

*Leave of Absence**Tuesday, September 09, 2003***SENATE***Tuesday, September 09, 2003*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS[Mr. VICE-PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, I wish to inform you that Sen. The Hon. Dr. Linda Baboolal, the President of the Senate, is acting temporarily as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the period September 01, 2003 to September 21, 2003 and continuing during the absence from the country of His Excellency the President George Maxwell Richards. During that period, the Vice-President will preside over the sittings of the Senate and Mrs. Magna Williams-Smith will act temporarily for the President.

Hon. Senators, I have granted leave of absence to Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee for the period September 03, 2003 to September 10, 2003 and to Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand for the period August 31, 2003 to October 11, 2003.

SENATORS' APPOINTMENT

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, I have received the following correspondence from His Excellency the President Prof. George Maxwell Richards.

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS,
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ G. Richards
President.

TO: MR. BASHARAT ALI

WHEREAS Senator Professor Kenneth Ramchand is incapable of performing his duties as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 40(2)(c) and

Senators' Appointment
[MR. VICE-PRESIDENT]

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section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, BASHARAT ALI, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 2nd September, 2003 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Professor Kenneth Ramchand.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the
Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 29th day
of August, 2003."

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Appointment of a Temporary Senator

By Her Excellency DR. LINDA SAVITRI BABOOLAL,
Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ Linda Baboolal
Acting President.

TO: MRS. MAGNA WILLIAMS-SMITH

WHEREAS the President of the Senate has temporarily vacated her Office of Senator to act as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago:

AND WHEREAS the Vice-President of the Senate is acting President of the Senate:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA SAVITRI BABOOLAL, Acting President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 40(2) and section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, MAGNA WILLIAMS-SMITH, to be temporarily a member of the Senate with effect from 9th September, 2003 and continuing during the period that Senator Dr. Linda Savitri Baboolal has temporarily vacated her Office as Senator.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the
Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 6th day
of September, 2003."

Senator's Appointment

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“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By Her Excellency DR. LINDA SAVITRI BABOOLAL,
Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ Linda Baboolal
Acting President.

TO: MS. RAIN NEWEL-LEWIS

WHEREAS Senator Howard Chin Lee is incapable of performing his duties as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA SAVITRI BABOOLAL, Acting President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, RAIN NEWEL-LEWIS, to be temporarily a member of the Senate with effect from 9th September, 2003 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Howard Chin Lee.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 8th day of September, 2003.”

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The following Senators took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law:

Magna Williams-Smith, Basharat Ali, Rain Newel-Lewis.

PETITION

**Infringement of Constitutional Rights
(Radha Albert and Eric Smith)**

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, I wish to present a petition on behalf of the Chief State Solicitor.

I now ask that the Clerk be permitted to read the petition and that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

Petition read.

Sen. Robin Montano: Mr. Vice-President, on a small point of order. I believe that I heard the Clerk say that she was presenting this petition pursuant to Standing Order No. 14. With respect, I ask that the records be cleared to show that the petition was presented under Standing Order No. 13. We have to correct it and put it under Standing Order No. 13, because if it is put under Standing Order No. 14 and one goes to the High Court one could end up in trouble. So with the greatest respect, Mr. Vice-President, I ask you to say that the petition, as amended, is Standing Order No. 13.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. R. Montano, I sought clarification and Standing Order No. 14 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives is the name of the petition and it is read here to the hon. President of the Senate and Members of the Senate, and this would be entered under Standing Order No. 13.

Sen. R. Montano: Thank you.

Question put and agreed to, That the promoters be allowed to proceed.

PAPERS LAID

1. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Princes Town Regional Corporation for the year ended January 01, 1998 to September 30, 1998. [*The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Princes Town Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 1999. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*].
3. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Export-Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended December 31, 1999. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
4. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the University Students Guarantee Loan Fund for the year ended December 31, 1999. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
5. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the University Students Guarantee Loan Fund for the year ended December 31, 2000. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
6. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Government Employees' Provident Fund for the financial year ended September 30, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

7. Financial statements of Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2001. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
8. The financial statements and the reports of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts of the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation for the years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
9. Annual audited financial statements of Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
10. Annual audited financial statements of Trinidad Nitrogen Company Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
11. Mayaro-Rio Claro Regional Corporation Administrative Report for the period October 01, 2000 to September 30, 2001. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
12. Second periodic report of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Convention on the Rights of the Child, June 2003. [*The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean)*]
13. Ministry of Legal Affairs Intellectual Property Office annual report 2001. [*The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith)*]
14. Annual report of the Ministry of Local Government for the period 2001—2002. [*Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith*]
15. Third report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Cipriani Labour College (now the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies) for the year ended December 31, 1981. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
16. Third report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts of the Cipriani Labour College (now the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies) for the year ended December 31, 1982. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
17. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts of the Cipriani Labour College (now the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies) for the year ended December 31, 1983. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

18. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on a special audit of Certain Areas of Internal Control procedures of the Tobago Regional Health Authority for the period October 01, 1998 to August 31, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
19. Annual audited financial statements of Metal Industries Company Limited for the financial year ended December 2001. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
20. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on a special audit of Certain Areas of Internal Control at the Point Fortin Borough Corporation for the period October 01, 2001 to July 31, 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
21. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the audit of transactions pertaining to the Establishment of a Community-based Micro-Credit Programme for the year ended December 31, 2001 as required by Project Document Tri/98/003/01/99 between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
22. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Basic Education Project for the year ended September 30, 2002 as required by Loan Agreement No. 3956-TR between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
23. Annual audited financial statements of First Citizens Merchant Bank Limited and First Citizens Trust and Merchant Bank Limited for the financial years ended September 30, 1998 and 2000 respectively. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
24. Annual audited financial statements of First Citizens Holding Limited for the financial years ended September 30, 2000 and 2001. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
25. Annual audited financial statements of First Citizens Bank Limited for the financial years ended September 30, 1999, 2001 and 2002. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
26. The Compendium of Instruments relating to the Caribbean Court of Justice. [*Sen. The Hon. G. Morean*]
27. Report of the Arima Borough Corporation for the year 2001. [*Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith*]

28. The Regional Health Authorities Order, 2003. [*Sen. The Hon. Dr. L. Saith*].

Regional Health Authorities Order, 2003

The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Mr. Vice-President, I wish to inform Senators that the Order in respect of the Regional Health Authorities Ordinance was considered by the Statutory Instrument Committee, and the minutes of the committee have been circulated to Senators.

**Compendium of Instruments
Caribbean Court of Justice**

Sen. Robin Montano: Mr. Vice-President, I note that on the Supplemental Order Paper, paper No. 26 is the Compendium of Instruments relating to the Caribbean Court of Justice which was laid by the Attorney General. I have received no paper on that and I have just checked with my colleagues and with one Independent Senator and no one has these instruments, so may I ask: Where are these papers? These papers have been laid on the Table and we have not seen them. That cannot be right, Mr. Vice-President.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senator, as indeed, all other hon. Senators, I am advised that the papers are all packaged and will be circulated to Senators during the sitting.

POLICE SERVICE REFORM BILLS

**Joint Select Committee Report
(Presentation)**

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, I wish to lay on the Table the Third Special Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bills entitled: The Constitution (Amdt.) Bill, 2002; the Police Service Bill, 2002 and the Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

The following question was asked by Sen. Sadiq Baksh:

Low Cost Houses

12. (a) Could the hon. Minister of Housing indicate whether the Government has carried out a promise made to citizens prior to the 2002 general election that they will have access to low cost houses by making a down payment of one dollar?

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- (b) Could the Minister state how many citizens have made the one dollar down payment?
- (c) Of those who have made the down payment, could the Minister state how many have received low cost houses?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
Green Street Land
(Ownership)**

87. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Housing:

- A. (i) Could the Minister state whether lands being utilized at Green Street in Tunapuna are state owned or privately owned?
- (ii) If they are privately owned, could the Minister state whether these lands were purchased by Government and if they were, could he provide this Senate with details as follows:
 - a. The name(s) of the private owners;
 - b. The size of the lands purchased;
 - c. The price paid per square foot or metre;
 - d. The overall price paid for the said lands; and
- (iii) Could the Minister state whether the lands were assessed by the Commissioner of Valuations? If not, why not?
- B. Could the Minister state:
 - (i) Whether there was any speculation and/or disagreement by anyone on the purchase of the lands?
 - (ii) Whether he is satisfied that taxpayers were provided with good value for their money when the lands were purchased?

The Minister of Housing (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): Mr. Vice-President, the land at Green Street, Tunapuna was privately owned. The Government did purchase the land at Green Street, Tunapuna and Trevor Hewitt and Elizabeth Hewitt were the private owners of the land.

The area of land at Green Street, Tunapuna is 36,516 square feet. The price paid per square foot for the land was \$18.40. The total price paid for the land at Green Street, Tunapuna was \$671,894.

The land at Green Street, Tunapuna was not assessed by the Commissioner of Valuations. The Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) is a private company registered under the Companies Ordinance, Chap. 31 No. 1, therefore, the land was valued by a professional valuator, Raymond and Pierre Limited, and the full price paid for the land was equivalent to the open-market value.

There was no speculation and/or disagreement by anyone on the purchase of the land. The Ministry of Housing is fully satisfied that taxpayers were provided with good value for their money when the lands were purchased. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, through you, could the hon. Minister indicate whether Mr. Trevor Hewitt is a member of the People's National Movement (PNM)?

Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph: Mr. Vice-President, I am not so aware.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, could the hon. Minister indicate to us what was the purpose of purchasing this land on Green Street?

Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph: The purpose of purchasing the land on Green Street is to build houses for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Mark: Could the hon. Minister indicate to us how many houses the Government intends to construct on that particular spot on Green Street?

Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph: Mr. Vice-President, unfortunately, I do not have the actual numbers right now, but at a subsequent time I could provide the hon. Senator with that information.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, could the hon. Minister indicate whether the purchase of land and construction of homes on Green Street is part of the Government's policy to house-pad in time for the next general election. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, I would prefer if we do not go down that line, and as a matter of fact, I would ask you to proceed to question No. 88, please.

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I understand what you did and I respect your position, but I think it is disrespectful for the Minister not to respond. The hon. Minister can rise and if he wants to object he could object, but the hon. Minister cannot sit in his seat. This is dictatorial and arrogant.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, the Minister did not refuse to rise.

Sen. Mark: He did not rise.

Mr. Vice-President: The Minister did not refuse to rise and I ask you to proceed to question No. 88.

**Government's Housing Policy
(Lands Purchased on Private Market)**

88. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Housing:

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with the details of all lands purchased on the private market for the purpose of satisfying or meeting the needs of the Government's housing policy or programme?
- B. Could the Minister state the following information with respect to those purchases:
 - (i) The names of those private owners;
 - (ii) The respective locations of the lands purchased;
 - (iii) The respective size of the lands purchased or intended to be purchased;
 - (iv) The prices paid or to be paid per square metre for the respective lands; and
 - (v) The total value or price of the respective pieces of lands purchased for housing development?

The Minister of Housing (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): Mr. Vice-President, the names of the private owners of the land are:

- (a) R.A. Mohammed Estates Limited;
- (b) Junior Elgin Sammy;
- (c) Vistaplan Limited;
- (d) Malabar Farms Development Company Limited;
- (e) Futura Enterprises Limited and Hafeez Karamath Limited;
- (f) Trevor Hewitt and Elizabeth Hewitt;
- (g) Vencor Investments Limited;
- (h) Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT);

- (i) Abdul and Naziran Mohammed; and
- (j) Merle Clothilda Hope.

2.00 p.m.

In response to (b)(ii), the respective locations of lands purchased are:

By-Pass Road, Arima
 Lady Young Road, Morvant
 Upper Mendez Drive, Champ Fleurs
 Carib Gardens, Arima
 Circular Road, San Fernando
 Green Street, Tunapuna
 El Dorado Road, Tunapuna
 Purcell Street, Vistabella
 Todd Street, San Fernando
 Church Street, La Romain
 Chin Aleong Road, La Romain

The prices paid per square purchased or intended to be purchased include: 76 acres at By-Pass Road, Arima; 17 acres at Lady Young Road, Morvant; 10.1 acres at Upper Mendez Drive, Champ Fleurs; 2.3 acres at Carib Gardens, Arima; 3.9 acres at Circular Road, San Fernando; 0.8 acres at Green Street, Tunapuna; 1.3 acres at El Dorado Road, Tunapuna; 0.7 acres at Purcell Street, Vistabella; 6.1 acres at Todd Street, San Fernando; 0.6 acres at Church Street, La Romain; 0.4 acres at Chin Aleong Road, La Romain.

The prices paid per square metre for the lands include: \$14.56 at By-Pass Road, Arima; \$55 at Lady Young Road, Morvant; \$79.75 at Upper Mendez Drive, Champ Fleurs; \$213.22 at Carib Gardens, Arima; \$274.18 at Circular Road, San Fernando; \$207.53 at Green Street, Tunapuna; \$209.33 at El Dorado Road, Tunapuna; \$335.48 at Purcell Street, Vistabella; \$162.03 at Todd Street, San Fernando; \$205.91 at Church Street, La Romain, and \$239.77 at Chin Aleong Road, La Romain.

The total value or price of the respective pieces of lands purchased for housing development are as follows:

- \$4,478,700 for By-Pass Road, Arima
- \$3,784,488 for Lady Young Road, Morvant
- \$3,259,713 for Upper Mendez Drive, Champ Fleurs
- \$1,984,712 for Carib Gardens, Arima
- \$671,894 for Green Street, Tunapuna
- \$4,327,481 for Circular Road, San Fernando
- \$1,101,314 for El Dorado Road, Tunapuna
- \$950,393 for Purcell Street, Vistabella
- \$4 million for Todd Street, San Fernando
- \$500,000 for Church Street, La Romain
- \$388,140 for Chin Aleong Road, La Romain

Sen. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, could the hon. Minister indicate to us which agencies were responsible for valuing these properties or lands? Was it the Commissioner of Valuations or was it private valuers? Could he identify the names of those valuers?

Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph: Mr. Vice-President, unfortunately, that question did not form part of the question. I am not in a position to answer that, but at some time or a subsequent question I would be able to provide all those details.

Income Policy (State Enterprises)

89. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment:

In an effort to regulate the growing inequity in incomes/salaries and other perquisites amongst senior executive management personnel at the state sector level, could the hon. Minister state whether the Government has any Income Policy or intends to establish such a policy with the state enterprises?

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, Government has established the Public Sector Negotiating Committee as a sub-committee of Cabinet, with responsibility for monitoring salary, wage negotiations and levels of remuneration in the public sector. This

Committee provides guidelines to state enterprises in respect of levels of remuneration of employees.

The objective of the Public Sector Negotiating Committee is to ensure that a co-ordinated policy is implemented with respect to levels of remuneration in the public sector with the aim of facilitating good industrial relations practices and ensuring equity in remuneration. Enterprises, which are wholly, or majority owned by the State are required to seek guidance from this Committee before modifying terms and conditions of the employees. These organizations are required to submit their proposals for consideration by the Committee.

In order to make a determination on the matter the Committee reviews the proposals in the light of:

1. the sector in which the enterprise operates;
2. the complexity of the organization;
3. the organization's financial position;
4. prevailing industry standards as reflected by national surveys;
5. the wages and salaries existing in the public service.

The Chief Personnel Officer is the Secretariat for this Committee.

Land Use Policy (Status)

118. Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan asked the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources:

- A. Could the Minister indicate what is the current status of the land use policy in Trinidad and Tobago?
- B. Could the Minister state when will this policy be brought to Parliament for debate?

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. John Rahael): Mr. Vice-President, the approved land policy in Trinidad and Tobago entitled An Admission and Distribution Policy for Land which was approved and laid in Parliament in 1992 and was endorsed in 1997, continues to be in effect. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Dr. Kernahan: Mr. Vice-President, a supplemental question. Could the hon. Minister inform this honourable Senate whether this land use policy is being used as the basis for distribution of lands of Caroni (1975) Limited?

Hon. J. Rahael: Mr. Vice-President, Caroni (1975) Limited lands are not yet vested in the State, when it is, then this is the policy that would apply. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Dr. Kernahan: Mr. Vice-President, part (b) of question No. 118.

Mr. Vice-President: Are you asking for question No. 119 to be answered?

Sen. Dr. Kernahan: Mr. Vice-President, I am asking if the hon. Minister has answered part (b) of the question.

Sen. R. Montano: When would the policy be brought to Parliament for debate?

Hon. J. Rahael: Mr. Vice-President, this question was previously asked, and I am sure hon. Senators would recall. In fact, I brought a copy of the policy and I laid it in this honourable Senate and the reply is to (a) and (b).

**Transfer of State Lands
(Terms and Conditions)**

119. Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan asked the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources:

- A. Could the Minister provide details about the terms and conditions of the transfer of state lands to:
 - (i) individuals;
 - (ii) companies, and
 - (iii) co-operatives from December, 2001 to May, 2003?
- B. Could the Minister indicate when and where these transfers took place?

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. John Rahael): Mr. Vice-President, the transfer of state lands to individuals, companies and co-operatives is approved by Cabinet on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. The terms and conditions of the transfer of state lands are contained in the clauses of the lease. These leases contain a provision that a lessee may, from time to time, subject to the consent of the State, through the Commissioner of State Lands, first had and obtained, in writing, assign all or any portion of his interest under the lease, provided that the assignment be pursuant to a written instrument filed with the Commissioner of

State Lands or his duly authorized agent. After the consent of the State, through the Commissioner of State Lands, the individuals, companies and co-operatives execute the deeds of agreement with the Chief State Solicitor.

The list of individuals to whom state lands have been transferred between December 2001 and May 2003 has been compiled and is available to this honourable Senate. Mr. Vice-President, the list is a very comprehensive one and, in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, we have agreed that it would be laid in this honourable Senate.

With respect to part (b) of the question, again, details relating to the particular period, between December 2001 and May 2003, in which the transfer of state lands to individuals took place and the location of the parcels of state lands which were transferred are all contained in the document which would be circulated. The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources wishes to indicate that after the consent of the lessor, which is the Commissioner of State Lands, has been obtained, the individuals, companies and co-operatives would execute the Deed of Assignment with the Chief State Solicitor. Such transfers take place on an ongoing basis.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. [*Desk thumping*]

Vide end of sitting for written part of the answer.

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, before we move on, may I rise on a procedural point that in the next two minutes question time would be up. I have read in the newspapers that Parliament is to be prorogued this week. This means that this would be our last sitting for this session. I have a question which I am very anxious to get answered, and I am asking this honourable Senate, through you, Mr. Vice-President, that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow all of the questions on the Order Paper to be answered.

Sen. Dr. Saith: Mr. Vice-President, on the question of Parliament being prorogued, let me give the assurance that Parliament would not be prorogued, and we would have a sitting next week. I also read in the newspapers yesterday that Mr. Panday would be replaced. I do not believe it. [*Laughter*]

Sen. Mark: A supplemental question. Could the hon. Minister indicate to this honourable Senate when the vesting of Caroni (1975) Limited lands would take place? Is there a time frame for that? Or, is it open?

Hon. J. Rahael: Mr. Vice-President, I am not in a position to respond to that question now.

Sen. R. Montano: Why are we not surprised?

**Recipients of Agricultural Plots
(Financial/Technical Support)**

120. Sen. Dr. Jennifer Kernahan asked the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources:

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the types of financial and technical support programmes which are available to recipients of agricultural plots?

The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. John Rahael): Mr. Vice-President, financial and technical support programmes are available to recipients of agricultural lands through the services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources as well as the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB). The financial support programmes include a range of loan packages, incentives and subsidies.

Through the services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, for example, financial incentives are provided for hand tools, small machinery, wheel tractors, vehicles VAT exemption, marine accessories, boat equipment, stamp duty exemption, agricultural inputs such as insecticides and herbicides, as well as vitamins and drugs; preparations for livestock and poultry; exemption of motor vehicle tax on vehicles approved for use in agriculture and fisheries; VAT exemption on all approved machinery and equipment used in the agriculture and fisheries sub-sectors; customs duty exemption on approved livestock and poultry imported for breeding purposes; customs duty relief on transport crates used in the poultry industry, and provision for a 50 per cent tax write-off on all new corporate investments in agriculture.

Recipients of agricultural lands can also access loans from the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) and the Business Development Company. The Agricultural Development Bank, however, is the main specialist in financing organizations and providing funding for the development of the agriculture sector and offers low interest rates at 8 per cent to farmers, which is below the interest rates being offered by other established commercial banking institutions.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources provides subsidies for cane farmers with regard to sums expended on fertilizers and pests control agents. The Ministry also provides price support to cane farmers by offering them a guaranteed price for sugar cane. Guaranteed prices are also offered to farmers for cocoa, rice, citrus, dairy produce, coconuts and copra.

With regard to technical support programmes, recipients of agricultural lands can avail themselves of the provision of supervised credit from the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB). Moreover, the National Agriculture Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) provides technical support to the farmers by mounting training programmes in the production, marketing and management of crops and livestock, as well as post-harvest technology. The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources also provides technical support to farmers through training programmes organized by extension training and information services division.

In this regard, the Farmers Training Centre at Centeno hosts training programmes for farmers in crop and livestock production and agro-processing, as well as training in engineering for the construction of agricultural infrastructure including ponds, wells and the repairs and management of vehicles and equipment.

Other technical support programmes organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources include advisory services for a range of crop enterprises inclusive of horticulture, the provision of high quality seedlings and other planting materials at subsidized rates as well as soil and tissue analysis. Control of the hibiscus mini bug, locust control and Africanized bee abatement are also among the technical support programmes organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

The following questions stood on the Order Paper:

**CEPEP Programme Compost Sites
(Exact Location)**

- 124.** A. Could the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources inform this Senate of the exact location, address, light pole number and/or directions to sites (location) of all the compost sites established under the CEPEP programme to date?
- B. Could the Minister also provide the names and addresses of the CEPEP contractors responsible for the various sites?
- C. Could the Minister inform this House of the amount paid to the contractors for the establishment and upkeep of these sites? [*Sen. S. Baksh*]

**Red House Restoration
(Status of)**

- 125.** Could the Minister of Trade and Industry as Leader of the House and as Chairman of the House Committee of the House of Representatives make an up-to-date statement on the status of restoration work on the Red House indicating:
- A. All the work already completed?
 - B. The work scheduled to be completed over the next six months?
 - C. The extent to which the concerns of Members as represented by the House Committee of the House who are responsible for all matters relating to the convenience and comfort of Members are being taken into account? And
 - D. Whether he would welcome the opportunity to provide up-to-date information to Members of Parliament in response to a question like this being asked every six months? [*Sen. Prof. K. Ramchand*]

**State Bodies/Boards
(Non-Appointment of Members)**

- 126.** A. Would the hon. Attorney General please provide a list of all bodies, statutory authorities, boards, commissions or any other tribunals established by law and intended to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial functions but the members of whom up to June 15th, 2003 have not been appointed?
- B. Would the Minister please state whether or not citizens' rights are being infringed by the State's refusal and/or neglect and/or omission to appoint and/or duly constitute such bodies? [*Sen. R. Montano*]

Piarco Airport Runway Overlay Project

- 127.** A. Could the Minister of Works and Transport state whether there was a pre-qualification exercise for the Piarco Airport Runway Overlay Project?
- B. If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform this House of:
- (i) the names of the contractors who qualified?

- (ii) how many of those contractors submitted responsive bids to the Tender?
 - (iii) the number of Tenders received?
- C. The name of the contractor awarded the contract and the value of the contract inclusive of VAT? [*Sen. S. Baksh*]

Question time having expired, questions 124, 125, 126 and 127 were not dealt with.

POLICE SERVICE REFORM BILLS

Joint Select Committee Report (Adoption)

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Glenda Morean): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name:

Be it resolved that this Senate adopt the Third Special Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Police Service Reform Bills namely;

- (i) The Constitution (Amdt.) Bill, 2002;
- (ii) The Police Service Bill, 2002; and
- (iii) The Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002.

The purpose of this Motion is to request that in view of the advanced stage of its work, the committee appointed to consider and report on the Police Service Reform Bills wishes to recommend that a new committee be appointed at the next session to continue examining this matter and that the new committee be authorized to consider, as part of its record, all the work that has been done by your committee to date.

The need for this Motion has arisen because of the fact that from the wealth of information and recommendations received by your committee at its public consultations and other hearings as are shown on pages 3 and 4 of the Report, your committee submitted the information to the technical team which has not yet completed its work on these submissions.

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: Mr. Vice-President, if you are not aware, let me inform you that I am a Member duly appointed by Parliament of this Joint Select Committee to consider and report on the Police Service Reform Bills, and you have already outlined the Bills in question. If you look at this report very carefully, Mr. Vice-President, you will see that the last meeting of our committee would have been some time in May, and between that time to last week Friday our committee did not meet, and I was somewhat surprised today to see a report on this matter on my desk which, obviously, was tabled by the Government.

Last week I was consulted, and this week, as a Member of this Joint Select Committee, I was by-passed. I saw this report, like you, today on my desk, and it tells me of a political attitude which is bordering on, what I call, arrogance and a kind of undemocratic approach to the critical business of the people. You see, there is a quorum of six Members; I am the seventh and there are two other Members. Because there is a quorum of six Members and my signature is not necessary to have this report adopted, the hon. Attorney General, who is the Chairperson of our committee, chose not to consult with this Member. Mr. Vice-President, I want to make it clear that as a Member of this committee I have no difficulty to append my signature to this report. However, I have a difficulty with the undemocratic approach and the arrogance that is sometimes demonstrated by the other side. In this instance, we are talking about the Chairman of this committee.

Mr. Vice-President, I want to let you know that last Friday at about 8.00 a.m., I was contacted by a member of staff of this Parliament and I was told that I had to sign a report. I am not a robot; I am not a rubberstamp person. We had adequate time from the day we held our last sitting here—I think it was July 15—to when we returned today. The Chairman of our committee did not see it fit to summon a meeting of our Joint Select Committee to converse, to dialogue and to indicate to us what was the purpose. Who would have an objection to save the work of our committee? I would not have an objection; I would support that. I am dealing with the *modus operandi*; the approach; the attitude; the arrogance; the insensitivity; they are the majority and we are in the minority so they would ride roughshod over the minority. That is not democracy; that is dictatorship and tyranny.

I was really shocked and was waiting for the opportunity to come up, Sir. Because no one approached me as a Member, not even the Chairman of our committee, the hon. Attorney General, called to indicate that they are tabling this report today because last week we did not have sufficient signatures and we

would like you to consider this Report. Up to this time as I speak, Sir, I have not been consulted. You see, it is that kind of contempt for the Opposition that we have almost a hostility towards—and I would not be a party to this exercise today. The United National Congress would not allow itself to be treated with utter contempt by a regime that has gone mad and is totally intoxicated with power.

2.30 p.m.

They feel because they have the majority they can do whatever they wish and whatever they like, but not with us here. We will not allow it—not permit it, Sir. We want to make it very clear, Mr. Vice-President, and I want to put it on record, we have no objection—I, as a member of this committee, do not have an objection in signing the report. My opposition to this process today has to do with the attitude of the chairman of this committee, the Attorney General of this country; and I am not surprised. It is consistent. It is a consistent pattern of misconduct, misbehaviour and arrogance.

In addition, if you look at Standing Order 75(7), you would note that even if the Attorney General is in a hurry to table this, and having regard to what Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith indicated a short while ago that what we read in the papers we must dismiss, I heard in my living room the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on television last Friday [*Desk thumping*] telling the whole nation and the whole world, “Yes, Parliament will be prorogued on the 12th.” So “doh” come here and tell us today about paper and “you mus’n’ read what de paper”—I saw the hon. Kenneth Valley, Leader of Government Business, on television saying the same thing, Mr. Vice-President. So “doh” come here and tell us that we read the papers and so on. [*Interruption*] “Dah is wha’ de papers say, not me. [*Interruption*] De *Newsday*? Dah is a PNM paper.”

Hon. Senator: Balisier paper.

Sen. W. Mark: So, Mr. Vice-President, I would draw to your attention—we are not in a hurry. The Parliament is not proroguing on Friday. We are meeting next week Tuesday and let us do it right. Let the Attorney General summon a meeting of her committee. I have always attended these meetings, unless I have not been invited, but I always attend meetings and the records would show that “if is one person you have at all those meetings is this staying power Wade Mark. [*Desk thumping*] I ain’ going nowhere.” I go to all these meetings. So, Mr. Vice-President, why, for instance, exclude my person?

I call on the Attorney General, the chairman of our committee, to withdraw this report. Stand it down—I will meet tomorrow, I will meet on Thursday, I will

meet on Friday—and let us meet as a committee and discuss. I have no difficulty but what I have a problem with is the arrogance and the undemocratic behaviour and because they are in the majority they can ride roughshod over the Opposition and they do not care, so they “don” need our support for this, Mr. Vice-President, because they have the support of themselves and the Independent Senators, with respect, so the Opposition does not matter in this instance.

So I thought I had to rise, not in condemnation of this report, because our colleagues in the Parliament have done their job and we want to congratulate them for it. I have a problem with the chairman of our committee and the manner in which she has gone about bypassing, ostracizing and alienating the Opposition in this process. I have a difficulty but we will not be isolated and we will not be ostracized. We will stand and we shall speak out and, Mr. Vice-President, they will listen. I can give you the assurance. I “doh” know; there will come a time when they will feel, I am sure—the masses of people, that is.

Mr. Vice-President, I want you to advise me and to rule accordingly. If you look at 75(7) of our Standing Orders, I need one clear day’s notice. The Senate needs one clear day’s notice. I cannot come today and be ambushed in this Parliament by the Attorney General without any consultation, communication, dialogue or conversation. The Standing Orders say I need one clear day’s notice. Every Senator needs one clear day’s notice to look at this report.

So, Mr. Vice-President, in light of the arrogance of the Attorney General in this matter I wish to invoke Standing Order 75(7) and ask you to guide this honourable Senate as I seek your leave to have this report stood down and to ask the Attorney General to convene a meeting of the Joint Select Committee on the Police Service Reform Bills. Let us sit in a democratic environment, let us sit and dialogue, let us sit and converse and we will bring a report here with all our signatures attached because we want the work to continue, Mr. Vice-President. We “doh” want to obstruct this particular exercise—I have been part of it—but I call on you, Sir, to guide us on this matter and to rule accordingly.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on this particular report that is now before this honourable Senate. Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President. [*Desk thumping*]

[*The Attorney General rose*]

Sen. R. Montano: Mr. Vice-President, before the Attorney General rises, are you going—because I would like to speak on this Motion as well but I was waiting for you to make your ruling on Standing Order 75.

Sen. Morean: I was on my feet to respond to the hon. Senator.

Sen. Mark: No, you cannot. Mr. Vice-President, may I seek your guidance? Could you rule?

Mr. Vice-President: Please.

Sen. Mark: On a point of order. On a point of order.

Mr. Vice-President: Please, Sen. Mark, please, I want to seek clarification with the—

[Mr. Vice-President consults with the Clerk of the Senate]

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, in response to the point you raised, the Motion is already before the Senate and therefore must proceed.

Sen. Mark: Even in violation of the Standing Order?

Mr. Vice-President: There is no violation.

Sen. Mark: Yes, I am saying there is.

Sen. R. Montano: There is Standing Order 75(7).

Sen. Mark: It says one clear day, Sir. We “doh” have a clear day, Sir, and the Order Paper did not have this report. Mr. Vice-President, if you look at the Order Paper that we got last week, there is nothing there that says that we were going to debate this matter today. What I got today when I came in here at one o’clock was a Supplemental Order Paper with that motion attached and I am simply saying—

Sen. R. Montano: It is dated today.

Sen. Mark:—and it is dated today, so the Standing Order is very clear that I need one clear day’s notice.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators—

Sen. Dr. Saith: Mr. Vice-President, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Mr. Vice-President, I do not think we need to have the rancour and allegations and innuendoes on this Motion because I think we all agree that it is something that we would all support. It is never the intention of the Government to ride roughshod—especially a person like Sen. Mark—or to alienate Sen. Mark, and, in the interest of the Senate moving on I would suggest that we deal with this Motion at the next sitting and, in the meantime, whatever needs to be done to have the Motion prepared in a way that we could have everybody’s support, we will do that. *[Desk thumping]*

Mr. Vice-President: Thank you very much, Sen. Dr. Saith.

CUSTOMS (AMDT. AND VALIDATION) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill):
[*Desk thumping*] Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move,

That a Bill to amend the Customs Act, Chap 78:01 and to validate things done thereunder, be now read a second time.

Mr. Vice-President, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01, to grant legal status to customs and excise extra guards which would enable them to be recruited by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise and also enable the Chief Personnel Officer to treat and negotiate with the recognized majority union. This Bill also seeks to validate certain acts in respect of the extra guards.

The creation of a group of persons referred to as customs and excise extra guards within the Customs and Excise Division occurred sometime prior to 1974, possibly from as far back as 1962. These extra guards were hired by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise and were assigned duties to accompany imported but still uncustomed goods from a port or other place in Trinidad and Tobago to either the private premises of the importer or to a state or private bonded warehouse as directed by the Comptroller and to remain with such goods until such time as an officer of customs arrived to perform the requisite inspection leading to the collection of the relevant duties and consequently to the eventual release of the goods.

Since the arrangement was intended to benefit the importer, the importer or merchandiser was called upon to meet the cost of employing the services of the extra guards. The moneys were calculated and paid into the Treasury and kept in a deposit account from which the Treasury made disbursements by way of wages to these extra guards. It should be noted that these deposits were never made part of the Consolidated Fund nor was the Consolidated Fund ever used to meet the wages of these extra guards.

During the ensuing period, customs and excise extra guards acquired a quasi-legal status. They were deemed to be workers by the advice received from the legal secretary to the Attorney General in 1974 and they formed a registered trade union, the Customs and Excise Extra Guards Association, which was recognized by the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board in 1988. Arising out of the certification of this recognition issued by the board and in accordance with section 40 of the Industrial Relations Act, negotiations commenced leading to a

registered collective agreement. This agreement set out the rules and rates of pay and other conditions for the employment of extra guards in respect of the period January 1991 to December 1993.

On the basis of this agreement and by virtue of the publication of the Customs (Extra Guards Rates of Pay) Regulations published in Legal Notice No. 63 of 1992, merchants were required by law to pay at the published rates. These regulations were subsequently found to be not in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01, and therefore to be ultra vires. The legal status of these extra guards has to date not been regularized. As a consequence, following extensive consultations between the Ministry of Finance, the Customs and Excise Division and other relevant parties, it was agreed that it was necessary to include in the customs law provision for the employment of these extra guards which would in turn enable the Chief Personnel Officer to legally treat and negotiate with the recognized majority union.

Accordingly, clause 4 of this Bill seeks to amend the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01, by inserting a new section 4B to empower the Comptroller of Customs and Excise to recruit extra guards on terms and conditions agreed by the Minister of Finance.

Clause 5 would validate acts and omissions by the Comptroller in pursuance of powers conferred on him by the Customs (Extra Guards Rates of Pay) Regulations of 1992.

Clause 6 would validate the collective agreement made between the CPO and the Customs and Excise Extra Guards Association for the period January 01, 1991 to December 31, 1993. This clause would also validate the negotiation and ratification of the collective agreement. It also includes an indemnity in respect of legal proceedings arising from the collective agreement.

Clause 7 would validate the certificate issued by the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board to the Customs and Excise Extra Guards Association on March 14, 1988. This clause will also validate the issuance of the certificate by the board which cited the CPO as the employer of the extra guards.

Clause 8 would validate all acts and omissions by public officers in respect of extra guards. This clause will also validate the collection of fees from merchants for the purpose of making payments to the extra guards and the payments made to them.

Mr. Vice-President, this is a matter that has been with us for a very long time. The last administration sought to deal with it but they were unable to before

demitting office. This was discussed in the other place and quite frankly what we are seeking to do is to protect these individuals, these employees, who work for the State in the exercise of their duty, that is, to collect revenues due as a result of the customs operation.

I would ask, Mr. Vice-President, that my colleagues support this particular amendment and, on that note, I beg to move. [*Desk thumping*]

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: [*Desk thumping*] Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President. The Bill before us, as outlined by the hon. Minister, is designed to grant legal status to customs and excise extra guards which would enable them to be recruited by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise and to enable the Chief Personnel Officer to treat and negotiate with the recognized majority union representing these workers.

This particular agency of the State, the Customs and Excise Division, is made up of a number of categories of employees. We have what is called the customs officer who is a public officer, we have the customs guards, also a public officer and then we have a third category, the customs extra guard, not a public officer. So the first two are public officers and they are guaranteed pension rights—gratuity—during the period or the life of their employment. When we look at the extra guards, they are hired as the jobs arise, as the need arises. They are not public officers, Mr. Vice-President, and they only obtain and receive and secure a job and, as such, wages when they are actually called out to watch cargo moving from one point to another.

So these extra guards have been labouring in the vineyards for decades and you know what, Mr. Vice-President? No pension, no pension rights, no gratuity, no sick leave and no vacation leave for these guards. It was in November of 1930 that the Customs and Excise Divisions were merged and since then, 1930 to now, we have had extra guards. So you are talking of decades, over 73 years, and these workers—and they work very hard and they perform very critical and sensitive functions for the State of Trinidad and Tobago, but, Mr. Vice-President, no one saw it fit during that period to address their concerns.

I know that my hon. colleague and friend, Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill, is new to the process but he is part of the process now and he must take full responsibility as such, because his party was in power from 1956 until 1986 when the NAR removed them, came back in 1991, were removed in 1995 and stole the government in 2001 with the aid of the outgoing President of this Republic—stole

the government from us—but that is not the issue here today. We will deal with that otherwise. What we want to deal with today is that the PNM was in power for all these years yet they did nothing to help these extra guards. It was the United National Congress—the UNC—Mr. Vice-President, who intervened and sought to provide some solace, support, security and protection for these workers—over 100 of them I understand now employed in that particular area.

It was as a result of our intervention that we have the Bill before us today. We would have brought it if it were not for the shenanigans—the maneuverings—that saw the UNC on the Opposition Benches and the PNM on the Government Benches. So this is not a PNM legislation or legislative package here or act. They have no conscience for workers. We know this. Their history precedes them—a brutal regime insofar as workers are concerned in this country. So my dear friend, Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill, he is a gentleman, a good brother, but he is part of the problem now so he must take full responsibility for the PNM tyranny against ordinary workers, Mr. Vice-President and, as fate would have it, I just happened to be at that time the Minister of Public Administration [*Laughter*] and I led the charge. I take no pat on the back but I put it as a matter of record.

Sen. Enill: I said so.

Sen. W. Mark: “I din’ hear you, Sir.” I just wanted to make it clear that it was we in the UNC who began this exercise and I feel proud today to stand here because I feel this is a matter that is really outstanding and I feel very happy for these extra guards in this country who, for the first time, would get some kind of protection, some kind of shelter, some kind of support, Mr. Vice-President, which is important.

It reminds me of our efforts when we came to the rescue of the special reserve police who were also languishing in the wilderness under the heavy baton of the PNM during the period when they were in power—no support for the SRPs. It is the UNC that provided security and some kind of longevity for these hundreds of SRPs, Mr. Vice-President, during the period that we were there. That is why, you know, when I hear my friend, Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill, say that they are seeking to protect workers and this is a measure that is designed to do so, I feel good. I say, “Well look, maybe the PNM is changing”, but the nature of a beast never changes. You unmask this beast and it will be a beast—never change; same thing, Mr. Vice-President. They could try what they want, the PNM remains what it is.

So, Mr. Vice-President, these guards in question work very hard as I said and they have never been recognized by the State and I am glad that we are doing so

today. We would like, Mr. Vice-President, through this measure, where for instance our customs extra guards would be able to at least have some kind of security, they would now be able to have some kind of gratuity when they retire, some kind of pension, they would now be entitled to some form of vacation leave, if they are sick they would be entitled to some sick leave, and I am happy about that because they now have a trade union, Customs and Excise Extra Guards Association, and that is a very important advance for them.

Mr. Vice-President, when the PNM was in power, Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill was not there. I think Sen. Knowlson Gift was there, but for a brief period, 10 days, I believe, between 1991 to 1995 before he was unceremoniously removed by his dear Prime Minister. Mr. Vice-President, the PNM in 1994 attempted to unilaterally dismiss every single customs guard and extra guard and that is why I feel somewhat exonerated and vindicated today where I can have a PNM Minister coming today to this Parliament and saying they are seeking to protect workers when they sought to brutalize and it actually resulted in hundreds of workers possibly being on the breadline in 1994.

Do you know, Mr. Vice-President, what they wanted to do with the customs guards and extra guards? They wanted to dismiss them and bring who, Mr. Vice-President? A private security firm. I think Gordon Draper was the man in charge of that hatchet job at that time and they wanted to bring in a private security firm to take the jobs of these hundreds of extra guards but, as fate would have it, an election was called in 1995 and the Almighty God guided the population and the PNM was put away for a while. We intervened and halted this particular direction that they were taking. We chose dialogue instead of confrontation with the extra guards, Mr. Vice-President. We took a policy decision not to privatize the custom guards and extra guards' area of responsibility. That is why they are there today. They are there because of the fact that the UNC did not proceed with the policy of the PNM at the time.

As we talk about customs here, I would also advise the hon. Minister, whilst we want to establish a revenue agency which would combine the Customs and Excise Division and the Inland Revenue Department under one authority, to replace all those existing divisions, he needs to have meaningful and genuine consultation with the stakeholders because my information is that these stakeholders believe that if the Government pursues that particular path, there is a possibility that these workers can be betrayed just as the workers of Caroni. So they have indicated that the Government needs to tread very wearily and cautiously in this matter and they need to have consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Vice-President, when we look at this particular Bill before us I have a little difficulty and I am sure you would share with me or you would at least agree, Sir, with some of my apprehensions here. If you look at clause 4 of this Bill it says:

“The Comptroller may recruit extra guards on such terms and conditions as are agreed by the Minister.”

Now, Mr. Vice-President, we are talking about 2020 vision, which is a pipe dream. It is hopeless. There is no strategy in place to accomplish that vision, with which we will deal in more detail in our budget contributions, so this 2020 vision is a hoax, hocus-pocus. In any event, if you are talking about developed nation status, Mr. Vice-President, one of the things that we have to recognize that distinguishes developed countries from developing countries is a serious level of accountability and transparency. There is a serious level of independence. I am referring to the institutional framework that has been established in those countries.

However, here it is in the year 2003 we are trying to amend the Customs Act and we are still giving the Comptroller the power which he had before. Do you know how an extra guard used to be employed? He used to be employed through the Comptroller of Customs. So you are now putting it—I thought that the Minister of Finance would have wanted to move away from this arrangement but he has now extended it. He continues to recruit but he does it on terms and conditions as agreed upon by the minister. I thought that, with the union coming into existence, that function would have been carried out by the union. They would have been engaged in collective bargaining, but I “doh” understand what is the role of the Minister here. Why is the Minister given the power to determine terms and conditions of these extra guards when you have a trade union that has been recognized and granted a certificate of recognition by the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board? Collective bargaining must mean the employer and the trade union meeting across the table in an effort to arrive at terms and conditions of engagement. I have more on this one, Sir.

The problem with this particular provision extends a little further. It is a kind of politicization of the Customs and Excise Division that is beginning to seep in, in a very dangerous way. Mr. Vice-President, do you know that the PNM, over the years, and even in this short period that they have been in power, has had a history of attempting to subvert and, at times, openly subverting public institutions in this country—openly? If it was not the Elections and Boundaries Commission, it was the service commissions. Do you remember the service commissions, both the

Public and the Police Service Commissions? I saw the Prime Minister “hugging up” Jules Bernard in a story on independence day, the same Prime Minister who wanted to get rid of Jules Bernard; but, Mr. Vice-President, I think you get the message, you get my thinking here.

So, Mr. Vice-President, my research has led me to some articles which I want to share with you. The PNM is about total control. The PNM is about elections. The PNM is not about country, you know? The PNM is about PNM, seeing about themselves and starving anybody who appears to be UNC or otherwise anti-PNM. This country can never develop, will never progress under the PNM, because the PNM’s policy is one of victimization, discrimination and subordination of anyone and any institution that is against them or they perceive to be against them.

No government, no country, can develop with such a strategy and such a policy. They are doomed, Mr. Vice-President—“cyar go nowhere”. “They could get \$100 billion, give CEPEP workers, give free books to people—that is a waste of time.” [*Desk thumping*] Your strategy, your policy and your approach are doomed. “You cyar take citizens of this country who born here, bred here, grow here, will die here and say, “Listen, because you are a UNC you mus’n’ eat”. You deny me employment? That is what the PNM is doing. Hundreds of thousands of people have been denied employment because “you are a UNC” or “you are anti-PNM,” and you expect to develop this country? “How yuh going to develop here?”

Mr. Vice-President, the Prime Minister of this country, the hon. Patrick Manning, has an obsession with power. He is obsessed with power. He wants to control and what he cannot control he will destroy and I hope people like Sen. Joan Yuille-Williams will understand what I am talking about and Sen. Dr. Lenny Saith. My information is that the Prime Minister had a private birthday party and he only had three Ministers in attendance—Ken Valley, Conrad Enill and Christine Sahadeo. These are the only three Ministers who were invited to the Prime Minister’s private birthday party. He left out Imbert because “he going and fire Imbert [*Laughter*] jus’ now—get rid of him jus’ now”. [*Laughter*] I could be wrong but “dah is de information” I have been able to gather and I have more coming, you know, because information is coming fast and furious on the PNM. Mr. Vice-President, I will give you some more details on other matters later as I proceed but, for the time being, I want to get back to a particular area.

Mr. Vice-President, would you believe—and it is amazing. It came not from me. I refer to the *Newsday*, that PNM publication, on page 4 of Sunday, September 15, 2002 and it reads:

“PSA hits appointment of new Customs Comptroller”

I want to share with my colleagues here some of the concerns of the President of the PSA because, Mr. Vice-President, what this is telling us here, and I read:

“The Public Service Association...is accusing the Ministry of Finance...”

That is the Prime Minister, Sen. Conrad Enill, Sen. Christine Sahadeo, the Hon. Kenneth Valley—accusing those people in charge of that Ministry:

“of making an improper recommendation by appointing...”

A chap called:

“Ralph Newton to act as Comptroller of Customs and Excise and not the next eligible senior officer.

The PSA...”

This is Jennifer Baptiste, you know, the President of the PSA:

“The PSA argues that the Minister of Finance bought out part of Newton’s vacation which would have sent him on pre-retirement leave, and then upgraded his position—a move which is not consistent and in keeping with good and fair industrial relations practices...”

said the PSA president. And they wrote to Ken Lalla, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, asking him to take action on this point. Mr. Vice-President, at this time they want to take charge of the police service. So what they are doing, they want to put “dey” partner in charge so “dey” send him on a course in England for six weeks. He just gone on “ah nex” short course. He just came back as a Superintendent, “dey” make him an Assistant Commissioner and the objective is to put their man or their person in place. “I ain’ calling no names now.”

Mr. Vice-President, I want to refer you to the *Sunday Guardian* of July 20, 2003. It is entitled, Sir, “Customs revolt against PM”. I do not know if the Hon. Sen. Enill would have read this, “Customs revolt against PM”. *[Interruption]* No, this is a more balanced newspaper. The *Guardian* is much more balanced. *[Interruption]* “Yeah”, it is much more balanced these days but the *Newsday*, that is owned by Chin Lee, so we could understand why, for instance, it is so anti-UNC and listen, what you read in the papers yesterday I did not say, you know? “The editor say I say that Panday is going to resign! *[Interruption]* The editor say so! *[Interruption]* The editor ain’ ask me notten, you know!” I told them one thing, they want to create so much confusion and *khoochoor* that they put something

else and so on. You think I going and respond to de *Newsday*? Dey wouldn' even publish wha' I say. [*Interruption*] Doh worry nah man, doh worry, man, doh worry." We do things differently. "I know right now you and Joan and all ah all yuh in front dey ha no power. I know Christine Sahadeo ha de power."

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, please.

Sen. W. Mark: When I want anything done, Sir—

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, Sen. Mark, please.

Sen. W. Mark: Sorry, sorry, Sir. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Vice-President: Return to the matter being debated.

Sen. W. Mark: Sorry, Sir; sorry, Sir; sorry, Sir. No, I will just—you know, sometimes—sorry, Sir.

Mr. Vice-President: Let us keep it that way.

Sen. W. Mark: No, I was just saying, Mr. Vice-President, whenever I want anything done on our Benches I know where I am going. I cannot go to Sen. Dr. Lenny Saith. I have to go directly to the Sen. The Hon. Christine Kan—am, Sahadeo. "In fact, Kangaloo gone through." Sahadeo is the lady now. Anyway, let me go back to this thing.

Mr. Vice-President, let me indicate to you, "Customs revolt against PM" and it says Sir, "Promotion plans irk ranks". Let me read:

"Eight high-ranking Customs and Excise officials have threatened to withdraw their enthusiasm if a less experienced Customs official is promoted to the division's top job of Comptroller as allegedly planned by Finance Minister Patrick Manning.

Ralph Newton, who occupied the post, retired on Friday."

That would have been in July, Sir.

"In a June 13 letter to the director of personnel administration, three deputy and five assistant customs comptrollers—all in acting positions—complained that Manning has hand-picked senior state counsel Fitzroy John to take over as Comptroller.

The letter argues that the acting comptrollers deserve the job over John because they have 'served faithfully...for almost 40 years.'"

Mr. Vice-President:

“The comptrollers stated that they were informed of John’s possible appointment by...”

No other person than the lady who said she would make it hotter than a *choolhaa* for the UNC when she was in power:

“PSA president Jennifer Baptiste-Primus.”

She told them at a recent meeting at Customs House, they quote:

““She (Baptiste-Primus) also intimated that he (Manning) was quite adamant that he would veto any other recommendation,’...”

He wants Fitzroy John and he will get Fitzroy John.

“Baptiste-Primus could not be reached for comment.”

It goes on now to talk about my dear and honourable friend, who is very innocent I would say, but he is being used—he “cyar” help it—Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill, a dear friend of mine, but they have him sucked in completely.

Mr. Vice-President, hear what my friend said, and this statement he made has the Customs and Excise Division hopping mad. They are demoralized. Hear what he said. He might really be sincere in what he is saying but I learned one thing in politics, you have to be careful what you say. When you print your words you “cyar” take them back so be careful what you say. Hear what they quoted my dear friend Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill as saying:

“Enill, who has responsibility for C&E, said when Government decided to look for a new Customs Chief, it realised the person would have to be able to deal with international institutions such as the WTO...”

That is the World Trade Organization:

“and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

He said abundant experience and two O’Levels does not qualify someone to negotiate with these organisations.”

Now, Mr. Vice-President, you have to understand, to get into customs you must have five O’levels—one is maths—included is English. This has been the approach for years. Now, I am saying yes, in terms of public service reforms, in terms of improving efficiency levels, you need to upgrade people’s qualifications but, you see, when “you going on newspaper and you make these statements”, you really could turn off your base, that is the people who are responsible because, Mr. Vice-President, the third largest revenue earner in terms of income

in this country is in fact the Customs and Excise Division. Sometimes they bring in a billion dollars a year in duties and taxes.

They have surpassed whatever benchmarks were set for them, so these people work very hard and when their Minister could say, “Listen, you see Earl Clement who is now acting as the comptroller”—Joseph Renaud, Frederick Lewis, David Ramcharan, these are people who signed the letter that went to the chairman of the Public Service Commission, David Waddell, Clifton Lutchman, James Thompson, Winston Burke, all of these people have worked long and hard in the Customs Division.

Sen. Enill: Mr. Vice-President, I took it long enough. The facts of this matter are as follows. The Public Service Commission invited all the individuals who qualified to apply for the position. A process was followed and a recommendation is to be made. These are the facts. So whatever is being reported is not correct and I wish the Senator would—*[Interruption]*—and I did. I wish the Senator would not continue to go into an area that obviously is not correct. *[Interruption]* It is not correct. I wish to place on record that the manner in which this matter was handled was in accordance with what is available to us under the system.

Sen. W. Mark: You must tell the newspaper this. You must hold a press conference. You must not be camera shy. Tell the population what is happening.

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, please.

Sen. W. Mark: Yes, Mr. Vice-President, “doh” come in this Parliament and—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Vice-President: Sen. Mark, please, I am on my feet.

Sen. W. Mark: Oh, sorry Sir.

Mr. Vice-President: Please do not speak directly to the hon. Senator.

Sen. W. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I seek your protection as well. Do not allow these people on that side to disturb me, Sir. I speak to you and I speak to you alone.

Mr. Vice-President, I would simply say that, unless it can be denied, I would stick by this story. Nobody would be able to shake me or move me from this story. Fitzroy John is “the Prime Minister man” for the job and I go on record today to tell the country that when the new Comptroller of Customs is announced, it would be Fitzroy John. That is the man they have earmarked for the job even though the man is a junior, he has no technical experience in terms of the Customs

and Excise Division. He came in as a junior counsel. In two years they made him a senior counsel and then, because he is a PNM—[*Interruption*] because he is a PNM they say, “Look at, you must put him in charge of the Customs and Excise Division.”

Mr. Vice-President, the danger of this thing, you know—Mr. Vice-President, I want to indicate something. I quote here again from this article.

“...(Baptiste-Primus) also intimated that he (Manning) was quite adamant that he would veto any other recommendation,...”

Why did the Hon. Sen. Conrad Enill not go in public and deny this? She is on record, the President of the PSA, Mr. Vice-President, saying that the Prime Minister with whom she had a meeting said that he was adamant he would veto. So if you apply and I apply and all of us here apply, he wants Fitzroy John and he has the power to veto Wade Mark, veto you, Mr. Vice-President, and veto Sadiq Baksh until he gets his man, Fitzroy John. So “doh” come here and tell us—you know, pretend to be innocent, when you know that that is what the PNM is doing. You “cyar” fool me and you “cyar” fool the population. [*Interruption*] “I ain’ quarrelling, ah talking. I making ah contribution”, Mr. Vice-President.

Sen. Dr. Saith: Come back to the Bill.

Sen. W. Mark: “Ah coming back. Gih mih ah opportunity. Jus’ now.”

So Mr. Vice-President, I think this matter is not a simple one as we see it here. Whilst in principle we would always support measures that would advance the interest of workers, we believe that, for instance, this heavy politicization of our institutions is not going to redound to our interest in the years to come. You cannot make a policeman police commissioner because he is a PNM hack, because he will carry out the biddings of the PNM. You “cyar” take a customs man or a senior counsel or a senior state counsel and parachute him into the post of Comptroller of Customs. [*Interruption*] No. No man; no man. We never politicized that area, Sir. “Dah is what they are doing, man.” [*Interruption*] “Nah.” No, no, no, we never did that. [*Interruption*] We never did that. [*Interruption*] We never did that.

So, Mr. Vice-President, we think that it is important that as we seek to promote proper industrial relations at the level of the customs, we need to take into account these facts that I have indicated and outlined. I “doh” think is a good policy. We reject completely the PNM using its powers so nakedly and wickedly to advance, for instance, their party hacks. Mr. Vice-President, do you know what

is going to be the outcome of that? When they want favours done, their friends coming in with big suitcases “nah” and they “doh” want to pay duties, they just “geh” on the phone and say, “Fitzroy, this is Conrad. Let Wade Mark pass.” “Leh Wade Mark pass.” So what happen and so on is that when you have—
[*Interruption*] [*Laughter*] No, I am saying that is what will happen. He say, “Leh Wade Mark pass.” [*Interruption*] Yes, “Leh Wade Mark pass” or “Let Dr. Lenny Saith pass with his grip and suitcases.”

Mr. Vice-President, the end result of that—it is not a laughing matter, it is revenue that is being lost. Duties and taxes that are supposed to be collected by the Customs Division will no longer be collected because “Lenny Saith gone through” or Dumas.

Sen. Dumas: Do not call my name.

Sen. W. Mark: All right, “mih” brother, Senator, Senator the honourable. So, Mr. Vice-President, that is why we advance here that it is dangerous to politicize critical and sensitive offices in our country—very, very dangerous.

As we proceed on this matter that is now before us, I would indicate that the Ministry of Finance has a very important responsibility to ensure that the Customs and Excise Division continues to have a certain degree of independence so that they can do their job without fear or favour and without any political interference from the politicians. They must be able to do their job fearlessly and that is what we feel is required in this particular regard.

Mr. Vice-President, I also would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether it is a fact. I have been reliably informed by people in the know that both the *mv Panorama* and the *Beauport* connected to the docks on the port have not been certified since the second week of August and every passenger and piece of cargo that is transported by the *mv Panorama* and the *Beauport* is in danger, in the event of an accident, of not being given coverage and this has been going on from the second week of August to the present time. I want to know if this chap who died recently—he was crushed to death—Uwaine Anthony, whether when that took place the *mv Panorama* was certified.

Mr. Vice-President, do you know what certification means? It means that when you have to be certified you must go on dry dock. You must inspect your boats properly. You must get Lloyd’s of London to come and certify that this vessel is seaworthy. None of those boats have been dry-docked, none—the *mv Tobago*—and therefore the Minister of Works and Transport must take full responsibility and accountability for any incident or accident that were to take

place between August to the present time. You have people sailing on the *mv Panorama* and the *Beauport* without any insurance coverage because it has not been certified.

That is a scandal. “Dah” is misconduct in public office and somebody should be criminally charged for that kind of negligence taking place. I want the Minister of Finance to investigate this matter immediately and I would like him to report to this Senate whether my information is wrong that both the *mv Panorama* and the *Beauport* have not been certified and therefore they are riding on the high seas without any insurance coverage for their passengers—hundreds of passengers.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Members, the speaking time of the Senator has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Senator's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes. [*Sen. S. Baksh*]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. W. Mark: I would not take the 15 minutes, Sir. I will just take five. I want to ask the hon. Minister, Mr. Vice-President, why is it that having told the population there was a crash of the server at the head office of Customs by this chap who was acting at one time, Mr. Newton, 40 women, data entry operators were placed on the breadline by the Customs and Excise Department about six months ago, Mr. Vice-President, you would recall? The reason that was advanced for their displacement and dislocation had to do with the crash of the server.

Do not tell me six months after, Mr. Vice-President, a critical and important institution such as the Customs and Excise Division, the third largest revenue earner for Trinidad and Tobago, how could they tell me that after six months they cannot get a server?

I was a bit amazed that the hon. Minister did not take up a very curious response given to this population by the then Acting Comptroller of Customs when he said it is better to work manually than technologically. I could not understand that logic coming from the Acting Comptroller of Customs.

The server crashed or, I wonder, Sir, on reflection, seeing that six months have passed and the 40 data entry operators have not been re-employed, whether the server was sabotaged by the Customs and Excise Division Management in order to get rid of those 40 workers who were being unionized by the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW). I wonder, because I do

not see any rational explanation to offer to this country why, for instance, an institution such as the Customs and Excise Division could run their business on a daily basis without a server, without computers. Everything is now driven manually. Why? Because they want to deny 40 women who are citizens of this country.

I am putting complete responsibility for this travesty of justice at the feet of the Senator, Hon. Conrad Enill. He must take responsibility, and the mastermind of it all is the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance. Why is it today 40 data entry operators have not been reemployed? We want an explanation on that. Why? And they talk about they are seeking to protect workers and this is to promote better industrial relations? How can it be, when they have 40 people on the breadline?

The Central Bank has already told us that the unemployment rate is 11.5 per cent. That was before they butchered and savagely severed the 10,000 workers of Caroni (1975) Limited. Purely on racial grounds! No other reason. Touch the port, nuh! Touch WASA! They cannot touch them. They will revolt and I will come and help them too. The PNM is evil, wicked and cruel! Criminal in content and nature.

So, Mr. Vice-President, when we look at this thing, it hurts me because you see, people have to live, and people can only live when they work and they earn an income, because when one goes shopping, one has to go with wages and money to buy goods and services. We cannot have a society where people are working meaningfully and the Government that is supposed to be protecting people in this land disposes of people. That is wrong.

So, Mr. Vice-President, this is a matter I want explanations on. In principle, it is our Bill. At this point in time, we will give it active consideration in terms of support, because we are the alternative government. Never forget this. We have to expose them. They are weak inside.

I understand that within their Cabinet they may even bust just now because of problems inside there. I understand a top-ranking Minister who acts as Prime Minister tendered her resignation recently to the Prime Minister because a fella called Krishna Rajkumar, who is the Chairman of the National Self-Help Commission, seems to have more power than the acting Prime Minister of this country. She tendered her resignation to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister refused it. So, we have to reorganize and engage in our attack on you! Weaken you further. You are already weak inside; we must get rid of you completely!

So, Mr. Vice-President, I thank you for the opportunity to deal with these matters. It is of great concern to us and we support the effort on the part of my dear friend, Sen. Conrad Enill, in bringing this matter. We think it is a good measure, there are some limitations, constraints and loopholes that we need to address and we hope at the end of the day he would be in a position to provide us with some rational explanations as to why, for instance, these things are taking place as I have outlined. I want to know why they fired 40 women. Give me an explanation on that. I want to know about the *Panorama* and *Beauport* without insurance taking people on high seas. I want to know about that.

There are many other things I would not go through now because I am sure the five minutes would be up and I thank you, Mr. Vice-President, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this matter and I hope that I would get some really serious explanation from my dear friend at the end of his winding up exercise.

Thank you very much.

Sen. Brother Noble S. A. Khan: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President, for allowing me these few moments. I would like to support the matter before us. It seems to be one that is long overdue. What has emerged in my mind is that it has put before us certain things that have definitely been seething for quite some time, and I speak particularly about the area of the public service, per se.

We know that the Customs and Excise Department is one of the departments of government that is high profile. It is one of the specialized departments and it also is one of, I would say, the departments that have a high amount of prestige. It is close to the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Finance, and what have you, so you would find that there ought to be or, there is a quick response when matters affect them. Of course, that might be because of the position as one of the chief income earners or revenue collectors of the Government system.

For some of us who have been around for some time, we know very often that when it comes to the area of dealing with human relations, the human resource element is one that seems to be highly neglected. With respect to the customs guards whom I think are targeted here, we could think in terms of their being at the lower end insofar as the structure and the employment profile is concerned. Perhaps this might be because while they have been waiting there for such a long time, we know too that many of the customs guards are people who have worked and have developed a high amount of expertise, of knowledge in the system, and may have even been past employees.

Therein lies a great reservoir of expertise, and I would like, as we think in terms of this here, if we could reflect especially at this time in our country's

history where we are moving forward or are supposed to be moving forward at an extremely fast rate, that we think in terms of how we can mobilize that vast pool that is available, particularly at the upper end as far as age is concerned. Those who have recently retired, those who have had VSEP or a host of different systems that they have available or which are imposed, but yet the end result is that we have a powerful force that is available.

We also know that quite a bit at the lower end, as far as age is concerned, could definitely benefit from some form of marriage between that expertise and that area which needs that experience so very much. So this is one area I think that we could address ourselves in that this matter before us has highlighted.

Moreso, the whole question of the public service, per se, and I have mentioned this before as I think that perhaps some of the things that I will be mentioning as we go along—you may find it might be repetitious or burdensome to hear that again, as the case may be.

I speak here of the overlooking of the public service as such. I know we have 2020 and all these different systems that were put in place even before now, but I do not think they match what has served us in the past, and I speak here of the technique of using the commission of enquiry. Not what we have had in the just recent past, as the case may be, but I am speaking about something in the line of the type of commission of enquiry that addresses the question of the public service, overlook the public service, see what is needed, bring in our experts that would have hedge from direct contact with the political directorate and have an element of input.

Perhaps you may go out in the world of the global stage now and maybe get experts from outside, and even what we ourselves might be able to have sourced. In the past they have served well. Some of these reports that emerge have always created some form of tension between certain elements within the system, particularly at the political directorate, as we know what took place in the past. They serve a useful purpose and at least it will give us an opportunity of reviewing what is before us, and the need for addressing what should be, as we seek to forge forward.

The outlook from outside I think is a very important aspect. It has served us well, and I think that possibly, if we could have another look at this area of addressing what is before us, because this is just a tip of the iceberg, what is taking place. I have mentioned in the past, we have created a system here, we created many posts, but when it comes to filling the posts so that we could get the

thing working we have problems. Perhaps an overlook of it could help us along a way of addressing these problems before us.

There is need there to have that systemic look. Moreso, we know there are more techniques that are available. The question of the technology that is, but I do not think that a proper overview that brings to bear the academic with the professional with the experienced that we know is available will definitely help us along.

I think the question that has been raised here, we have heard so much of, of interfacing at the political end is one that we have to live with, it is to the extent to which that exists, because we know from school days that politics is part of it, we cannot escape it, but the question is to operate those politics in a way that could benefit our country.

I myself have always held the view that we are a fortunate country insofar that we have been responsible for ourselves and just before. I mean around from that time coming up as a young person, we could probably boast and say that we have had quite a bit of good direction at that level.

So, I do not see any fear in going forward in this area of seeking, as I said before, that element of the commission of enquiry and also, too, of the interaction that we hope will take place, because at the bottom of it is our people, and do not think for one second that we inside of here or in the other place are representers of all knowledge.

I think that this too will allow for that sort of interaction. So, as we come to this end here, and as I said before, I support the Bill before us. It was eloquently put by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, as he usually does. I would like that what I have said, we take some cognizance of it. If not, at a later stage.

Thank you.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. Let me thank those contributors for their willingness to engage in the process. Let me start at the very onset to deal with a couple of things. The question of these guards has been the subject of many discussions. You see, there are those that believe like Sen. Mark that everything you do, there is some hidden agenda, and there are those of us who really are trying to do what is in the best interest of the country. [*Desk thumping*]

For example, if we take a position in which an item comes into the country and it goes into a warehouse and you basically tell an individual, although this

particular item is locked up, I want you to sit down and look at it and make sure that nothing happens to it, and you pay them for doing that over a period of time, a question that obviously must arise is: is that a good use of financial resources?

Quite frankly, that debate has been going on for many years and it is in the context of that debate that one needs to understand the dilemma that these individuals found themselves in. He is correct that we are part of the process and our position has been that because it has been so long, we needed to regularize it and this particular measure is intended to do simply that. We would regularize it but we would still need to look at the use of that particular resource in those particular circumstances.

Sen. Mark talked about the Revenue Authority. I want him to know that yes, there would be significant consultations. In fact, in the way that we are moving forward, the representative union is a part of both the advisory team and the implementation team, and I do not know that there is any more demonstration of how you want all individuals to participate in the process by putting them at the levels of the leadership both at concept stage and at implementation stage as we move forward.

Vision 2020 is not the things that he has talked about. You see, for the very first time, Vision 2020 says that with all its faults and with all its misunderstanding by certain commentators, this country is one in which individuals must be given a particular level of service from the Government that they chose to elect. Whether those on the other side accept it or not, the intention of this particular party at this particular point in history is to ensure that the resources that we know will be available will be spent towards making each citizen a better individual in the following specific manner.

That there should be no difference between what is considered to be a developed country and Trinidad and Tobago, so that in terms of opportunities and in terms of delivery of service, you would see absolutely no difference between Trinidad and Tobago and a developed country. And in those particular circumstances one would need to make certain kinds of strategic interventions to facilitate that process that may not have been possible in the past.

In fact, it is our intention that by the year 2007, all the institutions that are required to drive that process will be appropriately staffed with the individuals and with the plans to deal with that particular issue.

The Minister with responsibility in clause 4 is not a political issue. Somebody has to take responsibility for the accountability of this particular unit and Minister

here will mean in the sense of Cabinet, so that for example, when negotiations have to be done, when the union meets with the group and they come up with a position, then this particular position goes to the public sector negotiating committee so that it fits into the income policy or the particular objective of the Government, and that is why that is required there.

Insofar as it “is approved by the Comptroller” is concerned, clearly, if you are in charge of an organization and you have to staff it and you are responsible for it, then you should have some responsibility in the individuals that are selected. What it seeks to do simply is to give that position that authority. I see absolutely nothing wrong with that.

One of the failures of the current systems of Government today, or the public service, is the inability to accurately plan for succession. I do not know, and you should be aware of it, how difficult it is to get the right person to deal with the challenges that we face today.

Here we have a situation where a government is elected and the population has a view that the Government should deliver in a particular kind of way. And one looks at the individuals that one is working with and one says, “How do I get these individuals to the stage where they can contribute to my results?” And one takes them and trains them and identifies them, but somebody else decides that this particular individual that one has trained must go somewhere else because there is a particular need somewhere and one loses control of the process.

In such circumstances, one has challenges. In those challenges, one has two choices. The first choice is to do absolutely nothing, or the second is to influence the process to get the results that one has promised. In most instances, where one hears noise in the system, where there are issues in the system, it is the individuals who are affected by some of these decisions crying out that they believe that they are discriminated against.

If one asks some of these individuals who need to run our industries, and we talk about them in the context of the benefit or the value to the country in terms of revenue, we live in a totally different world today than we did 40 years ago. Our world today is based on information. Information is what drives our world today and, therefore, the individuals that head our institutions must come to the table with a particular level of skill to manage large resources.

What we are attempting to do in the process is to find the individuals through a very transparent process who are within the system currently. We are doing absolutely nothing that is not in the system. We are using the system in the way in

which we are allowed to under the Constitution and under the law and I see absolutely nothing wrong with that process.

With respect to the data entry operators, here is a situation in which the administration had data entry operators for a specific period of time. When that time came to an end, the administration did not seek Cabinet's approval to extend the contracts of the individuals. Therefore, for all intents and purposes, the contract of employment ceased at the end of, I do not recall the date, but at the end of the period.

What the Comptroller at the time said was this: That in Tobago, the customs officers were the ones that were keying in data on the computer system. You see, in today's situation, data processing activity is not the most efficient method of dealing with information and, therefore, in one element of the customs service, the officer himself keys in the data.

What occurred again is because of a lack of understanding of what is required in managing an IT system, the system shut down. The system is currently up and running and it is our intention to ensure that the data entry operators are back on the job. But clearly, that has to be a temporary situation, because at some point in time, the data entry requirement is going to be done by the trade as part of the modernization effort.

This whole question of customs and preparation for FTAA and so on is one that is at this point in time engaging the world community, because you see, there is a dilemma. How much of business facilitation and how much of security. How do you deal with it? What is the mandate? What are the issues?

It is in that context, as we look at the new world order, if you will, that we find ourselves with the public service, with a group of individuals who have got up one morning and found that the world has changed and in some instances are not prepared to respond.

The one thing that I do not believe we can do is create for this country a situation in which our whole development is affected as a consequence of this. And we are working diligently to try and build capacity, build skill sets and transfer knowledge and skills to these particular individuals.

I do believe that our public service is great. I believe that many of the people we have are competent, but I think that our structure as it has existed for some time is not set up to respond to the requirements of a world today, and I believe that is something we need to think about, because it matters not which government is in place. One talks to everybody and there are the same challenges.

I think that every one of us, when we get into government, we really attempt for the benefit of those persons that support us to move the process forward.

We on this side are part of that process and, notwithstanding how much they attempt to sidetrack us and tell us about all the bad things that we do, we believe that we are doing a great service, we are committed to what we are doing, we will make mistakes, we will correct them. This Bill before us today seeks simply to end something that those on the other side started to regularize. We thank them for their support and there are others that we would be coming with in due course and we expect that the support will also be there.

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole Senate.

Senate in committee.

Clauses 1 to 8 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to, That the Bill be reported to the Senate.

Senate resumed.

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

PHARMACY BOARD (AMDT.) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Colm Imbert): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move,

That a Bill to amend the Pharmacy Board Act, Chap. 29:52, be now read a second time.

Mr. Vice-President, this Bill seeks to amend our pharmacy legislation to essentially provide for the creation of a new category of support staff called a pharmacy assistant and to reduce the qualifying period of internship after registration of a pharmacist from three years to one year. There are other aspects of the legislation that we are seeking to improve with this amendment Bill as well.

Mr. Vice-President, as you know, we are embarked on a comprehensive health sector reform programme which has as its general objective improved health care for the wider population of Trinidad and Tobago. Part of this health sector reform

programme is the strengthening of technical and managerial capabilities of staff, professions allied to medicine and all personnel within the health sector.

An essential component of health care is the dispensing of pharmaceuticals which includes the counselling of patients on the proper use of pharmaceuticals and the actual dispensing of the medication itself. Pharmacists are employed both in the private and public sector to provide this essential service. At present, the law requires every pharmacy to have on its establishment a full time responsible pharmacist. A responsible pharmacist is defined as a pharmacist who is registered in accordance with the legislation and who has either practised or been employed for a continuous period of three years after initial registration.

What this means is that at this time, a pharmacist who would have spent three years at the university in pursuit of his first degree in pharmacy must then spend a further three years under the supervision of another responsible pharmacist before he can manage a pharmacy on his own.

This has its historical antecedence in the previous position where the degree of pharmacy was not offered at the University of the West Indies and the course of instruction led to the granting of a diploma, but now that the University of the West Indies has upgraded the standard of the qualification to that of a first degree, the Ministry of Health and the profession of pharmacy believe that there is a good argument to reduce the internship period from three years to one year. It is material to note that the current legislation dates back to 1981 when, as I said before, only a diploma programme was offered at the university.

We have had many meetings with members of the profession, with the Pharmacy Board, and I am comfortable that I can stand here today and assure this Senate that in reducing the internship period from three years to one year, we will not be reducing the quality of care delivered by pharmacists. Moreover, the public sector will benefit significantly as the Regional Health Authorities will now have a significantly greater number of pharmacists at their disposal to send to our health centres where there is currently a chronic shortage of pharmacists in the public service. In fact, this is a serious problem in our public health centres where after someone has seen a doctor and medication is prescribed, they encounter difficulty in getting the required drugs because of the absence of responsible pharmacists within the public sector.

We are also introducing a new category of staff called a pharmacy assistant. At the present time, most pharmacists employ assistants, but this is done in an unregulated manner, and it is our intention with this legislation that these

individuals be trained, registered, regulated and monitored. Clause 5 of the Bill before the Senate, therefore, mandates that a register be opened and maintained of all persons who would be registered as pharmacy assistant trainees showing the name of the tutor, the name and address of the approved pharmaceutical establishment where the training is being carried out and, in addition, a register must be kept of all persons who are eventually registered as pharmacy assistants showing the name and the address of the approved pharmacy.

We have been holding talks with the Pharmacy Board to develop the necessary training programme. As I said before, this is a situation where there is a lot of consensus and dialogue between the Ministry and the practitioners. We are also intent to allow individuals who are currently employed in pharmacies to be given priority under this new initiative.

The Ministry of Health is going to work with the Pharmacy Board to provide all the necessary support so that they can develop appropriate and relevant training programmes, and that within the shortest possible time frame we can have this new group of persons trained and registered under the legislation. I wish to tell Senators that there is no intention to replace pharmacists with these pharmacy assistants and to ensure there is no abuse, clause 8 provides that there shall be attached to a pharmacy such number of pharmacy assistants not exceeding the ratio of one responsible pharmacist to two pharmacy assistants.

The pharmacy assistants will be empowered to assist in the preparation of prescriptions, to receive and check inventory, check expiry dates of pharmaceuticals, assist in entering orders into the information system, whether it is an electronic system or paper system, prepare books and records for keeping information on dangerous drugs, antibiotics, controlled drugs, and so forth and, generally, assist the pharmacist in the packaging and preparation of medication.

At all times, the pharmacy assistant will be under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. The pharmacy assistant will also be prohibited from directly dispensing any prescription or interacting directly with patients or clients to provide counselling or pharmaceutical care to a patient.

We also have a number of provisions within the legislation. I can go through some of them. Clause 10 provides that any person not being a pharmacy assistant who takes and uses the title of pharmacy assistant is guilty of an offence.

Any pharmacy assistant who practises under any name other than that under which he or she is registered commits an offence and, as I have indicated before, a register is required to be kept. The register will be lodged with the council, will be

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available for public scrutiny, so the public can determine the names of all responsible pharmacists and all pharmacy assistants.

We are also including for the first time in the register the requirement that persons who have temporary licences be included on the register. You see, there are a number of anomalies in the current system of registration and we are seeking to clean them up, so if anyone wishes to know whether a person is properly qualified as a pharmacist, whether they have a full licence or temporary licence, it will now all be required to be inserted in the register.

The other clauses in the Bill, clause 11 and clause 12, deal with the regulations that will prescribe the type of training that is required for these pharmacy assistants and as soon as this Bill is approved by this honourable House, we will be coming back shortly to publish the regulations.

We are also increasing the penalties generally in the Bill to bring them in line with modern trends, and that is it basically, Mr. Vice-President, but let me reiterate, what we are trying to do is increase the supply of pharmacists by reducing the time for internship from three years to one year, thus making more people available as responsible pharmacists and we are also introducing a new category of pharmacy assistant to provide more support to the practice of dispensing of pharmaceuticals.

It is quite a straightforward Bill and I would be willing to answer any issues raised by any Senator on the other side to the best of my knowledge and ability, and I would ask that the hon. Senators give their support to this legislation.

I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: Mr. Vice-President, I want to agree and also welcome the hon. Minister of Health to this Senate. I think that, for instance, he has to become or grow accustomed to being here because shortly they might plant him here. As the Minister said, the main purpose of the Bill is to amend the Pharmacy Board Act and to introduce a new category of support staff to pharmacists called pharmacy assistants and to shorten the qualifying period of responsible pharmacists.

Now, Mr. Vice-President, I would say that without the UNC's presence in the administration between 1995 and 2001, I sometimes wonder what Bills would be brought to this Senate. I think that he was a bit less than forthright in letting us know that this Pharmacy Board (Amdt.) Bill that the hon. Minister of Health

found on his desk is one of many pieces of legislation which were left by the UNC at the time of our removal from office. So, it is a Bill, Mr. Vice-President, that we are acquainted with, and it was all part of our drive to improve the quality of health care delivery in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Minister of Health would admit as well that there are many other pieces of legislation that he needs to bring forward to the Parliament which were developed by the United National Congress administration during the period 1995—2001. We are anxiously awaiting those Bills, but after 20 months, the hon. Minister seemed to be a bit bogged down with other issues and, as such, he is unable to bring these measures to this Parliament.

I refer, Mr. Vice-President, to the Health Services Quality Bill of which the Minister is aware. And that Bill is designed to legislate the standards and quality of care in the health sector. That is something, Mr. Vice-President, which would revolutionize the way health care is delivered in this country. So, I think that these are measures which he knows exist, bills that he found on his desk and, I am sure he is in support of those measures. I do not know what is constraining the hon. Minister from bringing those pieces of legislation to this honourable Parliament. Maybe he is overwhelmed. The Health Ministry is a very difficult ministry as we are all aware, and the Minister, I do not know if he is up to the task, but clearly, it seems to be weighing him down because he seems to be getting somewhat shorter over the period that he has occupied office.

Mr. Vice-President, in addition to the Health Services Quality Bill, there is the Funeral Homes Bill which I am also aware the Minister is aware of, and that Bill seeks to regulate the operations of funeral homes and to establish the necessary standards in this country. We also have the Public Health (Amdt.) Bill, the Human Tissue Transplant Bill, the regulations relating to the Professions Allied to Medicine Act. Those are regulations that are pending, and another area that he has touched on very publicly is the issue of legislation on tobacco.

I do not know when that will come, but I know he has been speaking about that issue, and I refer to the Law Reform Commission Report 2000/2001, that deals with this whole issue of tobacco control and advertising, and I think that for instance, given the high rate of cancer in Trinidad and Tobago resulting from smoking, I think that the time is appropriate for us to get legislation in place along the lines of Canada, New Zealand and the United States in implementing advertising bans in an effort to protect the younger people from the detrimental effects of cigarette smoking. I hope that the hon. Minister would really get this piece of legislation to this Parliament, because it is a measure that we would

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have introduced and we will certainly support. We hope the Minister would deal with that matter.

Mr. Vice-President, we know also that the Bill that has been introduced here is designed to provide more efficient pharmacy service to the population, but it is a process and the Minister should have been in a position to tell us today, because I know he is under a lot of pressure, and I am beginning to refer to him as the “blame everyone else Minister”. He blames everyone else for his incompetence.

We believe that the people in this country, ordinary people, they experience too many problems when they go to the hospital and the health centres in attaining pharmaceutical products which would have been recommended by the doctors in the respective institutions. I believe that, for instance, the Minister needs to pay attention to Nipdec. Nipdec apparently is the agency that is responsible for buying in bulk pharmaceutical products on behalf of the Ministry of Health and we understand that there are a lot of questionable and suspicious activities where, for instance, generic products versus brand products ought to be addressed in a more organized way. Too many ordinary citizens go to the health centres and they cannot secure the medicine that they are required to have in an effort to sustain their lives.

Mr. Vice-President, I hope that the hon. Minister in the Ministry of Finance, as we speak to the issue of 2020, would recognize that 2 per cent of this country's GDP towards health care is totally inadequate. We should really be focusing on increasing that rate from between 2 to 4, to 5 per cent. If we are talking about moving towards developed nation status, what is being offered today, the health system is in crisis in this country. The Minister is unable to deal with the crisis, and this is why the Prime Minister is going to have a Cabinet reshuffle very shortly, and the Minister of Health would lose his post, I understand, during that reshuffle. It is clear to us, Mr. Vice-President, that there is a crisis in health, and health care has collapsed and the hon. Minister who is attempting to provide some delivery is unable to do so.

Mr. Vice-President, the Minister should have indicated to us today what he is doing or what he has been doing to provide proper health care delivery to the citizens of this country, because when we talk about pharmacy and pharmaceuticals, one has to go to a health care centre or a hospital in an effort to be examined and to obtain a prescription and then proceed.

Mr. Vice-President, it is a nightmare at these health centres and many of these hospitals that we have today. People are still lying on benches waiting for service.

He has brought Cuban doctors and nurses. Let us see to what extent, for instance, that would assist the crisis. He has brought, or he intends to bring UN doctors on a volunteer basis. Let us see what will happen, for his own sake.

We need, for instance, a revolution in health care in this country. When the UNC was in office, one of the proud moments of our administration was when we introduced the Emergency Health Service. It was a major advance. With limited resources we had to purchase second-hand vehicles. We established a management structure to run this service, and the reality is that we had about 60 of these vehicles that were on the roads of this country at one time.

Whenever a citizen had some difficulty, experiencing some health problems, they called the Emergency Health Service and within five minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes maximum, those emergency health services vehicles would have arrived at one's doorstep.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Members, it is 4.30 p.m. and we are going to take the tea break now. Sen. Mark will continue on the resumption. The Senate will now be suspended for half an hour. We will return at 5.00 p.m.

4.30 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.10 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

Sen. W. Mark: Mr. Vice-President, before we took the tea break, I was saying that when we look at the health system in this country today, we recognize that it is in a state of crisis, and we need to intervene in a very decisive way to provide proper health care for our people.

Under the UNC administration, we had begun to address several issues plaguing the health care system in this country. I made reference earlier to the fact that we had brought to this country a virtual revolution in patient care and attention. This was done through the Emergency Health Service (EHS). As you are well aware, Mr. Vice-President, from a fleet of 55 to 60 vehicles, we are now down to about between five and eight. I understand that in Tobago, if you have one or two vehicles you have a lot. Under this hon. Minister of Health the system has not only collapsed, but it is virtually on the brink of disappearing.

When you have a change in administration, there is a tendency to sweep the floor clean, which is not the best approach to take in a society that is so limited in human resources. One of the things that the hon. Minister of Health did was to fire the management that was responsible for sustaining the EHS system in this country. He placed the entire system into the hands of the South West Regional

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Health Authority. It is now history that since that decision was taken by the hon. Minister, the EHS has collapsed. The view was that the management was UNC and wherever this hon. Minister sees UNC he gets pressure. The UNC is pressure for the Minister of Health. His position is that he must get rid of everything and anything looking, smelling, associating with the UNC, because he believes that if that happens he will go through freely.

Mr. Vice-President, that is the same Minister, if you recall, in the days gone by, who climbed a ladder outside the Red House to remove—[*Senator motions*]—he said it was a blight on the Red House. [*Crosstalk*] He was here at midnight, ringing a bell like some Baptist man [*Laughter*] to get rid of all the evil that the National Alliance For Reconstruction had put. “Mr. Bell man”, that was the “fella”. [*Crosstalk*] Imbert boy! The Minister completely dismissed the management and placed the task into the hands of the South West Regional Health Authority.

When this system was in its heyday, it facilitated over 200 calls a day. Under the hon. Minister of Health, the number of ambulances in that system has collapsed from 60 to six. [*Crosstalk*] The workers protested over poor working conditions and accommodation and the absence of a contract. Instead of the Minister doing his job to confront the problems, to try to overcome the difficulties and complaints that were brought to his attention by these workers, as usual, he fell into the syndrome of “victimhood”. He is a victim of everything; UNC again. He started to blame the ambulance workers. He said that they were UNC, and were being advised by a fellow called Vincent Cabrera who was a Senator in this place, so “UNC take over the EHS”.

The doctors’ issue is now history. Every Indian doctor was a UNC; that is his position and, therefore, all the Indian doctors must be dismissed; pressure! So all doctors in Trinidad and Tobago were pressured by this PNM regime, under the Minister of Health. It is a sad thing, because in this country we are all citizens, and we have claims and entitlements as citizens of this country. Be it Indian, African, Chinese, Caucasian or Syrian, we are citizens of this Republic, and we have a right to equal treatment by any government.

Mr. Vice-President, whilst people cannot obtain pharmaceutical products, while people are dying, suffering and bleeding to death, the Minister proceeds with his public relations campaign all over the country, blaming the UNC. The Minister should tell us here today what is the state of health care in this country, how many citizens cannot access health care and what he is doing about it as the policymaker and the person who is responsible. We would like to hear from him

this afternoon what are his plans and programmes, so he could convince his Prime Minister before the Cabinet reshuffle and he loses his post. We give him the opportunity to outline his plans and programmes. How is the Minister of Health going to ensure that the poor, needy and oppressed in this country have access to cheap and affordable health care?

We have no difficulty in reducing the internship from three years to one year. We would like the hon. Minister to indicate to us what would be some of the difficulties and challenges. He is in a kind of conundrum, because on the one hand he is seeking to improve the efficiency of the pharmaceutical system in the country, but on the other hand, by reducing the period of internship from three years to one, there could be implications. We would like him to tell us how he intends to address this issue, because pharmacists would want to drift towards the private sector and not remain in the public sector. We know the state of play in the public sector, too much politics, and then the packages that are available are not so attractive.

I think the hon. Minister needs to tell us what kind of incentive framework he is going to establish. If these people, who are going to have a reduced internship, move into the private sector or open their own pharmacies, what is going to happen to the poor, the very people that he is seeking to help, at least, as far as their health care concerns go? I think we need the hon. Minister to help us with this measure. What are some of the changes he anticipates? What are some of the implications for health care in the system? Would we, within the time, retain and sustain pharmacists within the health care system so that they can provide the necessary services to the population who need to access them?

I think that what the hon. Minister needs to address, as a matter of urgency, is, probably, a health care bill; we need a health care system bill in this country, where our people can access and provide, through that process, more efficient service. We talk about primary health care; we talk about prevention, but where is the education drive? Where is this programme of education to really provide our people with the knowledge and understanding of what is right from what is wrong? We need to educate our people within the health care system, and the Minister of Health has the opportunity to do so.

Too many young people are exposed to junk food. They eat fried chicken and chips in the morning, lunchtime, night time and weekends. We want to develop a healthy nation; we want to reduce the cost of preventive health care; that is why the focus is on primary health care. If we are focusing on primary health care, one of the responsibilities of the Minister of Health and the Government is to see to

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what extent we can introduce into the system more public education. Maybe the hon. Minister of Education can look at this issue at the primary and secondary levels, and kindergarten, because lifestyle changes are critical.

Most of the diseases that we have in this country are lifestyle diseases. Trinidad and Tobago is breaking records; we have \$1.2 million people—*[Interruption]* Yes, we are dealing with the Pharmacy Bill here. When you have people ill, Senator—*[Crosstalk]*—you must be tired, they blank you in the Cabinet. How “yuh” expect to be? “Yuh” want to resign? Well, leave “nuh gyul if yuh tired”, resign from the Government. *[Crosstalk]* You have me for the next four years “yuh” know, constantly, every Tuesday, so you better leave one time yes. *[Crosstalk]* I was going to talk for 15 minutes, I am going for an hour now, because you are right there, and when I talk I am coming at you; no problem. I know “yuh” tired girl; “yuh” vex; no problem Joan, I sympathize with you. Mr. Vice-President, she is disappointed with what happened in Cabinet.

Before I was interrupted by the Senator, Mr. Vice-President, I was saying that we need to focus on primary health care; we need public education in this regard. Another area I would like the Minister to address is the issue of compliance. How are we going to ensure that there is compliance in this particular area that he has advanced this afternoon? We would like to indicate that this measure before us this afternoon is one that, on principle, we would not object to. We believe that having regard to the fact that it emanated from the UNC administration, and it has to do with providing more efficient services for the people of this country, we would not hesitate in supporting it at this time.

I want to advise my hon. colleague, the Minister, that he has to take a different approach to his task, and not be blaming people all over the place for everything; blaming the UNC, blaming everyone on this Bench. There was a dengue outbreak sometime ago in south, I do not know how true that was, *[Interruption]* but the Minister said it was not true, but doctors were saying otherwise. The reality is that we want the hon. Minister to recognize that there is need to really consolidate the health care system.

We would like him to introduce, as soon as possible, a number of pieces of subsidiary legislation. We would like the hon. Minister to focus more on education and compliance. We would like him to, at least, establish a working dialogue with our professionals. I think Sen. The Hon. Dr. Saith was able to teach the Minister a very great lesson, in terms of dialoguing, conversing and having negotiations with doctors, not to use the hammer, not to use the jackboot. We need to approach things in a much more diplomatic manner. We on this side

would like to give our support to this measure. We feel that it would assist in the process, and having regard to the need for this particular amendment, it having originated from within our administration, we would support it.

We want to encourage the Minister to bring the other pieces of legislation and regulations to the Parliament as soon as possible, so that we could collectively work toward providing our nation with top class health care facilities. We would like to be like Costa Rica, where the health care system is second to none in this part of the world. They have a very efficient, well-managed health care system. Cuba also has a very well-organized system of health care. I feel that without proper health care and education, without the proper and necessary infrastructure for our people, it would be very difficult for us to move towards developed nation statehood. That is why I ask the hon. Minister of Finance in his 2004 budget to look at the issue of allocating a larger percentage of the GDP towards health care in this country.

We cannot continue with 2 per cent of our GDP going towards health care. We need to increase it, even if we have to go to 2.5 or 3 per cent; the target must be 5 per cent within a period of about five years; that is where we need to go. We all want to see a healthy nation and healthy people.

I have been on my legs for the entire day. I know that Joan is a bit concerned about my health. [*Crosstalk*] Mr. Vice-President, with these few words, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this very important matter, the Pharmacy Board (Amdt.) Bill.

Sen. Dana Seetahal: Mr. Vice-President, in principle I can have no objection to the amendment Bill before us. However, one of the purposes of this Bill is said to be to introduce a new category of support staff to pharmacists called “pharmacy assistants”. I have looked at the Pharmacy Board Act, Chap. 29:52, and the Pharmacy Board (Amdt.) Act, No. 42 of 1981, and between those two pieces of legislation there are some three or four other support staff: the pharmaceutical apprentice, the pharmaceutical students and the pre-registration pharmacists. Now we are talking about the pharmacy assistants. The problem is that there is nothing to indicate how the pharmaceutical apprentices will work with the pharmacy assistants.

In the 1961 Act, the pharmaceutical apprentice was defined as a student in pharmacy who has been duly registered for training in pharmacy, pursuant to the provisions of that Act. In that said Act, the students were to be registered in the register under section 16. That Act was amended in 1981, and there is a provision

in section 16 for the registration of students. Nothing in the substantive Act refers to pharmaceutical apprentices. However, in the definition section of the original Act there is that definition, and it remains.

My point is that we have a remnant of the pharmaceutical apprentice in the definition section; it was never deleted, amended or repealed. We have this introduction of pharmaceutical students, persons who are supposed to have a diploma, working with the pharmacist. We have the “pre-registration pharmacists”, who are people not quite yet ready to be pharmacists, although they have the training, and we have the temporary pharmacists. I feel that the reason that you have all these support people, and now you are going to have this “pharmacy assistant”, is because the Acts have not been consolidated. That is a problem in this country.

We have legislation amending legislation, and subsequent amendment of those amendments, and very few people know where we are. When I asked just now to see the Pharmacy Board Act, I looked at Chap. 29:52. I saw reference in today’s proposed amendments to sections that were not in that Act, and then I asked for the 1981 Act, and any amendments, and then I found out. What is happening here and what would soon happen is that we would pass amendment to legislation that might have already been amended; that is a serious problem. That is what happened in 1981, there was no amendment to the definition section of pharmaceutical apprentice.

We keep having amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to various pieces of legislation, but we do not have consolidation and revision. We will soon not know, even lawyers, what exactly is the current law. You cannot take up a grey volume like this, [*Senator lifts book*] which consists of amendments for 1981, and read it with something like this, then you have to read another grey volume for 1989, without coming to terms with what is the Act. That is my main contention with respect to all these things. It is not for the Pharmacy Board Act alone; it is for all the pieces of legislation that are being brought before us. We need to have a consolidation of our legislation.

Prior to 1950 there used to be a consolidation every 10 years. You had 1940, 1950, and then the next was 1980. Since then we have had no consolidation. There is not even an index for 2002. If you want to know what is the updated law, you have to try to get into the Parliament library; at least we are more fortunate. The members of the public might have access to the law library or not, and they often do not have what is current, because they are waiting to see if the Government Printery would have it.

In the last budget, \$32 million was taken away from the printery, that was for this year, therefore, we do not know when we would get any of these things. It is a state of confusion. The confusion continues now that we have some four types of support staff in the Pharmacy Act. We are going to have a fifth with the pharmacy assistant whose qualifications are not defined. With due respect to the Minister, the proposed amendment says at clause 8(5):

“A Pharmacy Assistant referred to in subsection (5) shall...”

I think this must be an error, because we are talking about subsection (5) saying a pharmacy assistant referred to in subsection (5).

Subsection (5) continues:

- “(a) have such appropriate training as may be prescribed by the Minister in Regulations; and
- (b) in carrying out his duties, at all times, be under the direct supervision of...”

So we do not know what his training will consist of; to me that is a problem. We need to define “pharmacy assistant”. Perhaps the Minister would do so in his regulations at some point in time, but we know what happens with regulations.

There are times when we do not have regulations for 30 or 40 years. We have prison rules, for instance, the 1843 regulations, so that is 160 years we have those regulations that are still in force. Today, 2003, I do not expect that this would take 160 years to come up, but one must consider these things.

The next point is—and this is really dry stuff—at clause 4 there is a proposed amendment to section 16 where we are adding a section 16A dealing with the functions of the registrar. I have already mentioned this to the Minister, but it bears repeating: in the original Act and in the 1981 amendment section 16 deals with the rules that the council may make. Section 16 says that the council may make rules for any of the following purposes, and it is listed; section 17 deals with the register and what the registrar is required to do. So it would seem logical that if you are going to include a section dealing with what the registrar will do additionally, which is actually similar to section 17, you should call it “17A” so, at least, visually, they would be close to each other.

You have put a section 16A in with section 16, which deals with the council’s power to make rules, and now you are talking about a section 16A which deals with the registrar keeping registers, and so on, which is already, in some way, taken care of in section 17. These are all problems with, again, consolidation of

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legislation. That is really what I have to say in respect of this Bill. It is a very good example, and it shows the problem we have with the lack of consolidation. One wonders what the Law Revision Committee, which is constituted under statute, is doing. I do not want to be rude here, but I am questioning whether it is doing what it is supposed to. Since it is 23 years now and we have seen no moves to have another consolidated laws of Trinidad and Tobago, then I really must question that. I do not know who they are; I can find out. I am not saying that we are deprived of knowledge, but I feel that the committee is not functioning as it should.

I think it is the duty of the Government of the day, in the many things that it plans to do in the next 17 years, before we reach the end of that 17 years, probably next year, the year after that, to bring before us some consolidation of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago, including the Pharmacy Board Act, so that it would make logical sense.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Colm Imbert): Mr. Vice-President, I thank Sen. Seetahal for raising those issues. I do, in fact, have a consolidated version of the Pharmacy Act, although it is not final, it has not been published. She is quite right, it can be very confusing in terms of the number of amendments that have been made over the years. If you do not have a copy of the various amendments, you could quite easily be led astray. Certainly what I would endeavour to do, since I have responsibility for this Bill, is to ensure that a consolidated edition is published in the very near future.

When I look at the consolidated edition that I have, some of the issues raised by Sen. Seetahal can be explained. A pre-registration pharmacist, for example, is someone who has graduated from the university, but has not completed his period of internship, so he is not fully registered yet. That is the explanation of the pre-registration pharmacist, as opposed to the pharmacist. Pharmacy student is straightforward, that is someone studying pharmacy.

My consolidated edition does not contain a definition for “pharmaceutical apprentice”; it does not mean that the point made by Sen. Seetahal was not correct. I would have to check the parent Act itself to see whether in the consolidation there was an error with regard to that aspect. However, as the hon. Senator has pointed out that is merely a definition, and the term “pharmaceutical apprentice” is not referred to in the substantive parts of the legislation. There is no doubt whatsoever that with this particular Bill there is need to consolidate, clean

up and make sure that persons who are interested in the practice of pharmacy or any related issues have one piece of consolidated legislation to refer to.

With regard to the points made about sections 16 and 17, I do agree that it is a somewhat inelegant construction to include aspects of what are the functions of the registrar in section 17 when this could have been accommodated in a section 16A or 17A. I understand that but, as I mentioned to the Senator, it is not harmful. It is not fatal, and when we are cleaning it up, we can deal with that.

The point that Sen. Seetahal made about clause 8(5) does appear to be a typographical error. As I mentioned at the last sitting of the House of Representatives on Friday, I think it may be possible to amend that particular clause. It should be subsection (4). I will consult with the Clerk of the Senate to see if it is possible to make this amendment now, so the Bill can go to the House on Friday, so it would not delay the passage of this legislation. If it is going to delay it, I will respectfully ask the Senator to bear with us till a later stage. We need to get this legislation through at this time.

Mr. Vice-President, let me deal with Sen. Mark and his rather amazing contribution. He is right; this was a bill drafted by the UNC, but that was a “woulda”, “coulda”, “shoulda” government. You “woulda” bring it here; you “coulda” bring it here, you “shoulda” bring it here, but you did not bring it here. So it is left now to the PNM administration to complete the work in the health sector that you left so incomplete.

Let me go through some of the other bits of legislation that the Senator mentioned. The Health Services Quality Bill was left incomplete. I am hopeful, however, that after consultation, which is in progress at this time, we could complete that Bill within the next month or two, so that before December 2003 I could come to this Senate with that landmark legislation, which will prescribe standards for health care in Trinidad and Tobago, for the first time. There is no set of standards for health care in this country, and we need to have proper standards. At the present time, we have somewhat of a free-for-all where, in the absence of regulations and standards, there is an ad hoc approach to many aspects of health care.

The Tissue Transplant Bill was passed by the UNC in 2000 without regulations. No regulations were done in 2000 and 2001. What was presented to me was incomplete again, so that I have had my staff working on it. I am happy to report that we will lay those regulations within the next month, which will allow organ transplants to take place, particularly for persons who have end stage renal disease or kidney failure, where they are on dialysis and have to pay \$6,000 or

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\$7,000 every month for the rest of their lives, and the only solution is a kidney transplant. Under the present law, a person can only get a kidney transplant from relatives. So the tissue transplant regulations, which were left incomplete by the former administration for two years, will now be fixed by the PNM. By the end of this year, organ transplants will be possible under legislation brought by the PNM.

With regard to tobacco, it is the PNM Government that signed the convention against tobacco at the World Health Assembly in May of 2003. [*Crosstalk*] It was not the UNC that signed that convention, it was the PNM. The UNC was in office for six years, but it took a PNM administration to get involved in the war against tobacco, to sign the convention. Flowing from that convention, which was signed this year by our High Commissioner in Washington, we will be bringing legislation to Parliament very shortly. That is what the convention is all about, member countries that are signatories have agreed to introduce legislation to their Parliaments forbidding the advertising of tobacco, controlling the sale of tobacco to minors, and putting strict controls on the use and sale of tobacco. It will be done by the PNM administration. [*Crosstalk*]

Sen. R. Montano: Stand up and take a bow.

Hon. C. Imbert: With regard to the other issues raised by Sen. Mark, he said that it was a nightmare at pharmacies; he is absolutely right. This is why the PNM administration introduced this measure in six months that the UNC could not introduce in six years. It is our Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP), where for the first time in Trinidad and Tobago, persons over the age of 60 years can go to a doctor in a public clinic or a private doctor, get medication for chronic diseases like hypertension and glaucoma, cardiac disease and diabetes and take their prescription to any pharmacy in Trinidad and Tobago, whether public or private, to receive medication free of charge.

We did that for two reasons, one, we were not satisfied with the efficiencies in the public pharmacies. Elderly people have to go to the public hospitals to get their prescriptions filled, and then sit on a hard wooden bench for hours to receive medication; then sometimes when they go to the window the medication is not available. So because we are the caring PNM, we decided to relieve our senior citizens of this burden, and now our senior citizens can go to the private pharmacies and receive medication free of charge, courtesy the PNM administration. [*Crosstalk*]

We intend to extend that to a wider range of chronic diseases, something you could not do for six years. You introduced nothing; we introduced free

medication, [*Crosstalk*] and we are going to expand it to arthritis, asthma, depression and a wider range of cardiac diseases. We intend to make free medication available to children under the age of 16, so our CDAP programme will not only be available to persons over the age of 60 years, it will also, very shortly, be available to persons under the age of 16 years.

We also have a programme going with the Minister of Education where, very shortly, using our United Nations doctors—the ones that you are so unhappy about—we will be carrying on screening for audio and visual problems among the children in our schools. We will be sending our United Nation doctors into these schools and providing free screening for children in audio and visual problems, because many children suffer from learning disabilities which flow from their inability to see or hear properly. In addition to screening these children for hearing and vision problems, and providing them with spectacles, hearing aids and anything else that they require, where that is concerned, we will be introducing our free medication programme in the wider population and within the school system as well.

So we are moving towards cutting out all the red tape and bureaucracy, removing the burdens and hardships on our citizens and providing medication in a manner that is accessible. It is free; it is beyond affordable, and this is simply one far-reaching initiative of the PNM administration that the former administration was unable to do in six years. We have done it in six months. [*Crosstalk*] I will come to that. We designed this programme in August of 2002, and we introduced it in February of 2003; it only took us six months to introduce this programme.

Sen. R. Montano: You cannot count!

Hon. C. Imbert: Let us move to the EHS. The former administration bought approximately 50 second-hand, foreign-used ambulances built in 1996. When they came to this country, those ambulances were three to four years old, and they were left-hand drive. Imagine the irony of a vehicle that is supposed to save lives, an ambulance carrying a sick person in the back, is left-hand drive, so the driver has no visibility. He has to pull out into the oncoming traffic to see what is going on, thereby putting himself and all the oncoming cars at risk. That is the UNC's idea of saving lives, by old, used, second hand, left-hand drive ambulances; that was your idea.

When the vehicles came they had barely two years of service life left in them. Four-year-old ambulances, that is what you bought. You could spend \$1,600 million for a shed up at Piarco, \$1.6 billion on a \$400 million airport, but you could not spend—[*Interruption*]

Sen. R. Montano: That is absolute rubbish! Rubbish! Rubbish! Put it in *Time* magazine that it is a shed!

[Mr. Vice-President knocks gavel]

Hon. C. Imbert: As I said, the former administration could spend almost \$2 billion on a shed at Piarco, but they could not spend \$20 million to buy new ambulances for Trinidad and Tobago. *[Interruption]*

Sen. R. Montano: Rubbish!

Mr. Vice-President: Senators, please; we have not had this for the day, and it is definitely not the time for it. In any case, this Senate is not the place for that. Sen. R. Montano, I would like you to allow the Minister to finish.

Sen. R. Montano: May I reply?

Hon. C. Imbert: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Sen. R. Montano: So long as he does not come with that rubbish again!

Hon. C. Imbert: It is the PNM Government that will buy brand new right-hand drive ambulances for the people of Trinidad and Tobago. *[Desk thumping]*

Hon. Senators: When, when?

Hon. C. Imbert: I am happy to report that over the last three months we have been in discussions with the United Nations. They have invited proposals from 33 manufacturers of ambulances all over the world. *[Crosstalk]* That is what we have been doing. We are not making joke in the Ministry of Health, you know; we are not sleeping.

The United Nations has gone out and done a worldwide search for brand new right-hand drive ambulances for us, and we are hopeful that within the next couple weeks we will be able to reach an agreement with the United Nations, and shortly thereafter our citizens will get a gift, brand new right-hand drive ambulances. *[Crosstalk]*

You will hear about it. We will then dispose of those old foreign-used junk that you brought to this country, and put them to rest. There is another issue, Mr. Vice-President. I mean, I cannot believe it, an oil rich country buying second-hand vehicles to put sick people in! That is what they did, and they came here boasting about it. *[Laughter]* *[Crosstalk]*

[Mr. Vice-President knocks gavel]

Mr. Vice-President, let me correct the record. There are 17 ambulances on the road at this point in time, not five; we have 17 ambulances on the road. We are continuously repairing these ambulances, which are now seven years old, this junk they brought into this country. *[Interruption]* The Vehicle Maintenance Company of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT)—yes, because there is a lead time in the acquisition of new ambulances, but we will get them within the next three months. We are repairing the used ambulances, and we continue to put more and more ambulances into service so that within the next month or so we will have in excess of 20 ambulances on the road which, by the way, is the number of serviceable ambulances that we met when we came into office in 2001. It was not 50 ambulances. Mr. Vice-President, 30 of them were wrecked and damaged beyond repair, and only 20 were in service.

Someone should not be a judge in his own case. The workers in the Emergency Health Service worked without contracts for three years. They had no contracts of employment for three years under the former administration. The PNM came into office and we gave them contracts of employment. For the first time the workers in the Emergency Health Service now have a proper definition of their rights and responsibilities, the obligations of the employee and employer, and proper terms and conditions; for the first time. *[Crosstalk]* They worked under that administration under the former Minister of Public Administration for three years without a contract. *[Crosstalk]*

Sen. R. Montano: Stand up and take a bow!

Hon. C. Imbert: Therefore, it was not difficult to figure out that situation, when you have former Sen. Cabrera, the sidekick of Sen. Mark in the Bank and General Workers Union, involved. You had workers working for three years without any terms and conditions at all, at the mercy of their employers. They could have been retrenched or victimized; they had no redress for three years under the UNC. In comes the PNM, and gives them a contract, and next thing they are on strike, egged on by the sidekick of Sen. Mark. What other conclusion can one draw other than it was political interference? *[Crosstalk]* Come on, we have got to get serious in this country.

I am happy to say that right now the Emergency Health Service is responding to 200 calls per day within 10 and 15 minutes, and we have a proper fleet of ambulances on the way, contrary to the propaganda of Sen. Mark.

Mr. Vice-President, I am happy however that the Opposition is supportive of this legislation.

Sen. Mark: No, we change our minds after hearing you!

Hon. C. Imbert: You could change, you could unchange, you could flip; it does not matter. I am happy that at the beginning of his contribution Sen. Mark supported this legislation. Sen. Mark could flip-flop now if he wants. I am a guest in this Senate, and I will submit to whatever this Senate decides to do in this matter.

There is a particular piece of mischief that Sen. Mark put on the record, which I have to correct: these continuous allegations about racial discrimination. We have a situation in the Ministry of Health where under the PNM, the Chief Medical Officer is Dr. Rampersad Parasram. Under the PNM, the Principal Medical Officer in charge of institutions, which are the hospitals, for the benefit of the hon. Senator, is Dr. Deepak Mahabir; the Principal Medical Officer in charge of public health is Dr. Rohit Doon; the Principal Medical Officer in charge of community services, which for the benefit of Sen. Mark is the primary health care network, is Dr. Kumar.

I have just called out all the principal medical officers and the Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health; the top hierarchy, in terms of the technical leaders in the Ministry of Health, all appointed under this PNM administration. Yet Sen. Mark would make that ridiculous, mischievous, wicked and reprehensible allegation that all the Indian doctors must be dismissed. I have called out the names for hon. Senators opposite; you can draw your own conclusions. The entire leadership in the technical section of the Ministry of Health is East Indian. That is the truth that the hon. Senator does not want people to know. There is no discrimination.

Sen. Smith: That is window dressing!

Hon. C. Imbert: Window dressing? The Chief Medical Officer and all the principal medical officers are window dressing? [*Crosstalk*] [*Laughter*] [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole Senate.

Senate in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

6.10 p.m.

Clause 8.

Question proposed, That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

Sen. Seetahal: Mr. Chairman, it has happened before in this Senate where there is a typo we correct it. So I think with subclause (5)—

Mr. Imbert: Yes, I have just been advised that it can be changed editorially and, therefore, we do not have to go through the process of making amendments, so that may be a preferable way to go.

Sen. Seetahal: That is right, it usually does not require going back, and we have done it before.

Mr. Imbert: No problem, thank you very much.

Sen. Seetahal: So in subclause (5), we would delete 5 from the content and put subsection (4).

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 8 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 12 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to, That the Bill be reported to the Senate.

Senate resumed.

Bill reported, without amendment, read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Public Administration and Information (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn to Tuesday, September 16, at 1.30 p.m.

At that sitting we hope to deal with the two motions; the one on extradition and the other on the report of the committee. We would also debate the Supplemental Appropriation Bill which would be passed in the Lower House on Friday. I have asked the Clerk to send it to Membewrs as soon as she gets a copy of it so they could study it.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

The following question was asked by Sen. Sadiq Baksh:

Low Cost Houses

- 12.** (a) Could the hon. Minister of Housing indicate whether the Government has carried out a promise made to citizens prior to the 2002 general election that they will have access to low cost houses by making a down payment of one dollar?
- (b) Could the hon. Minister state how many citizens have made the one dollar down payment?
- (c) Of those who have made the down payment, could the hon. Minister state how many have received low cost houses?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Housing (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): On assumption of office, the Government was confronted with a crisis in housing. Between March 2002 and September 2002 the Ministry of Housing received over 31,000 applications for housing and has continued to receive approximately 2,000 per month.

This situation is a graphic illustration of the failed housing policies of the previous administration whose focus was a settlement policy using various models such as the Sou Sou Lands concept and Squatter Regularisation as the cornerstone of its housing policy. This resulted in a backlog of demand for more than 100,000 homes.

In September 2002, the current administration formulated and published a housing policy entitled "Showing Trinidad and Tobago a New Way Home". Some highlights of the policy include the following:

- (a) 95% mortgage financing for first time homeowners;
- (b) 6% mortgage interest rate for first time homeowners; and
- (c) 100% mortgage financing for "Granny Suites"

This document was formulated on the tenet of home ownership. The innovative "rent to own" and "granny suite" initiatives allow persons who may have funds readily available for the down payment or closing charges on a housing unit to access accommodation.

Beneficiaries of the rent to own option will be allowed to occupy a mortgage unit under the agreement of a licence to occupy for a period of five years with the

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option to purchase. At the end of the term, rent paid will be applied as a deposit towards the purchase of the unit and the rental tenancy would be converted to a mortgage.

The granny suite proposal offers support to homeowners wishing to add self-contained units to their homes in order to provide specialized accommodation for an aged parent or grandparent.

The Government's housing policy was finalized after it assumed office and it contains many innovative measures, including those outlined above, to increase accessibility to housing to the lowest income groups. The Government has gone way beyond the measures originally outlined during the 2002 general elections and has provided a wide range of housing options and has created opportunities to allow persons at all levels to access housing accommodation. This includes persons in the "rent to own" programme who would not be required even to make a one dollar down payment.

In light of the reply to (a) above, a response to (b) is not applicable and in light of the reply to (a) above, a response to (c) is not applicable.

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**Transfer of State Lands
(Terms and Conditions)**

The following question was asked by Sen. Dr. J. Kernahan:

- 119.** (a) Could the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources provide details about the terms and conditions of the transfer of state lands to:
- (i) individuals
 - (ii) companies and
 - (iii) co-operatives from December 2001 to May 2003?

Pursuant to this reply to question 119, earlier in the proceedings, the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. J. Rahael) caused to be circulated of Members of the Senate the following statistics:

YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
2001	1	Winston and Eastlyn Antoine	2.0	Lots #2 & 12, Morne L'Enfer Project, Pt. Fortin	New
	2	Ibrahim Najjar	15.2	Lots # 6, 23, 24 & 25, Heights of Guanapo	Transfer
	3	Leo and Joan Ramoutar	2.0	Lot #27, La Compensation Estate, Carapo	Transfer
	4	Nair Mustapha	3.5	Dairy Farm #5, Carlsen Field	Renewal
	5	Peter Campbell	2.0	Orchid Drive, Valencia	New
	6	Anastasia Hosein and Joella Alvarez	0.6	Lot #44, By Pass Road, Arima	Renewal
	7	Rafeek Mohammed	2.0	Lot #50, Heights of Guanapo, Wallerfield	Transfer
	8	Gemma Fields	1.0	Lot #30, Wallerfield	Transfer
	9	Beena Kissoon	2.4	Lots #C & D, Hamilton Siding Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	10	David Dookran	2.3	Lot #1, Lobin Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	11	Michael Superville	0.6	Lot #35, Brooklyn Land Settlement, Sangre Grande	Transfer
	12	Roland Bridgemohan	2.8	Lot #6, Depot Road, Longdenville	Transfer
	13	Sawatan Goolcharan	6.4	Lots # 4 & 5, Mc Nair Extension, Las Lomas	Transfer
	14	Henley and Emmanuel Campbell	8.0	Lot #4, Turure Dairy Project, Turure	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	15	Jennifer Webb	0.8	Lot #49, Reservoir Road, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	16	Rasheed Mohammed	0.4	Lot #36, Sea Trace Bagatelle, Diego Martin	Transfer
	17	Gerizim Farms Ltd.	10.4	Lot #1, Mausica Road, Mausica	Transfer
	18	Lutchman and Kemraggie Ramrattan	2.0	Lots # 10 & 11, Yucatan Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	19	Selwyn Karim	2.3	Lot #37, Penal Food Crop Project, Penal	Transfer
	20	Ramjit Manan	1.2	Lot #28, Uquire Road, Carlsen Field	New
	21	Karamath Ali	2.0	Maracas Bay Food Gardens	Transfer
	22	Sumintra Basdeo	2.0	Dupont Trace, Caparo Road, Chickland	Transfer
	23	Petra Aguillera and Oliver Aguillera	2.2	Lot #229, Nicaragua Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	24	Hashim and Zora Hosein	9.8	Dairy Farm #67, Carlsen Field	Renewal
	25	Tarmatie and Rudal Hamid	1.6	Lot #260B, Hamilton Siding Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	26	Linda and Donald Antoine	0.6	Lot #2, Brooklyn Land Settlement, Sangre Grande	Transfer
	27	Fiayaz Shaama	6.0	Lot #1, Mitchell Trace, North Coast Road, Maracas	New
	28	George and Milano John	0.8	Lot #22, La Felicidad Estate, Talparo	Transfer
	29	Lalchan, Charan, Sundeera and Toolsie Narinesingh	4.0	Lot #9, Maracas Bay Food Gardens, Maracas	Transfer
	30	Gangadai Sooknanan	5.7	Dairy Farm #5, Pipe Con Road, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	31	Jason and La Verne de Matas	4.0	Lot #72, Waterfall Road, Maracas Valley	Transfer
	32	Halim and Halima Sabur	1.7	Lot #247B, Old Train Road, Cumuto	New
	33	Richard Mc Alpin	1.0	Lot #78, Quarry Village, Fyzabad Branch Road	Transfer
	34	Theresa Huggins and Beverly Huggins Singh	2.5	Lot #7, Erin Road, Cap de Ville, Pt. Fortin	New
	35	Cyril Sealey	1.8	Lot #31, San Louis Estate, Cumuto	Transfer
	36	Deomatie Mykoo, Dilip and Neil Gookool	0.5	Lot #10, Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	37	Michael Pillai	2.0	Maracas Bay Food Gardens	Transfer
	38	Raymond Leotaud	2.2	Rio Claro Land Settlement #1, Rio Claro	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	39	Stephen Doolgar	0.4	Lot #41, Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	40	Kangal	3.5	3/4mm, Heights of Guanapo Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	41	Albertina and Willis Grant	0.4	Lot #1, Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	New
	42	Neville Lord	1.5	Lot #3, Lovers' Lane, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	43	Balroop Baboolal	1.1	Lot #1, Dedier Trace, Cumuto	Transfer
	44	Dipchand Loutan	2.4	Lot #1, Mile End Food Gardens, Rio Claro	New
	45	Ramcharan and Tara Bedesie	8.0	Dairy Farm WC 20, Block 3, Wallerfield	Transfer
	46	Cletus Surujlal	8.0	Lot #5, La Trinidad Estate, Brazil	Transfer
	47	Kishore and Premchan Bootan	8.0	Dairy Farm #45, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	48	Carlton Beachoo	2.0	Lot #16, La Compensation Estate, Carapo	Transfer
	49	Marilyn and Stanley Glaud	1.1	Lot #18, Block 18, St. Helena Village	Transfer
	50	Eastlyn Sylvester	2.0	Lot #19, Wallerfield	Transfer
	51	Robert Smith	4.0	Lot #13, Elliot Trace, Madras Road, Las Lomas	New
	52	Rampersad and Sookdai Balloo	0.5	Lot #5, O'Meara Road, Carapo	Transfer
	53	Rahill and Roma Mohammed	1.2	Dairy Farm #5, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	54-64	FISHING POND RICE SCHEME	8.0	Fishing Pond	New (11)
	65	Ophelia Nielsen	2.0	Farm #2, Cumuto Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	66-76	BRAZIL LOME BLOCK	53.8	Brazil Lome Road, Brazil	New (11)
	77	Kazim Khan	1.3	Lot #4, Connector Road, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	78	Nandalal Lall	6.4	Farm #23, Yaraba Road, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	79-144	ROYAL ENGINEER (R.E.) ROAD BLOCK	132.0	Royal Engineer Road, Erin	New (66)
	145	Edward Goolsair	1.4	Lot #1, Tractor Pool Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	146	Devel Birbal	1.9	Lot #OOC, Silica Sands Road, Wallerfield	New
	147	Mahamud Santokie	8.8	Lot #7, Madeline Estate, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	148	Nigel Choon	0.8	Allenby Estate, Caparo	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	149	Suresh Rohan	4.0	Lot #2, Green Hill, Cedros	Renewal
	150	Patan, Joan Maraj, Ramnarine Heeralal and Samuel Marah	0.1	Lot #123, Barataria Food Gardens, Barataria	New
	151	Juliet Sambrano-St. George	0.4	Lot #34, Mukden Food Gardens, Biche	Transfer
	152	Joseph Timothy	1.3	Lot #51A, La Reconnaissance Estate, Lopinot	Transfer
	153	Shastri Bissessar	2.0	Lot #2, Corneilliac Estate, Vega de Oropouche	Transfer
	154	Joyce Mykoo, Chandra Williams and Kenny Mohammed	0.4	Lot #18, Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	155	Shazam Ali	3.2	Lot #1, Madeline Estate, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	156	Aneroodh Ramsewak	2.0	Lot #2, San Louis Estate, Tamana	Transfer
	157	Harold Browne and others	0.7	Lot #113, Brooklyn Land Settlement, Sangre Grande	Renewal
	158	Vonrick and Mary Graham	3.9	Lot #261, Hamilton Siding Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	159	Norbert and Catherine John	7.5	Lot #3, Mexico Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	160	Deoray Bisnath and Eugene Persad	2.7	Mahabalsingh Trace #2, Navet Village	New
	161	Amritha Tewarie	2.0	Lot #2, Quash Trace, Valencia	Transfer
	162	Basso Ramdeen and others	8.8	Lot #2, Connector Road, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	163	Deolal Goptar	0.2	Lot #21, La Compensation Estate, Carapo	Transfer
	164	Savitree Babooram	0.4	Lot #198, Munroe Road, Land Settlement, Cunupia	Transfer
	165	Franklyn Perry	1.6	Lot #OOA, Hamilton Siding Road, Wallerfield	Renewal
	166	Shairoon Farfan	2.0	Lot #13, Eastern Main Road, Valencia	Transfer
	167	Ivy and Richard Hosein	2.0	Tabaquite Road, Rio Claro	Transfer
	168	David Ramsumair and others	1.2	Lot #81, Maracas Land Settlement, Maracas Valley	Renewal
	169	Ismail and Azeema Khan	2.0	Lot #34, Union Food Crop Project, Union Village	Transfer
	170	Soodeena and Narine Beedour	1.7	Lots # 15A & 17B, Rio Claro Land Settlement, Rio Claro	Transfer
	171	Samaroo Boodoo	21.3	Lots # 4 & 5, Lochan Trace, Valencia	New
	172	Paulina Lares and Cyril Lares	5.4	Lot #7, Central Farm Rio Claro	Renewal

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	173	Parbatee and Richard Moonsammy	2.4	Lot #16, La Fortune Estate, Caigual	Transfer
	174	Winston Ragoonanan	0.8	Lynch Trace, Mamoral Road #1, Brasso	New
	175	Dolly and Latchman Dass	1.2	Lot #3, Lovers' Lane, Carlsen Field	Transfer
	176	Juliana John and Neville Smith	2.5	Lot #82, Rio Claro Land Settlement, Rio Claro	New
	177	Kawlee and Guyapersad Dooragh	0.8	Lot #1, Hamilton Trace, Charuma	Transfer
	178	Shairoon Mohammed	1.9	Lot #26, Prada Estate, Poole	Transfer
	179	Phoolmatie Ramroop	1.9	Lot #28, Prada Estate, Poole	Transfer
	180	Girwah Singh	4.0	Lot #8, Farm School Site, Wallerfield	Transfer
	181	Sheila Mahase and Nirmala Gurdass	2.0	Lot #3, David Toby Ext. Road, Las Lomas	New
	182	Anil Ramadhar	4.0	Lot #5, Lady Young Estate, Moruga	Transfer
	183	Charles Jagroop	0.2	Lot #15, Ecclesville Land Settlement	Transfer
	184	Satram Balroop	1.7	Lot #12, Sellier Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
		TOTAL 2001	478.7		

YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
2002	1	Lionel Stephenson	2.4	Lot #01, Tableland Branch Road, Tableland	New
	2	John Lakhansingh	0.4	Lot #27, San Francisco Land Settlement, Freeport	Transfer
	3	Francis Campo	1.7	Lot #22, Santa Anna Trace, Guaico-Tamana	Transfer
	4	Horace Garcia	1.4	Lot #9, La Flor Estate, Manzanilla	Transfer
	5	Fitz Arthur Richardson	1.0	Lot #74, La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	6	Lawrence Francois	0.6	Lot #22, Brooklyn Land Settlement, Sangre Grande	Transfer
	7	Edna Wilson	2.4	Lot #16, Riley Land Settlement, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	8	Manu Khanai	1.2	Lot #1, Ramdial Trace, Mayo	Transfer

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	9	Victor Benny	2.0	Lot #2, Murray Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	10	Rohanie Herbert	1.2	Lot #3, Gapepore Village, Las Lomas	Transfer
	11	Carlos and Sandra Stoute	1.9	Lot #41A, Rio Claro Land Settlement #1	Transfer
	12	Shamshad Mohammed	2.0	Lot #2, Eastern Main Road, Valencia	Transfer
	13	Riley Hypolite	1.6	Lot #3, Alexander Trace, Cumuto	Transfer
	14	Thomas Marcano	0.2	Lot #2, Haddaway Lands, Arima	Transfer
	15	Noor Mohammed	0.5	Lot #4, Gapepore Village, Las Lomas	Transfer
	16	Hollis Lincoln	2.7	Lot #103, Manantial Estate, San Souci	Transfer
	17	Scipio Cassie	0.9	Lot #322, Agua Santa #2, Wallerfield	Transfer
	18	Nehru Lalchan and others	0.4	Lot #21, Bamboo Rice Lands, Valsayn	Transfer
	19	Lodwyn Sutherland	3.6	Lot #224, Tractor Pool Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	20	Stanislaus Williams	1.9	Lot #29, Guayaguayare Food Crop Project, Guayaguayare	Transfer
	21	Clement Reyes	2.0	Lot #2, Orange Field Road, La Pastora Santa Cruz	Transfer
	22	Yagram Ramkissoon	0.4	Lot #1, Pierre Trace, Chickland	Transfer
		Samaru Seelal	1.6	Lot #6A, San Francisco Land Settlement, Freeport	Transfer
	23	Lauretta Luk Pat	3.0	Lot # 1 School Road La Pastora, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	24	Dinanath Sharma	4.0	Lot #2 Heights of Guanapo	Transfer
	25	Chandrawatie Hardeen	4.0	Lot #009 Brazil Lome Trace # 1 Cor.Of Arena Tr. & Brazil Lome Tr, Talparo	New
	26	Anthony, Martin, & Dave Bryan & Hazel-Ann Bartholo	9.1	Lot 00E El Perico, Food Gardens, El Perico Rd, Santa Cruz	Renewal

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	27	Gopaul Sirju & Raymond Sirju	2.8	Lot #3 Santa Carlotta Estate, Manzanilla	Transfer
	28	Marilyn King	6.0	Lot #053 Brooklyn Land Settlement, Fishing Pond, Manzanilla	Transfer
	29	Fitz Vidale & Victor Vidale	0.6	Lot #061 Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	30	Courtney Gomes & Antonio Gomes	0.8	Lot #093 Quarry Road, La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	31	Isa Ramjohn	7.4	Lot #36 Block 3, Off Yanqui Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	32	Claude Valentine, Wendy Valentine - Copeland, Ricardo Valentine & Tricia Valentine-Dare	38.2	Antoine Trace, Carlsen Field, Freeport	Renewal
	33	Viola Brathwaite	0.6	#066 Alandale Land Settlement, Cumana Toco	Transfer
	34	Vincent Gonzales	0.8	Lot #086B Heights of Gunapo, Cemetery Trace, Wallerfield	Transfer
	35	Inshan Alaloo	2.0	Lot #02B Boy Cato Road, Las Lomas	Transfer
	36	Roy Norville & Kathleen Norville	1.7	#001 Oropouche Road, Valencia	Transfer
	37	Debra Forde & Joseph Forde	1.4	Lot #026 San Francisco Land Settlement, Freeport	Transfer
	38	Leslie Williams	4.0	#013 Prada Estate, Prada Settlement Trace #1, Poole	Transfer
	39	Korisha Nazir	8.0	Lot #20 Depot Road, WITCO Land Brasso	Transfer
	40	Martin & Leah Peters	1.2	Lot #014 El Recuerdo Land Settlement, Manzanilla	New
	41	Omar dath Samlal	2.3	Lot #001 Mahabalsingh Trace, Ecclesville	Transfer
	42	Theresa Bradshaw	2.0	Plot #50A LP #194 Rincon Road, Las Cuevas	Transfer
	43	Emmanuel Ross	8.0	Lot #0CC Tractor Pool, Wallerfield, Arima	Renewal
	44	Sookragie Sankar	0.4	Lots # 276 & 277 Muroe Road Land Settlement Cunupia	Transfer
	45	Sugalal Maharaj	2.0	Lot #005 Sellier Road, Heights of Guanapo, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	46	Kenzie Joseph	2.8	Lot SOB Texas Road, Rincon Trace, Las Cuevas, Blanchisseuse	Transfer
	47	Annand Mohammed	0.4	Lot #064 Bamboo Rice Land # 1 Aranguez	Transfer
	48	Dulcie Robinson & Dianne Dick	0.2	Lot #086 Agostine Land Settlement, Couva	Transfer
	49	Unice Clyne	2.4	Lot #003, 2 ½ mm Heights of Gunapo Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	50	Moonie Ramroop, Jean Ramroop & Anil Vikash	2.0	Lot #501A Maracas Bay Road West, La Pastora L. S. Santa Cruz	Transfer
	51	Anthony Hernandez & Darrel Ramkissoon	1.8	Lot #59C Palmiste, Thaddeus Trace, Carlsen Field, Freeport	Transfer
	52	Neville & Deborah Rajnauth	4.0	Lot #001 Morne Poui, Paria Old Road, Blanchisseuse	New
	53	Merle Daniel & Sharon Daniel	0.5	Plot #004 Demerara Road #5, Wallerfield, Arima	Renewal
	54	Dhanesh Manick, Mohan Manick & Tulsie Harry	7.2	Farm #34, Carlsen Field, Freeport	Transfer
	55	Hugo & Keion Ford	2.0	Lot #503A Upper Tyrico, North Coast Road, Las Cuevas	New
	56	Rasheed Rahaman	4.4	Lot #002 Depot Road, WITCO Longdenville, Brasso	Transfer
	57	Patrick & Eutrice Thomas	1.6	Lot #002 Leotaud Trace, Talparo	Transfer
	58	Mohan & Elvis Bedasie	2.0	Lot #053 Maracas Bay Food Gardens, Grand Fond Road, Maracas	New
	59	Rodney Weekes	1.1	Lot 00K Tractor Pool #4, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	60	Francis Gabriel & Dominic Gabriel	2.5	Lot #7 Esperanza Estate, Tamana	Transfer
	61	John Valentine	0.9	Plot #4 Madras Road, Las Lomas	Transfer
	62	Ayesha Juman	0.1	Lot #60 Caprietta, La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	63	Pope Jugmohan	2.5	Lot #00C Off Nicaragua Road, Cumuto, Arima	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	64	Seukeran Singh	0.8	Lot #003 Agua Santa Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	65	Francilla Salina	3.4	Lot #005 2A Retraite, Plot 5 Off Bye Pass Road, Arima	Transfer
	66	Joan Gomez	2.0	Lot #007 Oropouche Road, Valencia	Transfer
	67	Francis Barcoo & Ayoub Barcoo	2.0	Lot #007 Santa Anna Estate, Guaico Tamana	Transfer
	68	Ramesh Besai	1.5	Lot #014 Communal Pasture. Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	69	Maudlyn Toussaint	5.2	Lot #51 El Recuerdo Land Settlement, Manzanilla	Transfer
	70	Carmen Ramoutar, Baldeo, Chrisondath & Ashram Ramoutar	1.8	Lot #007 Boy Cato Road, Las Lomas	Transfer
	71	Satroham Seurattan	1.3	Lot #002 Sellier Road # 1, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	72	Joanna Eccles	0.2	#29 Crawford Estate, Rio Claro	New
	73	Mohani Gurdass & Savitri Gurdass-Ramsaroop	2.0	Lot #001 Mount Moriah, David Toby Extension, Las Lomas	New
	74	Kelvin Campo	2.0	Lot # 44 Mora Allotment Sahadeen Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	75	Joan Nanton & Fred Nanton	2.4	Lot #00B Demerara Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	76	Choon de Gale & Ann Marie Persad	2.4	Lot #15 Seedanee Estate, Cunapo Southern Road, Biche	New
	77	Dave Tilkaran	1.2	Lot #001 Pipe Con Road, Carlsen Field, Freeport	Transfer
	78	Rasheed Mohammed	6.1	Plot # 163, Wallerfield situate at CRH & Cunuto Road	Transfer
	79	Lennox Andrews	1.2	Lot #001 Mendez Trace, Samaroo Village, Arima	Transfer
	80	Bryan Joseph	1.9	Lot #016 St. Joseph Collingwood Estate, Manzanilla	Transfer
	81	Rubina & Mark Joseph	1.1	Lot #002 Riley Land Settlement, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	82	Tooladai & Ramesh Teelucksingh	0.4	Lot # 48 Bye Pass Road, Arima	Transfer
	83	Sookia Narine & Stephen Lakhan	2.3	#055 Mora Allotment, Sahebdeen Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer

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YEAR	NO	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	84	Solomon Sirjoo & Valerie Sirjoo	0.4	Lot #22 Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	85	Paul & Glenroy Garcia	2.0	Lot# 017 Mundo Nuevo Food Crop Project, Talparo	Transfer
	86	Winston Thomas & Theresa Thoma	2.0	Lot 007 Maiden Voyage Estate, Cumuto	Transfer
	87	Ganesh Lakhan	2.2	Lot #020 Grand Fond Road, Food Gardens, Maracas Bay	New
	88	Voilet Mondezie, Jessie & Junior Sheppard, Juliet Smith & Beverly Bruce	2.2	Lot #222 Tractor Pool 1 Cumuto Road, Wallerfield	Transfer
	89	Rajendra Seebaran	0.6	Lot 001 Pancho Trace Block 1, Piparo	Transfer
	90	Egbert Paul & Collette Libert	2.7	Lot #016 Gordon Miller Land Settlement Fishing Pond, Manzanilla	Transfer
	91	Sooneah Mena Rampearee & Victor Malchan	0.6	#004 La Retraite Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	92	Godfrey James	2.0	Lot #001 Cunuto Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	93	Vernon Beaumont	4.7	Lot #015 Peasant Settlement, Point Fortin	Transfer
	94	Amarnath Paul	2.0	Mc Nair Estate (Phase II) David Toby Road, Chin Chin, Cunupia	Transfer
	95	Binadavie Rampersad-Rivas	1.4	Lot #004 Sugrim Trace II, Chin Chin Road, Cunupia	Transfer
	96	Dennis John & Lynn John	0.2	#062 Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	97	Harry Ramsaroop	1.7	Lot #002 Cape-de-Ville Food Gardens Erin	Transfer
	98-127	PERSERVERANCE ESTATE	25.2	23-24 Naparima Mayaro Road, Rio Claro	New (30)
		SUB-TOTAL 2002	239.9		

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YEAR	NO.	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
2002	128	Bhim Singh	1.69	Lot #035 San Antonio Estate, Cunuto Old Road	Transfer
	129	Veronica Lambert	0.12	Lot #021 Bye Pass Road, Arima	Transfer
	130	Davis Thomas, Wesley Ferdinand, Rueben Ferdinand, Idabelle Ferdinand and Orlando Ferdinand	3.75	Lot 00A Santa Barbara Estate, St. Joseph	Transfer
	131	Jerome Charles and Jordon Charles	1.9	Lot #016 San Pedro Estate, Brooks Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	132	Ashook Mahabir and Carmaine Nanan	8.6	Lot #29 Block 315, Wallerfield	Transfer
	133	Joanna Joan Daniel and Bernadine Rogers	0.8	Lot #091 La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	134	Indra Badal, Judy Wannamaker and Shanti Jamurath	0.3	Lot #027 Macoya Food Gardens, Orange Grove Estate, Arouca	Transfer
	135	Rosalind Pilgrim	3.52	Lot #25 Rio Claro Land Settlement #2, Hibiscus Arch Road, Ecclesville	Transfer
	136	Nicholas Boodoo and Lisa Boodoo-Persad	1.8	Lot #7 Soriah Branch Trace, San Raphael, Talparo	Transfer
	137	Morris Coa, Carmen Coa, Damien Cupid and Jerome Coa	2	Lot #027 Maracas Bay Food Gardens, Maracas	Transfer
	138	Michael John Dufeal	2.79	Lot # 012 San Antonio Estate, Cunuto Old Road	Transfer
	139	Ken Noriega	2	Lot #007 & 008 Morne L' Enfer Project, Point Fortin	Transfer
	140	Gilbert Bernard	1.2	Lot #20 El Allencia Food Gardens, Mamoral Road, Brasso	Transfer
	141	Earl Rickson and Bertrand Ramcharan	2.1	Lot #003 Figaro Trace, Blanchisseuse, Arima	Transfer

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YEAR	NO.	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	142	Lennox Charriandy	0.15	47C Soconusco Road # 1, La Pastora, Upper Santa Cruz	Transfer
	143	Simeon Garnes	2.3	Lot #003 Heights of Gunapo, Arima	Transfer
	144	Simbhu Persad	1.91	Lot #019 San Expedito Estate, Cumuto	Transfer
	145	Dipchan Lakhan, David Lakhan and Maya Lakhan	3.1	#2 Connector Road, Freeport	Transfer
	146	Dipchan Lakhan and Simboonath Lakhan	2.43	#1 Connector Road, Freeport	Transfer
	147	Stanford Brathwaite and Stanley Brathwaite	7.6	Lot # 001 Co-operative Block, Anglais Road, Cumana Toco	Transfer
	148	Suruge Sookdeo	2.0437	Lot #004 San Antoino Estate, Cumuto	Transfer
	149	Mark Lawrence	1.2	Lot #008 South of Connector Road	Transfer
	150	Fareeda Ali	1.8	Lot #032 Uquire Road Phase I, Carlsen Field, Freeport	Transfer
	151	Ramnarine Roopnarine and Rajesh Roopnarine	2.4	Lot #016, Timital Trace, Melajo, Vega-de-Oropouche, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	152	Willita Phillip	0.655	Lot #098 Alandale Land Settlement, Cumana Toco	Transfer
	153	Octavia Campo	2.5	Lot 34A Waterfall Road Ext., Maracas St Joseph	Transfer
	154	Latchmin Ramdhanie	0.6	Lot #100 Brooklyn Land Settlement, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	155	Peter Vidale	2	Lot #001 Soconusco Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	156	Leroy Grant	0.7	Lot 235 Agua Santa Park North, Wallerfield	Transfer

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YEAR	NO.	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	157	Rudolph Lewis	0.7	Lot #266 Wallerfield Food Gardens, Arima	Transfer
	158	James Toussaint and Dianne Toussaint	1.8	Lot #004 Mendez Trace, Arima	Transfer
	159	Alexander Cipriani	4.1	Lot #002 San Pablo Estate, Blanchisseuse	Transfer
	160	Maria Sooknanan and Victoria Mohammed	1.3	Lots #258 and #259 Agua Santa North I, Wallerfield	Transfer
	161	Josephine Patterson	2	Lot #SON La Retraite North, Arima	Transfer
	162	Nigel Mark	3.3	Lot #029 Gordon Miller Land Settlement, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	163	Euphemia Aguilera and Hudson Sampson	2	Valencia Long Stretch, Valencia	Transfer
	164	Azam Mohammed and Nirmalla Mohammed	1.08	Lot 011 Rio Claro Land Settlement No. 1, Ecclesville	Transfer
	165	Danesh Ramsaroop	2.02	Lot #001 Cap-de-Ville, Erin	Transfer
	166	Frankie Herbert Alleyne	0.62	Lot #037 Alandale Land Settlement, Toco	Transfer
	167	Godfrey James	1.07	Lot #01 Communal Pasture, Arima	Transfer
	168	Gloria Ford	3.6	Lot #006 Mausica Road, Gunapo	Transfer
	169	Iris Wharf and Theodore Mungal	1.2	Lot #076 Las Mercedes Estate, Talparo	Transfer
	170	Gerald Dick	2.35	Lot #007 Bridle Road, North, Valencia	Transfer
	171	Bhanmatie Maharaj, Chandrath Maharaj, Bhagwatie Maharaj-Ragoo, Gobin Marajh, Dhanraj Maharaj and Motee Maraj	1	Lot 032 La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer

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YEAR	NO.	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	172	Ivy Richards and Emily Richards	2	Lot #034 100 Acres, Arima	Transfer
	173	Brian Lee and Celia Britto Lee	1.27	Lot 00B La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	174	Phillip Wellington and Jenny Wellington	4.23	Lot #007 Heights of Guanapo #3, Arima	Transfer
	175	Caine Marcano and Zora Peters-Marcano	3.9	Lot #007 Brazil Village, Talparo	Transfer
	176	Zindra Mohammed and Sunil Ramdial	0.8	Lot #012 San Francisco Land Settlement, Freeport	Transfer
	177	Sharifa Abdul and Nazim Abdul	8.0075	Lot #001 Turure Dairy Project, Valencia	Transfer
		SUB-TOTAL	112.3062		
		TOTAL B/F	239.9055		
		TOTAL 2002	352.2117		

YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
2003	1	RN/20/04/34D/027/008	Mark Lawrence	1.2	#008 South of Connector Road, Freeport	New
	2	RN/10/07/25A/025/235	Leroy Grant	0.7	#235 Churchill Roosevelt Highway, Wallerfield, Arima	New
	3	RN/10/06/24A/009/027	Indra Badal, Judy Wannamaker & Shanti Jamurath	0.5	Lots #027 & 034 Macoya Food Gardens, Orange Grove, Estate, Arouca	Transfer
	4	RN/10/05/13B/002/037 A	Ramesh Williams and Rajdath Williams	0.4	#37A William Trace, Maracas	Transfer
	5	RN/30/04/35C/002/002	Balchan Bodhi & Sonny Bodhi	2	Lot #002 Quash Vale Estate, Gajadaha Road, Cunapo, Manzanilla	Renewal

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	6	RN/10/07/25A/012/027	Marlon Alvarez	2.2	Lot #027 3½ mm Cumuto Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	7	RN/30/07/35B/001/004	Suruge Sookdeo	2.0437	Lot #004 San Antonio Estate, Cumuto	Transfer
	8	RN/30/08/6F/010/001	Stanford Brathwaite and Stanley Brathwaite	7.6	Lot #001 Co-operative Block, Cumana Toco	New
	9	RN/30/04/36B/032/052	Mahabir Ragbir	1.4	Lot #052 US Base Lands, North Manzanilla	Transfer
	10	RN/30/04/36A/024/020	John Seepersad	3.2	Lot #020 El Recuerdo Land Settlement, Manzanilla	Transfer
	11	RN/20/02/24E/005/006	Sieunarine Persad-Coosal	2.0372	6 Sugrim Trace, Chin Chin, Madaras Settlement, Cunupia	Transfer
	12	SL/10/07/75/119	Bernard Simon & Selwyn Simon	1.2	Old Agua Santa Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	13	RN/30/06/35F/003/036	Baitoon Ali, Ameer Ali & Anim Ali	2.1	Lot #036 Santa Anna Estate, Guaico, Tamana	Transfer
	14	RN/10/07/25A/001/007	Emery David Leon	6	Lot #007 Block I, Trinidad Road, Arima	Transfer
	15	RN/30/03/26A/018/001/ 002	Oudho Persad-Maraj & Debra Persad	3.2	Lots #1 & 2 San Pedro Estate, Brooks Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	16	RN/10/01/12C/002/024	Clarie Banfield & Michael Roxburgh	0.4	Lot #024 Sea Trace Bagatelle, Diego Martin	Transfer
	17	RS/40/03/55B/015/63B	Khelawan Singh	1	Lot #063B Rio Claro Land Settlement No, Roble Grove Road, Ecclesville	Transfer
	18	RN/10/07/25A/024/001	Trevor Julien	0.7	Lot #001 Agua Santa North #1, #260 Mexico Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	19	RN/30/01/15F/008/004	Reynold Regault & Michael Joseph	2.2775	Lot #004 Valencia Bridle Road South	Transfer
	20	SLUD/10/09/88/164	Anthony Estrado & Soloman Neil Estrada	2	Louis Samuel Trace, Mundo Nuevo, Talparo	Transfer

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	21	RN/20/04/44A/043/044	Parmanand Maharaj, Kissoondaye Maharaj, Bhedmati Maharaj & Munelal Maharaj	1.19	Lot #044 San Francisco Land Settlement, Chickland, Freeport	New
	22	RN/30/04/36A/029/001	Mervyn Toussaint	3.2	Lot #001, 2mm Boodoo Estension Trace, Manzanilla	Transfer
	23	RS/40/05/56B/006/001	David Bholai & Curtis Bholai	1.2	Lot #001 North West Road, Mafeking Village, Mayaro	Transfer
	24	RN/10/06/14E/003/023	Jiminez Innocencio & Robert Pereira	0.6	Lot #023 Burley Street, Lopinot Arima	Transfer
	25	RN/30/06/35E/003/035	Gilbert Sammy	2.515	Lot #035 Santa Anna Estate, Guaico Tamana	Transfer
	26	S/40/05/56A/014/017	Derrick Bailey & Janette Bailey	1.59	Lot#017 Bristol Food Gardens, 36-37 mm Naparima Mayaro Road, Mayaro	New
	27	RS/40/06/66B/014/000	Brinsley Maharaj, Josanne Maharaj & Wayne Boodram	4	Plots #17 & 2 Guayaguayare Food Crop Project, Nariva/Mayaro	New
	28	LA:1/1/4	Amarnath Paul	2	Plot #5 Mc Nair Estate (Phase II) David Toby Road, Chin Chin	New
	29	RN/10/07/24C/057/022	Arphatab Abdul, Aleam Feiaz Abdul & Javed Abdul	2.14	Lot #022 Heights of Guanapo No. 3, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	30	RN/30/06/35E/003/015	Shaffick Ali	2.57	Lot #015 Santa Anna Trace, Guaico Tamana	Transfer
	31	RN/10/03/13C/019/091	Raphaelia Edwards	0.9	Lot #091 Maracas Bay Food Gardens, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	32	RN/30/04/36B/017/006	Albert Trancoso	1.9	Lot #006 St. Joseph Collingwood Estate, Manzanilla	Transfer

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	33	RN/40/05/56A/016/006	Judy Mason	0.89	Lot #006 Balata East Block, Naparima Mayaro Road, Mayaro	Transfer
	34	RS/40/03/55B/015/071	Harnarine Singh and Geeta Singh	2.05	Lot#071 Rio Claro Land Settlement, Deep Ravine Village, Ecclesville	New
	35	RN/30/03/26A/021/001	Pearl Daniel Singh & Joseph Daniel	2	Lot #001 Sahabdeen Trace, Vega de Oropouche, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	36	RN/10/03/13B/010/S23 A	Elton Wilson & Kaulapathy Wilson	2	Lot #S 32A El Perico Road, Gasparillo Village, Santa Cruz	New
	37	S/40/03/55B/041/04	Christine Sookdeo	0.4	Lot #04 Deep Ravine Land Settlement, Ecclesville	Transfer
	38	RN/30/01/15E/011/002	Geraldine Batson , Marilyn Solozano & Claudette Batson-Duncan	0.7	Plot 19 Bridle Road, Valencia	Renewal
	39	RN/30/01/25E/002/001	Ruby Atwell Ferguson & Harold Garcia	2.3175	Lot #001 Turure Eastern Main Road, Valencia	Transfer
	40	RN/20/05/33F/005/SO	Esau Thoon & Kassarie Balack	1	Lot SO West of Hochoy Highway, John Elie Road, Couva	New
	41	RN/10/07/25D/029/323	Chandra Praboocharan	4.36	Lot # 323 Nicaragua Road, Wallerfield Arima	Transfer
	42	RS/40/03/55B/017/004	Lioba Duncan & Angela Duncan	0.74	Lot 004 Rio Claro Land Settlement No. 1, Naparima Road, Mayaro	Transfer
	43	RN/10/008/24C/003/011 RN10/008/24C/003/012	Dulcie Greaves	3.9	Lots #011 and 012 Omeara Road, Arima	Renewal
	44	RN/30/03/226A/002/001	Samdeo Ramdial & Korisha Ramdial	2.4	Lot #001 Mora Allotment, Sahabdeen Trace, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	45	S/40/05/56A/014/015	Theophilus Vialva	1.36	Lots #15 & 16 Bristol Food Gardens, Naparima Mayaro	New

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	46	RN/30/01/15F/008/010	John Ettienne & Leah Ettienne	2.4625	Lot #010 Bridle Road South, Valenica	New
	47	RN/10/01/13D/012/004	Kumar Beharrylal, Shadanand Beharrylal & Deveraj Beharrylal	4	Lot #004 Rifle Range Road, Diego Martin	Transfer
	48	RN/30/08/6C/001/006	Richard Greaves	0.59	Lot #006 Alandale Land Settlement, Cumana	Transfer
	49	RN/10/07/24C/065/004	Sooneah Mena Rampaearee & Victor Malchan	0.6	Lot #004 La Retraite Road, Wallerfield Arima	Transfer
	50	RN/30/04/36A/033/043	Irada Thomas & Ingrid Thomas	4.01	Lot # 043 El Recuerdo Land Settlement, Manzanilla	Transfer
	51	RN/30/03/26A/002/010	Kumar Heeralal	2	Lot #010 Mora Allotment, Sahabdeen Trace Fishing Pond	New
	52	RS/40/03/55C/031/008	Tulta Ramdhanie	2.46	Lot #008 Mile End Food Gardens, Ecclesville	New
	53	RN/20/04/34D/006/004	Kelvin Lucien & Russell Lucien	6.07	Lot #004 SLDP Carlsen Field, Freeport	Renewal
	54	RN/20/04/34D/006/018	Jivanlal Saint Emrithlal & Chunilal Emrithlal	6.48	Lot # 018 SLDP Carlsen Field, Freeport	Transfer
	55	RS/40/01/55B/015/006	Annette Forde Ramkhelawan	2	Lot #006 Dades Settlement, Tabaquite Road, Rio Claro	New
	56	RS/60/10/72F/011/224	Ian Gross	0.8	Lot #224 Beach Road, Palo Seco	Transfer
	57	RN/10/07/24C/065/019	Dennis Alkins	0.8	Lot #019 La Retraite Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	58	RS/50/03/55D/019/001	Dinanauth Samaroo & Adrian Samaroo	6.59	Lot 001 Tableland Local Road Block I, Tableland	fer

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	59	RN/30/03/25F/002/001	Kassian Ramlal	0.6	Lot # 001 Brooklyn Land Settlement, Fishing Pond	Transfer
	60	S/40/02/55E/005/052	Veronica St. Rose	0.1391	Lot #052 Crawford Estate, Guayaguayare Road, Rio Claro	Transfer
	61	RN/20/07/34E/015/005	Floyd Sydney	2.25	Lot #005 Allenby Estate 1, Toods Road, Brasso	Transfer
	62	RN/20/02/34B/023/03	Sukdeo Manohar	2	Lot #03 Savary Road, Las Lomas	New
	63	RS/40/03/55B/015/009	Indarjit Saith & Jivanlal Saith Emrithlal	6.8	Lot #020 Carlsen Field SLDP, Freeport	Transfer
	64	RN/20/04/34D/006/020	Christine Layne	1.2	Lot #00F Tractor Pool #4, Wallerfield Road, Arima	Transfer
	65	RN/10/07/25A/017/00F	Feroza Gouveia & Louis Gouveia	0.4	Lot #001 La Pastora Land Settlement, Santa Cruz	Transfer
	66	RN/10/03/13B/002/001	Calistra Khan	1.6	Lot #174 Cunuto Road, East Wallerfield, Arima	New
	67	RN/10/07/25A/007/174	Mary Holder & Keith Holder	1.934	Lot 11A Antigua Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	68	RN/10/07/25A/002/11A	James De Gannes	6.96	Lot 020 Brazil Road, Wallerfield, Arima	Transfer
	69	RN/10/07/25A/001/020	Dassie Myram & Ramnarine Moosai	1.7	Lot SOC & SOD # Yaraba Road, West of Hochoy	New
		RN/30/02/16D/004/013	Samdeo Matura	3.325	Lot #013, Pineapple Tr. Matura	Transfer
	70-72	RN/20/05/33F/005/SOD	BRISTOL FOOD GARDENS		36-37 mm Naparima Mayaro Road, Bristol Village, Mayaro	New
		ALDP1/1/15 Sub S 8				
	73-78	LA 1/3/1	PEASANT SETTLEMENT	72	South Main Road, Pont Fortin	New (6)
	79-82	S/50/04/44E/008/00	THOMAS SEEBOCAS BLOCK I	32	Piparo	New (4)

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YEAR	NO.	FILE REFERENCE	NAMES	LAND SIZE (ha)	LOCATION	REMARKS
	83-149	ALDP 1/115 Sub S 18	ROYAL ENGINEER (RE) ROAD	269	Royal Engineer (RE) Road Los Iros, Siparia	New (67)