
THE SENATE DEBATES

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, the 25th day of May, 2016 at 11 a.m.

PRESENT

Her Honour Senator Miss KERRYANN F. IFILL, M.B.A. B.Sc. (Hons.) (President)

His Honour Dean Emeritus Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (Dunelm)(Deputy President) Senator JEPTER INCE, J.P., M.B.A., B.B.A., Dip. (Mgmt) (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs) Senator HARCOURT A. HUSBANDS, M.L.I.R., B.Sc. (Public Administration) (Hons.) Ed. Cert. (U.W.I.)

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education)

Senator REGINALD A. HUNTE, J.P.

Senator Rev. Dr. DAVID L. DURANT, D.D. (Hons.)

Senator the Hon. PATRICK M. T. TODD, B.Sc. (Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

Senator ANDRE R. WORRELL, B.A. (Hons.)

Senator Miss VERLA A. G. DePEIZA, LL.M. (Merit) B.Sc. (Hons.)

Senator WILFRED A. ABRAHAMS, LL.B. (Hons.)

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN, K.A., M.A.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir HENRY H.S. FRASER, K.A., G.C.M., B.Sc., M.B.B.S., Ph.D., FACP, FRCP. Senator ALWIN A. ADAMS, J.P., B.A. (Ed.), Ed. Cert., M.Sc. Ed.

Senator JOHN A. WATSON

Senator Dr. JEROME X. WALCOTT, J.P., M.B.B.S., FRCS (Edin.) Senator Dr. Sir TREVOR A. CARMICHAEL, Q.C., K.A., S.C.M., B.Sc. (Econ.), M.A., Ph.D. Senator CAROL LADY HAYNES, M.B., B.Sc. Senator the Hon. DARCY W. BOYCE, M.B.A.(Finance) B.Sc.(Econ.), C.M.A., F.C.A., (Minister in the Office of

the Prime Minister) Senator Dr. the Hon. ESTHER R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.B.S., (Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development) ABSENT Senator the Hon. Ms. MAXINE P. O. McCLEAN, B.Sc., (Hons), M.A., M.B.A. (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) (Leader of the Senate). Senator Mrs. V. IRENE SANDIFORD-GARNER, M.B.A., C.I.M., Dip. (Mgmt), (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

MADAM PRESIDENT: The Senate is now in Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

MADAM PRESIDENT: I am in receipt of excuses for absence from Senators McClean and Sandiford-Garner. They are both out of the island on Government business.

I am also in receipt of the Minutes for Wednesday, May 11. Are there any corrections or omissions? There being none, I ask that these Minutes be confirmed.

PAPERS

SENATOR Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO: Madam President, I am commanded to lay the following document:

1. The Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO: Madam President, I beg to move the First Reading of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2016. I also beg to move the First Reading of the Savings Bonds (Validation) Bill, 2016, and to move the First Reading of the Criminal Assets Recovery Fund Bill, 2016.

The question that these Bills be now read for the first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – SECOND READING

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands, you have the Floor.

Senator HARCOURT A. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to move the Second Reading of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016. This activity comes under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and therefore the honour falls on me to lead this Bill through this Chamber. However, Madam President, I must say that when I, in preparation for this task, realised that in this Chamber there are four distinguished, highly recognised and accredited members of the medical profession, to wit, doctors, I got a bit nervous. Here am I, a lowly primary school social studies teacher in the presence of these learned ladies and gentlemen, leading off discussion on the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016. Madam President, when starting this process I like to always start, as the old people would say, at the beginning, which they advise is the very best place to start. I think it is necessary to do that because we need a clear explanation, especially for those people outside of the Chamber in our hearing and for the general public record, to give a clear explanation as to exactly why we have taken this time to bring this matter before this Chamber.

I am advised that in 2003, a little before I was born, the Government of Barbados signed onto a Treaty establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions. Actually, in 2003, the Government of Barbados was not among those governments which signed on. The Governments of Antigua, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago signed on. Barbados came on, as I am advised, in 2005. The point is, however that this Treaty was established at the regional level in 2003. What we are doing here today is really the final legislative step to put into local law this Treaty that we signed onto in 2005. This is not irregular. Barbados, in the field of labour, adopts several International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions. This happens not only in labour. Barbados adopts several treaties, international conventions and so on,

but in order to bring these treaties and conventions and establish international practices into full meaning and significance, they have to go through this legislative process to put them into local and that is what we are doing this morning. We acceded to the treaty, we signed on to the Treaty in 2005, two years after some other countries and there is obviously, Madam President, some room for debate as to why it took us 13 years, if we are charitable to ourselves, 11 years to bring this treaty to this level but I suppose there is room for another debate and we may very well satisfy ourselves for the moment with the understanding that we are finally putting into local law a treaty that Barbados signed on to in 2005.

Madam President, what was the purpose of this treaty. The purpose of the Treaty was to establish at the regional level a body to accredit all regional medical schools. Madam, I am using medical in its widest, and as it says here, other health professionals, meaning the veterinary people and other health professionals, so all the teaching institutions in the region, in countries that have signed on the treaty would have to be accredited, that is, their programmes, licences authorized accepted by this authority that we officially refer to as the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for education in medicine and other health professions.

Madam President, we have a situation now where we are attempting to have a regional body to accredit medical training institutions. The purpose of that body is to accredit the programmes of these various institutions, and this accreditation is essential. Madam, accreditation means that people who graduate from these training institutions, whether it the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies or one of the Offshore Medical Schools that we have in Barbados or elsewhere in the region, once they have been accredited by this regional body, the graduates are free to practise throughout the region and in many cases, to practise internationally.

Madam President, there is one other aspect to this accreditation, that is, that with this accreditation students from North American who come to the region as students in one of the several medical training institutions will now be, as I am advised, in a position to receive grants from the Federal Government in the United States of America. Madam, I am talking about American students who would be in a position to receive grants or loans from the Federal Government of the United States of America to pursue their medical training locally or regionally. Madam, this I think brings together two important features of current educational practice in the region (1) it internationalises the process of education and this process is taking place not only in the medical field but this process is taking place throughout education, so globalisation is having a serious effect. We could debate whether this is positive effect, negative effect or somewhere in between but the process of internationalisation of education is continuing at a pace.

Madam President, this measure that we are taking this morning is a recognition of that process but it also ties in a global sense with education as an investment and education as a business. Madam, traditionally our view of education has been that it is a public good. There has been considerable debate in our region about whether or not it is a right but what this recognizes is that education is also an important business. This is a path that I think, and that several of us think, that the University of the West Indies... There was a time in my time and in the times of families inside this Chamber and outside of the Chamber, where a right of passage of young West Indians was to go to the University of the West Indies and to graduate from the University of the West Indies. Madam, more and more of our young people are opting not to go to the University of the West Indies but to have an international education. Madam, that has its shortcomings but it also has its benefits because our young people ought to be exposed to the brightest and the best wherever they are. Madam, also the University of the West Indies has to recognise that with that outflow of some of our brightest and best going internationally, the University of the West Indies also has to be in position to attract the brightest and the best from elsewhere. I have given the example in this Chamber before of a young family member of mine, who opted to go overseas to pursue her university education. She was the first member of the family to pursue her undergraduate university education and to make such a choice. When she had expressed that choice, it caused great discussion, debate and disagreement in the family circle. Why do you want to go overseas when the University of the West Indies is quite adequate to do what you want to do and so on but I had the opportunity shortly after she went overseas to visit her in the university of her choice and when I saw the people she was surrounded with from around the world, from various strata of society, the children of princes and paupers, the people in her class, it became obvious to me that there was a benefit to Barbados and to her own

personal development of going overseas. Madam, this is part of the globalisation and the internationalisation of education services. We see it in the traditional sense as a public good but it is also a business.

Madam President, when these various medical school opt to come to the region, with this new move that we are taking this morning, rather late we must admit, we are rather slow to come to this position but there is also an important business side. I am told that one offshore university which began as a medical school but has now morphed into a full range university contributes about a third of the GDP of one of our neighbouring country. We do not want to be in that position where one institution of whatever nature is that significant in the entire economy but it gives you a sense of the market out there for these institutions. One must admit that when this trend first started we in Barbados, I supposed, thumbed our noses at the idea of what was referred to then as offshore medical schools. I remember visiting a friend in a neighbouring country and he lived in a residential area and at the bottom of his avenue, upstairs of a shop was a building with a sign saying that it was a medical school. This was many years ago, so we must admit that this process began not very attractively and maybe that has contributed to the fact that we have taken this long to come to this important point, but the fact is that with the establishment of the regional accreditation body for medical schools and the addition fact that the American students at these institutions are now in a position to acquire loans to further their education. The accreditation that they are going to receive allows them to return to the United States and North America generally, and practice as they were trained that this has significantly broaden the business opportunity. We do not have to be too emb

arrassed or ashamed to recognise that there is a significant business advantage in this process that we are undertaking this morning. This is the general trend in education and we are part of it.

This Bill before us this morning does two things, as I said. Firstly, it establishes Barbados and the medical schools in Barbados and now to be accredited by the regional institution which will have regional and international significance and importance and will enhance the number of people who may want to come to Barbados, whether at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies (UWI) or ... The Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies (UWI) if it is to become successful financially must recruit a significant number of its students from the region while at the same time paying due significance to its importance as a regional institution.

I remember my own experience, and those people who have studied in the United States of America (USA) know that the leading universities in the USA as an out of

state, which really means for us out of country student, pay significantly more. This is where these educational institutions make their profit, if one wants to use that term in relation to education and especially medical education. The fees that they charge to foreign students, and that too must be our aim at the Faculty of Medicine here at Cave Hill. If we can increase the number of students coming from extra regional sources then it enhances the business prospects for the university. It is significant in several areas, (1) the accreditation aspect is important. We have a regional organisation that is accrediting medical training institutions and (2) the important business aspect that it now affords us. This legislation is important for these several reasons.

In Barbados currently, we have the already established and functioning American University of Barbados and significantly -- I do not want to say more importantly but -- the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies here at Cave Hill. In the process of seeking to be established is the Queen's University School of Medicine and the Barbados International University School of Medicine. They are in the process and making the necessary applications and making the necessary inquiries and so on. We have two established, our traditional friend and regional institution at the Faculty of Medicine at Cave Hill, the American University of Barbados and in the pipeline are the Queen's University School of Medicine and the Barbados International University School of Medicine.

I am advised that another institution, the Washington University School of Medicine is in the very early states of making enquiries to be established in Barbados. These institutions, particularly the foreign based institutions, if you take the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies (UWI) out of that group, particularly the American University of Barbados and the others, they are seeking, as I understand it, to expand the number of students to whom they cater significantly and again without trying to make too much of it, but at the same time emphasising the important business aspect of these developments a significant expansion in the student base of these institutions will have a multiplier effect throughout the economy in housing, rental of various sorts and as these things multiply throughout the economy, it adds a new dimension to our tourist product. If there is medical tourism, there is certainly educational tourism tied to medicine and medical training. This Bill that we have brought this morning we are putting into local law a treaty that was established in 2003 to which Barbados signed on in 2005. The main purpose of that treaty was to establish a regional accreditation body for medical training institutions but I am also saying that along with that important development it is adding a significant business aspect to the development and we can advance in our tourism and advance in the economy generally. It is for these reasons,

Madam President, that I am pleased to be a part of this discussion and to move the second reading of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott, you have the floor.

Senator Dr. J. X. WALCOTT: Thank you, Madam President. I rise this morning to speak briefly in support of this Bill, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority in Medical Education and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016.

At Article III it speaks of the objectives of the Bill and the establishment of the Authority and this is clear that the achievement and maintenance of standards of excellence in programmes of study in medicine and other health professions offered by institutions in the community;

(b) the establishment of an efficient system of regulation in relation to standards and quality of programmes of study in medicine and other health professions;

(c) the securing of international recognition as the programmes of study in medicine and other health professions; and

(d) maintaining the confidence of the peoples of the region in the quality of training offered in the community in medicine and other health professions.

Madam President, I dare say that, in fact, says it all, the importance of the creation and the establishment of this Authority, which was, I believe, launched back in 2004. It was established in 2003 under the aegis of CARICOM and was launched the following year.

Madam President, some would ask why the need for this Accreditation Authority. I believe my colleague on the other side started, as I was driving in, speaking about why we needed it and then he stopped and went off in a different direction. Madam President, I believe it started back in 1948 with the University College of the West Indies, Mona with 33 medical students. I believe there was some collaboration in a relationship under the University of London, and that started back in 1948 - I believe my colleague Senator Fraser would speak of the historical significance in the old army barracks in Mona - and it grew over the years until 1962 when I believe the Medical Faculty thought that it had become mature enough to sever official ties with the University of London and to move on, no longer as a University College of the West Indies but indeed as the University of the West Indies Medical Faculty. That was the first step.

During that entire period, between 1948 and I believe 2001, all graduates of the University of the West Indies had automatic accreditation under the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom which allowed them to practice not only in the United Kingdom but also in several Commonwealth countries.

With the establishment of the European Union, the whole issue of the accreditation of medical graduates became a new matter and it was thought back then, indeed before probably 1997 leading up to that period, that there was going to be a need for the accreditation of our training facilities in the region because come 2000/2001 this automatic registration under the General Medical Council would be no more. I believe it was back in 1997/1998 that it was engaged by the Ministers of Health of the region, not only the Accreditation Authority but indeed the establishment of CAMC, the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils, where the Accreditation Authority would look at the training and the standards and the facilities for education and training not only in medicine but in other allied health professions, whereas CAMC, the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils, would look at the actual examinations and registrations for medical students in terms of being fit to be registered in these various countries.

In the interim, the University of Suriname established a Medical Faculty in 1969 and the University of Guyana established a Medical Faculty in 1985. Along with this, there was the influx of offshore medical schools. I am pleased that my colleague is speaking glowingly of the medical schools as he said that are on the cards and are about to enter Barbados - because I think most of us in this Chamber would recall the thrust, and I put that mildly, the political fuss, about the establishment of the St. George's Medical School in Barbados and the push back from those who perhaps now form Government in this country - and can speak glowingly about the importance of the St. George's Medical School, indeed, to the economy of Grenada. There was talk about cadavers then. I do not know if cadavers actually speak.

Along with the influx of medical schools, obviously it became necessary to put in place an authority like this to look at the whole accreditation of these facilities. As to why it has taken so long in terms of Barbados, I have no idea. I am not going to get into guessing why and what are the reasons, what I am going to say is that it is very important and we should all support this Bill today, and we on this side have no hesitation in so doing. We are pleased and we know that the establishment of the Authority would provide the assurance to not only the public but indeed to students, to graduates, to health professionals and healthcare institutions, that the undergraduate programmes being offered in the region in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing and other health professions

meet appropriate national and indeed international standards.

On this note, I believe, Madam President, that it is important that we recognise that relatively recently, in the last five years, in terms of the registration of training facilities in medicine and other related field globally, there has been the establishment of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research. This was in an effort globally to create standards and to regularise their training in medicine.

The first authority indeed to be assessed by this new body was indeed the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions, and they were successful. I may quote from their newsletter: CAAM-HP accepted the invitation to be the first accrediting body reviewed in this pilot process which involved completion and submission of the Criteria for Recognition of an Accrediting Agency Questionnaire, and in May 10, 2012 CAAM-HP's accreditation standards and processes were approved by the WFME, the World Federation for Medical Education, and CAAM-HP, that is the Caribbean Accreditation Authority, is indeed the first accrediting body recognised through this new process. In speaking of the CAAM-HP, they said that: It is characterised by a high degree of transparency, that is our own Caribbean Authority; its policies and procedures are in accordance with internationally accepted best practice; it provides easily accessible information regarding the accreditation process; it provides comprehensive guidelines and instructions; and the site visit teams are highly qualified Caribbean and international experts. Indeed, this was certainly telling us that such a recognition by the WFME attests to the credibility of the policies and procedures of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority on Medicine to ensure the quality of medical education and programmes and the medical schools that it accredits, so that the Authority has been accredited globally and internationally.

Having said that, however, there are still some matters that need to be clarified within our region when it comes to the matter of the accreditation of medical facilities which are operating in the region. A number of them have been reviewed by the Authority. I believe my honourable colleague spoke about the American University of Barbados and the University of the West Indies Medical Faculty as being two well-established medical training facilities in Barbados. What I would say, however, is that in perusing the records of CAMC, I note that the American University of Barbados has not fulfilled accreditation requirements. It applied, it submitted some information and two years ago it was asked to submit some additional information and this has not yet been forthcoming, so as it stands today, the American University of Barbados

operating in Barbados has not been accredited by CAAM-HP. In terms of Barbadian students attending there, it would obviously mean that they would not be entitled to automatic registration to practice medicine in Barbados when they complete their studies at that institution. That would then be a matter for the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils and a series of examination which they would to sit and pass to become eligible for registration in Barbados.

There was talk in the past of the Dental Faculty at St. Augustine's and the difficulties with Barbadian graduates being registered in Barbados, which also had to do with the accreditation of the dental facility at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine's. Again I note that since July last year the University of the West Indies School of Dentistry, the St. Augustine Campus, all considered and accepted that there would be accreditation for the dental school on probation for 2015/2016, and there were some issues that the campus students asked to be addressed. One which they mentioned particularly the issue of student and patient safety at the Polyclinics in terms of dental examination. It is expected that the Campus will review the dental school and perhaps the full accreditation in the not too distant future. Madam President, I mentioned this because this has been a vexing and frustrating problem going as far back as 2008, in terms of the accreditation.

All in all, having said that, I think it has to be made clear that I mentioned at the beginning, the Accreditation Authority with regard to the quality and the standards in training is separate and apart from the CAMC which deals with the registration of graduates to practice in member countries, and it is a completely different matter in terms of the requirements, the exams and in terms of recognition of how persons can be registered in the various member countries of CARICOM.

A familiar problem has been the vexing one of those students who accepted scholarships to study medicine and other related sciences in Cuba. As it stands, the Cuban graduates are not under the auspices and certainly the authority, and in the region there is a variation in terms of at least 10 years ago in which countries accepted Cuban medical graduates to be registered and practice and which did. It has been regularized more or less at this point in time, but the requirement being that those who were trained in Cuba should sit and pass the CAMC Exams Parts 1 and 2. There arises a problem in that. For example a country like Jamaica with their number of hospitals and health facilities they have, they have been able to accommodate Jamaican students who went to Cuba and studied and who were successful in the Cuban exams, but obviously in the circumstances could not be registered directly in Jamaica. Perhaps they could pass the Part 1 but Part 2 speaks to the clinical aspects of medical training. The Jamaican situation allowed for those doctors/students to be integrated in some

of their institutions, regional institutions, health institutions, alongside the University of the West Indies final year students and University of the West Indies doctors in the public health, or whatever, so they garner the experience in clinical medicine that necessarily did not obtain in Cuba. I am not condemning the Cuban systems in terms of the rating of health care, but I am speaking of the numbers, the thousands of students who go to Cuba and study medicine to improve their clinical experience as undergraduates. This has been successful in Jamaica. It allows Cuban-trained Jamaican students to make that transition to pass the Caribbean Association of Medical Council (CAMC) Exams and to be reintegrated into the system. In terms of Barbados I do not know what is the reason, but sadly there were 7 Barbadian students who were training and who were unable to come back to Barbados to practice medicine. I believe two of them are now going to the United Kingdom, some have remained in Jamaican and one has entered the United States and is practicing what they were unable to practice here. This is a matter which I know will have to be addressed.

We have had in the past a Cuban-trained doctor from St. Vincent who entered the University of the West Indies, at Mona, did a DM in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a University of the West Indies post graduate degree, and applied to practice in Barbados and could not practice, even though she had a DM in Obstetrics and Gynecology from the University of the West Indies. So these are some of the little things we have to iron out in terms of our insularity, in terms of our appealing, in terms of our protection of turf.

Madam President, with those few words I commend the Government and I support the Bill. It is late in coming but never the less, better late than never.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser you have the Floor.

Sen. Pro. Sir H. Fraser: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to give my whole-hearted support to this procedure this morning and I will not further question the challenges the Government of Barbados has faced in bringing this Resolution to Parliament and the Senate after 13 years. Some things seem to take a rather long time. I always make comparisons with the fact that Jamaica had an epidemic of Cholera in 1851. The Barbadians knew about it and did nothing, and some twenty-two thousand plus Barbadians died in the Cholera epidemic within three months, in 1853 and it took 15 years, Madam President, to bring pipe water into Bridgetown to provide water for the people of the City of Bridgetown. Madam, 13 years to effect a proposal that Mr. Clarke had brought to Parliament in 1852. So somethings take long, and I sometimes feel that emergency doctors should be in charge of the legislative process in our country, because in the Casualty or the Emergency Department if a patient is not dead within four

hours, we consider that fairly unacceptable. So the contrast between four hours and 13 years is a significant one, and I think it should teach us a lesson that our legislative process like some of our financial arrangements and other civil service activities could very well be accelerated.

I wish to take a leaf out of Senator Husband's book and start at the beginning and join Senator Walcott in pointing out that medical training in the Caribbean began in 1948. The Committee which was set up, The Ervin Commission, to develop a medical training programme through a university in the West Indies following the Second World War led to a team of six interviewers traveling across the entire English-speaking Caribbean which included people like Sir Hugh Springer, our late Governor General, our National Hero, who became the first Registrar of the University of the West Indies and they interviewed more than 600 applicants for the first 33 places in the original Medical School of the University College of the West Indies. That team traveled the Caribbean. They had more than 600 applicants for those places, we now probably have about 6 000 applicants for the university medical places, and they chose 33. I am going to take this opportunity, Madam President, in acknowledging and commemorating the life and the work of those first graduates, among those first students was the late Dr. Lance Bannister, who provided yeoman service to the people of Barbados and also particularly to the inmates at Glendairy Prison, as he was prison doctor for decades and passed away recently. He was really a magnificent Barbadian and a model example of that first graduating class.

Madam President, I said all of this to say that the standard and the quality of the University College of the West Indies, first affiliated to the University of London and the University of the West Indies as it became independent, as Senator Walcott pointed out 1952. I was one of the very first graduates of the new Independent University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences. We have undertaken an internationally approved accredited and standardised final examination for our medical graduants throughout the period of our existence as a medical training programme.

We have invited an examiner in medicine to our final exam to take a full part, to write reports on the performance of our students across all of the Campuses and we have been training medical students in their last year since 1968 and then in their last two years since 1974, and finally as a full medical faculty since it was incepted in 2008. Our international examiners, most of whom are top professors from across the United Kingdom, a few sometimes from Canada and occasionally from the United States of America, but here I would say that the clinical skills of the University of the West Indies are regarded as absolutely important and our North American, United

States of America trainees, tend to have not such an important recognition of the value of the clinical skills because their emphasis is on highly expensive investigations, which we cannot afford and which we do not have available to us across many Caribbean countries. So the performance of our students have been exceptional, and reported to be so every single year in our over 60 years of existence, by very highly trained external examiners. That is the kind of quality that we believe is important for the care of Caribbean citizens, because in many parts of the outback of large countries like Jamaica, 142 miles long, with poor facilities in many places in the south of Trinidad, the country part of Trinidad, and I may venture to say in the country parts of Barbados, in St. Andrew where there are not many doctors. Physicians have to have a very high level of clinical skills and that has been one of the great emphases of our programme.

The other aspect of the University of the West Indies standard is, because of the large number of people who wish to be either doctors or lawyers and the huge number of applicants, to get into the medical programme of the University of the West Indies requires the highest level of achievement at Advance Level at CAPE. Almost no one will get into the University of the West Indies medical training programme unless they have either 3 Grade 1s in the science subjects at CAPE, or 2 Grade 1s and a Grade 2. That is the level of the qualification. I am going to come back to that issue of the admission requirement, the matriculation requirement to get into a challenging, very difficult academically programme like medicine.

I want to go on to the issue that Senator Walcott addressed to make the distinction between the current HP and Accreditation Authority and the Caribbean Association of Medical Council, which is an examination body, for those students coming from institutions not recognized by a particular country and therefore by taking and passing successfully the two stages of the Caribbean Association of Medical Council Exams, a country in CARICOM will therefore accept them to practice in our society. So this might apply to a student who may be coming from Liberia or from Falkland Islands or from anywhere where there is a university that we know little about which has not been accredited by any authority, that simply taking that standardised exam which has a fairly similar quality to the University of the West Indies' exam, and in which the basic knowledge is assessed in the Part 1 and the Clinical Skills, that is so important to us and to our patients, is assessed in the Part 2 Exam. It provides the opportunity for practicing in any of our countries. A student only has to recognise that is the law, that we require a certain standard, a certain ability and passing that exam will allow you to practice wherever the graduant comes from.

The Caribbean Association of Medical Council HP is a different body. By accrediting the medical school that

is located in the Caribbean, the graduate of that medical school will not have to take the Caribbean Association of Medical Council exam.

There was even a period when political correctness suggested that every University of the West Indies student, even if the University of the West Indies and when the University of the West Indies became accredited on the inception of Caribbean Association of Medical Council HP should still take the Caribbean Association of Medical Council exam. In other words a second exam to make sure that they are really good. That fortunately, that waste of money and time has not occurred. So the facts simply are, the University of the West Indies, St. Georges Medical School, and I believe now the University in Antigua, the offshore school in Antigua, has also been approved by CAMCHP. I speak under correction. It means that any student graduating from a Caribbean Association of Medical Council HP accredited institution does not have to take the Caribbean Association of Medical Council exam.

We have had difficulties with this in the Caribbean in relation to the issue of our Barbadian graduates who have gone to Cuba. There are several issues here. First all the Barbadian students who have gone to Cuba -- I have interviewed several classes of students who were studying in Cuba at the time and I have met lots of them and have actually taken down -- somewhere in my files are the admission requirements, the CXC and CAPE achievements of the students going to Cuba and there are nothing like the requirement for getting into the University of the West Indies. Some students went with CXC results. Some students went with a couple of A'levels in subject which were not scientific. So you can imagine the challenge that those students had in studying in Cuba without an adequate preparation and background at secondary school in the science subjects.

The second issue is, of course, that students going to Cuba spend a year of orientation to learn the language. There are very few Barbadian secondary school students who actually study Spanish to an adequate level. So the first year in Cuba is spent studying Spanish.

The third issue is, most of the students coming from the English-speaking Caribbean are sent to what is known as the country medical schools and the country hospitals in the eastern end of the island. When the delegation, led by Senator Walcott, visited Cuba around 2003 or 2004, I forget the...

Aside

Sen. Pro. Sir H. Fraser: ...2005, at that time the authorities with whom we met explained that the students were sent to the country medical schools because it was closer to Montego Bay, and therefore it would be easier for

them to fly home, because most of the English-speaking students were actually from Jamaica. When we interviewed students, Barbadians and Jamaicans who were studying in Cuba, on that trip they all said that the difference in the standards and the facilities over accommodation and teaching facilities in the eastern end institutions and in Havana were so vastly different, that most of them were constantly applying for transfers into the excellent institutions in Havana. So that was the third issue.

The fourth issue is, the language problem creates a problem for our English-speaking students who do not think in Spanish. As Senator Walcott referred to, Madam President, we had a group of seven Barbadians who graduated, I think it was 2006. I am not quite sure about the year but we had seven Barbadian student who graduated. Six of them came home to Barbados and the since they have not taken the Caribbean Association of Medical Council exam, and since their internship in Cuba was a very brief internship, less than a year and since interviewing, an assessment done by the Ministry indicated that there would be some difficulties with their adapting, the Ministry of Health asked the Medical Faculty to organize a programme of acclimatisation to the Barbadian system to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and so on, and the Faculty of Medicine actually set up a programme for 6 months in which they would rotate through all of the specialties and have opportunities of interviewing and handling patients right there at the bedside at the Emergency Department and so on, in order to assess their skills and their abilities.

Now Cuba is known internationally for its outstanding programme known as the Miracle Programme treating cataracts. Again when we visited Cuba it was an amazing situation where in this adapted bank building there were surgical theatres in which six patients at a time were in a line to go through and to be operated on for their cataracts by six surgeons simultaneously. So with every twenty minutes there was another cataract done. You can imagine a couple several hundred cataracts were operated on every week.

Cuba's great reputation in medical training lies in its excellent public health programmes and not in the clinical skills of which the students graduate. There are so many students being trained in Cuba and there are so many nurses. The health system is so well provided for in so many areas that their students graduated apparently without the ability to set up an intravenous line or to take a blood sample, or to do the other clinical procedures that our students are all taught to do halfway through their medical course, and which a practicing doctor in Barbados must be able to do. I can only report, Madam President, that our students attended some of those special arrangements some of the time and when they were quizzed and asked questions about the patients and their treatment, the

response simply did not come. The students explained that when asked a question by an English-speaking physician, they had to translate the question into Spanish, think of the medical side in Spanish, and then translate the answer back into English, and that was why they said they were often silent for several minutes and did not appear to know the answers. There was, in their view, a very severe linguistic issue, and in terms of their participation with the patients, they acknowledged that they had had very little direct patient contact. The patient contact seemed to come later in their experience as doctors. Those six students discovered that they could get a placing in Jamaica for an honorarium rather than a full salary, working in the Jamaican country hospitals, and they disappeared. During my remaining three years as Dean, I only saw one other Barbadian who came home; a brilliant young man, I thought, very personable, who organised a wonderful band. He was a musician as well. I said, "If it is only you, we can really give you a very specialised experience, and I will set it all up with everyone at the hospital for you to work directly with interns at the hospital. Then you will have firsthand experience." He promised faithfully to report on the Monday morning, and he was never seen or heard from again.

Madam President, we have difficulties. The Medical Faculty and the university advised that the University of the West Indies had developed its training programmes not only to the highest standards but also to be oriented toward the society of Barbados, toward the diseases that are particularly prevalent in Barbados, toward the issues that are both medical, social and financial in Barbados. Therefore, given the support that Barbadians had for their medical education, we felt that it was particularly disadvantageous to young people to be sent to Cuba for a programme that would take seven years instead of five here, and that would put them at a particular disadvantage in working back in their home country. Madam President, I am not sure what has happened and how many Barbadians have gone to Cuba to study medicine since, but the simple facts are that unless the medical universities in Cuba subject their performance to the CAAM-HP (Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions), graduates will continue to have to take the CAMC (Caribbean Association of Medical Councils) exam.

One final comment on the CAMC exam is that it has been operating now for, I believe, something like 12 or 13 years, and throughout my period as Dean, I was given reports from the CAMC examiners on the performance of students who were coming into the Caribbean from all kinds of places. They were coming from parts of Africa and India, and from offshore medical schools in other parts of the Caribbean. At my last count there were some 40 offshore schools, and certainly not all like the St. George's University which has been exceedingly prosperous and has acquired some very high-level staff, has set very high

standards and has been accredited by CAMM-HP, but as Senator Husbands said, there are still some which operate in facilities rather like the upstairs of a shop. I remember going to one such institution with my Vice Dean, Dr. Mahy, and when we visited there, it was a very small building. The Dean attempted to show us the curriculum on his computer, but he just could not get the computer to work that day, so we never did see his curriculum, but we did meet the 30 students.

Madam President, we therefore have an issue which will continue to be problem; a political problem and a social problem for the students who have the challenge of simply having to take the CAMC exam if they want to work at home, but who, when the CAMC exam had been held over the years, those graduating in Cuba and taking the exam from Jamaica had a terribly low pass rate as opposed to students from other international institutions. Madam President, the issue is very clear. The CAAM-HP, having taken 13 years to get to us, must be approved. Hopefully, with the approval of the CAAM-HP, we would then find some action on the behalf of the Barbados Accreditation Authority. As you know, the Barbados Accreditation Authority came into being a few years ago and our local Faculty of Medical Sciences has been accredited by them as well as by CAAM-HP.

It was interesting that when Sir Hilary Beckles came to Barbados as Principal 12 years ago and he asked me to meet with him to discuss the transition of our small clinical training programme into a full Faculty of Medical Sciences, we discussed this in the context of the University of the West Indies' role as an international university. Our former Vice Chancellor's mission always was that the University of the West Indies should be the first port of call for any researcher on any information about the Caribbean region. Sir Hilary Beckles' approach was that the Medical Faculty, likewise, should be an international medical faculty as famous for its clinical skills as the University of Cambridge, the No. 1 in Europe, is for its medical research. When he therefore set out his vision of developing a medical faculty, which I then had to carry out, the perception was that with the university's central approach with CAAM-HP, which was set up in 2004, and with the university's negotiations with the Department of Education in Washington, that the university campuses in all three countries would be able to accept American students on grants; not as an offshore school but as the highest quality medical institution in the Third World, training students for anywhere in the world at the highest standard. Ironically, from 2004 until I retired as Dean in 2010, the university's central office was unable to achieve that, and in my last weeks as Dean, I received an official letter from the university's central office indicating that the matter was now in the hands of the local Barbados Accreditation Authority, and it was the Barbados Government and its accreditation authority which would have to clear the way

for our local Faculty of Medicine to accept American students with American grants from the Education Department in Washington.

The buck was passed after six years, and that was six years ago, Madam President. The business side of medical training to which Senator Husbands alluded has been impeded for the last six further years. We are still unable to accept international students on grants from North America because of this inordinate delay in this process. It is very easy for us to shrug off delays. The people of White Hill have been having to shrug off delays because of the road problems there, and the people of St. John are shrugging off delays until they get water again, but this delay has seriously affected the finances of the University of the West Indies, because the original plan was that the Medical Faculty, upon expanding, would not take more than 70 students and would not have more than 25 Barbadian students. We rely, in fact, on the oil money of oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago because most of the students now at the faculty in Barbados are in fact coming from there. The delay, I am afraid, I think, has cost the university significantly.

Being an international university, of course, is immensely valuable. The contacts that we make when we do travel overseas, as Senator Husbands said, are immensely valuable to the individual. The enrichment of people's programmes by meeting people from other cultures is immensely valuable. The contacts I have made in Jamaica have made my life in the Caribbean and Barbados infinitely more rich, interesting, successful and fruitful. Therefore, we would certainly like to see international students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in Barbados. Madam President, I hope that by covering so many angles of this very complex issue of medical training that I have not confused my listeners, so I will just simply sum up.

The CAMC is the exam which students who go to institutions not accredited by the CAAM-HP, about which the Bill is, will have to take, and if they take it and pass it, then they will be able to practise in Barbados or anywhere else in CARICOM.

The issue of the Cuban graduates is unfortunate and need not have occurred at all and certainly needs not continue to occur. Those who wish to practice in Barbados simply have to take the CAMC exam and, finally, the issue of the University of the West Indies and the financing of University of the West Indies is important and the issue of having international students, especially those can afford to pay the costs coming from America is important and I hope our local accreditation authority would be able to take this approved Bill, run with it and in our next acceptance, we will have some more international students than we do now.

Madam President, I thank you very much.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Ince, you have the Floor.

Senator J. INCE: Madam President, I rise to support this Bill that is before the Honourable Chamber. It is a Bill that seeks accreditation, it is a Bill that refers to what we term as part of the international education system of which Barbados is part of this global environment. What I would want the authorities to do is to move with haste, so that we can have this done because we do not want a situation where Barbados is being advertised as a place where we want to embrace international studies because this could also have a ripple effect with other areas of studies, where we advertise ourselves only to find out later, having a number of students coming to our shores, only to find out later that they taken studies in these areas and then they are not accredited. Madam, I say that because it is a challenge, really, when you want to do something and then the authorities within your own country...

Asides.

Senator J. INCE: I always like to use myself as a reference, when back in the 80s, I said I wanted to do a degree in insurance risk management and actuarial studies and I was told by the authorities that what I wanted to study did not make sense, and here you at time a young man leaving Princess Margaret Secondary School, highly qualified, as far as my O'Levels were concerned and then a graduate of the Barbados Community College with three A'Levels and being told that in the 80s that risk management as well as a degree in insurance, I was one of the first Barbadians who wanted to do a degree in insurance. We had persons who did diplomas and certificates but under the guidance of the U.S. Embassy at the time, the U.S. Consular, at the time the office was located on Broad Street, advised me that if I am looking for a career, I should look at that as a first degree and then maybe do a Master's in Finance specialising in investments and risk management. Madam President, the authorities of Barbados said at the time that what I was studying did not make sense. I applied for study leave, it was not approved nor was I approved for a student loan, I remember that clearly and the persons at the Ministry of Education refused to grant me a student loan despite having all the necessary qualifications, all of the securities and all of the guarantees. Madam, that is why I am saying that sometimes we can put policies in place and prohibit the movement of innovation and a new way of thinking. Madam, despite all of that, working in the Public Service then, the Training Division said to me that I could not get study leave because what you are going to study, we cannot apply it to the Government of Barbados or in areas in Barbados, and it makes no sense.

Madam President, it took me on my own, to save my money and to work hard another eight years and I went to the College of Insurance on 101 Murray Street that is why I say to people that I have patience more than Job. Madam, I have no regrets to this day because I met some fine individuals who are now Presidents of some major banks throughout the world, and some of them have gone on to actuarial studies and are now CEOs, so I met a cadre of individuals from Russia, Japan, the Middle East, who today, we still make contact with one another. Madam President, I had the tenacity and patience to do that but many persons out there do not have it.

Madam President, I am saying that when we are putting policies in place, we have to ensure that our policies are effective and can meet the commitments and demands of those persons who would want to achieve. Madam, I have said that I like to use myself as an example. Madam, I took my time, completed my first degree, paid my first year tuition, work hard and did what I had to do. Madam, that is why I am saying that we should not waste time with this initiatives. Madam, Barbados is part of a global market, we look at foreign exchange that is important and critical to the development and we must not fool ourselves that the University of the West Indies but relook its academic base and some of the traditional subjects, we have to relook at them, if not we are going to be left behind. We are going to be left at the side of the road and, Madam, that is the reality.

Madam President, for example, at this stage of our development, I am confidence that outside of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, we should be doing a degree in automotive electronics. Madam, we should be doing a degree in Barbados, in this day and age, in Automotive Electronic. Madam, when you look at the type of vehicles that we have, if something goes wrong, you either have to wait until they bring that professional from outside of Barbados to deal with your vehicle and sometimes it can take two months, it can take three months, or it can take three weeks but then there is the cost of also having it done but we are at this stage of our development.

Madam President, for example, education is an investment and it is also a conduit to acquire a particular skill and it also can be looked at as international business. I believe there is no doubt that we produce some of the best academics anywhere in the world and I am still bothered that we have a University of the West Indies, in my opinion, still not doing enough research in areas in medicine that can enhance the revenue of the University of the West Indies.

Madam President, I will give you a typical example. We have these big discussions about marijuana. I do not know how many of us are following what is happening within the marijuana industry but, Madam, I would say to

you that I have been tracking over the past five years to six years, what is happening within the marijuana industry in the world and a lot of research is being done. In fact, within the United States of America, there are now marijuana greenhouses, where young people are being helped by the private sector as well as the Government to set up these massive marijuana greenhouses to do research and the results are looking positive. Madam, not only that, but as a former Wall Street investment banker and trading, I have been also paying attention to the marijuana stocks and marijuana stocks are what we call penny stocks lying idle but when you look at the vast research, I am of the opinion, because right now there are the clinics and right now some of the private clinics have purchased large tracks of lands in North America to set up marijuana research clinics for various diseases. Madam, I am saying that we have this talent at the University of the West Indies and we should have been at the forefront in the research on marijuana uses, for diseases and for medical purposes.

Madam President, as have said, I have been tracking it and reading all of the information and I see what is coming out. I am of the opinion, and this is Jepter's opinion, that once the United States reaches the stage where they have found the remedies in marijuana for a lot of diseases because right now in most of the States they are literally allowing the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, they are going to issue license and they are going to issue license to bring that product into the country. I am saying that as I stand her in this Senate. When I look at the research and what is happening, I think that is what is going to happen and we are going to be here standing saying if we had known. I am confident that the research needs to be done, not only needs to be done but there are other areas so do not let us sit back, Madam President, and do not let us implement with haste things that are important. As I said, that is one area that I have been watching closely, the whole discussion surrounding the marijuana plant and the research and I know that the United States of America (USA) is spending billions of dollars. You have 50, 60, 80 and 200 acres of green houses with the plant which is being tested and it is not being done just for what we would term, for talk or just to get in a journal, it is being done for a specific purpose. Let us look at how best we can use our educational system, Madam President. Let us look at how best we can remove a lot of what we call, time lags, because time lags prohibits economic growth and if we cannot remove the time lags, Madam President, we would continue to prohibit economic growth and if you cannot get economic growth, out of economic growth you will get innovation, you will get fresh thinking, you will get young entrepreneurs who want to do things but when you have these time lags and persons with little vision, that is why I said I would use myself when they asked me what I wanted to study it was nothing madness, but because of variants and because of that, you would get young people with fresh thoughts and fresh ways of thinking that can

change the way an economy functions and the way an economy is structured. Madam President, with those few words, I am obliged.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the passage of this the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professionals Incorporation Bill, 2016. To say that I am very excited with the prospects of really ensuring that we set in place the necessary framework to facilitate to an orderly and professional facilitation of the growth of offshore medical schools located in our dear land Barbados, of course, ensuring that the necessary best practices are obtained or put in place. As I understand it, Madam President, what may have given rise to some of the delays in this particular regard is the fact that it was a sort of oversight. This legislation was not contemplated as necessary to facilitate the completion of this process and when it was discovered that the legislation had to be put in place, with great alacrity we were able to make the necessary arrangements to reach this stage so that having been passed in the Other Place, this is the final stage in terms of the passage of this legislation to ensure that we can go full steam ahead in facilitating the growth of this very important sector of our economy because as other Honourable Senators have mentioned, the economic spinoff from the establishment of properly regulated offshore medical schools in Barbados are tremendous. As I understand it, it is Grenada and their St. George's School of Medicine that accounts for one third of the gross domestic product (GDP) in that economy and whereas we would not wish Barbados to have an economy that is not diversified so that we are dependent too much on one particular sector, certainly any legitimate injection into economic growth in our society that would provide jobs and stimulate the economy must be encouraged. I am very happy to hear that we have in the pipeline a few other offshore medical schools that are actually in the process of establishing themselves in Barbados to add to the current offshore medical school located in the Silver Sands area which we have seen increase the number of students registered by leaps and bounds with possibilities for even further growth. Already we know of doctors being employed to be lecturers at that institution and then we look, if we can spend a moment, Madam President, to just itemise and identify some of the areas of economic activity that would result from the establishment in operation of these offshore medical schools. We have, effectively, medical and educational tourism actually being realised in that many of these students come from outside of the country, outside of the region perhaps and some from our neighbouring Caribbean territories and they would have to consume food, so it means that local farmers would be able to

increase sales. We would have restaurants being able to keep their staff employed because these students and faculty members would have purchase prepared foods from restaurants, supermarket market supplies in terms of toiletries, clothing, access places on entertainment be it cinemas, nightclubs or bars, pharmacies and minimarts. The medical school would obviously employing locals to be there in the administrative and clerical areas, reception, accounting, gardening, maintenance, plumbing, electrical, landscaping and so on. Madam President, this economic activity definitely would ensure that more Barbadians are employed and it would keep more Barbadians employed and more businesses thriving so that this is very much welcomed. We must ensure that best practices obtain as I am sure this Administration is committed to because we know as Senators mentioned previously that after the invasion or the rescue mission of Grenada in terms of the coup d'état that occurred with the execution of Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister at the time. The US military intervene and the US students at the St. George's School of Medicine were rescued and immediately thereafter there was the possibility of the school being relocated to Barbados and a calypso was actually penned by the Mighty Gabby and was very popular at the time called "Cadavers". Some of the lyrics include: Ah, they importing cadavers, run, run, run from cadavers. Madam President, I was a lad at the time and I know that was very popular, and there was a frenzy of concern in the population that we would have a lot of cadavers coming through the airport and around Barbados. Madam President, we have come a long way as a society, and definitely with the necessary checks and balances, to ensure that best practices obtained and the population could rest assured that this is quite acceptable worldwide in a very professional arrangement.

Madam President, I should also say that I remember as a young lad that a family friend immigrated to New York but he was not able to gain entry into the medical programme on mainland USA. He always wanted to be a doctor, someone born in Barbados, and he was able to attend the offshore medical school in Dominica which has been established in the region for decades and today he is a medical practitioner on the mainland USA.

Madam President, we should not be left behind in terms of the fact that within the region more and more of these offshore medical schools are being located in neighbouring islands, but of course we are not compromising the high standards because we would not wish to descend to levels where you have operations not really engaging in best practices where the quality of the graduates is in question in terms of whether they are properly trained because you hear stories of persons paying others to take examinations for them abroad and some degrees not worth the paper on which they are printed, so certainly we in Barbados will not be encouraging that sort of arrangement but the highest standard in terms of the

delivery of high quality education in terms of medical education.

I would also wish, Madam President, to reassure one and all that the University of the West Indies should not fear that we are going to open the floodgate and therefore reduce the number of students that would go to the University of the West Indies and therefore reduce the viability of the University of the West Indies. The University of the West Indies is there to stay and plays a very important role.

There is nothing wrong, Madam President, in training excess capacity given the realities of the brain drain in this medical field. I am not a medical practitioner but I know that in a small developing country such as Barbados the brain drain is always lurking in terms of professionals in the region being encouraged to immigrate from the region to the more developed countries, be it in North America or Europe, where they can have much higher salaries, better conditions and more perks as it were, so there is always that pull. In the medical field, certainly in the speciality areas, be it urology dealing with the prostate and that section of the anatomy and other specialty areas where you may have less than a handful of specialists operating in a small jurisdiction such as Barbados, if the majority of those persons immigrate then you would have chronic shortage of those skills available to the local population and therefore the provision of quality health services would be compromised, so it is better to have excess capacity so that when some of the medical practitioners immigrate we will still have a significant number remaining so that the services to the public at large in Barbados would not be compromised.

That remind me, Madam President, of the fact that the Barbados Labour Party was not cognisant of that issue in terms of how they addressed the issue of nursing education because when the Barbados Labour Party was in office, prior to the Democratic Labour Party being swept back to office in 1986, the Barbados Labour Party took a deliberate decision to actually halt the training of nurses in Barbados for a number of years. They called it a hiatus but the net effect was that the nursing education was halted and we are still recovering today from that in terms of the shortage of nurses available that occurred thereafter. This Democratic Labour Party Administration, as we speak, is expanding nursing education to the extent that currently there is the first cohort of nurses at the Barbados Community College who are now completing a Bachelor of Nursing Degree at the Barbados Community College. Having completed the Associate Degree in the three-year programme, they have now gone into a fourth year and then we would have at least a couple dozen Barbadians at the Barbados Community College graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Nursing because we understand the

importance of education in general and certainly in this regard medical education in terms of nursing education.

We have extended this, I understand, to pharmacy. Of course, there has been a Degree in Fine Arts at the Barbados Community College and we are looking systematically at more and more degrees that can be offered at the Barbados Community College, to again not compete with the University of the West Indies, but actually complementing the University of the West Indies.

Madam President, I remember while serving as President of the Guilds of Undergraduates at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus many years ago visiting the Mona Campus to the university meetings, the university academic committee and finance and general purposes committee and so on, and while staying on the campus at Mona, I remember going next door in the pastime area and seeing hundreds of Jamaican students attending, at that time it used to be called CAST, the College of Arts, Science and Technology, now it is called by another name, UTECH I believe, and Barbadians had to actually leave Barbados and go to Jamaica at that institution to study pharmacy. Again, this Democratic Labour Party Administration is providing the Degree in Pharmacy here at the Barbados Community College.

Madam President, what happens is that whereas the University of the West Indies was not offering some of these courses, those additional support in tertiary institutions in Jamaica and elsewhere were able to come in to offer the necessary training in those additional areas. Madam President, we are to competing with the University of the West Indies, we are actually accentuating and complementing their offerings.

Moreover, Madam President, in the Other Place, the Minister of Finance would have made the point a few Budgets ago in terms of the utilisation of the Barbados Community College in what we call the Two-plus-two arrangement to reduce the cost of educating our students at the university level in that by augmenting the offerings at the Barbados Community College in terms of the Associate Degree, where one would be able, with the necessary articulation agreement between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies, to graduate from the Barbados Community College from certain faculties with a high grade point average and being able to get the necessary exemptions so that then they could complete their Bachelor Degree at the University of the West Indies in just two years, of course on a full-time basis. This already occurs in areas such as hospitality studies. I know personally persons from The City of Bridgetown who went to the newer secondary schools and were able to get the Associate Degree in the hospitality studies area at the Barbados Community College who then went into the University of the West Indies and completed

the Bachelor Degree in hospitality studies in a further two years. Madam President, after CXC, that student would have spent four years to get a Degree, two at the Barbados Community College (BCC) and two at the University of the West Indies (UWI), as compared to some student who would have gone to a secondary school and pursued perhaps the “A” Level for two years and, having achieved the higher matriculation requirements of the UWI, Cave Hill, would then have to spend three years. That would therefore be three plus two; five years as opposed to two plus two, so we are saving the student a whole year in terms of studies, and of course, that has cost saving implications. It is also cheaper to educate students at the Barbados Community College in terms of the cost of salaries for lecturers there compared to the salaries paid at the University of the West Indies.

Madam President, you may recall that many years ago an articulation agreement was put in place between the BCC and the UWI, Cave Hill Campus, which saw students pursuing what we called then the N1 programme of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Those students who did not achieve the higher matriculation requirements of at least two “A” Levels or equivalent to do the three-year programme in Natural Sciences were able to do the “A” Level equivalent - the N1 programme in Pure Mathematics Applied Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry -- at the Barbados Community College. With the necessary high performance, they were then able to transition into the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI, and having achieved full matriculation, complete the Bachelor’s degree fulltime in three years as opposed to spending the fourth year to get the N1 certification at the UWI, Cave Hill. This would otherwise have had higher cost implications in terms of the cost of the salaries of the lecturers at the UWI. These articulation agreements between the BCC and UWI are not far-fetched but are indeed practical, and the Minister of Finance would have alluded to this a few Budgets ago; this two plus two arrangement. Therefore, this Democratic Labour Party is being innovative in ensuring that more and more Barbadians are able to access university education and that the taxpayers can have savings in terms of the cost of delivery of these tertiary level qualification courses to our students, Madam President.

As I conclude this brief presentation, I would really wish to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for taking education seriously, and I know that the Barbados Accreditation Council, having been established in recent years, is working assiduously to ensure that all of the necessary checks and balances are put in place to ensure that the training institutions within our jurisdiction adhere to best practices in terms of quality of standards and delivery. As I understand it, they would have an integral role to play but the medical schools would have to be established and operate for a few years before they can actually be subjected to this accreditation or assessment

by the Barbados Accreditation Council. Madam President, I fully support the passage of this Bill and congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for taking education up to the tertiary level very seriously. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Madam President, I thank you. I promise you I shall not detain this Honourable Chamber for more than five minutes, because I am the only thing that stands between the Chamber and lunch. Madam President, I want to support this Bill for the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions. I would wish us to see it also in the context of positioning Barbados as, hopefully, a burgeoning university city state, as it were. In those cities in the world where there are a lot of universities, there is also a lot of innovation and a lot of research, and that research and innovation lends to economic growth and the general improvement in the quality of life in those jurisdictions. They create opportunities for our young people to get into some new areas, so we should hopefully see this accreditation in medicine and other sciences as only part of the larger picture of getting other schools -- not only medical schools but other schools in other areas such as aviation, aeronautics and so on -- established in Barbados for an international student body. The more of these schools we have, the more opportunities that will be created for our youngsters, many of whom are very bright and do very well in their Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees but do not go onto their Doctorate level, often because they do not see the opportunities available in academia or in research. Therefore, to the extent that we are able to push and have these universities established in Barbados, both for medicine and in other areas, we are also creating opportunities for our young people to go as far as they can in academics here in the Caribbean.

Many of our youngsters who are very good in science go away and do the Ph.D., and they do not come back other than for a visit. They want to teach or do research but there are only so many positions available in the single university which we have here. Madam President, it also gives us the chance to begin to think seriously about what protocols we establish, for example, in immigration, for people who wish to come to school here; so that there is careful but quick passage of those students and teachers into the country. We are not going to be able, if we are going to build a university town, to find right here in Barbados all the people we need to teach at the universities. As I said before, not enough of our people go on to do the Ph.D. as we would like them to do, and therefore we are going to have to be able to allow in people who have got their qualifications to teach at the schools. Furthermore, Madam President, we will find a situation

where, as we develop more and more of these universities in our country, that some of the people who are educated at those universities will want to stay in Barbados and set up their own little businesses or research arrangements with universities outside of the Caribbean, or with pharmaceutical companies or whatever outside of the Caribbean. We are therefore going to have to tailor our immigration protocols in ways that facilitate that kind of operation of research facilities in Barbados, as well as for persons coming in just to do that kind of research work.

Madam President, let me caution that as we go along we are going to have to strengthen our accreditation services. It is one thing to give a school an accreditation for the first time, but it is another thing to make sure that it continues to be accredited, and as you get more and more schools inside there, you are going to have to make sure that we have the resources to do that accreditation for them. Madam President, having more universities in Barbados also creates more choices for our young people when they reach university age. There is nothing wrong with choices. Of course, we can also structure arrangements where they can do courses and get credits elsewhere, or whatever, but it exposes them to different teaching, different faculties and different research opportunities. St. George's University started out as a medical school and is growing into a full university, so we have to investigate what they did and how they were able to go from being a special school into a full school. There may be some lessons there for us to learn in how we grow out these new schools that come to Barbados. Madam President, the more of those international students we have coming to Barbados for their education, the more exposure the region gets to other students outside the region about what happens in the Caribbean.

Madam President, finally, when once people come to Barbados for the first time as students and spend three years or four years, I think we build a whole cadre of persons who will become repeat visitors and who will bring their families down. Of course, when you get married in a certain place, you go back to that place very often thereafter.

Madam President, I think this is a great opportunity we have here to create a framework and environment for making Barbados, if not the leading, one of the leading cities in the Caribbean for university education. It makes us a more cosmopolitan society, it makes us a more exciting society and gives us the opportunity to grow through research and innovation.

Madam President, I think I have done five-and-a-half minutes and, Madam, I thank you. I support this Bill.

SUSPENSION

Senator the Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: Madam President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m. today for lunch.

The question that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.45 p.m. for lunch was put to the SENATE and agreed to and Madam PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

Sequence 12

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Senate C 28 Seq 13 12.48 p.m.

RESUMPTION

MADAM PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Carol Lady Haynes you have the Floor.

Senator Carol Lady HAYNES: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support the establishment of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions Bill. Much has been said today therefore, my interventions are going to be short and sweet, I hope. Basically, my understanding is that as has been laid out by Senator Husbands, the treaties have been established and really all that is left to do is for Barbados now to sign on and to put this into our local law.

As I saw in the Other House where Minister Jones had explained that if we do not do this with a certain amount alacrity the discussions with the US Accreditation Board would then be put back to the Fall rather than the Spring and as many Senator colleagues before me have bemoaned the speed or the lack of speed with which this has happened. I am sure that this House would want to make sure that we support this and move it forward as quickly as possible. I am well aware, Madam President, of the foreign exchange implication and Senator Todd went through many, many examples for us but I just want to caution the balance between the business aspect and what I think of as the administrative realities. I speak particularly of the shortage of internship spaces for which we have suffer over several years now.

I heard Senator Fraser this morning talk about the original scheme where not more than 25 interns should have been here in Barbados. This is not currently the case and I would want to caution and to put concern that as we look at our medical schools we ensure that we do not just look at the foreign exchange dollars because we are not necessarily bringing in medical students overseas but that we do not find that we are in a very frightening and daunting situation of training medical doctors who need an

internship before they can practice medicine and we do not have the internship spaces for them. I really have that concern and I just wanted to share that.

This CARICOM Committee has been Chaired by our very own Professor Sir Errol Walrond who Chaired with great distinction and I believe that one of the advantages of it is that once we do this it makes it that much easier for our students to get Visas in order to practice or to continue their medical education in the United States of America (USA) as it refers to the offshore medical schools. Senator Walcott referred to the objectives of this and I think that what we always have to have in front of us in addition is under Article VIV, the Powers and Functions of the Authority. The two which I think are so important are: (1) the determinant prescribe standards, criteria and systems of the accreditation of programmes of study in the community in medicine and other health professions and (2) that we accredit on the basis of reports of the accessors, programmes of study in medicine and other health professions. It is therefore going to be critically important for us, Madam President, to ensure that we have that whole assessment aspect in place.

I had one query as it related to the Bill and it relates to the actual constitution and membership of the authority. Basically, it is a very responsible authority as I see it with various health professionals, students and academics being represented but I was concerned and I am just asking the question on page 10, paragraph 3, where it says that it seems to me that most of the other people appointed have three year terms and in paragraph 3 it speaks to persons refer things from paragraph C of paragraph 1 which is the vex shall only be appointed for a term of one year. I am not sure if that relates to what Senator Walcott had said that there was an initial delay in the accreditation of the veterinarian school but I would think that it would be only reasonable that if we have the other health professions sitting for three years that the veterinary school should also have a similar representation.

Finally, Madam President, I just wanted to put on the table a concern relating to the offshore schools. I read in the press that, I think it is the American University Offshore School, is going to be providing free clinics here and I am really concerned about what exactly that is and how that works into the system. I know that our polyclinics have been sorely overloaded overtime and I think some of that, because of what I have spoken to on many occasions in here now, which is what I see as prejudice in the system of it towards the polyclinics and against private sector doctors because our elderly patients and our pensioners, when they have been seen in the private sector they have to pay for each drug on that prescription and the pay a prescribing fee. If they present that pink prescription in the polyclinics they still have to pay, whereas I understood the intention was that they would not have to pay, they are still

paying whereas if they are seen in the polyclinics and they get a prescription with the same five or six drugs they get them free. Our pensioners have worked long and hard and as I have said every time I have spoken to this, once you do this the people are literally penalising our older people and our pensioners.

In doing that, there has been a shift of a significant load from the private sector to the polyclinics and just on the weekend we had a Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP) Annual General Meeting and the polyclinic doctors of speaking of having to see 40 and 45 patients a day. Madam President, that is really an impossible load so I speak with a lot of concern about that and to say that if, in fact, offshore schools are going to be providing free clinics that would seem to me that once it is with the correct supervision the polyclinics would be the ideal place to do that. I would have a concern if free clinics are springing up all over Barbados outside of our health system.

With those few words, Madam President, I am without any hesitation supporting this Bill and hoping that it will rapidly come into fruition. Thank you!

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams you have the Floor.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Thank you, Madam President. I am very pleased to join in this debate, somewhat reluctantly but having heard the contributions of Senators I am moved to make a short presentation in relation to this Bill which is so important in relation to accreditation. While, in fact, I do have and did have an understanding generally of accreditation, I was somewhat in the dark in relation to the specific problems we having in relation to this medical accreditation particularly in relation to the two bodies, the CAAM-HP, which our students are expected to sit the exam and pass that exam -- as explained very lucidly by Senator Fraser - and having done that, then they would not have to go through what is noted here as the CAMC, the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils.

Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry FRASER: On a point of elucidation. The examination the students sit is the CAMC. The CAAM-HP is the accreditation body. It is the other way around.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Madam President, this explanation is very important not just for myself but for the general public because I think very often things of this nature are done and understood by the professionals and persons in the general public are not often au fait with them because there has been a situation here in Barbados where complaints have been made and there is some concern in the public's domain about the students who have studied in Cuba coming back to Barbados their native land and then

having some considerable difficulty in being able to practice. The explanation that has been given, to some extent, gives us an indication as to why this has been so, and so we believe that a number of things ought to happen.

I believe, Madam President, that the whole concept of our students and the whole idea of our students going off to Cuba to study on a scholarship should be revisited and revised. I say that because these problems that are being faced are not insurmountable. I believe that with discussions in good faith they could in fact be overcome. Indeed, rather than having this ongoing problem, we should be looking in fact to build bridges between the two countries. For example, I gathered that one of the problems happens to be the quality the students that have been selected. In that regard I believe that we ought to set up an organisation, if you like, or a body to ensure that the type of student we feel that would benefit from such studies ought to be done so that the idea that after the fact we are finding that students who have been selected are not the very best ones that that in fact should be overcome.

In that regard too, it is not 100 per cent clear that because a student did not specialise in the sciences that should preclude them from studying medicine. That is certainly not the historical situation in Barbados where, in a way traditionally, in the past many of our outstanding medical students, physicians and doctors of high repute have in fact been students who actually did the classics, history and things of that nature. Obviously, their academic profile was very high but it is making a significant point though that there is no end point in a person's intelligence, that it is to be actually defined at age 11 or age 16 or at age 18, and so our young intelligent people ought not to be precluded for that reason. We feel that if given the opportunity and if they are the right type of persons that they could in fact make the switch and be successful, so I think we ought to put that out there.

The second point obviously would have to do with the language barrier. When I heard that I began to think that one of the reasons we have that language barrier is the way we traditionally teach foreign languages in Barbados which has not changed sufficiently from the way it was taught in bygone days. What we ought to be doing is looking at the methodology and bringing in the right type of technology and also putting more emphasis on the teaching and learning of foreign languages so that in fact when we have language labs and so on, which are now at the Barbados Community College, hopefully at the University of the West Indies and in a few of our secondary schools, I know at Coleridge and Parry we fought very hard and got help from the European Union to have a language lab, and I think Deighton Griffith School has one...

The point we are making here is that the notion of a person who is doing a foreign language having to take this

long gap or minutes in order to read and translate what is being said into his foreign language and back into another language and so on is really a thing of the past. I believe that it is a wake-up call for us to actually have a look at the methodology of teaching foreign languages generally and in this case Spanish in particular.

We also have to recognise that it ought not be a major stumbling block because, for example, we are presently sending students to China to study medicine and all sorts of things and when we take that into consideration, I mean all foreign language may be equally difficult but it is felt that Mandarin would be far more difficult than Spanish, and therefore I am of the opinion that ought to be taken into consideration.

We feel that the building of bridges with Cuba is very important for all kinds of reasons. We Barbadians may forget that a good number of our Barbadians around the building of the Panama Canal era actually migrated to Cuba and so we have a kind of cultural heritage there and our students going there will further enhance that and that building of bridges will also lead to not only our students going to Cuba but it can lead to Cubans actually coming here not just as tourists but as professionals because in the same way that we are sending our students off to do medicine there, we can have students and experts, professionals in the medical field, coming from Cuba to Barbados and in that way we can have a win-win situation in relation to the two countries.

I also feel that some of the things that we can learn from Cuba, particularly in the area of the eye specialists, can enhance and help our medical facilities here in Barbados. Madam President, because Cuba has this great reputation in those field we therefore can benefit from them and we should be looking in the direction of some of our regional countries; two, in particular, being the Cayman Islands and Costa Rica, where medical tourism is really a major economic factor. Specialists from all over the world go there, and they have first-rate facilities, and as a result, the economic spinoff from medical tourism in those countries is now well known. If we go the Net, we will find a lot of information in that regard. We here in Barbados, tourism being our major industry, should be looking in that direction. We have a situation, for example, where we are well known to have problems in the area of non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and things of that nature, and there is no reason why we should not at least have the vision of becoming one of the leading centres, in the world and not only in the region, in doing research in those areas.

I do believe that those are things that we ought to do, and therefore the medical school of the University of the West Indies, in a situation where there is a difficulty in funding, should seek to attract foreign students. I have

spoken at great length about new models of funding the university and getting new inflows into its coffers, and certainly one of the ways would be to attract foreign students. The medical school here would have a percentage of local students brought into the medical school once they are qualified, but it should also set aside an equal or even higher proportion of places for foreign students, and this would give Barbados that kind of reputation; a kind of international reputation for expertise in these particular fields. The relationships which are built with students coming from one part of the world to another part to study can help us to learn from centres of learning such as London, Oxford and Cambridge, and the United States, where the universities are substantially funded. They are funded not only from the charging of fees but certainly from the inflow of foreign students, who often will have to pay a little more than the local students. That is another area, therefore, where we can learn to move in the direction in order to help the economy of this country, Madam President, and I think that once we understand that we stand to gain from this, we will realise the added and heightened importance of having our institutions, particularly our medical institutions, properly accredited.

It is not a new thing. Almost from the word “go”, we had institutions in Barbados such as Codrington College and so on, and the University of the West Indies itself, that were actually attached to foreign universities such as Durham, London, Oxford and Cambridge and so on, which allowed the university to gain confidence and eventually stand on its own. It is not something that is new. What is surprising is that it has taken so long to be brought into fruition, but notwithstanding that, I think we ought to welcome it. We ought also to look not only in the field of medicine but in what we call the new sunrise industries such as the area of alternative energy. One other Senator speaking before spoke about motor mechanics and so on. These are areas where we can be world leaders. Our cars, for example, will now be not only running on fossil fuels but they will have a completely different type of engine, and we would be looking at using hydrogen fuels and hybrid fuels and things of that nature. It is not because we are small that we should be looking to import these from outside, but these are things that can actually happen here. Therefore, our institutions such as the Polytechnic and the Community College are already moving in this direction. It is the only the medical fraternity which would have been a bit slow, but the Polytechnic and Community College have accreditation relationships with reputable educational institutions abroad, such as City & Guilds and several others. Therefore, our young people will be able to move away somewhat -- not do away with -- from, or have a parallel path with, the traditional subjects, and look at the technical-vocational and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects which are really the areas of the future and will give our young people new avenues. Those avenues will not only cause them to help

themselves as entrepreneurs in these areas in Barbados itself, but also, because of the accreditation, they would be able to go anywhere in the region and outside the region with their qualifications.

When Barbadians go abroad -- the sensible ones, anyhow -- they not only operate like the Prodigal Son and spend all day in riotous living, but they send back remittances to Barbados, and in that sense, they enhance the foreign exchange component of this country. In fact, there was a period when the foreign exchange of this country, apart from sugar, depended heavily on remittances of our people who went abroad. This is still actually happening, so this Debate here today is really a wake-up call that we need to look not only in the narrow confines but in a broader way at how we are part of the international community. In that sense, notwithstanding our small geographical size or the fragility of our economy, there are important avenues and possibilities for us to jumpstart the economy and, in fact, to sustain it. I think that this Debate is a golden opportunity and, given the type of contributions that have already been made, I am sure the general public will now be in a position to see how important it is for us not to have tunnel vision in relation to the path that we take, particularly in education. Let us not forget that where education goes, so goes the country, and therefore in this regard, the more we are able to make our mark in the international arena to enhance the possibilities for our young people in new areas of study and to empower them, they will be able to compete and work alongside young people from all over the world -- not just in CARICOM -- but in Latin America and indeed, as I always mention, the Pacific Rim countries. These are the countries which over the years have been able to surpass us when in the 1970s we were virtually on par with them.

Madam President, this is a step in the right direction. I believe what we ought to do is to build on it and, in fact, certainly in general to build on it but relation to Cuba to build those bridges and re-establish that link that has been there in the past when our young men went over there, not really to study medicine but to work in the cane fields, the sugar industry and so on. I think that is a step in the right direction and I felt compelled to make a small contribution in that regard.

Madam President, with those few words, I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Watson, you have the Floor.

Senator J. WATSON: Madam President, I just want to make a very brief contribution to this Bill that provides for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions.

Madam President, this is quite an important Bill to pass as soon as possible based on much of what has been said already and I obviously take Seantor Husbands' lead by confessing that there are four very competent professionals here, and at least three of them would have made so far inputs into this Bill that does not require me to go in that direction at all. Therefore, Madam President, I have chosen to use this opportunity to pay tribute to a person I consider to be quite a useful Barbadian in the area of training, that person being Robert Bobby Morris, who spent many years at BIMAP, a training organisation and one that was set up with a mandate that was put together both by Government and the private sector for the expressed reason of developing middle management in Barbados and I think they have done an excellent job, first under Dr. Kurley King and then under Rudolph Gibbons for many years. In fact, Mr. Gibbons was also Chairman of TVET, which is also another training organisation and a training organisation that would have done quite a lot of work in probably costing the concept of accreditation to be noticed because there are several persons who are skilled but have no qualifications. I think that sometimes a lot of those people have difficulties because they have the skill but they do not have the certin, so TVET would have been a help in that area.

Madam President, all I wanted to do was to pay that tribute to Robert Morris, who passed away recently and I know that he spent many years training many Barbadians. He spent some years with the National Development Foundation also training a lot of people and there are many Barbadians who would have profited from his training in management in Barbados. I hope that I have not taken away anything from the debate on this particular Bill but I thought I should offer those few words because BIMAP is a very important training organisation in Barbados. I think the people who would have spent some time there both Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Morris would have contributed quite a lot to the management skills that presently exist in Barbados.

Madam President, with those few words, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Mr. Morris. I thank you for allowing me to speak.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Carmicheal, you have the Floor.

Senator Sir T. CARMICHAEL: Madam President, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I had not planned to speak today but two things led me in that directions, two specific things and maybe one of a more general nature. I suppose the one of a general nature is what I heard repeated only recently and I had not heard it since I was a boy. Someone said, you only dip your feet in the river once. I never understood that, the reason being the river is always moving, so if you dip your feet in again, you really do not feel the river. I decided I would dip my feet in the river on

this occasion even though it for a very short time and enough time that I can dry my feet fairly quickly.

Madam President, let me say that the reason for this brief intervention is twofold, it was really for one reason at first and it was principally because of the way that the debate went. It was an extremely interesting and good debate. I learned a lot and I think we all learned a lot but the movement to Cuba, if you will, is what prompted me to rise because Cuba is an interesting place from a medical point of view as we heard quite precisely stated by many of the speakers and by two of the doctors in particular. Madam, Cuba is interesting be Barbados has two treaties with Cuba, it has a double tax treaty and it has a bilateral investment treaty. Madam President, what is not well known is that in particular the double taxation treaty has been used very effectively over the last five years. It has been used by many international countries, which has set up Barbadian subsidiary for investment in Cuba and some of those investments have been in the area of medical technology area and in pharmaceuticals. Sir, the (7:54) Rapos Mall which has taken place with the United States of America and the opening up of Cuba, Cuba presents a new set of opportunities and clearly, one set of such opportunities rests in terms of not investing through third parties but for Barbadians themselves to invest in Cuba and to set up businesses in Cuba, which deal with these very subjects, the medical technology and the pharma... and, indeed, a whole raft of other areas such as freight forwarding and you could think of a numerous amount of activities but today, we are looking at the medical area and I am suggesting that is something which cannot be overlooked.

Madam President, so often we hear Barbados has lot to worry about because Cuba has now been established and is now getting back into the fold but I look at it the other way, I think that Barbados has a lot to benefit from as a result of the opening up of Cuba, and this is one area specifically where we can turn that advantage also to our own advantage. Madam, I thought I would raise that and that was really all I had intended to say but when my colleague raised the matter of Mr. Robert Morris, I could not stand and not endorse the remarks which he made not only because Mr. Robert Morris is someone I have known for such a long time but when I was part of the National Development Foundation and had worked very closely there with the late Harcourt Lewis, I am very familiar with the work which Mr. Morris done in the training, not medical training but in general training, not medical training, but in general training for entrepreneurship in that area. I had the good fortune actually only a few hours ago, early of meeting with one of his brothers who was obviously visiting here to spend the last moments with him before he was interned so I wanted to again recognise his memory and recognise the large and singular contribution which he made to this country and to at least have that

recorded and to have it as an endorsement to my colleagues sentiments a few minutes ago. Madam President, I have indeed dipped my feet in the water and I will now take them out and dry them.

Thank you!

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Worrell, you have the Floor.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to make a very brief intervention into this debate. Indeed, what it is that we are doing here today in terms of putting in place this accreditation for medical schools in Barbados in place is important because it gives an opportunity not only for doctors but other professions in healthcare. For institutions to be established here and for persons to be trained and for them to be registered. To some extent, we must recognise that we need to move beyond the University of the West Indies (UWI) model for everything. The University of the West Indies (UWI) cannot do everything and we cannot simply believe that the only professionals or graduates which can operate and practice here within Barbados or the Caribbean must be those persons coming from out of the University of the West Indies (UWI) or the traditional universities which we have become accustomed.

Similarly, I would want to go on to say that we must also recognise that there are a number of different places which you can go for training and you benefit when you go overseas or in different areas for that training, not only from the cultural experience which you may acquire in those areas, but also from the language experienced which we would acquire in those areas as well too. You would have a cadre of professionals coming back with unique skills. I do know of at least one medical professional who did their medical training in India and that is no way similar to Barbados in terms of the amount of technology compared to what we use and what they would use over there, but the uniqueness and the richness of the training gives them an opportunity to be creative and innovative. Oftentimes when you practice or you train in areas where you cannot benefit from making sure you have an x-ray machine that you can easily get an x-ray you have find alternative means in which to do that diagnosis to determine what is the real problem so it would cause these students to think of other ways in which to get things done and it will, to some extent, help to benefit the learning experience and sharpen their skills. Also, if we would recognise that things are changing within this world.

A few years ago we were not talking about diseases such as Zika and which were not common to the Caribbean area or not likely to affect us. There were more remote territories and so forth so having doctors trained in these areas now they could be specialists in these areas because

things such as yellow fever, it is a possibility that a couple years for now, that may become a problem for us within the Caribbean as well and they are other diseases which are not common here but because of the global travel and so forth, there may be things that you have to deal with. We cannot limit ourselves to this narrow view that the only place you can obtain appropriate medical training or training in any area, because they are engineers, pharmacists and so forth who are trained in other areas, that it must be the University of the West Indies (UWI) or it must be some indigenous campus. From that perspective I would want to say that you need to open up our horizons because the same way that this is setting up an opportunity for other University of the West Indies (UWI) to establish here, we would not want that persons coming from the US or Canada, that universities which are established here are stigmatised or because people would say this is Barbados. The quality of your training is not up to par for you to practice in New York or London or other parts of the world because this is Barbados. If a similar university is established in any other part of the Caribbean as they are throughout the Caribbean, there is Grenada and Dominica and for them to say that your training is done within the Caribbean that it is not up to par for you to practices in other parts of the world.

With regard to the doctors from Cuba, I believe that everything possible must be done basically embrace them and give them an opportunity to practice here in Barbados. Just a little bit of research but doctors throughout the Caribbean especially from Jamaica, have been going to Cuba for training since 1977 and there was an article in the newspapers in Jamaica lauding the Cuban trained doctors, at least nine of them, who were trained in Cuba from as early as 1977 and lauding them for being front runners in the medical profession within Jamaica. One of them would have gone on, since then, to practice within the US. Yes, the medical school within Cuba may be different from the medical training that you would receive here in Barbados and yes I do believe that once you come back here, they should go through a test to make sure that they are at the correct level and they should also go through some level of training as well to make sure the skillset is where it ought to be but I do not think that we should be shutting down or closing the doors on that opportunity because it gives opportunity for other persons to receive training. There was once a time in Barbados where I believe where the Government only paid 10 doctors each year at the University of the West Indies (UWI) but yet we still need more and doctors are more limited to practicing in Barbados alone. Once you are qualified as a doctor, you can go and establish your practice anywhere in the world once you meet the board certification so if an opportunity was provided that persons who did not meet that criteria for the 10 doctors that were once trained, allowed by the Government of Barbados and you were given another opportunity where you can seek training somewhere else,

you would give them an opportunity once they come back and they met the required criteria to be able to practice. We need to open up the door, make sure that the test that is done is across the board in terms that even if doctors who are trained through the University of the West Indies (UWI) and they took the same test or some sort of standardise assessment that they too would be able to pass that test so doing a standardise test and also allowing them to go through some formal level of training. We need to look at alternate views and not to be so narrow-minded or so closed off from allowing different things because there is a lot that we can use in terms of building that relationship even from the perspective that Senator Carmichael made in terms of the business relationship because now things are happening within Cuba where that market could potentially open up and I am certain that you will find some of the same Barbadians doctors or professionals who were not too accepting of persons coming from Cuba with Cuban training now finding it lucrative to go and set up a practice within Cuba. Maybe when they go there they should say that they are not suitably qualified either to practice there and they should put up barriers to them being able to practice there because what is good for the goose should also be good for the gander.

There are a number of different opportunities. We can also look at it from a different perspective. We speak about the possibility of medical tourism. We could invite doctors who are trained in different cultures to come here and practice. We could easily invite persons from South America and Latin America to come here and practice because we have doctors who are trained who can converse with them in Spanish. We could easily set up practices here in Barbados where persons can come from Latin America and different parts of the world for care and treatment because we do not have to worry about the language barrier or we do not have to say oh we would have to now get nurses trained who are able to speak Spanish, and then you have all of these applications for work permits for Spanish trained nurses or doctors, because we would already have, if we accept, the doctors who are trained in other parts of the world such as Cuba who can already speak Spanish because they have to do the first year or two in Spanish before they can move on to do the medical programme.

Similarly, we may have opportunities that we can get doctors trained in places such as Brazil where they will learn Portuguese and in different parts of the world where they will learn different languages to come back here, open a practice and we can then start being aggressive in terms of going after that medical tourism market.

Madam President, with regards to establishing other medical schools here within the Caribbean, if you go to Grenada, the St. George's University gives a different experience in Grenada. There is a whole different culture and a whole different atmosphere for those university

students going to the St. George's University in Grenada. I believe that probably one of the best nightclubs in the Caribbean is actually close to the St. George's University in Grenada. There is nothing at all like it in Barbados for sure and that is all because of establishing that university which caters to overseas students, so that would go a long way in terms of economic activity when you have these night clubs built around these universities.

With regards to the matter of these clinics being offered by some of these universities, we have an idle hospital plant in St. Peter and we could possibly encourage one of the medical schools that would want to set up here to take over that hospital plant and offer their training from there. Obviously, to get the clinical training you may reopen that as a teaching school or a hospital school, and in that way it would also help the Government of Barbados by possibly taking some of the burden off of the lone primary healthcare institution which we have.

Those are all opportunities that we need to explore and to make happen in Barbados and not limit persons to only thinking that the only place to go for training is to the University of the West Indies or to the USA, Canada or the United Kingdom, that anywhere else is not sufficient or not adequate because you would be short-changed because similarly persons in larger jurisdictions could think the same way about coming to Barbados even to the University of the West Indies for training.

Madam President, I would want to ask why it took so long for this to be done but at the same time it is at the stage where it is ready, so I commend the Government for moving ahead with it. I am hoping that with this now being in place that you would be able to see a smooth transition for persons who were trained in other areas being able to return to Barbados and be incorporated into the practice and to the profession here within Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean.

With those few words, I support the Bill.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Byer Suckoo, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER SUCKOO: Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I do not think I need a lot of time because a number of the points I may have wanted to make have been made and made quite well. I want to commend Senator Worrell for his thoughts especially on the Cuban students. I too feel similarly and I was going to work my way up very gently to that. In the medical fraternity, it is a topic that one broaches very delicately but since Senator Worrell has gone there and has gone there full steam ahead, one might say like a bull in a china shop, let me just say that I do for the most part endorse his thoughts on the Cuba students

and the role of accreditation in embracing not just Cuba but other medical facilities as well, and that is the role of standardisation and that is why we are here today.

We are looking at the CAAM-HP. This Bill, as you heard, Madam President, would provide for us to implement the agreement for CAAM-HP, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professionals. As we have been told earlier from Article 3, this Authority, the CAAM-HP, has several objectives: Achieving standards of excellence in the programmes of study in not just medicine but other health professions, establishing an efficient system of regulations in relation to standards - again, it is about standards and the quality of programmes of study - securing international recognition of the programmes of study; and maintaining the confidence of the people of the region in the quality of training. When we hear the discussion on Cuba, it comes back to the confidence of the people because there has been this impression conveyed that because of the quality or because one could not certify or say for sure what the quality of the training was, then you could not guarantee the confidence of the people and at the end of the day nobody wants to be responsible for a situation where a mistake is made that could have been avoided if there were standards established and monitored, and so that is why we are here today. Yes, even though it was not opened up in the direction of Cuba, I anticipated that it would have gone there, and hence my thoughts like Senator Worrell.

Madam President, because of the US NLE Examination in the United States of America, many West Indian doctors have been able to take an examination and be able to find themselves within the American system where they have been able to excel and where they have been able to train in all kinds of fields. Madam President, though the University of the West Indies may not have been heard of in some quarters in the United States of America and some may say that is a little third world very small university et cetera, because of accreditation and because of the standardised entrance examinations like the US MLE, no matter where in the world you come from you could take that examination, you could take a language examination as well if English was not your first language, and once you pass that, then you are able to practice and you are able then to go into the post-graduate programme and so on, and that is where I think we have to look at the discussion on Cuba, we cannot just say the quality of training there.

Senator Fraser told us that it was not uniformed across Cuba. Depending on where you were, you had different sorts of arrangements and that is why the role of accreditation, the role of standards and the role of these kinds of examinations, and it does not matter where you have come from. Once you have passed the examination, we know what you are starting with. We know where you

are and you should be able to move on from there. Madam President, we were told about the background of this, going back to 2003 when other Caribbean governments signed it. Barbados signed on in 2005, and then in 2009 the Cabinet of Barbados actually agreed that the CAAM-HP should be the legally authorised body to evaluate the quality of medical education programmes and facilities in Barbados. We further went on and approved the application by CAAM-HP on behalf of Barbados to this United States Department of Education entity called the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education Accreditation. That application is for recognition for CAAM-HP to be recognised as the legally authorised body to evaluate the quality of medical school education programmes and facilities in Barbados. I am advised that CAAM-HP would have made an application to this United States body for recognition, but then they were told that this has to be done on a country-by-country basis, and so several countries went forward. Barbados went forward and is now advised that we have to put this into law. It is a process and this is, I believe, the last step; putting it in legislation.

Interestingly enough, the point had been made also that when Barbados was advised to go forward and make this application, it had to be done by the individual country when Barbados. The point was also made that recognition of education standards by this American body is important if American students want to study medical education at an overseas institution and want to get a student loan, for example. A lot of medical students need support, loans and funding in order to do medical studies; medical education is still, I think, one of the more expensive courses you can do at university, and of course, nobody is going to lend you money if you are going to go to a university that is not accredited. Therefore, by having this accreditation process, it means now that more students will have the opportunity; and the benefits that would accrue to them from studying in a place like Barbados have all been recounted for us throughout the day.

The CAAM-HP, we were also reminded, is for other health programmes, so in addition to medical schools, they have also assessed programmes at veterinary schools, at dental schools and degree nursing programmes in the region. I saw on their website that there are 17 medical schools in the region with assessed programmes, two dental schools, a veterinary school and some nursing programmes as well. It is across the region, including Jamaica, Aruba, Barbuda and so on, where we are seeing this type of assessment being done.

As I have responsibility for the Human Resource Development Strategy, I want to just re-emphasise the points that have been made about accreditation and the role of accreditation. We all see accreditation as being important - and we have said it - for medical education and for understanding where you are, where your doctor or

your medical student is and the quality of training that they get, but I think it was Senator Ince who made the point; and that is what really prompted me to get up and say this. We also spoke to other kinds of training. We talked about training in the many branches of the automotive industry; and there are so many different branches that I am not sure which one he was referring to, but that was a fine example. There is accreditation in all these areas. The Accreditation Council here in Barbados comes under the Ministry of Education, but through the Human Resource Development Strategy one of the things we have been doing is looking to build the capacity at the Barbados Accreditation Council. More and more, people are going to be relying on the services of the Accreditation Council. We are seeing persons coming with degrees from universities all over the world. It is not just a few of the names that you know in England, America, Canada and the University of the West Indies. People are now studying online and finding universities all across the world, and they are going there to study, or they may not be going there but may be doing online courses. Then you are presented with this degree by a job applicant, for argument's sake, from some university you have never heard of, and it needs to be accredited.

Therefore, the role of the Accreditation Council is to go through that programme, go through the university's bona fides and determine whether that qualification has some sort of value here in our system. More and more people are opting for little known or far-flung universities.

Aside.

Senator Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SUCKOO: If I came to you for a job with a degree from the University of Timbuktu, I am sure your first thought would be, "What? Really?" This is why the accreditation is so important, and why it is important that we emphasise and build the capacity of the Barbados Accreditation Council. Madam President, you are so fortunate that you cannot see the prompts that are being shown to me from across the room.

MADAM PRESIDENT: No, no, you are not seeing asides.

Senator Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SUCKOO: I know I do not hear them but it is kind of hard not to see them when they are in your face. Anyhow, we are strengthening the capacity of the Barbados Accreditation Council for this very reason. You have persons who may not have gone straight from school into university but may have worked for a while and then taken a course online, so they need to be accredited. Employers need to know that what they have done actually counts for something. The Human Resource Development Strategy has actually brought, as recently as late last month, persons in from Mauritius, because Mauritius had actually undergone a similar revamp of their accreditation programme. We brought them in under the

aegis of the Human Resource Development Strategy, the European Union and, I believe, the Inter-American Development Bank. They brought them in so that they could help us to assess. We have had consultants in as well, assessing our Accreditation Council over the last couple of years so it can deal with these demands.

Senator Adams spoke to matriculation and the right kind of student, and he actually was making reference to a science student doing medicine; but to examine that, you may have persons who may not have had any "A" Levels at all who may not be looking to do medicine but some sort of university degree in order to matriculate. What does their current experience and their work experience count for as they try to get into university? All of that is a part of the Accreditation Council's programme, along with what we are also doing with the national qualifications framework. I may have referred to it in passing in earlier debates but it is relevant here, because what the national qualifications framework is doing, Madam President, is creating two streams, if you will, that inter-connect: the vocational and academic streams. Therefore, while we may all be aware of the academic stream with "O" Levels and "A" Levels, Associate Degrees, first degrees, Master's and so on, through the certification which we are doing for vocational programmes -- the NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) and CVQ (Caribbean Vocational Qualification) -- we are now stacking the different levels of NVQs and CVQs. It means that whatever your skill is, whether it is in automotive repair or whatever, if you have the NVQ, we can stack that up against the academic level to see where you would fall on par. For instance, if you have a Level 3 in one thing and a Level 2 in something else, with this framework being developed, this person actually can matriculate with this degree and this level of experience because we are also doing what is called prior learning assessment, we are actually being able to take persons with work experience and assess the experience they have, your prior learning, that experience that you have. We do not have a qualification for it but if you come, we will assess it and we will give it a grade and with that grade, that CVQ you would get for that, we can actually then put you on the map, so to speak, and you can see where you are and what else you need in order to matriculate. Madam, now in later life if you do not have CXC's, you do not have have A's level but you are thinking that you want to do something academically and you are asking, where does all my life experience put me on the grid, so that I can actually go on to do something else. Madam President, we are mapping that and we are putting that in place but it also to encourage life-long learning as well. Madam, because of the movement of people across the region and across the world accreditation become so important. We have CAAM-HP, we have the examination process and that allows for medical professionals to be accredited in the region and outside the region.

Madam President, we are saying that this arrangement is not exclusive to the medical fraternity and the medical professional. This kind of arrangement needs to be accorded to just about every discipline because everybody desires the right to be able to move and to be able to develop and to go where their careers and where their opportunities will lead them and so that is what this is about. We cannot say to people because you are not a doctor, for argument sake, that you have to stay here. We are saying to them that if you do well, you can pursue this path and wherever the opportunities take you, we are going to ensure that with the right of accreditation and the right type of certification as well -- not to get the two confused but they do go hand in hand, with the right type of accreditation and certification, you can actually go and follow your dreams wherever those dreams take you.

Madam President, I want to support what we are doing here and as I have said it is specific to the medical professions and paramedical professions but it set the framework so that when we come back here to talk about the national qualification framework, for example, a concept that we all know because we have looked at that in relation to other fields. Madam, this programme, as was said before but I think it bears repeating, allows for our university to develop, it allows for offshore universities to come here, it allows for foreign students to come to Barbados more readily, they may have access then more readily to funding and so on and they will be able to come and the benefits will accrue to Barbados. Madam, reference was made of the economic benefits and the revenue that we would see. Senator Boyce spoke of the development of university towns and what that looks like and anybody who has ever been to a university town like Boston, for example, would understand there is a different vibe, that there is a different culture in those areas. Madam, there is no reason we cannot embrace some of that as well, so those are some of the benefit.

Madam President, reference was made to something that we saw in the Press recently about one of our offshore university here working with the polyclinics. We know that happens in some parts of the world where the medical school will provide clinical services to members of the community allowing their students to have the kind of experience that I had because my university was with the University Hospital in Jamaica in the first instance and with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and then I also had the opportunity through the Randall Phillips Polyclinic and the Edgar Cochran Polyclinic in Wilkey, St. Michael. Madam, I had that experience because I was in the Government's system and the University of the West Indies was linked with that but offshore universities would have to create these types of opportunities either setting up their own clinics or working through our clinics by whatever arrangements and whatever has to be put in place, again, ensuring that their programme are accredited and their

students are of a certain standard before you can unleash them, so to speak.

Madam President, that has drawback as we have heard, especially in a place like Barbados where we do not have a shortage of doctors. There are some countries where that kind of thing is certainly very welcomed. Madam, we do have a shortage of doctors in the polyclinic but we do have a large number of doctors per capita in Barbados, so the point being made about private doctors is also taken but it does help when medical schools can establish some sort of clinical arrangements for their students to have supervised experience. It does provide a service to the community, especially where that service is not available in the community.

Madam President, there is one last point I want to make. Madam, as we embrace this culture and embrace this type of arrangement with accreditation and allowing for more accredited universities to be able to set up shop and CAAM-HP does allow for different phases of accreditation so that a university that is now starting up, for example, can have a provisional accreditation as a developing new school, which they have for a very short period until they set up and then they are monitored throughout and CAAM-HP does monitoring as well and give feedback and gives assessment and tell them the conditions and then monitor to make sure that they have kept those conditions if not you can lose the accreditation that you have. Madam, it is important to know that once you are accredited, it does not mean it is so for life. They will continue to monitor or they will tell you that they need you to bring in x and y and keep an eye on that, if that is not done it is bye-bye.

Madam President, as we embrace this and have this discussion about accreditation and about other medical schools being able to come in for me, one of the most exciting things, especially as I have been working with the Human Resource Development Strategy is this culture of research as was mentioned before. This culture of research, again, I guess that is a university town. It is linked with the whole idea of university town, all the academics rubbing shoulders and so but it create that innovation that we have been talking about in Barbados, that we have been lamenting in Barbados is perhaps lacking. Madam, not that none of us are innovative but we need to see more of that innovative, where at the same time that we can see problems, it starts to trigger a search for solutions, and that is what we need to see in Barbados, this research culture that will improve innovative. It improves innovative, it improve entrepreneurship and it improves our development capacity, competitiveness and it allows us to develop goods and services that we can even export because you are presented with a problem and so you start to do something with it. You had the sargassum seaweed and people have tried a number of things. Is it good for fertilizer? Is it good for makeup? I did see some attempts at cosmetics, lipsticks

and so on coming out of that and that is the kind of thinking. We saw it at University of the West Indies and that is what we want to see more of. Madam, University of the West Indies is one university but perhaps as we expand our university base, we may see more of that. Madam, we have all said that diabetes is a problem, it is a lifestyle disease and people have to change their lifestyle but we have been talking about that forever and the problem does not seem to be slowing down. Let us start thinking about what solutions are there. What is there that we have that perhaps we can use and, who knows, we can come up with a solution, an answer to diabetes that is maybe what the whole world is looking for. Madam, who is to say that it could not happen here in Barbados.

Madam President, we talked about marijuana but I am not going down that road today but marijuana and the different fruits that we have around us are the things that if we had the capacity and if we were of that bent, we could actually put some more emphasis into research, into the innovation that could see us produce that product, that service that could actually set Barbados apart. Madam, the emphasis would be on STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which I think all the policy makers have identified is the way to in terms of development but it would need this kind of support as well.

Madam President, taking this debate on the medical accreditation and taking it even wider and the application that it has for accreditation of other programmes in Barbados and the benefits that will accrue, I am satisfied that this is something that we need to do. The point was made that we needed to do it a long time ago and now it is here so we will not hold it up further but we would really want to see this in place so we can start enjoying the benefits that are associated therewith.

With that, Madam President, I am pleased to support this Bill. Thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Husbands, you have the Floor.

Senator H. A. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Madam President. Simply, I do not have anything to add to this debate. All the issues that were raised and I had noted for further study and further explanation in the wrap up have been thoroughly debated. I intended to discuss the importance of accreditation and the last Senator who spoke did that very excellently. Regarding Senator Boyce's contribution, I intended to latch my comments to his view of the development of the university town to link this with issues we are dealing with in immigration to extend it to include - and I have said on the Floor of this Chamber already - we have some extremely good schools in Barbados in the private sector. That is not to say there are not extremely good schools in the public sector as well, but

there are extremely good schools in the private sector in the primary and secondary areas that are extremely attractive to people living outside of Barbados, schools that have developed the International Baccalaureate and so on. We are building toward the spirit and goals that Senator Boyce outlined.

The issue of the Cuban doctors has again been looked at from various perspectives and I am not so sure that if a person who has completed, wherever that person has completed their tertiary level training, whether it is in medicine or whatever, that you then take them back to the fact that they did not have A-Levels. The issue that you have to deal with is the quality of their professional training and if that is not adequate, that is not adequate but to suggest that they got in without A-Levels or whatever, I do not think that is fear and we have to look at that. What I think must be done is that there must be greater dialogue between or amongst the authorities in Barbados, both at the level of the bureaucracy and at the professional level of the doctors and I think Senator Worrell dealt with this. If people are being trained in Cuba and we find that is not to our satisfaction, we ought to be telling the Cubans how to tweet their thing to satisfy us and I think that is the road we have to take.

Just for clarification and to go back a bit, I think that when we first started sending young people to Cuba to train as doctors it was the initiative of a local NGO. The Ministry of Education had subsequently taken over that initiative, I am advised that persons who go are persons with qualifications at CAPE. Because they did not have three Grade As or three Grade 1s in the area, I do not think one can use that against them once they have graduated. Once they have graduated we have to deal with the level and quality of their professional training. These are the issues that I think were looked at, Madam President. We are finally at this point and the accreditation in medical education and all areas of education is extremely important in this era where we have freedom of movement throughout the region and our own people are moving outside of the region and people are coming into the region and we ought to know, through accreditation, what are the real skills and competencies that they have. Accreditation is also a way that - in the old days we would have called them students - consumers of the services of these training institutions are protected. Before you enter any training institution whether it is a medical school, a secondary school, a O-Level granting institution - they do not have O-Level's now, but anyhow you know what I mean, Madam President - check out to see if it is accredited. That is the purpose why we have the Barbados Accreditation Council to check on these things. Before you pay your money, sign up and take that course, whether the institution is in Barbados or outside of Barbados, simply go to the Barbados Accreditation Council and find out and they can

advise you before you put down that money, so it is important in several areas.

Madam President, with those very few words, I want to thank all Honourable Members, for their participation in this debate and I want to close also by aligning myself and I am sure, other Senators who have spoken earlier, with the sentiments expressed by Senator Watson and Senator Carmichael in paying tribute to the recently departed, Mr. Robert “Bobby” Morris. We are taking about training and he was a distinguished trainer at the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP).

Madam President, with those few words, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On the motion of Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, the SENATE resolved itself into Committee, His Honour the Very Reverend H. E. Crichtlow, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 -- 6 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, the Senate resolved itself into Committee, His Honour Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichtlow in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 -- 7, inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Her Honour the PRESIDENT the passing of one Bill in Committee and MADAM PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator H. A. HUSBANDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Caribbean Accreditation Authority (Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions) (Incorporation) Act, 2016.

ORDER No. 3

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWNS LAND (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225, THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY OF THE PARCELS OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT LOT 60, THE GARDEN LAND AND SKEETE’S ROAD BANK HALL RESPECTIVELY BOTH IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMP STATION AND SEPTIC TANK AS PART OF THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD UPGRADING PROGRAMME (HNUP).

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd: Thank you very much, Madam President. I am indeed honoured to have been given the opportunity to move the passing of this Resolution in accordance with Section 5 of the Crowns Land (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, the vesting in the Barbados Water Authority of the parcels of land, the property of the Crown, which had been compulsorily acquired by the Crown back in 2010 at the Garden Land and Skeete’s Road respectively in St. Michael for the public purpose of the construction of a pump station and septic tank as part of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme (HNUP).

Madam President, this Garden Land project was part of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme which was a project co-financed by a multimillion dollar loan from the Inter-American Development Bank with counterpart funding from the Government of Barbados. This five-year loan agreement was signed by the Democratic Labour Party Administration weeks after assuming office after the 2008 General Elections. Your humble servant was actually given day-to-day responsibility for the execution of this project mid-way into that five-year term having been reassigned to the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Urban and Rural Development at the time as Minister of State and I can therefore seek in this presentation to report in terms of the work done by the Democratic Labour Party Administration in the execution of this project.

In particular, I should say that the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme had three major objectives: Firstly, to upgrade, redevelop and revitalise select low income communities across Barbados; secondly to provide solutions to the challenge of affordable housing

and incremental home construction; and thirdly to strengthen the agencies involved in the provision of the housing and neighbourhood revitalisation.

Madam President, I will go straight to the Garden Land project which was a multimillion dollar project which focused primarily on the goal of connecting 164 households in that Garden Land, St. Michael area to the Bridgetown Wastewater and Sewerage Disposal System, the closest mains running along Country Road adjacent to this Garden Land area, which is therefore why we come to this particular Resolution before us. In this aspect of the project, a lift station had to be constructed to pump the sewerage from these households in the Garden Land area to the mains of the Bridgetown Wastewater and Sewerage Disposal System running along Country Road since this land was below the level of the mains at Country Road. One parcel of land that we are looking to transfer into the control of the Barbados Water Authority, that is the piece at Garden Land, would facilitate the construction of this pump station and then the second parcel at Skeete's Road, which leads in one direction to Bank Hall Cross Road and in the other direction to the Garden Land, is the site that would have housed the construction of the septic tank filter bed and soakaway for the sewerage connections for six households in this Garden Land project area which were located below the level of the roadway and therefore could not be connected to the Bridgetown Wastewater and Sewerage Disposal System.

I should assure you, Madam President, that at the onset the Government would have interfaced regularly with the residents of the Garden Land area. I remember on one occasion we had a town hall meeting in the car park of the Ministry of Housing and Lands headquarters at Country Road, where we invited the residents. There was a significant turnout; filled to capacity. We were able to speak frankly with these residents, and took their concerns and suggestions. We brought the Chinese contractors. This was on the eve of that project, and we were able to indicate to these residents what to expect and the measures being utilised to minimise any dislocation or inconvenience; for instance dust issues where we assured them that the sites would be watered regularly. I remember the substantive Minister of Housing and Lands at the time, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North in the Other Place, would have spoken to the residents and your humble servant, and as a result of these processes, we were able to take on board the suggestions of the residents that we should take the opportunity, while those sewage pipes were being laid in the Garden Land, to install piping to facilitate the installation of natural gas connections to the various households. This in fact was done simultaneously, so we took the residents' suggestions very seriously, Madam President.

As part of the project, residents were selected to act as liaisons between the general population of the area and the project team. In fact, a project unit had been put in place, bringing together engineers and other professionals to lead this process, and as Minister of State with specific responsibility for the execution of this project, I was able to meet with the project implementation team regularly; at least once a month and sometimes more often to have a hands-on interface to ensure that we were able to intervene in a timely manner to address any challenges that arose as time went on.

Madam President, I am happy to report that this aspect of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme, the Garden Land project, was executed very smoothly. I really congratulate the hardworking officers within the project implementation team and other support staff from other departments within the Ministry. These would have worked beyond the call of duty to ensure that this project was executed with minimal disruption to the residents. I remember one of our own Members in this Honourable Chamber who resides in that area making a call to me after hours on one occasion. There was a leak in the water system and I was able to speak to the head of the project implementation unit, and the clerk of work was deployed on weekends to address that matter in a timely manner.

Madam President, as part of this Garden Land component of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme, it was envisaged that 164 connections would be made to households within that Garden Land area to the Bridgetown Waste Water and Sewage Disposal System, and that nine households would benefit from the construction of water-borne sanitary toilet and bath facilities. As I said, a septic tank, filter bed and soak-away were constructed as well as a pump station and the laying of the natural gas line. What we are doing in this process is that since the Barbados Water Authority has full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of these connections, we are just transferring the property to the Barbados Water Authority to complete this transfer, Madam President. Therefore, what I can report is that the actual connections made were 104 households, since five had already been connected to the sewage treatment system before the start of the project in July 2012. There were also 19 vacant or unoccupied houses or lots to which pipes were laid but no actual connections made. With respect to the remaining 36 sites, a number of reasons were identified for these connections not being made, primarily the fact that in many cases we were unable to contact the landowners, or in some instances there was no interest in that connection.

Madam President, what we are transferring to the control of the Barbados Water Authority are assets valued at \$2 538 781.87. These assets were transferred to the Barbados Water Authority as part of the Ministry of

Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management; as well as 210.5 square metres of land at the Garden Land, St. Michael; 90 square metres of land at Skeete's Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael, septic tanks, wells, man-holes, sewage pipes and over 100 connections, Madam President.

As I said, the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme consisted of other components, and I would wish to turn quickly to one or two other aspects of this programme. Firstly, there was the affordable housing component which was made up of the new homes programme, in which it was envisaged that persons who were successful in accessing housing solutions in terms of stand-alone houses, two-bedroom houses in some instances, from the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation through the 'Housing Every Last Person' component, whose incomes were below a certain threshold, would qualify for a grant of up to \$10 000. This would effectively reduce the final purchase price of those housing solutions from the National Housing Corporation. Twenty such subsidies were provided under the new homes programme, totalling BDS\$200 000. Another aspect of the affordable housing component of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme was the incremental home construction programme. This programme was underpinned by a computerised system which processed the applicants' information from the application stage to the final stage. In this incremental home construction programme, a number of Barbadians who, again, were below a certain threshold -- we were targeting working class Barbadians -- were able to receive grants of up to BDS\$10 000 to execute repairs to their homes, including tiling, installation of built-in wardrobes, kitchen cupboards, countertops, installation of windows and/or doors, installation of plumbing fixtures and fittings, in some cases wells, septic tanks, sidings, floorings, roofing, flooring, painting and electrical wiring. In some instances, we were able to utilise the funds to offset some of the labour costs. Madam, in this process, the recipients were able to actually select their individual contractors and the grant funds provided in these \$10 000 grant subsidies per household took the form of the Government actually sourcing the building materials from the various hardware establishments in the country and then the recipients being able to access those building materials free of cost. Madam President, what we did as a Government was that we spread the word far and wide. This is a brochure, which is what we would have distributed at various locations throughout the lifetime of the project. I remember almost the whole Saturday from morning until afternoon myself, the Minister at the time, the hard-working officers from the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Project Unit, we actually gave out these brochures and provided general information to shoppers in the Super Centre carpark in Warrens and also at the General Post Office Headquarters carpark at Cheapside and then we east at the Emerald City

carpark in Six Cross Roads and prior to my direct involvement in the project, other distribution of this information was done in Bridgetown on previous occasion.

Madam President, we went further and there were infomercials being aired on television and on radio as part of the Government Information Service (GIS) Outreach so that there was fair dissemination of information so that any Barbadian interested would have had an equal opportunity and who was, of course, qualified, would have had an equal opportunity to access these grant funds.

Madam President, I remember we had a major drive in the latter stages of this project where one Saturday, we actually opened up the carpark of the Minister of Housing and Lands at Country Road and we brought in calypsonians and we had jumping tents and even the HIV Coordinator in the Ministry gave useful information on what can be used to reduce the spread of HIV. Madam, over 300 Barbadians flocked from all over Barbados to the Ministry of Housing and Lands getting these brochures and other information and signing up in terms of application for these \$10 000 grants in the incremental home construction component of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme.

Madam President, those efforts paid tremendous dividends, I can report to the extent that we were able to meet the revised target of 450 subsidies valued at BDS\$3 992 257, which were allocated under the incremental home construction component of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme. Madam, I really thank those hard-working officers of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Project Unite, who work, as have said beyond the call of duty on weekends and after hours to ensure that we were able to draw down as much of the funding provided by this Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme Loan Facility as humanly possible. Madam, I remember, for example, there was a National Housing Corporation at Woodbourne, St. Philip, and they had built a number of low-income houses there. The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Freundel Stuart graced us with his presence and , again, the team from the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme assisted by the officers of the National Housing Corporation were there on the side disseminating information and brochures connected with these \$10 000 grant under the incremental home construction component of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme.

Madam President, we did not do like the Barbados Labour Party before we assumed office in 2008 and when they had their town hall meeting relating to this project. They kept out the Press and, Madam, I know what I am talking about because I am a resident of one of the sites earmarked in the Reid Street area, which is particular of the Cats Castle catchment and when the Barbados Labour Party was in office and when town hall meetings were

being held at St. Mary's School and at the Salvation Army Headquarters at Reed Street the Press was kept out and only residents could attend. They could not keep me out because I live in the area so I ensured that I was present.

Madam President, when we had our town hall meeting at the headquarters of the National Housing Corporation for these Garden Land residents, the Press were not kept out, all were invited, Madam President.

Madam President, I am very happy that we were able to effectively disburse grant of nearly \$4 million to at least 450 low-income Barbadian households. Madam, when I hear detractors from the other side suggest that this administration made a mess of this Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme, I am bringing the facts today. Madam, those 450 Barbadians are thankful to this Democratic Labour Party administration for providing them with, not a handout but a handup to enable them to improve the quality of housing that they have access to. Madam President, what is so said is that some residents were confused by the detractors and it is only after the five-year loan agreement had expired and those residents who persisted and were not in any way detracted by the necessary bureaucratic processes involved because you are dealing with IDB funding and they have best practices that have to be put in place by participating Governments such as the Barbados Government to ensure that there is equity and fairness, so certain procedures had to be followed through. Madam, some residents listened to the detractors and did not bother to apply.

Madam President, some people actually thought that a grant meant you had to pay back money, so we took pains to explain to people that a grant is not a loan and it is a gift to the Government of Barbados on behalf of the people of Barbados to these vulnerable low-income households to give them a handup. Madam, it is unfortunate that it was only after these 450 were able to actually get these grants and then their neighbours and friends realise that it was really happening and by the time they made serious enquiries, we had to report that the project had come to an end. Madam, it is a wake-up call that we should grab these opportunities as they are made available and do not mind the detractors who will try to throw cold water on these brilliant initiatives. Therefore, it is a wonderful pilot that can definitely be extended upon in future arrangements. In that regard, Madam President, as part of this housing and neighbourhood upgrading programme, I remember officers coming from Trinidad to Barbados on a regular basis to monitor and evaluate the progress made in the roll out of this five year loan agreement and I took that opportunity to lobby these officials, and officials in, forgive me if I repeat it again but it is relevant, that I was fortunate, as MP for The City of Bridgetown at the time, to attend the launch of the Sustainable Cities Initiative, the brainchild of the President of the InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB)

at the IADB Board of Governors Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Calgary where the IADB President was there in person and I learnt about this Sustainable Cities Initiative which again is consistent with this HNUT Programme seeking to revitalise urban areas throughout IADB member countries. At the time, the only Caribbean country involved in the pilot was Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the Mayor of Port-of-Spain attended that same launch in Calgary. I lobbied the IADB officials as I came periodically to assess this housing and neighbourhood upgrading programme. I made them miserable, perhaps, but I was persistent and consistent that Barbados should be included in this pilot programme and I am happy to report that the Cabinet of Barbados signed off subsequently to ensure that Barbados now is a full participant in this Sustainable Cities Initiative and we have not limited it to the constituency of Bridgetown but to greater Bridgetown which covers sub-urban areas stretching from St. James to Christ Church. Already, senior officials in Government have been able to participate in preparatory meetings of this Sustainable Cities Initiative abroad and I can report that as a result Barbados stands to benefit but at least a million dollars in grant funding through this Sustainable Cities Initiative in terms of technical assistance in preparation for the possible rolling out of similar programmes such as the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme where we can get low interest concessionary loans through such InterAmerican Development Bank loan programmes so that we are definitely following up from this Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme to see how we can really revitalise urban and sub-urban districts throughout our country, Madam President, in terms of improvement in low income housing, improved drainage, and other utilities such as electricity, water, sewerage disposal, improved roads and the creation of green spaces so that the congestion and the high density of housing neighbourhoods within the urban and sub-urban area, these issues can be addressed so that the quality of life can be improved. This is a project that continues and this Administration is committed to addressing the issues of the quality of life, housing, infrastructural development in low income districts in our country. Madam President, I must say before I conclude, that what we learn in terms of some of the challenges from the execution of this project is that what happened in the past in that some of these loans were negotiated but they were signed before the conditionalities precedent is what the technical term is, before many of these conditionalities precedent were put in place. These are the prerequisites that would trigger the drawdown of the loan funds. What we have learnt from this loan as well as others, is that, in negotiating these loans, we need to put in place these various conditionalities precedent, get these met up front as far as possible so that when we sign the loan agreement, then the period after that, when we have the deadline in terms of five years or how many years it is, we would be more realistically able to meet those

deadlines and therefore drawdown the majority of these loan funds. In fact, a retired Permanent Secretary was very much in the forefront in lobbying for this approach and this approach now has been adopted seriously by those powers that be and is commonly referred to by the name of that retired Permanent Secretary. As we go now, I know there are a number of the InterAmerican Development Bank loans that this Government has entered into and executed and we have been able to actually drawdown on the vast majority of the funds available because of this approach of meeting most of the conditionalities precedent before the actually loan agreement has been signed. There were technical issues and as I said, this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration inherited this loan agreement, we signed it within a few weeks of assuming office. Then having signed, we had all of these conditionalities precedent, then to meet. There are certain bureaucratic realities that exist and it took some time to meet these conditionalities precedent and this therefore creates challenges in terms of being able to assess the funding because time elapses as we seek to meet these conditionalities.

Madam President, let me give you some examples. We would have identified a number of areas to benefit from this Housing the Neighbourhood Upgrading Loan Programme, for example, Cats Castle in Bridgetown; the Garden Land, as I mentioned; Greenfields in the City; Allen View, St. Thomas; and then 10 additional cities were identified for smaller quantities of interventions. Areas such as avenues in St. Michael South Central off Hall's Road where we were going to resurface some roads; 1st and 2nd Avenue, Beckles Hill, in St. Michael South; and area in Campaign Castle in St. George South; and some other areas. Madam President, for example, we were given technical advice to the effect that it would be dangerous to go into heavy excavation in that Allen View area, above Harrison's Cave. We would not want another issue that occurred in the Brittons Hill area some time ago. These are reality so with that technical advice we could not proceed any further in terms of heavy construction work in the Allen View area because Harrison's Cave is a national treasure and we would not want to risk life and limb in that regard so that aspect had to be curtailed. The residents of Allen View know that there was no malice meant but that was the reality and we had to face the reality.

Similarly, Madam President, in the Cat's Castle areas, it is a densely populated area and this is the community where I live. Before any funds could be drawn down, we had to ensure that the necessary land surveying work was done because you have palins of neighbour encroaching on other neighbours land and all of these issues had to be addressed and that took time. There was a challenge in actually getting land surveyors willing to go into certain districts for various reasons and we had to work through those issues. What the Cabinet had decided early

o'clock is that the funds available through this Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme were limited so that they were sufficient to perhaps deal with just one of those geographical areas that I identified but what we have decided is that we would try to give every district, as far as possible, some of the funding and so, and so a few million dollars were allocated to Cats Castle, Greenfield, Garden Land and so on.

Madam President, as I said, those challenges occurred. For example, lands had to be acquired, so you had to go through the compulsory acquisition process. We had, for example, Eckstein Village that was earmarked for some of this work, and we had serious challenges in terms of drainage that had to be addressed before any realistic infrastructural work could be done in terms of housing solutions and those issues took a lot of time. Madam President, we were very dynamic so when we realised that there was a dead-end in one area, we looked for alternative solutions.

Madam President, coming out of that process, on one occasion the Minister of Housing and Lands at the time and myself as Minister of State took a whole team, including the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Head of the Lands and Surveys Department, representatives from the Town and Country Planning Development Office and others, and actually went around the urban areas trying to identify sites for the possible provision of housing solutions. We went down at the bottom of Wharton Gap, New Orleans, the corner with 10th Avenue, where there was a plot available but owned by the private sector but the price asked was prohibitive.

We were able in that same exercise to take a team to a site at the corner of Whitepark Road and Kings Village in The City of Bridgetown just to the west of the Whitepark Wesleyan Holiness Church and the officials gave the green light that this is a site that is feasible and we were able to press ahead to the extent that we were able to pilot legislation to compulsorily acquire that property, and I can report, Madam President, that property has been acquired by the Government.

What has happened is that as the five years expired in terms of the loan agreement, we said is that we will continue the proprietary work so that the project would be shovel-ready. I can report, Madam President, that what we were able to do is actually clear the site in terms of de-bushing, and the architectural drawings were done for the provision of a four-storey apartment complex to provide low income housing solutions for at least three dozen residents at that site at the corner of Whitepark Road and Kings Village in The City of Bridgetown. The Bridgetown Sewerage system runs along that road so you would not have to worry about building any sewerage plant or so on for that apartment complex. It is shovel ready as I said.

Engineering test pits were actually dug on the site so what was envisaged was that we would then seamlessly move to other sources of funding, be it Caribbean Development Bank, low income loans or this Sustainable Cities Initiative and so on, so to suggest that we were doing nothing is further from the truth.

Madam President, let me just say in conclusion what did this Democratic Labour Party found when we assumed office. As I said, the Barbados Labour Party could not keep me out as a resident of the city from their town hall meetings. The Barbados Labour Party when they were in office up to 2008 promised the residents of Cats Castle and the Garden Land that they would all be relocated so that the site at Cats Castle and Greenfield would be made available for massive rehabilitation.

Asides.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd: Madam President, I do not mind the detractors on the other side. What the Barbados Labour Party promised the residents of Cats Castle and Greenfield when they were in office is that they would be relocated temporarily to proposed housing solutions that the Barbados Labour Party would build at the corner of Country Road and Whitepark Road, but when the Democratic Labour Party assumed office in 2008 that site was abandoned by the Barbados Labour Party, the steel was rusting, there was bush and vectors all over the place, so that was the bottleneck. If the Barbados Labour Party was still in office today, Madam President, the people of Cats Castle and Greenfield would still be waiting for housing solutions under the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme because the Barbados Labour Party had abandoned the sites where they were supposed to be relocated. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that.

Madam President, this Democratic Labour Party in short order after assuming office in 2008 was able to complete that project, the spanking state-of-the-art Country Park Towers, at the corner of Country Road and Whitepark Road where nearly 100 housing solutions were provided by this Democratic Labour Party Administration that care about poor people and about providing housing solutions to the masses of our country.

Madam President, I will stop there for now. I can go on until tomorrow but I know that we have limited time according to the Standing Orders, so without further ado therefore I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

I thank you.

SENATOR REVEREND CHRICHLOW took the Chair.

Wednesday, MAY 25, 2016

Seq. 27

SENATOR Rev. CHRICHLOW: : Senator Hunte .

Senator R.A. HUNTE: I rise to give my support to this Resolution, the vesting in the Barbados Water Authority parcels of land, the property of the Crown situate at Lot 16, The Garden Land, Skeetes Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael. Mr. Deputy President I should not be long. I want to speak in my capacity as a resident of that district, The Garden Land, Country Road, and I wish to say that I am indeed grateful for having this program in which was born and the area in which I reside. My household benefitted from, (1) the installation of natural gas and (2) the sewerage system. The area which I live unfortunately did not have any installation that other parts of the Garden Land did, but for some reason the area in which I live, all over the areas, was never done . When the roads were repaired in 1975 -- of course you cannot did them up after a certain time and obviously there are certain installations that could not take place. However, I must say that there are few areas that benefitted from the programme. You heard the Acting Minister and who presided over the programme at the time spoke about the restrictions in respect of the allocation, and because they did not do what they had to do within a given time, obviously the funds could not be drawn down anymore. I toured a number of the areas. I was invited to Halls Road, Brittons Hill, et cetera. Unfortunately those areas were left out because of the circumstances of which he spoke about just now. I was fortunate to be living in the area and still do, that benefitted greatly from that upgrading. Of course natural gas was attached to my residence and also the sewerage system and we are indeed grateful for that.

It has been a very trying thing for me. I will tell you why it happened at the right time. The excavator that was digging the trench realised that he was in danger because the road started to collapse. This was Friday night right in front of my home. It was a Friday night when I should have been on my way to Oistins to have a good time, but I realised I could not leave home because this thing was serious. People seemed to have made calls, because I only knew about it when I got home. The first thing I did was to call the persons who was overseeing the project at the time, Senator Todd. I was not satisfied with that. I got onto the contractors and so on, and that was a Friday night. Of course, nothing was done until the Sunday. It was a very scary thing, but I want to tell you why it was important and, really, a God-send when that work was being done.

The lady opposite my home had one of the old connections that ran from the main right up to her house, and it was leaking under there for some time. It was not leaking up to the surface, but it was discovered when the

trench was being dug. It was a miracle that the situation was discovered because of what was taking place, because the truth is that I had just built my house and it was a serious thing. This thing was collapsing all the time, but of course, all is well that ends well. The Barbados Water Authority responded. They never responded until Sunday, which was about 48 hours after, and about eight different people came and only two did the job. One went down, changed the connection, and the other one stood up top, but everybody else was gathering around. It was a Sunday so you know what the cost factor was, but that was one of the things that occurred and I do not know what would have happened in another month, two months or three months. With big trucks passing through the place and so on, it was a recipe for disaster; so I really have to speak on behalf of the residents, and more so, since that incident occurred in front of my home, I am indeed grateful for the programme.

Unfortunately, because of circumstances to which Senator Todd referred, a lot of the other areas throughout Barbados could not have got that attention. The Greenfields, which I grew up next to, Halls Road and surrounding areas unfortunately could not have received that attention because of, I repeat, the circumstances regarding the funding which Senator Todd has spoken about. I just want to express my gratitude for what had taken place. It took a long time for that area which I live in to have received the attention which it did, but I wish to say, Mr. Deputy President, I am indeed grateful for the installation of natural gas and, of course, to be attached to the sewage system. Mr. Deputy President, once again I express my gratitude, and for the persons in my area to be part of the programme. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. E.R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.30 p.m.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 5.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and His Honour the DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator Todd.

Senator P. TODD: Mr. Deputy President, thank you very much. Sir, as I rise to very quickly wrap up debate on this Resolution I would just wish to thank Senator Hunte for his interventions and his support for this project and just very quickly in alluding to Senator Hunte's intervention to illustrate another aspect of challenges that would arise. Sir, I promise to be no more than three minutes. For example, although a Project Implementation

Team had been put in place, additional human resources still had to be secured in terms of, for example, consultation engineers to deal with the road works. Sir, as I have said, other support staff had to be recruited and the process involved in advertising and then finally recruiting these persons again took time. These are conditionalities that if they had been met before we assumed office then it would have been less time utilised and, therefore, we would have had a longer time window to draw down funds, Mr. Deputy President.

Sir, we also had to liaise with the technical staff at the Ministry of Transport and Works to ensure that best practices were obtained in terms of the proper construction of the roads in terms of drainage and paving and so on and so forth. Sir, these are technical issues that more of these conditionalities precedent met before the signing of the loan agreement the greater the likelihood of a greater drawdown of funds as the project rolls out.

Mr. Deputy President, without further ado, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP 235 THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC OF A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.51894 HECTARES WHICH IS 58.11 ACRES TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING THEREON SITUATE AT SAM LORD'S CASTLE, LONG BAY IN THE PARISH OF ST. PHILIP IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF HOUSING AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO BEACH ACCESS.

Senator the Hon. E. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Deputy President, what we have evening is the final matter for the day, the vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc of this parcel of land, 58.11 acres at Sam Lord's Castle. Sir, you may recall that this land was before the Senate before with the compulsory acquisition of this land last year and now it is a matter of the vesting of this land in Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. Sir, Barbados Tourism Investment Inc is responsible for the development of this property as we have discussed. Madam, I will just spend a few minute just recapping since we have had this discussion as recently as last year, many of the facts have not changed. Madam Deputy Speaker, just as a quick reminder, this is the Sam Lord's property that everyone is familiar with, that property that has been defunct for many years and we are now proposing to have it redeveloped as a Wyndham Grand Property. Sir, you may recall that when we were

here, we discussed in great deal that this property would be family resort and the benefits that would accrue, especially to the St. Philip community.

Mr. Deputy President, the land that is being vested is for tourism development as well as housing development and beach access. Of course, there has to be beach access as we would all anticipate. This property is what is going to be a select service property which means that some services would be available on the site but it is anticipated that visitors would want to come out in order to source entertainment, food and that kind of thing, so we anticipate that not just Bridgetown and the south coast would benefit in terms of restaurants but because of this, we would see greater activity in that St. Philip area as well as new opportunities for businesses to develop therefrom.

Mr. Deputy President, the numbers of the property has not changed since we spoke last. It is expected that during the construction period there would be some 12 000 construction jobs created. Of course, the work is being done by

The funding is secured from the EXIM Bank of China and the Chinese company, the China National Complete Plant Import and Export Corporation, is going to be responsible for the actual construction. They are going to be doing the construction and we have agreed that 40 per cent of the workers would be sourced locally, so we expect to see an improvement in the employment figures, especially in those areas.

Mr. Deputy President, while our unemployment figures have dipped a little bit, we are told by the Central Bank of Barbados that for 2014, unemployment was at 12.3 per cent, and that for 2015, unemployment stood at 11.3 per cent. We have seen a slight dip but we need projects like this to be able to pick up. There are number of projects in the pipeline including hotel projects. We know that there is the Hyatt Hotel as well and that Sandals is doing some extensions and then there are other projects as well in other areas and so once these start to pick up, we would anticipate that we would see an even greater decline in the unemployment numbers.

Mr. Deputy President, 40 per cent of the 1 200 workers, we anticipate would be sourced locally in this project, and then once it begins, it is expected that the Sam Lord's Wyndham will actually expect to have 900 jobs in the direct operations of the facility. Madam, of course, you would expect some spinoffs as well in the tourism and other sales and services areas. We expect at least another 2 000 jobs to be created. Mr. Deputy President, all in all, we expect that this is a project that is set to benefit the St. Philip area, it is set to benefit our tourism numbers and it is certainly set to benefit all of us eventually as we see the employment and as we see the economy grow through it.

Mr. Deputy President, tourism continues to be the biggest contributor to our GDP.

Sequence 28

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Senate C 28 Seq 29 5.44 p.m.

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: ... see the economy grow through it.

Tourism, of course, continues to be the biggest contributor to our GDP and we are told that they economy for this year, again quoting the latest release from the Central Bank of Barbados, for the first quarter of this year, our economy grew by 1.7 per cent and long stay arrivals increased by 7 per cent and continued improvements were seen from the US and the UK market with the US market being up by 13 per cent and the UK market up by almost 10 per cent. Tourism, as I said, continues to be a major contributor and the Central Bank of Barbados again forecasted that we would see a 1.6 per cent growth in tourism and that the summer airlift is expected to increase. We have a forecast of a summer air-lift increasing by 4.5 per cent. We know that there are a number of things that we expect to see happening on the calendar that will provide that important fillet to our tourism numbers.

We expect that Crop Over this year is going to be big and then this year is the third instalment of the Network Consultation otherwise known as the Diaspora Conference so that is coming off in August. We are told reliably by the airlines that they have seen a significant uptake of seats, in fact, it is quite difficult now. If you are looking for a seat to come home in the summer for Crop Over you would probably be scrambling by now because there has been, pretty much, a rush on tickets to Barbados so Barbados is very much in demand.

Of course, this being our 50th Anniversary of Independence, a number of things are planned and we know that members of the Diaspora are planning to come home for the Diaspora Conference but many of them are coming home or returning a second time this year for the independence activities which will all culminate in November of this year. I think those will also add to the numbers and would help us to see a boast in the numbers. Of course, we continue to see events like the Reggae Festival and the Jazz Festival that we have had and we have the Gospelfest now that is also bringing people in so we are expecting to see these events continue to grow and to provide an improvement to the numbers.

As I said, Mr. Deputy President, there is not much else that has changed here. We do know that because of the significant benefits that would accrue that this is a project

that the Government of Barbados supports. We even had a situation whereby the National Insurance that had given a loan to the BTI, Mr. Deputy President, you would remember, they had given a loan to the BTI and then had deferred a payment of that loan and actually refinanced that particular loan in order that moneys could be diverted to keep this project on tract. When you call numbers like the numbers I have called 1 200 in construction and a project that is expected to bring in large numbers of people into Barbados, not only is this project is expected to cost \$200 million but it is a five diamond property and the properties contribution to our economy is expected to be approximately US\$61 million so that is nothing to sneeze at so when BTI said that they wanted to divert some money into the Sam Lord's Castle project at this point so that they can get it off the ground, the National Insurance had no problem, and with BTI having been a good client up to that point, they said alright we will refinance and they were able to refinance in such a way that BTI is back on track with National Insurance and this project is back on track as well.

We are eagerly anticipating the start of this project and more than that, we are eagerly anticipating the completion of this project and all the benefits that we expect to accrue. I know the people of St. Philip are going to see a lot of benefits, they are going to be excited and we expect to see some entrepreneurial activity coming up in that area. We anticipate that we would see restaurants, shops and crafts and all kinds of things on sale and folks would see more tourists traversing the area coming out to see what is going on. As it is a family property too, we anticipate that this would create some products in the family tourism area, products that are appealing to the entire family and we have identified that is one of the areas in which there is significant room for development. We have developed our heritage tourism, we have our culture, we have beautiful scenery folks can see and we have museums and things like that but we need some other activities that are particularly appealing to the family especially the young people so we anticipate that as this project develops, we would see projects coming up alongside it that would be very appealing for the family and in particular for the young people.

As I said, Mr. Deputy President, nothing else has really changed in regards to the project, we are just looking to get it on stream. Financing, of course, at this time is not the easiest thing to come by but the EXIM Bank of China have continued to work with us so that we are, pretty much, assured that this project will be able to get going. For that we are grateful because as I said in this environment it is not the easiest thing to be able to secure money. The project as I said cost \$200 million and the EXIM Bank of China has agreed to \$170 million, the remaining \$30 million the BTI will inject. The hotel will actually be branded Sam Lord's Castle, a Wyndham Grand Resort.

Good things are on the horizon for us and so with that, Mr. Deputy President, I support this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Ince.

Senator J. INCE: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the Resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber. It is a Resolution that seeks the vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTI) a parcel of land at Sam Lord's Castle, 58.11 acres and the purpose of for tourism development.

Mr. Deputy President, it underlines what this Administration as far as creating a tourism product that not only would be acceptable to Barbadians but also a quality product for those who are in the international tourism industry. As you would recall, Mr. Deputy President, that tourism plays a critical role in the economy of Barbados. When we look at those critical variables we know tourism is number 1, we look at international business, we also look at direct foreign investment but I have always said that tourism is not only the capital plant but tourism is people. You can have the best plant or the best infrastructure in the world and you do not have the requisite service, that high quality service or persons who understand clearly what it is to be polite, mannerly, to say yes, I thank you, and to serve lunches and dinners on time, and also to have a room standard that is unbelievable to the eye of the visitor, then you have done nothing. I am confident that this Sam Lord's Castle property as described by my colleague, Senator Byer-Suckoo, that it is going to be world class. Why I speak of looking forward to Sam Lord's Castle as a complete product is because I was married there. It was lovely and at that time it was the Sam Lord's Castle and I have some fond memories of what it was like having my wedding at Sam Lord's Castle and then spending a nice weekend in luxury. I want to make the point that whenever the tourism numbers decline a country has problems because tourism is critical to Barbados.. Even back in 1981 when there was a tremendous decline in tourism numbers by 7.9 per cent, the Barbados Labour Party was in office and J. M. G. M. Adams was the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance at the time, the country had a fiscal deficit of \$87.9 million, 5.5 per cent of GDP. There are those who would like want us to believe, I have always said it, that you drive into St. Lucy and pick tourists like picking limes, you get them off of a tree somewhere.

Mr. Deputy President, I have said it over and over again that tourism is derivative economics. There are those who would say to you that there is no such thing as derivative economics. A derivative has no asset base, it is something that can change overnight, that is why I say that our critical areas in this country are driven by derivative economics. International business is a derivative, it can change overnight because of laws. Tourism is a derivative. It means it is not driven, it does not have an asset base and

the value is attached to a decision by an individual, so if an individual or a group of individuals decide that they are not going to come to Barbados, the revenue lost is as a result of that action, not as a result of productivity, so when I talk about derivative economics that is what I am talking about.

At the end of the day when we talk about diversifying the industry and having tourism not as a seasonal entity but yearly, that is what this Administration is all about. Mr. Deputy President, I always say to the people of Barbados that I would like to see we have a place in Barbados, I call it Barbadiana, where you could go and get all Barbados foods and drinks because I am of the opinion that sometimes when an individual leaves Europe or the USA and come to Barbados having that experience... I know that vodka is a dime a dozen in those places and they have whiskey and I believe when they come to Barbados they would want to have pickled breadfruit, green banana cou cou or yam cou cou with some steamed fish, that is Barbadian. I believe that when they get up in the morning they would want to have a cassava bake, a corned meal dumpling or a good soup. That is the Barbadiana I am talking about.

I know that we look to produce all the sugar that we want but sometimes it is sad that the sugar crop is in and when you go to a restaurant you cannot get a glass of cane juice. Sometimes it is even difficult to get a glass of coconut water, and if you ask for lemonade, they tell you it is the mixed powder and Barbados have lime trees all over the place. Lemonade, mauby, soursop punch and coconut punch are the things that should be on our menu. These are the things when you come to Barbados that you would want.

I say to the Barbados Tourism Authority that there is nothing wrong in people coming to Barbados to experience what is the Barbadian experience. They should be able to go to a place where they could have some roast breadfruit and then after that, as I said, get a glass of mauby or something, or get some pulp eddoes with steamed fish.

I am saying that when we talk about diversifying the tourism sector, let us talk about not only diversifying with a building but also diversifying with what I term food because you could have all of the training in the world, all of the people and all of these things but at the end of the day... I am confident that when a family or an individual visits another country on a vacation, they come for the experience, what is it that would cause an individual wanting to go back to Barbados. People asked why it is that people flock to Moon Town and Oistins, it is because of the Barbadian experience. People want to know why thousands of people including tourists are in Oistins every Thursday, Friday and Saturday and now the numbers are increasing on Sunday nights. All of that is because of the Barbadian experience, so let us look at our tourism product, as I said,

driven by this Barbadian experience where we could go and sightsee the various places of interest that we need to manage.

I believe that we should look at having the mini-mokes again. I think that the absence of mini-mokes in Barbados was a disadvantage to our tourism sector. I know we like the four-wheel drives and everything but some of these small little things make a difference. Nowadays you see many tourists riding around on bicycles and there is also an increase now in motorcycles, what we call the little mobilets. More and more tourists are riding the small bikes and they are even riding in groups. When you go through the country you see them riding in groups. They are doing this because they want the Barbados experience, so there are some things that we need to enhance for when persons come to Barbados.

I believe that we can also look at the idea of having horse-drawn carts carrying the tourists around Bridgetown. What is wrong with that? Somebody would say the traffic but let us look at having that experience. Sometimes a person does not always want to jump into a taxi from the Port and come to Broad Street. They may want the Barbadian experience where they are driven in a horse-drawn cart where they pay maybe US\$2 or whatever to go into Broad Street and shop and do and what they want to do, get back into the horse-drawn cart and go on their way back to the Port. These are some of the things that we can examine as having Barbados as the place to be.

I have always said that Barbados is heaven. I have said over and over that when you live in this country that I love... We have some challenges with crime but Barbados, as I say, is part of heaven. We have very nice people living in Barbados and our environment is quiet. When you speak to persons coming through the Airport, even persons who are here in Barbados for a long time, they would say to you they love Barbados because it is quiet and they would say to you please maintain that quiet feature about Barbados. That is what makes Barbados so good, that is what makes it so great and that is why I love this country. There is no place else for me to go and we have to keep Barbados as is.

Tourism would always be with us so it is important. You would hear persons say that we must look for some alternatives, but you would diversify. For tourism, what do we have? We have our people. We do not have gold, silver, barley, wheat or oil. What we have is our people. What makes Barbados so great is that we have quality persons living among us. You do not worry about the differences in opinion, that is expected because any morning you get up and everybody agrees with you something is wrong. We would have differences of opinion but at the same time we have a country that is beautiful and we have people that are hard-working.

I have said over and over again that the two things that have built Barbados into what it is as the envy of the Caribbean is hard work, and we have built this country on hard work, and debt. We did not have anything but we had quality persons and solid political parties, never mind the differences. I have always said that we have been blessed with good leaders both from the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party, that is gospel.

The thing about it is that all of our leaders have paid special attention to the tourism industry. What we are doing, Mr. Deputy President, is ensuring that there is a future for persons after we have departed to the Great Beyond. That is why I said that Barbados is blessed. We have been blessed with quality persons, quality political parties despite the differences, and our people are lovely and nice. The infrastructure, despite the need for some road repairs, is solid, and we have a tourism plant that is next to none when compared with other countries. With those few words, I am obliged, Mr. Deputy President.

Senator Rev. Dr. D.L. DURANT: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I too would like to just give brief comments in support of this Resolution, rather than just the “aye”. They “aye” will have it but I want to say that tourism in Barbados is a very dynamic and complex stream or platform, and it is important that every Barbadian understands this, and make sure that we do our best to safeguard it. Every aspect of our lives, both personal and corporate, are interdependent and will be easily affected by the performance of our tourism industry. If it performs well, everybody will be happy. If it is not performing well, it can affect all of us.

It is important when I see an initiative like this, and I will not hesitate to give my full support to whatever is being done to broaden, to enlarge, to expand, to develop and to enhance our tourism. We are import-driven economy and a lot of what we pay has to be paid in foreign exchange, therefore we need every avenue or stream that can bring in foreign exchange to help pay our foreign bills. Therefore, the success or failure of our tourism industry will definitely affect all of us as citizens, so it is important that we really work together to make sure this continues to grow and be a buoyant reality. As a matter of fact, since our tourism provides the main source of foreign exchange, a high level of employment is also created by it and a lot of businesses are being enhanced. It is important that that level of togetherness, cooperation and commitment be shown in the development of this.

This land being vested for housing and tourism development really is sitting in the right place in my heart, and I would wish to see this massive 450-room Wyndham Resort Hotel tomorrow, but I know of course that it will take time. The scheduled opening time is 2018, and I know that it will really do a lot for our island. Right now, the

market is on an upward trajectory and our bookings for the foreseeable future look very good. I think we have five main markets out there: the United States, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean. I think those are the five major ones which we have. I think we can safely look to South America to maybe join that lot; Brazil mainly, as well as China. There are quite a number of billionaires and millionaires in China, and maybe they can come on board, as well as Panama. Maybe they are exploiting the opportunities in those areas, so if they can come on board with our five major tourist markets as well, then we would be much stronger within the foreseeable future. There is therefore a need, in light of the upward trajectory, for many more rooms in our island to be added to our present capacity. The construction of this new facility, the Wyndham at Sam Lord's, will really be of great benefit to people of that area of St. Philip, the community and its environs. I believe people will really be encouraged with a five-star, million-dollar facility like that right under their noses, and I think it can only open up the frontier for a lot more businesses to be enhanced.

The island is attracting just about half-million land-based tourists per year, and about 580 000 cruise passengers to its shores each year as well. This is good for economic activity as well as employment generation. Mr. Deputy President, we must therefore do all in our power to safeguard this fragile tourism product, hence the call for us to condemn acts of violence in our small society, guns, the use of drugs, and all forms of illegal activity. I think it is important that we open our mouths and speak out vociferously against these things in order to help safeguard Barbados and cause Barbados to remain a safe destination. May Barbados remain a clean and safe environment, and a preferred place for vacationers. People have a lot of choices to make, especially in this part of the Hemisphere, and we would like Barbados to be a preferred place for them. Barbados right now is trying to position itself as a chief vacation destination in the Caribbean, and that is why I am really delighted with this new project being undertaken there in St. Philip. This luxurious, state-of-the-art, 450-room hotel will offer our guests the scenic beauty of the East Coast. Right now, our West Coast is well known, as well as the South Coast, but here we are reopening and highlighting the East Coast, which is very good. It is very scenic and very windy, with nice, long eastern beaches as well as access to our unique 19th Century buccaneering history. You are merging all of that with luxury and various delicacies and dishes. Three or four main restaurants will be in this new resort. All of that, I think, will attract tourists and will give people more options as they travel to Barbados. We are looking, of course, to see this area of tourism built up much more strongly.

As I said, it is an important sector in our society, providing one out of ten jobs, it is said. The Government therefore will always continue to support any initiative to

enhance, strengthen, expand and enlarge our tourism product. The opening of this new Wyndham luxurious resort will bring, upon completion, about 1 000 jobs; between 900 and 1 000 jobs, I think Senator Byer-Suckoo said earlier. That is quite good, because that will create a lot of economic activity. Also in the community and environs, activity will be enhanced. It is also expected to generate approximately 2 000 additional jobs in other sectors of the economy; not only in the community and its environs but also in other sectors of the economy. Foreign exchange earnings to be made by the property is estimated to be about US\$61 000, as we heard earlier, and direct contribution to Gross Domestic Product is about US\$35 million.

Madam President, also I think direct contribution to GDP is about US\$35 million, so I see this project as very good for Barbados at this point in time as we are seeking to develop our tourism and this will definitely have my full support. This is eagerly being anticipated and it will be a great thing for people in the neighbourhood and businesses in the community around to have more opportunity for expansion and development. I think that one shop owner already has voiced his delight in saying that he knows his place would be able to generate a lot of business and he is anticipating it. Also, taxi drivers will have a field day because they have new horizons now to explore, residents may become entrepreneurs as well and farmers in that area would have a bigger place now for their produce because of this multi-million dollar resort so the opportunities are endless.

Madam President, the miles of beautiful beaches on the east lends itself to deep sea fishing, also coastal snorkeling, diving expeditions, golf, lawn tennis and surfing. I envision a hive of recreational activity on the windy scenic east coast when this is open. I live in that area and I enjoy the wind. We get the wind first and then the rest comes down here to St. Michael. I believe that the guest come and enjoy the scenic, windy atmosphere that it would be good for their health and I believe that the word will spread that there is a sota hotel now in Barbados under the Wyndham Resort chain and many more tourists will be attracted to it.

Madam President, finally tourism in Barbados happens to be the life blood of this nation and of our economy and I am seeing this in the foreseeable future. Madam, as such if it is for the foreseeable future then it means, as I have said in the beginning all hands need to be on deck so that we can together work to see it protected and to see that it remains confidence, that it is served with excellence, and that shoddy services will be a thing of the past, and as was said earlier Senator Ince, our people are very hospitable and a lot of them are well-trained. Madam, even as Barbadians and we go for a staycation in one our hotels here we are treated very well by our own people, we

feel as if we are tourists. I think they have good attitudes and good public relations and I want to commend the hotels for doing a very good job in training their people. Madam, with that level of commitment and cooperation by all of us, the international business sector can be further enhanced once this area of tourism is doing well. If it is not doing well that area can be compromised but once these things are doing well that area can be enhanced, the wider business sector will also be enhanced and we will have enough foreign exchange to conduct their business with the international partners and the social fabric of our society will be strengthen rather than be torn to shreds.

Madam President, in addition, I am looking forward, eagerly awaiting the re construction and expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport with its air bridges and so forth to follow as well as the Pier Head Marina Project here in Bridgetown. I hope those things will follow. I will say, let the projects roll and may God continue to bless Barbados.

Madam President, I thank you.

Senator A.A. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy President, I am elated to speak on this Resolution. I must say that Senator Ince rekindled some pleasant memories in my mind as well about St. Lord's Castle. I was not married there but a friend of mine was actually married there, so I too experience the ambience of the Castle. There are two other things (1) a good friend of mine and a former colleague from Coleridge Parry, Mr. Carlisle Alleyne, was the Executive Chef at Sam's Lord and so I can attest to the delicacies served there. He was not just an ordinary chef, he actually worked previously at the Waldorf in New York and other parts of the United States of America but that local personnel was very important. Sir, at one point, another local flavor about Sam's Lord was that the father of two students at Coleridge and Parry School was also the owner of Sam's Lords Castle and as a result there was a close relationship between the Castle and the school although they were far apart. Therefore, I am very happy to see and to know that Sam's Lords Castle is being rebuilt and that this Resolution is here to facilitate the building of Sam's Lords Castle.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to mention that I hope that the façade in the reconstruction, that at least the façade of the old Castle would be incorporated in the new structure. I think that historically and culturally that would be very important. I have not heard and I am not aware that has happen but I do hope so but if it has not been done, it may be too late now but it is certainly something to consider. Sir, that property has a lot of folklore and so on in the memories of Barbadians of a certain age, so we hope some of that can be replicated.

Mr. Deputy President, I want to mention a few other things that I hope ought to come to fruition in this

development. Sir, one is that there is a great opportunity to ensure that this property is 100 per cent, that it is, starting from scratch and therefore given the thrust and the fact that the major economic thrust of the Government is in the area of the green economy that there is really a pressing need that a project of this nature should look towards being marketed as a green tourism destination. Sir, we are talking about photovoltaic and I am sure that would be there. Sir, apart from that, we are talking about using green energy in the area of the treatment of waste water and sewerage. Sir, that is not far-fetched. Indeed, on the west coast in St. Peter, Port St. Charles already is doing that.

When I was the Principal of the Coleridge and Parry School I opened a document as soon as I sat in the chair only to find that document was about an agreement between that property on the coast and the school, well the Government and the Board of Management of the School for wells to be dug on the school premises where the sewerage and the waste water from the Hotel came up to the property and then after treatment was then, probably by osmosis, and used by the Hotel for all manner of things, I believe, except drinking. In fact, I was told by the manager, Mr. Herbert, that it so developed that it was at the stage just below where the water could be used for drinking therefore I am making this appeal that a project of that nature should also be done there. In the area of water shortage which we are in the middle of and in the midst of I have no doubt that the harvesting of water should also be a great concern in this project tens of thousands of gallons of water, I am sure, can be harvested there to be used by the hotel and therefore it should not suffer in the way that some properties are suffering now in some parts of the island.

In relation to agriculture there should be a meaningful linkage between the hotel and the plantations and small holders in that area but here an extremely good idea for organic farmers for the hotel to work with them to have organic farming so that the local products, which have already been mentioned, would be bought from the local farmers and delivered to the hotel. For the most part, the vegetables, the potatoes, the yams and all the other things that would come from the ground would, in fact, be organic and the use of pesticides and things of that nature would be to a minimum. I am sure that is something that we would all be happy to see and it would catch on across the island and Barbados would therefore be marketed, not just from the notion of a green hotel, but as a green destination in relation to tourism. I thought I would mention that.

Madam President, even when it comes to vehicles, again the fossil fuels and the eternal combustion engines that we now use, those are what you call sunset activities. In the future, they are on their way out and as we move toward the 50th anniversary of independence we should be looking to the future. Any transportation or any vehicles used and bought by that hotel should be hybrids or they

should be looking toward the new methods of fuelling the vehicles such as hydrogen-based fuels therefore we would hope that would also be done.

Moving back to the area of agriculture, I do not think that at this stage of our development we should be importing large quantities of lamb from New Zealand. I personally do not all together like the New Zealand lamb and I believe that we should move toward going back to the area where persons, even local people, not just plantations, to the stage where people would know that they can keep stocks like black belly sheep and goats. There was a time when in Barbados, around the 1940s and 1950s, had 15 000 heads of stocks across this island. This was in the time when people use to engage pigs and sheep when they were going to kill them and so on. Before they actually killed them you made sure that you had people who were going to buy it so they engaged the meat and then they would kill it.

Asides.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Yes, that is a fact. You used to engage meat and in this case, you would not only be engaging the meat locally but with the hotels, it would be more in bulk. We have in Barbados some proper pork.

I was hospitalised at one point and next to me was a gentleman who worked with Hanschell Inniss and I was effusive in my praise about the fact that we have the very best ham anywhere in the world, that is my opinion, and that it is local. I was very surprised when he said to me that a substantial amount of the legs are actually imported from Canada. I believe that we should be at a stage where all of our pork, the real proper pork, should be from Barbados and that we would reach the stage where neither our supermarkets nor our hotels would have to depend on that. I would want to see movement in that direction.

We have a situation where the curry goat, as you know that it is very expensive because there are very few goats in the island. I just want to make this point though, on my way to primary school -- I think after you went to secondary school you did not want anybody to see you with the sheep and so on, well some people did not -- I walked and tied out anywhere between 8 to 10 goats. My father did not like sheep and actually on my way from school, I would untie them and bring them home. In fact, my father and I got away because I was playing some cricket and I rushed home at dusk thinking that he had taken them home, after not seeing me. I had to be sent back into the woods to get the goats, but the point is that you had local businessmen in Barbados that were not, in a way, recognised as local businessmen. These were the ways that people got an income so we want to get back to this stage where persons doing that from the point of view of families but in this day and age, I believe that we should have windows of funding so that small business people would be

able to go and borrow funds and get into that kind of business so long as there is an assured market. It was done before and I believe it ought to be done again.

The agricultural stations, Bullen and Jerusalem and so on were of tremendous help to local farmers in those days and that is how people got their children to secondary schools and so on. It is not altogether true that you could not go to secondary school, at least not in the north. People made the sacrifice and they kept the pigs, goats and so on and they sent the children to the secondary schools and were able to pay the fees, very often after the pig was sold or the goat was killed and things of that nature so this is an opportune time for the country to move back and get back into those areas of a level of self-sufficiency and not to be importing \$800 million, almost \$1 billion dollars in food or whatever it is.

In the area of culture, we also have the cultural Act. We spoke about that at great length in this Chamber. I myself have spoken a lot about it and I believe that now that the Act has been passed and, I believe, proclaimed we should be looking to see how it is applied and what are the benefits from it. The east of the island is a cultural area of Barbados and this hotel should be working closely in conjunction with... In fact, concessionaires, particularly from St. Philip with all of the calypsonians and other medium and so on that we have from that area, should be working with the hotel to supply the cultural aspect, but it should not only be the confined to calypsoes because there are a variety of cultural exponents in this country.

There was a time, when I first came back to Barbados, when Club Naliki and places like those were places that you could go even during the week and we really have to get back to that. If you could start it in St. Philip, it will come down to Bridgetown which is relatively dead. You do not find any places to go in the area, so culture has to be seen as an important economic activity.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Adams.

Senator A. A. ADAMS: Thank you again, Madam President. Coming back to the area of culture, I believe that our hotels, particularly this modern hotel that is being built, should also have a convention centre of some reasonable size because there is business out there for that kind of activity. I think that the credit unions here in Barbados are going to Orlando in July. They went to Panama and also to The Bahamas. One of the reasons why that is so is because we do not have the capacity here in Barbados to cater to that type of business. It is big business and therefore we need to look at that. Even if we have to two centres, we need to be able to tap into that level of economic activity

and along with the cultural activities about which we are speaking we would be able to do very well and to compete with places like The Bahamas and other far-flung places whereby that should be done.

With the convention centre, it is important, I believe, for it be purpose-built so that it is not use only for the large conventions, but can be something like the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, where it can be multipurpose and so it can serve a lot of usage in that area. We have a situation there where this new facility would be able to have that level of convention centre.

I also feel, and we were speaking about foreign language before, I think I mentioned it before, that we should not have key persons in the hotel industry, particularly the receptionist and so on, who only know English. Efforts should be made, and I know what I am speaking about, to ensure that key personnel are trained in foreign languages. The present General Manager at CBC would attest to the fact that in the north of the island at the school where I was the Principal we had a very close relationship with the hotels in the area and when we established the Language Lab one of the first things we did was to meet with them and offered and agreed to foreign language courses being conducted at the school for personnel from about half dozen of the hotels in the St. Peter area. We did French, German and Spanish but in this day and age we would want to see Mandarin and Portuguese included. It is very important that if we are looking to diversify the tourists that are coming to this country that we look to non-traditional areas and in that regard one would have to look at the Latin American countries and the French Islands. That is a place where we in terms of education have a lot of tours. We had a relationship where every single year we went down to Guadeloupe and Guadeloupe students came to Barbados and actually stayed at the school. Those are the kinds of things that we would like to see happening in this country, but it depends a lot on the ability of our people, particularly our young people and certainly people who are in managerial positions and other key positions, to be able to speak in foreign language and get away from the fact that we feel that English is the only language on the planet. I think that is something that we ought to be aware of and so I thought that those would be the areas that I would want to highlight and bring to bear because they are all ideas that are implementable, they are not pie-in-the-sky and if we put our minds to them we could see that with some efforts... Yes, funding may be needed in some areas but you should take a certain amount of risk particularly when you are virtually assured about the profits that would come in the end.

Since tourism is our number one industry, it is everybody's business and whenever a new tourist hotel is being built we should always want to see what is in it for

the local people in the area. It is very important in my opinion. This move towards the resuscitation and the rebuilding of Sam Lord's Castle is a very, very important one. As I mentioned, we ought not to just look at investing the money in large projects such as this which is extremely important but we should also be looking at investing in the kindred industries, the small industries, that will be linking and supporting the hotels and therefore we would like to see going hand in hand with the building of the hotel things that I spoke about: Number 1, agriculture; Number 2, the cultural industries, and number 3, alternative energy, and in so doing we are having a level of economic activity that is in fact sustainable. The idea is that we are no longer looking at tourism as a seasonal activity. We want to see it all year round, and in order for that to happen, we have to look in the area of sustainability. As I look at Senator Boyce, I believe that he is thinking about Chalky Mount and the fact that we should not be importing our ceramics and so on from China and those far-flung places, and that those cottage industries should also be incorporated and be part and parcel of the activity in our tourist industry. I thought that those would be the things that I would want to mention, and certainly I am a bit concerned but I did not want to mention it.

I was concerned with the Chinese when I was at the Coleridge and Parry School. I know that we need to maintain this relationship but maybe we need to be more aggressive in our discussions with them. I made the point to the students at the school at the time that I did not believe that that the Chinese who had the contract to refurbish the school ever employed half-dozen Barbadians. They did every single job at the school. In fact, the first thing they did was to ask me if they could live at the school. That was not my call, but nonetheless I said no, so they got a property next door to the school. Every single job conceivable, from the real technical jobs right down to the painting, they actually did. I thought I would just mention this, therefore, that perhaps we could be a little more aggressive in our discussions with them, to make sure that when it comes to the labour side of it, perhaps there could be a bit of a reversal; rather than 60-40 in their favour, maybe 60-40 in our favour. Outside of that, however, I think that this is a project that is really worth supporting, and I wholeheartedly support it, Madam President.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator DePeiza, you have the Floor.

Senator Ms. V.A.G. DePeiza: I am grateful, Madam President. I do not intend to trouble you for an overly long time in relation to a matter that I do believe is in the best interests of this country. We are speaking about a property, I believe 57 acres, that was abandoned in 2003 under the last Administration and destroyed by fire in 2010, but efforts were underway at all times to secure this property

within our tourism plant, understanding its importance not only in terms of location but in terms of size and its history to the product that Barbados has to offer. The estimated date for completion is 2018, and if the media is to be believed, the residents of Long Bay and the surrounding areas simply cannot wait. They recall fondly a time when Sam Lord's Castle was the hub of economic activity and the source of their prosperity. They speak of being able to construct houses and educate children, an opportunity that they have been bereft of for over ten years.

The Sam Lord's Castle project is part of an overall outreach by this Administration to noted quality international brands. This is something that has been missing from our tourism product for years. I know there was tremendous conversation and upheaval when Sandals was coming to Barbados, and concerns about how much was being invested in terms of the concessions being given, without, of course, any consideration for that economic principle called "lost leaders", where you give something to get back more. I do believe that in the short space of time that Sandals has been in Barbados, we are already recognising the benefits of our turn toward brands that essentially sell themselves. They start by having a recognised name, they continue by having members' clubs, persons who will go to destinations only if they can stay at a particular type of hotel, and with Sandals and Wyndham in Barbados, please understand the markets that we corner. Sandals markets itself toward couples, but Wyndham is a family resort, so we have different types of tourists who are being attracted to Barbados as a result of this investment. The marketing has begun. Already on Wyndham's international website, they have announced the opening of this hotel in 2018, so please expect bookings well in advance. Travel sites have also announced the arrival of Wyndham in Barbados, so even those persons who are not Wyndham reward members will have the opportunity to come to Barbados and stay at a Wyndham site.

All of this is due to having a plan for our tourism. It is no longer a willy-nilly development in the hope that people will come, but targeted tourism to ensure that our product maintains its quality and appeal to tourists. It is a five-diamond property which will have villas attached, so we are already aware of the type of clientele that will be facing Barbados' shores. Sandy Lane on the West Coast, Sam Lord's Castle on the East Coast, and the world is their oyster in between. Consistent as well with our policy most clearly enunciated by one of our calypsonians, whose name I do not have permission to mention but who will immediately be identified when I say, "dah beach is mine," there will be public access to the extremely popular beach at Sam Lord's Castle. That is an absolutely important component of any development that we have along our coasts, because our beaches are precious to our people, and access to them must never be impeded. I am satisfied that the regeneration of the local economy is about to take off

with this development; not only in terms of persons involved in the construction industry who will benefit either as subcontractors or as workers in their own right in the construction, or whether it is the produce providers or the taxi drivers, or the owner of Hot Spot Bar who is anxiously anticipating the kinds of crowds in his establishment that he was accustomed to. Madam, this is all part of the regeneration of an entire area, not just the 57 acres on which the hotel will be sited but its environs will benefit tremendously.

Madam President, I do not live in St. Philip. I do not come from St. Philip but I am excited at the prospect of Barbados benefitting from this development. It is prime real estate and we need to exploit to ensure that it works in the best interest of the people of Barbados.

Madam President, also I wish to allay the fears of Senator Adams and invite him to do as I did and visit the Wyndham's website. They are already indicating that they are environmentally-friendly technologies that they intend to implement in this hotel to use as a pilot project for the rest of their hotels in the region first and then internationally, so Barbados will be at the forefront of their own development plans, not just in terms of having a hotel here but using that hotel in order to improve the product that the offer generally on the international market. Madam, I would be shocked if anyone is bold enough to stand up and oppose this project. I wholeheartedly support this Resolution and I commend it to you and to all of Barbados.

Madam President, I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Watson, you have the Floor.

Senator J. WATSON: Madam President, thank you. The importance of tourism to national development is never in doubt. I believe that whenever we are discussing tourism in here you will get several different ideas or suggestions being put forward. Madam, tourism because of its importance to the economy has to be dealt with very carefully. We have to make sure that nothing is done to damage tourism and the other side of that is that we have to ensure that our returns from tourism is maximized. I believe that we put a lot of effort into our tourism product in more than one way and I think that Barbados should benefit substantially from our investment both in terms of dollars, in terms of brain power to think up ways of maintaining the industry, in terms of ours of work by people who are charged with the responsibility of promoting Barbados. Therefore, when we give the opportunity for tourism owners to develop their product in Barbados, we have to be sure that what we are getting back is worthwhile.

Madam President, I say that because there are too many hotels in Barbados who do not buy local products for their refurbishment and for their interior decoration. There are lots of hotels in Barbados that buy produce from overseas when that same produce is avail locally and therefore I think that we have to persuade those people that they should exercise good behaviour as guest and treat their host with some measure of consideration. Madam, I take Senator's Ince point and it was mentioned in here before. I really believe that every restaurant and every hotel with a restaurant should in fact have a Bajan menu so that even if you do not want to eat Bajan food every day, you have a choice to eat it Monday, Wednesday and Friday and you have the other international cuisine on the other day but at least make that menu available to the guest at your hotel or restaurant.

Madam President, it has been mentioned before and I think that it was mentioned again today that there is no doubt that when the Chinese are building in Barbados that we would like to see a larger amount of Barbadians employed but I understand the aspects of the negotiation that would make us accept that the Chinese must have some labour involved. Madam, last time we debated the Bill concerning this property, I was hoping that even the ratio is 60/40 that even during the construction that efforts be made to reduce that. The reason for that, Madam President, is that even though it is a figure when you are negotiating, when you actually get on site, you may realise that there are a number of minor jobs that can be done by Barbadians that you do not need to import labour for. Therefore, I believe that the during the construction phase that our project manager would be able to see where we can improve the amount of Barbadians working on the site. I think that is desirable by everybody and I believe that the Chinese may even welcome it.

Madam President, there is the question of local materials in the construction phase. I think that we have to ensure that we use as much material that is locally made during the construction phase. I daresay that I believe that the wherever materials for construction are available locally that we should use them in preference to materials that are imported. We have very good wall finishes in Barbados. We have a lot of textured finishes. We have two paint companies that are capable and one must regret the closure of our clay products company, so we do not have clay products but certainly we have some concrete products in terms of concrete blocks and even concrete tiles, so that wherever there is the possibility of local input, we should ensure that.

Madam President, in terms of finishes, I have mentioned this last time when the Hilton was being built, all the manufacturers had the opportunity to show what products are available in Barbados to the interior decorators and, in fact, much of the furnishings in the Hilton were

done by Barbadians and I trust that a method such as that would be used again where the manufacturing of drapes, furniture, cushions, lampshades and all the other things that can be done in Barbados, cupboards, all those things that Barbadians manufacturers would have the opportunity to show what they can do and in fact the designers could even guiding our local manufacturers as to what they want because as I said before if a person is a woodworker all you have to do is design what you want and they could produce it. If a person produces drapes all you have to do is to tell them what you want and they can produce it. I think those are areas that we need to pay attention to during this contract and hope that we get the most out of the project. As I said before, I am glad that the name Sam Lord's is being retained and I would like, I do not remember the exact term that was used when the Resolution was being introduced, whether it is Wyndham Sam Lord's or Sam Lord's Wyndham so I hope that we would have that Sam Lord's well established as part of the name of the project. When I say that, I mean in the signage, in the letterheads, in the advertising material and everything. I believe we can call Sam Lord's a brand but we had a brand in Barbados name Almond which we have lost and it takes a long, long time to develop a brand and I think Almond had actually reached the stage where Almond was a well-known brand and I hope that we will maintain that Sam Lord's brand.

Madam President, another area where our local input should be made is in the staffing of the hotel when it is finished. I have a feeling that there are several Barbadians who have been trained in hotel management at all levels, hotel maintenance, working in hotels from making up beds to managing the hotel itself, to mopping the floor, to be a chef and I have a feeling that we can fill many of those posts with competent people. Almost every hotel I go to these days the chef is a Barbadian, very few have overseas chefs anymore and I think that we should continue that trend. A lot of those chefs are women, which is a good thing, but Barbadians nonetheless.

Access to the beach was mentioned by Senator De Peiza and, Madam President, I know that we have said in Barbados that there should be no private beaches and there should always be access to beaches but if you walk along the west coast, you would understand that access to beaches is not always easy and I think that we have to be careful that even though there is access to the beach that there really is an access to the beach. I would like to believe that the property at Sam Lord's would be as public as it was before. I mentioned in here, I think some time ago, that there are some hotels that you cannot go into. There are a couple of them on the west coast that unless you have an appointment to meet someone on the hotel you cannot go on the property and I did not know that we would reach that stage in Barbados. I believe that I should be able to go into any hotel and sit down at a bar and have a drink or go into the dining room and have dinner or lunch

if I wanted to, that does not obtain on the west coast in some hotels any longer unless you can show that you have a reservation at the hotel or that you have an appointment to meet somebody at the hotel. That, to my mind, is a backward step as far as I am concerned with our tourism product.

Madam President, Sam Lord's was always a wide open property and I think that it will have, based on the brand name that it will have now, good occupancy and I would like to see that local crafts be a feature of Wyndham Sam Lord's or Sam Lord's Wyndham. Apart from having one or two craft shops within the shopping centre, I think there should be room for a craft market very much like there is one at the Harrison's Cave because I think something has to be done about rebuilding the craft industry in Barbados. Madam President, the craft industry in Barbados and it is dying very rapidly. There is very little shelf space for local crafts in Bridgetown and the one or two places where there is shelf space for crafts, a substantial amount of it is imported. There are several people who have been involved in crafts and some of them have passed on and not left any legacy, well they have probably left a legacy but they have left no one to carry on the craft so that craft has died and I think that there are others who are on the way out. Ceramics at Chalky Mount was mentioned just now and you do not get that kind of product in Barbados any longer. There are one or two people in Chalky Mount who produce it but they have no outlets. There is nowhere selling crafts in any meaningful manner in Barbados anymore and I believe that efforts now have to be made to try to rebuild a craft industry because if you are building a tourist industry, Madam President, it is quite normal that a craft industry should naturally follow the development of our tourist industry and that is not happening in Barbados so I think that we need to pay some attention to that.

I mentioned, Madam President, the use of local products, for example, food and beverage in hotels and restaurants. I do not know if it is worthwhile to have legislation or anything like that. I believe that we should have friendly relations with these people so that we can have friendly discussions and explain and point out to them that if you are in Barbados, of all places, you cannot have a rum as your main rum other than a Barbadian rum and that is happening in Barbados. When you are telling me that we are benefiting from having these hotels come to Barbados, yes we are getting larger number of visitors, Madam President and yes we are getting our name advertised in the international market but what we want is our coffers of foreign exchange reserves to be filled. It would only be filled when the proceeds of the rooms being sold and people coming to Barbados and having that money coming back into Barbados. Madam President, I have mentioned that several times. I mentioned it almost every time I talk about tourism and I mentioned it again but I think the time

has come now when we should have a Foreign Exchange Committee in Barbados. We had it a long time ago and I think we had it again. The time when it was done before, it was before we had little or no foreign exchange reserves. We have some foreign exchange reserves now, Madam President, so we need the Foreign Exchange Committee to safeguard those foreign exchange and to build on them and because we have such an increase in the opportunity of earning foreign exchange then it makes the committee even more important. We have a large increase in tourism arrivals on cruise ships and we have a large increase in tourism land-based so we have a lot more visitors coming to Barbados and therefore we should make every effort to gain as much foreign exchange from those visitors coming to Barbados.

We spend large sums of money on the promotion of Barbados. As a matter of fact, I think that the tourist industry is one lucky industry. It is the only industry I know where the Government spends millions of dollars promoting it and the hoteliers and all those tourism people benefit from it, but do not contribute significantly to it. No other industry benefits from that. Government does not do any big promotion for agriculture or for manufacturing. For manufacturing there might be a little overseas tour here and there but there is no large-scale promotion of manufactured products or of agricultural products not even for the international business sector which is a very important sector for our foreign exchange as well. Tourism gets a substantial amount of attention both in terms of human input and in terms of dollars and therefore we must demand back from that industry substantial returns as well.

Madam President, I obviously would want to support this Resolution. I have absolutely no reservations about the development of that site. I think it is a grand site for a substantial tourism development. It is a pity that it lasted this long before it is being revitalised, but better late than never. I am pleased to hear that the Castle would be restored as close as possible to what it was. I am pleased to hear that all of the possible green economy efforts would be made on the site and therefore we would be saving as much as possible in our energy usage.

Madam President, I just want to finish by mentioning something. The last time I spoke on tourism, I believe it was about the Lloyd Erskine Conference Centre, I made a passing comment regarding the creation of a hotel in the area and may have suggested that Ilaro Court is a good site for such a hotel. Madam President, I really want to take it a little past a passing comment and say that I think that Ilaro Court should be made into a convention hotel and that the building itself should be created as a Prime Minister's Museum where may be the National Cultural Foundation or whichever agency can be given the responsibility of creating a museum of all the past Prime Ministers in Barbados, and that would be another attraction

in Barbados in the same way that Sam Lord's Castle would be and then we could use the grounds, which is such a big area, to build the hotel and leave that property there as a Prime Ministers' Museum or the Prime Ministers of Barbados Museum. I am sure that any Prime Minister existing and future would not be concerned about moving into a resident of a similar nature elsewhere.

Madam President, I want to conclude by giving my support to the Resolution. I want to confirm my desire to see as much employment for Barbadians out of the construction phase and the finished phase of this project. I want to be able to see some way of setting up ways where the local craft industry can benefit from this industry, and I want to be able to see as much local products used in the decoration of the property.

Again let me just give my support to this Resolution, and with those words, Madam President, I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Worrell, you have the Floor.

Senator A. R. WORRELL: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support this Resolution for the vesting of land in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the purpose of the construction of the hotel resort at Sam Lord's Castle. This Resolution gives you an opportunity to look at the entire tourism development in Barbados. This project is very necessary. It would help to complement what is already being done in the strategic plan in repositioning the Barbados tourism product.

Madam President, we would have come through a period of time where the tourism numbers were not at what we would have hoped and that was largely because over a number of years there was not much effort put into upgrading and developing the hotel sector within Barbados. There was a period of time where you had more focus on the building of villas and condominiums, and many properties which were hotels would have closed and would have been converted into villas and condominiums.

Madam President, that is not the same product or the same market as a hotel because hotel brands such as Sandals, the Hilton, Royal Pavilion and Sandy Lane would go out there and promote their brand as a way of attracting people to increase their occupancy. With the villas, it is up to the owners of the villas if they choose to sell timeshare or whatever the case might be to promote that. Yes, the villa market does contribute significantly to our tourism product in that it would bring persons of a certain net-worth into the country to support who would prefer the villa type accommodation but we also need to have strong hotel brands within the country which would also help to promote the tourism product, and this is what we are doing

as a Government in terms of making it possible for more hotel brands to be established here in Barbados.

Madam President, it seems like almost so long ago when we were in here debating the need for the Sandals concessions, but those Sandals concessions as they were talked about really did not help Barbados significantly in turning around its development in the tourism industry and shoring up its market share with arrivals in tourism because as a result of that you had the Sandals brand being established here in Barbados which helped to give a boost to the marketing of the tourism product, you had airlines which were able to sell the seat because you sell the seats if people had beds that they could stay in, so you had an expansion of the number of room beds as a result of the inclusion of the Sandals property.

Madam President, you would now have a similar experience happening when this hotel is open in 2018 as a Wyndam Sam Lord's Castle Hotel. I do not have the correct naming of it but I know that the significance of Sam Lord's Castle is in there and it has attracted the Wyndham brand. I believe that this is probably one of the largest investments that this Government has undertaken. The project is over US\$200 million, I believe - and I stand corrected - and is one of the largest investment projects which this country has undertaken singlehandedly in the tourism industry. It will go a tremendously long way, because out of this project you are looking at 450 rooms, and it will not cater mainly to the winter season but to the summer in order to attract families to Barbados; since families normally travel during the summer months. It is doing a number of things, because one of the problems which we had with our tourism sector was its seasonality. Everything must happen in the critical winter season between December and April, and then there is a long lull from May to October-November, but now we are looking to change that dynamic a bit by introducing a brand which will focus on family-oriented vacation travel in the summer months. Barbados will introduce a brand which will help shore up arrivals during that time.

We need to look at tourism as an all-round activity for Barbados, so that workers in the sector do not have to be thinking, "I can be sure of continuous employment from November through to April but I am too sure what is going to happen from May down to October." We need to shift that level of thinking, and we need to have our tourism numbers being up consistently throughout the year by attracting more persons to travel and come to Barbados during the summer. This is one of the things we did when we decided to go after the South American market in terms of Brazil, and now Colombia and Panama. We can now service greater connections into the Latin American market, which can also help to boost our numbers in what would be the summer period.

I therefore want to very much support this Resolution, and I also want to bring some information. When we talk about tourism and the growth that we have been having, we must commend the Minister of Tourism and the team at the Barbados Tourism Marketing Incorporated (BTMI) and the Barbados Tourism Product Authority for the work that they have been doing. Even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV Consultation basically attributed the growth that we have experienced in our economy to the work being done in tourism. I want to quote the IMF briefly: "The economy appears to have turned the corner, with activity picking up. Real GDP grew by 0.8 per cent in 2015 underpinned by a surge in tourism arrivals." People would say that we were not doing anything as a Government, but we were working strategically to bring about that growth by making the necessary changes, and I am glad to see that it was recognised by an external source. Oftentimes what we say in this Chamber is not necessarily believed or people think we are fudging the numbers or making up the statistics, but here we have from the IMF that the economy appears to have turned the corner, with activity picking up, real GDP growth of 0.8 per cent in 2015, and underpinned by a surge in tourism arrivals. It went on to say, "Growth is projected to increase by 2.1 per cent in 2016, reflecting higher private and public investment mainly in refurbishing and expanding the tourism stock."

This Resolution will help to boost that growth, or help us to realise that growth which is being talked about in this IMF Report, so that we can hopefully see GDP growth of 2.1 per cent for 2016. We have already started the first quarter of the year and we have the Central Bank Governor's Report which was released a couple weeks ago for January-March 2016, and which reports that, "Barbados economy has expanded by an estimated 1.7 per cent during the first quarter of the year, thanks to another strong winter season. Longstay arrivals were up seven per cent with continued improvements in the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) markets." Even from the statistics there, you can see that our arrivals were up for the US by 13.1 per cent, the UK by 9.8 per cent, and in some markets by 34.2 per cent; so we have really been out there doing a tremendous job, and the team at the BTMI really needs to be commended. Also, the team at Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated should also be commended for the work which was put in to bring about this Sam Lord's Castle project.

As my colleague would have mentioned, that property was abandoned and gaining no revenue for a number of years. It was closed in 2003, and nothing was happening there. However, Sam Lord's Castle has a reputation; it has historic value, and all of that will go into marketing that property. When we are thinking about tourism, we have to think about the product that comes along with it, the story that you can build to captivate the

minds of persons to get them wanting to be a part of it; and I can see that the whole story of Sam Lord's Castle would be a mystery, a wonder and source of intrigue for all of the children who will be coming to this family resort. It will also present an opportunity for persons in our cultural industry, because you cannot just tell the story of Sam Lord's Castle and its whole pirate folklore, including the hanging of lanterns in trees which caused ships to run aground, but you may also need to have a cast to portray the story in song, dance and dramatic performance at the hotel. This opens up opportunities for our cultural industry, and I am hoping that when this hotel is opened, you will see a rebirth of that hotel nightlife activity where Barbadian dance groups and performers will have an opportunity to showcase their talent right there in the heart of the hotel to visitors and guests.

In relation to Sandals, this hotel has more or less changed the paradigm of the hotel industry and entertainment. I do not know how many of you know that Sandals is probably one of the only hotels in Barbados that actually has deejays on staff who provide entertainment to guests at various activities. We often complain that the hotels do not spend enough money to provide opportunities for local entertainers, but here we have a hotel that does not only have deejays but a whole cadre of local performers who entertain guests on a daily basis; not just at night. Sandals has a whole department devoted to that. We need to have more hotels doing this. This conference facility and then we went down on the Wednesday,

Madam President, they have a whole department that is devoted to that and we need to have more hotels doing that. Madam, I know that many people would say that in the past, in the 80s and 90s, it was a common feature. I am sure that Senator Hunte would know the names of the many bands and the entertainers who could depend on making a living by going to the hotels at night and perform, doing dinner sets and so forth. We need to have a whole lot more of that and this Sam Lord's Castle Project provides that opportunity. Madam, I can say see right now a floral show possibly every single night and you are telling the story in different ways about this whole legend of Sam Lord's Castle and you are getting little snippets of that over the internet as part of the entertainment package to lure you to come to Barbados to experience this fantastic piece of drama, this fantastic piece of music and creativity. Madam, this opens up tremendous opportunities for Barbados because we need to start linking not only tourism but tourism to the other sectors in Barbados as was highlighted also in the very same IMF Report as well where it says, "that we need to take a move forward with a viable and affordable agriculture strategy to strengthen its link with the tourism sector". Madam, not only agriculture but we also need to do it with the cultural industry with the manufacturing industry as well. Madam, I think that all these things will come out when this hotel is open that linkages

would be made with persons within the agricultural sector so that as much of the food as possible has some sort of local element to it. I heard mentioned earlier, I do not know if it was on this same debate with respect to the black belly sheep and so forth. We need the lamb being served within the hotel sector. Madam, more native culinary delights being served within the hotel industry in Barbados from food which is produced locally.

Madam President, with regards to the construction I understand that it is indeed part of the plan that this hotel would be build under Leader in Environmentally Sustainable and Energy Efficiency (LESEE) certification, so this is a good plus for the hotel industry and for Barbados because it would start us to be able to promote that hotel as a green hotel which would attract a certain class of travelers as well. It would also help too in meeting our energy goals and reducing our carbon footprint because another area which has tremendously boost the economic performance has been that of renewal energy sector in Barbados and if we can have a hotel that is willing to incorporate more energy efficiency in terms of possibility with renewal energy, you have the solar panels which could be done and I think that they would also look at the possibility of the wind turbines as well, so that you would have a more environmentally-friendly hotel plant and also taking into consideration the recycling of water and waste treatment as well within the development of this hotel plant. Madam, going along that path, it would help to put hotels within Barbados at a different level and lead that transformation with the Caribbean so that is something we can put out there in terms of our marketing effort and marketing campaign to set aside the hotel industry and the sector in Barbados from the other global players in terms of utilising renewal energy and looking at reducing our carbon footprint because hotels do consume a large amount of energy and they also use a lot of water as well.

Madam President, if we can put systems in place to reduce the amount of water that is used, recycle as much as possible and also to use renewal energy sources throughout the hotel, it would benefit the hotel in terms of reducing their expenses and also benefit the country as well by making us more environmentally-friendly and it would help us to be able to promote the destination more to persons, especially those persons who would prefer to travel and stay in hotels which are environmentally-friendly, so they can possibly trade a few carbon credits in terms of their flight here and trade a few carbon credits with their stay at a sustainable and environmentally-friendly hotel.

Madam President, there are a lot of benefits from this project and I am certain that it would help us go a long way in continuing to turn the corner and improve the economic growth potential of Barbados. Madam, we just need to build on the linkages. We have the cultural

industries which would benefit from this, the agricultural sector and the manufacturing industry which would benefit from this. I want to commend the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc which did a lot of work in bringing this project and also commend the Government as well in being able to source financing at a concessionary rate, 2.5 per cent or 3 per cent in order to build out this particular project. I think that is also commendable, the level of work which was done in terms of being able to secure this package.

Madam President, with those few words, I support this Resolution.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Boyce, you have the Floor.

Senator Hon. D.W. BOYCE: Madam President, thank you. If you hear me repeating anybody, you can stop me and redirect me. Madam President, I just want to very quickly put this Sam Lord's Wyndham Project into context, which I do not think I have heard discussed so far. The idea is that you have the Sam Lord's Wyndham up in St. Philip, we have done Silver Sands in Christ Church, you have got the one in Worthing that is now being done which used to be called Sandy Beach, you have the Four Seasons sorted out, you have the Sandals expansion in Dover, you have the Sandals Beaches in Heywood, you have the Hyatt and maybe a couple of other, so you end up with maybe eight international brand names property and that helps us to be able to get better airlift with less Government support because the names help you to bring the airlift to the country.

Madam President, also it would take us to another 2 000 or 2 500 hotel rooms in this country. Madam, if we factor in five persons for every two rooms, we are talking about 5 000 jobs direct in tourism and then with the multiplier and the linkages, we are talking about another 10 000 jobs. Madam President, the whole idea is to create probably between another 15 000 jobs associated with tourism which is where we have a very good competitive advantage. Madam, this is one piece of the strategy to grow the economy and to earn foreign exchange. Madam, to put that into context, to do that you have to expand your airport. You would have heard the Minister of International Transport from time to time referred to the work to expand and improve the airport and to expand and improve the seaport facilities.

Sequence 40

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Senate C 28 Seq 41 7.41 p.m.

Senator J. A. WATSON: ... and you would have heard the Minister of International Transport a number of times refer to the work to expand and improve the airport and to expand and improve the seaport facilities as well. Within the contextual, Madam President, you would have heard the work talked about by the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources and the efforts to fix reservoirs, fix the leaks, put in more desalination plants, the efforts to find more water and to do better sewerage treatments within the country. All of those things together help us to create an environment that can accommodate more hotels and more jobs both infrastructure, in tourism directly and in the associated fields. This Sam Lord's project is just about one part of the integrated plan to make sure that the country's infrastructure is fixed for the future and is able to allow us to take a lot more growth in our tourism product and in the rest of the economy. I just wanted to bring that to people's attention because it is not just a one off project. A one off project by itself is wonderful but it does not do all that one needs to do to create jobs for the future for our young people. Of course, Madam President, if the growth in the hotel industry that kind of way we are talking about, and we go to the infrastructure industries where we have to grow them then we have to talk about the training that has to be done for the tourism industry as well as the training that has to be done for the infrastructure and the energy industry. Madam President, there is a whole system of things that we have to handle and this is just part of that process and it fits into our plan for the whole of the economy.

Madam President, I am very pleased to support this vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Todd, you have the Floor.

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Madam President. In my very brief intervention in support of the passage of this Resolution, I would really wish to congratulate this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration, as other Honourable Senators mentioned before, for really taking tourism development to higher heights.

This is very important and timely, Madam President, given the fact that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) were in office for 14 long years and they would have presided over consistent reduction in the number of rooms available. We had hotel after hotel closing, Caribee Hotel closed and others that were mentioned so other tourists destinations in the region were getting ahead of us with new tourists accommodation investment to increase the room stock in the tourism sector in those definitions competing with Barbados so it is very timely that this Administration has intervened just as we now celebrate the 50th anniversary of

the independence of our country. As I understand it, I was a little more than a toddler then in 1966 having been born in late December 1963. It is the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Administration in that independence period that built the Hilton Hotel and, as I understand it, the great State banquet for independence in 1966 was held at the Hilton Hotel, the brainchild, I think, of the late Wynter Crawford who served for many years in the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Cabinet under the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

It is interesting, Madam President, that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was so hell-bent on erasing that legacy that they actually blew it up; the implosion of the Hilton Hotel built by the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) when those same funds to rebuild that property could have been utilised to build a new hotel at another location and you would have had two hotels but they were so caught up with erasing the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) legacy that they imploded the Hilton Hotel built by the Democratic Labour Party. That is another reason why we should keep the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) in opposition so that they do not assume office and blow up this new Sam Lord's Castle Hotel if they ever were to assume office in the near future, Madam President. I urge the electorate to bear that in mind and keep them in opposition.

Madam President, as other Senators have mentioned, these international brand names are very, very important in order to really attract high-end tourists who have a tremendous spending power. I remember visiting Jamaica on a number of occasions and in the new Kingston area you had the Wyndham Hotel as a major hotel in downtown Kingston. We had Wyndham here before in the Heywoods area and we have had the Marriott Hotel, the major international chain actually associated with the Sam Lord's Castle. Fortunately, they are still here in terms of the Boutique Hotel Marriott Courtyard on the Hastings stretch but certainly these international chains are very important.

I grew up in the Dalkeith area and we had the Holiday Inn in the Aquatic Gap area. As a child going down to the hot water pot when the Barbados Light & Power Company Limited (BL&P) was located there, it has now gone down to Spring Garden, the Holiday Inn was very, very prominent and that international was where we now have the Radisson Aquatica Hotel. Madam President, as I understand it, the Wyndham is the world's leading hotel chain therefore, its presence is not to be trifled. It is a very, very important plus for propelling tourism by leaps and bounds in our country.

I would add, Madam President, that the strategic construction of that major hotel, 200 rooms and more at that location in St. Philip, is really going to be providing a tremendous catalyst for the expansion of the tourism product in that corridor of the country. Already we have

had significant improvements on the Crane Hotel ... I remember the first hotel I ever stayed at was the original Crane Hotel, a very small hotel. I was about to make my first trip out of the country when there was mechanical problems with the aircraft and we had to overnight at The Crane. Now we have the new Crane with significant improvements in terms of the number of hotel rooms and we congratulate that investor for having faith in Barbados. They transformed that eastern part of the country so this Sam Lord's Wyndham investment will compliment that and provide a catalyst for other investments along that stretch, Madam President, of course, not compromising the rustic nature of the eastern section of our country. We still would have to ensure that, as we develop the infrastructure in that area, we still are able to ensure that the sort of environmental beauty of that virgin territory is not completely lost. We have a judicious mix to ensure that the natural environment of the that east coast region with the blowholes and Hackleton Cliff and so on can still be appreciated and enjoyed by nature lovers, both local and foreign.

Madam President, I had the privilege of actually staying at the Sam Lord's Castle a number of years ago as the executive council of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) had a retreat and we spent the weekend there. It was very, very memorable with the beautiful Atlantic sea breezes coming in and it was really home away from home. Madam President, I would have attended a wedding there and a regional conference where we had tremendous conference facilities and then we went down on the beach and you could party all night long down there, Madam President, so this investment is tremendous.

I was fortunate to be at the ground-breaking ceremony a few months ago and we had a significant presence of the residents from the area and there was a tremendous buzz as people look forward to that injection of economic activity, as other Senators mentioned, when you look at the number of jobs that would be created in the hotel, be it in housekeeping, the restaurant and bar, front office reception, administration and other areas. Madam President, the farmers would be able to provide the provisions in terms of meats, vegetables and ground provisions. In fact, at the ground-breaking ceremony, I learnt that in its heyday Sam Lord's Castle was renowned internationally and throughout the island for a buffet on Sundays at a very competitive price where it was heaven on earth to those people who enjoyed the local buffet cuisine. Miss Maxwell Hotel there are Bathsheba again is well renowned for local cuisine. In fact, one of the leading international chains, I will not advertise for them here, in Barbados in the last few months have been advertising in the media heavily: Come to their hotel on Saturday to enjoy Bajan Pudding and Souse at a competitive rate. Madam President, I look forward to this Wyndham Sam Lord's Hotel providing this local cuisine, and of course the supply

would primarily be sourced from the local farmers in the immediate area in the first instance thereby enabling them and their families to see economic benefits to be derived from the operation of this Wyndham Sam Lord's Castle project.

Madam President, I will not detain us, it is late, but I really congratulate this Democratic Labour Party Administration for seeking to transform the economy in a very positive way as Senator Boyce mentioned where we would be having thousands upon thousands of jobs being created to reduce unemployment significantly demonstrating that this Democratic Labour Party is taking Barbados by leaps and bounds into economic prosperity, and stick with the DEMS. The DEMS in Barbados are really committed and serious about ensuring that the quality of life of every Barbadian is improved in the short term. I thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Abrahams, you have the Floor.

Senator W. A. ABRAHAMS: Madam President, I rise at the end of a very long day, which has been made painstakingly longer by the last presentation... I am almost surprised, Madam President, that Senator Todd did not end with stick with the DEMS and we guarantee we would not blow up any more hotels.

I am very grateful, Madam President, for the explanation as offered by Senator Boyce as he outlined the Government's holistic plan to deal with tourism and the revitalisation of the hotel industry because I listened with interest to Senator De Peiza's contribution and it almost sounded like she was making a plug for her constituency as I am about to do for mine.

Madam President, the construction of hotels and the development of a hotel industry in a district does a lot more than create jobs in the construction and in the industry itself. It completely transforms and revitalises an area. One of the greatest travesties is the fact that the Silver Sands Hotel is still closed. When I was a boy growing up in Enterprise I used to walk from Carters Gap to Silver Sands to go and surf and Silver Sands was a very popular and thriving hotel then. There were lots of people selling craft on the beach, there was windsurfing taking place just across from the hotel and there was surfing going on. Silver Sands Hotel was the place to be in Christ Church and then the hotel closed and nothing was done since then. The hotel is now at the point where perhaps we cannot even renovate that hotel. It probably needs to be demolished entirely and a new plant constructed in its entirety.

Madam President, I was going to stand and make a plug that the administrations to follow, whether this Administration or a subsequent one, must recognise that

the restoration or the reconstruction of a hotel in the Silver Sands area is essential for the survival of the area. When nothing is going on in an area and there are no economic prospects for the residents and there is no direct benefit to be gained in walking distance from your area, then things happen, the area runs down, crime escalates and idle people seek dangerous pursuits, so the placing of a hotel in a district transforms all of that.

We heard from Senator De Pezia and others who spoke that when Sam Lord's Castle was thriving the whole area was buzzing, people built their houses and businesses off of the economic spinoff from the hotel. Madam President, that is very important because it is the injection of a lifeblood into an area. Silver Sands and the surrounding areas were pulled down and took a serious economic hit when the hotel closed. The reality is that if a hotel was constructed in an area then the hotel would look to the area to provide labour and it is not just the salaries that come but the pride that comes with it. If you are someone prone to idleness and you get a job in a hotel then you are not going to rob in the vicinity of the hotel or be violent in the vicinity of the hotel. I am sorry to bring it down to its absolute most base criteria. The reality, Madam President, is that if you see the transformation of people who have run afoul of the law and who get a job, that somebody shows faith in them, quite often those people make a drastic transformation because they now have a purpose to go on the straight and narrow.

The development, the redevelopment and the re-enhancement of the tourist industry in Barbados is critical for the survival of Barbados. We have beautiful people in Barbados, we have friendly people in Barbados and we have all the raw materials for a fantastic tourism product, what we now need is a sustained and sustainable commitment to the development of a year-round tourist industry. Madam President, I was very heartened to hear that we are moving away from the hodgepodge approach to tourism that Senator De Peiza spoke about. I was very heartened to hear Senator Boyce say that this is not a one-off, that this is part of a sustained development plan. The reality, Madam President, is that from the time you pass St. Lawrence Gap effectively there is no real hotel until you hit the Crane. There is a small one somewhere in Silver Sands but then that is it. There is no real industry to uplift an area. If we are serious about tourism, we have beaches all around Barbados and beaches catering to different things. Silver Sands is a perfect place for sporting tourism, for windsurfing and surfing. It is perhaps the most conducive place in Barbados to put a hotel catering to that sort of thing.

I am saying, Madam President, that I commend the starting of the project at Sam Lord's Castle. I welcome the Wyndham brand. I accept that Sandals has done a lot for Barbados. I may have some issues with the concessions but

as Senator De Peiza says you know what the advertising of Sandals for its own purposes has brought attention back to Barbados. When we get the other big brands in, we can start to look at real tourism development in Barbados, and with a full and properly operating tourism product the fortunes of Barbados are going to turn around. Let us not underestimate what the tourist dollars mean in Barbados. It is dangerous to be so dependent on one industry, perhaps, but the reality is we are dependent on tourism. If we accept that, then we must all do our part to develop it to its fullest, and that includes the bringing of brand-name hotels to Barbados.

Madam President, as I said, I commend the initiative. I have no difficulty whatsoever with the Resolution. The revitalisation of St. Philip is a must. The reinstitution of Sam Lord's Castle is also necessary. Madam President, I remember one summer in my innocent youth, after hearing the exploits of Sam Lord, I found myself up by Sam Lord's Castle about three or four days with a friend of mine, Peter Ashby, digging randomly on the beach looking for treasure. I did not find anything, but such was the lure and lore of Sam Lord that everybody knew about it. Regarding the loss of that hotel, the injustice is now being rectified in the placing of the Wyndham Sam Lord's project. Madam President, I say let us go. We are good to go. Let us not stop with this one. It must be a focus of this current Democratic Labour Party Administration, and whichever Administration comes behind that, we must systematically approach this and properly develop the tourism product and the tourism offering in Barbados. It is essential for our survival, and I am not blindly partisan.

Asides.

Senator W.A. ABRAHAMS: I am not blindly partisan, Madam President. It was a necessity, and the necessity is being met. I am sorry Senator Todd has left the room, because I would like to point out to him that had the Hilton been there now still with its ageing and derelict plant, it would not get the business that it has. The Barbados Labour Party does not go around blowing up things for the sake of doing so, or to erase the legacy of the Democratic Labour Party; and I am horrified by that sentiment. However, I am glad to see that nobody else, from their facial expressions, shared with him in that departure from reality. Madam President, as I said, let us take our tourism product seriously and do what is necessary to revitalise it, because the benefit to Barbados and Barbadians is immeasurable and must be capitalised upon. With those few words, Madam President, I support the Resolution.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Hunte, you have the Floor.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise to support the matter before us, which is already known. Normally I like to spell out the Resolution but at this time now, I am just going to make my short contribution and say to Senator Abrahams that I do not expect him, a decent young man, to go around blowing up places because he is a member of the Barbados Labour Party. Madam President, it really gives me great pleasure to speak in this Debate on this matter, for several reasons. One reason is that not only have I had a stint in the hotel industry, but I must congratulate the Administration of the Democratic Labour Party for showing this continued interest in the hotel industry from Day 1; from the day they became the Government of this country back in 1961. I have already given these figures and I am not going to repeat them, but I am just going to make a reference. We were able to attract about 37 000 visitors to this country in 1961 with a budget of some \$500 000. The allocation was half-million dollars for the promotion of the hotel industry. I must fast-forward, since I will not stop in the different years and so on. In the last year, we have moved and recorded from 37 000 visitors in 1961 to 592 000 longstay visitors in the year 2015. That is a tremendous achievement over the period, over all the Administrations, from whence we came to where we are at this point and where we intend to go. We must accept now that the tourism industry is really the lifeblood of this economy. We are probably on one foot now in relation to the changes that will take place. Whether we will be able to stand on two feet in another 15, 20 or 25 years, I do not know. I would hope so, but the truth is that at this point, the importance of tourism to our economy cannot be underestimated.

I find that there are a lot of things that have not changed in the last 50 years in this country. I have heard a lot of negative responses from spokespersons of the side which Senator Abrahams represents, and sometimes it really bothers me. As a developing country, we have to attract finance. There is no way we can generate it ourselves, unless it comes out of the same tourism industry. Here it is that we have been able to attract some finance from the Republic of China, but you are hearing negative comments. You hear that all the Chinese will be in here working, that there will be 60 per cent Chinese and only 40 per cent Barbadian. You hear that the Chinese will take over the country, and all that, but as far as I know, when you are receiving finance from some of the financial institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, those institutions direct in many cases how to spend that money. That is a fact of life. They are the financiers. That is something I knew a long time ago. The financiers used to say that you have to spend a certain amount with a particular company out of some particular place.

Asides.

Senator R.A. HUNTE: Therefore, there is nothing new in that regard. If you are going to get some concessionary financing from China or any country, do you expect to just run away and do as you choose? No. It does not work that way. It has never been that way, and that is why I say that it sometimes upsets me when I hear the reaction just because of politics and just because you want to gain points over the present Administration. That bothers me; it honestly bothers me. I wish to break in here and say that I much admired the contribution of Senator Abrahams. I do, because I believe he is a sincere person. He may go a little astray sometimes and I have to put a little lash on him, but the truth is I believe he does have a good heart. He does have a good heart. I like him. I have to say that, and I believe he is sincere. However, the truth is that sometimes we get very much carried away in this partisan approach. Here is another negative: Cuba is developing its tourism industry, or the tourism industry in Cuba is developing once again. They were always getting visitors. Cuba was getting over a million visitors a year. As far as its tourism economy was concerned, they were getting visitors out of Canada and certain places, although not directly out of the United States of America.

Senator R. HUNTE: Seq 44

Madam President, I wish to say this. I think that somebody made a reference today and rather than anything happening in Cuba would hinder us, it would more or less enhance our situation. Would you expect people to go to one place all the time, they are not going to. We may have a water shortage in Barbados but it cannot last forever. The world is going through a drought. We are not like India that has the River Ganges. They are now trying to redirect water from the River Ganges through other parts of

India like Burkino Faso. Madam, all of these are areas that are suffering a serious drought. I recognise that we had to come to the reality in Barbados about the water situation because it started off as a real political football and Madam, that was unfortunate. Madam, I see in the newspaper political operatives actually saying that it was political. Madam, can you find a gap or a road in Barbados does not have a person who is not a Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party. Madam, you could not but I heard that type of politics before that I cannot believe in a day like today that we are still with that. Madam, you are going to spite the people in a particular area like if you had no votes from that area. Madam, you had to have some votes from area and even if you did not have any votes from area, there are citizens of Barbados and they deserve to be treated as such. Madam, that kind of talk really disturbs me and sometimes I turn off my television when I hear foolishness, and I do not read the particular article because it incenses me. I think we need to move pass that because these things do rebound. When you promise so much and in some cases the impossible, when you cannot

deliver the people will hang you and then your excuse would be, we have not found any money, there was no money in the Treasury and all that kind of foolishness. Madam, that is not what you told the people. You told the people that you are going to create this miracle and that, all of a sudden, there will be utopia in Barbados. Madam, this is a changing world and we need to step up and step beyond that and under no circumstances could any responsible Government watch the disappearance of an institution like Sam Lord's Castle. There are some 57 acres involved but you cannot plant canes because canes do not attract hardly any kind of price on the world market. What are you going to do? Let us be realistic. We are in the business of tourism and we must show that interest.

Madam President, Sandals from all the records have shown and has made a tremendous contribution in less than one year operating in Barbados. I know of no hotel in Barbados particularly those that locals have interest in have shown the kind of promotion that Sandals has. Madam, I want to show you something. I have told you that I have my source in Canada and this was posted down to me.

Asides.

Senator R. HUNTE: It is from my brother, of course. I want to show two big full page advertisements in the Toronto Star on Wednesday, April 27th. It says: The Sandal Destination you have been waiting for -- Barbados. Sir, one is one half of the paper and the other one is on another half. Madam, I want to show you because the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Madam, the other one is here on this page, there are two of them.

Madam President, outside of maybe Sandy Lane, which I never saw but I would not be surprised if they had done it, which hotel in Barbados ever spend that kind of money. Madam, there are two full page advertisements in the Toronto Star, and we want to condemn a hotel that was able to attract 31 per cent of 592 persons that were staying in Barbados in the last year. Madam, these people are putting their money where their mouth is.

Madam President, we cannot expect to get something for nothing. I am saying this is the kind of thing that bothers me. Madam, I have said already that an Opposition Party can support the Government on every project that is importance and developmental to Barbados and if the time comes and the people want to put you out, they will put you out. Madam, that is how it goes, they may get tire of seeing the same people, so this thing about trying to condemn everything... I honestly feel that there are persons in the Barbados Labour Party including its leadership that do not want to see progress under this Democratic Labour Party administration. Madam, the record will show that everything that this Government has done has been condemn. Madam, something has to be

wrong, you cannot separate the leader from the balance of the Party. It cannot be done. Madam, they tell me it is political but I believe that we have move beyond that. We are not operating like the largest economy in the world, the United States of America. They can show up all kinds of fancy people up but whenever it is finish, it is America, the largest producer and economy in the world.

Madam President, I have said in here already and it sounds like a joke but I will say it again that they can sell two war ships and give Barbados the money and we will have no more problem with debt. Madam, Barbados does not even produce a moses. Madam, we have to be careful in a small developing country with limited resources, and our man resource is our people and when young people hear this kind of condemnation some of them feel there is no hope for them because everything is wrong, one set of politicians doing one thing and the other side is criticising saying it is wrong and problem their minds are tuned out of the society and, Madam, we must accept this.

Madam President, Barbados is not a same country with the same kinds of attitudes as it was 35 or 40 years ago. There have been tremendous changes in this country and a lot of them are coming on the electronic gadgets. Madam, everything you can think about children are able to see on these gadgets. Madam, an adult show me a video and I look at it because the proof the pudding is in the eating. Madam, what I saw was disgraceful. You should see what young girls in this country was doing with themselves. It was a sad thing. I said, no, I have children and grandchildren and I do not want to see it but yet I look and it was disgraceful. All of that and yet the Government of the day, whoever it is, trying to finance the schools, trying to repair the schools, trying to educational opportunities and look what is happening at 13, 14 and 15. We feel that we have probably reached the point where we are wasting time. It was said some years ago that men were in crisis and I believe that a lot of our young people are in crisis now. A lot are but there are a lot who are not, nothing is ever 100 per cent so do not think that I am wiping all the young people, no, not at all, but we have serious challenges in this country. Here we are, as Administration, trying to think the best foot forward, how to development the nation, how to do this and how to do that and when we think about from whence we came and we have people condemning every move what are our young people saying to themselves. Some do not listen to a radio station if it is playing a certain type of music. They read the newspaper if they hear somebody has been shot or got killed, but they do not read any actual news. That is a fact, not for all, but a lot of them have tuned out completely, but they have these things and you see them walking every day. When they leave their mother's house, I see them but I do not know what they are looking at, they may be looking at something good, I do not know, but the point is, that is what is

attracting them because all of the vice that you can get on these instruments.

Another negative comment I have heard is that all of these people come into Barbados and what is to spend. Over some \$400 million was generated in this economy and all of those visitors came in back in 2015. To show you how our tourism has reached leaps and bounds, that what we were getting in the 1960s is what we are projecting now to come out of our main tourist areas. We expect an increase of an addition 222 000 visitors in 2016 and mind you, the figures of this 592 000 is only for the year 2015, not these figures for 2016 yet. We expect, out of Canada, and additional 72 000 in 2016 and another 150 something thousand out of United States of America (USA) so what we were getting, Madam President, in total numbers in the 1960s is what you are now projecting as an increase. That is how far we have come as far as our tourism industry is concerned, that is why I have said we are not going to go down what happened in 1966, et cetera. All of those figures I do have but I have repeated them in here several times already so I am not going to do it again, but from whence we came to where we are, let us congratulation ourselves. Something must be happening right in Barbados that we could have had those kinds of record visitors in the year 2015. We are still a good country despite all you have heard me say just now that I am concerned about it and we have a right to be concerned, we are still a solid piece of attraction as far as visitors are concerned. Somebody is going to ask: what are they spending? Go into Oistins, go about the place and that is away from the hotel circuit. Go into those areas and see the kinds of contributions. I go to Oistins but I went once for the year because when I go up there I cannot get any seat even though I give a little tip like anybody else too but maybe not as much as the tourists. I have found a new area but the point, Madam President, is that this is all we have. This little rock is all that we have and we have to take care of it. We cannot turn our backs because people are out there with guns and all of that. We have our law enforcement officers and we must give them the necessary training and the necessary tools to work.

Next door in Trinidad, I remember we had a debate here last year about a certain piece of legislation that we had passed to protect the interests of this country. It had a lot of objection and we know that the lawyers always come into their play on that but there is a rumour, as they say to this point because they do not know yet but rumours cannot be looked over these days, they have to looked at very serious, that ISIS is about to declare war upon some shopping centre in Trinidad. Those are persons, allegedly, that left Trinidad and went to support ISIS in Syria, Iraq and all of those places, but they could not stop them from coming back to their own country. Some that wanted to come back loss their lives and I read a lot of that in some other internet stuff, but that is next door.

The last time I went to Trinidad it was only 35 minutes, I do not know if it got longer now. We cannot ignore that, it is either in our front yard or our backyard. Of course, when we debated the Immigration Bill in here I would have some things to say on that and to express my concerns and my feelings in respect of that but that is not for this debate. Madam President, I knew that I signed the list late as to when I should speak and therefore if my half an hour has not yet exhausted, I am going to curtail it right now. Madam President, my support is for the matter before us and I sincerely hope and wish, as a Barbadians, that we might well see Sam Lord's Castle, once again a hotel that I have visited on several occasions both as a laundry man and not necessarily a member of a band but my brother who lives in Canada and furnished me with all sorts of information when he hear certain things going on in Barbados, in the Blue Rhythm Combo, of course, you had the Tropical Islanders who used to play there but my brother's band was the Blue Rhythm Combo and I used to take that visit every time up to Sam Lord's Castle whenever they played up there. It was one of the most popular bands in Barbados in the 1960s/1970s.

Asides.

Senator R. A. HUNTE: I do not listen to asides so I do not know what it is, but Madam President, I wish to once again, express my support for this Resolution and to wish Barbados and the Administrators and all those persons who are putting this programme together, I am much obliged. Thank you.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Senator Byer, you have the Floor.

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Thank you very much, Madam President. We have had a longer than anticipated debate on the Resolution to vest the 58.11 acres at Sam Lord's Castle in the BTI. Honourable Senators are obviously still quite keen to discuss tourism and clearly everybody is still as passionate about Sam Lord's Castle and what we do up there as they were last year.

I just want to make a few points, Madam President. First of all, I am advised that that property, when developed, will actually be branded as Sam Lord's Castle, A Wyndham Brand Resort; and secondly to explain that the Wyndham brand is actually the top of the line for Wyndham. The Wyndham brand actually have 30 properties in six countries. This one, the Sam Lord's Castle property, is actually going to be the first of the Wyndham brand in Latin America and the Caribbean. As was mentioned before, this is also developmental for Wyndham as well coming into this region and then some of the things that they are doing.

Again, let me also take the opportunity, I did not do it earlier, to congratulate the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the negotiations. This was not a case of Wyndham knocking down their door to have Sam Lord's Castle. The Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. went out there and sought different brands and negotiated with different brands and because of the leverage that Barbados and the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. have they were able to negotiate a very good arrangement for the management of this property, the Hotel Management Agreement, so congratulations to the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. on being able to secure the Wyndham Hotel with a very good contractual arrangement, and we look forward to having them actually in operation here.

As was mentioned, the property is slated for opening in 2018, which is two years before the 200th Anniversary of the property. It was in 1820 that the property is said to have been developed, so 2020 will be 200 years. The iconic façade that we have come to identify is probably one of the only parts that remains there, but that is going to be incorporated into the design.

Additionally to confirm, the developers will be using green certification methods, so that takes care of the concern that was expressed about the green methods there. Now, as to what that means in terms of water harvesting, photovoltaics and so on, I do not have the specifics but I am told that the property would be built to LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, specifications. That is a green building certification programme that recognises best in class building strategies and practices. To receive this certification, the project satisfied prerequisites and earned points to achieve different levels of certification, so the green design is going to be used there which is in keeping with what this Government is looking to do in all of our buildings and in keeping with us becoming a green country and a green economy.

Additionally, the project is also going to seek Well Building Standard Certification, which is the building certification focusing exclusively on human health and wellness, so that is something that is going to be incorporated into this. Then as I mentioned, it is family themed; 450 rooms geared as family but also geared towards meetings, conferences and events.

Madam President, just to bring it altogether. As we said, this property is expected to earn some US\$44.7 million a year in accommodation alone and then from other services, non-accommodation, some US\$28.7 million per year, and I want to again congratulate everybody who would was involved including the ministry.

As you heard from Senator Boyce, this is part of the whole development of tourism. We have been saying time

and time again that it is a tired business plant and this is a part of their programme on the ground to expand the plant while at the same time, through the Barbados Product Authority as well as the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., to expand the markets in all areas especially in Latin America, which is still new ground for us, going in there and expanding the offerings and niche areas, looking at soft advertising, events, history, culture, car racing, horseracing, polo and other sports. What they hope to do this year is to increase sporting arrivals by 3 percent and cruise arrivals by another 6 per cent and pursuing that very important generation X and generation Y because we know that we attract an older crowd but the ministry and the Barbados Marketing Inc. and the Barbados Product Authority are actively going after generation X and generation Y; looking at lifestyle segment as well; I mentioned the meetings and events but also sports, recreation, epicurean, the restaurants and so on, romance and culture. Of course, we could spend a lot of time discussing the new airlift arrangements that we have but that is all I would say on that.

Finally, I want to say that we are happy for what we are seeing in the development of tourism, what we are seeing as the plan outlined for Barbados and then for what we expect locally in the St. Philip community because as was said before we expect that this will be a springboard for a lot of development and entrepreneurial opportunities in St. Philip. I urge all Barbadians, whether you are in St. Philip or anywhere that when we encounter tourists... This is our 50th Anniversary of Independence, we have a lot to be proud of as a nation, so let us showcase our culture boldly, let us not hide our cou cou or breadfruit or fruits or our local goods from our tourists. As we heard that is what our tourists want so let us proudly showcase that - and as we mentioned opportunity for entrepreneurship - and be proud of what we have.

The core brand that the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. is promoting is friendly, clean, safe and secure. That is how Barbados is being promoted. Those are our core values, so let us all in this room and elsewhere promote that in all that we do; friendly, clean, safe and secure. With those four words, I think we would continue to have a good product and would continue to build a product that tourists are looking for.

With those words then, I beg to move that this Resolution on the Sam Lord's Castle vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. B. BYER SUCKOO:
Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 01, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 01, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE
PRESIDENT

PAPERS

SENATOR Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO.....1

1. The Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR Dr. Hon. E.R. BYER-SCUKOO.....1

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – SECOND READING.....2

Senator Harcourt A. Husbands, 2; Senator Dr. J. X. Walcott, 4; Sen. Pro. Sir H. Fraser, 6, 8; Senator J. Ince, 10; Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, 12; Senator Hon. D.W. Boyce, 14.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Senator Carol Lady Haynes, 15; Senator A. A. Adams, 16; Sen. Pro. Sir H. Fraser, 16; Senator J. Watson, 18; Senator Sir T. Carmichael, 19; Senator A. R. Worrell, 20; Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer Suckoo, 21; Senator the Hon. E. Byer-Suckoo, 23; Senator Harcourt A. Husbands, 25.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH

SECTION 5 OF THE CROWNS LAND (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225, THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY OF THE PARCELS OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT LOT 60, THE GARDEN LAND AND SKEETE'S ROAD BANK HALL RESPECTIVELY BOTH IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMP STATION AND SEPTIC TANK AS PART OF THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD UPGRADING PROGRAMME (HNUP).

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. TODD.....26

Senator Rev. Chrichlow, 31; Senator R.A. Hunte, 31.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, 32.

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP 235 THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC OF A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.51894 HECTARES WHICH IS 58.11 ACRES TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING THEREON SITUATE AT SAM LORD'S CASTLE, LONG BAY IN THE PARISH OF ST. PHILIP IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF HOUSING AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO BEACH ACCESS. 32

Senator the Hon. E. Byer-Suckoo, 32, 33, 52; Senator J. Ince, 34; Senator Rev. Dr. D.L. Durant, 36; Senator A. A. Adams, 37, 38, 39; Senator Ms. V.A.G. DePeiza, 40; Senator J. Watson, 41, 46; Senator A. R. Worrell, 43; Senator Hon. D.W. Boyce, 46; Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, 46; Senator W. A. Abrahams, 48, 49; Senator R.A. Hunte, 49, 50, 52.

SUSPENSIONS.....15, 32.

ADJOURNMENT.....53

Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer Suckoo, 53.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ABRAHAM, Senator W. A.

ADAMS, Senator A. A.

BOYCE, Senator Hon. D.W.

BYER-SCUKOO, Senator Dr. Hon. E.R.

BYER-SUCKOO, Senator the Hon. E.

CARMICHAEL, Senator Sir T.

CHRICHLLOW, Senator Rev.

DePeiza, Senator Ms. V.A.G.

DURANT, Senator Rev. Dr. D.L.

Fraser, Sen. Pro. Sir H.

HAYNES, Senator Carol Lady

HUNTE, Senator R.A.

HUSBANDS, Senator HARCOURT A.

INCE, Senator J.

SUCKOO, Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER

TODD, Senator the Hon. P. M. T.

WALCOTT, Senator Dr. J. X.

WATSON, Senator J.

WORRELL, Senator A. R.

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. 2, Committee. The source records the Senate going into Committee twice on the Bill: first ‘Clauses 1 -- 6 inclusive were called and passed’, then again ‘Clauses 1 -- 7, inclusive’ and the Schedule. Printed as in the source. Please confirm the number of clauses.

Q3. Order No. 3. The heading places the land at ‘LOT 60, THE GARDEN LAND’, while Senator R. A. Hunte refers to ‘Lot 16, The Garden Land’; the heading also reads ‘CROWNS LAND (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT’. Before Senator Hunte’s speech the Chair’s line reads ‘: Senator Hunte .’ under the label ‘SENATOR Rev. CHRICHLOW’. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 7, heading. The heading cites ‘CAP 235’ (the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act is Cap. 225 in Order No. 3) and describes ‘A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.51894 HECTARES WHICH IS 58.11 ACRES’; 2.51894 hectares is about 6.2 acres. Senator DePeiza speaks of 57 acres. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 7, Minister’s opening, take-slip Senate C 28, Sequence 29 (5.44 p.m.). The text after the take-slip begins ‘... see the economy grow through it.’, and the Minister gives both ‘some 12 000 construction jobs’ and ‘40 per cent of the 1 200 workers’. Some words may be missing. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 7, take-slip Senate C 28, Sequence 41 (7.41 p.m.). After the take-slip, a passage beginning ‘... and you would have heard the Minister of International Transport’ and ending ‘I am very pleased to support this vesting’ is labelled ‘Senator J. A. WATSON’, although Senator Watson had already spoken and the passage follows directly on Senator Hon. D. W. Boyce’s speech. It may belong to Senator Boyce. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Suspension and Adjournment. The luncheon suspension is recorded as ‘Madam PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly’. The motion to adjourn names 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 1st June, 2016, but the question records 10.00 a.m. The mover is labelled ‘BYER-SCUKOO’ and ‘E. B. BYER SUCKOO’ in places. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The Senate met on Wednesday, 25th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m., with Madam President in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah. Senators McClean and Sandiford-Garner were excused, being abroad on Government business, and the Minutes of 11th May were confirmed. Senator Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo laid the National Sports Council’s Annual Report for 2011-2012 and moved the first readings of the Immigration (Amendment), Savings Bonds (Validation) and Criminal Assets Recovery Fund Bills, 2016.

Under Order No. 2, Senator H. A. Husbands moved the second reading of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016, explaining that the 2003 treaty set up a regional body to accredit medical and other health training programmes. Senator Prof. Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser traced medical training in the Caribbean from 1948 and explained that graduates of institutions not accredited by the CAAM-HP must pass the CAMC examination to practise in CARICOM. Senators Dr. J. X. Walcott, J. Ince, the Hon. P. M. T. Todd, Hon. D. W. Boyce, Carol Lady Haynes, A. A. Adams, J. Watson, Sir T. Carmichael, A. R. Worrell and Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo supported the Bill, which passed through Committee, with Senator the Very Reverend H. E. Crichlow in the Chair, and was read a third time.

Under Order No. 3, Senator the Hon. P. M. T. Todd moved the Resolution vesting in the Barbados Water Authority land at The Garden Land and Skeete’s Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael, part of an IDB-financed upgrading programme that connected 164 households to the Bridgetown sewerage system. Senator R. A. Hunte, a resident, described a road collapse found when the trench was dug. After a suspension to 5.30 p.m. the Resolution was agreed to.

Under Order No. 7, Senator Byer-Suckoo moved the Resolution vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. the land at Sam Lord’s Castle, St. Philip, described as 58.11 acres. The project was financed by the EXIM Bank of China, with 40 per cent of the construction workers to be sourced locally and 900 direct jobs expected in operation; she cited unemployment of 11.3 per cent in 2015 and growth of 1.7 per cent in the first quarter.

Senators J. Ince, Rev. Dr. D. L. Durant, A. A. Adams, Ms. V. A. G. DePeiza, J. Watson, A. R. Worrell, Hon. D. W. Boyce and the Hon. P. M. T. Todd supported

the Resolution; Senator Boyce said such projects could add 2 000 to 2 500 rooms and about 5 000 direct jobs. Senator W. A. Abrahams said the project met a necessity, and Senator R. A. Hunte defended Chinese financing and Sandals. In reply, Senator Byer-Suckoo said the 450-room

Wyndham resort was due to open in 2018 and was expected to earn US\$44.7 million a year from accommodation and US\$28.7 million from other services. The Resolution was agreed to, and the Senate was adjourned until Wednesday, 1st June, 2016.