and in the economic, nutritional and cultural wellbeing of Caribbean countries. Current status and trends of coastal and marine resources in the region point to increasing pressure from a number of sources. Again, it is over-indulgence that threatens the carrying capacity of the island in the fisheries and fishing area, and that is why there should be some protected areas.

2.51 p.m.

Insert s18

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: It is true, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the cost of building has gone up exponentially but that should not ever be a deciding factor as to how Government goes about housing this nation. The needs and concerns of those persons that have gone through years of challenges relative to housing needs and housing opportunities must be addressed. It is the commitment of this Government and the commitment of the Honourable Minister of Housing to ensure that those issues are not just brought to the fore but that those issues are addressed and addressed frontally because after all one of the very important needs of human beings in the hierarchy of human needs as purported by people like Abraham Maslow and Albert Ellis and those behavioural scientists is the whole area of shelter and security. As a matter of fact, in Maslow's theory, shelter is considered a low level need and by that he meant that it is one on the first rung of development that must be satisfied. It is a basic need.

We as a Government have made great progress in addressing those housing needs issues but there is still a long way to go. There are still a number of residents on this island and a number of villages on this island where people are said to be illegally dwelling and a conscientious social democratic Government must give credence to the creation of shelter for these individuals. I believe that our commitment is to ensure that wherever there is a Barbadian who desires housing or land that an opportunity must be created where those needs can be met. Abraham Maslow

was correct in his assessment because he believed that if those needs, all the way to the last rung of needs called generativity, were not successfully met that something called developmental stagnation or arrested development would occur. In a society where a significant number of its population are stricken by arrested development... Arrested development simply means that when some of the ordinary needs to spur on natural development are not met it plunges a society into anomy, chaos and contention, and therefore any Government that believes in the rudiments of social justice and in the rudiments of social democracy have to pay attention to those particular areas.

Persons who suffer from chronic arrested development are persons who ordinarily find themselves afoul of the law and afoul of the mores of a society, and therefore I know that our Government, as conscious as it is of what becomes of a progressive society, is committed to ensuring that whatever its economic and social basis is, that that economic and social basis takes into full account the wellbeing of its citizens, and that is important, and that is what separates us from a number of developed and developing countries in that particular sphere. These low level needs, trust versus mistrust and belonging versus isolation, make up a taxonomy of human development needs that are very important to the process of self-actualisation. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely fortunate to be part of a Government where that kind of thinking informs policy formulation and where policies are created for the benefit of the people and not simply for the preservation of tradition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is absolutely important that in the context of a progressive democracy that we have to clearly examine those principles that delineate the difference between who we are and how we do business versus how other people do their business. Housing is one of the areas that captures the attention of the Green Economy Scoping Study. Mr. Speaker, it is not just housing. The other side of this argument is that there has to be a rubric of systems that informs us how housing should be done. Of course, we have suffered the perils of ravishing storms in the past. Of recent times we have been able to escape the ravages of hurricanes that have affected other Caribbean islands but nevertheless how we go about constructing our homes and how we go about using not only standards of efficiency but green standards that dictate how we power these houses is extremely important to the process, and therefore gone are the days of the storm carpenter because they are standards that guide how we build. Mr. Speaker, because building institutions have now adopted some of the same standards that we are referring to, those who designed buildings, the architects, the drafters and so on and so forth, they now have a solid appreciation for how to build in a modern society to allow for the safety and the continuance of the dwellers of those buildings. I therefore believe that this study revealed to us some important indicators and some

lessons were learned as to how we should go about carving out that particular areas of the Scoping Study.

Mr. Speaker, again, I make this note. There are some Barbadians who have been struggling with housing needs and housing conditions. I know that we inherited a workload far exceeding the capacity of the State in terms of financial capacity and human resource capacity in some cases but there cannot be any excuse for us not pursuing a policy at its heart that takes into account every single community in Barbados.

We go down to Moon Town from time to time - every social class, every strata of the society -- and one of the things that really excites me when I go down to Moon Town - I told the Honourable Minister I was there, myself and a couple of friends this weekend - is that we always remark when we go there about the village because when you go there you will see any...

House C39 Sequence 19

3.11 p.m.

Insert s20

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 21

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... I do not know if my colleague in Transport is contemplating it, because I know that he is pregnant with new ideas, and I am quite sure that it can be done. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is a very.... As a matter of fact, someone suggested that if you could have a transfer ticket that would allow you to go into Speightstown and shop for as long as you want to, that ticket would remain valid for that day. Therefore, it really is something because, truth to tell, in North America most of the public transport systems work in that particular way. Again, I know that my colleague will address some of those issues. The benefits of greening the transport sector will include: reduction of traffic congestion and hence reduction of travel time, low fuel use and hence reduction of the country's oil import bill, improved quality of life especially in terms of noise and air pollution, and the reduction of greenhouse gases. It is a fantastic idea and, again, an idea that came out of the Green Economy Scoping Study.

There is one thing to have the Study, but the Right Honourable Prime Minister promised that the Study would not be just a decoration for somebody's bookshelf and that some of the practices and policies would be implemented as part of the overall restructuring of the Barbados economy and the movement toward the Green Economy. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the work done in this Study is

groundbreaking work that can really propel the country forward. Another area that was identified was the area of tourism. Tourism and travel have seen some changes in prosperity as well as negative impacts socially, culturally, economically and environmentally when tourism is not well planned and managed.

Regarding the tourism sector in Barbados -- and I am not going to linger too long because I know that the Honourable Minister of Tourism will have some things to say about this and I know that he is very familiar with the Study and his Ministry participated with much energy and enthusiasm in this process -- that sector is perhaps the most reliable sector in Barbados, as it relates to our economic wellness. Congratulations are due to the Honourable Minister of Tourism for the work that he has been doing with his Ministry in keeping this industry moving forward in a very progressive and enthusiastic way. The prosperity attached to tourism is influenced significantly by the viability of international markets, and those markets are heavily influenced by the economic circumstances of those countries. If people do not have money, they will not travel. There are a number of other destination options that people have. We must ask ourselves the question: Why has Barbados remained a destination of choice? That analysis needs to be done in order for us to maintain a unique place in the tourism market, so that we have to continue to improve our circumstances as they relate to service quality, the properties in which people stay, domestic costs on various goods, issues of safety and issues of the environment. A lot of people go to places where there is good environmental health and surroundings, and all of these things are important.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados has been able to hold its own, and the Honourable Minister of Tourism can report that there has been a systematic improvement across those various indicators relative to Barbados being a destination of choice. I heard somebody say recently, "The Middle East is in turmoil so nobody is going up to Egypt anymore as a tourist destination," and that people are preferring to come to Barbados only because the world is in turmoil. That is not the case. There are persons who are repeat visitors, who have been coming here now for donkey years or "donkey ears" and who will still come to Barbados. As a matter of fact, there are people now who have their second homes in Barbados, and when they cite reasons as to why that is the case, they talk about some intangibles that are so important to enticing visitorship from our other destinations. Those intangibles include hospitality and the friendliness of people. You see tourists walking up and down in Barbados as though they live here, and they are not just staying in the brand name hotels anymore. They are going into villages. I am telling you now that on the South Coast all the way up through Inch Marlow and Silver Sands that there are tourists who come every year and go and stay at little bed-and-breakfast houses in that area. It is

a fact of life, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, the tourism industry is not just about attracting the high-flying visitor to Sandals or to Sandy Lane; it really is about bringing people here to experience a kind of living style that they find as relaxing and renewing to their own experience. It is a part of their pursuit of actualisation, if you will. I believe it is important, Mr. Speaker, for us to continue to nurture those aspects of the tourism industry, and I believe it is important that we continue to build out those intangible indicators that tell us why Barbados is a destination of choice.

We are not a perfect society, Mr. Speaker. We have our challenges like any other society, but what Barbados is known for is being a very orderly society where people can come. Now there is a growth of other attractions. For example, there are persons who have major surgeries and they come to Barbados to recover; they come to Barbados to convalesce here on the island. Note the numbers of persons who choose Barbados as the place where they want to get married. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Education knows this: There are a number of persons now who are wanting to choose Barbados as the place to educate their children. They are taking flight from other islands and they are coming here. Executives are working on islands but their children are being reared right here in Barbados in order to benefit from a high educational system; a system that indeed is a remarkable part of the Barbadian experience. I am saying that, for the Tourism Minister, it cannot just be about numbers; it is about improving the intangible qualities that make people fall in love with our island. Nearly everybody else now has a Sandals. If you watch international news, you will see that there is always a Sandals advertisement on television, and to my pleasant surprise recently I saw the Barbados Sandals being advertised on sports channels and news channels and so on.

3.30 p.m.

Insert s22

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: If you pass Maxwell Main Road any time between the hours of 5 and 7 you will observe perhaps the largest number of young people working in the hotel sector in a variety of areas. You have those, Mr. Speaker, who are working in the construction area who are helping with the building and refurbishment of the properties there around Dover and all the way back up through to Sandals. You will find a number of persons who are successful graduates of the Hospitality Institute who are now working in food and beverage. If you go on those properties you would find a number of Barbadians who are into landscaping and what I call tertiary services in the sector that are making an invaluable contribution, and that is why that the front end investment of the Government

into the hotel sector is important. The Ministry of Tourism has been leading the charge in ensuring that there is a supply of resources that can trigger that kind of involvement that redounds to that kind of economic and social benefit in the society.

Truth be told, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people who do not wish to accept that there is that kind of dynamic improvement in the employment of young persons in the hotel industry not only in Barbados, but a number of Barbadians are now going overseas and are being contracted by large hotels and other hospitality-based companies and organisations in plying their trade, and that also is very important in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, redefining and creating jobs is a key part of the restructuring, the reorganisation and the refocussing of the industry. It is an industry that deserves every piece of support that the Government offers to it in its programme.

The final area that we noted under tourism is that focused policy and financial interventions are required to create sustainable agro-based and cultural heritage tourism models. Now, again if I may refer to the Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has for many, many years been talking about heritage tourism and how small villages and those little areas in the nooks of Barbados can become an important stimulus to the thriving nature of tourism. Again I live in an area that really is a mixed area in terms of tourism, agriculture and so on and so forth and there is a tremendous amount of business going on there, what I call on foot business, where tourists will travel from where they are staying to the wayside vendor who is selling produce and buying their melons, onions, butternut squash, peppers of all types and whatever is on offer. This makes its contribution not only at the broader level of the economic activity and commerce in the society but even within the community, at the micro level, this is offering a tremendous boost to those persons who are plying their trade in the sector on the island, and therefore those advocates and crusaders for the greater utilisation of local products and those crusaders that believe that Barbados must always come first and that the first options for consumption ought to be Barbadian product, I say kudos to them because it is an important message that has to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, as you know and as I have said my constituency is a mixed areas of tourism and agriculture. My local farmers, people like Egbert Maloney, Mr. Jeffery Nurse and the other agriculturalists all through Gibbons Boggs, Wilcox and those areas in spite of the challenges, because do not forget that a lot of those farmers up there had to deal with the challenge of the oil spill that affected their production in a significant way, are still fighting

because they believe that Barbados should get to a place where it can feed itself. I give recognition to those hardworking farmers who for generations, all through Fairy Valley, have been plying their trade and contributing to the feeding of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I frown on those villains who go and steal people's produce by night after they have done their work, have tilled their land and have paid out for the work to raise their crops. There are people who are driving all over the place now with fridges on the back of trucks who are going into your ground and reaping as though it is their stuff. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I frown on that and I am looking forward to the day when the legislation is tightened up so that we can throw some of them in jail for six years not six months because it is not fair that you could go out there and till your land, plant your crops and then have persons - nomads I call them, travelling from St. George and other places reaping where they did not sow.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Do you remember the story of the talents in the Bible when the Lord gave out the talents, five, two and one? The fellow who had the five talents went out and doubled his take and brought back 10, the fellow who got two went out and doubled his take and brought back four but the guy who got one because he envied those who got the five and two went and buried his in the ground and when the Master came back and asked for an account that fellow exclaimed, man listen, I know that you are a hard man, you like to reap where you did not sow so as a result I buried mine because I am not going to be a part of your fleecing ordinary people as he would say.

There are people who like to reap where they did not sow and many of the small farmers in my area are having a torrid time because people are going and stealing their stuff. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the public that if they see it happening to bring it to the attention of the police or the landowner. I look forward to the day when produce can be so marked that I can walk up to a tray... Nobody cannot sell me anything on the streets not even a coconut because I am not going to encourage people to steal people things and come and make a profit as though nobody cares. I care because like I said we have a little piece of land that we used to look after years ago and it is never easy giving away those things. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to those persons to encourage the agro-based and cultural heritage of tourism and assist in the propagation of those values.

The study highlighted several home-grown green economy best practices that emphasize Barbados

House C39 Sequence 23

3.50 p.m.

Insert s24

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 25

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... I believe so, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I am pushing the Ministry to move ahead. We are going to have meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture and we are going to come up with an agreement where the Ministry can pursue Turners Hall Woods as a protected area.

Aside.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: The Minister of the Environment supports the Member of Parliament for St. Lucy. Here is the other major role of that space. We know the connection of our tree cover and the management of greenhouse gases. We understand that there is an interaction between what is called chlorophyll and atmospheric heat from the sun, and we know that not only does the tree cover help us to preserve the quality of our air but it also helps us to store some of the greenhouse gases emitted in the environment and the atmosphere.

Aside.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: That is correct. Mr. Speaker, it took me by surprise when I took a tour up there with my officers and the Press to see that the Woods are being run to ruin. Somebody even cut a road through the Woods for the easy passage of these vehicles. I think that we have to do something about it, and I appeal to all of the stakeholders that we must come together and work to preserve that area. If you see.... I challenge you to look at some pictorials of Turners Hall Woods taken by the Natural Heritage Department, and you would think it is a place somewhere in the far-out world. It is absolutely beautiful. At the last regional conference we had here for Small Island Developing States, we had some of those pictures on display and people could not believe that it was in Barbados. Yes, there are other areas in Barbados that can present the same value to the island, but Turners Hall Woods is one of the last bastions of a natural heritage space on the island; so as soon as we get permission from the Ministry of Agriculture, we are going to seek the Town Planner's permission to put up some signage and then we are going to regulate who goes and who comes. Turners Hall Woods run from Turners Hall all the way through where the active natural gas lines ran years ago; all the way up through Hillaby. You can get as far as Welchman Hall up through that line, and if you stop right there at Welchman Hall corner where the rumshop is -- I know where all the rumshops are -- there is a restaurant that overlooks the Scotland District. If you go there and look over that balcony, you would see the most picturesque sight

ever of the Scotland District. The area is Bloomsbury. When you come up from Spring Vale and come through that district, you swing as if you are going to Canefield and Vacluse; there is an area there.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that when we took on this Green Economy Scoping Study, it was not just because it was fashionable to do. It was because there are some very important national endeavours that must be undertaken in order for us to be able to preserve some of the environmental values and natural heritage of our island. I fully endorse the Town and Country Planning Department's programme on the Physical Development Plan because I believe there are some areas that you have to protect from development and so on. One of the things that are happening is that a lot of inland development is creeping into spaces and have now disrupted natural water courses, and as a result we are getting an inordinate amount of runoff water going into the ocean, increasing the acidification of the ocean, which is contributing to the death of coral and certain species of fish. What we have to do now is to go in and put in some check dams to slow down that water's progress. For example, you can get water courses running from all the way in St. Thomas through to the West Coast almost uninterrupted. When you go and change a water course and put a house or structure in that water course, it causes the water to naturally divert and make another course, and that diversion will cause soil erosion which eventually creates problems in the country in terms of preserving our land space and so on.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the issue of the solar house in Queen's Park, St. Michael, demonstrating future sustainability in social housing initiative lessons. I have asked the National Conservation Commission to meet with the relevant persons in the Division of Energy, to deal with the activation of that solar house. It is sitting there doing nothing, and I believe that it is a beautiful demonstration site for how you could involve and engage in that kind of development. I expect to get a report from the Commission on talks with the relevant persons. Beyond engineering, we talked about sun power transport and works. In terms of sustainable transport, we talked about enabling entrepreneurial innovation toward solar technology in a small island economy and engineering coastal ecosystems protection for sustainable tourism"; 28 years of green technology intervention. Let me say something here for the Coastal Zone Management Unit. That Unit has done a tremendous amount of work in responding to the challenges of climate change -- including beach erosion -- such as the placement of boardwalks including the Richard Haynes Boardwalk on the South Coast. I know that Government has been approached on continuing that boardwalk all the way up to St. Lawrence, and that should be looked at as a viable option because there is a lot of erosion in that area as well. As a matter of fact, around Silver Sands there is some beach erosion going on there

that is now presenting a clear and present danger to some of the properties in that area, and I intend to take the relevant authorities there for a tour to look at that as something which we need to pay attention to. I hear the Member for St. Thomas speaking about Graeme Hall, which is true. Graeme Hall is something that we have to seriously look at in terms of how we move forward on that, including the sluice gate which we have to pay some attention to. Graeme Hall is a property that I believe should be preserved, because of the value-added benefit to our country and the investment that has been put into it as a premier reservation site in Barbados. I fully support the efforts of the Attorney General's Office in trying to bring an end to the situation with the ownership and the way forward on that.

4.09 p.m.

Insert s26

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Yes, and the Minister has done a yeoman's job with his Ministry in setting up the Product Authority in working, again, at building out a sector in every possible areas to ensure what should obtain in the development of a tourist industry because the truth is, Mr. Speaker, most Caribbean islands offer the same offerings. What wins out in the end is how you differentiate your offerings and how unique, I should say, your offerings are. Once the relationship develops between your offerings, your industry and your market, then a kind of loyalty sets in where you begin to benefit from generational support where grandmothers came, mothers are coming and their daughters and sons are coming now, and that is what you want to do in order to sustain or build the sustainability of the tourism industry. Mr. Speaker, it is true that Barbados has a premier tourism industry in this hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, we talked about agro-tourism linkages, and in March 2014 the Ministry of Tourism partnered with the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, the Barbados Manufacturers' Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resource Management to launch a new agro-tourism initiative entitled "At the Chef's Table" which will see greater use of local produce. We have spoken to that already, but just for the purpose of emphasis let me say again that we need to get more of our local produce in the hotels and other hospitality-related services. We cannot fool ourselves to tell ourselves that concession-based offerings would be a substitute for the full utilisation of domestically grown produce, and we need to continue to push that particular area as we go forward with the industry. Tourism and culture: The Ministry of Tourism's cultural heritage tourism programme focused on

developing and utilising Barbados' cultural heritage including work executed with respect to Barbados' listing of historic Bridgetown and its Garrison. Mr. Speaker, that particular citation is a monumental achievement in the history of our country but as monumental as it, it is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of that citation or else the country would lose it. What has to happen is that the relevant agencies that have come together to provide a service of upkeep and management have to continue to support this listing as a critical achievement in this country. Mr. Speaker, if we follow what is happening in the Middle East, a lot of their designated sites have been destroyed by war and there is a mad scramble to try to preserve some of the elements of those designations in order for those countries to continue to salvage what is left as a result of the wars going on up there. We cannot run afoul of the expectations and the requirements of maintaining Bridgetown and its Garrison, and therefore the agencies including those agencies in my ministry that must participate, have to do their job and have to continue to make their contribution. Policy development for greening the sector: Amendments were made to the Tourism Development Act in August 2013 and October 2014 whereby a greater number of items were made available to the sector free of customs duties concessions in order to ensure continued sustainability, another area that the Ministry of Tourism has again given its energy to ensure that those things come on board and that those things are in place. The Minister of Transport and Works comments are as follows: The Minister of Transport and Works supports the initiatives identified in improving the efficiency of the transport sector. The Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development comments are as follows: The greening of the housing building sector is still a high priority for the ministry. Although there are many initiatives and practices that can be adopted by those within the sector costing has been and still remains a very important factor deterrent to the adoption or the adopting and implementation of these standards. What work has been completed or being undertaken in line with the recommendations of the Green Economy Scoping Study or in Barbados' overall move towards a greener economy? The National Housing Corporation undertook the construction of 80 houses or housing units in five multi-storey blocks at Dalkeith, St. Michael. The units were designed to take maximum advantage of natural ventilation and reduce the need for artificial cooling systems. The site layout maximised retention of the mature trees that were already on the site to aid in reducing the ambient temperature of the site. Water-conserving appliances were installed and geo-block technology was utilised in the paving of the parking areas. Natural gas is the energy source for this housing development. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about this housing development but based on our study and what has been undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development through the National Housing Corporation clearly has placed the construction of these

blocks at the leading edge of green technology. The truth is that, as was noted before, obviously the implementation of these green technologies would have impacted on the cost of the construction of the building, but I know that the Honourable Minister and his team are working to ensure that an economic cost is established so that those buildings can be aptly occupied, and I know that occupation has started to occur or is soon to occur in that particular area. The National Housing Corporation also undertook a demonstration project at River View, St. Philip. This is a traditional detached bungalow styled house but uses a photovoltaic system as the energy source. The development has not yet been built out in its entirety. A multi-storey housing project has also been proposed for Exmouth, St. Michael and the design specifications require that proposal maximise opportunities for energy conservation and energy production. Mr. Speaker, what is happening here is that the Government has so embraced the concept of the green economy and has so internalised the principles of the green economy that now in a number of our sectors in the Government the practices and policies are being implemented, and that is an absolutely wonderful thing that is happening. I am sure, for example, that as the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation builds out more schools, as the Ministry of Tourism works with the sector

House C39 Sequence 27

4.30 p.m.

Insert s28

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 29

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: ... If you sit down and contemplate what the pursuit of a Green Economy can do for your country, you must understand that it has a tremendous output value that can enhance the lives of the business community as well as those of ordinary citizens in the community. Make no mistake about it; it is one of the development templates that allows us to vigorously pursue sustainable development without putting the integrity of the environment at risk. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, it allows us to realise an alternative way of doing business as part of our development modality that promotes not only the economic side of development but also supports the social and environmental side of development. Mr. Speaker, the pursuit of a green economy is of such where it allows for all citizens to participate in an economic driven system that allows them to identify the areas which they can most benefit from. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the pursuit of a Green Economy offers a type of balanced development where the utilisation and consumption of natural resources would not compromise the capacity-carrying ability of a

country relative to its natural resources. Barbados has a limited natural resource base. A lot of what we will be able to achieve under a Green Economy system will depend upon the innovation of our planners, Mr. Speaker. It will depend upon the willingness of our planners to think outside of the box and to employ innovative thinking, leading-edge thinking, that will give our country a chance to pursue this direction of its development, Sir.

Sir, I believe that we are in a wonderful place at this time of our history. Sir, I believe that there is a connecting strand that ties together where we have been, where we are and where we need to go in this regard. Mr. Speaker, I believe also that it is fortuitous that at this time in our history we who represent the legacy of the founding fathers are able to take their philosophical template and build it out into a programme that is consistent with what they had envisaged from the very beginning. Our task is not an easy task because we are operating in very difficult and strenuous economic times, but the difficulty of the times cannot be an excuse for us not being ambitious and for us not being big thinkers in terms of where we go. It has always been the view of the wider world that Barbados punched much bigger than its size; that Barbados is ordinarily an articulating voice in the corridors of global discussions that allow the world to see that as a small state we have always been able to be seized of the big issues and have always been able to pursue those issues with a measure of success. I believe that at this time, as we reflect on where we have been, as we reflect on where we have come from, as we examine where we are and as we prospect as to where we need to go from here, that we have a repertoire of results from the efforts undertaken by many in the past to move forward successfully and continue to protect the heritage that has been bequeathed to us, Mr. Speaker.

It is true that this is a time that requires all hands on deck. It is true that all of the institutions of the State must come together and work together to build a better opportunity for success. It is true that these are the days when we must concern ourselves with bridge-building and not wall-building. These are the days that we must concern ourselves with how best we can work as a collective within the political system to move our country's prosperity forward. I am so happy, Mr. Speaker, to be at this time in the vanguard of our environmental heritage, and I intend that by the grace of the Almighty I will work with what I have been handed and work with my officers in ensuring that we advance this level of thinking. It takes time, from time to time, for people to understand and accept where it is we are going, but I hope that over the course of today we have been able to map out for the country the journey that we have taken on and embarked upon. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that as we go forward we will find that there are a plethora of opportunities that lie ahead of us, and that if every institution in Government chooses to accept that

these are the days when the challenges must be met with courage and foresight, and if these institutions indeed agree that we will hold hands and go forward, then we are going to be in a good place as we move forward beyond 50 years of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure. I am much obliged to you and I thank you for the time that was given to me to make this presentation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

Asides.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on this Resolution, the Green Economy's Scoping Study, and I want to begin my few words by expressing my appreciation to the University of the West Indies, the trade unions and other key stakeholders including the technocrats in the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, who would have spent their time focusing on ways and means to advance the Barbados environmental and sustainable development agenda. I also wish at this time to recognise the work done by the Barbados Labour Party.

4.48 p.m.

Insert s30

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Madam Deputy Speaker, when we look at what has transpired at the Sanitation Services Authority, it begs to question this definition: The green economy should seek to improve human well-being and social equity.

I will go a bit further, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is nothing new, because the Democratic Labour Party continues to disrespect the trade unions in this country. When you can seek to engage private waste haulers without having any consultations with the unions and without engaging your workforce, tell me how this document or greening in that area is contributing to social equity and human wellbeing. Madam Deputy Speaker, it is on that premise that I will seek to discuss this document. I will not spend an hour and half because I am not going to read from cover to post, I will pick out some of the salient points that I think the people of this country ought to recognise and ought to hold the Democratic Labour Party accountable for as opposed to going from pillar to post with a document.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the two years that this document took to come before this Honourable House speaks to the challenge that this Government face with inertia and lethargy, the inability of this Government to take action. They took two years. This is a 2014 document but yet the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is going to spend four and a half hours keeping us in this Honourable Chamber to do something that we could do or that I have done otherwise, read from pillar to post. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is the real challenge that we face with the Democratic Labour Party, inertia and lethargy, the failure to take action.

When we look at the garbage situation in this country, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West as well as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East came to this Honourable Chamber several times and promised to purchase garbage trucks. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East said that the challenge at the Sanitation Services Authority was a problem with equipment. We thought they were new trucks. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is not all he said. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East said in his presentation today that the garbage accumulation on this island is not the problem of the Government. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East also said that the problem at the Sanitation Services Authority is not a problem of the Government, it is a problem of equipment.

From this document, the Green Economy Scoping Study, some responsibility has to be assigned to the Government. Who champions this? Who ensures that we achieve sustainable development? Who is it to ensure that we protect our fragile ecosystems? Who is it to ensure that we adapt to impact the climate change? Who is it to ensure that we manage our natural capital? When you are going to tell me that it is not the Government's responsibility for the lack of equipment to do the job and it is not the Government's responsibility for the accumulation of garbage in this country, then who holds responsibility for ensuring that all of the elements and the tenets of this Green Economy Scoping Study are executed? We continue to pass the buck at a critical time in the juncture of our 50th year of Independence and I am saying you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the time has come for the Democratic Labour Party to take responsibility and be more credible as a Government.

Our garbage situation in this country and our water situation in this country... This Green Economy Scoping Study speaks to water in several areas. Whether it is eco-tourism, farming, agriculture or fisheries, this document speaks to the importance of water conservation and various techniques to conserve water in this country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as we experienced... over the last year or so, how can you talk about sustainable

development, a green economy, when we traverse this country, we travel from St. Philip to St. Lucy now because areas of Christ Church are experiencing water shortages... Indeed, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East recognised that Barbados is a water-scarce country but at the end of the day that is no excuse for the people in this country to be suffering daily from a lack of water. The Democratic Labour Party was put here to govern based on what we seeing in this Green Economy Scoping Study. I am happy that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East took his time, well he took a very long time, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I am happy that he pointed out some of the important aspects of the Green Economy Scoping Study as it relates to sustainable development.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the time has come when we ought to take responsibility as a Government for every challenge we face in this country and put our hands up and say that we will work as a team to resolve it and not put our hands up and say that we are not responsible for the garbage accumulation on this island. If it is not the problem of the Government, whose responsibility is it when we do not have trucks to collect garbage?

Madam Deputy Speaker, when we examine the aspect of the environment and the garbage situation the time has come in this country for Barbados to have more stringent regulations on garbage separations in our homes. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East glossed over it but we never glossed over the Cahill plasma-gasification plant. We never did that when we were preaching reduce waste, recycling items and reusing materials. Even in house building, this document speaks to the whole aspect of reusing materials and purchasing materials that can be recycled or are recyclable. These are some of the issues that we as a Government ought to pay special attention to as opposed to approving a plasma-gasification plant which will be detrimental to the environment.

I understand

House C39 Sequence 31

5.10 p.m.

Insert s32

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 33

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: ... Madam Deputy Speaker, we are willing to work with the Government to ensure that the one-third land mass space benefits this country socially, environmentally and of course economically. Madam Deputy Speaker, a study was done

to identify areas in the Scotland District for farming, and an area was identified for trees; mahogany trees for farming. They are willing to negotiate to plant trees in a special arrangement. These are some of the issues. It is an exercise in inertia. We need to focus. I came to this Honourable Chamber in 2013 and I have been discussing the Scotland District, and I am sure that since part of 2013 we have been making recommendations and putting a case for the Scotland District. It is cited in the Green Economy Scoping Study, so we cannot gloss over the importance of the Scotland District to sustainable development of this country, whether it is agriculture or it is in the social development landscape of this country. We know that the issue with the Scotland District is one of water settling, whereby we need roots and gabions, and this Scotland District must be handled in a special way. Simply providing money for gabions and that exercise of coming here in the annual Estimates.... If you pick up the 2015 Estimates, you will see the minimum amount of money that has been allocated for or has been spent in the Scotland District, Madam Deputy Speaker. Yet, Madam Deputy Speaker, this Green Economy Scoping Study speaks to the importance of the Scotland District to Barbados' social, economic and environmental development. It is a critical area for sustainable development, and let us not get into the old aspect of migration from the Scotland District into urban territory; we know the ills of that. I am saying that it is critical for us to focus on soil stability in the Scotland District, so we need not only to bring this document two years after it was prepared and a lot of hard work would have gone into it by key stakeholders including the University, trade unions, technocrats and the Public Service, but we as a Government ought to act. The amount of money that we are spending on private waste-hauling, and a garbage truck costing close to \$250 000; do the maths. That is basic economics, and I am saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we are making some serious errors in running the affairs of this country, and our citizens, the taxpayers, are bearing the burden of taxation as a result of the errors and the mismanagement by the Democratic Labour Party.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is more to greening than agriculture or what I would call sustainable agriculture, because when we speak about sustainable agriculture one must speak to methods of farming that allow production of livestock and crops without damaging our natural resources. They must be environmentally friendly methods, and they must benefit our people. Firstly, Madam Deputy Speaker, in this area one must try to bring to our market and to our people crops and foodstuff that allow our people to live healthy lifestyles. This is a key aspect of greening the economy, because it speaks to the human wellbeing; bringing products and crops to market that are environmentally friendly and that cater to healthy lifestyles of the people. We must be able to train our people in the areas of agro-forestry, mixed farming, multi-

cropping and crop rotation. Then we must use technology such as greenhouses and hydroponics. One of the things that I found while I was researching the Green Economy Scoping Study is that when we speak about water, there is a lot of benefit when we utilise the technology in agriculture. You use less water; and one can look at some of the whole benefits such as the plants growing faster. Plant nutrients are controlled when you use hydroponics. We need not only to bring this document to the House two years later than it was produced, but we need to utilise the technologies in the area to green agriculture; sustainable agriculture.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we also need an Agricultural Development Act. These are some of the policy initiatives that we need to regulate that sector if we are talking about greening the sector, and I am calling on the Government to seriously look at an Agricultural Development Act that you have promised. You promised that since 2008, Madam Deputy Speaker, but yet we do not have that Act. In the area of transportation, Madam Deputy Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East again speaking about what he called benefits and improvements in the transportation sector, but I am yet to see those. If we are speaking about greening the economy in the area of transportation, I am yet to see the real benefits since 2008, or let us say since 2014 since this document was produced. Madam Deputy Speaker, the transport sector is in need of a complete overhaul. I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East speak of traffic congestion, and this Government in 2008 under the late Prime Minister abandoned the Barbados Labour Party plan to improve traffic congestion, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Asides.

Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: They abandoned the Barbados Labour Party plan. When we talk about climate change, one of the key issues in this country as it relates to the impact of climate change on sustainable development is the greenhouse gas emissions that come from our transport sector. I want to reference again the same Green Economy Scoping Study because, on Page 121 under Transport when we look at Table 36 -- this is dated back to January to July 2011, Madam Deputy Speaker -- and the number of vehicles registered in the country then, it was 113 000 vehicles based on the study, and 90 000 of them were private motor vehicles. When we are speaking about greening the economy and greenhouse gas emissions, that is where we get the majority of our greenhouse gas emissions from; our transport sector. We ought to come up with a comprehensive plan like the one the Barbados Labour Party had in order to address these issues such as greenhouse gas emissions, because we did not look at it as just building flyovers, but we looked at it with a view to

easing the congestion in this country and as part of a comprehensive plan in greening transport.

5.27 p.m.

Insert s34

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: ...overtaken by a number of issues in the country. There are still some use for it for our technocrats, but I want our Government, the Democratic Labour Party, to recognise that sitting down and doing nothing for two years on a critical document is impacting the wellbeing and quality of life of our people. It is impacting social equity in this country. Many of the elements in here will impact our employers, employees, public servants, homeowners and all of our taxpayers, so let us forget the exercise in inertia and take some serious action to ensure that we as a country live the whole tenets of the greening economy as it relates to sustainable development.

Madam Deputy Speaker, like other areas that the Government would have glossed over similar to the Green Economy Scoping Study the people of this country will be the judge and jury. They will have the time to decide whether this Government has done enough not only in the area of the Green Economy Scoping Study but in other areas of development. They will decide whether this Government has propelled this country or if we have regressed. They will decide whether this Government has instituted measures and policies to benefit our young people, our senior citizens, our employers, our employees and our taxpayers.

Madam Deputy Speaker, just like the Green Economy Scoping Study, this is an exercise in inertia. I am saying that this Government has failed this country miserably not only in bringing this Green Economy Scoping Study two years after the document has been produced but in also in making sure that this country develops socially, economically and environmentally.

With those words, Madam Deputy Speaker, I am obliged.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I stand to represent a constituency that can say that the Green Economy Scoping Study is in action because as I speak to you the constituency of which I represent is able to have a project that is very much a green energy project that allows it to have the capacity to be able to produce energy by the source of solar energy through photovoltaic which allows it

to cover the whole of St. Lucy and also have the capacity to cover other parts of Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you know, we are also supporting the concept of wind energy. In a couple months from now we will not only be doing it through photovoltaic but we will also be doing it through wind energy which demonstrates that what was said by the Honourable Member for St. George South is not true, for clearly he is not up-to-date with what is happening in Barbados if so he would have known of the plan of this Government to move from the fossil fuel to the photovoltaic, wind energy and also other resources of energy that will not impact on the carbon footprint in a negative way but will impact more so in a positive way.

It is also clear, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Honourable Member is not aware of what he speaks when he speaks to 2004 because I was in here when the first thing that was ever mentioned by the Barbados Labour Party about anything green was in a Budget in 2007 and after 2007 not one word was spoken after about that Budget as it relates to the Barbados Labour Party because it was really a Budget about trying to capture the imagination of the public but the public did not accept that Budget because it came at the same time when they also spoke about the Scotland District. In 2007, a couple months just before election they brought the green economy policy, according to the Honourable Member, and also the Scotland District. After 14 years in Government and having all of the revenues they did not see this as important but now they come here today to criticise a Government that is actually implementing whereas they were quite prepared to put it down on paper and were not prepared to spend any of the billions of dollars that they had to put it in place.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the difference between the two political parties is quite clear. This Government came in at a time when the economic situation was very hard and all of the environmental problems were left for us to solve and the evidence is here that with a few resources we have been able to tackle and solve all of the social and environmental problems that have been confronting this country. We found a sanitation problem, we found transportation problems, we found housing problems, you name it, and one would not believe that this Government has had the opportunity to correct all of the negatives that the other Government had. They had 14 years of the highest revenues and they did not solve any of those problems but in nine years, according to the Honourable Member for St. James North - because the truth is you do not know which constituency he represents, he is all over the place - with all the economic turmoil in the world we have been able to solve every social and environmental problem in this country, and we will continue to do so.

We came to Government with a water problem where the water mains were known and we are working to solve them and we will solve them. As I heard this morning the Honourable Member for St. Joseph cannot complain about water anymore because I am told that 90 per cent or more of the water problem in St. Joseph is solved.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is telling me that the members from the Barbados Water Authority are telling lies. I want to warn the Honourable Member for St. Joseph not to make that statement in here again because the Honourable Member knows that the key to the solution in solving the water problem in St. Joseph is the person who counts the votes for him, so he should be careful how he criticises in here. If the Honourable Member is telling me that what the officials of the Barbados Water Authority are saying is not true, I have to believe him because he knows why that problem cannot be solved. Madam Deputy Speaker, it cannot be water, it has to be another problem in St. Joseph. I want to accept the Honourable Member for St. Joseph by his words that what we are hearing is not true because it will not be solved because he will engineer to ensure that the distribution of water is not solved in St. Joseph. The Honourable Member has just said to this House that the water problem in St. Joseph will never be solved. That is what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph just told this House. I am hoping, Madam Deputy Speaker, that next it would be St. Thomas and the other niggling problems will also be corrected. One thing I will say is that I will not be hypocrite in this House and behave as if water is now being a problem. I was in here long enough to know that

House C39 Sequence 35

5.47 p.m.

Insert s36

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 37

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: ... I mentioned it here also during the last Budget that if that is the problem, then what we need to do is to focus on those persons, because as a Small Island Developing State we cannot afford to have a situation where at least one-sixth of our housing stock is not used because we cannot afford to use resources. I have been speaking to my technical people and I have been asking them to let us find out, using resources in the Inter-American Development Bank and so on to carry out a study, even though I think I know exactly what we have to do, but I am not going to be the judge and jury on this particular matter. I will continue to proffer that what we

need to do is to ensure that if they do not want to rent the houses to their brothers and sisters in Barbados, they should keep the houses in good state and ensure that they use the Airbnb programme to rent those properties. That is why, during the Budget, I spoke about a commercial residence; where you can have a residence that you do not want to use but which you can put on the commercial side for tourism purposes, namely community tourism, which would create more revenue. The more revenue that is created in the country, the more revenue the Government may be able to get in taxes through the indirect process. Also, for those persons who are living in ten-bedroom houses like the Honourable Member for St. James North, and there is only a husband and wife in the house, it is hoped that he would see the economic value and opportunity costs of renting out that additional space and putting it on the market for tourism purposes in order to create additional revenue and help with the growth of the economy.

As Minister of Housing, I cannot only think about housing alone, but I must recognise that, as we speak to it, we see housing only as a social cost, but housing cannot only be seen as a social cost. It must be seen as an economic tool also so that we can create growth within the economy and the necessary revenue so that some of that spinoff can go into the economy and we can get some money to help with the development for the masses of people. We cannot build houses with talk, and if the economy is not functioning the way we want, then it means that the slice of the cake for the housing sector cannot be the same. Then it would be imperative of me to ensure that I help create the infrastructure and the economic positions so that the Minister of Finance can have the amount of revenue and also help create the growth so that we can create an atmosphere that allows us to go and face the market to ensure that we can do what we have to do.

However, the National Housing Corporation must be in a position to have money to build or create relationships with the private sector so that we can create the necessary revenues in order to create social costs. Social costs cannot come by bare talk. I have listened to my critics in here, and I laugh every time I hear them talk, because after hearing the criticism and waiting for the solution, I do not see it. I am saying that we in Barbados sometimes need to stop and recognise where we are, because -- and I have said this over and over and I have argued this point -- one cut of the cloth cannot fit all. We in Barbados are fortunate, because the truth is that we are a city state. Whereas people in the rest of the world speak about urban and rural and give the impression that the rural areas are areas where nobody wants to live and that people want to gravitate from the rural to the urban, we in Barbados are so fortunate that we have the reverse happening and we do not appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that we have to understand that we are a special case in Barbados and we have to stop badmouthing ourselves. Instead of badmouthing ourselves, we have to understand and appreciate that where we are, from a housing point of view, we have something to advertise in a positive way; so positive that we have to ensure that, even if we have to use CAP 226 (11) to solve our problems, or use the Health Act or Land Acquisition Act, we have some waste capacity in this country that in these economic times we cannot afford. We cannot afford to have the number of housing stock remain unoccupied for a country that is a Small Island Developing State. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we understand what has to be done. We have the will to continue to solve the problems, and we will continue to ensure that every time we are faced with a problem that we find the solutions and solve the problems. We do not run away from problems on this side. We do not mind how much badmouthing occurs from the other side, but what is important is that as they badmouth, we find solutions and we solve. Do you know what is hurtful? They call on us to solve the problems, and every time we solve the problems they try to put stumbling blocks. They have some penny lawyers down town, and every time they want to run into court and block everything in this country; everything for political reasons. Do you know what worries me? Those penny lawyers have always used the dead to be popular; have always used the dead to get a popular name. They have never done anything to get a name in this country off anything that has been popular. It has always been something to destroy Barbados. Every time they tell you about getting economic growth in the country, but every time you bring up a project to help the masses of people in this country, they run to the court and block. When they do not do it themselves, they send others. Mr. Speaker, I am saying.... Mr. Speaker, you hear that? Democracy.

Asides.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: What is hurtful is that the same people who tell you about democracy do not support democracy. The same people who come and say democracy are the same people who do not support democracy but support dictatorship, including the one who just said it. Mr. Speaker, I get very angry when you speak about my country and when you are trying to sabotage my country.

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

Asides.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am saying who want to open up on Matthew that is up to them, but do not accuse me of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Honourable Members, please. Let us have some order. Please continue.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that I am happy with the progress that we have made under this Study. I understood and I will understand the amount of hard work that went into it. I want to congratulate my comrade and friend, the Honourable Minister, for being bold enough to come in here and demonstrate to this House that it is not about talk but it is about action. I hear the Honourable Member for St. George South. Is he gone? Oh, he has been elevated to the front bench again. The backbencher.

Aside.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: This Study that they had in 2004, imagine. In 2004 it is true that they did not have both downgrades at that time. They only had one by 2004, and by 2005 I think they had three. We are talking about the environment, but do you know the economic environment was first destroyed by the Barbados Labour Party? Three downgrades when the world economy was good, and now have the gall to come in here and talk about downgrades in bad times. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine they are now behaving?... They had a car and the brakes were good, and they still could not get the car stopped.

6.06 p.m.

Inser4t s38

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: ...flow of carbons which are part of our refrigeration elements used in refrigeration. The fact is that about 20/30 years ago the world took on the challenge of replacing those refrigerants with ozone-friendly refrigerants and as a result there is already signs of a rebirth of the ozone layer instead of the kind of depletion that we were noting, and this is an important indicator to the kinds of impacts we could have.

The small islands developing states that I referred to have often had to make the point internationally that whereas they are not necessarily the bulk or the major contributors to this climate change, they are in fact the countries who suffer most when the climate change occurs, flooding, earthquakes, storms and the change in weather patterns in our own region, I mean the kind of shivering nights that we experienced some six months ago and the kind of extreme heats that we are experiencing in Barbados today with temperatures in the region of 82 and 83 degrees which is not the norm.

There are changes in the environment in our lifetime which we need to understand and to explain and which we need to mitigate. I said that the small islands developing states make the point that whereas we are not the major contributors and that places in the developed world like China, the United States of America, Great Britain and Canada, and they cannot get away from it in the corridors of international debate, are the major contributors and are the ones that we have had to push hardest against to reach some kind of international consensus typified by the recent COP 21 in Paris where we have gotten to a new index in terms of the global warning factors that are acceptable.

It is against that background, Sir, that Barbados has taken this step. It is against that background that we can share with the public of Barbados the need for us to move in this kind of direction and at the same time proudly boast of the fact that we can create new industries, better environments and better health experiences for our people.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East made the point and referred to the fact that he expected that when I speak I would make some reference to this whole question of climate change and the environment. Mr. Speaker, I want to start here because we have a constant battle in health in Barbados with what has become familiarly known now as non-communicable diseases and the risk factors associated with them and how are we going to change the lifestyle or encourage Barbadians to move in a direction which will see a healthier nation and which will guarantee that we live healthier lives. I have stayed away, Sir, from speaking so much to longer lives, I speak deliberately to the question of healthier lives, and this has been happening to a large extent. If you visit the Ministry of Health 5th Floor today you will see on display a number of photographs which depict aspects of climate change and threats to our nation's health. I took a few photographs this morning before I left the office so that my memory could be nudged in this regard. The wonderful thing about these photographs is that they are the work of primary school children in Barbados because our health promotion team along with the Non-communicable Disease Commission and other non-governmental organisations in Barbados have undertaken the education of our children to make sure that even the young minds are trained to understand the kind of threats that flooding can have in the case of the prevalence of mosquitoes and the threats of either Dengue Fever, as we have known before, Chikungunya, which became familiar in the region about three years ago, and now of course the threat of the Zika Virus which has taken on a life of its own so to speak and indeed is now engaging the international discussion to a very significant extent because the peculiarity of the Zika Virus is its spread and its threat and of course most importantly and most urgently the threat to pregnant mothers and their children. Indeed, it has pushed the Pan American Health Organisation and other research areas to the extent where vaccine trials are

already on the way in respect to the Zika Virus because the full extent of the threat of the Zika Virus is actually very, very serious.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at these displays, there are about ten of them... I urge Honourable Member when they visit the National Insurance Building and they can just get the opportunity to come upstairs and have a look at these pictures which speak to things like respiratory illnesses and allergies. If you go to visit the Accident and Emergency at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the number of patients who are being treated for asthma attacks, et cetera keeps increasing because of the need for nebulisation, and for rashes and these kinds of things which can occur because of our air pollution as referenced.

We can have flooding as I said and of course the threats of disease from flooding, things like Cholera, Typhoid Fever, and as I mentioned Dengue Fever, Malaria and these kinds of diseases because although we boast in our region of the fact that we have essentially eliminated a number of these diseases, things like Measles, Rubella Fever, Typhoid Fever, et cetera, there is a reality that these diseases can re-emerge so to speak if we do not pay careful attention to them.

We have taken the argument of the threat of disasters into the international health arena and made it very clear that in this world when travel and people exchange is so easy we need to be very aware that any relaxation in our efforts and attention and care to maintaining a regime of control of these diseases, be it in Barbados, Guyana or in the Far East, can result in a threat to any of us including of course the developed countries like the United States of America. It is noteworthy that one of the areas now with some of the highest incidence of the Zika Virus is actually in the temperate areas of Florida. Mr. Speaker, no one is spared in this matter and all of us are responsible for making sure that attention is carefully is painted.

We had only last week the opportunity to sit in Cuba with the Governments of Cuba, the United States of America, the Latin American Countries and ministers from our region as we worked to develop a regional response to the whole question of Arboviral Diseases, and I mentioned them already, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and the Zika Virus, and the associated threat.

Indeed, here in Barbados it is encouraging to know that certainly

House C39 Sequence 39

6.26 p.m.

Insert s40

Tuesday, OCTOBER 25, 2016

Seq. 41

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: ... I am not saying that everybody is happy with the arrangement, because that does not happen too often on earth; that happens somewhere else, but at least the minds have got together to the extent that, as I said, there are 20 megawatts to the Barbados Light & Power, ten megawatts to Government itself, 20 megawatts to homeowners, and out of that 20 megawatts I think I can say that I have 200 kilowatt hours, which is a small unit. I have been on the programme now going on two years, and truthfully it was a major investment. I did it early in the business so we had to pay a lot for it. In relative terms, the prices have come down, so you are no longer using that kind of fossil fuel to generate the power for your home but you are using the sun; the beautiful sun that God has freely provided to this wonderful country of ours.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: To talk about the sun?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Ho. J.D.E. BOYCE: It is sufficient, Sir, to power an entire home - a modest home in this case, of course -- of three small bedrooms and a television and refrigerator, of course, to keep my beer cold. That is the kind of thing the homeowners can look forward to. I know that there are a number of other Members in here who have taken advantage of this opportunity, and it makes sense. The Minister referred to the fact that in Portugal there is a feature which speaks to the fact that for four days Portugal ran the entire country on renewable energy. They did not start an engine if you begged. The sun, wind and thermal energy, and Otech, made sure that Portugal had all the power it needed to run the country for four days. Sir, would it not be wonderful if even after we retire we can look back and say, "This Green Economy Scoping Study and the Debate that we held in this House today has been part of bringing Barbados to the extent that we can run Barbados for four days or even four hours, Sir, without having to rely on fossil fuel for the power to do so?" For me, it is an exciting thought, Sir. For me, it is an extremely exciting thought that we are embarking upon.

We are embarking on a new economy and, again, this is nothing that the Democratic Labour Party is bringing to Barbados for the first time. It was in our Manifesto. It is part of the philosophy of our party: a Green Economy, good governance, renewable energy, new jobs, Sir, a new industry. Is it not wonderful that we could spend today sharing with Barbadians the extent to which this

implementation is occurring, and most of all, Sir, by way of the Green Economy Scoping Study document, present a framework to the people of Barbados which tells them how every aspect of governance in this country will play its role in making sure that that Green Economy for Barbados is actually realised. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed being able to be part of this Debate today. I want again to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who presented the Resolution, Sir. I want to thank the Member, too, for St. George South for his contribution. Yes, as critical as it was about water and transport, we can do that too. However, we have to understand that recognising and putting this machinery in place allows Barbados now to go forward in an ordered fashion in terms of rolling out the Green Economy we all want to see so badly. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. George North.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to this important Study. Sir, I believe that the Study which we are discussing today, the Scoping Study about a Green Economy and climate change, is important for us at this juncture in order to examine the work that was done by the committee and the agency of Government, the University of the West Indies, and of course, by those international agencies that played their part in this important Study. I also want to say that the Minister who introduced this today spoke for a very long time, and it seemed as though he was sending a message to Barbadians that he is still able. I do not know why he felt that he wanted to speak for five hours, but he reminded me of what is happening in the United States. In the United States election, it is about who is ready and who is competent and who is able, and the Minister wants to send a signal that he is still able to speak for five hours.

Aside.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that he covered all the areas but he came through. His voice was strong, but of course he did not speak totally about the issue of climate change. I wanted to hear him on climate change because, I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is in this vein that the whole world recognised that there was a need for a Green Economy, and it came out of studies that were done way back in the 1970s where industrialised countries were causing great harm in the world, especially China and India. They were causing pollution in the world. Out of those studies, Mr. Speaker, the large countries recognised that they had to spend money in terms of providing financial aid for those persons who were affected by pollution. Those of us who have gone to Asia would have noticed the changes in the atmosphere. If you go to Asia, you would see the pollution that has been caused by those industrialised countries. Mr. Speaker, that is one of the

reasons why most industrialised countries today have not fully bought into the Green Economy. Out of that came a number of studies, and the Minister spoke about the Small Island Developing States Conference in the early 1990s, but even before that, there were a number of areas that we in the Caribbean looked at. We looked at how one could recognise the Green Economy. The Minister also spoke about what took place when he was a little boy in St. Andrew; how young persons and people in the village were able to plant crops and grow trees around their homes. All this pointed to the Green Economy and how persons were able to keep their surroundings clean. Today, we have more and more talk about renewable energy and the right for solar energy; how we can cut back on the use of fossil fuel and so on. Mr. Speaker, all of these things we have heard over time. I have been in this House for over 20 years and during that time we have heard many Ministers of the Environment speaking about the Green Economy. It is true that today we have a more extensive Paper and more extensive information which I hope the Ministry would put into the schools and which I hope can go into community groups and communities across Barbados in order for us to have a more enlightened and educated debate about the pros and cons of this Study.

6.45 p.m.

Insert s42

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want to also talk about what is happening in my constituency, for example, in relation to the Ministry of Sports. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Sports has about four playing fields in St. George and they need to cut these playing fields. The playing field right in the heart of St. George at the Glebe needs to be cut. The playing field at Sweet Bottom needs to be cut as well. The playing field at Flat Rock has not been. Mr. Speaker, Government has been sending a signal that they are not cutting and keeping their own lands in a shape that they should be.

We have some land that was bought by the Ministry of Health for housing. The Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development has not come to St. George recently but the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development must know where his lands are. The Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development is the largest landowner in Barbados. The Minister of Health must prosecute the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development, the Minister of Sports and all of the other ministries for not doing their job.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that it is a serious matter and you got to speak the truth on these matters because when you look at what is happening across Barbados today, lands that are overgrown with bush causing mosquito-borne diseases to spread will impact heavily on the Ministry of Health, and therefore if it will impact on to the Ministry of Health each Minister from the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development right back has to do his job.

When lands are overgrown causing problems then the society takes a leaf from Government. The Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health will quarrel with private landowners, but what about the Government. The Government is setting the example. The example has been set by the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development. When your land is overgrown with bush you are setting the example but you are blaming Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you that if Barbadians see a lot that is well kept they do not throw garbage there. If a lot is well kept, if land is well cultivated and well harrowed, ploughed up and so on people do not throw dead animals or bags of garbage there. It is only when they see bush and overgrown trees like what is happening from St. Andrew right across to St. Thomas... I travelled that area recently and I saw a lot of bush.

The Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development is the superior landowner. Even when lands are vested in other ministries the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development is the owner of all of the lands. I hear about Turners Hall Woods today. Who owns Turner Hall Woods? The Crown. Who owns all of the land coming from St. Andrew right through to Vacluse right down to St. Michael? I am saying that most of this land is owned by the Crown and the Crown is setting an example that they are keeping their lands in bush and people are now throwing all types of things in it, so we have to set the example.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Government needs the resources to do some of this work. The private sector and the public must also bear in mind that they have a responsibility. I believe that if Government sets the example the public must also do their work, and I am appealing to those landowners especially in my constituency, for example, who will not keep their lots clean to recognise that they have a duty to protect their neighbours and themselves from all of these mosquito-borne diseases that we see from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us also to encourage persons to grow crops as the Minister of the Environment would want us to do. I believe that Barbadians need to start growing some fruits and vegetables in their backyards. They must be able to cultivate and grow these things not

only to keep the import bill down but in order to help generate for their family an atmosphere of thrift. Too many families today do not understand what it is to grow crops or the rearing of animals and so on any longer and I believe that the time has come for us if we want to protect our environment and if we want to have a green economy to do just that.

As far as climate change is concerned, Mr. Speaker, we have seen a situation where because we are not planting trees or cultivating good habits that the climate has changed over time. In fact, the United Nations has warned us that over the last 20 or so years climate change in terms of heat generation has been what we notice today, where we are having more heat in the world and it is generating a weather that we were not accustomed to in certain seasons. This is causing an alarm and we have to be able to constantly educate our people what to do.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the problems we had here with the last storm, I want to compliment the Ministry of Home Affairs and also congratulate the Meteorological Office and so on for highlighting the storm and for being on the ball. I believe that was very good because they highlighted it quietly and quickly and were on the ball even though some Members of Government did not understand the Release. Mr. Speaker, this shows that one Member of the Cabinet would do what he or she would do and another Member would do what he or she would do. People do as they like. The newspapers reported that there were lots of problem, that the Government came out and disobeyed that order, and I believe that the Government must set the example.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: In fact, now that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is talking, it reminded me that he was the one who broke the order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am not the Minister that owns land at Lower Burney.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well, no point of order found.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I did not remember him it is just because that he spoke that I remembered that it was he who was the one who disobeyed the order from the Attorney-General Office that no one should come out and bring people to work at that time, but of course this is what is happening in Barbados. We need to understand that we have to respect authority.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, I believe that once we respect authority and once we put systems in place that nobody should be above the law and that we have to prosecute persons who do not obey the law. We have to be able to put systems in place and so on.

Mr. Speaker, my final contribution to this debate is this. The Minister dealt with the water problem and I would want in another debate to look at the whole question of water. I did a study years ago about the water problem when I was at Erdiston's Teachers Training College and I recognised that one of the problems about the water problem is that these mains were done since 1898, and there is a problem in main replacement, we know this.

House C39 Sequence 43

7.05 p.m.s

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	1
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 2.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

PAPERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	2
1. Sugar Industry Sugar Workers Provident Fund Order, 2016;	
2. The Financial Management and Audit (Financial Amendment Rules) 2016;	
3. The Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Annual Report 2015;	
4. The Report of the Judicial Council for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015; and	
5. The Police Complaint Authority Annual Report 2015.	
1. The Caves of Barbados Limited Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the years 2010 and 2011; and	
2. Barbados Conference Services Limited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2015.	
Hon. R. L. Sealy, 2.	

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	2
1. The Holidays with Pay Bill, 2016; and	
2. The Labour Department (Amendment) Bill, 2016.	

FIRST READING OF BILLS

1. The Holidays with Pay Bill, 2016; and
2. The Labour Department (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	2
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 2.	

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOYCE, Hon. J. D. E. (Christ Church South)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
KELLMAN, Hon. D. ST. E. (St. Lucy)
LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)
LOWE, Hon. Dr. D

SEALY, Hon. R. L. (St. Michael South Central)
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
SUTHERLAND, Mr. D. G. (St. George South)

DISCLAIMER. *This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.*

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Opening proceedings, repeated after take-slip H:No.C39 (9), 11.52 a.m.. The source repeats the whole of the opening of the Sitting (the convening sentence, PRESENT list, Prayers, Minutes, Announcements, Papers, Notices, First Reading, Suspension of Standing Orders and withdrawal of Orders Nos. 14 and 15) in the middle of the Minister's speech. The first copy is printed and the repeat (about 940 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. Throughout the Sitting. The source is a partly merged file. About twenty reporters' takes appear only as placeholders such as 'Insert Jackie 1', 'Insert prince 2', 'Insert Juliette 4', 'Insert s10', 'Insert s12' and so on to 'Insert s42', and these takes (roughly every second sequence) are missing from the record. Many speeches therefore begin or end with '...'. The placeholders are printed as in the source. Please supply the missing takes or confirm.

Q4. Government Business. The Order number and full title of the Resolution on the Green Economy Scoping Study, the Minister's opening words and the motion that it be agreed to are not in the source; the debate begins at take Seq. 3 with '... The Green Economy Scoping Study is a result of...'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. End of the record. The source ends during the speech of Mr. G. A. Clarke, after take-slip 'House C39 Sequence 43, 7.05 p.m.s', with no further speakers, no question put and no adjournment. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce's speech. Part of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce's speech is run on under the label 'Mr. SPEAKER', beginning 'Ho. J.D.E. BOYCE: It is sufficient, Sir, to power an entire home'. Printed as in the source. Please confirm the speaker.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 25th October, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., with Mr. Speaker, His Honour M. A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood. Mr. Speaker welcomed

Members back from the recess, and the Minutes of Tuesday, 16th August, 2016 were confirmed. Mr. Speaker announced receipt of the Accounts and Statements for January to March 2016 prepared by the Accountant General.

The Leader of the House, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, laid papers including the Sugar Industry Sugar Workers Provident Fund Order, 2016, the Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation Annual Report 2015, the Report of the Judicial Council for the years 2012 to 2015 and the Police Complaint Authority Annual Report 2015, and Hon. R. L. Sealy laid accounts of the Caves of Barbados Limited and Barbados Conference Services Limited. The Holidays with Pay Bill, 2016 and the Labour Department (Amendment) Bill, 2016 were read a first time, Standing Orders were suspended, and on Mr. Boyce's motion the existing Orders Nos. 14 and 15 were withdrawn.

The rest of the recorded Sitting was taken up with the Resolution on the Green Economy Scoping Study, of which large parts are missing from the source. Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe described the Study as the result of collaboration between governmental and private stakeholders and the University of the West Indies, whose interim report was submitted in October 2011 and resubmitted in December 2011 after the scope was amended and budget support extended by US\$15 000. He said that no notion should go abroad that the Government was trying to ditch 600 workers and privatise the Sanitation Services Authority, spoke on waste minimisation, air quality, water scarcity and climate change, rejecting the view that it was 'a Chinese hoax', and spoke of renewed interest in agriculture, housing, tourism employment along Maxwell Main Road and damage to woodland he had toured with his officers.

With Madam Deputy Speaker in the Chair, Mr. D. G. Sutherland thanked the University of the West Indies, the trade unions and the technocrats who had worked on the Study, but questioned the Government's record at the Sanitation Services Authority against the Study's definition of a green economy, and spoke on the Scotland District and tree planting. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman said that the Study was already in action in St. Lucy through a photovoltaic project, with wind energy to follow, and spoke of making use of the one-sixth of the housing stock that was unused.

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce spoke on ozone-friendly refrigerants and the vulnerability of small island developing states, and on the renewable energy arrangements, of 20 megawatts to the Barbados Light & Power, ten megawatts to Government and 20 megawatts to homeowners; he described his own system and said that the

Green Economy had been in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto. Mr. G. A. Clarke supported the Study but criticised overgrown Government lands, which drew a point of order from Mr. Kellman, who said he was not the

Minister who owned land at Lower Burney; Mr. Speaker found no point of order. The record ends during Mr. Clarke's speech at about 7.05 p.m., with no adjournment recorded.