
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2018 – 2022

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Worthing Corporate Centre on Tuesday, the 10th Day of August, 2021, at 10 a.m. pursuant to the Adjournment.

PRESENT

His Honour A.E. HOLDER, B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Speaker)

His Honour N.G.H. ROWE, J.P., B.A. (Deputy Speaker)

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

Hon. R.St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of International Business and Industry)

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, Minister of National Security and the Civil Service)

Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P. (Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs)

Hon. D.D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

Hon. T.A. PRESCOD, J.P., B.A.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship)

Lt. Col. the Hon. J.D. BOSTIC, MVO, B.A. (Hons.), (Minister of Health and Wellness)

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

Hon. D.G. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), (Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Development)

Hon. Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training)

Bishop the Hon. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, J.P., B.A., B.Sc., PgD. (Leader of the Opposition)

Dr. the Hon. W.F. DUGUID, J.P., B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S, F.D.R.C.S., M. Min. (Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance)

Hon. W.A. ABRAHAM, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs)

Hon. Ms. C.S.V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.), (Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Mr. R.A. THORNE, Q.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology.

Hon. I.A. WEIR, M.B.A. (Minister of Agriculture and Food Security)

Hon. A.R. FORDE, RPh. (Minister of the Environment and National Beautification)

Hon. C.McD. GRIFFITH (Minister in the Ministry of Water Resources)

Hon. P.R. PHILLIPS (Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security)

Hon. J.A. KING, BSS. (Minister in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for Culture and the National Development Commission)

Hon. G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL (Minister of Transport, Works and Water Resources)

Hon. C.E. JORDAN, B.Sc. (Hons.) (Minister of Labour, Social Partnership Relations and the Third Sector)

Dr. S.E. BROWNE, M.B.B.S. (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. K.D.M. HUMPHREY, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A. (Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy)

Hon. R.R. STRAUGHN, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

Hon. Miss M.K-A. CADDLE, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment)

Miss T.N.S-A. MOORE, M.B.A.

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is in Session. Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, to be confirmed.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADHSAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the aforementioned Minutes be confirmed.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Minutes be confirmed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and the Minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2021 stood confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to acknowledge the presence of the St. Michael Parish Ambassadors Miss Reaiah Harris and Mr. Shaquille Waithe, Public Relations Officer Mr. Adrian Boyce, Project Co-ordinator Miss Tamara Todd, and Floor Member Miss Gina Millington.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you have an enjoyable stay and that you fully appreciate the proceedings in this Honourable Chamber, and also that when you return you will do so with an in-depth knowledge of what it means to be in these hallowed Chambers.

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in receipt of a letter from the Governor General dated the 31st Day of July, 2021. It reads as follows:

“Dear Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform that I shall be away from office during the period August 4-31, 2021, on vacation leave. In accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1)(a) of the Constitution, the Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Douglas Gibson will perform the functions of the Office of Governor General during my absence. As the Honourable the House of Assembly will not be meeting prior to the start of my vacation leave, it will not be possible for the usual formal message to be sent to your Chamber. Will you please bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable the House of Assembly when next it meets? I have the honour to be Yours Faithfully,”

Governor General.

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Barbados Fiscal Framework, 2022-2023 to 2024-2025.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill, 2021.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the aforementioned Bill be read for the first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that.

The question that those Standing Orders be so suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the Order of the Day.

ORDER NO. 4

To move the Second Reading of the Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill, 2021.

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

Hon. Miss M. K-A. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish as the Member of Parliament for St. Michael South Central to acknowledge the young people who are in the Chamber with us, the St. Michael Parish Ambassadors. I hope that their visit will spark further interest in these proceedings, such that this will not be the last that we see of them in this kind of forum. Sir, the Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill that is before this Chamber is really an administrative exercise that seeks to make right an error that took place with respect to the process for creating the legislative framework for the Census to be executed. I will just give a little bit of background as to what transpired there. The Census takes place, as we are aware, every ten years. The Census Year for Barbados should have been 2020, and we know that

2020 was the year of COVID. It was a time during which we were all concerned with keeping people safe and well, and really with getting our minds around this pandemic and what it would require of us.

Sir, most countries that found themselves in a census year in 2020 did not execute, some are executing in this year and some have deferred even further into next year. Now, we put in place the framework to be able to execute the census. It is such a major undertaking and it is properly called the National Population and Housing Census. It is such mammoth undertaking that we have to make sure that those officers who are in the field, engaging with people, and asking for information, that they are doing so with the full legislative force and legal authority that we provide.

The process calls for certain things to be in place. I want to say a little bit about the importance of this exercise. It is called a population and housing census. It is meant to tell us the population and for the last 10 years we have been using some estimates and forecast based on what we believe the natural growth rate of the population to be. However, the truth is that as we learnt from the population situation analysis that the Population Commission returned to us some months ago and said we have a declining and an aging population. As such, we need to clearly understand what the number is, how many people reside in Barbados regularly for six months or more and also what the composition of that population is.

Sir, I come from a background from a profession that is driven by evidence and one of the things that I worked on in my 20-year career as an economist was trying to help and support Governments and international institutions use evidence as the basis for making policy. Not use what we feel or not use what we would like to be the case, but to create policy based on what is happening. Now, we need to know how many young people we have, how many people are of retirement age, and perhaps more now than ever we need to know about our housing stock, about how resilient our housing stock is. I cannot see the Member for Christ Church West eyes too well above the mask, but I would imagine that if I could see them well they would tell a story of many sleepless nights. Since what we call a little bit indelicately, but because it was an even that we could not categorise which is the freak storm that we had and then hurricane Elsa, we have been quite honestly playing a bit of catch up in understanding the vulnerability of the housing stock, not just what was damaged. However, if we were to as some would say knock on wood and I am not usually driven by superstition, but if we were to have another event then what is the level of vulnerability of the current housing stock? How are we able to build housing more resiliently? This is perhaps the question of our time. However, not only that, if there were another major policy issue that we had to settle, it would be what are the particular vulnerabilities that people are experiencing and

how can we address them. One of the things that we were able to develop, learn and practice in the midst of COVID also relates to the Ministry of People of Empowerment and the social services that they are able to provide. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I know in collaboration with my neighbour, the Member for St. Michael South have been putting shoulders to the plough along with the officers in that Ministry to collate data that we gathered during COVID, that we used to figure out who was at a disadvantage because they had been separated from their employment, to figure out who needed special services because they were in a situation where children were now being educated in the household and they needed special support to be able to make sure that education was being delivered in a way that would not put those children at a disadvantage.

Sir, we have this way of measuring poverty that is based on income. We talk about a poverty line and we say that if an individual is earning below that poverty line that person is poor. However, for many years those of us who work on these issues have put it to the international community and it is not just about income poverty, there are many other kinds of deprivations that people can suffer, so I could be making a certain salary but I could have ten people in a household to support on that salary. For example, we know that households headed by women are larger, so it means that those households where you are depending on the sole income of a woman, that dollar has to stretch much farther than households headed by men. These are the kinds of things, these nuances of how people live and what people need.

Sir they are people who live with disabilities. We need to know how many they are, where they are, what kinds of services they need, but not only what kinds of services they need. We need to really create an environment where people who live with disabilities are able to contribute to the social and economic life of the country. For too long we have considered that such individuals are mere consumers of Government goods and services. It cannot be. We all have our particular gifts and talents to contribute to our communities and to our country. What the census is helping us to be able to count not just the numbers of people living with disabilities and what kinds of disabilities, what the census allows us to do is not only to figure out what kinds of services are required but also how can we create an environment where those individuals are given their best chance to be able to work and live productive lives.

Sir, I am not going to go through all of the different ways in which the census is important, but just to say that this is a key critical baseline survey that we need. They are all other kinds of services that we do. We do labour force surveys to tell us about unemployment. We do surveys of living conditions, to help us collect more information about

how people are living, but we need a census to give us that broad picture of how people are living and what people need, what people need to be able to contribute so that we can be precise in our policy making.

Sir, throughout the region I have worked on statistical capacity building in the CARICOM region for over 20 years. One of the challenges that we have is that a country does a census and we get a number of a population and we stop there. We do not go further to look below that population number to see exactly what is happening with our population, to see where geographically there may be certain vulnerabilities with respect to housing. We know that in some areas in the Scotland District, and that is why this Government is investing so much in capital works programmes to make sure that there is safe, stable transportation networks and housing in those areas. All of these are the things that the census has to be able to tell us.

Thus, we did all of the work to put together a census order. We started with what is called a listing exercise and the importance of the listing exercise is to be able to tell the difference between what residential building are and what are commercial buildings. Why is this important? This is because when the enumerators go out into the field we want to make sure that they can be targeted and precise. Especially in a COVID-19 environment, we do not want them to be delayed too long and wondering whether a particular building is residential or commercial or who they should approach to determine who the head of the household is.

A listing exercise is where officers go out, take a record of the nature of the buildings and make these notes. Sir, we are in an environment in 2021 where people are hungry for information. We see that now in a lot of discourse that is occurring with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and what are the appropriate public health responses. People are clearly suggesting that what they need is information. Now, more than ever, we have to lead everything we do with science and Evidence, the reality of the weight and importance of our decisions not just for the person, but for the collective. It is why exercises like the census are so important.

Sir, we have gone through an entire process of making sure that the enumerators and listing officers have the legal authority to do what they need to do to make sure that when they approach a household Barbadians and those who live here feel confident that they are operating with the full protection of the law, and that the 43 questions being administered have been approved and not going to be asked anything which we as policymakers are not aware of and that everything is transparent. What I would say is that regrettably in the haste to get out and to start the listing exercise, the exercise began before the regulations attached had been fully gazetted. Hence, it was an administrative

error that requires us now to validate the work that took place on those days.

From June 7 to June 11 and July 1 to July 6 of this year listing officers were out in the field checking buildings and making their records. However, the regulations that govern that exercise had not yet been gazetted. Therefore, we do not want to leave anything done untidily or that the important information that was collected cannot be utilized. This Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill seeks to validate those activities and make them right. What I would say finally in this regard, Sir, is that we are at a different place when it comes to data and its importance. The Ministry of Housing has been doing some very forward-thinking and forward-looking work in being able to establish building identification, so that we can identify more quickly structures and the location of people, and that we can more clearly and cleanly create an environment where any business that depends on location information is now better off and in a better place to do its business.

I will give you an example. In the context of COVID-19, Sir, many small business people saw opportunities to create new business opportunities. It gave rise to something that we call a delivery economy. Almost everyone who does commerce now has a function or an option where whatever is the product or even the service could be delivered. In order to make those businesses as profitable as possible, reduce overheads and the time searching for where someone is located, driving around, wondering, calling and asking again where they can be found, those building identifications give a precise location of how individual companies or residences can be found. It means that it is able to help small business in terms of making them more efficient. Also, it means that we are able to put this new layer of data together with other kind of information that we have.

The Member for St. Michael South in his capacity as Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy has also been doing tremendous work along with the officers in his Ministry on the National Coastal Risk Information Planning Platform (NCRIPP). It is a wealth of data and information. What it does and gives the potential to develop further is to be able to understand where are the areas of risk in the event of a disaster or even in the event of what we call slow onset events like sea level rise, et cetera.

Recently, I attended an international ministerial meeting in London where we have been discussing the very vexing issues related to the climate crisis and how this in particular affect small middle income countries like Barbados. We saw yesterday also the publication of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change Report and I encourage through you, Sir, for Barbadians to have a look even if they only glance at the summary because it really

puts into perspective the extent to which time is running out on this climate crisis. The international conversation is an interesting one and there is going to be plenty time to talk about that.

While we do the advocacy to say to the world that those high-emitting greenhouse gas countries have a responsibility to countries that do not contribute to the climate crisis, protect and account for the losses and damages that we experience while we do that work. We have a saying that my colleagues and I have come to use that is a bit colloquial but I am sure that you will allow me to say it; “Drunk or sober mind your business.” As a small island, we have to mind our business when it comes to adapting to the climate crisis because as much advocacy as we do, no one is coming to rescue us. We make the case as far as we can take it but let us not believe that anybody else believes that they have a duty to rescue us. Therefore, platforms like NCRIPP that tells us what buildings or communities are at risk based on certain storm surge, sea level rise, et cetera, when we put that together with the building identification, a well done census and survey of living conditions it gives us the richest set of information that we can have to plan across the policy areas from housing, Disaster Emergency Management (DEM) and each area of work that this Government does to provide services to and protect its population.

Sir, I took the opportunity of this small administrative matter to just remind Barbadians again about the importance of the census and having a short conversation with those young people are coming around in their pink shirts to ask a few very important questions. We have the Data Protection Act and Statistics Act which provides for the protection of that data. It can only be used by the Government agencies and those officers that are empowered under the law to observe and analyze that data, and cannot otherwise be shared except under those provisions made in the Data Protection Act and the Statistics Act, but it is important to give us everything we need to develop the best policy possible on behalf of the people of Barbados.

With those few words, Sir, I ask that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I just rise to support the presentation made by my honourable colleague and my neighbour, Mr. Speaker.

In the context of the Barbados Population Census, Sir, I should tell you and the House of Assembly that I had the privilege when I was a younger man to be a supervisor on the Barbados Population Census and, at that time, it was one of the most informative exercises I have done in my life as I went door to door and house to house along the Black Rock area. They teach you, Sir, to walk on the left hand side all the way up the street, stay on the left, come back round, come back down in the left. It is a technique, Sir that has now served me in this capacity. I say that, Sir, because we all learn things and we never know when we will get the opportunity to apply them in later context and I am very happy that as a young man I had the opportunity to be a supervisor on the Barbados Population Census.

I should also say, Sir, that in many countries the opportunity to do a Census to the extent and the level that we in Barbados do a Population Census to get the level of detail that we collect and collate by going house to house in many countries, some more developed even than we are, that kind of data that we have access to the kind of relationship that we have with our people is something that we take for granted. I want to commend Barbadians for the way that they normally conduct themselves when officers visit their houses. I also want to commend the young people, many of whom would be going to houses door to door in a COVID-19 environment and we all in our various way are putting ourselves out there for the good of a country that has been extremely good to us. I just rise to give support to that which my honourable colleague spoke on, but also to say to Barbadians as we conduct the Barbados Population Census, this information is going to be extremely useful in helping us determine a pathway for the many of us who exist in this country.

I also want to say, Sir, that as we speak to the importance of having that data, I gave a speech on 3rd or 4th July and I remember it was a speech -- the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central just spoke so eloquently to issues of climate change -- and I know, Sir, that you too are very concerned with climate change. I know that you have been leading actually in many ways the parliamentary groups across the world, but I remember on that speech I had written myself some notes and it was very difficult to be truthful to be loyal to my notes when on 1st and 2nd July this year we were dealing with a hurricane. It became extremely clear to me that in all of these matters that some people may think are academic matters or matters for the only for the Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment. These things affect all of us now on a day-to-day basis and I remember saying as I spoke it is very difficult to speak to you now recognising that Barbados has just been facing a hurricane in a situation where we have not offended the climate, but we are victims now of the climate's discontent. I remember as I spoke and I spoke then about the issues that we were facing with housing, our housing stock and the need for us to get

support for that housing stock, our Roofs to Reefs Programme and the need for us to get support for that, but that what we needed was detailed information the kind of information that a Census gives you. We present the need for us to do the Census to make the minor corrections, but to do the Census in a manner that would allow Barbados to make decisions and that when we go to the international environment it has become extremely clear to me in all of my meetings. I remember, Sir, again when I was a younger man, when the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Owen Arthur (now the late Professor the Right Honourable Owen Arthur) had returned, I think from Mauritius, and I he said in 2007 that the only contribution made by one of the leading developing countries in the world was that Small Island Developing States must do this thing on their own and he kept repeating Small Island Developing States are on their own. In the history and in the conversation on Small Island Developing States, we say that as if this is one great, big, happy collective, but even in that group there are divisions and uppers and lowers and if you look at the revenue, the income the capacity for us in the Caribbean region to be able to access resources is very, very difficult even in that context, therefore, we need to have information that is accurate that tells the story of Barbados that we had a category 1 hurricane and that it did the kind of damage that it did, moving as fast as it did, tells us that we need now to be very careful about how we plan out and Sir, this Census must be seen in the context as being a necessary tool in our whole arsenal of building, not only our statistical resources, but building who we are as a people. Sir, I do not wish for us to walk away thinking that as we go forward we can do what we had always done. Those days are gone. Sometimes when we are doing a Census people often ask you: What you want to know all of this thing for? Or: What do you want all of my business for? I remember, Sir, because I was a supervisor and back then I had to go and resolve issues, very few, but sometimes between the householder and the person doing the Census. We now must have this information to plan in Barbados. Simple! We must plan for Barbados as it relates our own affairs, but we must plan on the international stage and we find ourselves, Sir, as a country that has always punched above its weight, but that must now mean something different now too in the context of things. Very recently, Sir, I had the unfortunate experience as a Minister of receiving support from an international agency to do important work in fisheries only to be then told that Barbados' GDP, Gross Domestic Product, is too high and because our GDP is so high the resources that were formerly made available to the country would no longer be made available to the country because our Gross Domestic Product is so high. People assume that there are no cases of depravation perhaps, or not to the extent that we it, or that Barbados is so middle-income that we do not need support for our housing stock, that most people for the most part when they turn on their taps can get access to clean drinking water, that we do not need support for our water

resources. Most people make the assumption that our road network is so good and they compare it to other places, but the reality is that those of us who live here know that we have a need to do better and that all of this information would put us in a situation where we can indeed do better. It is in that context, Sir that I wish to support the presentation by my honourable colleague. It is important that all of us set the context every single time we speak now because Barbados does not exist in a vacuum. We do not exist in our own and that our conversation must always now be unfortunately an international conversation because there are those in the international Press who like to pick up things in the local media and then use that as their reference point to determine whether you can or cannot access resources, whether you deserve to get something or whether you do not deserve to get something, Sir, therefore, that context that I speak on is that recognising that this Census going forward is going to be so important I urge Barbadians to comply. I thank the young people who are doing the Census and, of course, I want to commend the Minister and her team for the amazing work that they are doing in her ministry.

Sir, with those few words, I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was not going to say anything on this matter and delay Honourable Members in their business today but both the Honourable Member who led on the presentation of this measure and he who last spoke alluded to the importance of proper use and management of information derived from interaction with people in their home space as their census information, population, statistics, et cetera, is gathered.

They also made reference to impact of climate change on Barbados, et cetera and our vulnerability and I stand only to make this point and I do make it seriously and not to be mischievous. I am personally highly displeased and somewhat distressed at the way the publicly-owned State Media and in this case the CBC, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, covered in many instances the impact of Hurricane Elsa on Barbados and the damage wrought on many homes across Barbados. It is one thing to make it clear to the public this is what we have suffered, the damage has been widespread, in some areas there has been devastation, but for it to be featured on the CBC, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, repeatedly people's business being totally exposed to the viewing public cannot at all be right.

I saw repeatedly on the television the CBC, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, special programmes that featured the impact of Hurricane Elsa on homes across

Barbados and people may want to speak to what they have suffered but I do not know that you have to carry cameras into every single space in people's homes and expose the tremendously the poverty related circumstances under which they live obviously prior to the impact of the hurricane. I thought that was distressing. I see that as very highly undesirable. I think the Government should desist from that. I think CBC ought to be strongly reprimanded for it. You cannot bring cameras and expose people to the sort of indignities in my view to which they were exposed, and I cannot believe that I am alone in thinking like that. There is a way that you can capture images without exposing people and creating the kind of undignified circumstances which in my view attended many of those visual images that we saw on public television in Barbados. It was not only once but repeated. What is the point you want to make? Yes, there was widespread damage, yes, people need help, yes, Government is on the job, yes, it would require money, yes, we are treating it urgently, but to have to come and repeatedly expose that type of situation to the whole of Barbados and in these days to the world I think was totally unnecessary, is totally unbecoming and I call for a stop on that. The CBC, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, ought to be remanded and Government needs to ensure that this type of thing does not continue. I have stood in this Parliament...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you mean reprimanded not remanded.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Reprimanded. Well, it may come to the point where one or two people at the CBC, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, may have to be remanded if they continue with the type of behaviour that I see them doing. I use that in the figurative sense and not in the actual sense because I am not suggesting anybody has committed any crime, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, I recall days when one particular Member for this House from the then opposite side of the Opposition would have been chided many a times because every opportunity that a key was presented to somebody accessing a new house it was highlighted on television. I do not think that is necessary either but at least you are showing somebody getting the keys to a new brand house. What we are talking about here is repeated exposure of people's misery and the circumstances in which they have been living even before Hurricane Elsa descended upon them and to do it repeatedly is totally unnecessary and totally uncalled for. I do not know what point we are trying to score when we do that but that shows a total lack of empathy in my view for the people and their circumstances.

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

Hon. Miss M. K-A. CADDLE: Thank you, Sir. I would thank the two Speakers who came before me. I do

accept to confess that I am at a bit of a loss to understand the relationship between the last intervention and the Bill itself but the Honourable Member for St. Michael West knows that as he has gone on record as enjoying the sound of my voice I do not necessarily mind hearing his own interventions on any topic. I would also like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael South for giving support to the fact that the Census is really about being able to provide for people and having the wherewithal to so do.

The one thing I would emphasize as I wrap up, Sir, is that I think that even while we have to remain vigilant and we have to remain cautious as we proceed with activities like the Census it perhaps comes at the appropriate time. It comes at a time when as a result of this pandemic there are many questions that we have to answer. One of the things that we realised is that even a Census, occurring as it does every ten years, does not tell us often enough the things we need to know about the population. That is one of the reasons we were pleased to have the wonderful collaboration of the University of the West Indies on the Seek and Save Survey. That Survey allowed us to do something that is perhaps unprecedented in the last year and a half of the world experiencing COVID-19 and it is that it allowed us as a small population to really target and isolate occurrences of this virus and allowed us to respond more quickly and to keep people safe.

I want through you, Sir, to Barbadians to encourage Barbadians to respond to the Census and the enumerators as they did to the young people from the University of the West Indies who helped us with the Seek and Save Survey. Getting information about how people are living and what people are experiencing as they are experiencing it especially now is extremely important. The enumerators are trained to carry out their work, they are working with supervisors and they are working with the full support of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment and the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I simply want to reiterate the importance of this exercise and to thank those who are as we speak in the field testing making sure that everything is in order to carry out the exercise over the next eight weeks and to validate that data.

With those words, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. M. K-A. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY, the House resolved itself

into Committee on the Bill. Dr. S. E. BROWNE, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

Madam CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee.

COMMITTEE

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. M. K-A. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY, Madam Chair reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee and His Honour the SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. M. K-A. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Statistic (Validation) (Listing) Exercise Act, 2021.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church South, you have the Floor.

ORDER NO.3

CORPORATE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 2021

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it almost seems strange, Sir, to address this Honourable Chamber from this side of the aisle. I can get accustomed to this, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is here before us today is the Corporate (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2021 and this Sir, seeks to amend a number of Acts and pieces of legislation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so that people from the outset understand exactly what is being effected, we are seeking to amend the Companies Act Cap. 308; the Companies Regulations, 1984; Societies with Restricted Liabilities Act, Cap. 318B; the Trademarks Act, Cap. 319; the Patents Act, Cap. 314; the Industrial Designs Act Cap. 309A; and the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act, Cap. 21A.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are we seeking to amend so many things in one piece of legislation? Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically, this to bring us in line with our obligations with respect to money laundering, treaties, and our anti-money laundering responsibilities globally. Sir, in February, 2020, the Barbados Financial Action Task Force, (which I will call the Task Force for now) agreed to an Action Plan which consisted of steps necessary to strengthen and (more than just strengthen) demonstrate the effectiveness of our anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime.

These were included, Sir, in the Action Plan and under “Immediate Outcomes No. 5” are action items specifically related to beneficial ownership.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is beneficial ownership, some people might ask? Sir, a company is separate ‘legal person’ under the law, so a company, as much as possible, has the exact same rights as I, Wilfred Abrahams, or you Mr. Speaker, to conduct business, represent itself, protection from defamation - all those sorts of things that an individual would have, but when you look at a company, so [that] you see, for example, Sir, “Joe Atherley Inc.” -- Well, if you actually see “Joe Atherley Inc.” chances are that you would know who the beneficial owner of that is, but if you see “Hodgepodge Inc.”, then you have no clue as to who “Hodgepodge Inc.” is. If you go and do a search at Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office you might see a list of directors of “Hodgepodge Inc.” and those are the people who, on the face of it, control the company, but are they really the owners of the company? Sir, directors are subject to appointment by shareholders, so although the directors might be functional persons in charge of a company at any given time, if the directors do something that the shareholders do not like, then the shareholders at the next Annual General Meeting can vote to remove the directors. Hence, are the directors really the owners? No, they are not.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern has always been that when you see a company you do not necessarily know exactly who is behind that. Is it someone of integrity? Is it someone you want to do business with? When you look in the phone book, Sir, in the Business Pages you see a whole list of companies and quite often the names of the companies give no indication, whatsoever, as to who the owners of that company are. Hence, you may enter into an arrangement to purchase something from somebody you see online but you do not know they are. Is the person behind it a fraud? Is the person a replicable business person? Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of the nature of companies themselves and because the companies themselves have rights and are able to take the same actions as individuals, it becomes necessary for us to find out who they are. Global trends have gone in the direction of disclosing exactly who the actual owners behind the company are? We called those the “ultimate beneficial owners” so when I say “beneficial owners” Sir, I hope that people listening can now understand what that term means.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the “Immediate Outcome 5, Sir, the items related to beneficial ownership was that we need to establish an effective mechanism to ensure that beneficial ownership information, based on a clear understanding of the beneficial ownership definition, is accurate and kept updated for all legal persons. Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who have had reason to delve into company law, or those who have reasons to deal with

companies, know that traditionally in Barbados companies lag in their filings - you keep the Notice of Directors as updated as possible because there are some liabilities that attached to directors that do not necessarily attach to shareholders. Hence, statutory responsibilities attached to directors, for example, the payment of National Insurance Scheme and VAT. If those are done, then those may form a personal liability on behalf of the director but not necessarily so the shareholder, so sometimes people trade shares, buy and sell shares, swap shares, pledge shares, but those shares are not notified or that change in the ownership of the shares is not notified to Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office, that is kept in a separate register for the secretary of the company and it may never reach Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office, but if a director resigns, then it is incumbent upon the secretary or the other directors to file a Notice of Change of Directors. Hence, one of the things that we have to do is to ensure that the "beneficial ownership information" is kept updated for all legal persons. Sir, the second part of that is to subsequently demonstrate that this mechanism is actually effectively apply and to ensure the Financial Intelligence Unit and the law enforcement agencies and competent authorities have timely access to such information. Not only are we saying that what has to happen is that the beneficial ownership information has to be updated and kept updated, but we are also saying that the proper authorities who may be interested in this information must have timely access to such information. Then, Sir, what if you do not do it? We have to introduce effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for legal persons who fail to obtain or keep accurate their updated information. We also have to demonstrate to the international community that we are actually doing that. One of the biggest complaints about Barbados on the international scene is that we are passing legislation but there is no evidence that we are actually enforcing it, because they are not seeing the amount of money-laundering cases or convictions that should show our regime is strong and enforceable and being enforced.

Sir, quite frankly, we end up toeing the line of international standards where such standards may not necessarily be applicable to Barbados. These standards are set, in many instances, to accommodate those jurisdictions where money-laundering is rife, where they are looking at the funding of international terrorism, and where money is being passed through that may be going to ISIS. The fact that we have not prosecuted or convicted enough persons may be one or two things: Maybe it does not happen here in Barbados or it may be that our regulatory regime is not sufficient to catch it and our enforcement regime is not sufficient to prosecute it, but in any event what we are doing is saying, "We are moving away from that grey area. We are going to put all of the things in place. We are going to empower the authorities to investigate, prosecute and reprimand persons who are guilty." Having put all these

regimes in place, let us now see what the extent of it is in Barbados; whether it is a lot or whether it is zero. That is simplifying it as much as I can, Sir.

The intention was that we would have made satisfactory progress by now, Sir. What are the actual amendments that are necessary to strengthen the existing mechanisms to ensure that the information is obtained, registered, made accurate and kept updated for all legal persons? This is a bit detailed because as I mentioned, Sir, there is a lot of pieces of legislation in there because if we amend the Companies Act in one respect then we have to make sure that all of the other pieces of legislation that depend upon that definition or that enforcement provision are also amended. I am going to try as much as possible, without boring everybody, to take us through as many of the amendments to show exactly what we are doing and how it cross-references or cross-impacts other pieces of legislation.

Sir, if we look at Section 170 to 175 of the Companies Act, this is to require directors to verify that the beneficial ownership information which is maintained at the company's registered office remains accurate and up-to-date. As I said, that provision is there, Sir, but the amendments now seek to actually make that a bit more rigid because under our laws the company is supposed to keep its register up-to-date but, as I said, there is really not sufficient oversight and in many instances there is really no compliance with it. Sir, in addition the company's directors will be required to notify the Corporate Registry within 14 days of any changes in the company's beneficial information, inclusive of the date on which the changes took place or a corresponding penalty to address certain circumstances of non-compliance is also being introduced. It is not even going simply to providing the information of the change of beneficial ownership. They need to know when it happened and exactly who the persons are.

Sir, why is when it happened important? For criminal proceedings, as I said, the company has its own legal personality so you can prosecute the company and you can prosecute the officials of the company. If I am the owner and the major shareholder in 'Corrupt Practices Inc.' and we engage in corrupt practices today, and tomorrow I sell my shares in 'Corrupt Practices Inc.' to John Browne, then is John Browne actually liable or should John Browne be investigated for what happened before? That is why it is important to know when John Browne actually took control of the company, so that the culpable parties do not hide behind the curtain and escape responsibility for their criminal actions on the basis of the separate legal identity of the company. We are stripping away all of that, so the actions, the directors, the shareholders, all of the transactions of the company including those transactions in relation to its own internal ownership should be declared,

registered within 14 days and available for inspection. That is something which we do not have at the moment.

Sir, the Amendment also significantly strengthens the penalty provisions for contravention of record-keeping. That is in Section 175(a) as well as the existing penalty provisions of Sections 432 and 434 of Division D which addresses penalties and offences under the Companies Act. Sir, this directly corresponds with the recommendation of the Task Force to introduce effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for legal persons who fail to keep accurate and to update their beneficial ownership information. Sir, in addition the amendments will make provision for the proper administration of Section 39(2)(a) of the Companies Act, which was recently introduced by the Companies (Amendment No. 2) Act, 2019, and requires any company to which the Section applies to appoint a licensed service provider to perform its corporate services. Before this amendment anybody could have been the corporate secretary and anybody could have performed services for the company, but because a lot of people do not necessarily understand the intricacies it was deemed necessary at that point in time to properly regulate and control what was going on, so that persons dealing in this sphere should actually be licensed to do it. They must be qualified to do it so that there is no escaping anything on the basis of ignorance. Your company which is providing these services has to have somebody licensed to do so, Sir.

Similar provisions in relation to record-keeping requirements and access to records, including the requirement for the appointment of a service provider where applicable and for corresponding penalty provisions, are also being introduced into the Societies with Restricted Liability Act, CAP 318B, by way of amendment to Sections 24, 29 and 38 of the said Act, and those mirror the provisions contained in the Companies Act to make it clear that these apply equally to societies with restricted liability. There is also an amendment to Section 30 of the Companies Act to include a provision for notification of whether a director, beneficial owner or affiliate of an external holds or has held prominent office in Barbados or elsewhere. Sir, this is that same thing we are talking about in respect to politically exposed persons, but their politically exposed persons are narrowed. Sometimes when you hear about politically exposed persons, a lot of people now have become very afraid of holding public office or linking themselves in any way with the political class or the political machinery. Sir, when we initially assumed Government, we were looking and trying to find persons to sit on Boards, and there was a fear that just by sitting on a Board of a school, you could now become a politically exposed person. The fear was there for them, it was there for chairpersons. People thought they would have had to declare all of their assets. People thought they would become open to investigation. People thought they would be a target in the paper and there was this misunderstanding

as to what politically exposed persons are. The definition of politically exposed person varies depending on who wants it, so the banks have their own requirements, somebody else might have their own requirements, if you are going to do business with the company overseas then they have their own requirements. Hence, for the avoidance of all of that, in this instance, we are effectively limiting the persons to who that notification applies. Whether a Director or beneficial owner or an affiliate of an external company holds or has held a prominent public office in Barbados or elsewhere. These provisions were included for domestic companies and facilitate adequate due diligence as part of Barbados's anti-money laundering obligations. Sir, of course I can see down the road the issues of what is going to be prominent. However, we are doing it and becoming compliant. Nonetheless, I have my own personal views on all of this. I understand what is trying to be achieved by the global market, but equally we in Barbados are a small country, we cannot hold out. If we want to do business or play in the big league then we have to tow the lines that are being set out. The golden rule is that he who has the gold makes the rules and these rules are rules that are required for us and we are doing them to comply with our anti-money laundering obligations.

Sir, the other things we did is that we had to make some amendments to address the World Bank recommendations. Several of the amendments in the Companies Act seek to address recommendations identified by the World Bank in its report entitled 'Improving the Business Climate in Barbados Reform Note June 2019'. Sir these include the removal of the requirement for Attorney-at-Law under Section 44 (3), to provide a declaration in relation to incorporator to satisfy the requirements of the legislation.

Sir, for a long time Attorneys-at-Law have incorporated companies, Accountants now do it and anybody can incorporate a company and a lot of people do not know that. In many countries, you can cruise in to their corporate affairs or do it online and register your company yourself providing the required information. In many countries a company can be registered in a day, so there is no need to do it. Once you the business person who has a company and you know exactly what you are doing, you can go and register another company and another. In Barbados, there is a requirement under the Companies Act that if a Lawyer does not incorporate the company, the Lawyer should still do a certificate or declaration stating that the person is not of a certain ill. That is now being removed. That is considered an impediment to business and to the ease of doing business.

Sir, another thing that is being removed is the mandatory requirement that a company must have a seal as per Section 25 (1) of the Act. Right now, in Barbados, companies are supposed to have a seal. We as Lawyers

knows that when we incorporate a company from the time you are finished the next thing you are doing is advising your client to go to Joseph Brothers and purchase a seal, I am not advertising anybody. People do not understand what a seal is, but the seal is a stamp. Once upon a time you poured red melted wax onto the parchment and then the seal was pressed in and it was a real and embossed seal that said that this document have been formally applied in the name of the person. Kings had it, person actually had signet rings. A lot of us wear these very big ornate rings and do not even understand what they were initially for. Persons of importance or business persons had the seal on their finger and they would melt wax from a candle and they would use the ring and press it in and that say that. It is not just a signature. This is serious enough document that I have placed my personal seal on it or my seal of office. We inherited that. Sir, quite frankly it is very seldom that you have the requirement to apply a seal of the company. You might have the requirement to apply the seal if it is a transaction involving land or the disposition of land, but apart from that for the average small company doing business in Barbados, you may stamp on the seal and some people have the seal and figure well I have it so I might as well use it, so at the end of a letter which is of no consequence whatsoever replace the seal of the company because it is sitting there on your desk and you have a stamp pad, but is it really necessary. The World Bank recommendation was no, it is not so that is actually being removed.

Amendments to provide for continue to business in light of COVID-19 pandemic, some of the amendments in here seek to extend the time to file on certain documents under most of the pieces of legislation at the beginning, but for completeness, we seek to extend the time to file on certain documents under the Companies Act, the Trademarks Act, the Patents Act, and the Industrial Designs Act, for which the deadline of a number of these filed during the curfew and shutdown period as a result of COVID.

Sir, under our current provisions, documents are supposed to be filed or registered that are not so filed or registered within the time period. They are pretty hefty penalties. Some of the penalties accrue per day and they can end racking up significantly.

The Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office made certain accommodations to facilitate the continuity of business and to alleviate unnecessary hardships to the public during the months of April and May at the time of national curfew and shutdown arrangements. This is part of Government's response to the pandemic. However, we are now actually amending the legislation slightly to allow the Minister by order to make certain provisions to extend the deadline for filing documents and to give it retrospective effect and this will allow for

Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office to quickly make accommodations for extended filing in emergency situations, thereby minimising disruptions to business continuity. COVID has done something and made us look at a lot of aspects of the way we do business and a lot of timelines and things that we thought were cast and written in stone.

Now Sir, if we were to apply the penalties that accrued as a result of persons missing filing during the COVID period, first of all it would be unfair to do it because if Corporate Affairs was not open then the persons could not file. However, let us say Corporate Affairs was open, but my business was interrupted or disrupted such that I could not comply with the requirements of the legislation, if it is not something that is not due to my fault, if it can be clearly seen that this was an extenuating circumstance that may have affected me personally or may have affected a class of persons into which that I fall, then some provision must be there to extend those deadlines in the interest of fairness and to not cripple businesses. Hence, if you applied some of these penalties that accrued per day, a company that has missed filing something for six months might find themselves thousands and thousands of dollars in the red and for a small company then you cannot actually manage that. Hence, there is now that provision for an order by the Minister to give some flexibility.

In addition, our laws as they stand now do not allow for virtual annual general meetings. The annual general meeting is the validation exercise of the company. That is where you decide on your directives, Board of Management and everything for the next year or for the period. Our laws have always contemplated the personal attendance and a certain quorum for these meetings. They did not contemplate persons not being in the same space. If we extend this even further, there was the Postal Union, one of the largest and second oldest unions in the World. The Postal Union has a meeting I think going on all now, and they are looking to change certain aspects of their charter, including putting a provision in that allows now for virtual meetings or attendance virtually, but because that does not yet apply and there is no provision for it, I think it is in Switzerland where persons have to find themselves personally attending to be able to cast a vote that going forward we do not need to personally attend. Hence, another of the amendments is to facilitate the hosting of virtual annual general meetings and as well to validate all meetings held virtually since COVID-19 pandemic because some persons did actually hold their meetings but there was no provision to. Therefore, they are not in compliance with the law as it now stands so we have to make the provision that going forward these meetings can be held virtually and also validate in retrospect the decisions taken or what flowed from those meetings.

Sir, one of the last things is the amendment of the categories of staff of the registry who can perform notarial duties. What most people do not know is that quite often you have to execute a document for use or for proof overseas and it requires a Notary Public to witness the document. When you go overseas there are Notaries Public on every corner. If you go into a pharmacy, it would also say there is a pharmacy and a Notary Public. Most of the lawyers are Notaries Public. Some people that you would not expect are Notaries Public, so it is easy for them but that is the overseas standard.

In Barbados, the Notaries Public has previously been limited initially to the Supreme Court's Registrar, Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Registrar of Titles. It was expanded to include Assistant Registrars but, Sir, you still have a situation where there are few persons. As we increasingly do business internationally, we are more often called upon to have things adjudicated by a Notary Public or witnessed by a Notary Public. Quite frankly, Sir, the position of Notary Public is almost the position of a Justice of the Peace in Barbados. How we view a Justice of the Peace in Barbados and the plethora of them that we have, it is effectively that overseas. However, they do not have Justices of the Peace, they have Notaries Public.

Where we would have a Justice of the Peace sign a document, we now have to find a Notary Public to sign that same document if it is for use overseas. This poses problems because if you have five people in Barbados doing it and half of the time people do not know in advance that they need a Notary Public, quite often they hear that it has to be filed the next day and it requires a notarial seal. They are then left scrambling. I remember that we were doing a very important case overseas and trying to find a Notary Public. Sir, the Registrar was on sick leave. The Assistant Registrar was out to lunch. Another person who could assist was unavailable and we literally in the whole of Barbados could not track one Notary Public to execute a document by 4 o'clock.

Sir, eventually I had to go to the sick Registrar's house. Luckily, this was not during the COVID-19 pandemic so I was not afraid. I had to go the lady's sickbed for her to execute this document for me. We are now seeking to extend the category of persons who can be Notaries Public. Sir, I do hope that there comes a time probably in the near future where we extend that category even further because we have still kept it within the Public Service still and the ambit of those initially contemplated. We are widening it slightly but we are still keeping it within a closed group. There is no good reason going forward as we further try to improve on our ease of doing business that Notaries Public should not be in the private sector or not be other persons who show themselves qualified to use good common sense and of a certain level

of integrity that they can actually be Notaries Public as well.

However, that is a fight for another day. The other amendment is in relation to Section 414 of the Companies Act and to bring these provisions in line with those contained in the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR), and extending the means of service. Under the CPR, we extended service to virtual service so that you can e-mail someone. Once you can prove that the document was actually served, it should be sufficient to satisfy the requirements for a lawsuit under the CPR. However, that has not been extended or taken any further to the practical business area.

Frankly, if I need to serve a document on Marsha Caddle Inc. why should I try to find a Process Server to pick up and go to Marsha Caddle Inc. when she has her registered e-mail address? I should be able to send it to Marsha Caddle Inc. and once I can verify or confirm that the document was sent and received into her mailbox, then that should be sufficient to justify service. If you think practically, Sir, during the COVID-19 pandemic which has thrown a lot of things up that we needed to address, people served their documents by e-mail. This step was taken. People did a lot of correspondence by e-mail and WhatsApp communication. It was by necessity but it should not just be a health necessity. If we want to do business easy, let us look at all of the unnecessary procedures and think how we can make this a bit simpler, faster or cheaper.

The aim is to improve the ease of doing business while keeping all of this in line with our international obligations with respect to money laundering, financial disclosure and beneficial ownership. In summary, those were the amendments to be made. There is nothing I believe in here that is controversial. I think everything in here is expected and makes good business sense. As I said, the reason so many pieces of legislation are listed is because, quite frankly, if you amend something in the Companies Act it has a spin-off effect for all of the other pieces of legislation that references the Companies Act, especially in relation to that particular aspect that you would have amended.

Sir, having probably confused everyone these are the amendments to the assorted pieces of legislation to bring effect. They are all brought under one Act which is the Corporate (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2021. The passage of this and the attached Schedules will address all of the other pieces of legislation that I reference in one.

With those few words, I beg to move that this be read a second time.

Hon. C. E. JORDAN: I beg to second that.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took careful note of the fact that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who is the acting Attorney General said to us that it felt a bit strange speaking from the other Side. However, I thought I heard him say that it was something to which he could become accustomed. I thought it would be fitting I should offer congratulations to him on his acting appointment in this capacity. I do not know how long it is the intended period of service in this position but may he do well. I am sure he brings a high degree of sophistication to the task. Therefore, I would not want to be remiss and not offer congratulations to the acting Prime Minister who will be serving in this capacity for a while.

It is an honour to serve your country at the highest level. Even though the period of service be brief and will be an acting appointment, I think it is worthy of note. I think the Prime Minister in her wise counsel would choose those persons that she considers best suited for the responsibility at the time and in the circumstances. I am sure both these Honourable Members would lay claim to a certain degree of pedigree which is appropriate to the positions and tasks. I wish them well as they serve their stint. Mr. Speaker, like me are you beginning to form the view that the Government is running out of steam?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, is that a rhetorical question?

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, like me are you beginning to form the view that this Government is running out of steam. They started as though they were in a sprint, have come to the realisation that they will be on the track for a while and they do not have the steam and energy to go the distance. We are beginning to come here to this Honourable House with some measure of irregularity or infrequency is probably the better choice of word. We are beginning to come to this Honourable House with frequency to debate matters not of great and weighty substance, matters that we can very well put before the Honourable Chamber and be true with respect to the debate within an hour except for many speeches in an attempt to filibuster and create a sense that we are seriously about the people's business. These matters before us, Mr. Speaker, I have to be honest with you, I did think for a minute for the first time whether or not I ought to have come today. That is the truth. I thought, should I come today? These matters that were brought here today do not constitute a lot of weighty substance that will detain us here for very long, that is the truth. They have to be dealt with, I am not dismissing their importance. The Honourable Member, when he introduced this measure did confess, did acknowledge that the measure was being brought here in an attempt to fulfil our obligations with respect to the anti-money laundering architecture that we are building here at the behest of the international

community with respect to business and finance. He did later on go on to say that we are introducing some of these measures in part because of the recommendation of the World Bank. I have said before, I alluded to this, and I repeat it today, we have come here often and brought pieces of legislation, measures here out of expediency because it was absolutely necessary in terms of how the global financial and business community functions today. We are very much a part of that and feel the need to be compliant so we come here with bits of legislation intended to serve the purpose of expediency is absolutely expedient, but we do it. Sometimes, it is a matter of convenience and sometimes it is a matter of conformity perhaps, compliance, coincidence with our political agenda or political plans. I think that the Government, despite the macro initiatives which have been taken in Barbados over the past three years of which the Government often boast has lost sight of, lost a sense of the fact that the average Barbadian working-class person is being reduced to a life of hustle, Mr. Speaker, and though it be necessary to come here and to bring measures like this because we have to be compliant, we have to do that, but we cannot continue to oft come here and not reflect in what we bring here that we are possess of a sense of that reality, that working-class Barbadians have been reduced to a life of hustle.

Mr. Speaker, you represent and urban constituency, a largely working-class constituency, you deal with working-class people every day even in your professional life and you know the misery that constitutes their experience now, you know what they are being faced with respect to hardship, you know what life is like if you can still call it that and all I am saying here is that we must find the opportunity today in Barbados, as a Parliament of Barbados to not only debate matters which are expedient and obligatory because of our international commitments, but we must be moved to find the time, to feel the drive to bring measure before this Parliament that can transform the lives of working-class people, a stop mark in time because I am beginning to believe that this is a point upon which we have arrived as a Government here, that we are simply marking time and not coming squarely face to face with the reality. People out there, Mr. Speaker, you know this, you see it, you relate to them every, day, we do in urban Barbados, particularly, people out there not are selling everything everywhere because they are reduced to a life of hustle. It used to be only the ZR people with whom we associated that word hustle, but now it is all working-class people. Life is a hustle whether or not we want to acknowledge it or hear it. It is a hustle for too many and that is the reality we face because we have to come here and by what we bring here, and by what we pass here, and by what we institute here address that situation. Are we addressing that? Mr. Speaker, I am fully convinced there are many more people in Barbados today who are now selling themselves and it is not only women who are now selling themselves. People are selling everything and

selling everywhere and increasing numbers have to sell themselves in order to face down the reality which their lives have become. They have to do that in order to earn. They have to do that in order to pay their bills. They have to do that in order to keep their mortgages going. They have to do that in order to feed their children. As Members of Parliament in urban Barbados, we face their hurt and pain and their needs daily. Mr. Speaker. You know that, we all know that. Increasing numbers. People are struggling, finding it hard to make ends meet. The reality they face is painful and that pain reaches us because they approach us with a sense of hope, they approach us when they are on the brink of despair. We can react in whatever way we choose to react when faced with that reality, it will not stop me from addressing it. All I am saying is, Parliament is here to implement and to treat to measures such as this one before us and to deal with issues of statistics and population census and to deal with issue of vesting of lands, all of that is important, but unless we get to that point where we are treating to people's misery, then we are marking time here. I am beginning to have a sense that we have lost that perspective. Things are brown. Where do we go as a country? What are we bringing to this Parliament that changes the direction that offers a better day, a better prospect, a brighter hope for people? I heard one Honourable Minister in recent hour suggests, "Barbados is now taxed to the max". When we were in Opposition over there, yes, we addressed the issue of the level of taxation imposed upon the people of Barbados which created a hardship. This Administration has come to Office and has compounded that as such that it escaped from the lips of a Minister that there is nothing else to tax. We are taxed to the max and we know how taxes operate in an economy, Mr. Speaker. They affect cost. Costs are passed on and people's misery is compounded. We need to come here, more frequently so, with matters of substance that can be transformative and transformational in the lives of people. We are approaching three-and-a-half years now approaching, we need a sports policy for Barbados. Sports is a big thing in the world, Mr. Speaker, and we cannot find time to develop and bring to the Parliament of Barbados and to the people of Barbados a viable sports policy that would help to lift people via the medium of sports to a place of greater economic well-being. We cannot do that in three years and some, we keep talking about it, but we can come all the time with matters relative to international business and matters that would see us become more compliant to the institutional directors of the day so to speak.

Sports is big industry but we continue to make sport about sports in Barbados. We talk about doing it. Yes, we join with those who commend our athletes at recent Olympics, we congratulate them on their performance, but why are we not doing better and why are not more of our athletes being exposed to opportunities overseas and why are we not building better infrastructure at home to create a

bigger platform. We need a sports policy. It is going into the fourth year now.

We talk about renewable energy and we talk about it repeatedly. What are we doing? What significantly so platforms are we creating through legislation in this place that would see Barbadians get greater opportunities in this?

We talk a lot about technology and improving our technological platforms in Barbados and a lot of the time we are doing so that Government may better interface with its public, so that you may be in a better position to more easily pay your driver's licence when we need to make sure that the technology available and accessible, the platforms constructed are such that people can build livelihoods out of this. It cannot simply be creating a stronger technological platform for Government to offer services to the public. It must be that our people are given opportunity and that the framework is created within which especially our younger population, 30-plus per cent of whom still continue to be unemployed in this day, can use this thing to see hope of a livelihood materialised for them. My phone is going off now and I can see that one of them is calling me, Mr. Speaker. These things represent need and we got to be able to address that.

Manufacturing: Mr. Speaker, manufacturing used to be a bit bigger in Barbados. We are glad for recent reports that it has done relatively well when compared to more recent times but largely that is manufacturing with respect to rum and rum-based products. Mr. Speaker, come on. Manufacturing in this day and age with all the technology available to the world, what are we doing? What are we bringing to this Parliament that is treating to these things that would in substantive ways change the nature of life for Barbadians? We could come and dress well and talk a lot and be compliant with the rest of the world but our people are living a misery every day. Life has been reduced to a hustle for the average working-class person in Barbados.

What significantly are we doing to support small and medium sized enterprises and businesses in Barbados? We talk about it a lot but what significantly are we doing in terms of legislation to better expand the platform and create the kind of climate in which these businesses can thrive. Small and medium sized businesses play a pivotal role in many economies even in the big United States of America economy. In major economies in the world small and medium sized enterprises... We talk a lot about it. I have said that in recent years even before COVID-19 I am sure the number of small and medium sized enterprises in Barbados has contracted significantly. We have not been given the specific in terms of what is happening but we need to reverse that in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, people cannot simply be reduced to an existence where for survival they make recourse to some

incidental activity selling something around the corner. We need a properly structured environment, a properly structured situation, which people are given the incentives and the impulse, where people feel that they have an opportunity to do something meaningful and not simply driven by the dynamic of desperation that is what I am saying. Parliament's time has to be better used. I am not saying it is not well used, I am saying it has to be better used and it has to be better used more so in the interest of the average working-class people. Small businesses and medium sized enterprises create employment. They are struggling now with that. These are things before COVID-19. They create employment and help to spur the greater use of local resources and materials and help to develop the kind of skills among entrepreneurs that we want to see happening in Barbados so that the culture is transformed. This is what in my view Parliament is about and I think this is perhaps part of the reason why Barbadians voted 30-nil in the last Election and the Government with this size mandate, 29 here and 12 elsewhere, must feel a stronger sense of motivation to actually bring to this House the type of things that would revolutionise and certainly turn around the plight and the lot of people in Barbados today.

The Central Bank of Barbados Governor reported repeatedly... We now have a Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados who talk about excess liquidity in the banking system. What does that say? There is excess liquidity in the banking system and people would like to get into business and small businesses would like to do better and they are struggling to stave off a death as a result of a lack of economic activity. We talk about it all of the time. What in the world is being done?

The last Administration was criticised for allowing a kind of policy to be effected through the Central Bank of Barbados such that interest rates out of the traditional banking sector became almost virtually non-existent so that Government Paper could become attractive. That was a criticism against the last Administration made by many mouths yet we have a situation today where the same amount of excess liquidity exists in the banking system and interest rates remained virtually non-existent and we come to Parliament every Tuesday and every time we get a chance to speak we speak in lofty terms about the plight of the small man, about caring and compassion for the plight of the average working-class person in Barbados.

We need to reduce the cost of business, but sadly and truly, and it must be admitted, rather than this Government reducing the cost of doing business especially for small businesses in Barbados it has increased the cost of business operations. Ask the farmers out there. Ask the taxi operators out there. Ask the ZR drivers out there. By its own policy initiatives, Government has increased the cost of business operations across many areas and endeavours in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, all I am saying here today is simply this: We have to come here with measures like this because it is a world in which we live. I am not criticising this measure but I am saying that too often when we come here we are coming here driven by this type of expediency, we are coming here driven by a sense of convenience and political considerations of some things that coincide with our political agenda but we have more often to come here with things that could make a real difference in the lives of poor people in Barbados, that is all I am saying.

People in Barbados, the average Barbadians must be better appreciate and better treated, and the Government with its large number ought to be acutely aware of that. We cannot continue just to go through the routines making no material difference in the lives of people. Mr. Speaker, there has to be a greater sense of empathy and compassion and caring for people. We are now treating black people in Barbados like cattle. You see them lined up at various Government institutions in the hot sun, Mr. Speaker. It started before COVID. COVID created a distance, but you see how people are made to do what we call "queue up" but we have them out there. Mr. Speaker, I went to a Government institution and I was descended upon by persons who were very, very annoyed. They feel very insulted, mistreated by this type of thing. You go to the Immigration Department and you see it, at Licensing Authority it is an issue, at the Tax Department it is an issue; all over the place.

Sir, I saw an old lady who could hardly stand to her feet, begging me, "Skipper, skipper, do something, say something about this. Two hours I have been standing up here." An old woman. All I am saying is when Ministers of the Crown bring measures to this Honourable House, they must come here not only with the international institutions in mind and what they require. They must come here with poor, black, working-class Barbadians in mind as well. If we do not do that, we are wasting time and we are betraying the mandate which was given to us in the last Election.

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

Hon. Miss M. K-A. CADDLE: Thank you, Sir. I will not be long in responding and supporting this Corporate (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. I think it is important, especially after the last intervention, to put this in context or perhaps I should say to support the context which the Honourable Member who introduced the Bill has given it. Sir, I do want to say, though, that I am an optimist. There are not many things that affect my mood, but it really saddens me when people who should know better lean on these convenient crutches to be able to make and score cheap political points. That saddens me. I do not know where it has happened recently but when it does happen, it

saddens me; from people who are senior in this political life but who present these intellectually lazy and dishonest arguments so that people who they may feel are not engaged in these conversations can jump on a particular bandwagon and say, “Oh, yes, they do not care about the poor people.”

Sir, I want to take two minutes to demonstrate the ways in which these kinds of provisions are important for how people live their lives. Sir, I think that people who aspire to leadership at the highest levels should not feign ignorance of these connections to how regular people live. What is worse? I am not sure whether it is worse to feign ignorance or in fact to truly have no understanding of how matters like these relate to how people really live. One of the things that called me to political service was that kind of cheap political game-playing which I observed as a young person, Sir. I would think, “Do these people think we are stupid?” We need to have the political maturity to understand that there are certain responsibilities of leading a country. You cannot just hunker down within the confines of your terrestrial space and believe that this is going to be enough to get a country like Barbados through where we need to get it in 2021. We cannot believe that failing to engage internationally, that holding up an umbrella and believing that if we cannot see the rain it is not falling, is going to get us anywhere.

Sir, I want to clarify that in 2018-2019 Barbados went to the World Bank for a conversation. They did not send and call us. We sent and called them, and we said to them, “You all issue something called a Doing Business Report, and you keep putting Barbados at a particular space, at a particular rank, and we want to have a conversation with you about it, because if you have all of these perspectives about what Barbados should and should not be doing, come and lend some of your expertise to telling us about it.” They came and they engaged with the Office of the Attorney General, they engaged with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment and several other actors, and at our request, at no cost to the Government of Barbados, they developed something called a Reform Note for the country. It laid out, from their perspective, what Barbados should do to improve its Doing Business environment. We sat down in a Doing Business subcommittee, we brought in private sector partners including those from the small business sector, we reviewed it together, and some of the things were irrelevant. We wrote back to the World Bank and said, “No, you misunderstand. You do not understand the Barbadian context. You do not understand the pieces of legislation that already address this. Here it is addressed, and here and here and here.”

This is not a case of being given marching orders by an international institution. Perhaps others have done that but that is not the way this Administration operates. We ask

for technical assistance, we engage in discussions and they say, “These are our recommendations.” We have taken what suits us and others we have set aside. That is called governance, and so one of those examples, Sir, is actually one that was quite a nuisance for several businesses, and it was the requirement that you have an attorney-at-law to provide a declaration in relation to an incorporator satisfying certain requirements. It was one of the complaints that we got, because there is a cost to engaging an attorney-at-law. I simply want to incorporate a business. What is the magic, with all due respect to my colleagues in the profession, of getting an attorney to say that I am of sound mind and to say all these different things? First of all, I am not sure that an attorney is qualified to say whether somebody is of sound mind.

Sir, there were all of these little nuisances. You want to tell me that I have to go and pull my pocket to pay a woman or a man to make certain declarations that are not at all necessary for me to incorporate a business. It is a cost to small business. We said, “This is true.” We listened to people who said it was a nuisance, “I cannot afford it, I want to start a small business but I only have so much money and why should I spend it on an attorney when I can spend it on a washer and a dryer to start a laundromat?” This is the reason that we have removed it. Let us not be willfully obtuse in these matters in order to score political points.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. K-A. CADDLE: This is the reason the provision has been removed. Similarly, Sir, we have to realise that we do not exist in this world on our own and there are certain judgements people will choose to make of countries that look like us and sound like us. They want to frame us as banana republic, we do not know any better, look those people across there getting away with murder. They use that. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke earlier about using GDP per capita as a reason not to give assistance to his Ministry on a particular matter. We are regrettably in a time where they are some actors in the international community that will use any reason to be able to say no you do not qualify for this or that. Who suffers? Your citizens do not qualify for this assistance or for that assistance because of a certain GDP per capita. Similarly, we cannot consider you for financing for x or y, we cannot engage in trade relations or commercial activity with you because according to the Financial Action Task Force or according to certain anti-money laundering and terrorist financing issues you are not doing the things you are supposed to do.

I represent a St. Michael constituency. I represent the people of St. Michael South Central and a part of my responsibility is to make sure that there is nothing happening domestically, regionally or internationally that

puts those people at a disadvantage, that makes it so that there are projects and programmes financing that should otherwise be available to them to start a business, send their children to school and to do whatever they need to do that they are not able to do because Barbados is contravening anti-money laundering or terrorist financing regulations.

Let us not perpetuate the idea that these are highfaluting and highflying ideas that do not affect people. That is a dangerous narrative and anyone who comes to lead at this level has to be able to walk and chew gum. I have to be able to get up from engaging with the World Bank and the International Financial Corporation and go in Tweedside Road and understand how that conversation I just had is affecting the life of the young woman running that shop in Tweedside Road, so that the next business that she starts she does not have to go and find an Attorney, she can walk in, so that a company does not have to have some as archaic as a seal that they can just continue without having to go and find all of these trappings to be able to do business.

The issue of beneficial ownership and when the Member for St. Michael West spoke he spoke about the renewable energy sector. One of the things that this Administration has insisted upon is ensuring that there is investment in this sector that there has to be a minimum 30 per cent Barbadian or CARICOM ownership in these companies in these interest that are beginning to operate in the sector. However, there is also a regulatory process that is associate with working, starting a business and starting operations in this sector. In many cases you need to get planning permission and you also need to get permission and licence from the Ministry of Energy in order to proceed.

Now, we know that for many years we have had regulatory procedures that are onerous. I will be the first to admit it that as the Member who has much responsibility for attending to the doing business issues and the unsexy work that has to be done is sitting down and looking at what is stopping us from turning over these licences in the time that we need to turn them over, because it is not just about foreign direct investment. It is about the 30 per cent bajan CARICOM stake in these companies at the least that also are 100 per cent and that also stands to be disadvantage if we do not address these issues. We sat down with the Ministry of Energy, the Planning department, the Barbados Light and Power and others and settled a process to make sure that as long as it has been taking we can cut down that time.

Let me tell you what another part of that process is. As a part of that process, companies need to be able to prove and show beneficial ownership and show that they can keep adequate records. These same companies that the

Honourable Member for St. Michael West is suggesting or having a hard time starting up in the renewable energy sector or asking questions about what is happening in the renewable energy sector. These amendments give transparency and clarity to issues of beneficial ownership, who owns the company, so that these entities, when they have to trade and do business here regionally and internationally, do not have issues with any international actors, to make sure that they can easily prove beneficial ownership in our jurisdiction so they can easily get their licence so that they can go on to do business.

Every amendment here is about making it easier for people who are seeking to do business including people who are going to start a landscaping company as many in St. Michael South Central and St. Michael West have done, people who are going to start a homecare, home help or home beauty service, to make sure that they do not have to go and find a Lawyer or a seal, to make sure that they can easily make their documents and records available and transparent. These are the things that are going to allow those people to thrive and not hustle, but to make a living wage and a solid income in this country.

Sir as I sit, I would like to appeal to all colleagues, to all of us as what I consider part of a new political dispensation in this country, to stop leaning on these cheap easy political crutches to try to suggest to people that they do not care anything about the poor people. What we should do, is to educate ourselves about the link between much of this kind of process and much of these kinds of reforms and how they benefit the lives of regular people. With those words Sir, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the Bill that has been introduced this morning. I am happy for the acting Attorney General, as is he to be serving in the position that he is and I am grateful that they are other Members of this House that are able to introduce legislation of this nature even though it may not be their Ministry.

However, Mr. Speaker, I was a little bit concerns by the comments of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition as well just as I am sure all other colleagues on this side and certainly the last Member who spoke expressed her consternation about the comments made. This is because I think that all of us expect that with the responsibilities that we have given that we also have a responsibility to the general public to be balanced. Opposition requires you to oppose, that is what it means by its title but at the same time Opposition also requires a certain level of balance being brought to certain debates. I find it quite distressing to listen to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition

indicate that this Government has anyway run out of steam or that in any way we started on a sprint and now have no more energy.

I think on the last occasion he said when we were coming to debate the issue of vacation which was fundamental change from how we have done things since 1966 that if we wanted a vacation, we could take a permanent one and call an election. I accept that there is a certain tone that comes with opposition but the Honourable Member would do well to recall that in the lead up to the last General Election that he sat in several places with all of us colleagues on the other Side now, and went through sector by sector an examination of aspects of this economy that when we came to office that we would have to address frontally.

He also would recall that while we had a responsibility to address things that were happening locally, there were several things that under the previous Administration had not been done in relation to our presence within the international community. It was almost as though Barbados had lost its voice, presence and standing. You were hearing nothing in terms of the representation that Barbados was known for in the global landscape. As a consequence, we came to office with not only the task of dealing with all of the social issues that were confronting us in the previous decade right size all of the things that we understood and were feeling because we were all on the ground. We also understood that we had another responsibility to this country.

It was to rise Barbados up in a sense from the ashes and to get us back to where we were in the international community because the reality is that if we do not fix some of those relationships, comply with some of our obligations and state the cases for the people in this country, then we do not get the investment that is necessary to ensure that all of the social services and all of the things that people want in healthcare and education that we are able to carry our citizens in a way that is meaningful.

It does not happen overnight that we can simply come to office and make all of these changes. We actually had to come to office and work. I think when the substantive Minister would have indicated that we had been blacklisted and he tried his best to undo what had been done by the previous Administration where no work had been done between 2015 and 2018 which resulted in us being blacklisted, what we had to do on coming to office was to pretty much do three years of work in order to play catch up to get Barbados' status elevated up the ladder again. We understand that while that is not the issue of housing and making sure that people have somewhere to live or it is not about fixing the healthcare system, if we do not have investment, start to make sure that we comply with these obligations that the same people are talking

about that are hustling and struggling, they will not have anything to put into their pocket because people are not going to see Barbados as an attractive place in order to do business.

As leadership, we have a responsibility to explain to people that we got to fix all of the things that have been broken. There are plenty things to fix but we have a responsibility to explain to people that you do not blink your eyes and all of a sudden everything gets fixed. We hear people speaking as though COVID-19 has not just come upon us. They speak as though COVID-19 is something foreign, does not exist and that as a Government we have created COVID-19. Mr. Speaker, it distresses me that there are those amongst us who at times can be so removed from the reality and be so caught up in a narrative that is contrary to the reality that all of us certainly in Government are facing.

The truth of the matter is, Sir, that just as we started to turn the corner and in a sense we were feeling as though we could pass over the baton in order to get things going, I recall even though I was not in Barbados that my colleagues in Finance worked tirelessly to address the issue of downgrade after downgrade that this country was facing. "Bajans" forget that there was a period of time that on the tips of our tongues was the fact that our dollar could be devalued. The \$2.00 to \$1.00 that we so proudly boast off could have been turned into something that at the end of the day would have caused us to struggle to make ends meet, Sir. We forget where we have come from and how we have gotten here. It is not that we dwell on our past but it is important that we remind ourselves that we understood at the beginning what the task was that lied ahead, and we set about to deal with the economy.

In the process of turning things around, we also had to deal now with COVID-19. Therefore, when I hear the discourse that people are hustling, I am as empathetic to the people who are hustling. I know that it "aint" just poor people that are hustling. The rich people are hustling. The middle class people are hustling; all of the people across the world. Sir, it is not only in Barbados that people are hustling and they are feeling the pinch not only of the rising prices in fuel, they are feeling the issues of even trying to get a container into Barbados to bring in food.

However, it is not peculiar to this little rock. We need to understand and appreciate that we do not live in a vacuum. We have to understand and be responsible enough to explain to people that in one breath while you are saying, "You know people hurting and yuh have to alleviate the problems and the challenges", in the same breath you still have to hold their hand and be responsible enough to educate them as to what is happening globally that is impacting on us. When we hear the issue of feed prices, we understand that it is just not a problem in Barbados. The

Government is not just sitting and say we will not do anything because prices have gone up, and it is harder for people or be able to afford things to put on their table.

We also have to engage in a conversation which allows people to understand that what happens outside impacts on us. We are quick to watch everything that is happening globally and be able to comment, agree and disagree. However, we seem to forget sometimes that with all of this education and intellectualizing all of these things that we are 166 square miles though. We cannot rub stones together to make fire. We require the assistance of international players and institutions, and all of these persons and entities in order to be able to survive. This is what has made Barbados a beacon certainly in the past. Certainly, it is one thing that the BLP has continued to try to do in terms of being able to have a voice in the international community. If nobody is hearing or seeing you, then you do not have a say or a seat at the table.

I wish that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would understand as well that we are meeting here today to discuss this particular piece of legislation. It is a corporate piece of legislation affecting companies in Barbados making it easier to do business. The Order Paper does not only have a Bill relating to corporate entities on it. There is vesting of two properties that are also coming later, Sir, that this Administration is making sure that where we do not have the means to do the things for the people of this country to allow us to build out facilities and be able to make sure that the children at the nursery schools are able to have better accommodation because nursery education is critical to the development and sustainability of our people. These are the things that we are also bringing because we understand that if we do not engage with people who have other resources to help us, then we are going to just sit idly by and complain that not enough is happening.

There is a lot happening. We came earlier this morning and spoke about the census. The Honourable Members for St. Michael South Central and St. Michael South spoke about the transformation that is necessary in this country but it has to start with data. In each Ministry, what is the major absence of details in all of the Ministry is the absence of data and research. We cannot plan as a country if we do not know how many people we have. We cannot plan as country for housing if we do not know what the needs are so the conversation really today cannot be about whether the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (C.B.C.) spy into people's houses to see how they are affected by Hurricane Elsa. The conversation has to be about the fact that we are a vulnerable society because we are a small society, we are impacted by the hurricanes and the systems coming off the African coasts, the fact that there were people who were vulnerable before Hurricane Elsa and Hurricane Elsa has magnified an already burdensome and troubling problem for the people of this

country and we have to find a way to fix it so we cannot pretend that we have all resources because the truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is we did not have the resources prior to Hurricane Elsa. The officers in the respective ministries were not able to solve all the problems before, but we have expectations that we are going to try to fix them all now. Let us be reasonable. It is going to require all hands on deck to get things to work. We can stand as the political directorate and say, we want to fix all of these houses, but we also have a responsibility to make sure and to motivate the people who have to work under us to understand that there is urgency in making sure that people who live vulnerable before are in a position now, because of a natural disaster, to accelerate the speed at which they get their houses, but the minister responsible for housing cannot go and build any house. He is relying on the people under him and the systems under him to get it done. When we show what is happening the truth of the matter is people sometimes what their stories to be told because they want people as well to know their vulnerability and I am sure that most, if not all, are asked whether they wish to have their stories told but the truth about it is that some Barbadians do not realise how other people are living and they live in this bubble believing that when the Government of Barbados says that it wants to repair or it wants to fix houses for vulnerable people in this society that those people do not deserve that money should be allocated, that they do not deserve the investment in their accommodation or their infrastructure. Sometimes you have to show people the realities of what is happening in the country, if they are not going to come to it, then sometimes you have to show them the magnitude of the problem and I believe, Sir, that is the only way that we start to heal, that is the only way that we start to break down a lot of these barriers where people believe that all is well in our society or that there are taken by surprise when there is any unrest or when there is any criticism because a large majority of people sometimes do not understand how people are living. When we talk sometimes in here we talk as politicians about how difficult it is for people to put food on the table. There are many people who have food on the table every week though, that drawing the salary. There are people in Government who draw a salary that whether or not contractors get paid, they are getting their money. There are people who whether the welfare cheque get cut or not to the poor person is getting their money, so sometimes you have to show, you have to peel back that skin and show sometimes, what the realities are and you cannot be hypocritical, Mr. Speaker, because at the end of the day, we open our papers every single day and we see stories of people whose conditions are deplorable. It is regrettable that people feel they have to make their situation public sometimes in order to get attention. What does it say, it does not say anything about them or the conditions. It says that our systems need to work better and I would love a point where we can get to where the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, instead of being

critical of Government and making it seem like we do not give a damn about the people of this country, offers solutions. How do we improve what is there? How do we inspire our people to be their brother's keeper? How do we get people to understand that there are some people out there who are finding it real hard to make a living? We have done so much in coming to Office. I think in the first year of office, we had more legislation pass in this Honourable Chamber than the previous 10 of the last Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration. I watch my colleagues age in the process of a year, get grey hair, all kinds of things because, why? They were working 24/7 to be able to keep this country afloat, Sir, and if you thought that was not enough then came COVID-19. There are many days that we do not stop thinking about our country. We do not stop thinking about the suffering, we are trying to find solutions, but the Honourable Member also knows that sometimes the systems that exist do not move fast enough to be able to allow us with all the greatest political will to get the things that we want done in a timely manner, so when I hear that we have agendas coming to Parliament that are really not connecting with the people I am offended, Sir, because I believe when I look back at the agenda of Parliament perhaps we could do more to do more things, but there is also something, and the Honourable Member knows this, called a Private Member's Bill on the Order Paper and the Honourable Member knows the procedure in the event that he wants to bring something that he believes we have not done that would impact the people of this country, therefore the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition would do well instead of criticising this Administration to use the rule of Parliament to bring the things that he believes would empower because he could have done it when he was on our side but he chose otherwise. Do not now complain that we are not doing X and we are not doing Y. There are provisions within the House of Assembly, even on our side, if we believe that there is something that needs to come before this Honourable Chamber for consideration that will impact the lives of the people, the provisions are there, Sir. Do not fool the people of this country. If the Honourable Member believes there is something we have missed, there is something we have not accelerated fast enough, as Leader of this House of Assembly, if it comes, I will make sure that it is given priority on the Order Paper. I have to defend the record of this Administration because if I take every single ministry, every single sector,... My colleague behind me told me this morning that the additional buses are in The Port, but we did not come here to talk about that because in talking about the ease of doing business we have also been looking after the people because Bajans have to ride on the buses to get to work and children have to get to school. We did not choose just any buses, we made sure we had electric businesses and we have trained people who now have the ability to be able to repair those buses. This is not a Government with a lot of long talk, Sir. The sewerage problem, the Honourable Acting Attorney General came,

streets in all of the south coast filled with sewerage and that problem has been fixed. Yes, we have the issues of water and we are sympathetic to the people who do not have water, Sir. We are putting the resources there to fix it. If you even look at the parishes that do not have the water supply as they would like, but I will tell you this, even within our schools we have had challenges, Sir, because the leaks and things within the schools have not been fixed for decades. It is not a problem that is only in particular areas, there is an issue in terms of how we address systemic problems in Government, how we maintain structures, how we make sure that we have the technical capacity to be able to address the problems that are required because it is only when we have a crisis that many times we start to realise what the true magnitude of the problem is or where the deficiencies are. I would like to hear the Honourable Leader of the Opposition speak to those things, Sir, because I am not afraid to speak to what is broken. I will be critical of what we are not doing, but at the same time, I believe that we are doing a hell of a lot given what we have and he would do well -- I cannot tell him how he is supposed to deliver his opposition -- but that he would do well to acknowledge some of the things that have been done and to, perhaps, indicate to us, what are the things that we can do better because it is only by listening to others that we perfect what we are doing. That is what we are here to do. Everybody does not have the answer to everything, but the one thing that I know this Government is prepared to do is to listen and if it is constructive we would take it into account, Sir. I want to just make that point.

We are not marking time. In fact, if anything I think we wish that we had more time to be able to accomplish the things that we have started because the Honourable Leader of the Opposition also knows that transformational things do not happen overnight, that is why they are transformational. You have to start to ease the process of doing business so I agree with him through you, Mr. Speaker that the lines should not be long for people standing up in the hot sun anywhere.

I am also mindful that it also means that we have to make sure that the people who are responsible for the delivery of services are also empathetic and conscious that the services that they are offering especially in a COVID-19 environment requires us to think differently, it cannot be business as usual. That is what I expect the Honourable Member to say to us that yes we got Barbados Identification Cards coming and we are trying to move the process of payments online, online. Well maybe we should do a little bit more public relations in order to make sure that the average Barbadian understands how the process can be made simpler. How do we get the elderly people who are accustomed to doing business a particular way, which is going face to face in a bank, to recognise that there is another way of doing it? How do we make sure that the ones who still want to come to the banking institutions

are able to be dealt with in a way that where they are catered for in a particular way? We have to understand we cannot keep them standing up in long lines because they may have various health conditions. Those are the sentiments that need to be expressed if anything in terms of criticism of this Administration.

Mr. Speaker, let us understand that it is not a perfect system. Sometimes when people are trained in a technical way some of these what we call the soft skills are not necessarily taught. They do not think about the exchange with the general public. They do not think about how the customer is going to feel. They do not think about how the recipient on the other end is going to feel about their experience. Those are things that we need to engender in our population that we think about others, we think about the old people that might have to stand up outside under a tent without chairs sometimes, that we make sure that we are keeping the physical distancing but we put things in place to be able to make sure that those things are happening.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke about other policies that the Government should be doing and in the shortest timeframe. When I heard about the sports policy I smiled because I turned to the Honourable Acting Attorney General and said but we have not been even able to have interschool sports. It is not that things stopped completely because of COVID-19, but we cannot behave as though we are not in a COVID-19 environment. Sports has been restricted. Mr. Speaker, because of all of the issues of the physical contact we have had to make modifications. It does not mean that we are not planning for when things improved but adjustments have had to be made in our society, in our governance, in the way we do business and in the way we interact with each other because of the environment in which we find ourselves. Mr. Speaker, if we are not responsible enough to explain this to the people of this country we are going to continue to have a disgruntled set of people who sometimes feel as though things are not working for them.

This is not about trying to light fires just for the sake of lighting fires, this is a period where we have to share information and we have to educate. We have to take people who ordinarily may not understand all of the ramifications of the international obligations Barbados may have and all of its obligations in terms of treaty obligations in their confidence and break it down so people understand that some of these things impact on what we have to do.

We took a decision that we would invest in healthcare during this period. We spent substantial amount of money on our healthcare system to keep our people safe. Does it mean that we have fixed all of the problems that pre-existed at the hospital? Hell no, not even within the polyclinics. The truth of the matter is that attention has had

to be diverted to keeping people safe. We know that the surgeries have been postponed in many cases. We know that there are people on waiting lists. There is no pleasure that I have in standing here and saying that we have not been able to get back to full capacity with every single aspect of the hospital and then top everything else that we were supposed to be doing, Sir.

I also know that the environment in which I operate right now is a different environment than I would have wanted to be operating in and all that I can do in the position that I am in is to try to find that balance and that is what all of our colleagues have been trying to do at the level of Cabinet to bring things to this Chamber that create a balance, that there is economic investment, that we address some of the social issues, that we deal with the public education that is necessary in order for people to have a different outlook as to where we are, that we deal with the COVID-19 fatigue because people are tired of being told about masks and sanitising but that is what we have come to be accustomed to now, that is what we have to do, so we cannot pretend as though this Administration does not care about the people.

We have the most aggressive housing policy to date dealing not just with low-income but with middle-income and also persons at the higher end because we understand that we have a responsibility to still be doing the big picture things while at the same time doing all of the other things that are going to matter to Barbadians, but can we build houses in 24 hours. No, we cannot. Can we solve the problems of the National Housing Corporation overnight? Even in my own constituency in St. Michael South East I have people on a waiting list for over 20 and 30 years, Sir, that still require accommodation and now we have a further compounded problem with Hurricane Elsa where again those vulnerable people have found themselves in a situation where they are even more vulnerable than they were before, so it is not to say that we do not care but if we do not have housing stock and we are in the process of building it out then what we to explain to the public is that there is still a process. We have to walk them through the process because I do not see any houses being built in no 24 hours or in a week or two weeks. The Honourable Minister has been trying his best to get all of the different things done and have all of the different things going. When they start to go and when they start off and they get going there is going to be hope for lots of people in this country but I am not going to stand here and tell you that in the time that we have in Government that we will solve every single housing problem in this country. I am not going to tell you that but I know that we have made a commitment to make a significant dent across this country by starting the provision of housing at various levels to people of this country.

Sir, the Honourable Member was very glowing in his earlier comments commending myself and the Honourable Acting Attorney General, but I have been told by my grandmother that you have to beware of wolves in sheep clothing and so while I thank him for his comments I also know that as a seasoned politician he understands the difference in terms of what we are doing and what we are trying to achieve. He understands it because he has walked the road before and he knows that these things do not happen overnight. He understands that there is a process and I think that if he is honest with himself or with his maker that he would appreciate that he has that responsibility to the people of this country to make sure that they too understand that there is a process and that the effort certainly are not in vain.

Sir, I can therefore go on about all of the things, all the trust loans and all of the various things that we have done to empower our people. The vending bill is coming shortly and again we have made that commitment. The Honourable Member made that commitment to the vendors too, and we are going to fulfil the commitment to bring those transformational things to this country that we all know that we need to do.

Sir, for him to belittle this Bill or to belittle the proceedings of this Chamber in a manner that sends a message that what we are coming to do here is not relevant to the people of this country is insulting and is offensive I believe to all of us who serve every single day and spend every waking moment that we have breath in our bodies to do what is right by the people of this country, to listen to those types of criticisms when they are not sincere in ...

With those few words, I am obliged.

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

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: Mr. Speaker, normally in the Wrap-up you address the issues of relevance raised by the Other Side with respect to the substantive piece of legislation that you are debating or the particular Resolution. In this case, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition did not seem to have an issue at all with the actual amendments that we are seeking, and I find myself in the unenviable position.... Having heard the sterling contribution of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and then the exemplary contribution by the Acting Prime Minister who addressed all of the asides and tangential issues raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I do not even have to touch those but just so that something is registered and it does not appear that I abdicated my responsibility to provide some response, Sir, all I will say is this: When we discuss or we debate pieces of legislation like this which, yes, are on the face of it complying with international obligations, it is not that these

international obligations and what we are doing have no relevance for the people of Barbados and that it is not a substantial debate that affects the people of Barbados.

Sir, our standing internationally has a direct impact on our reputation as a country. That reputation as a country has a direct impact on the resources we are able to get, the assistance we are able to receive, the positions we are able to leverage, the treaties we are able to enter into, and the trade agreements we are able to sign off on. It has an impact on all of those things, and those things impact the average person in the street, Sir. While this Amendment, the comprehensive Amendment, did deal with certain things under the anti-money-laundering legislation -- anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorism obligations -- the fact is that parts of this Bill have a direct impact on the people in Barbados. Sir, everybody in Barbados who used to carry on a small business are now going to incorporate a company because those companies provide some measure of protection for you to do your business. The person who is doing a chicken farm no longer needs to do so under his or her own name. They can incorporate a company to do that. The person who is looking to sell stuff that might have been carried on the back of their car may now incorporate a company to do that. By these provisions which seek to make it easier for the persons to incorporate companies and which seek to pull out things that may have had some relevance 50 years ago but are irrelevant now -- that are unnecessary steps which people have to climb or unnecessary hoops which people have to jump through, all of which have financial implications -- we are seeking to remove those and that is a direct impact and a direct benefit to the people of Barbados.

Therefore, I do not hold with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in his averment that what we are here debating today is really of no significance or relevance to the people of Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: Sir, all I will say is that the provisions of this Bill touch us at the levels of the offshore companies, the non-profit companies, the domestic companies, and the average person who may even need a notarial certificate. It touches all aspects from the very high and opulent to the very low and dependent, and this, Sir, is perhaps one of the widest ranging and widest sweeping Bills that touch on so many aspects of Barbados that you scramble to find somebody who is not affected by it. In that respect, this is a signal and significant piece of legislation, Sir, and worthy of occupying the Chamber for the time that it took and the debate that we had. Sir, having addressed that in respect of the Bill, I have nothing further to add but to ask that this Bill be read a second time.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: I beg to second that.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. W.A. ABRAHAMS, seconded by Dr. the Hon. W.F. DUGUID, the House resolved itself into Committee. Dr. S.E. BROWNE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. W.A. ABRAHAMS, seconded by Dr. the Hon. W.F. DUGUID, MADAM CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. W.A. ABRAHAMS, seconded by Dr. the Hon. W.F. DUGUID, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Corporate (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2021.

ORDER NO. 5

To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the rescission of the Resolution passed in the House of Assembly on the 7th Day of May, 2019, in the Senate on the 31st Day of May, 2019, assented to by Her Excellency the Governor General on the 5th Day of June, 2019, and published in The Official Gazette as Resolution No. 10/2019 on the 10th Day of June, 2019, approving the lease to the Maria Holder Memorial Trust of a parcel of land, the property of the Crown, situate at Upton in the Parish of Christ Church in this Island for the purpose of constructing a skate park for public use.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is not a debate that would delay the House for long. In fact, there are two like this: One is for a skate park and the other is for the nursery at Government Hill, both of which have actually been already constructed. The only matter is to resolve the matter of a licence versus a lease. Essentially what has happened is that the Government entered into relationships with the Maria Holder Trust to offer them parcels of land. They would then build the facilities on those parcels and then either lease back or license the Government. What happened was that on two occasions, one at Sayers Court, Christ Church, I believe, and the other was in the Holder's Hill, St. James area, the Government had provided a lease of land, the Maria Holder Trust built the facility and then leased those

two back to the Government. Then the Trust realised that it would have preferred a licence as opposed to a lease-back. With these two, the skate park and the Government Hill nursery, the Resolutions had in fact been passed and it was a lease-back, but the Maria Holder Trust would have much preferred to have a licence rather than a lease back. This is what both of these Resolutions will then do. We will do them individually, because we have to do two things. We have to rescind the previous Resolution and then put the forward the new Resolution to be able to lease and then licence back to the Government. That is essentially what both of these do. I guess to some extent it is getting the details correct and this absolutely important.

I will give you a very simple story about why details are so important. I remember this very vividly and the Member for St. Lucy would remember it as well also. When I went into the conference room at the Ministry of Transport Works and Maintenance, we saw a picture of a wind turbine and that wind turbine was put up, I believe it was in St. Lucy to be able to provide electricity for the people in that area.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon W. F. DUGUID: That is correct, in Chance Hall a wind turbine was put up to be able to test the viability of wind and to be able to change wind into electricity and provide electricity and test the concept. I remarked to the then Permanent Secretary and said I do not know where this wind turbine is at Chance Hall, St. Lucy, tell me what happened to it, because it would be interesting to know. The Permanent Secretary said, Minister that wind turbine fell down. I said, it fell down, what you mean that it fell down. He said, the detail of putting the right bolts to connect the wind turbine to the foundation was the problem and the bolts rusted and it fell down. I said, that is an amazing thing and it always brought home to me how important the details are. You know, there is a saying the devil is in the details. You can have a grand policy, you could have the best idea but if you do not get the details right the whole issue could do like that wind turbine and fall down. It is why we have to come back and make those details absolutely correct so that the Maria Holder Memorial Trust and the Government of Barbados is comfortable with the arrangement, so that they all form a uniformed pattern of the lease coming back with a licence back to the Government of Barbados. In this instance it is for the Skate Park and as we come again that one will be for the nursery.

Let me be elusively clear, every time that we bring an issue or a matter to this House, we do not take it likely. We are not only looking to improve the various conditions that we would have had previously, but we also look to see and ask ourselves every day, what do we have to do, what procedure, what do we have to execute, and how do we

have to do it to make the lives of Barbadians better. In this instance it is to provide a sporting facility for young people who otherwise did not have any. When it comes to the other one it is to provide nursery education for our very young children in this country. Let me say both the Skate Park and the nursery have already been built and ready for occupation to be taken over by the Sports Council and the Ministry of Education when we can get these lease backs in.

These are simple matters and I absolutely urge the House to support this Resolution so that we can fix these details, because if we do not fix the details, like the windmill that house could fall down. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member you did not make specific reference to have the matters debated as a cognate debate given the fact that there were interlinked. By my authority, I will make them a cognate debate so as to facilitate the passage of the Resolution.

Dr. the Hon W. F. DUGUID: I am so guided Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Resolution brought before the House by the Member for Christ Church West with respect to the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, the leasing of the land and specifically the building of a Skate Park. I think this occurred back in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I want to lay before the Chamber an echo, my congratulations on behalf of the Government and more specifically as the Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment and the people of Barbados and take this opportunity to applaud the work of the Barbadian athletes who just competed at the Olympic Games. I will specify in their names to let the record reflect. The first is Tia-Adana Belle. A young lady from humble origins, graduate of my Alma matter, the St. Luke's Ellerton Primary School, now known as the Ellerton Primary School and from the rural district of Ellerton, St. George. The others are Mr. Shane Brathwaite, Mr. Mario Burke, Mr. Tristan Evelyn, Mr. Jonathan Jones, Mr. Alex Sobers, Ms. Danielle Titus and Ms. Sade Williams. They all represented Barbados at the just concluded 2021 Summer Olympics Games in Tokyo. They are now what we call Olympians and it is every athlete's dream to represent their country at the highest level. They are now classified as young global citizens. We have given these young people the opportunity to shine on the World stage and to put Barbados on the map again in the area of athletic sports. I want to congratulate them. The statement indicates that

they represented their country at the highest level in their respective disciplines. The fact that COVID-19 brought some challenges to their preparation, both in being prepared for the games and also in executing the games, but they have demonstrated their caliber of outstanding elite athletes.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment also recognises the need for a mechanism through which we can continue to develop these athletes. I just wanted to put that on the record as I speak to the Skate Park in this Resolution. Mr. Speaker, I know the debate is not about athletes and the Olympics, but why I started there, is because skateboarding in 2016 was recognised by the International Olympic Committee as an Olympic sport. That is why started there. For the first time, skateboarding was held at the Olympic sports at the just concluded Tokyo Games in Japan. Hence, the Maria Holder Memorial Trust has given us the opportunity to have a facility that our young skateboarders can indeed practice and train to become world-class skateboarders. It is our wish as a Government as we continue to build out the infrastructure for our athletes in the various disciplines that we can see a lot more of our young athlete become Olympians, not only to go into the Olympics, but to stand proudly in first, second or third.

Even if they did not place, they can become true global citizens as young athletes. We should not take this skate park lightly because what it has given our young people is the opportunity become world-class skaters and have a career in skateboarding.

It is just giving us another sporting discipline that we can look forward to as a country to say that our young people have the opportunity to represent their country in an Olympic sport. Let me just give you a bit of statistics. In 2016, there were 85 million skateboarders in the world. In 2021, the US market is estimated at US\$ 287 million. This is the market for skateboarding in the world. To be more specific, it is US\$ 286.9 million. There is an active community of skateboarders in this country and when we look at the history of skateboarding, it started back in the 1980s. It was an exchange when surfers came here to Barbados to compete in surfing- I will speak to sports tourism shortly- they brought that discipline to this country in the 1980s. The skateboarding culture began to evolve.

As a surfing destination, droves of surf tourists came to this country and that cultural exchange allowed us to see the Frutee Sunsplash Skateboarding event. We saw in Jackson at Adriana's Complex the birth of two skateboarding teams. Now, we have five skateboarding teams. There was the Movement Skate team and the Irie One team. In 2009, we moved to five teams. We have the Skateboarders Association of Barbados and the skate park. Mr. Speaker, Barbados is truly international. This exchange

between surfing is now also an Olympic sport. In 2016, it was given the go-ahead by the International Olympic Committee. This exchange has seen the growth of a new sporting discipline and industry in this country.

What that speaks to is the opportunity to engage in sports tourism and that we no longer only see sport as recreational and social, while we recognize the importance of sports being recreational and social. Skateboarding has now given us the opportunity to add to Barbados' economic growth within these various sporting disciplines of not only cricket, football, netball and hockey. We can have the exchange of skateboarders from the US and all over the world coming to Barbados to that "spankious", beautiful skateboarding park that we have, thanks to Maria Holder Memorial Trust. The opportunity has been created yet again where our young people can choose between whatever sporting discipline they want to.

They are not confined to the traditional sports of cricket and football, but we can see a number of jobs emanating from this skateboarding discipline. We must not take the work that the Maria Holder Memorial Trust has done and continue to do in this country lightly because has seen development not only in cricket and football, but we have seen development in the area of boxing. Boxing is an Olympic sport as well. We want to see the day when not only skateboarders but our boxers, and the other sporting disciplines can get on that podium and represent Barbados to the song, "Through craftsmen of our fate"; the national anthem. The lyrics state as follows, "In plenty and in time of need."

As a country and this entire Chamber should give support to this Resolution. Even though it is dated, the skate park is providing the opportunity for a number of young men and women. I cannot skate. I think I am pass that now. You need to have balance. It is an art. It is a technique and it strengthens your core.

When we see these young men and women on the skateboards, do not take it lightly. Some may say it is a very dangerous sport but you must have the art of skating, and know the art of skating. You must learn the art of skating because it is being taught now. It is a discipline that has created jobs as well. This Resolution as simple as it is to some, it is critical to the development of a sporting discipline that is not yet mature in this country but is taking wave.

I am anxious to see the young men and women at the 2024 Olympic Games in France. I am praying to the Almighty that we can truly develop world-class skaters and persons who can take the stage, listen to that National Anthem, internalize it and become true craftsmen of our fate or true global citizens through this sport. I will end by again thanking the Maria Holder Memorial Trust for the

work they have done thus far in this country and the work that they are doing.

When you look at the Wildey Gymnasium and you see four new lawn tennis courts being built, we recognize indeed that they are helping us as a Government and a country to provide opportunities that our young men and women can become true professionals in the various sporting disciplines.

Gone are the days when the traditional jobs in engineering, medicine and legal profession are seen as the crème de la crème among professions. Sportsmen are now taking the crème de la crème in terms of pay. When you look at some of the richest men and women in the world, they are sportsmen and women. This skateboarding can allow some of our young men and women to become famous and to generate wealth also that would redound to the benefit of this country. It would allow us to get back to the old golden days where persons can recognize Barbados as punching above its weight not only in economic terms but in sporting terms.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I beg to support this Resolution.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to use this opportunity to also support these Resolutions which you have invited Parliament to debate as cognate debate and use the opportunity similar to the Honourable Member for St. George South who just spoke to praise the Maria Holder Memorial Trust for the efforts, projects and programmes that the trust has done in this country over the last 13-plus years. Barbados really and truly would be worse off without the efforts of foundations such as the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, the Sandy Lane Trust, the Tanglewood Trust, and the Derrick Smith Trust.

We are a small, developing country, as was said earlier today, I think, by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, because of the measures internationally that are taken to gauge where a country is at, we are not able to access loans on a concessional rate because of our high Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) compared to other countries, but the reality of the situation is that we still have a lot of vulnerabilities and fragilities within our economy and society and Foundations such as the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, led and established by non-Barbadians, yes, by people who have seen the benefit of this country, the attributes of this country and the pleasures of this country and have made Barbados their home either first or second - has been to the benefit of the general population of this country. The Maria Holder Trust certainly within the 10 years under the last Administration built quite a few nurseries and did a lot for the education of young people in Barbados and we have to thank them as a Government of this country for what they are doing.

I was present, together with other honourable colleagues, at the celebration of their 10th Anniversary two years ago, I think it was, and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is laughing, Sir. She and I know why she is laughing, and it was attended at all levels -- suddenly near the end of a fabulous programme the then Chairman of the Foundation said: "Well, we are going to give away some money now to persons and they can give it to their stock, core groups and stakeholders" and I told my wife who was there with me: "If money sharing out tonight in think I am going to get some and I know who I am going to give it to" and my name was pulled out of a hat and I gave money to the persons with disabilities; the Lions Clubs. Another Honourable Member gave to the Salvation Army. In fact, that night he and I spoke and I said: "I suspect you giving the Salvation Army if not I would give them" and he said: "Yes". Other Honourable Members who were not present that night their names were called, but one had left and his name was called, it was in the middle of Crop Over, so they missed out, but that is the kind of entity that we are talking about.

Yes, they are generally made up of well-to-do persons, but they had an option to sit back and say, yes, I am going to make Barbados my second home and invest in real estate. There is no law that says they have to put back into the society, but they have done that to the benefit of the people and to the Government of Barbados. Certainly, Sir, I know that I could speak for other Honourable Members, I believe this whole Parliament, when I say that we thank them for what they are doing.

In this case, Sir, the Resolutions relate to the building of a skate park which, of course, is related to the cultural and sporting energies of the people of our country, their health as well, because you have to have good physicals to be in good health largely as well as to nursery education.

It was this party, of course, under the last Barbados Labour Party Administration, to have the honour to be the Government of this country that nursery education was expanded in this country and that that expansion which continued under the last political Administration has been facilitated, to some extent, by the Maria Holder Memorial Trust.

Sir, with your permission, this debate also gives the opportunity to speak towards, where do we go from here in terms of educational reform, greater expansion in terms of nursery, young people, as well as expansion towards, again one of the core groups of the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, children with disabilities. I would look forward to the day when this House debates, as I am sure it would be doing, the Report of the Educational Reform Committee that the Honourable Minister of Education, the now acting Prime Minister, would have established three months ago

because our educational system and nursery education is part of that and is in dire need of reform.

Sir, I look forward to the day, for instance, when the Common Entrance Examination is abolished as the Honourable Prime Minister substantive Prime Minister would have promised on certainly the first anniversary of this Administration coming into office. I would have loved to see it abolished this year, but circumstances I supposed militated against that. It must have been a strain on children to have to go through that, but I am fully in support of the need for educational reform, and we look forward to that Report being laid in this Parliament and presumably debated sometime in the near future, but also reform in terms of children with disabilities. Again, some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and our whole construct which is in need of reform. In this case, Barbados would have participated in a conference on disabilities two weeks ago. Sir, I would have led the delegation to that conference by Zoom. We are lagging a bit behind in this area. Six countries in the Caribbean have disabilities legislation already. I know that the Ministry of People's Empowerment is considering advancement on this area, but in the meantime we do need some leeway on this issue. Some Honourable Members are aware of something which recently have been drawn to their attention, something which I knew for a long time and which I have been advocating against, that our laws for instance in terms of National Insurance and Social Security benefits only speaks towards monetary benefits under that Scheme to persons with disabilities who are blind or who are deaf. That is so I believe from the time the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme Act came into place in 1967, but times have changed and more people are getting disabilities as time goes on.

The invariable truth, Sir, is that most children with disabilities in this country are from poor families, that is the reality of the situation. Most people with disabilities come from poor families who struggle on a daily basis to be able to support them financially, therefore, the Cabinet of Barbados and this Parliament have to look at our legislation on this and see how we can make it more fit for purpose to accommodate the just society which we all aimed for and which we all in here have pledged to develop in this country.

There are clearly vulnerabilities in this. Yes, even though it could be said that such persons, children with disabilities or even adults with disabilities, may not be able to access monetary benefits under the National Insurance Scheme, which as we know is heavily under pressure now over the last 18 months because of a global pandemic that has affected us seriously but which we had not part in bringing about, and that those persons may be able to access welfare, the issue is that they should be able to access benefits as of legal right and entitlement just like

others. I look forward to the day, Sir, when this Parliament is able to debate such reform for the benefit of our nursery children with disabilities and our other children and people with disabilities.

In the meantime, Sir, I know that it is a rescission to bring the situation in conformity with the desires of the Maria Holder Memorial Trust and I fully support that. I am happy to be part of a Government that understands partnership between or involving non-governmental organisations and trusts and foundations such as the Maria Holder Memorial Trust.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to detain the House too much longer, suffice to say that I wanted to support both of the Resolutions brought by the Honourable Member. I have been the recipient of the benefit certainly in my constituency of the Memorial Holder Memorial Trust. The reconstruction of the Parkinson Resource Centre for instance was done by them several years ago and they have continued to certainly maintained and invest in that particular community and certainly in the facility which has becomes a benefit to all persons living therein.

This particular Resolution which addresses the issue of what I consider to be a priority for us in education which is ensuring that we have nursery education prioritised and that we have a number of places available for persons wanting to obtain the benefit of nursery education for their young ones is certainly supported and encouraged by this Administration. Obviously, we have had the benefit from them of the Maria Holder Nursery School at Sharon, St. Thomas, the Gall Hill Nursery School, the Maria Holder Nursery School at Oldbury and now this new facility at Government Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a little bit about the impact in terms of what this facility would have on not only the surrounding community but certainly on the number of nursery school places that are available. Many of the students who will be moved into this facility are actually students who would have been at the old Government Hill Nursery School. We had a roll there of about 86 students at that particular location. This was one of the earliest schools that would have been established as a nursery school back in 1972 and it would have been there since then but as can be appreciated over time obviously the capacity has increased, in terms of the maintenance it is one of those school plants where again lack of maintenance has created some issues and therefore we are anxious to be able to make some repairs to the existing plant once the

students who were in that institution are moved over. It is just a stone throw away as Bajans would say from the existing facility. From the actual location you can see the Springer Memorial School as well. The Charles F. Broomes Memorial Primary School is also in that vicinity as well for those who are familiar with the area.

We are obviously moving over the teaching staff. Our view at this point is that the teaching staff will continue to be adequate. Fortunate for us the number of students who can be allocated is 120 so we still have a few places that are available to us, at least about 30 additional students can be accommodated. Mr. Speaker, what this allows us to do and why I think this is so important for education is that it allows us to be able to utilise the existing building where the old nursery school was located to be able to house a number of students who may have physical challenges and to provide for a number of our special needs children. There are limited spaces available. We have been trying very hard over the last couple of years to make sure that we can accommodate all children and in particular children with special needs. We have done a lot of work on the Anne Hill School and the Irving Wilson School, we have done some changes at Erdiston Nursery School and we are continuing to work on not only the special units but also the special schools to ensure that we can provide for all of our children to have access to safe plants but also to have access to education.

We will be doing some repairs on the old building, retrofitting the bathrooms and building a ramp in order to facilitate those students but essentially we are trying to make good of an existing building to be able to fill the void in terms of the number of places that are currently available to us because we would move the Special Unit at the Charles F. Broomes Memorial Primary School over to that location which no doubt would free up a few places at the Charles F. Broomes Memorial Primary School in order to transition for the new school term.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the Maria Holder Memorial Trust and certainly all entities that have been supporting not only this Administration but successive Administrations. The truth is that we could not have accomplished a lot of these things without the support of private donors. They really helped to carry some of the heavy weight that many of us encountered in trying to meet a lot of the demands in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I have made the appeal to my ministry certainly that persons who are living in the surrounding areas must certainly be the beneficiaries of the use of this new facility particularly because sometimes we have situations where people from outside of the environs often become the beneficiaries and I know that is not what the Trust intended and it certainly is not what I think the intention was in the early stages. I know the Honourable

Member for St. Michael East who is also here would be pleased to hear that but I have echoed those sentiments in my ministry to ensure that the persons who we want to cater for who really need to be captured in this type of environment are given the opportunity to be able to be placed there.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that if we can get all of our schools looking the way these nursery schools are looking... I am going to be very excited when this building is actually opened because it really is another model institution by the Maria Holder Trust, but the truth is that it makes children want to come to school because it is colourful, it gives the opportunity for students to be able to explore, on the landscaping there are lovely rooms, there is the appropriate furniture and they have also looked at a different kind of furniture which obviously is easier to clean. You have cupboard space that is also adequate for the students to store their items as well and of course the bathroom facilities have adequate space for persons who are disabled as well, so the facility has taken into account the needs of not only students but also the general teaching staff and certainly the ancillary staff and the security as well who are obviously pivotal to being able to have institutions such as this properly operate.

Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of us doing the opening I just wanted to alert this Chamber that this is a significant investment that has been made by the Maria Holder Memorial Trust and one which I am sure will allow for the opening up of some of the other facilities. There are two other nursery schools to be built out and we look forward to having all of the necessary paperwork being executed swiftly to allow for them to be able to build this out to add to the existing complement of nursery schools in this island.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

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

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me thank all Honourable Members that spoke. This clearly is an important investment in the people of Barbados. As other Honourable Members would have said, the Maria Holder Memorial Trust continues to do exemplary work to be able to assist us to not only raise the levels of education, [not only to] raise the levels of opportunities in sports but also give that sense of well-being and a sense of belonging and a sense of having a society and a space that we can enjoy, that we recreate, that we can educate, and in general make ourselves better and more well-rounded people as a society and as a country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just follow on, however, from the Honourable Member for St. George South, unlike him, I

can roller skate and I can skate-board and I use to do both as a youngster. I also had the opportunity to do both with my daughter last year because she bought a skate board and was using it in the car park of the church and I got on it and found that I still had that talent and capability to be able to get on the skate board and do some turns and so on and so forth. She was amazed. Unfortunately, she did not get out the phone to take the video, maybe she will next time.

Mr. Speaker this is the absolutely important and I will commit that once we get these Resolutions approved by both Houses, then the Ministry would move posthaste to be able to get these licences in place so that the Ministry of Education can take possession of the property at Government Hill and those young kids, nursery school children would be able to access the facility and then by extension the knock-on effect is those disabled would be able to move into this space. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know this very well; in fact, the Leader of the Opposition knows the space very well. I believe that the Honourable Member happens to have a window that looks over into this area. This is an area that is very tight because not only is the Springer Memorial School there, there is also the Charles F. Broomes School. There is also a reservoir there, and also a facility that I know well, as well as now having this a nursery. It is a tight area, bounded by the Ivy area, (a well-traversed area), but an area that will redound to the benefit of the people of Barbados for many, many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, again, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, this is in relation to the rescission? Correct?

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Yes.

Hon. A. R. FORDE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

ORDER No. 6

RESOLVED THAT PARLIAMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE MARIA HOLDER MEMORIAL TRUST, OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT UPTON, IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A SKATE PARK FOR PUBLIC USE.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you have the Floor.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Based on the words as we spoke previously and the fact that we consider this a cognate debate, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

ORDER No.7

RESOLVED THAT PARLIAMENT APPROVES THE RECISSION OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED IN THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON 30TH APRIL, 2019, AND IN THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE ON 31ST MAY, 2019, ASSENTED TO BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON 5TH JUNE, 2019, AND PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE AS RESOLUTION NO. 11/2019, ON 10TH JUNE, 2019, APPROVING THE LEASE TO THE MARIA HOLDER MEMORIAL TRUST OF A PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT GOVERNMENT HILL IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A NURSERY SCHOOL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you have the Floor.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again, these are two rescissions and then lease for debate. I beg to move that these two be cognate debate. Hence, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. R. FORDE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

ORDER No. 8

RESOLVED THAT PARLIAMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE MARIA HOLDER MEMORIAL TRUST, OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT GOVERNMENT HILL IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A NURSERY SCHOOL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you have the Floor.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again obviously there are four parts to it and I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with that we have come to the end of today's Sitting. In speaking on the Adjournment, [not only do] I want to extend a welcome, I also want to say that I do hope that the Parish Ambassadors and certainly those who are tasked with the leadership of these young individuals in shaping their young minds would have enjoyed the session at today's Sitting; that they have been able to obtain a wealth and an understanding as to what we do here, and the importance of what we do in terms of serving the country. I hope that they too would take from our lead and that someday also [they would] grace us with their presence in a different capacity, either representing or serving at a different level.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, 24th August, 2021, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, 24th August, 2021, was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR
GENERAL

PAPERS

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 2.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 2.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4.....2

Hon. Miss M. K-A. Caddle, 2, 7; Hon. K. D. M.
Humphrey, 5, 7; Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley, 6, 7.

COMMITTEE

ORDER NO.3

CORPORATE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)

BILL,
2021

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMSON.....8

Hon. C. E. Jordan, 12; Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley,
13; Hon. Miss M. K-A. Caddle, 15, 16; Hon. Miss S. J.
O. Bradshaw, 17; Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, 22.

ORDER NO. 5.....23

Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, 23, 24, 28, 29; Hon. D. G.
Sutherland, 24; Mr. E. G. Hinkson, 25; Hon. Miss S. J. O.
Bradshaw, 27; Hon. A. R. Forde, 28, 29; Hon. W. A.
Abrahams, 29.

ADJOURNMENT.....29

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, 29; Hon. W. A. Abrahams,
29.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ABRAHAMSON, Hon. W. A.

ATHERLEY, Bishop the Hon. J. J. S.

BRADSHAW, Hon. Miss S. J. O.

BRADSHAW, Hon. Miss S. J. O.

CADDLE, Hon. Miss M. K-A.

DUGUID, Dr. the Hon. W. F.

FORDE, Hon. A. R.

HINKSON, Mr. E. G.

HUMPHREY, Hon. K. D. M.

JORDAN, Hon. C. E.

SUTHERLAND, Hon. D. G.

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. Order No. 4, third reading. The Bill is introduced and debated as the ‘Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill, 2021’, but the third-reading line cites it as the ‘Statistic (Validation) (Listing) Exercise Act, 2021’. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 3. Mr. Speaker gives the Floor to the ‘Honourable Member for Christ Church South’, but Hon. W. A. Abrahams is called the Member for Christ Church East elsewhere in the debate. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Headings and Order titles. The source has ‘ORDER N0.3’ (with a zero), ‘COMMMITTEE’, ‘RECISSION’ and ‘GOVENOR GENERAL’, and the titles of Orders Nos. 6 to 8 are set as ordinary or procedural paragraphs. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Minutes. The Leader of Government Business’s name is spelt ‘BRADHSAW’ in the speech label on the Minutes; elsewhere it is BRADSHAW. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at the Worthing Corporate Centre at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 10th August, 2021, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by the Reverend Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 27th July, 2021 were confirmed. Mr. Speaker welcomed the St. Michael Parish Ambassadors, Miss Reaiah Harris and Mr. Shaquille Waithe, with their officers, and read a letter from the Governor General dated 31st July, 2021 saying that she would be on vacation leave from 4th to 31st August, 2021 and that the Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Douglas Gibson would perform the functions of the office. The Leader of Government Business, Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, laid the Barbados Fiscal Framework, 2022-2023 to 2024-2025, the Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill, 2021 was read a first time, and Standing Orders were suspended.

Hon. Miss M. K-A. Caddle, Member for St. Michael South Central, moved the second reading of the Statistics (Validation of Listing Exercise) Bill, 2021, describing it as

an administrative measure to validate the listing exercise for the National Population and Housing Census, which was needed because the country had relied on estimates for ten years and the Population Commission had reported a declining population. Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey supported her. The Leader of the Opposition, Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley, used the debate to criticise the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for filming inside the homes of people damaged by Hurricane Elsa and exposing their poverty. The Bill passed through Committee, Dr. S. E. Browne in the Chair, and was read a third time.

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, speaking as acting Attorney General, moved the second reading of the Corporate (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2021, which amends the Companies Act, the Companies Regulations, 1984, the Societies with Restricted Liabilities Act, the Trademarks Act, the Patents Act, the Industrial Designs Act and the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act. He said the Bill met the beneficial ownership items of the anti-money laundering Action Plan agreed in February 2020, so that the people behind a company could be known.

Bishop Atherley congratulated Mr. Abrahams on his acting appointment but argued that the Government was ‘running out of steam’, meeting infrequently and doing too little for working-class people, sport, renewable energy, technology and manufacturing. Miss Caddle and Miss Bradshaw replied in support of the Bill, and Mr. Abrahams, winding up, said the Opposition had raised no objection to the amendments themselves. The Bill passed through Committee, clauses 1 and 2, and was read a third time.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, Member for Christ Church West, then moved Order No. 5, the rescission of a 2019 Resolution approving the lease to the Maria Holder Memorial Trust of Crown land at Upton, Christ Church. He explained that a skate park at Upton and a nursery at Government Hill had already been built, and that the Resolutions were needed to correct a licence into a lease; he illustrated the importance of detail with a wind turbine at Chance Hall, St. Lucy, that had fallen down. Mr. Speaker ruled that the related Resolutions be debated together. Hon. D. G. Sutherland, Mr. E. G. Hinkson and Miss Bradshaw praised the Trust’s work, and Order No. 5, Order No. 6 (the new lease at Upton for a skate park), Order No. 7 (the rescission of Resolution No. 11/2019 for Government Hill) and Order No. 8 (the new lease at Government Hill for a nursery school) were each agreed without division.

On the adjournment, Miss Bradshaw hoped the Parish Ambassadors had enjoyed the Sitting, and on her

motion, seconded by Mr. Abrahams, the House adjourned | until Tuesday, 24th August, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

|