

*Leave of Absence*

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I have received communication from the hon. Eric Williams, Member of Parliament for Port of Spain South and the hon. Eudine Job-Davis, Member of Parliament for Tobago East, both of whom asked to be excused from today's sitting of the House. The leave which these Members seek is granted.

**PAPERS LAID**

1. The Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2006. [*The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley)*]
  2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2006. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
  3. Annual administrative report of the Betting Levy Board for the period July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
- Papers 1 to 3 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.*

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley):** Mr. Speaker, on the Order Paper today the Government is able to answer the following questions: Nos. 53, 59, 63, 65, 66, 78 and on written replies Nos. 47 and 67. [*Interruption*] Thank you very much, I really appreciate that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member for Caroni Central.

**Mrs. Persad-Bissessar:** Mr. Speaker, before we go there, there are 17 questions on this Order Paper; every one has been repeatedly deferred. The very first one which is question No. 5 has been deferred for six months, and ranging from two months to six months—

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, okay. [*Interruption*] Please, yes. [*Mrs. Persad-Bissessar remains standing*] No, I am on my feet. I am on my feet! Take your seat, please!

On the last occasion—[*Interruption*] Order please! Order! Member for Toco/Manzanilla, take your seat please!

I have repeatedly implored the Government to answer the questions. [*Interruption*] [*Mr. Speaker counts questions*] Six questions are being answered today. [*Inaudible*] Yes, I agree with you [*Inaudible*] two are written. Indeed, I really was hoping to have an answer to question No. 5, part B of which is no longer required. I do not know if the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs will be able to answer question 5; he did promise on the last occasion. Are you in a position to answer question No. 5?

**Mr. R. Boynes:** No, I am not in a position at this time; I will make every effort on the next occasion, Mr. Speaker.

**Turner Construction  
(Services to Scarborough Regional Hospital)**

**53. Dr. Hamza Rafeeq** (*Caroni Central*) asked the hon. Minister of Health:

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the method by which Turner Construction was contracted to provide services at the Scarborough Regional Hospital;
- (b) the value of the contract awarded to Turner Construction; and
- (c) the services which Turner Construction was contracted to provide?

**The Minister of Health (Hon. John Rahael):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, in response to question No. 53:

- (a) Turner Construction was engaged to provide services at the Scarborough Regional Hospital by sole selective tender which was approved by Cabinet.
- (b) the value of the agreement was US \$941,769.36.
- (c) Turner Construction entered into an agency agreement with NIPDEC to carry out the under-mentioned services:
  - (i) preparation of construction metrology for creative work on the structure;

- (ii) preparation of master schedule that incorporates remaining design, procurement, including hospital equipment, construction and hospital start-up;
- (iii) recommendations on the resolution of construction claims;
- (iv) recommendations on adequate site inspection and supervision;
- (v) recommendation on the rules and relationships of various team members with the objective of improving administrative processes;
- (vi) integration of hospital equipment procurement with design and construction programme;
- (vii) review of site logistics;
- (viii) review of mechanical and electrical work to date on coordination restructure;
- (ix) recommendations to improve the site safety programme;
- (x) establishment of a course control plan for the completion of the project;
- (xi) provision of a comprehensive diagnostic on the status on the project with specific recommendations on the way forward; and
- (xii) recommendations to improve the administrative process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** I just wonder whether the Minister can tell us whether the contract remains the same or whether it has been extended to include other services and whether the consideration has been extended as well.

**Hon. J. Rahael:** The information that I have at present is what I presented. I am not aware of anything further.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** Has this contract come to an end or are they still on the job, and when is this expected to be completed?

**Hon. J. Rahael:** I do not have that information presently available.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Well do your research.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister mentioned that it was a sole selective tender but I wonder if the Minister can tell us on what basis was this contractor selected. I mean it was a sole selective, but on what basis did you do the sole selective tendering?

**Hon. J. Rahael:** Mr. Speaker, Turner Construction is, and has been on the ground for quite a while in Trinidad and Tobago and because of their experience, knowledge and the work that they have been doing in Trinidad and Tobago they were selected on that purpose in order to expedite the services.

**Mr. Singh:** Mr. Speaker, I thank you. Is there any work taking place at the Scarborough Hospital site?

**Hon. J. Rahael:** My information is there is some work taking place and that is being done by NIPDEC and the Tobago House of Assembly.

**Mr. Singh:** Could the hon. Minister indicate, what is the nature of this work taking place at the Scarborough Hospital site? [*Interruption*]

**Hon. J. Rahael:** My understanding is there is restoration work taking place.

**Mrs. Persad-Bissessar:** What did he say? Restoration. Do you think that is the Red House or what? [*Crosstalk*]

**Dr. Rafeeq:** Was Turner Construction contracted by NIPDEC or by the Ministry of Health? Who contracted Turner Construction?

**Hon. J. Rahael:** NIPDEC, Mr. Speaker.

#### **Post of Solicitor General (Appointment to Position)**

**59. Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar** (*Siparia*) asked the hon. Attorney General:

Could the Attorney General please state:

- (a) where and on what dates applications were invited for the vacant position of Solicitor General since the retirement of the last substantive holder of that office;
- (b) whether any person/persons is/are performing, either individually or collaboratively, the duties of the Solicitor General;
- (a) if the answer to (b) is yes, could the Minister state:
  - i. the names, substantive positions of any such person/persons and the dates on which he/they commenced such extra duties;
  - ii. whether such persons are in receipt of additional remuneration or benefits for performing these extra duties and the amount of such compensation; and

- iii the number of legal matters, contracts for state organizations and other documents that these persons have (a) advised on, (b) vetted, and (c) approved since assuming these extra duties?

**Mr. Ramnath:** “That fella afraid to come to this House, he doh come back here at all”. Since he [*Inaudible*] Since he conspired I see he with Mc Nichols—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please!

**Mr. Ramnath:** Why does he not come to the House?

**The Minister of Works and Transport (Hon. Colm Imbert):** Mr. Speaker, for today—[*Interruption*] The appointment of a Solicitor General lies within the remit of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission in accordance with section 111 of the Constitution. The details regarding the invitation of applications for the vacant position of Solicitor General submitted to the Office of the Attorney General by the said Judicial and Legal Service Commission revealed that the position was advertised as follows:

- (i) three advertisements in *Anguilla Today* and *Daily Herald* in Anguilla, June 2006;
- (ii) three advertisements in the *Antigua Sun* and the *Observer* in Antigua in June 2006;
- (iii) four advertisements in the *Nation* newspaper and the *Advocate* newspaper in Barbados, June 2006;
- (iv) one advertisement in the *Royal Gazette* in Bermuda, June 2006;
- (v) three advertisements in the *Andale Press* and *Belize Times* in Belize, June 2006;
- (vi) three advertisements in the *Cayman Compos* and *Cayman Net News* in Cayman, June 2006;
- (vii) one advertisement in the *Chronicle* in Dominica, June 2006;
- (viii) two advertisements in the *Voice* and *Grenada Today* in Grenada, June 2006;
- (ix) three advertisements in the *Starbroek News* and *Chronicle* in Guyana, June 2006;
- (x) four advertisements in the *Gleaner* and the *Observer* in Jamaica, 2006;

*Oral Answers to Questions*  
[HON. C. IMBERT]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

- (xi) two advertisements in the *Sun* and the *Observer* in St. Kitts, June 2006;
- (xii) one advertisement in *Star Publishing* in St. Lucia, June 2006;
- (xiii) one advertisement in the *Daily Herald* in St. Maarten, June 2006;
- (xiv) one advertisement in the *News* in St. Vincent, June 2006;
- (xv) one advertisement in the *Free Press* in Turks and Caicos, June 2006;
- (xvi) one advertisement in the *US Virgin Islands Daily News* in the US Virgin Islands, June 2006;
- (xvii) two advertisements in the *Newsday*, Trinidad and Tobago between April and May 2006; and
- (xviii) two advertisements in the *Daily Express* in Trinidad and Tobago in April and May 2006.

Those are the advertisements for the position.

Answer to part (b):

Since the requirement of the last substantive holder of the office of Solicitor General the duties of the Solicitor General's Office are at present being performed by several senior members of staff of the Solicitor General's Department. These senior officers can be viewed as a management team responsible for ensuring the efficient functioning of the department.

Answer to part (c)(i):

Mr. Mark Terrence Thorne, Deputy Solicitor General was appointed to act as Solicitor General for the period February 19, 2006 to June 30, 2006 by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission pursuant to section 111 of the Constitution. No acting appointment was made by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission since that period to date. However, the duties of the Solicitor General have been shared among the senior staff of the Solicitor General's Department of the Ministry of the Attorney General from the date of retirement of the Solicitor General to the present. Such senior staff include the following officers:

- (a) Mr. Mark Terrence Thorne whose substantive position is Deputy Solicitor General;
- (b) Miss Carol Hernandez whose substantive position is Deputy Solicitor General;

- (c) Mr. Duncan Byam, Assistant Solicitor General;
- (d) Miss Carlene Seenath, Assistant Solicitor General;
- (e) Miss Delicia Noel, Acting Assistant Solicitor General; and
- (f) Miss Josephina Baptiste, Senior State Counsel.

Answer to part (c)(ii):

Mr. Mark Terrence Thorne, as a result of his acting appointment received the sum of \$14,132.86. This amount represents acting allowance received for the period February 19, 2006 to June 30, 2006. No additional remuneration or benefits have been awarded to any other of the officers mentioned above.

Answer to part (c)(iii):

The formal procedure regarding matters which are referred to the Solicitor General is as follows, the matter is dealt with as soon as it enters the department. Depending on the nature of the matter a member of the senior staff vets the document and prepares the required advice, opinion or comments, which is then forwarded to the hon. Attorney General for his final approval before it is dispatched. It must be noted that no formal record is or has ever been kept regarding the number of matters handled by the Solicitor General's Department over any particular period, including court matters, contracts to state organizations and other documents which are to be vetted, advised, commented on or opinions issued. In the circumstances the quantity of the matters that are processed by the staff of the Solicitor General's Department is difficult to determine at this time.

**Mrs. Persad-Bissessar:** That is a nice way of putting it.

**Mr. Herbert Atwell**  
**(Terms and Conditions of Employment)**

**63. Mr. Subhas Panday** (*Princes Town*) asked the hon. Prime Minister:

Could the Prime Minister advise:

- (a) what are the terms, conditions of employment and functions of Special Advisor Mr. Herbert Atwell; and
- (b) his monthly salary, wages and perks?

**The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The

answer is, Mr. Herbert Atwell is employed on contract as Director, Public Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister.

- (a) His duties and functions are:
- to review and advise on press releases, correspondence, speeches, messages and media emanating from the Prime Minister;
  - to organize and attend, as required, meetings between the Prime Minister and senior corporate and government leaders, both locally and internationally and brief the Prime Minister accordingly;
  - to analyse local and international events and to make recommendations to the Prime Minister;
  - upon instructions from the Prime Minister, to conduct meetings with citizens and organizations seeking the Prime Minister's intervention in selected matters and to submit reports thereon;
  - to assist in planning and preparing international visits and performing protocol, administrative and media functions connected therewith;
  - to provide advice and feedback on emerging issues of national importance;
- (b) His terms and conditions of employment as recommended by the Chief Personnel Officer are as follows:
- a monthly salary of \$23,000;
  - a monthly transport allowance of \$2,750;
  - a monthly telephone allowance of \$500;
  - subsistence allowance of \$100 per day when travelling on official duties beyond 16 kilometres from official headquarters and when on official business in Tobago;
  - an advance to a maximum of \$175,000 to purchase a vehicle, the said sum to be repaid within the period of engagement;
- (c) Exemptions from the taxes in respect of purchase of the said motor vehicle as follows:
- motor vehicle tax to the maximum amount payable on a motor vehicle with a cubic capacity of 1999 cc;
  - value added tax to the maximum amount of \$30,000;

- special motor vehicle tax to the maximum amount payable in respect of a motor vehicle as above;
- an advance to cover the cost of motor vehicle insurance premium;
- an advance to a maximum of \$20,000 to be repaid within the term of engagement to effect repairs to the motor vehicle of the person engaged;
- twenty working days vacation leave in respect of each 12-month period of engagement in years I and II and 25 working days vacation leave in year III; 5 working days personal leave during the first 12-month period of engagement to be deducted from vacation leave;
- fourteen days sick leave for each 12-month period of employment;
- three working days compassionate leave upon the death of a member of his immediate family; and
- a gratuity equivalent to 20 per cent of gross salary earned over the period of employment.

**Estate Management Business Development Company  
(Distribution of Lands)**

**65. Mr. Nizam Baksh** (*Naparima*) asked the hon. Minister of Finance:

Could the Minister indicate:

- (a) the different areas where state lands will be distributed by the Estate Management Business Development Company for housing and agricultural purposes;
- (b) the number of plots in each case; and
- (c) the price at which lands will be sold to former Caroni VSEP workers and other citizens?

**The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Government took steps to fulfil the commitments to the former employees of Caroni (1975) Limited with respect to residential lots and agricultural plots as follows:

A land use and capability survey was commissioned to determine the appropriate lands for each intended use, whether in housing, agriculture or industry.

Government established a Steering Committee and Inter-Agency Land Use Planning Team comprising of:

- (a) The Town and Country Planning Division;

*Oral Answers to Questions*  
[HON. K. VALLEY]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

- (b) Caroni (1975) Limited;
- (c) The Estate Management and Business Development Company Limited;
- (d) The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources;
- (e) The Ministry of Housing;
- (f) The Ministry of Works and Transport;
- (g) The Water and Sewerage Authority;
- (h) Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission;
- (i) The Environmental Management Agency.

The Inter-Agency Land Use Planning Team classified lands of Caroni (1975) Limited according to the following criteria:

1. Agricultural capability.
2. Proximity to existing settlements.
3. Accessibility.

Arising out of the land use and capability survey and a report of the Inter-Agency Land Use Planning Team, the following sites were identified for development into residential lots:

Site	No. of Plots
Brothers Road Garth	134
Orange Field Housing Development	35
Cedar Hill	31
La Fortune	15
Calcutta Settlement	75
Esperanza	45
Sonny Ladoo (Exchange)	226
Picton Phase II	206
Hermitage Phase II	185
Woodland	120

Site	No. of Plots
Roopsingh Road, Edinburgh	1,805
Felicity Phase I	1,486
La Romaine	1,152
Chin Chin Road	783
Reform	745
Exchange Phase I	441
Picton Phase III	410
Mc Bean	105
Total	7,999

Government also took the decision to expand four existing sites and include nine additional sites and therefore, make available approximately 22,023 service plots. [*Desk thumping*] Of these 22,023 service plots, 6,782 will be reserved for the former employees of Caroni (1975) Limited [*Interruption*] under the VSEP arrangement and the remaining 15,241 residential service plots—

**Mr. Ramnath:** For mixed communities.

**Hon. K. Valley:**—will be delivered to the national community by the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation.

**Mr. Ramnath:** That is to create mixed communities.

**Mr. Roberts:** Do you have a problem with that?

**Hon. K. Valley:** The nine additional lots to be developed are:

Caroni	1,260
Caroni Savannah Road	630
Waterloo	1,018
Cedar Hill Phase II	1,260
Exchange Phase II	643
Felicity Phase II	1,950

*Oral Answers to Questions*  
[HON. K. VALLEY]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

Picton I	630
Petit Morne	1,688
Exchange III	756
Total	9,835

In keeping with Government's policy to create quality housing communities, steps are being taken to ensure that all requisite infrastructure work is completed before the lots are handed over to beneficiaries.

Government took the decision to absorb all the infrastructure development cost and plots are now priced at \$20,000, \$25,000 and \$30,000 respectively for a 5,000 square foot plot, which in essence amounts to \$4, \$5 and \$6 per square foot. Government has also made financing arrangements available to the former Caroni workers at a subsidized interest rate of 2 per cent and has taken the decision to provide designs for five pre-approved model houses.

With respect to land for agricultural purposes, the list of sites and acreage are:

Sites	Acreage
<b>Phase I</b>	
Orange Grove	250
Jerningham	650
Waterloo I	1,250
Caroni	790
<b>Phase II</b>	
Felicity I	800
La Gloria	850
Exchange IA	1,280
Exchange IB	1,020
<b>Phase III</b>	
La Fortune A	950
La Fortune B	950

<b>Sites</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
<b>Phase III</b>	
La Fortune C	450
Edinburgh A	750
Edinburgh B	1,000
Reform A and B	650
<b>Phase IV</b>	
Reform C and D	525
Cedar Hill A	430
Cedar Hill B	750
Cedar Hill C	420
<b>Phase V</b>	
Petit Morne A	250
Petit Morne B	700
Petit Morne C	700
Exchange II	800
Waterloo II	360
Felicity II	750
Reform B	325
Montserrat I	500
Montserrat II	425
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,575</b>

Lands for agricultural purposes will be allocated in 2-acre plots in accordance with the Agricultural Land Use Policy. Leases will be for 30 years with the option to renew. Annual rent will be determined on the basis of location and valuation by the Commissioner of State Lands and in keeping with the standard lease rent applied

by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, that is, 2 per cent of the capital value of the freehold interest or 20 per cent of the economic rent, whichever is lower.

**2.00 p.m.**

**Mr. Baksh:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware that in the allocation of agricultural lands, there are a lot of dissatisfied farmers? For instance, people residing in Cedar Hill are being allocated lands in Central, Felicity and so. This is causing a lot of destruction in the planning to utilize these lands, is he aware of this?

**Hon. K. Valley:** I am not so aware, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Singh:** Mr. Speaker, the location of the lands in Chin Chin Road is right next to my constituency office and I visited the site, there is no allocation for recreation facilities. So you have a large acreage of residential plots, but no recreational facilities and I want to know if that is part of the planning in the large areas of residential plots? So certainly it ought to be corrected now at the implementation stage.

**Hon. K. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, what has been outlined as residential plots and within there, there would obviously be places for—[*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Ramnath:** You do not know.

**Hon. K. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, I am so informed.

**Mr. Baksh:** Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister indicate the price of land for the Caroni VSEP workers, but could he indicate for us the price of citizens other than the Caroni VSEP employees?

**Mr. Ramnath:** You must give the land to Caroni workers free. That was negotiated.

**Hon. K. Valley:** I understand the question, Mr. Speaker, but my understanding is the prices that I quoted, the price would be for the lots.

**Hon. Member:** [*Inaudible*]

**Hon. K. Valley:** No. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Panday:** Non-Caroni workers. [*Crosstalk*]

**Hon. K. Valley:** The price as my understanding is the same.

**Mr. Baksh:** You would agree it is an unfair deal to the VSEP workers when you guaranteed them that they are going to get special prices for their lots. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

**Dr. Rafeeq:** The Minister mentioned that the Government is absorbing the cost for all the infrastructural work, and then the lands will be sold to Caroni VSEP workers at \$25,000/\$30,000. He also mentioned that it will be sold to the public at the same price. Of course, that does not make sense, but the question I wanted to ask is: which Government agency will be responsible for the distribution of the lands to members of the public and what criteria will they use for distributing the lands to members of the public? [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I think he said the HDC.

**Hon. K. Valley:** I thought I said that, Mr. Speaker, I said the HDC. Mr. Speaker, in my response I said and I simply want to say again, that Government has made financing arrangements available for the former Caroni workers at 2 per cent. But in terms of the price of the lot, the price is, my understanding, it is for all the Caroni workers as well as the other lots. The additional subsidy that the Caroni workers are getting is the financing at 2 per cent.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** Mr. Speaker, he did not answer the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Last one.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** No, I am saying he did not answer the question. I asked, what is the criteria that will be used for selecting persons to access the 15,000 extra lots?

**Hon. K. Valley:** Mr. Speaker, obviously that has to be directed to HDC. HDC has been given the mandate to distribute these, and HDC will then have to come up with the policy position and I feel certain [*Interruption*]—Mr. Speaker, HDC's housing as you know is based on a random system, that is the policy that is in place.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Who says so?

**Mr. Panday:** Random? You crazy man.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Random?

**Dr. Khan:** Minister, are there any Government Members or families allocated any of the Caroni lands that you so described?

**Hon. K. Valley:** I am not aware of any Government Member or family, but I—let me finish please—am not aware, but of course, all Government Members or their families are citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and they qualify as any other citizen. Okay?

**Trinidad and Tobago Nationals  
(Details of)**

**66. Mr. Manohar Ramsaran** (*Chaguanas*) asked the hon. Minister of National Security:

Could the Minister inform the House of the number of Trinidad and Tobago nationals who left the country over the period February 15, 2007 to February 21, 2007?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Minister of State in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Hon. Fitzgerald Hinds):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the Carnival period for 2007, information was put into the public domain that approximately 55,000 nationals of Trinidad and Tobago left this country for that Carnival period. However, according to information provided by the immigration division, a total of 8,265 nationals of Trinidad and Tobago left the country during the period February 15 to February 21, 2007, which is not unusual when one considers previous annual statistics for that period.

In fact, when compared to the corresponding period for the preceding year, there were fewer persons departing the country during the 2007 period, both in terms of nationals and non-nationals. The immigration records indicated that within the corresponding period in 2006, that is, February 23 to March 01, 21,649 persons left this country, of which 9,750 were nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

I thank you.

**Ministry of Health Officials  
(Details of Visit to England)**

**78. Dr. Hamza Rafeeq** (*Caroni Central*) asked the hon. Minister of Health:

- (a) what was the cost of the visit by himself and officials from the Ministry of Health to England to recruit health professionals to work in Trinidad and Tobago; and
- (b) the names and job titles of all health professionals, if any, who have been recruited as a result of the above visit?

**The Minister of Health (Hon. John Rahael):** Mr. Speaker, this question in fact is ready for answer, but if we can defer it for later in the Sitting, I will be able to respond, please?

**Dr. Moonilal:** Go and get it.

**Hon. J. Rahael:** I do not know if Minister Valley has it?

**Mr. Speaker:** We will take it. Do I have your undertaking—you have the answer?

**Mr. Valley:** Of course, Mr. Speaker, I am always well prepared, you know that. [*Laughter*] [*Crosstalk*]

**Hon. J. Rahael:** The duty of the office. Mr. Speaker, in reply to question 78, the Minister of Health and officials from the Ministry of Health were invited by the Trinidad and Tobago Professionals Network in the United Kingdom to a Health Care Professionals Forum. The main objectives were to discuss job opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago for health care professionals, domicile and working in the United Kingdom were considered and relocated to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission also organized for the benefit of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, visits and tours of health care facilities under the National Health Service Trust of London. The cost of the visit was \$185,480.55. Mr. Speaker, we have had many enquiries and requests, but no person has yet been recruited as a result of the above visit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Panday:** Could the hon. Minister state the category of workers that have been approached?

**Hon. J. Rahael:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, in fact, a number of professional doctors, cardiologists, also those involved in other areas of discipline; nurses as well have also made enquiries.

**Dr. Rafeeq:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** [*Inaudible*]

**Dr. Rafeeq:** No, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to clarify something for the record. The Member for Diego Martin Central said that he circulated the answers for two written answers, it was only one. Only one answer was circulated, question No. 47 for the clarification of the record.

**Mr. Speaker:** Okay, I will ask the Clerk to check on that. Proceed.

*The following questions stood on the Order Paper:*

**Brian Lara Stadium**

5. With regard to the Brian Lara Stadium, could the hon. Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs advise:
- (a) (i) the status of work being conducted;
  - (ii) the expected completion date; and
  - (iii) the cost overruns to date?
  - (b) Could the Minister state what would the stadium be used for in relation to Cricket World Cup 2007? [*Mr. M. Ramsaran*]

**National Chutney Foundation  
(Subventions by the Government)**

33. Could the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs indicate whether any subventions have been given by the Government to the National Chutney Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago for the propagation and development of this art forum? [*Mr. N. Baksh*]

**University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)**

36. Could the hon. Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education list:
- (a) all the contracts entered into by the University of Trinidad of Tobago (UTT);
  - (b) all consultants whose services are engaged by UTT and the fees paid to them;
  - (c) all legal fees paid to attorneys-at-law for and on behalf of UTT; and
  - (d) all foreign personnel of UTT and their respective salaries? [*Mr. G. Singh*]

**Community Development Fund  
(Status of)**

44. With respect to the Community Development Fund (CDF), could the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs inform this House:
- (a) what is the present status of the fund; and

- (b) the number of recipients and quantum of money disbursed and the purpose of the allocations for fiscal 2005/2006? [*Mr. M. Ramsaran*]

**Community Development Bursary Programme  
(Details of)**

- 45.** With respect to the Community Development Bursary Programme, could the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs indicate to this House:
- (b) the number of recipients of bursaries under the programme; and
- (c) the quantum of moneys disbursed for fiscal 2005/2006 and for what given purpose? [*Mr. M. Ramsaran*]

**SWMCOL/CEPEP Investment Club  
(Money Market Account)**

- 58.** Could the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
- (a) the purpose of the fund established in the form of a money market account in the name of “SWMCOL/CEPEP Investment Club”;
- (b) the signatories to that account;
- (c) the current balance of that account;
- (d) the average monthly balance of that account since its establishment; and
- (e) the total amounts contributed annually by SWMCOL to the “SWMCOL/CEPEP Investment Club”? [*Mrs. K. Persad-Bissessar*]

**SWMCOL  
(Contracts from 2006 to date)**

- 60.** Could the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment provide:
- (a) the names of any consultancy firms employed by SWMCOL during the period 2006 to date; and
- (b) the duration of the contracts and the contract amounts? [*Mr. S. Panday*]

**Allocation of Funds  
(Details of)**

- 70.** Could the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs state the allocations made to TUCO, Soca Monarch and Calypso Tents for the period 2005–2007? [*Mr. G. Singh*]

**Chief Justice Legal Proceedings  
(Cost of)**

72. Could the hon. Attorney General provide the total cost to date in respect of all legal proceedings involving the Chief Justice? [*Mr. S. Panday*]

**Details of Valeo**

74. Could the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry indicate:
- (a) whether the company Valeo has developed and sold any health industry related hardware and software;
  - (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister indicate the price and purchaser? [*Mr. G. Singh*]

**E-teck, InterFix LLC and InterFix Ventures LLC**

75. Could the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry list the principal terms and conditions of the Shareholders Agreement between E-teck and InterFix LLC and InterFix Ventures, LLC? [*Mr. G. Singh*]

*Questions, by leave, deferred.*

**WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION**

*The following question was asked by Dr. Hamza Rafeeq (Caroni Central):*

**T&TEC and WASA Personnel  
(Conferences attended 2005 – 2006)**

47. Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
- (a) How many conferences were attended by T&TEC and WASA personnel between the period 2005-2006 and what were these Conferences;
  - (b) Who were these employees, what was the purpose of their attendance and what were the cost incurred by the respective Commission and Authority regarding attendance?

*Vide end of sitting for written reply.*

**DEFINITE URGENT MATTER  
(LEAVE)**

**National Water Crisis**

**Dr. Adesh Nanan** (*Tabaquite*): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with the provision of Standing Order 12(1) and (2), I hereby seek your leave to move the adjournment of the House on Friday, May 04, 2007, in order to discuss a definite

*Definite Urgent Matter (Leave)*

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the national water crisis affecting citizens in all parts of Trinidad and Tobago.

The matter is definite because it refers to a specific and identifiable failure of the Government and its agent WASA, to ensure that an adequate supply of pipe borne potable water is available to its citizens to meet their daily needs.

The matter is urgent because this woeful shortage of the said potable water now has tens of thousands of citizens, including those from Corosal, Whiteland, Cotton Hill, Poonah, Lightburn, Caratal, San Fabien—*[Interruption]*

**Mr. Panday:** Princes Town.

**Dr. A. Nanan:** Iere Village and Soledad Road—*[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** You are being disturbed by your own Members?

**Dr. A. Nanan:** No, I am not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Please continue.

**Dr. A. Nanan:**—utilizing contaminated water from ponds, rivers, streams and springs. The matter is of public importance because there is a nucleus for an outbreak of water-borne diseases that can reach epidemic proportions. *[Desk thumping]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, this matter so ably moved by the distinguished Member for Tabaquite will be discussed on the motion for the adjournment.

**Dr. Moonilal:** By whom?

**Mr. Speaker:** Moved by the hon. Member for Oropouche.

**COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAMME  
(GOVERNMENT'S MISMANAGEMENT)**

[Second Day]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [March 02, 2007]:*

*Be it resolved* that this House do condemn the Government for its lack of transparency, accountability and probity in the management of public funds allocated to CEPEP programme. *[Mr. G. Singh]*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr. Speaker:** When last we met, the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment was on her feet, she now has 30 minutes of extension time.

**Mr. Ramnath:** She is finished, but she has—

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, there are some things that I said on the last occasion that I think it is important to repeat. But basically, I just want to indicate some of the criticisms raised by the Member of Parliament for Caroni East and some of the criticisms that have been raised generally as they relate to the programme and I will list some of them and then I would give my responses.

Some of the criticisms have been a suggestion that the money spent in the programme, there is no value as it relates to the work that is being done. There is also an issue of the programme not being spread across Trinidad and Tobago that has been mentioned. Also the issue as it relates to terms and conditions of the employees and the apparent disparity as it relates to monies allocated to the contractors and wages paid to the employees; lack of training; and also the issues raised in the Auditor General's report and the issues raised in a report commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, but that report has not yet been completed. There is a first report and there is the final report that is not yet, as far as I am aware, completed.

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with these issues, I just want to highlight exactly what was the objective of CEPEP. The programme's objectives were identified as: empowerment of communities to improve the conditions of the local environment. That is one. Two: the expansion of employment opportunities for the benefit of semi-skilled and unskilled citizens within their communities; and the third specifically, is the creation of opportunities or the development of small businesses.

In order to achieve these objectives, persons employed in CEPEP were to be engaged in the following activities, that is:

- Collecting, sorting and the moving of garbage from public roadways which are inaccessible to the waste handling systems;
- The conducting of ongoing clean up of coastal areas by collecting, sorting and removing shoreline garbage;
- The beautification of existing dumps;
- The developing of recycling centres for the disposal of recyclable materials;
- The collecting, sorting and removing solid waste from watercourses, including, ravines, drains and canals;

- The developing of a yard waste composting facility, the output of which will be sold to farmers and homeowners for agriculture support usages; and finally
- The performing environmental action based on the feedback and findings from the community environmental improvement offices.

Now, I read those objectives simply to go back to the points that I raised as they relate to some of the criticisms raised by the Member of Parliament for Caroni East and other criticisms that have been raised in the public domain as they relate to the programme, and if I can deal with the issue as it relates to the value of the programme having regard to the money that has been invested.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that, if we were to go back and cast our minds to 2002 or the period prior to the establishment of CEPEP and look at what I consider to be a transformation in many communities as it relates to the environment, it has really to do with the implementation of this programme. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at a situation where you are talking about the empowerment and the employment of some 6,000 persons; and if we were to look at the average size of a family, we look first of all at the impact on the family of those 6,000 persons, but we also look at the impact of the entire environment or communities where those programmes have been set up.

In terms again of the objective of the programme and looking as I said specifically as it relates to the issues of cleaning up, the removal of garbage and so from public roadways, I do not think that anyone can argue that CEPEP has not substantially transformed a number of communities as it relates to that objective of cleaning up of community; cleaning of coastal areas; collecting and sorting; and developing composting facilities.

**Mr. Ramnath:** You are very disorderly.

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Well, I would like to hear your contribution what you mean by disorderly because I am not sure what that means. But, yes I would say that there is still a lot left to do with the programme and that point that you are making may bring me later to the point of training because there are some people that argued that the method by which they have been collecting disposing, leaves a lot to be desired. But I am of the view that between the period 2002 and 2007, we have seen some considerable improvements. I would go further to say that a number of communities where you have these CEPEP companies, they have to a large extent improved some pride in the communities, the educational aspect and the conscientiousness of the areas I think have been raised considerably.

One of the major criticisms of course has been the issue of the programme not being spread across Trinidad and Tobago. I mentioned in my budget contribution of last year that I am in the process of developing a note which is almost completed, as it relates to treating with that issue of making the programme national in scope. Now as we do that, of course, there will still likely be criticisms, but I would just like to say that in doing that, there would be focus a lot more on rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, as we have received the data from the Central Statistical Office that speaks to 5 per cent unemployment in the country, that is not necessarily so in a lot of rural communities and the reason for that, of course, the issues of transportation, because in a lot of communities they are not able to get to certain areas as easy as they would like so you have issues of transportations; the issues of communication; a multiplicity of issues that of course would affect their ability to properly benefit from a number of the programmes that the Government has now implemented.

The other issue of course, is the issue of training which I will deal with a little later. But in looking at the expansion, therefore, we have taken on board the criticisms of the fact that the programme is not national in scope, and therefore, that note proposes to treat with that. But the note as I said also proposes to look at the statistics given to us or shared with the public generally because those are quarterly statistics that are put out for the benefit of the entire public that gives a better idea about communities where the employment is much more than 5, 10, sometimes even in some instances as high as 19 per cent. Those are areas that we would be looking at closely.

Mr. Speaker, even in the initial programme, the issue of employment in a number of communities, those were issues that were considered in terms of the selection of areas. So I have dealt with the fact that the expansion is going to look at making the programme national in scope, but in doing so, it is not just a question of saying that you are going to put a programme in a community or in an area because you want to put it, but because there should be some genuine need, both in terms of environmental issues and also as we look at issues in terms of employment as well as a multiplicity of other issues that we would take into account.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue is that of the terms and conditions as it relates to employers and employees; and the issue raised as it relates to the disparity between moneys paid to the contractors and that paid to the employees. Since I have been the Minister, there have been no less than about 10 questions filed over

that period, requesting information as it relates to names of contractors; directors; moneys paid to contractors; and money paid to those working on the programme. In giving my last answer which I gave two weeks ago, I have sought to distinguish between moneys given to the employees, and of course, operation expenses and to list exactly why it is those moneys are given to the contractors. Because the impression is created that those moneys are simply going into the pockets of the contractors and they are not used for the proper management and running of the programme. Those moneys are given for the purposes of paying rent, for the purposes of—one of the things I cleared up of course, is that when the moneys are allocated, there is also a compulsory deduction of the NIS, the BIR and all those things for which there is a responsibility on the contractor to ensure that those sums are actually paid.

So you have your statutory deductions—and all those monies go collectively and then subsequently the disbursements are made—but then you also have your operational deductions of rent, telephone, maintenance of equipment and a multiplicity of other things for which the contractor has responsibility. Notwithstanding that, as we review the programme those are areas of course, we will address to ensure that in terms of accountability issues and issues raised by members of the public that those matters will be addressed. In so doing, we acknowledge that issues as it relates to insurance, and looking at the issues as it relates to vacation and other issues that those matters will also need to be address.

We are actively in discussion with appropriate authorities as it relates to treating with those matters. I am conscious of the fact we have had incidents where persons working on the programme have—in one case there was a fatality of a person that drowned and there have been other instances for which the level of compensation that they have received, clearly we are not satisfied with that, and therefore, those are issues for which the Ministry is engaging CEPEP for the purposes of dealing with these matters.

Another matter that has been raised, as I said earlier, was the issue of training for the CEPEP workers. Whilst that training has taken place, both as it relates to SWMCO providing training and a number of instances, even the contractors themselves, there are a number of contractors who have accepted the responsibility themselves, out of moneys allocated to them or out of other projects for which they may have been beneficiaries to set up training facilities for their employees. That, of course, results in a number of things. One is that the worker becomes a lot more skilled and it also means that the worker is able or workers are able to get the opportunities to move on to do other things.

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[HON. P. BECKLES]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

The Ministry is in the process of compiling the data as it relates to employees who are on the programme and employees who have moved now to do other things. The fact is, the Government has offered a multiplicity of projects for which the workers can benefit. You have your HYPE programme, your MuST programme, the YAPA programme and all of those programmes are available to the workers. So yes, we are looking at some existing programmes and we are also looking at designing programmes that are specific to CEPEP, that is to say, environmental programmes.

A number of them have attended the Cipriani Labour College. A number of them have benefited from programmes from the Ministry of Agriculture where they are looking at things like grow box farming and benefiting from those types of programmes which also give them the opportunity to be able to move on. Then of course, you have other programmes developed by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education where under the National Energy Skills Training Centre they are offering a multiplicity of programmes so that those who are interested in moving from that programme into the construction centre can look at issues of repairing small machines; looking at basic things in terms of the construction centre as well as advance, and of course, your certificate at the end of the day allows you to have an internationally accepted certificate so you can move on.

Whilst I cannot provide the data today that speaks to those who have moved from CEPEP into the construction sector, I am saying that has happened. The impression sometimes is created that those workers who initially started in the programme, that we have remained with the same cadre of workers. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that is not the case.

**Mr. Ramnath:** But you do not have the latest.

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Well, I do not have the data. Let me put it this way, I cannot give you the exact data, but I do know because it is something that I have been collecting from the different contractors and I do not want to run the risk because we have not compiled all of the contractors to give the information today, but I will certainly provide it at the appropriate time.

**Mr. Ramnath:** It might have cleared up because of poor wages.

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Well, let me say that, that is also—I would not say necessarily poor wages, but the fact that they have now put themselves in a position where they are a lot more marketable.

Mr. Speaker, one of the interesting things that we have met with some of the persons in the private sector is that—and sometimes we do not want to accept the fact in Trinidad and Tobago that there are a number of persons who find difficulty in gaining employment.

**2.30 p.m.**

What is interesting is that whilst people say to you they cannot get workers, I have even heard people say that CEPEP has actually stolen some of their workers and you are talking about 6,000 persons, and the Member for Couva South is suggesting that some may have left for greener pastures. The question that arises, of course, is that you have to look at the whole issue of the skills development of many of the persons employed in CEPEP so that you prepare them to have a better position and opportunity as they go into other areas.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that a number of those issues that have been raised by the Member of Parliament for Caroni East and other persons, both in the public and private sectors as they were revised, and even as they exist, are a multiplicity of things we have considered.

If I go specifically to some of the issues that were raised in the Auditor General's Report and some of the recommendations, you will see that the ministry has already started to put in place some of them that were made and I think it is important again for me to make it very clear that in looking at the recommendations raised by the Auditor General, you would see based on what I said when I spoke the last time, as well as what I would say today, that some of those considerations have already been implemented by the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment.

The Auditor General referred to the importance of the ministry being much more proactive in terms of monitoring the CEPEP. The Auditor General referred to developing better financial mechanisms to ensure that the moneys dispersed to the contractors are better accounted for and I indicated that Cabinet agreed to the setting up of a unit in the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment for the purposes of monitoring the CEPEP. That unit is staffed basically with persons in areas of expertise in finance, accounting, management, and in areas that would have the specific responsibility for the better monitoring management and supervision of CEPEP. There is a head of that unit that has been appointed and that person is going to be given the responsibility to ensure that some of the areas for which the ministry may have previously not looked after that unit would take such a responsibility.

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[HON. P. BECKLES]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

The other important decision as I indicated is Cabinet's decision in 2006 to separate CEPEP from SWMCOL and the reason for that, as I indicated on the last occasion and previous occasions, is the recognition of the importance for SWMCOL to focus more on the issue of wastewater. As it stands, only one-third of the country is sewerred and whilst Cabinet took the decision that in the first instance WASA will take responsibility for the plants run by the National Housing Authority (NHA), we also have to look at the multiplicity of private plants that are nonfunctional and we are talking in excess of 100 plants.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of private developments which abandon most of these wastewater plants; they are at the stage where their projects are completed and they hand over the houses to citizens. In many instances, that has caused tremendous problems for persons who have spent a substantial amount of money in purchasing houses. What eventually happens, is that the citizens would go to their respective Member of Parliament, the local government corporation, or write to the appropriate Minister for the purposes of taking over those plants to make them functional and it is going to cost the country a considerable amount of money to deal with those private plants, which, in most instances had been abandoned.

**Mr. Ramnath:** One is in the river in Couva.

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Yes and I remember receiving a letter from the Member for Couva South about a particular plant in his area. The fact is—and I think the Member of Parliament is aware of—that these private companies abandon these plants, so the Cabinet has decided that much more focus must be placed specifically on wastewater, and as we talk about Vision 2020 and acknowledge that only one-third of the country is sewerred—

**Mr. Ramnath:** May I ask you a question?

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Sure.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Is your ministry coordinating with the Estate Management and Business Development Company Limited (EMBDC) with respect to those thousands of lots which are to be distributed and there are plans to have these sewer facilities, and are you considering having a detailed discussion on the matter having regard to the historical antecedent with respect to these plans?

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Thank you very much for that question. The answer is yes. As a matter of fact in the Cabinet Note brought—I am not sure whether it was by the Ministry of Housing or the Ministry of Finance—but one of the specific aspects of the decision is the issue of infrastructure as it relates to water, wastewater of

course, and utilities and even as they apply for those residential lots there are specific requirements under the law to ensure that those things are put in place. Your point is well taken because we do know that is not a good track record for a multiplicity of private sector organizations, and every effort is being made to ensure that as we do those new lots that they put things in place earlier.

So as I mentioned, it is a question of having taken over the NHA plans as we do the master plan for the wastewater sector to also take over all the private plants, and as you know, the Beetham Wastewater Facility was started under the last Government, the Member for Caroni East, who was the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment. The Government is now looking at constructing other facilities in the East, Central and South facility, the existing facility only deals with areas covering Chaguaramas to Mount Hope.

It is a pretty urgent matter and, therefore, the feeling is that having regard to the issues relating to water, WASA should focus more exclusively on dealing with the water issues and have a body focus a lot more on wastewater. I am of the view that is a good decision and we should reap the benefits ensuring of course, that we put in place the proper management structures and other things for that to happen and that therefore, would allow SWMCOL and CEPEP as we revisit their structures and put the proper management and board in place to treat with that matter and allow them to be dealt with exclusively by a company to be set up which would take into consideration the multiplicity of issues I have raised together with the concerns raised by the public, and taking into consideration the Auditor General's Report and that of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of a couple of closing comments, I am aware that since this programme has been set up, and the multiplicity of matters that have been raised in the public domain, I have given the assurance as it relates to the concerns and recommendations raised in the Auditor General's Report that some of the recommendations have already been implemented and a Note is going to Cabinet for the purpose of revising and revisiting and certainly, where there are existing contactors, the decision would be for persons to apply all over again, and to look at the criteria, and the entire selection process. The issue of expansion, issues raised with regard to equity and not having it in a number of constituencies, that is going to be dealt with also, but as I said looking a lot closer at rural communities and where there is higher unemployment.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Before you wind up, could you indicate whether there is a standardized wage package established by the ministry or SWMCOL with respect

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[MR. RAMNATH]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

to CEPEP workers, or is it left to the contractors to determine what wages are paid to these people?

**Hon. P. Beckles:** It is standardized both for the contractors and the employees and what is also standardized is the NIS deduction and health surcharge, so you should not have a variation anywhere in the country as it relates to workers.

**Mr. Ramnath:** In case of URP you are not paying the minimum wage of \$9.00 an hour, could you indicate whether that is the same situation with respect to CEPEP workers?

**Hon. P. Beckles:** In the case of CEPEP you are talking about either 6.00 a.m.—12.00 noon, or 7.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m., so as I understand it, it would not be minimum wage. What I have said is that as we reviewed the programme and looked at the issues raised by a number of persons in terms of the disparity between what the contractors and the employees are receiving, that issue is also being addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have adequately dealt with the concerns raised by the Member of Parliament for Caroni East and certainly at the point in time when Cabinet approves the review of the programme, I would make the appropriate statement before the House of Representatives.

Thank you.

**Dr. Roodal Moonilal (Oropouche):** Thank you for the opportunity to participate in a debate on a very important matter filed by the Member for Caroni East involving matters of expenditure, economic and financial management, labour market issues, and governance issues on the whole.

It is very difficult to follow that fire and brimstone contribution that preceded me, but I wanted to begin by stating that the matter before us deals specifically with the Report of the Auditor General on the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP). This 2006 report gave an overview and a critical analysis of a very significant programme instituted by the Government of the People's National Movement led by the Member for San Fernando East in 2002.

The Motion states: “Be it resolved that this House do condemn the Government for its lack of transparency, accountability, and probity in the management of public funds allocated to the CEPEP”, and the resolution based upon several concerns raised with matters of “good governance”, “selection of contractors”, proper mechanisms for instituting, monitoring and evaluating the performance of

the programme, and the issue of the “roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment and the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL)”.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind Members that when this programme was introduced in May 2002, at that time the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment was the hon. Martin Joseph, the General Secretary of the ruling party and not the Member for Arima.

The political leader and Prime Minister and the General Secretary got together and worked out a programme called CEPEP and today, five years later, we are here to debate a Report of the Auditor General at a very important moment in our own history, this year being an election year. May I take this opportunity on behalf of colleagues on the Front Bench to express our congratulations to the incoming Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Mr. Hubert Ingraham, who has registered an overwhelming victory in the election in the Bahamas, Sir John Compton, the Opposition Leader in St. Lucia and I dare say there is one more Opposition Leader to take over in Trinidad and Tobago, the former Prime Minister and Opposition Leader.

**Mr. Rahael:** Who is your leader?

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** So there is a triangle that will be concluded in a few months when three former Opposition Leaders and Prime Ministers would take over the government in their respective countries in the Caricom region and they were all former Prime Ministers. [*Interruption*] Mr. Speaker, do not let them distract me from congratulating the incoming Prime Minister of the Bahamas, a very seasoned and distinguished politician.

May I also take the opportunity to congratulate Trinidad and Tobago's Captain Darren Ganga on being appointed the Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket team for the upcoming series against England and also to congratulate—as I am sure, all colleagues would—and wish the best to Ramnarace Sarwan, the new Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team for a very challenging series they face in a few days time.

**Mr. Ramnath:** How come you all so generous to Indians?

**Mr. Rahael:** We getting their votes.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, with Sarwan and Ganga back in the pavilion, I can now focus on the CEPEP matter before us. What I find amazing, unless I am mistaken, I was not at the Lower House at the time, but during the controversy that followed the construction of the airport and matters that followed thereafter,

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

the construction of the Millennium Airport at Piarco—unless I am mistaken, and I can be mistaken—there was no report of the Auditor General on matters dealt with in the construction of the airport, there was no Auditor General's report. We did have a Commission of Enquiry into the airport, that report is still under lock and key in the Prime Minister's house. No member of the national population has seen it—

**Mr. Singh:** Like the Gaffoor Report on Health.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, in my introduction, I want to make a next observation. When we deal with matters of mismanagement, improper systems, money, and disbursed expenditure in the context of the UNC, the Government and other agencies we would use terms like “corrupt”, “thief”, “bobol”, “police”. In the PNM's case they use terms like “systemic weaknesses”, “improper systems”, “there were irregularities”, “we have taken note of the weaknesses in the system”. But in the UNC, that kind of language is not used.

**Mr. Rahael:** Because they are thieves.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** In the PNM, when there is anything with “thief”, “corruption”, and “bobol”, it is the system, but we cannot jail the system, we cannot go in the Magistrates' Court and charge the system and lock him up. The irregularities! I read Prof. Selwyn Ryan—

*[Mr. Valley stands]*

**Mr. Valley:** Are you going to give way?

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** No, because I know you are up to tomfoolery.

**Mr. Valley:** You are not going to give way? *[Inaudible]*

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** And without me giving way, you would make the point, anyway.

**Mr. Valley:** Yes.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, I read an article by Prof. Selwyn Ryan a few weeks ago and he was writing in the aftermath of the release of this report and the goodly professor made the point that these are irregularities that the administration would have to deal with. But when this Professor was writing about the airport, he said that is jail, that is lock up.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that, had this report been released on any enterprise of the United National Congress you would have taken the 60-plus PTSC bus to

lock up UNC Members, supporters, children, and well wishers. If we had a dog or pet cat in the house you would have locked them up over this matter, but it is the PNM and they play by different rules. There is one rule for the UNC and no rule for the PNM.

When this report came to my desk I looked at the language of the Auditor General. In this report, a document setting out the specific responsibilities of the ministry as the implementing agency was not seen. When they asked for information with respect to several matters, process of selection and process for managing, and a financial system of the programme, they did not see any records. The tendering policy remained nebulous. CEPEP did not produce application forms, names of members of the selection committee, minutes of meetings, evaluation of forms and grading. They did not produce for the Auditor General the procedures applied in selecting the service providers, a listing of all applicants.

Mr. Speaker, the minutes of meetings at which selection was made, and copies of contracts were not seen. So, they exist, but were not seen. So it is a systemic failure. I suggest we lock up everyone associated with the CEPEP. [*Desk thumping*] I want to make another point because I need to reduce this in simple terms so people outside can understand.

If a person is in charge of managing an amount of money, \$1 million, and at the end of a particular period that person has no record, no minutes, no copy of contract, no selection process, that person has nothing to offer the Auditor General, that person is responsible for the financial mismanagement and responsible and accountable to the law because there would be Acts of Parliament whether it is the Integrity legislation, or Corruption in Public Office, there would be relevant laws to deal with a person who cannot explain the movement of money. No one has been charged. We hear of no investigation ongoing, no criminal enquiry being taken to deal with \$1.6 billion of taxpayers' money. That is what we are talking about; \$1.6 billion of taxpayers' money more or less went to build the airport which the Prime Minister would use today to go to and from Tobago. There is an airport, but they want to charge and lock up everybody. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker, \$1.6 billion disappeared and today we hear we need to strengthen the system, there are irregularities, we will need to put better monitoring procedures in place and \$1.6 billion gone. Where it gone? We need to get that money back because when we get that money, we can provide water for people, we can probably strengthen the police service when we get that money. We can provide pharmaceuticals in the hospitals; when we get that money we can put systems in

place so a baby would not be burnt at the Mount Hope Hospital. Mr. Speaker, where the money gone? Where? That is what we have to ask.

**Mr. Ramnath:** “Dey tief it.”

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** “And if you cannot explain where the money gone, yuh tief.” They are all responsible under the criminal law. This is not a matter of a system gone wrong; this is not a matter of regulations not being there. The Auditor General asked officially for certain documentation to explain the expenditure. That is all. We know very well the names of contractors and how much they get. All the Auditor General asked was how the contractors arrived at it. What procedure was followed and they could not say, and no one is accountable under the Government of the People's National Movement. None!

The Prime Minister, a few days ago speaking in Rio Claro where there was a crime consultation on April 24 said URP is riddled with corruption. CEPEP is corrupt. Mr. Speaker, in his sixth year in office, the Prime Minister says there is corruption. What has he done? What has the Prime Minister done to come to the conclusion that there is corruption in the public make-work programmes? Absolutely nothing because we recall over the years, the Member for Arouca North was responsible at some earlier incarnation for URP, told us we would have an investigation into (a), (b) and (c), and nothing happened. Money was found at the Minister of Local Government's office, they said it would be investigated. Nothing happened, but this wasting, squandering and thieving out the public purse is in the DNA of the People's National Movement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to draw your attention to a historical context I want to raise. The first year the PNM was removed from office was in 1986. The incoming Prime Minister and Minister of Finance was Mr. ANR Robinson and it would be interesting to note that in 1987 when the former Prime Minister, Minister of Finance who was also Minister of the Economy spoke in the budget debate in 1987. Do you know what Mr. Robinson had to say in the first budget after the PNM was wiped out? He said:

The Treasury is not just empty; there is a TT \$1.2 billion bill still to be paid from 1986. Public expenditures have been sustained by advances from the Central Bank up to the legal limit.

To put it differently, the government had been surviving on overdraft from the Central Bank.

**3.00 p.m.**

This is the Minister of Finance in 1987. I thought I would quote him because if I quote any other financial expert, they would have said he is UNC. Do you know what is startling, Mr. Speaker? The more things change with the PNM, the more it remains the same and sometimes it gets worse. This PNM Government, in whatever incarnation, cannot manage wealth. It cannot manage in a time of surplus because in the first oil windfall the amount of revenue we received during the boom days of the 1970s was over TT \$60 billion and with a TT: US exchange ratio of 2:1, it was a lot of money. Mr. Robinson, Minister of Finance in 1987, said that the Treasury was empty. They were living on borrowed money. We still have \$1.2 billion to pay from 1986. *[Interruption]*

His political evolution is well known, but the point is that history is repeating itself with their mismanagement of the surplus wealth of this country. Today we are looking at \$1.6 billion—and the only thing the Auditor General did not say was that they “thief”. However, when you use language like you “cannot explain funds”; “we cannot get reports”, you would have preferred the Auditor General to say—*[Interruption]* That is when you bring all your crooks and your PNM members to speak at the commission of enquiry. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** One Minister said that people were dead and the next thing you know, they were living. He was Minister of Health. I thought that was very funny.

The Auditor General is not under the payroll of any opposition party or any other entity in this country. The Auditor General is under the Government and protected in our scheme of things. She indicated that funds were released and they were not sure of the purpose for which the funds were used.

The one that had me both laughing and crying was where, at the findings, chapter 4, “Financial Management of the Programme—and I thought that the Auditor General was being very kind to say “financial management”—statements in support of contractors’ contributions were provided, however, statements seen, which were dated January 13, 2003 and February 14—Valentine’s Day—2003, entitled Contractors’ Contribution of Christmas Party 2002; Contractors’ Flag Contributions for CEPEP Rally 2003, documented procedures for the collecting and processing of these contributions were not seen. They were collecting money from contractors under the guise of a Christmas party and a flag contribution.

When the Prime Minister held his consultation in Vessigny a few months ago, they called CEPEP contractors and workers. They shepherded them into buses and took them to Vessigny, gave them red PNM T-shirts because their colour is red—they had a national press conference to tell us that—and when the workers were coming out of the buses at the Penal Junction, they told them to hand back the jerseys; that the jerseys were only to be used for PNM functions. They could not carry them home. They got the jerseys and they took them back when they finished the Vessigny meeting at which they had a huge consultation on industrialization.

What this says, simply, is that they are collecting money from contractors—that is clear—and they cannot explain how they are collecting and processing and how the money is being used. This is millions of taxpayers' dollars. In another country, Mr. Speaker, a government would fall immediately, but this is the PNM, and this is how they operate.

In my introductory comments, I do not want to overplay points made already by the hon. Member for Caroni East because there are a host of new points I want to raise. When you look at the list of contractors, I marvel at how they have been able to get contractors, in a random selection process, to synchronize with the PNM General Council, but not the General Council of the UNC or another party. When you look at the list of contractors, it is the roll call for their General Council. I took a check of all these firms. They were all registered before the deadline for the application [*Desk thumping*] and were never registered before the PNM came into office. So there were no cleaning contractors or environmental contractors before May 2002? Before May 2002, nobody in this country was cleaning and contracting to do janitorial services? How come all of them suddenly mushroomed—came into being?

At the General Council of the PNM there are two groups: the haves and the really haves. That is where they meet and the rest, they shepherd them into a bus and say, "Put on this T-shirt" and when the function has finished, take it back.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister talked about water. This is water I collected from a well in Lahoo Road, Penal. This is what people are drinking, bathing their babies with and using to wash clothes. This is the water that constituents of mine in Trinidad and Tobago must use to drink, bathe and perform their hygienic functions. This is because they have wasted all the money in CEPEP, while that money could have been used to fix the leaks and to upgrade the infrastructure and properly manage WASA. If they were managing WASA, my constituents would not have to be using this type of water. [*Interruption*]

I should put some in a glass for you now. You should drink it. In fact, you should bathe with it. This is what the PNM has exposed the people of Trinidad and Tobago to. We are discussing \$1.6 billion gone to their General Council members and they cannot manage WASA. They cannot provide basic drinking water for 1.3 million people who live in this country and they talk about managing the affairs of the country. I shall pass this to the hon. Member for Arima so that she would have an opportunity to deal with that. Under the UNC, it was water for all; under the PNM, it is no water for none. That is where they are. But, Mr. Speaker, more of that problem later.

Mr. Speaker, I was making the point that, on coming into office, they all lined up salivating at the public trough, waiting to get their hands on the money and formed themselves into all types of companies. The hon. Member for Caroni East already made the point that many are officials of their party—

**Mr. Speaker:** I hate to interrupt, but Members should sit on the seat assigned to them. Hon. Member for Tabaquite, I would not want to see your next position be out, so I think you need to come closer.

**Dr. Nanan:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no. Pass at the back of your Chief Whip. Come and sit in the seat assigned to you. [*Interruption*]

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Thank you very much for your deep concern with the future of the hon. Member for Tabaquite.

The point is that CEPEP was really an avenue to transfer money to their party officials for the running patronage to party officials, organizing and winning elections and keeping citizens of this country in a state of dependency. That is clear. The hon. Member for Oropouche did not say that, the *Express*, *Guardian*, *Newsday*, everybody says that.

Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, regrettably, the rains fell in Barbados and most of us who were so excited to watch that match had to wait. It was the most frustrating experience. In a bit of boredom and frustration, I looked into my study to see what light reading I could make and I saw a PNM Manifesto 2002. [*Interruption*] Looking for something light that would bring some type of comic relief on that very frustrating morning, I poured myself some tea. Regrettably, I should have poured something heavier. I had some tea and took note of this laughable document. The first point is that nowhere in their Manifesto of 2002 did they make reference to CEPEP. It was never brought to the public domain to indicate to citizens that they proposed this type of programme that would have contractors and help.

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

You know, Mr. Speaker, what struck me as those frustrating moments continued is that, in this document, they have a few points where they talk about the profiling of occupations and professions and that their Government would be against profiling of occupations and professions. They said they want all citizens to participate; all creed and race must participate in the development of business in the country. When they deal with equality of opportunity, it is in the context of the economy and what they believe to be the profiling in business. Their ideological and philosophical underpinning of CEPEP is to create entrepreneurs in a particular sector because they believe that those people have not been traditional entrepreneurs. That is their objective. I will come to that in a few moments. However, I must give you the joke of the day.

The PNM is all inclusive; it is not a business to provide returns to friends and financiers. That lifted my spirits on that morning we could not watch the cricket.

On national security, they said that they would provide security for all, reduce levels of crime, drug-related activities and so on. I submitted this to Ripley's *Believe It Or Not*, to use on Comedy Central. The point is that they had never mentioned issues of CEPEP in their manifesto. [*Mr. Valley stands*]

No, I will not give—if I do not recognize you; you cannot stand up. You have been here a couple of years and you know that.

**Mr. Valley:** You are misrepresenting the fact. You are misrepresenting the fact. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Please! Please! [*Crosstalk*]

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** You have been here 100 years and you do not know—

**Mr. Valley:** Because you want to misrepresent the fact.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, let me go back to a matter that is less controversial so that I do not irritate the Member for Diego Martin Central. I will read some CSO data. That will cool them down a bit. I just want to coax them down a little after hearing about CEPEP.

If the PNM had studied the unemployment data from the CSO, the creation of employers and what is called “own account worker”, meaning the small business person, from 1991—2001 when they came into office, some interesting points would come to mind. The unemployment figure in 1991 was 18.5 per cent, quite high, and by 1995, the unemployment data was 17.2 per cent—it came down. If the labour force is expanding by 2 to 3 per cent every year, there are more workers, so when you look at the increase in employment and decrease in unemployment, there is a net effect, which is very good.

In the year 2000, the unemployment figure was 12 per cent and by 2001, it was 11.5, so we have had a decrease in unemployment since 1994, incidentally, coming down, and then dramatically coming down between 1995 and 2001. Job creation was taking place: more people in the labour market, more jobs created, unemployment going down. That was the pattern. The CSO data—it was published in the *Guardian* as well—said that between 1995 and 2001, we created 85,000 new jobs on the labour market—sustainable, productive jobs outside of CEPEP because the UNC never introduced this type of programme. [Interruption] We had a vision of local government which I will speak on in a moment and which you are now undermining.

Unemployment went down dramatically between 1994 and 2001, but in the “own account worker” category, it has been on the increase since 1991 as well. There were more and more own account workers, moving from 14.2 per cent to 15.5 per cent and in an expanding labour market that is significant.

Employers, those persons defining them as employers, also increased from 2.7 per cent of the labour force to 4.2 per cent, a significant increase throughout the period. So it is not that the economy was not creating jobs; it was creating jobs at a rapid pace in 2001. So when the Minister said they created CEPEP because one of the objectives was to create jobs, no. Whatever was happening there was doing the job of creating jobs. So they cannot locate CEPEP as a job-creating institution. Employers were being created, own account workers, and in 1994 the employment pattern reversed itself to downward unemployment figures.

CEPEP came on the scene with certain objectives: one was to create employment. We dismissed that, but it also came to create entrepreneurs. That was an important—Ray Braithwaite. The Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East himself pioneered and pushed the CEPEP initiative. He was concerned with entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurs are not created by the State. They may be facilitated by the State. The pillar upon which entrepreneurship and successful economic activity is built is, first, on the freedom for those who work hard and take risk. There was a hard-working risk taker recently. His name was Deoraj Bhola. That name rings a bell? A funeral bell. He was a tailor in the Caroni area; working hard, saving his money, working outside of working hours, working Saturday and Sunday, going to people's homes to measure up to make suits and pants, well-known in the area. That is an entrepreneur. But the entrepreneur is no more because he was kidnapped and brutally murdered. He is not the only one. There are many others. He is no longer an entrepreneur.

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

Entrepreneurship is built on hard work and risk taking. Persons risk their homes and their careers. Regrettably for the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando, he has no history in entrepreneurship. He has no laudable, non-pecuniary roots. Really, he was never into business. He never saved or invested. Unless I am mistaken, the bank wanted to take his house at one time [*Interruption*] and his children got scholarships.

The first point is that the Member for San Fernando East himself has no history in finance, economy and entrepreneurship. He is free to explain himself, but entrepreneurship is built on hard work and sacrifice and when you work hard and sacrifice and you have education, you benefit from what that brings you. In creating entrepreneurs, there must be risk takers. They must work hard and sacrifice. You do not spring them up overnight and tell them to register at a lawyer's office and take a contract and go. That is not the approach and that is a fundamental issue because they were about creating entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, do you know where you can find them if you are looking for them? Go to the Magistrates' Court in San Fernando and when they ask: You have bail? They say, "Yes". The bailor has reached. They ask, "What is your job?" "I am a CEPEP contractor." They have been taking bail in the San Fernando Magistrates' Court for charges of possession of firearms and possession of drugs. That is where CEPEP contractors are. They are in the Magistrates' Court taking bail. That is how you identify them.

So the programme was conceived as a political device to transfer the taxpayers' money to private persons linked to their system who would benefit. That was their objective. It was also meant as a social programme. I recall on several occasions that leading members of the Government would tell us that the URP and CEPEP were very important because they would prevent persons who would otherwise commit crime from getting involved because they would have jobs and money and would be taken care of.

Mr. Speaker, if you do not build values in people to prevent crime, they would take the same CEPEP and URP money and help to finance crime. Changing a mindset for and against crime also has a value system involved because people who are poor, by themselves, are not crooks and prone to banditry. If someone comes to my MP office and says: "I need a 10-days and if I do not get it, I will go and 'thief'", I would say, "My brother or, my sister, you see that; I am not in that. I could help, but if you break the law, they should jail you forever; and do not threaten that if you do not get CEPEP and URP money, you would commit a robbery." No, no, no. Mr. Speaker, when you keep corbeaux as pets, eventually

they will dig out your eye. That is what they did. They kept corbeaux as pets and they dig out their eye and they wonder what happened to crime. Why are people being kidnapped and why is crime taking place?

Mr. Speaker, that is the genesis of the criminal activity we face. They were keeping corbeaux as pets. That is what led them here. If they could have stood firm and said, whether you call yourself a community leader or a pastor, a child or whatever, we would have a process that is transparent, legitimate, where everyone could apply. There may be cases where we need to help groups and so on, but do not do it where it becomes a wealth transferring scheme to the underworld and to criminal elements.

First, you will not deal with crime that way, so it is counter-productive. The other issue in dealing with this matter is the social programme. Did it help? Five years later, the Minister with responsibility for labour stood in the House and gave us no data. What is fascinating here is that every time we ask, they say that the training programmes are working—it is just that we do not have the figures, but they are working; trust us.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and Member for Arouca North presented a written answer in this House on the YAPA programme, an apprenticeship training programme for young people in agriculture. That Minister said that the YAPA programme had apprentices and graduates and a large percentage of them get jobs. That is in one part of the answer. In the next part, he said they do not keep records of where they are working, but they know they are working.

Today, we have the same problem. The Minister says that these people receive training and go on to the productive private sector. They do not have the data, but somehow they know this. Today, let me tell them the data. Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano, the Minister with responsibility for labour, presented himself on TV6 *Morning Edition* on April 25 and said that many persons were unemployable. That is an indictment on their training policies. For five years, they have spent millions of dollars on training and today the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development says, on national television, that there are many people who are unemployable. He said that there are persons who may even be employed, but unemployable. He is talking about CEPEP and URP.

The Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development has condemned the training initiatives of this Government. Millions of dollars have been spent on training and do you know where we are today, 2007? We import doctors from

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

Cuba; nurses from the Philippines; skilled workers from China; technical workers from the United Kingdom, while Trini workers painting stones and holding up screens. [*Desk thumping*] That is their vision.

**Mr. Valley:** No, we will put the CEPEP worker to be a doctor.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** The worse is that they closed Caroni (1975) Limited and now they are importing food. Two budgets ago, the Prime Minister said we were going to have family farms. By the last budget, he said we will now have state farms. All we got was SuperPharm. [*Desk thumping*] But they are busy training workers. The Minister said many were trained, but they do not know how many.

Today, skilled Chinese workers are here. I do not know if you have to read Chinese to put up posts and pillars in Port of Spain, but citizens of our country, five to six years later—Where is the MUST programme? Where are MILAT and MYPART? Why are Chinese skilled workers needed to build the Prime Minister's house? They are building schools. If we do not watch it, these Chinese workers may be taking notes in Parliament and conducting the affairs of the House. If we do not watch ourselves here, one might end up as the Speaker.

The long and short is that their training policy has collapsed so that, today, the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago must paint stone, clean grass and hold up screen, while others take the productive well-paid work.

**Mr. Speaker:** Two observations before I move the Motion for your extension of time. I would prefer if you address the Chair, because when you address the public gallery you are creating some reaction there from members of the Public Gallery that could cause them to be deemed strangers.

Secondly, you referred earlier in your contribution to Members who keep corbeaux as pets; it can cause them to dig out their eye. The inference here is—I hope I am wrong—I hope that you are not inferring that CEPEP workers are corbeaux. If you are, I do not think that is really—

**Mr. Ramnath:** Strange conclusion to come to!

**Mr. Speaker:** That is the natural inference. I hope that was not your trend of thought.

**Mr. Panday:** You are batting for the PNM. You are batting for the PNM.

**Mr. Speaker:** Member for Princes Town, you will have your 75 minutes in due course.

**Mr. Ramnath:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the speaking time of the hon. Member for Oropouche has expired.

**Mr. Ramnath:** You are helping the press to come to a conclusion

*Motion made,* That the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [*Dr. H. Rafeeq*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the question is—

**Mr. Panday:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Member for Princes Town, may I move the Motion.

**Mr. Panday:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** No, you are disturbing me.

**Mr. Panday:** [*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Speaker:** You are disturbing me. Please keep quiet!

*Question put and agreed to.*

[*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Panday:** [*Inaudible*]

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the—

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no, if you happen to disturb the House on one more occasion, I will ask you to leave.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Well, you have to ask me to leave too. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Panday:** I apologize—[*Inaudible*]

**3.30 p.m.**

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Speaker:** One minute. If you happen to disturb the House on one more occasion, I will ask you to leave.

**Mr. Ramnath:** You are not asking to leave.

**Mr. Panday:** I apologize. I was just saying that there are more PNM in the House than any—

**Mr. Ramnath:** Unnecessary—

**Mr. Panday:** Bias!

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Thank you very much for your observations on my presentation and thank you very much for the extension of the time. I assure you that my turning had nothing to do with not wanting to see you necessarily.

This is also my public speaking training, but I will keep a focus, as you said. When I made the reference to corbeaux as pets, clearly I was not referring—please I do not want to be quoted as referring to CEPEP workers but, rather to the few individuals involved in the criminal enterprise that are involved also in CEPEP. With that out of the way, let me proceed.

The Member for Arima also noted that CEPEP was about empowering local communities, creating small business and the training of persons. I have already dealt with the training matter; the shame and scandal that today, six years later, our workers are painting stones and holding up screens and skilled people coming into the country and taking the best jobs. I would not dwell on that.

Empowering local communities, social objective—I want to raise that matter. Another observation I want to make is that this is a Government that did its analysis of the national economy for sugar and agriculture, and decided in their existential wisdom to close down Caroni (1975) Limited. Eight thousand workers left. Caroni (1975) Limited employed 8,000 workers and created around it satellite industries and communities to feed into the mainstream of Caroni (1975) Limited. They trained workers and provided health facilities. Caroni (1975) Limited also cleaned drains and provided assistance to local government in the rural areas and the towns.

Caroni (1975) Limited had an estate police service which would drive around the areas. The very fact that you see a van with "police" written on it, the petty crooks and criminals would not watch to see whether it is the Commissioner of Police or a next police. Police is police. It was a deterrent to criminal activities in rural areas in particular. Caroni (1975) Limited police patrolled and their vans were up and down. There was a benefit. Caroni (1975) Limited paid NIS.

They cultivated sugar cane. Sugar cane today is a lead input commodity for the next major commodity of the world, ethanol. George Bushe, of every person, now has the vision. Lawrence Duprey, we read a couple of days ago, is on to that vision but, the PNM closed down Caroni (1975) Limited. There were food processing plants, dairy, poultry, citrus and aqua products. They had all of these

and they closed down everything. The estate police was an important deterrent in rural communities. When they closed down everything, they said: "Well, we will get 6,000 people in CEPEP, through a contractor work system. Could that not have been integrated into Caroni (1975) Limited and supported productive activities in agriculture? Why not? That is the vision that you think an able government would have. The Caroni (1975) Limited police would patrol and prevent crime.

Today when you go to a gas station, a supermarket, or an eating place in this country there are signs on the walls for bandits. One such sign is: "Please note that the employees here do not have the keys to the vault." I want to tell the people who are putting up those signs that the "fella" who is coming to rob cannot read. The "fella" who stoned the baby put his thumbprint in Princes Town. There should be a sign like: "The key not here," or something like that. That is where we have reached in the country. We are putting up signs for bandits. When you come, point the gun and read the sign first before you waste your time. That is what Trinidad and Tobago is, a banana republic when you had the opportunity with Caroni (1975) Limited, to restructure. Integrate CEPEP.

I am now putting for inspection some of the views of the UNC. CEPEP can be integrated into Caroni (1975) Limited and used for productive activity, particularly in agriculture.

Today we spend \$1.2 billion importing food. I am sure the chairman of the manifesto committee, the distinguished Member for Couva South, would build on such a humble suggestion. They imported \$1.2 billion on food. Do you know that because of what is happening in the ethanol sector and the American policy of developing that sector, they are using sugar cane and corn much more for that industrial product and the price of sugar cane and sugar cane-related products would increase and the price of food for the big importers in the Caribbean like Trinidad and Tobago will increase. Food prices are going up because America is using sugar cane for ethanol.

**Mr. Ramnath:** They are making it more mandatory.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** They have a target by 2010, to convert from oil to ethanol. Mr. Bushe has been very strong on that matter.

Incidentally, Brazil functions, I think, almost 100 per cent on ethanol. Nobody in Trinidad and Tobago thought that the sugar cane industry that they closed down could have actually produced a fuel that we could have used in our industrial development. It took Lawrence Duprey to see that happening and he

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

moved into that sector. They closed down Caroni (1975) Limited and 8,000 workers have gone. They have put 6,000 workers in CEPEP. The Minister admitted that there have been complaints about the geography and national profile of the programme. I think what the Minister is saying is that programme is in the Government-controlled areas and is not being extended to some of the areas that the Opposition controls.

Particularly, if you do an analysis of where these contractors are all located, you cannot help but come to a conclusion that it is in the marginal areas. They intend to use that again for that political process.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Shame on you all.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Do you know what is regrettable about CEPEP? I am sure when the incoming Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment on this side gets into office, we will be rethinking CEPEP.

They established CEPEP which goes into local communities without any interfacing or communication with the local government body and undertakes work that could have been done by local government. They could have empowered local government to do the work of CEPEP.

**Dr. Khan:** They control them.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** That is the problem. They do not control all the local governments—

**Dr. Khan:** But they could control the people.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** —and they would have, of course. The first thing is that they could not get \$1.6 billion, had they done that. Local government can do the work of CEPEP, which can be integrated with local government to meet their local needs.

**Mr. Ramnath:** —[*Inaudible*]—demonstrate in La Brea.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** If you ask people in the countryside or anywhere else—certainly I know for my area—what do you want? Everybody wants a box drain. Eventually a government would have to give out box drain by lottery. Everybody wants a box drain. CEPEP could have been used—some of the labour—they could have been trained to get the skills—to organize with communities and persons to get materials and they could have been doing the drainage projects that would also stop flooding.

**Mr. Ramnath:** They could create a company.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** They could have done that, but they undermine local government at every step.

It was yesterday or the day before, they opened some apartment buildings in San Fernando. Those buildings do not have permission from the city engineer, the public health inspector or the Town and Country Planning Division, but the Minister of Housing, Prime Minister and the Chairman of UDeCott opened and gave out keys like call cards. Not one planning permission was given for those areas. They are undermining local government, which is what CEPEP is doing as well.

You cannot—I am referring to a statement made by the Minister where the Minister said that one of the objectives of CEPEP is to empower local communities. Local government has that responsibility and you cannot undermine local government and say on the one hand that you want to promote empowerment.

You will be shocked to know that the San Fernando City Corporation has authority over the lands in what we call Chancery Car Park, the area by the hospital. Over the last few weeks, UDeCott offered \$15 million for the City Corporation to take possession of that land to develop government offices. An independent valuation put the figure at \$45 million, while UDeCott offered \$15 million. Do you know the Cabinet took a decision for the San Fernando City Corporation to lease for 199 years to UDeCott, for \$10 per year? Could you believe? The people of San Fernando could have gotten \$45 million for their sacred development plan. The Member for San Fernando West should be hanging her head in utter shame and disgrace. The sum of \$45 million could have gone to the City Corporation to develop their wharf project and infrastructure in San Fernando, for the people of San Fernando. Cabinet took a decision to. They undermined local government.

There are approximately 10 persons in the San Fernando City Hall. They are called the council and they run the affairs of the council. Cabinet, in Whitehall, took a decision and told the council to follow it. They have to follow it because there are CEPEP contractors on the council.

**Mr. Panday:** Marryshow.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** You expect CEPEP contractors who are councillors in San Fernando to stand up to the Government and say: You are undermining the City Corporation. Do you expect that?

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

The Member for San Fernando West—I have to check the list before I talk about any relative of hers involved there. They undermined the City Corporation on the Chancery Lane Car Park/Government Office Campus building. The people of San Fernando will now receive \$10 a year for what was really \$45 million. That is undermining local government. CEPEP is undermining local government. You see the similarity, pattern and parallel. When they talk about empowering local government, you cannot take them seriously.

Before I close, it will be remiss of me, if I fail to outline the thinking—in that brief period that remained—of the UNC on the CEPEP matter. I want to indicate to you and the national community that the UNC stands in support of the workers of CEPEP who have been exploited, used and abused as the political playthings of the PNM.

An incoming UNC administration will link and integrate CEPEP into a reformulated and reengineered Caroni (1975) Limited. We will also integrate CEPEP operations with the local government councils; all local government, whether they are PNM or UNC or anything else. A PNM local government council will now work with CEPEP and coordinate local activities, in terms of infrastructure development. Mr. Speaker, CEPEP will play an important role. For that role, we promise the workers of CEPEP that they will have the opportunity to join a trade union of their choice, so that they can get collective bargaining protection and trade union protection to bargain for better terms and conditions of work. The days of oppressing and exploiting CEPEP workers, or checking their names on a sheet when they go into a bus to be shuttled to Vessigny, are coming to an end.

We want to assure CEPEP workers that liberation is on the way. We would liberate them from the tentacles of the PNM.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Shackles.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** We will provide trade union coverage and protection. That includes not only wages, but also their conditions of work.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Roberts gone.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** You must be stonehearted when you drive along the road and see the CEPEP workers out in the rain holding up a piece of canvas—they are always canvassing—in the hot sun and rain. Many of them complain that they were provided with a uniform and thereafter, once the uniform deteriorated, they got no other protective clothing. They use outdated tools. The UNC is committed to training the CEPEP workers.

Do you why we are so disappointed today? The Prime Minister, in his budget contribution a few months ago—it is on a rare occasion I take note of the Prime Minister in this way—made several commitments to the national population along a range of issues. In the budget presentation of the Prime Minister, he said that his government is committed to reengineering CEPEP and strengthening the training provisions. The Prime Minister was saying that they were looking at training workers between 4.00 p.m.—7.00 p.m. I stand corrected, but this is my note from the Prime Minister's budget statement. The Prime Minister said that CEPEP needed to be revitalized and he needed to increase training. He also suggested in the budget statement of 2005, that CEPEP would increase training and he looked at the hours. Today, in May 2007, we have not one note from the Minister and the Government as to what they have implemented, as far as the Prime Minister's promise is concerned.

As you know, these are the days when the PNM will promise anything now, because they know that the electorate is on their coat-tail and not the abbreviated word I was looking for.

They know that the electorate is on their coat-tail and they will say any and every thing now to get away from what is a sure defeat in the upcoming election in Trinidad and Tobago.

I want to tell the Government that while the Prime Minister boasts about 41 seats, he must know—because he has been in politics for more than one day—that he is not going to win anything close to 41 seats and he must also know by now that the majority of electors in Trinidad and Tobago are against the PNM. That is a fact.

**Mr. Ramnath:** We have the evidence.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** The evidence is there. The Prime Minister must know that CEPEP whether he increases or puts more money into training between now and an election, nothing will save him.

Feroza Ramjohn, anybody knows? I was on the point earlier that we have workers coming from abroad and we have not trained our CEPEP cadre.

A few weeks ago, those of you who follow news much more than I do, would recall that the Minister of Foreign Affairs made a statement and there was a headline in the newspapers—I do not want to find it now—where the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that there is a staff shortage at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sen. The Hon. Arnold Piggott said this. Yesterday one of the staff won her case against the Prime Minister, whom the court ruled had discriminated

CEPEP (*Government's Mismanagement*)  
[DR. MOONILAL]

Friday, May 04, 2007

against her. I wonder why there is a staff shortage. If you discriminate against workers—if you use the high-handed authoritarian office and power that you have and discriminate against workers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—you can expect that the court will strike you down. [*Continuous interruption and crosstalk*]

The Prime Minister was guilty of discriminating against Feroza Ramjohn at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The court said that he discriminated. [*Continuous interruption and crosstalk*]

**Mr. Panday:** No way.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** —and many people in the national community who are concerned with discrimination—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** —will recall that. Are you criticizing or attacking the judge? I do not think it is fair for you to be in the House and attack justice.

**Mr. Singh:** Bereaux is not biased, Valley is biased!

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** The court ruled that the Prime Minister had discriminated against a worker.

**Mr. Valley:** [*Inaudible*]—politician.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** The worker—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Please, hon. Members, the Member for Oropouche has approximately 10 minutes and I think he would like to conclude with everybody listening to him.

**Mr. Ramnath:** He is talking nonsense! [*Inaudible*]—bringing race in—[*Inaudible*]

**Mr. Valley:** [*Inaudible*]—politician.

**Mr. Ramnath:** What politician? She is a judge!

**Mr. Valley:** [*Inaudible*]—politician

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Mr. Speaker—[*Continuous crosstalk and interruption*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please!

**Mr. Ramnath:** You must have some respect.

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no, please.

**Mr. Ramnath:** What you talking about Indian judge here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! Order!

**Mr. Ramnath:** “Yuh worse than Umballa.”

**Mr. Valley:** [*Inaudible*]—politician.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would give you some injury time. Please, hon. Members, you are forcing me to give the Member for Oropouche some injury time. Continue.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [*Crosstalk*] It is refreshing now that I am not on the receiving end of his attack.

They have used CEPEP to reward their friends and family, contrary to the manifesto. From pundit to priest, from trade union leader—Do you know that a trade union leader in this country is a CEPEP contractor? The General Secretary of a leading trade union in this country is a CEPEP contractor. You wonder why people are not protesting, condemning and criticizing the Government. They have sought to buy out all the voices in the national community.

**Mr. Singh:** The calypsonians.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** The calypsonians as well. They have sought to use CEPEP to surrender for the people.

As they keep their supporters under a sort of psychological surrender, they have reached a point where they are numb to suffering. They have conditioned their supporters to suffer. They bought all the important voices of decent—pundit, priest and trade union. They all are CEPEP contractors. Campaign managers—advertising in the media. [*Continuous interruption and crosstalk*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** While the CEPEP contractors remain as bailors, the academic community—I do not have time to read the quotations from Prof. Dennis Pantin and others—has indicated that the unemployment figure is inaccurate, including the President of FITUN. They have all concluded that the unemployment figure is bogus, because they are propping the unemployment figure with CEPEP, URP and a host of public make-work programmes that cannot sustain themselves. At a time when there are now serious questions as to gas reserves and the continuity, in terms of our line of wealth from the energy sector, this is a cause for concern. You are creating these parastatals that you cannot sustain, using our wealth in time of plenty—they have a history of that—into spending that you cannot sustain—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. Ramnath:** Chavez does not want the man in Caracas.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** —only for this part time and temporary period, as it leads to a general election.

*CEPEP (Government's Mismanagement)*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

I also want to alert the national community, if there are those of you out there who may be conned by the Government and the Prime Minister, God forbid, the PNM is returned to office, they would close down this programme within six months of an election because they have already sent their messages that they have to reduce their spending in the URP and CEPEP, not because they want to. They have some international voices in the financial agencies that are looking to these programmes and warning the Government about this expenditure policy. They may want to fool the electorate, but they would move to downsize and eventually close down.

In ending my contribution, I want to remind people that CEPEP is a set of “bobbol” and crookery is not the saying of the Members for Caroni East or Oropouche. The *Guardian* editorial of May 29, 2003 stated:

“...CEPEP shows no sign of having evolved from its roots as payback for political patronage despite protestations to the contrary.”

**Mr. Ramnath:** I cannot believe the *Guardian* would say so.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** “This is an ongoing saga of the PNM, a party with a leader who has no vision for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.”

*Newsday* of Monday, March 05, 2007—I like this headline:

“New PNM, new bobbol

It now seems clear that the CEPEP programme is a super clone of the URP.”

*Newsday* of January 23, 2007:

“Government must account”

They speak about the warnings by the Opposition. They also speak about the father of the Minister from Arima being a CEPEP contractor. I think she dealt with that. She said that her father got the contract before she became Minister. That helps her explain.

Another critical point is that while we recognized Lionel Beckles, there is also a Brian Beckles as a contractor, who is not related, incidentally, to the Member for Arima. Brian Beckles is not related at all to the Member for Arima.

**Mr. Singh:** We want a DNA test on that.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** In fact, Brian Beckles resembles anybody here on the frontline of this Opposition. He is not related to the Member for Arima. That leads me to the point—do you know in this country today, there are citizens out there

who believe that to get a contract, a scholarship or a house from this Government they should change their name.

**Mr. Sharma:** What a shame.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** What was Roodal Moonilal, should become Rudolph Matthews, and you have a better chance of getting a house, a scholarship or being a CEPEP contract. Do you know the sad state of this country?

On another occasion I will recite a few names of the CEPEP contractors who went to the Red House, I think, and did a deed poll and changed their names so that they could become contractors for CEPEP.

**Mr. Ramnath:** Not from Barendra to Barry though?

*[Miss Seukeran stands]*

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** I do not have time for this. You will have your time.

**Miss Seukeran:** One minute.

**Mr. Panday:** Sit down!

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** When we talk about discrimination I want you to know that there are citizens in Trinidad and Tobago who will go to the length and breadth of changing their name.

**Miss Seukeran:** What do you mean by—

**Mr. Panday:** You know.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** They believe that will give them a better opportunity to get a house, a CEPEP contract or any benefit that is due to them as a citizen of this country.

I thank you.

**The Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs (Hon. Roger Boynes):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to set the record straight in this honourable Chamber. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has made tremendous opportunities available to every single citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. That is a fact. For the national community, we are saying that any and every programme is available to every single citizen of this country.

**Mr. Panday:** You crazy!

**Hon. R. Boynes:** I want to address a point that was raised by the Member for Oropouche a short while ago when he mentioned that this PNM Government is on its last. Poll after poll has determined that the People's National Movement will win the next election—that is a fact—by a large majority. It is because all of the Government's opportunities have been reaching to every nook and cranny of this country, even though Members on other side do not want to utilize the opportunities in favour of their constituents. The PNM and the Ministers on this side make sure that we carry opportunities to persons living at your doorstep.

**Mr. Panday:** No, only PNM people.

**Hon. R. Boynes:** I wanted to put that on record.

I want to simply tone down this debate a bit and formally put on record, our appreciation for Brian Charles Lara. I want to formally put that on record.

**Mr. Panday:** I am with you on that.

**Hon. R. Boynes:** Brian Charles Lara is indeed one of the finest batsmen that the world has ever seen. We applaud that.

We also want to send congratulations to Darren Ganga, who has now been elevated to the position of Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team and congratulate the new captain as well.

I also want to remind hon. Members that Darren Ganga is the same Captain of Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Team who, for the second year in a row, has been able to capture both the regional league and the one-day cricket.

**Mr. Sharma:** “Oh God, we know that, wha’ is yuh point?”

**Hon. R. Boynes:** His ascendancy to the role as Vice-Captain is one that we applaud.

With respect to this debate that deals with CEPEP and the Auditor General's Report, I wish to indicate that I would like to congratulate the Member for Arima because it is the Member for Arima who initiated this special audit by the Auditor General. The Auditor General's Department comprises persons who have years of experience in the field of finance. Their experience goes in the field of ensuring that there is transparency and accountability in systems, as they relate to governance.

The reason the Member for Arima saw it fit to initiate this special audit is to ensure that we learn from the recommendation from the Auditor General, so that we would be in a position to use their suggestions and recommendations to

strengthen our system, so that the service to the population will be better. I wish to congratulate her for that.

In this case, the Auditor General's Department has made certain recommendations and good governance dictates that we adhere to these recommendations in the best interest, as I mentioned, of the public.

When going through this Auditor General's Report, nowhere did I see where the Auditor General's Report said that there was corruption in CEPEP.

**Hon. Members:** “Yuh blind?”

**Hon. R. Boynes:** They spoke about tightening the systems and procedure but nowhere did they mention that a door cost \$98,000 like what obtained in the airport. Nowhere did they mention that a table cost \$250,000. That obtained at the airport; nowhere.

**Mr. Narine:** Or a \$10 million banking account in London.

**Hon. R. Boynes:** I will come to that in a short while.

Nowhere. I hope he does not have shares in a particular newspaper. Not one of that particular law firm worked anything for CEPEP. All the persons at that newspaper will pay for it. I guarantee you that.

**Mr. Sharma:** Not one single UNC, all PNM.

**Hon. R. Boynes:** The Member for Oropouche mentioned that \$1.6 million was spent. He said: “At least we have an airport.” I also want to mention that the United States Justice Department is not interested in CEPEP. They are very much interested in the airport.

Mr. Speaker, at clause 25 of the Auditor General's Report—I listened to the Member for Oropouche. He mentioned:

“Statements in support of their contractors’ contributions were provided. However, the statements seen, which were dated 2003, were entitled: ‘Contractors’ contribution to Christmas Party’ and ‘Contractors’ Contribution for CEPEP Rally 2003’, respectively.”

The report stated that statements in support of contractors’ contributions were provided. There were Christmas parties and the CEPEP rally. It was on the television. We all saw that. The fact of the matter, if it were them on the other side, there would have been collection for Christmas party and rally but there would have been no rally or Christmas party.

**Mr. Valley:** Ask them about the raffle.

**Hon. R. Boynes:** That is the point. I want to make the point that what the report is alluding to is a tightening up of procedures and systems but there is no corruption.

The fact of matter is that it is the Member for Arima, in her wisdom and her understanding the need to have good governance and good systems, decided to ensure that particular audit took place. I wish to commend her again for that.

**Mr. Sharma:** “Yuh say dat ah ready.”

**Hon. R. Boynes:** It deserves repeating.

The Member for Oropouche branded CEPEP contractors as bailors; they are painting stones and holding up screens. He spoke about the workers and corbeaux. I believe he had taken the opportunity to clear the air on that. But what would come to one's mind, boy? What could possibly have come to ones mind? I am glad he took the opportunity to clear the air on that matter.

**Miss Beckles:** He tried to clear it. He has not cleared it.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Monday, May 07, 2007 at 1.30 p.m. [*Interruption and crosstalk*] We have a Motion on the Adjournment.

I simply want to inform Members that on Monday, the Government wishes to deal with the package of police legislation, which on today's Order Paper would be Bills Nos. 6 and 7, as well as Government Motion No. 3 on the Order Paper.

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before I put the question to the House, there is a matter to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment by the Member for Oropouche and I now call on him.

#### **Provision of Water (Government's Failure)**

**Dr. Roodal Moonilal (Oropouche):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise the following matter as a matter on the Motion for the Adjournment of the House namely, the failure of the Government to provide the basic necessity of

water to thousands of citizens in the southern region. This matter involving the failure of the Government and WASA to provide water has been on the agenda for the national community for some time now.

This Government—coming into office on the pretext of having superior management skills and being more efficient than the previous government—has two major areas that have signalled its collapse and its incompetence as no other area that we know; notably, their management of crime and their provision of water.

Some weeks ago constituents in the Penal/Debe area had cause to march in the hot sun from Debe to San Fernando for 8 miles, to protest against the failure of Government and WASA to provide water.

The last time in this country citizens marched for water was at the turn of the last century.

**Mr. Sharma:** That was 1937.

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Earlier. Today, in 2007, citizens march for water. When we were marching for water the sun was very hot. When we continued asking for water it started to rain. God heard our plea, but WASA did not.

When we went to WASA, we had a meeting. I will not call the names of the persons but we met very, very high-level managers of WASA. They made a promise, in my presence, to provide \$2.2 million immediately to the regional corporation, so that the corporation will undertake the provision of a truck-borne supply of water. That was, I think, March 22. Today, between March 22 to the first week of May, it is only a couple of days ago that monies were made available to the Regional Corporation and approximately \$0.5 million dollars; much less than the amount asked for. The sum of \$2.2 million was promised; of this, \$563,000 was identified for certain areas in the southern region.

Do you know what is amazing about this thing? The Government provides the money for water, so that the regional corporation can provide what is called a truck-borne supply. That supply is for people who do not have taps or water lines to their house. They cannot get water. They get water through the regional corporation's provision of same. If your neighbour has a tap but there is no water, that water is not for you. It is amazing. They provide water to houses that have no pipe-borne supply but if a house next door has a tap but no water for 17 days, you do not get water. That is only for homes where there is no pipe running to their house. It is the most comical, yet tragic episode with water.

*Provision of Water*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

A few days ago I had to call a general manager of WASA, me, the Member of Parliament, to beg for a tank of water. There is a constituent of mine in Papourie Road, who is 94 years old. While we should be celebrating her, the household called to say that they did not have water for 17 days and they were having serious difficulty caring for this elderly person who requires regularly baths and being taken care of. For 17 days a 94-year-old citizen who worked hard, slaved, paid taxes and built the country cannot get water to take care of her should she get sick.

In another area nearby, police was summoned one day. I asked what the problem was and I was told that the villagers had a fight. I asked: What are you fighting for? They said that they were fighting over water. The truck went to deliver water and gave one person and did not give another and there was a fight and an assault. The police came and made an arrest. That is where we have reached.

I brought my sample to show the Minister. This is water collected from a well in Lahoo's Trace Extension, where villagers go at 6.00 a.m. and line up. This is what they take out from the well to take home to be used to bathe the babies, wash their clothes, undertake baths and cook. Look at this. Which Member in his or her right mind will put this into his glass on his table and drink it? Which Member would put this in a pot to cook? Which Member?

The Member for Arouca South, whom we congratulated a few days ago on being a mother, would she take this water to care for her babies? My constituents—she has contact in WASA—we would talk about those pipelines later—must take this water to cook.

I am asking the Minister with responsibility for public utilities to tell me when will the day come when that my constituents will not line up by a well and pull up a paint pan with this water to use to cook, drink and care for their children? I know the answer but, tell me.

It is not Dr. Roodal Moonilal alone. I want to read. You know I normally keep a lot of clippings but there is one I want to refer to. This is from April 20, 2006 from the *Newsday*:

“Water woes in South Central.

Angry Bereaux slams WASA”

**Mr. Sharma:** Which Bereaux?

**Dr. R. Moonilal:** Hold on.

“La Brea Member of Parliament Hedwige Bereaux yesterday slammed state utility WASA for what he termed an unsatisfactory approach in dealing with the water shortage, which for the past two weeks has affected thousands of residents in South and Central Trinidad...

Letters were sent to Chief Executive Officer, Errol Grimes concerning the situation but up to yesterday there was no response.”

If this is a former Minister, a leading PNM Member and Deputy Speaker of his Chamber who slammed WASA, who is me?

I want to tell the Minister that what is required now is not just outlining your development plans for the next ten years. I think many of us know these plans. What is required is something like a CEPEP list: How much money, how many contractors, where and when. That is what people want to know. The people in Lachoo’s Trace do not want to know about the development plan for the next 10 years. They are not concerned with that. They are concerned that they do not have water today.

If a wedding is taking place on Sunday, tonight many of you—the Member for Arouca North is not here, but the Hindus will know—would know that tonight there is an important ceremony. Tomorrow night there will be an important ceremony. Sunday, of course, is the wedding. It is the *hardee*. Tomorrow, of course—Member for Toco/Manzanilla do not—I do not know how in the world you would know that but in any event—constituents have weddings and the preparations begin now and they do not have any water. I would like the Minister to tell me the amount of money provided to the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation as of this moment and how long it would last, in terms of getting the water to the constituents to come to their aid; not the development plan.

The \$554,000 that they got was already spent. That was for two or three days. They need to release.

Another bothering problem is that the Government, because they are involved in what is called over-centralization, wants to tell the corporation give us all the estimates for the trucks and contractors and we will pay. The corporation does not have the money, but they have to do all the bureaucratic work to satisfy the paperwork to get money from the Ministry Public Utilities and the Environment. While that is happening, people are dying and thirsty. There are problems with children who have outbreaks and illnesses developing because of this situation. That is what we want.

*Provision of Water*  
[DR. MOONILAL]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

We want the Minister to save us the trouble of telling us the development plan and that it is a very bad dry season. We know this. We understand that the PNM corporations are being treated differently. The Minister may respond to that. By telling us that this is a horrible dry season—We can watch Joey Stephens in the night on TV6 and we will know that it is a bad dry season. We do not need the Minister to tell us about the dry season being bad. We know that. Every year, this is why you plan. Tell us what you will do and how much money you will now give us. If you want to interrupt me and tell me the money I will stop now. Tell us exactly how much money you will now send to the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation to deal with our emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

**The Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment (Hon. Penelope Beckles):** Mr. Speaker, sometimes I am amazed, because as I sit here and listen to the Member of Parliament for Oropouche, he was part of a government, he is aspiring to return to government with great difficulty, if not impossibility, that indicated that the country would have water for all in 2000. He seems to forget that statement, when they mislead the public. At that time, of course, they knew that an election was coming and they felt that once they made that statement everybody would have voted for them but, lo and behold, they went out of office.

The fact is, that what I have sought to do at every turn is to be truthful with the population. No matter what the Member of Parliament for Oropouche says, the fact is that there are certain truths for which we must accept. He does not want to hear about the dry season, the plans, this or that. The fact is that we have to share with the public what our plans are. He has come today with a bottle indicating that it came from a well in South Trinidad, of course, for the purposes of drama. That is the real reason for that, to be dramatic.

I want to make the point clear because he is focusing very heavily on the issue of Penal/Debe and the fact that moneys were promised and they have only gotten approximately \$500,000. I think it is well known that the issue of water trucking falls under the Ministry of Local Government. What I did just over two weeks ago was to call a meeting of all Mayors and Chairmen, because the issue relating to water shortage is not exclusive to south Trinidad and Tobago. As a matter of fact, in my own constituency, Arima, there are problems for water. I called every single mayor and chairman. Twelve of those corporations were represented. Two corporations were not represented, Arima and Port of Spain. The other 12 were represented.

At that time, I indicated to all present that what I wanted—as a matter of fact, there was a request, I think, from Penal/Debe for a particular period of time. Based on the information that I had from the metrological services, I asked that the request be sent up until the end of May and not for the period for which some of them had asked, which was either early May or in April. I told them to send their requests until the end of May, at least in the first instance, and we would revisit the period as we go on. That is the information we had from the metrological services.

Following that, in a couple of days, some sent and some did not. I gave the commitment that even if requests were not yet sent, all the stakeholders were present. In some instances Mayors, Chairmen, CEOs, the management of WASA, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment, the Minister of Local Government and the DPS of the Ministry of Local Government. All the stakeholders were present. I indicated that even if we had not yet gone through the process of approvals, the corporations could proceed by accessing the water and subsequently send the bills to the Ministry. Therefore, this issue of approving, as being made the issue, is totally false because there was an agreement that things could have been put in place from that day as we waited to have the process properly completed.

Some of the corporations mentioned that there was a bureaucratic process that actually put the lives of citizens—basically people were in jeopardy. Because there is a system where you go with the voucher, the person had to go to the foreign filling station and go back to WASA. I am familiar with all of that. What we sought to do, as we had everybody present, was to explain that whilst there is the bureaucracy, people were starving for water. Therefore, the commitment was to try and avoid that bureaucracy and start putting systems in place. We had everybody there and it was clear that very often there is a communication problem.

We sought to work that out. All the corporations that I received requests from, we have given approvals for every single body.

The Member for Oropouche—we have received additional requests for additional monies and we will approve all of the monies. That is abundantly clear.

It is a simple issue. The corporations did not come to me, I went to the corporations. As a matter of fact, simply because I recognize that the majority of corporations in difficulty were from San Fernando. I went to San Fernando and had the meeting rather than asking them to come to Port of Spain. As a matter of fact, that is not the first time. Last year I did the same thing and the year before.

*Provision of Water*  
[HON. P. BECKLES]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

We have gone so far in the case of the Mayaro Corporation. The Member of Parliament for Fyzabad is saying the PNM corporations have been better off. I am tired of hearing that foolishness. That is just not true. I went so far as to say to the corporations that there is a challenge, as it relates to water trucks. The Mayaro Corporation was able to source somebody who had a truck available. I think it was a tank. Through the NSDP programme we purchased the tank so that the corporation could have used it to distribute. I also made the offer to the other corporations, if they sourced a tank and wanted assistance, the Ministry would provide them with the assistance because there is also a shortage of water trucks.

People have found that especially where, in 2004, 2005, 2006, there was not a dry season, many of the persons owning trucks found that it was not in any way beneficial to them financially. Therefore, they did not use the trucks. In 2007, there is a shortage of trucks. I want to make it abundantly clear on the issue of the PNM corporations being better off, most of the requests for funding are coming from the UNC corporations because those are the areas where there is the shortage for water; more shortages than some of the PNM districts. Any corporation that makes a submission, the Ministry will treat with it.

San Fernando City Corporation and even Diego Martin that had previously never applied for funding, have applied this year. That is to tell you that even though they came to the meeting and said: We do not have even one water truck, because it has not previously applied. There are areas such as Pleasantville and even the heart of San Fernando, where there have been challenges; likewise, Diego Martin. Therefore, there are 12 corporations of 14 that have made requests. Every single one has been approved. I am making the point again that if there are further requests, there are things already put in place to assist the corporations.

Yes, he says do not speak about the fact that we do not have rain. The point about it is, that is the reality. We must acknowledge as Trinidadians and Tobagonians that there is an issue of water crisis in the world. The evidence is absolutely clear that by 2050, there will be a water shortage. As a matter of fact there are concerns that there would be water scarcity in the world from 2015. That means that we have a responsibility as a Government, Opposition and every single citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, to understand that we have to act responsibly in this situation.

As we talk about marching—here it is we have a scenario where you talk about not marching since 1937. There are some of us who are acting responsibly and some of us who are not. There are multiplicities of approaches that the Government has taken.

Yes, the Member for Oropouche does not want to hear it, but I will have to say it because this is the Government that has taken the decision to change the Navet lines. The Navet lines are the lines that will, in the main, deal with some of the complaints reigned by the Members for Tabaquite, Princes Town and several others. It is a 40-year-old line. He is talking about \$547 million affecting a number of areas that have absolutely no access to water. Who has taken the decision? It is the Government—five reservoirs, changing the entire line and making it a lot easier for people in Tabaquite, New Grant, Moruga, Mayaro and Rio Claro. We are starting a new line running from Rio Claro to Mayaro next week. I would invite the appropriate Members of Parliament and the Local Government Councillors, as I always do. They would have the opportunity to be able to speak about what they have requested and what they are doing for their constituency; not to say that they are the ones who are initiating the project but they have the right as a Member of Parliament to come and say what they have to say and I have done it in all constituencies.

And the point is, some of them will go to their constituency meetings and say that the PNM is diverting water from PNM areas into UNC areas which is absolute rubbish.

**4.30 p.m.**

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we are in a situation where more rain falls in the northern part of the country than in the southern part of the country. That means, yes, as a Government we have a greater responsibility to put our transmission and distribution lines so that they go further south. When you drill a well in south, in Chatham or in those areas you will only get sometimes 50,000 gallons, 200,000 gallons or 300,000 gallons, and you drill a well in Arima or in some of those areas you get 2 million gallons a day.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is 4.30 p.m. but we can move—there is just about 5 minutes left for the Minister to wind up, so if you wish we can move the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) and allow the Minister to complete and then we can go for tea?

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Hon. P. Beckles:** Thank you very much. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues very much, and yes I just have about 5 minutes. But I want to say that the Government has started a National Social Development Programme and so far we have spent approximately \$500 million between the period 2003 to 2006, and over 64,000 residents have benefited.

*Provision of Water*  
[HON. P. BECKLES]

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

Now, I know the Member of Parliament for Caroni East, and even Nariva can speak about some of the challenges where lines have been laid and there is no water source. It is something that has existed over a number of governments and it is something that has to stop. Fortunately in terms of the management and in terms of looking and talking a little more with the Members of Parliament, that is something that we are working to eliminate. I just want to say that claiming that it is a deliberate thing on the part of the Minister that is not so, because I think they have all understood what the problem is.

The Cabinet has agreed to the restructuring of the Water and Sewerage Authority and at the appropriate time I will make a statement in the Parliament as it relates to that restructuring. I have referred to the importance of more effective and efficient management. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

**Hon. P. Beckles:** That is a matter that we have that I will treat with. There is multiplicity of programmes but just to say that there are certain things that we have started. In Princes Town we have installed seven kilometres of pipeline at the cost of \$7 million. In December 2006 and March 2007, two new wells at Penal 23 and 24 have been commissioned. Again, the only unfortunate thing is that the gallons of water that you are getting are not substantial—120,000 gallons per day, but it has cost us some \$1.4 million.

There are a lot of things that I can go into today and I do not have the time. I spoke about it today as the Government officially launched our Water and Waste Water Master Plan. *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order!

**Hon. P. Beckles:** And there are a number of projects in the constituency of Oropouche, Nariva, Tabaquite, Princes Town and others for which we have already started and I make the commitment to forward those projects to the respective MPs. At the appropriate time we will visit the constituencies to give them the opportunity to have their say as it relates to those projects.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I close I just want to make it abundantly clear that I would like to think that there is no individual sitting in this House who is happy about the present situation as it relates to water in the country. We can say, and I will admit that in terms of having a better dry season plan, that is clearly something that WASA needs to improve on. Even as we have a terrible dry season and even as April has been one of the hottest months we have had in decades, I think that

we must agree that there is a lot of room for improvement, in terms of collaboration between WASA, the Ministry of Local Government and a multiplicity of agencies. The fact is the Government has put in place a multiplicity of projects in order to ensure that WASA is properly funded and to ensure that WASA is properly managed, and most importantly, that we have agreed to the development of a Water and Waste Water Master Plan that will treat with a multiplicity of issues that are being raised by the public so we could ensure that as we approach Vision 2020 we are in the best possible position to provide quality of water and water for all the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

I thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the question is that this House do now adjourn to Wednesday, May 09, 2007 at 1.30 p.m.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.35 p.m.*

#### WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

*The following question was asked by Dr. Hamza Rafeeq (Caroni Central):*

#### **T&TEC and WASA Personnel (Conferences attended 2005 – 2006)**

47. Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
- (a) How many conferences were attended by T&TEC and WASA personnel between the period 2005-2006 and what were these Conferences;
  - (b) Who were these employees, what was the purpose of their attendance and what were the cost incurred by the respective Commission and Authority regarding attendance?

**The Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment (Hon. Penelope Beckles):** For the years 2005 and 2006, employees of T&TEC attended a total of 25 conferences, at a total cost of \$722,239.44. In 2005, employees attended a total of 11 conferences, 5 of which were local and 6 were foreign. The cost of the local conferences was \$16,488, and the cost of the foreign conferences was \$184,407.40. Therefore the total cost incurred by T&TEC for conferences in 2005 was \$200,895.40

In 2006 employees of T&TEC attended a total of 14 conferences, 6 of which were local and 8 were foreign. The cost of the local conferences was \$81,430.87,

*Written Answer to Question*

*Friday, May 04, 2007*

and the cost of the foreign conferences was \$439,913.17. Therefore the total cost incurred by T&TEC for conferences in 2006 was \$521,344.04.

For the years 2005 and 2006, employees of WASA attended a total of 73 conferences, at a total cost of \$2,289,333.82. In 2005, employees attended a total of 43 conferences, 16 of which were local and 27 were foreign. The cost of the local conferences was \$194,862.00 and the cost of the foreign conferences was \$1,076,353.50. Therefore the total cost incurred by WASA for conferences in 2005 was \$1,271,215.50.

In 2006 employees of WASA attended a total of 30 conferences, 14 of which were local and 16 were foreign. The cost of the local conferences was \$248,777.48, and the cost of the foreign conferences was \$769,340.84. Therefore the total cost incurred by WASA for conferences in 2006 was \$1,018,118.32. This information for both T&TEC and WASA is provided in the Table below.

Information on the conferences attended, the employees who attended these conferences, the purpose of their attendance, and the cost incurred by T&TEC and WASA regarding attendance is provided in Appendices I and II.

**Conferences Attended by Employees of T&TEC and WASA for 2005 to 2006**

Agencies	Years	No. of Conferences and Location			Cost \$		Total \$
		No.	Local	Foreign	Local	Foreign	
<b>T&amp;TEC</b>	2005	11	5	6	16,488.00	184,407.40	200,895.40
	2006	14	6	8	81,430.87	439,913.17	521,344.04
<b>Total for T&amp;TEC</b>	-	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>97,918.87</b>	<b>624,320.57</b>	<b>722,239.44</b>
<b>WASA</b>	2005	43	16	27	194,862.00	1,076,353.50	1,271,215.50
	2006	30	14	16	248,777.48	769,340.84	1,018,118.32
<b>Total for WASA</b>	-	<b>73</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>443,639.48</b>	<b>1,845,694.34</b>	<b>2,289,333.2</b>



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2005

Appendix I

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
LENNA FRANCIS WILSON	CGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE "DOING BUSINESS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY"	RBTT ROYTEC	TO UPDATE KNOWLEDGE IN CORPORATION TAXATION AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATIONS	NO COST
LAUREL FORBES HUDLIN	CARILEC'S 2005 PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE – COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS	TRINIDAD HILTON & CONFERENCE CENTRE	THIS EMPLOYEE IS ONE OF OUR KEY PERSONS WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT	2,048.00
DAVID ST. CLAIR	-do-	-do-	-do-	2,048.00
STEPHEN MARTEL	-do-	-do-	-do-	2,048.00
YVONNE GENTLE- LANGDON	-do-	-do-	-do-	2,048.00
MICHAEL LABADIE	-do-	-do-	-do-	2,048.00
ANNETTE JAMES	-do-	-do-	-do-	2,048.00
WENDELL MAYERS	CARILEC'S 2005 PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE – COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS	TRINIDAD HILTON & CONFERENCE CENTRE	EMPLOYEE IS ONE OF OUR KEY PERSONS WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT	300.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2005

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
RONALD DE SILVA	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
DAVID WEBBER	INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONFERENCE – THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	CASCADIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE ST. ANNS	TO UPDATE IR PRACTITIONERS & UNION OFFICIALS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA) AND THE CARIBBEAN SINGLE MARKET & ECONOMY (CSME) ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LOCAL & GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES	300.00
TERRENCE TORRES	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
NIGEL MARQUEZ	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
MICHAEL LABADIE	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
GARTH GARRAWAY	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
JOAN BELL-EVERSLEY	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
STEPHEN IFILL	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
RONALD BERNARD	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2005

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
VERNON JACK	INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONFERENCE – THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	CASCADIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE ST. ANNS	TO UPDATE IR PRACTITIONERS & UNION OFFICIALS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA) AND THE CARIBBEAN SINGLE MARKET & ECONOMY (CSME) ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LOCAL & GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES	300.00
CLIFF THOMAS	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
MORRISON JOB	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
ANDREW ALVES	-do-	-do-	-do-	300.00
RAMDEO SADHOO	LIVING LEADERSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	CROWNE PLAZA	TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP ABILITY	1,250.00
RENE AUSTIN	-do-	CROWNE PLAZA	TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP ABILITY	1,250.00
ANTHONY ALEONG	-do-	CROWNE PLAZA	TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP ABILITY	1,250.00
CHRISTINE MORRISON-JOSEPH	PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP: FROM EFFECTIVENESS TO GREATNESS AMERICA'S LEADING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES AND THE LUMINARY SERIES. PRESENTED BY FRANKLIN COVEY	CASCADIA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE	TO UPDATE EXECUTIVES ON CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP ISSUES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES OF MANAGERS	1,600.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2005

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
RAVI SHUKLA	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,600.00
RAMDEO SADHOO	PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP: FROM EFFECTIVENESS TO GREATNESS AMERICA'S LEADING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES AND THE LUMINARY SERIES. PRESENTED BY FRANKLIN COVEY	CASCADIA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE	TO UPDATE EXECUTIVES ON CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP ISSUES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES OF MANAGERS	1,600.00
TERRENCE DARMANIE	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,600.00
TERRENCE ARAUJO	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,600.00
RICHARD DAVID	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,600.00
CHARLES INNIS	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,600.00

Carilec: Caribbean Association of Electric Utilities



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2005**

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
Carol Ann Lee Sing-Kalloo	Design Of Trans. Line Structures & Foundations Conference	Tropicana Hotel Las Vegas, USA	Witness Latest Design in Transmission Towers & Poles and Various Software Design Options	19,317.30
Samuel Lee Sing Chan	Oracle World Conference	Moscone Centre, San Francisco, California United States	To upgrade and provide information on new developments in oracle financial systems	20,110.15
Kenneth George	Oracle World Conference	Moscone Centre, San Francisco, California United States	-do-	20,897.65
Eric Headley	Indus World Conference	Omni Hotel At CNN Centre Atlanta, Georgia, USA	selection of CIS banner system for implementation in the commission	14,910.05
Irwin Thompson	Indus World Conference	Omni hotel at CNN Centre Atlanta, Georgia, USA	-do-	16,831.90
Charlene John	Indus World Conference	Omni hotel at CNN Centre Atlanta, Georgia, USA	-do-	14,910.05
Neeala Maharaj-Racha	Indus World Conference	Omni hotel at CNN Centre Atlanta, Georgia, USA	-do-	14,910.05



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2005**

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
Deryck Graham	Indus World Conference	Omni hotel at CNN Centre Atlanta, Georgia, USA	-do-	12,969.65
	Carilec Conference (Human Resource Management)	Hotel El Convento San Juan Puerto Rico	To enhance the understanding of hr policies, employee relations and networking	17,159.75
Jonathan Kacal	21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Sel Technical Seminar 32 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Western Protective Relay Conference	Double Tree Hotel Spokane, Washington	Learn and research methods of power system automation	20,723.25
Yvette Bobb	Oocur Conference	British Colonial Hilton Nassau, Bahamas	Updates on regulatory requirements of electricity sectors	14,405.10
Wendell Mayers	Oocur Conference	British Colonial Hilton Nassau, Bahamas	-do-	14,405.10

Carilec: Caribbean Association of Electric Utilities

Oocur: Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
ERIC HEADLEY	EASTERN CARIBBEAN ORACLE USERS GROUP 14 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE	CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, MACOYA	T O KEEP ABBREAST OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE ORACLE SYSTEM	600.00
SAMUEL LEE SING CHAN	-do-	-do-	-do-	600.00
NEEALA MAHARAJ-RACHA	-do -	-do -	-do-	600.00
AUDRA RAMSOOK- SAMUEL	-do	-do	-do-	600.00
LINDA IRVINE	-do	-do	-do-	600.00
CHARLENE JOHN	-do	-do	-do-	600.00
JAMES CASTILLO	-do	-do-	-do-	600.00
LEISHA DHORAY	-do	-do-	-do-	600.00
MICHAEL LALLA	-do	-do-	-do-	600.00
LISA MC NICOLLS SARGEANT	-do	-do-	-do-	600.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
YVETTE BOBB-MORRIS	PEOPLESOFT CARIBBEAN REGIONAL USERS GROUP	CASCADIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, ST. ANNS	TO ACQUIRE INFORMATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND UPGRADES OF THE PEOPLESOFT SYSTEM	530.00
DEVECAR BASDEO	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
KAREN RAMPERSAD	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
ARLENE MAYNARD	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
AUDRA RAMSOOK-SAMUEL	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
LINDA IRVINE	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
HAYDEN ROSS	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
NICHELLE JAGDEO	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
ALICIA WEIDNER	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00
JAMES KENDALL	-do-	-do-	-do-	530.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
RAMDEO SADHOO	DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP MASTERY IN THE 21 <sup>ST</sup> CENTURY- DEVELOPING EXCEPTIONAL TERMS ORGANISED BY CAMILLEON CONSULTING GROUP	ARTHUR LOK JACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS	TO EQUIP PARTICIPANTS WITH ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO ACHIEVE LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE	\$2,716.87
RICHARD KISSOON	STRATEGY AT THE EDGE OF CHAOS	ARTHUR LOK JACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS	TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP ABILITY IN A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT	3,000.00
GREGORY DAVID	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
KELVIN RAMSOOK	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
FELIX ALLEYNE	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
CHARLES INNIS	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
RONNIE GHENT	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
ERNEST BOXILL	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
KURTIS CHONG	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
RAVI SHUKLA	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
COURTENAY MARK	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,000.00
GANESH NARINE	CARILEC ENGINEERS CONFERENCE 2006	TRINIDAD HILTON AND CONFERENCE CENTRE	TO KEEP ABBREAST OF THE CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENT OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY	3,583.00
KAVITA DEONARINE	-do-	-do-	-do-	No Cost
ALVIN RAMSARAN	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
KELVIN RAMSOOK	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
WESTLY ORR	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
CURVIS FRANCOIS	-do-	-do-	-do-	No Cost
KERON SEEBARAN	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
HEMA BALWAH	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
VARMA RATAN	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
KENSON NERO	-do-	-do-	-do-	3,583.00
ZAINOOL MOHAMMED	A JOURNEY TO GREATNESS – REGIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES	ARTHUR LOK JACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS	TO GAIN A HIGH CALIBRE LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD HAVE A GENERATIVE IMPACT ACROSS THE BREADTH OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT	1,750.00
COLLEEN LICORISH	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,750.00
GLENFORD CYRILLE	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,750.00
COURTNEY MARK	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,750.00
DANIEL DOOKIE	-do-	-do-	-do-	1,750.00



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
Laurel Forbes-Hudlin	Carilec's 2006 Osh Conference and Workshop	Grand Royal Antiguan Antigua	Presentation of Papers on Health, Safety & Environment Within Territories & Ways to Improve	23,652.95
Alyssa Homer	Carilec's Osh Conference and Workshop	Grand Royal Antiguan Antigua	-do-	14,335.25
Makeisha Noel	Carilec's Osh Conference and Workshop	Grand Royal Antiguan Antigua	-do	14,335.25
Edwin Rahim	Carilec's Osh Conference And Workshop	Grand Royal Antiguan Antigua	-do	15,752.25
Jonathan Kacal	2006 IEEE/PES Transmission & Distribution Conference And Exposition	Dallas Convention Centre Dallas, Texas	Presentation of Transmission & Distribution Papers and Equipment	23,791.65
William Gilbert	2006 IEEE/PES Transmission & Distribution Conference and Exposition	Dallas Convention Centre Dallas, Texas	-do-	23,142.75
Anthony Ramsoomair	2006 IEEE/PES Transmission & Distribution Conference and Exposition	Dallas Convention Centre Dallas, Texas	-do-	23,142.75



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2006**

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
John Tang Yew	2006 IEEE/PES Transmission & Distribution Conference and Exposition	Dallas Convention Centre Dallas, Texas	-do-	24,024.75
Ashmeed Ali	2006 IEEE/PES Transmission & Distribution Conference and Exposition	Dallas Convention Centre Dallas, Texas	-do-	23,142.75
Shiva Beharrysingh	Probabilistic Methods Applied To Power Systems (PMAPS) 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	Kth-Stureplan Stockholm, Sweden	Attendance & Presentation of Technical Paper	25,817.76
Harold Lee	2006 IEEE/PES Conference And Exposition	Tamanaco Intercontinental Hotel Caracas, Venezuela	Attend Conference of Latin American Countries on Energy and Energy Related Issues / Problems	18,481.80
Audra Ramsook- Samuel	Oracle Open World Conference	Moscone Centre San Francisco, California, USA	Upgrade Skills in Software Development & Operations in T&Tec's Financial Systems	20,851.79
Eric Headley	Oracle Open World Conference	Moscone Centre San Francisco, California, USA	-do-	20,851.79
Lisa Mc Nicolls Sargent	Oracle Open World Conference	Moscone Centre San Francisco, California, USA	-do-	20,851.79



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
Terrence Darmanie	Oracle Open World Conference	Moscone Centre San Francisco, California, USA	-do-	23,623.79
Kenneth George	AMRA (Automated Meter Reading Association) Conference	Nashville Convention Centre Nashville, Tennessee, USA	To Expose Individuals To New Developments In Automated Meter Reading	25,566.40
Varma Ratan	AMRA Conference	Nashville Convention Centre Nashville, Tennessee, USA	To Expose Individuals To New Developments In Automated Meter Reading	26,227.90
Inwin Thompson	AMRA Conference	Nashville Convention Centre Nashville, Tennessee, USA	-do-	26,227.90
Wendell Mayers	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference- Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulation	Grenadian By Rex Resorts, St. Georges Grenada	Updates On Regulatory Requirements Of Electricity Sectors	12,546.40
Israell Ali	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference- Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulation (Carilec)	Grenadian By Rex Resorts, St. Georges Grenada	Updates on Regulatory Requirements of Electricity Sectors	12,546.40
Ramdeo Sadhoo	Carilec Annual Human Resource Management Conference	Hotel Kura Hulanda Williamstad Curacao	To Enhance the Understanding of HR Policies, Employee Relations and Networking	20,999.10



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION  
OVERSEAS CONFERENCES HELD - 2006

EMPLOYEE NAME	NAME OF CONFERENCE	VENUE/COUNTRY	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	COST TT\$
Ravi Shukla	IEEE Power Engineering Conference	Albuquerque Convention Centre New Mexico	To Learn About Safety in the Construction and Maintenance of Transmission Lines	21,618.80
Ganesh Narine	IEEE Power Engineering Conference	Albuquerque Convention Centre New Mexico	-do-	21,618.80
Danzel Reid	IEEE Power Engineering Conference	Albuquerque Convention Centre New Mexico	-do-	21,026.60
Ernest Boxill	IEEE Power Engineering Conference	Albuquerque Convention Centre New Mexico	-do-	24,138.80

PES – Power Engineering Society      IEEE – Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers

**APPENDIX II**  
**LOCAL AND FOREIGN CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY EMPLOYEES OF WASA**  
**FOR**  
**2005 AND 2006**

**WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**  
**Workshops/Conferences/Seminars Attended Local (2005)**

EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Lynette Serrette Godfrey Ventour Susan Noel Kathleen Walters	Mediation Skills Workshop	To acquire skills necessary to reach consensus among parties with divergent interest & objectives.	Cascadia Hotel & Conference Centre	27,140.00	14/3 – 18/3/05
Denise Lee Sing Pereira Eric Jones	A Five Day Mediation Skills Workshop	To expose participants to the seven elements of mediation and to assist in developing and broadening mediation skills and techniques.	Maritime Centre, Barataria	11,500.00	26/4 – 30/4/05
Sarah Lezama Gerard Mathura Dhanmatie Ramlochan	One Day Financial Workshop on Recently Modified & New International Accounting Standards Applicable to 2005 Financial Statements	To cover recently modified and new international accounting standards which apply to 2005 financial statements.	Trinidad Hilton & Conference Centre	6,000.00	9/5/05
Anderson Gordon Joseph Spencer Sherlyn Hardath Raymond La Croix Margaret Jennings	Fleet Management & Road Safety Conference	To expose participants to ways of determining the competitiveness of Fleet Management Programs. Additionally, to attain knowledge of the proven ways to control fleet costs and balancing of the budgets, as well as Outsourcing vs. In-house operations.	Crown Plaza Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain	15,000.00	10/5 – 12/5/05

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EMPLOYEE'S NAME	NAME OF WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Luna Wright Premchand Motilal Patricia Sookram Patrina Nowbutt Vishu Ramsahai Carol Dos Santos Peter Gajar Clyde Baldeo Ramesh Ragoobar	Accounts Receivable Management Training Workshop	To expose participants to information relevant to Managing the accounts	Chamber's Office, Columbus Circle, West -moorings	16,200.00	23/5-24/5/05
Kimlin Austin Roger Karim	Watershed Planning & Management Workshop	To provide participants with a fundamental overview of watershed issues & management strategies.	Cascadia Hotel	7,000.00	9/8 - 10/8/05
Raymond Williams	Advanced Mediation Workshop	Exposure to the tools for analyzing disputes, selecting the best interventions, dealing with resistance and gaining commitment to consultative negotiations.	Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry & Commerce	5,750.00	14/9 - 16/9/05
Deborah Foster Patterson Beckles	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Conference and Exhibition	To obtain information on the following: Business Continuity; Planning HSSE Legislation; Regulation; Health; Safety and Environmental Research.	Crown Plaza Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain	3,000.00	21/9 - 22/9/05

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EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Dexter Noel Kevin Knight Ronald Ramkalawan Sandra Jittan	International Project Management Conference	To expose participants to local and international trends in project management.	Crown Plaza Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain	16,695.00	27/9 – 28/9/05
Clinton Howell Shamilar Ragbir Julia Warner-Etienne	International Project Management Conference	To expose participants to local and international trends in project management.	Crown Plaza Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain	16,695.00	27/9 – 28/9/05
Lystra Joseph	Human Interaction Workshop	To help participants understand human behaviour, communicate effectively, manage group conflict and take control over their life.	Cascadia Hotel & Conference Centre	5,000.00	6/10 – 9/10/05
Angela Richards	Beyond Service Excellence – A Supervisory Skills Workshop	Expose participants to information regarding the understanding of human behaviour, communicating effectively and managing group conflict.	Crowne Plaza	5,000.00	6/10 – 9/10/05
Nauvela Collins Richard Williams	Coping with Work & Family Stress Workshop	To provide an intensive personal growth experience for individuals seeking to improve their effectiveness.	Crowne Plaza	10,000.00	12/10 –14/10/05
Leslie Figaro Dion Abdool Roodlal Lailman	Conference on Remapping the Americas: Globalization, Regularization and the FTAA	The objective of this conference was to expose participants to a debate on guiding the future of regional and hemispheric integration within the Americas.	Crown Plaza Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Sain	4,725.00	19/10– 21/10/05

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George Frederick	ILO (Turin) Workshop on Joint Union/Management Negotiation Skills	To equip negotiators with a thorough understanding of modern mutual gains negotiation theory and practice.	Martime Centre, Barataria	8,000.00	7/11- 10/11/05
Sharon Taylor Richard Williams Gerard Mathura Vishram Ramlakhan Margaret Jennings Marilyn Crichlow Kawal Chun	Mediation Skills Workshop	To provide participants with the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to reach consensus among parties with divergent interest and objectives.	Martime Centre, Barataria	48,852.00	21/11- 25/11/05
Patricia Gregg-Earle	Imaging & Electronic Management Systems Seminar/Workshop	To assist participants to meet challenges of selecting, implementing and managing an electronic document imaging and management system.	Crowne Plaza	5,000.00	28/11- 30/11/05
Steve Fletcher Wayne Clement	* Program & Conference on Disaster Reduction	To enhance participants skills and knowledge relevant to the Disaster Management with particular focus on flooding. Also to facilitate the technological transfer of all aspects of flooding and hazard management through expertise of several regional.	Japan	17,526.00	5/1 - 30/1/05

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Rowan Bartolo	* Focus Group Meeting	To focus on how to create systems to assist Caribbean enterprises in accessing their performance against the best in the class.	Barbados	1,360.80	6/1 – 7/1/05
Leslie Figaro Richard Gordon Aldwin Browne	Inspection & Testing of Ductile Iron Pipes & Fittings	To introduce participants to the techniques involved in the inspecting and testing of goods and material from the selection contractors at various points of production process.	France	25,344.90	8/1 – 16/1/05
Eric Jones Sharon Taylor Eric Lewis	Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment	To develop an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals in Reverse Osmosis design and develop a comprehensive understanding of Reverse Osmosis water treatment process and equipment selection.	Florida	60,983.07	11/1 – 15/1/05
Errol Grimes Ricardo La Caille Anthony Chadee	Management Training Workshop	To strengthen the Authority's ability to evaluate and implement the concept of basin management.	Martinique	9,657.90	2/2 – 4/2/05
Glason Gurusaransingh Wayne Joseph Peter Hackett	* Inspection & Testing of Ductile Iron Pipes & Fittings-	To introduce participants to the techniques involved in the inspecting and testing of goods and material from the selection contractors at various points of production process.	Columbia	12,272.40	21/2 – 24/2/05
Sharon Archie	*3 <sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar on Flood Hazard Mapping and Its use for Community Disaster Planning	To review the products of the CADM Project, and to advance the process of the Community Disaster Management Planning.	St. Vincent	2,872.80	22/2 – 25/2/05

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Errol Grimes	Intergovernmental Meeting	To participate in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD – 13.	New York	28,356.80	27/2 – 4/3/05
David Boyce Julia Warner Professor Winston Suite	* Inspection & Testing of Ductile Iron Pipes & Fittings	To expose participants to the techniques involved in the inspecting and testing of goods and material from the selection contractors at various points of production process.	Brazil	18,122.40	14/3 – 17/3/05
Raffie David Joy Robinson-Gray	Metering Seminar	To provide participants with information to assist them in realizing their strategic metering objectives.	Nevada	62,670.23	10/4 – 14/4/05
Errol Grimes	The Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and Meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment	To participate in the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Commission and Meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment.	New York	59,928.34	11/4 – 22/4/05
Leslie Figaro Garnet Richardson	*Award Function at NAWASA	To attend an Awards Function for WASA T&T and Guyana Defence Force.	Grenada	2,784.60	22/4 – 22/4/05

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Workshops/Conferences/Seminars Attended Local (2005)

EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Anestine Anthony Lystra Joseph Leon Elliot	Spend Management Conference (Ariba)	To provide in-depth coverage on spend management techniques, solutions and best practices.	Florida	53,799.87	24/4 – 29/4/05
Dion Abdool	Seminar of the Canadian Society of Corporate Secretaries	To gain insight into the tools necessary to become an expert in the practice of Corporate Secretarial Services.	Canada	35,187.53	13/5 – 16/5/05
Curtis Critchlow Wayne Joseph Doodnath Bhola	American Water Works Association Annual Conference & Exposition	To provide strategically relevant sessions on regulatory & legislative, public affairs, water conservation and water resources. Also to provide the most comprehensive information on water quality.	San Francisco	134,471.18	10/6 – 16/6/05
Winston Driggs May Ann Diaz	57 <sup>th</sup> Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Annual Conference & Exposition	To improve knowledge, skills and abilities as HR Professionals. Additionally, to network with other participants and to gain information on the most comprehensive and relevant professional development programs.	San Diego	59,273.80	19/6 – 22/6/05
Oswyn Edmund Raffie David Geraldine Holder	*Reduction of Unaccounted for Water highlighting the use of Automatic Metering Reading Services	To assist the Authority in measurements using AMCO meters, and to expose participants to the new metering technology and the basic operation and maintenance of these meters.	Puerto Rico	18,618.08	29/6 – 2/7/05

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**Workshops/Conferences/Seminars Attended Local (2005)**

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Wilbert Harris	Institute of Internal Auditors International Conference	To provide the participant with current information on international auditing techniques and standards, and also to discuss implications for implementation.	Chicago	26,082.00	9/7 – 14/7/05
Dion Abdool	Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop	To obtain information on the new developments in Commercial / Company Law	Miami	24,450.84	31/8 – 2/9/05
Wayne Joseph Eric Lewis	International Desalination Association Membership Desalination Technologies in Practice Workshop	To expose participants to current desalination technologies.	Singapore	152,946.10	10/9 – 16/9/05
Roger Sambrano Patrica Gregg-Earle	Association of Records Management 50 <sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference & Exposition	To expose participants to key aspects of successful records management.	Chicago	50,324.40	17/9 – 22/9/05
Leslie Figaro Glason Gurusaransingh	American Water Works Association Annual Conference & Exposition for Water Distribution and Plant Operations Professional	To expose participants to topics on all aspects of water distribution, engineering and plant operations while focusing on current trends, future developments & practical applications.	Tampa, Florida	46,569.60	17/9 – 22/9/05

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Workshops/Conferences/Seminars Attended Local (2006)

EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Richardo La Caille Darryl Hinds Roger Karim	14 <sup>th</sup> Caribbean Water & Wastewater Association (CWWA) Conference & Exhibition	Apart from introducing participants to some of the new and emerging technologies and appropriate for enhancing and improving the Authority's operations, participants will also have the opportunity to interact / network with specialist and other professionals within the water / wastewater sector. It also allows participants to seek specific information on areas related to issues engaging the attention of the Authority.	Barbados	68,466.00	9/10 –14/10/05
Gerard Richardson	Society for Human Resource Management 2005– Strategic HR Conference	To provide the participant with key insights and ideas that can be used to impact the success of the organization.	New York	30,718.80	25/10 -29/10/05
Peter Hackett Wayne Williams	78 <sup>th</sup> Water Environment Federation	To explore the latest in water quality developments, research, regulations, solutions and cutting edge technologies.	Washington, D.C	59,913.00	29/10 –2/11/05

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EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Andy St. Clair	3 <sup>rd</sup> Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OCCUR) Annual Conference	To present a paper "The Winning Formula, The Right Strategy".	Nassau, Bahamas	8,977.50	1/11 – 5/11/05
Andy Jones Kelvin Romain	* Assistance in Leakage Detection	To conduct Leak Detection Exercise on a newly laid PVC pipe in a sand environment.	Grenada	4,674.60	9/11 – 11/11/05
Marilyn Crichlow Godfrey Ventour Natalie Huggins Peter Hackett David Boyce Aldwin Browne	Advanced Mediation Skills Workshop	To engage participants in articulating and reflecting upon how to plan and execute their mediation interventions.	Maritime Centre, Barataria	35,000.00	7/3 – 19/3/06
Dimple Ann George Anthea Bynoe-John	Negotiation & Skills ADR Workshop	To develop the practical skills and techniques needed to resolve disputes effectively and with confidence.	Kapok Hotel	39,942.00	14/3 – 17/3/06
Vonetta Adams	4 <sup>th</sup> OCCUR Workshop "Public Participation & Communication in Caribbean Utility Regulatory Process"	To provide fundamental concepts of participation and effective communication in the Utility Regulatory Process.	Crowne Plaza	1,890.00	3/4- 4/4/06
Ranelle Gaskill Junior Bobb Joyce Williams Ingrid Martinez Patrice Graham Martha Archer	Mediation Skills Workshop	To provide participants with the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to reach consensus among parties with divergent interest and objectives.	Maritime Centre, Barataria	24,000.00	24/4 – 28/4/06

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Kathleen Wattlely Timothy Crick Glenroy Williams Midge Singh- Rampersad Marcia Henry- Webster	Fleet Management & Road Safety Conference	To obtain information on developing a Fleet Management Business Plan and to engage in discussions on specific fleet-rated challenges facing organizations in Trinidad & Tobago and the West Indies.	Crowne Plaza	15,000.00	17/5 – 19/5/06
Patterson Beckles Giselle Barnette Junior Frank	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Conference and Exhibition	To obtain information on the following: Planning HSSE Legislation; Regulation; Health; Safety and Environmental Research.	Crowne Plaza	5,175.00	14/9 – 15/9/06
Julia Warner-Etienne Doodnath Bhola Elizabeth Howe David Boyce Leslie Figaro Bandeke Kamu David Nero Shaheeda Mohammed Oswin Edmund	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Caribbean Asphalt Conference & Launch of Caribbean Asphalt Association	To discuss "Hot Mix Applications as relates to Health and Safety."	Cascadia Hotel	25,200.00	18/9 – 20/9/06

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EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Cavell McAlister	Mediation Skills Workshop "Becoming a Mediator"	To engage participants in settling disputes efficiently and effectively, saving vital management time and cost, and enhancing productivity by finding solutions to problems.	Maritime Centre, Barataria	6,900.00	2/10 – 6/10/06
Steve Fletcher David Boyce Errol Grimes Shirley Jack Gerard Richardson Leslie Figaro Dion Abdool Mitchell Roach Cheryl Guide Roodlal Lalman Lennox Osbourne Fitz Regis Lynette Serrette Margaret Alexander Roger Sambrano Lystra Ramkissoon Christine Gidharry	15 <sup>th</sup> Caribbean Water & Wastewater Association (CWWA) Conference & Exhibition – Tobago	Apart from introducing participants to some of the new and emerging technologies appropriate for enhancing and improving the Authority's operations, participants will also have the opportunity to interact / network with specialist and other professionals within the water / wastewater sector. It also allows participants to seek specific information on areas related to issues engaging the attention of the Authority.	Hilton, Tobago	51,245.48	2/10 – 6/10/06

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Lynette Serrette Margaret Alexander	The P.R. Tour Guided by the Experts	This two-day workshop was designed to equip "up and coming" practitioners with the core PR Skills that will enhance professional development as well as provide a revision for seasoned practitioners.	Courtyard by Marriott	3,000.00	25/10 –26/10/06
Dulam Dass	Total Productive Maintenance	This two-day workshop concentrated on getting the necessary productivity from your current equipment.	TRAIN mar Centre, DHL Building	4,975.00	30/10 –31/10/06
Cheryl Mc Leod- Valley Verlene Awai-Lashley Clinton Howell David Boyce Keith Meade Merl Bachoo Julia Warner-Etienne Godfrey Ventour	A Journey to Great Regional Conference	Exposure to information on the importance of Vision and Values, Customer Service and Leadership.	Centre of Excellence	15,750.00	6/11/06
Mark Govia Gail Williams	Mediation Skills Workshop "Becoming a Mediator"	To provide cutting edge strategies and tools to transform participants mediation and managerial competencies thereby producing the deep level results that they desire and deserve.	Maritime Centre, Barataria	13,800.00	13/11 –17/11/06

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EMPLOYEE'S NAME	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE/SEMINAR	PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE	VENUE	WASA'S COST TT\$	PERIOD
Gortlin Solomon	Forty hour Mediation Skills Workshop	To satisfy training requirements for certification as a mediator in accordance with the Mediation Act 2004.	Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Commerce	6,900.00	13/11 – 17/11/06
Oswin Morris Dexter Noel	*Certification Testing of Pump-sets	To witness the certification testing of the pump-sets of the South Oropouche Booster Pumping Station.	Indianapolis	8,391.60	14/3 – 17/3/06
Steve Fletcher Alan Poon-King David Boyce	4 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum	To raise participants' awareness about water problems, promote improved water resource management and to trigger appropriate action both at the highest political level and throughout society at large.	Mexico	97,595.31	16/3 – 23/3/06
Lynette Serrete Leslie Figaro	Caribbean Utilities Employees Association	WASA's Management representatives at the Caribbean Utilities Employees Association's Easter Festival.	Anguilla	23,612.40	13/4 – 16/4/06
Errol Grimes Roger Sambrano Wayne Joseph Valentine Brown	*Mutual Professional Programme Exchange	To promote the Technical Co-operation Program between the National Water Commission (NWC) of Jamaica and WASA and to facilitate the timely commencement of this initiative, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.	Jamaica	32,505.30	18/4 – 21/4/06

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Dion Abdool	Workshop on Essentials of Corporate Secretariat Practice & Procedures & Effective Minutes & Meeting	To obtain information / tools on modern corporate secretariat practices	Canada	36,269.10	26/4 – 30/4/06
Wayne Joseph Godfrey Ventour Stanford Beckles	American Water Works Association 2006 Annual Conference & Exposition	To expose participants to strategically relevant sessions on regulatory & legislative, public affairs, water conservation and water resources. Also to provide participants with the most comprehensive information on water quality.	San Antonio, Texas	134,471.18	10/6–16/6/06
Richard Williams Kathleen Walters Margaret Charles	58 <sup>th</sup> Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Annual Conference & Exposition	To improve participants' knowledge, skills and abilities as HR Professionals. Also provide participants with the opportunity to network and gain insight into the most comprehensive and relevant professional development programs.	Washington, D.C	85,219.04	23/6 – 29/6/06
Ronald Ramkalawan Waldo Vassell	*Certificate Testing for Pumps	To witness the re-certification testing of the pump-sets of the South Oropouche Booster Pumping Station.	Indianapolis	4,617.90	17/7 – 18/7/06

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Andy St. Clair Keith Meade	Utility Ratemaking and Analysis: Advanced Course in Regulation	To examine the application of benchmarking techniques in incentive regulation, including data collection.	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	48,956.55	24/7 – 25/7/06
Patricia Massiah Payne	CARIB-HYCOS-WMO	To gain insight on how to build human and institutional capacity to cope with a wide range of water resource management and other related issues.	Martinique	9,450.00	06/08 - 06/08/06
Wayne Joseph	*Global Water Partnership Meetings	To provide the opportunity for discussions among regional representatives towards the implementation of a 2006 Comprehensive Plan.	Sweden	10,495.80	14/8 – 22/8/06
Dion Abdool	Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop	To be updated on the new developments in Commercial Law and Practices in the Region.	Grand Cayman	38,803.10	19/8 – 23/8/06
Patricia Massiah Payne	Environmental Impacts related to Hydrological Systems	To enhance hydrological monitoring and to facilitate hydrological data collection, storage and sharing.	Barbados	25,176.25	1/9 – 15/9/06

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Leslie Figaro	The Intensive Course in Public Procurement	To expose participants to the knowledge and skills necessary for the implementation of an effective and reliable procurement system.	Canada	110,758.91	14/10 -18/10/06
Errol Grimes Roger Karim Shaira Ali	79 <sup>th</sup> Water Environmental Federation Annual Conference & Exposition (WEFTEC)	To expose participants to the latest in water quality developments, research, regulations, solutions and cutting-edge technologies.	Dallas, Texas	80,154.90	19/10 -26/10/06
Wilbert Harris Andy St. Clair	4 <sup>th</sup> Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OCCUR) Annual Conference	To obtain information / developments on Utility regulation.	Grenada	22,763.50	7/11 -11/11/06
David Samm	Sectoral Meeting	To facilitate the exchange of information among participants about their work, and for various sectors to indicate what information participants will require from the modeling group in order to conduct their impact studies.	Jamaica	100.00	11/12 12/12/06

