
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2018 – 2022

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 29, 2021

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly Worthing Corporate Centre, Worthing, Christ Church met at 10.15 a.m. on Monday March 29, 2021.

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. (Deputy Speaker)

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

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

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.), (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, 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 Empowerment)

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

Bishop 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., (Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance)

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

Hon. C. S. V. HUSBANDS, B.A., M.Sc. (Hons.) (Minister in the Ministry of 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 (Minister of Environment and National Beautification)

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

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. JORDAN, B.Sc. (Hons.) (Minister of Labour and 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.S.C., 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)

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

Prayers were taken by Father Reverend Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting of the House is now in session. Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, March 09, 2021 to be confirmed.

MINUTES

Hon Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its Meeting of Tuesday, March 09, 2021, be confirmed.

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

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

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday, March 15, 2021 to be deferred.

Hon Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its Meeting of Monday, March 15, 2021, be deferred.

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

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Her Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the House of Assembly.

26th May, 2021 Her Excellency the Governor-General hereby informs the Honourable the House of Assembly of the following: Section 20(A) subsection 1 of the Emergency Management Act, (CAP 160A) states that: "Where the Governor-General is satisfied that an emergency has arisen as a result of a person or an animal having a communicable disease or a notifiable disease, the Governor-General may, by proclamation on the advice of the Prime Minister after the Prime Minister has consulted or has been advised by the Chief Medical Officer (C.M.O.) declare that a public health emergency exists." Her Excellency hereby informs the Honourable the House of Assembly that in accordance with Section 28(A), Subsection 3 of the said CAP 160A, she has declared a public health emergency. Signed Governor-General Government House Barbados

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Good morning and thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I rise to update this Honourable Chamber on the current refurbishment and repairs now being carried out on the East Wing of the iconic, historical and hallowed buildings known as the Parliament Buildings. The Parliament Buildings which were built between 1870 and 1874, some 147 years ago,

have been the meeting place of both Chambers of Parliament since the 16th June, 1874. The Parliament Buildings consist of two buildings built in the new Gothic architectural style reminiscent of the Victorian Era of Great Britain. The East Wing of Parliament features timber flooring with some sections of the ground floor area in concrete. The building was designed for those early times to be ventilated by natural ventilation and it is evident by the large windows and doors. In recent years, however, the building has developed several environmental problems resulting in its occupants complaining of feeling unwell when using it which has forced in the subsequent evacuation of persons from the severely affected rooms.

As a result of these problems, Parliament has therefore been temporarily re-sited from 24th February, 2020 and is currently operating from here at Worthing Corporate Centre in Worthing, Christ Church. I should note here that occurrences like this involving complaints from staff and users of Crown Properties about less than satisfactory environmental conditions and air quality over the years have been increasing and efforts are on the way to redress these problems. I will not briefly examine and discuss some common strategies and initiatives being adopted to help improve the quality of office accommodation in the wider public sector in Barbados.

The Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance in collaboration with the Standing Accommodations Committee is responsible for provision and maintenance of office accommodation for Government ministries, departments, CARICOM agencies as well as regional and international organisations as mandated by various Headquarter Agreements, Leaseholds and through the allocation of Crown Owned properties for their accommodation. The Property Management Unit of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance holds responsibility for the maintenance of Crown Properties with built assets totalling some \$3.68 billion across 853 properties including office accommodations, schools and health related buildings. The majority of buildings under the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance has been identified as older accommodations that have been in operation in excess of 25 years. The end result is that many of the persons in these aging properties have had to be relocated to newer, privately owned properties with the result that Government now has to look for some, approximately \$65 million annually to pay private sector accommodation for its public servants.

As a result of this huge expense, the Government has, from income year 2020 -- 2021, provided funds amounting to some \$15 million to pay for the rejuvenation or repair of Government buildings as well as to seek to facilitate the bringing back of some of its disused buildings into satisfactory accommodations for public servants as well as for members of the Barbadian public transacting business within these offices.

Having identified the nature of the problems in providing office accommodation in the public sector in Barbados, remedial measures are being adopted to enable the Government to be able to house its staff and those doing business with it in a healthy and safe environment as well as at an affordable cost. To this end, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance Building Unit and the Standing Accommodation Committee are working towards the running of a proactive scheduled building maintenance programme for Government properties rather than merely waiting to take actions on the defects when they occur. Action is also being taken to ensure that there is the timely reporting of the defects in Government properties to ensure that timely remedial repairs can be undertaken.

Strenuous efforts are also being made by this Ministry to press for the provision of adequate funding to carry out its maintenance programme for the large number of properties on its portfolio which brings me back to Parliament. At the East Wing of Parliament Buildings now undergoing refurbishment or repairs, an initial environmental assessment was conducted and mold had been discovered as one of the contaminants. This assessment also showed that the sealant on the walls was a contributing factor for the presence of the mold as well as the rising moisture and dampness creeping up the walls. Another environmental assessment was done by this Ministry's Building Unit which also involved the hiring of the services of a professional environmentalist and this time the presence of another contaminant was discovered, this being disintegrating fibreglass in the ceiling. This Study also revealed and confirmed that the environmental problems that were being experienced were also caused by the concrete floors at ground level and the aforementioned sealant as well as the damp moisture rising up the coral-stone walls of the building.

The entire scope of work for this refurbishment and repair project was initially projected to be some \$700 000 which has already been provided. These works which are expected to be completed by the 30th of September 2021 involved the removal of sealants from the walls, removal of the concrete ground floors, replacements of some 540 square metres or 5 813 square feet of ceiling and clearing away the disintegrating fibreglass, replacing timber flooring, re-facing of damaged walls, refurbishment of ground floor bathrooms and the refurbishment of the Members' kitchen and dining room. Electrical rewiring of

the entire ground floor is also to be done and replacement of termite infested floor joists to the First Floor as well as the refurbishment of the Senate and adjoining rooms. Refurbishment is also scheduled for the House of Assembly. This extensive scope of works also calls for the rectifying of leaks on the ceiling, refurbishment of the air-conditioning on the south side of the East Wing, refurbishment of window shutters and the replacement of all carpeting with an approved floor covering.

Refurbishment and repair works commenced in earnest on the great East Wing of Parliament with the removal of sealant from the walls on the 15th of December 2020 and that phase of the work was completed on the 18th of January 2021. Demolition works on the floors commenced on the 22nd of December 2020 and is currently ongoing. The Building Unit in my Ministry has estimated that at the end of February 2021 some 10 per cent of the planned work had been completed, however, some delay with progressing with this work resulted from the necessity of having to stop work during the National Pause period brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the scheduled expected completion day of this work was still 30th of September 2021.

Following ongoing inspection of the building, however, it is now being recommended by professional advisors and the Management Commission of Parliament that there are three obsolete systems in the East Wing of Parliament which are currently in need of replacement at this time and a decision now has to be made as to whether funding is currently available for these works as follows: Firstly, the air-conditioning system which was installed just after Barbados' independence in 1966 needs replacing at a cost of \$1 118 071 03; secondly, replacement of IT cabling and rewiring of the entire East Wing, cabling and electrical wiring which was unavoidably damaged as it was plastered into the walls and got damage during the removal of the sealant on the wall; and thirdly the replacement of the aged and obsolete camera, video and communication system. The total budget cost of the replacement of the above systems is \$2 746 135 031 for which a supplementary provision has been granted, therefore as the scope of works has increased to include the replacement of these three systems then the refurbishment repair cost of the East Wing will increase from \$700 000 to a total cost of \$3 446 135 031.

It may also be noted that innovations are being explored as to the feasibility of using photovoltaics solar panels to provide electricity to power the Parliament Building and the clock.

Before ending my statement, Mr. Speaker, my fellow parliamentarians, staff, my fellow Barbadians, ladies and gentleman all, it would be remiss of me not to state how proud the Ministry and I am to be able to take part in

refurbishing, repairing and restoring the great East Wing, Parliament Building within whose hallowed wall much of the historical legacy of Barbados was engineered and discussed leading to political, economic and social development and the advancement of our people.

Indeed, since that building was opened for its Parliamentary Session on the 16th of June 1874 just 40 years after the abolition of slavery on the 1st of August 1834 the Barbadian society has moved from strength to strength economically and socially. Within those walls were considered, discussed and processed major issues such as the labour disturbances of 1937 and the West Indies Royal Commission, the Moyne's Commission, which was dispatched from Britain in 1938 to investigate social and economic conditions in the British West Indies including Barbados leading soon thereafter to the legislation of trade unions in Barbados and the West Indies.

Other important issues discussed in the Honourable House was the universal adult suffrage which became a reality in Barbados in 1950 followed by full internal self-governance being achieved in 1961 and ultimately Independence November, 1966. The ill-fated West Indian Federation from 1958 to 1962 was also considered within the walls of the East Wing of Parliament Buildings although in a moment of humour I might argue that Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean probably were frightened when noted Trinidadian Prime Minister Eric Williams remarked that one from ten leaves nought, [1 from 10 leaves nought] and the Federation broke up.

In addition, further efforts to create Caribbean unity and advancement of our peoples were dealt within our walls of our Parliament Buildings when the Caribbean Free Trade Association, CARIFTA, which later became the Caribbean Community and Common Market, CARICOM, in 1973 were carefully debated and set up. In these circumstances, I consider it an honour to be tasked with seeing this work through to completion. I thank you.

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

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to make a Ministerial Statement with respect to the special feeding tariff for renewable energy systems between one megawatts and five megawatts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Barbados desires and environmentally safe and unsullied future for all Barbadians. It is the ambition of this Government to shape an environment which is the most pristine in the Western Hemisphere and therefore we take our responsibility of contributing to a safer and less polluted world very seriously.

It is a truism, Sir, that the single most effective way of making our environment less polluted is by ending fossil fuel burning. We have in this regard, Sir, sought to contrast Barbados from other Small Island Developing States and indeed from the overwhelming majority of other nations on planet earth. We have done this, Sir, by focusing on the scope and on the pace of our efforts to decarbonise our economy. Permit me, Sir, to elucidate by sharing with you an illustration. The broad contours and the scale of the decarbonisation challenge have been addressed at the global level by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement which includes achieving global green achieving global greenhouse gas neutrality by the start of the second-half of the 21st century. An illustrative benchmark in this regard is seen in the case of the United States of America which, for example, has signalled an intention to achieve an 80 per cent reduction from 2005 levels in its economy- wide emissions by the year 2050.

The Government of Barbados has, however, taken the more aggressive stance of committing to the transformation of the economy of Barbados by severing this island's exposure to the volatility of fossil fuel markets. Your Honourable House understood that commitment, Sir, when it approved, in March, 2019, the Barbados National Energy Policy 2019-2030. This robust policy declaration, Sir, created a bold 11-year implementation horizon within which Barbados would achieve its vision of becoming 100 per cent fossil fuel free by the year 2030.

The goal of achieving net-zero emissions, or in other words, achieving an overall balance between the greenhouse gas emissions we produce, and the greenhouse gas emissions we take out of the atmosphere, will require substantial investment by the private sector. This investment is driven by feed-in tariffs for renewable energy generators to receive, when they supply electricity to the island's grid. It follows logically, Sir, that the higher the feed-in tariff, the more attractive the sector becomes for investment. We have on the other hand, however, a duty to strike a balance with the need to suppress electricity prices, which should be achieved as a natural consequence of the deployment of new technologies.

Alongside these long-term environmental goals and aspirations (is the inescapable fact that) our economy continues today to be in a challenged position, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need a return to growth, Sir, so that we can cause employment levels to rebound and secure recovery in the private sector. Growth, Mr. Speaker, Sir, requires investment, but the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 pandemic has dampened the spirit of enthusiasm of investors in most of this (island's) economy, with potential investors now waiting in the hope of seeing things recover.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have an opportunity today to bridge two things: First, we can accelerate our steps towards shaping the most pristine environment for our island. Second, the need for investment today in the economy as a whole can be tackled. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this can be done through the use of feed-in tariffs to drive investment in renewables, so that we can get to net-zero emissions and a sustainable future. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bridge of which I speak is an Accelerated Investment Premium on the Fair Trading Commission determined feed-in tariffs for solar and wind generation. This Accelerated Investment Premium is designed to deliver a green recovery to Barbados and create green opportunities for employment and investment to Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that there are local potential investors who are seeking an opportunity to make investment and drive economic activity and employment in the land of their birth. We believe that one of the more efficient ways in which a country can spur development and growth is to encourage investment from within, by local entrepreneurs. It is in this regard, Sir, we emphasise that investment can be incentivised within the local energy sector, through the minimization of risk in this overarching climate of uncertainty.

You need to be aware, Sir, that as at December, 2020, Barbados had an installed capacity of 49 megawatts of renewable energy from solar photovoltaics on the nation grid. This consisted of 39 megawatts of distributed, and 10 megawatts of utility scale energy, and represents 68 gigawatt hours or an estimated 8 per cent of total electricity consumed, saving (this country) an estimated 114 412 barrels of oil, or \$9 215 961 in foreign exchange. We still have a long way to go in order to achieve our 2030 vision.

It is in this regard, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I have the honour today to announce before this Honourable Chamber an Accelerated Investment Premium Programme for the renewable energy sector for Barbadian nationals. This Programme, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is proposed to incentivise the sector by promoting and encouraging local investment. This Accelerated Investment Premium Programme will take the form of:

1. A 25 per cent premium for investments made in solar and wind technology system above one megawatt and up to three megawatts. 2. Secondly, a 20 per cent premium for investments made in solar and wind technology systems above three megawatts and up to five megawatts.

These investment premiums will be applied to the prevailing tariff rates established by the Fair Trading Commission, and will continue for a period of 12 months. In an effort, Sir, not to disadvantage applicants who have already applied, but are still awaiting licences, these premia

will be made retroactive to cover the period October 1, 2020 and will continue for the period of twelve months from today, as [was] previously indicated, or until the new limit of 75 megawatts has been utilised, whichever comes first.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we believe the premia will offer an incentive to Barbadians to get more involved in the generation of renewable energy, as well as the stimulation of economic activity and employment, and also to position (Barbadians) to benefit from the process of greening the Barbadian economy (and the society in which we live.)”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

Hon. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been a short morning, perhaps shorter than was originally expected, and I am sure that Honourable Members would be pleased to know that while we had initially anticipated that we may have to return this afternoon or perhaps even tomorrow, the intention now is that we will actually rise for the Easter period and will return on May 4, 2021, at 10.00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on speaking on the Adjournment I want to thank all those persons who have assisted us over the course of this period, obviously through the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue, but obviously in making our situation as comfortably as possible. Obviously this period is one of reflection and I know that many Barbadians are trying to adjust to this period in particular that we have had a number of restrictions on their movement and certainly what they are accustomed to. However Sir, I believe that as we approach this season and certainly the Easter weekend, I would ask all Barbadians to recognise that the reflection is not only to take place at Easter but we should in all of our daily lives really be reflecting on what this pandemic has thrown up for all of us and so whether it is a change in our circumstances, whether it is a change in having to wear mask, whether it is a change even in the restriction of movement in the interest of the people of this country, I believe that this is the time for us to really take stock of where we are but also to be renewed in purpose as we move forward, as we come out of the Easter period. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the behalf of all Honourable Members and certainly my own behalf I would want to wish you and the Clerks of Parliament, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, all colleagues and to the wider public of Barbados a blessed Easter and an enjoyable and peaceful period of reflection. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, you have the Floor.

Bishop J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to join my voice with that of the Honourable Leader of Government Business to wish all Parliamentary colleagues a very blessed Easter season, filled with a sense of a presence of God and a clear awareness as to His purpose in their lives, collectively as well as individually. May I express appreciation on the behalf of those of us on this side to you for having presided over the proceedings of this House, and Madam Chairman in the Committee, as well as to the Clerks at the table led by the Honourable Clerk himself, and to the ancillary staff of Parliament and all others, technical as well, who have facilitated these meetings. I wish them all a very blessed Easter.

Mr. SPEAKER: From the Chair also I wish to express my gratitude to all Honourable Members. At times we had spirited debate but I hope that we shall use this period to reflect, re-energise and return focused. I wish everyone a blessed Easter. Honourable Leader of Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, I beg to move that this Sitting be now adjourned until May 4 at 10 a.m.

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

The question that the Sitting do now adjourn until May 4, 2021, at 10 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MR. SPEAKER adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

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

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 2.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID.....2

Hon. K. D. Symmonds, 4; Hon Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw,
5; Bishop J. J. S. Atherley, 6.

ADJOURNMENT.....6

Hon Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, 6; Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 6.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ABRAHAMS, Hon. W. A.

ATHERLEY, Bishop J. J. S.

BRADSHAW, Hon Miss S. J. O.

DUGUID, Dr. the Hon. W. F.

SYMMONDS, Hon. K. D.

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. Messages from Her Excellency the Governor-General. The message read at this Sitting of 29th March, 2021 is dated ‘26th May, 2021’ in the source. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Statements by Ministers, Parliament Buildings. The costs are typed ‘\$1 118 071 03’, ‘\$2 746 135 031’ and ‘\$3 446 135 031’; the last two, if read literally, are in the billions, although the original estimate was \$700 000. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Minutes. The motion to defer the Minutes of Monday, 15th March, 2021 is moved and seconded, but no question or decision on it is recorded. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Monday, 29th March, 2021 at 10.15 a.m. at the Worthing Corporate Centre, Worthing, Christ Church, with His Honour A. E. Holder, Speaker, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Father Reverend Mark Harewood. On the motion of the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the Minutes of Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 were confirmed, and a motion was made to defer those of Monday, 15th March, 2021.

The Speaker read a message from Her Excellency the Governor-General informing the House that, under the Emergency Management Act, Cap. 160A, she had declared a public health emergency.

In a Ministerial Statement, Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, Member for Christ Church West, updated the House on the refurbishment of the East Wing of the Parliament Buildings, built between 1870 and 1874 and used by both Chambers since 16th June, 1874. He explained that complaints of occupants feeling unwell had led Parliament to be re-sited to the Worthing Corporate Centre from 24th February, 2020, that mould had been found, and that the Government had provided some \$15 million from 2020-2021 for the repair of Government buildings. The original scope of work, projected at \$700 000, was expected to be completed by 30th September, 2021; the replacement of the air-conditioning system installed just after Independence, the IT cabling and wiring, and the camera, video and communication system would raise the total cost. He recalled the major issues debated in the building, from the 1937 labour disturbances and the Moyne Commission to universal adult suffrage in 1950, Independence in 1966, the West Indies Federation and CARIFTA.

Hon. K. D. Symmonds, Member for St. James Central, made a Ministerial Statement on feed-in tariffs for renewable energy systems between one and five megawatts. He recalled the Barbados National Energy Policy 2019-2030 approved in March 2019, said that as at December 2020 Barbados had 49 megawatts of solar photovoltaic capacity on the grid, about 8 per cent of electricity consumed, saving an estimated 114 412 barrels of oil or \$9 215 961 in foreign exchange, and announced an Accelerated Investment Premium Programme for Barbadian nationals: a 25 per cent premium for solar and wind systems above one and up to three megawatts, and 20 per cent above three and up to five megawatts, applied to the Fair Trading Commission’s tariffs for 12 months and retroactive to 1st October, 2020.

Miss Bradshaw then said the House would rise for the Easter period and return on 4th May, 2021, and thanked those who had assisted during the Estimates. The Leader of the Opposition, Bishop J. J. S. Atherley, wished Members a blessed Easter and thanked the Speaker, who in turn thanked Members. On the motion of Miss Bradshaw, seconded by Mr. Abrahams, the House was adjourned until 4th May, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.