

Leave of Absence

Friday, June 27, 2003

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2003

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I received communication for leave of absence from the Members for San Fernando West (Hon. Diane Seukeran) and St Joseph, (Mr. Gerald Yetming) from today's sitting.

PAPERS LAID

1. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Deposit Insurance Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2002. [*The Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley)*]

To be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

2. Annual Administrative Report of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the financial year 2000 to 2001. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
3. Annual Administrative Report of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the financial year 2001 to 2002. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
4. Annual Administrative Report of the Siparia Regional Corporation for the financial year 2000. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
5. Annual Administrative Report of the Siparia Regional Corporation for the financial year 2001. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
6. Administrative Report of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation for the financial year October 01, 2000 to September 30, 2001. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
7. The Bovine Brucellosis or Contagious Abortion (Eradication) Regulations, 2003. [*The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Hon. John Rahael)*]
8. Special Report of the Ombudsman of Trinidad and Tobago on the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation presented in accordance with section 96(4) of the Constitution. [*Mr. Hedwige Bereaux*]

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

**Borough of Chaguanas
(Paving of Roads)**

133. Mr. Manohar Ramsaran (*Chaguanas*) asked the hon. Minister of Local Government:

- (a) Would the Minister provide this House with a list of the roads to be paved in the borough of Chaguanas?
- (b) Would the Minister state if the Mayor of Chaguanas was consulted in the paving of these roads?

The Minister of Local Government (Hon. Jarrette Narine): Mr. Speaker, the roads to be paved by the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for 2000—2003 are as follows:

Road Improvement Fund: Siskin Boulevard, Robinson Street, Lange Street and Walcott Land Extension.

Development Programme: Manodath Trace, Darneaud Street, Sancho Trace, Sandstone Road and Lower Couva Road.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act No. 21, 1990 and the Miscellaneous Taxes Act, section 45(1) and (2), roads to be paved under the Road Improvement Fund were selected from a list of roads submitted to the Ministry of Local Government by the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, whose political head is the Mayor of Chaguanas.

In the case of the Development Programme however, the Chaguanas Borough Corporation selected the roads for paving and are responsible for its implementation. It is instructive to note that the Ministry of Local Government had no input in the selection of roads to be paved under the Development Programme.

Mr. Ramsaran: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell us when these pavings will begin?

Hon. J. Narine: With respect to the Development Fund, information has come to me that it has already been received by the corporations. They selected the roads and they have to execute it. Under the Road Improvement Fund, those funds were given approximately six weeks ago. They are preparing the foundations of the roads for paving.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked by Dr. Adesh Nanan (Tabaquite):

**2002 SEA Examination
(Names of Students Upgraded)**

- 105.** Would to the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the names of the students who were upgraded following complaints by their parents to the placement of their children following the 2002 SEA examination and identify the secondary schools involved?

**Primary Schools Approved Textbooks
(2002—2003)**

- 110.** Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the approved textbooks used in primary schools for the years 2002—2003?

**Computers Received by Schools
(2002—2003)**

- 111.** Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the schools that have received computers from the ministry over the years 2002—2003?

**Secondary Schools Under Construction
(Reasons for Delay)**

- 112.** Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the secondary schools under construction that have been delayed and indicate the reasons for the delay?

The following question was asked by Mr. Manohar Ramsaran (Chaguanas):

**Flood Victims
(Compensation Details)**

- 136.** (a) Would the hon. Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Social Services) provide a list of the names of the persons in receipt of flood relief compensation in the areas of Caroni Village, Frederick Settlement, Warrenville, Endeavour, Guayamare and Bejucal as a result of the flooding that occurred in November and December 2002?
- (b) Would the hon. Minister state whether settlement of all claims have been effected?

The following question was asked by Mr. Chandresh Sharma (Fyzabad):

**Oropouche Police Station
(Construction Details)**

145. Would the hon. Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation please indicate when work will commence on the rebuilding of the Oropouche Police Station, and state:

- (i) the amount of moneys to be spent on same;
- (ii) the names of contractors engaged for this purpose;
- (iii) the details of works to be carried out?

Vide end of sitting for written answers.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH BILL

Bill respecting the safety, health and welfare of persons at work [*The Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development*]; read the first time.

The Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (Hon. Lawrence Achong): Mr. Speaker, the Government wishes to have this Bill considered by a Joint Select Committee of Parliament before the second reading. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Order 25(1), I beg to move the following Motion:

Be it resolved that a joint select committee be established to consider and report on the Bill entitled the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2003.

And be it further resolved that this committee be mandated to publish the Bill and receive public comments within two months.

Question put and agreed to.

PHARMACY BOARD (AMDT.) BILL

Bill to amend the Pharmacy Board Act, Chap. 29:52 [*The Minister of Health*]; read the first time.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL

Bill to amend the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01, and to validate things done thereunder [*The Minister of Finance*]; read the first time.

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**NO CONFIDENCE MOTION
(MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND REHABILITATION)**

[SECOND DAY]

Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [May 23, 2003]:

Be it resolved that the present Minister of National Security be removed with immediate effect from his office;

And be it further resolved that a committee be formed comprising persons selected by the Government in consultation with the Opposition to formulate an action plan to fight escalating crime in Trinidad and Tobago. [*Miss G. Lucky*]

Hon. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion I did not complete my contribution.

Mr. Speaker: You have 20 minutes of your extended time remaining.

Hon. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Speaker, I will not utilize the entire 20 minutes. I would just like to close my contribution, as I began, and make the point again that the solution to this situation of crime is really for the Opposition to support the Government. As I said when I started, the Motion as moved by the Member of Parliament for Pointe-a-Pierre is asking us to institute the exact modus operandi as was suggested by the PNM in opposition, when we requested a bipartisan solution to crime. This was accepted by the then government and resulted in the legislation that is now before this Parliament and is before the Joint Select Committee of this Parliament. Unfortunately, it is becoming crystal clear that the Opposition, whether in government or in opposition, is in a mode where they do not really have the country at heart and once an issue is not going to benefit them personally, then they do not care what happens to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

With your permission, I would like to take this opportunity to demonstrate this point by listing some of the issues. Mr. Speaker, you would recall that it was in 1994 when the sod was turned for the National Library of Trinidad and Tobago. The recent history of Trinidad and Tobago would indicate that those on the other side, when they were in government, were of the firm view that a national library should not exist. As a consequence of that they delayed the construction of the national library, to the extent where pumpkins were starting to grow in the spot and there were major concerns as to whether or not the national library would continue as a project for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

I would ask you to recall that the statement was even made that too much money was being spent in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago. It is

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clear, and I repeat, that once those on the other side feel that it does not benefit them then they do not support the progress for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

I want to remind this honourable House about the issue of computer-generated birth certificates. That is another decision that was taken in 1994. For six years that project was allowed to languish. Absolutely nothing took place in the then Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and absolutely nothing came forward. The record would show again that it was felt that it was a decision taken by the previous administration and consequently it would not be pursued. That led to the National Health Insurance System, which was also a decision taken in 1994, being stymied. It was clear in 1994, that there was a necessity to have a national health insurance system, but the Government that came subsequent to the 1991—1995 government, again left that project to languish. It is only today, now that the computer-generated birth certificates and others are being proceeded with, that that project is again on stream—all for the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago; not for one sector, but for all the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to make reference to the Caribbean Court of Justice, another project that was decided when the Members opposite were in government in 1998. At that time they felt that it was in their interest to move away from the Privy Council. They agreed with a Caribbean Court of Justice, only to come today and say that they no longer agree. In fact, the Caribbean Court of Justice is on Richmond Street, with the big sign saying: “Caribbean Court of Justice”. This was instituted by the Opposition. Now they are saying—because it does not serve their interest—they do not agree with the Caribbean Court of Justice. I could go on and on giving you evidence which shows those on the other side are only interested in issues which benefit them. They are never in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. That is why, in the year 2000, the Opposition gave up on the crime situation.

Statistics would show—the mover of the Motion asked us to look at the statistics—that it was from the year 2000 there appeared to be an increase in the statistics, as they relate to serious crime. In relation to that particular issue, I would like to demonstrate to this House that the Members on the other side indicated—through their Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and the Head of the National Security Council, the Member for Couva North—that they were putting their hands up in the air and had decided to give up on finding any solutions to the rampant crime in Trinidad and Tobago.

With your leave, I would like to quote from the *Newsday* of Wednesday, November 28, 2001:

“Increase in murders, rape, robberies firearms...

PM: We will never win this battle.

Prime Minister Basdeo Panday admitted yesterday that Government ‘will never win the battle’ against crime.

But he asked that the battle continue against criminals and drug traffickers, whom he described as persons with a lot of resources.

Despite the public’s perception that crime was on the increase, Panday said otherwise. He said crime was down nine per cent according to the latest statistics, although he painted the following gloomy picture:

- * murder occurs at the rate of three per week;
- * serious crime takes place at the rate of 43 per day;
- * rape and sexual offences increased by 96 per cent;
- * robberies occur at the rate of 24 per week;
- * firearms used by criminals occur at the rate of 38 per week;
- * wounding and shooting are up by 27 per cent.

Panday was speaking to reporters at a news conference at Whitehall called to announce the staging of a Caricom High Level meeting on drugs and crime...

The Prime Minister said that 12.2 per cent of the murders were committed during robberies.

Saying that the police were successful in dealing with drug-related murders in the past, Panday said the pattern was changing. He said 25 per cent of the murders occurred during altercations. Sixteen per cent, he added, were drug-related, while another 11 per cent occurred as a result of domestic violence.

‘We need to address much of the social causes of crime.,’ Panday added. “In 2001, there was an increase in the number of drug-related murders. The incidence of rape and sexual offences increased by 96 per cent.”

Panday pointed out that 63 per cent of the murders were caused by the use of firearms...

During his news conference, Panday admitted that 75 to 80 per cent of crime was caused by drugs. ‘If you can deal with drugs, you can deal with crime.’

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The Prime Minister said that there was never a coordinated plan to deal with drugs and that drug traffickers had more resources than the states of the Caribbean.”

The Prime Minister, in this statement, gave up on attempting to deal with crime. That happened, as he said, from the year 2001: there was an increase and the incidence was increasing by 96 per cent over the year 2000.

It is amazing that the then Prime Minister, Minister of National Security and Head of the National Security Council could come to the public and put his hands up in despair and say: “We will never win this battle against crime.” Now, the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre is trying to tell us that we should use an approach where we remove the current Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation and form a group consisting of the Opposition, the Government and any other persons. Mr. Speaker, this is totally and highly unbelievable, in circumstances where the Prime Minister of the day gave up totally. On this side we have a Prime Minister and a Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation who have shown that they will never cede this country to the criminals. Every effort would be made, either through social programmes, investment in the police service, increasing the number of police or ensuring that the police service has the requisite equipment in order to deal with the situation, which was abandoned by the last administration.

We on this side continue to support the current Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation. We support the efforts that are being made to assure us that the battle against crime continues. We continue with plans of action. We continue to make every conceivable effort to ensure that we do not cede Trinidad and Tobago to the criminal element. We have given the commitment that under the PNM, we will continue to do all that is in the best interest of all the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We therefore, reject the Motion moved by the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre. We on this side will continue to give unlimited support to the current Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation.

I thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, on the last occasion when this debate was proceeded with, an amendment was moved by the Minister of Legal Affairs. This amendment merely has the effect of a negative vote and is not admissible. I therefore, cannot propose the amendment as moved by the Member for Arouca South, the Minister of Legal Affairs.

Mr. Subhas Panday (*Princes Town*): Mr. Speaker, not only is the Member for Arouca South so incompetent, but it seems to me that she is not a Member of

the Cabinet. The hon. Member does not know what the Government is doing and in particular the Member for San Fernando East. The Member for San Fernando East has looked at the Motion and it would appear to us that the Resolution was modified. He did in fact set up the PNM Ken Gordon Committee and has accepted that committee's report, which I thought they were looking at today. It seems to me that the Member is—

Mr. Manning: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for giving way, but I really would like him to tell me how he came by the information that we accepted the report. The National Security Council only met this morning.

Mr. S. Panday: I do not have any special spies, but when you look at *The Sunday Guardian* of June 22 it states:

“PM: 400 cops and soldiers for special response on crime”

When one looks at the articles subsequently, one would see that is a part of the “PNM Ken Gordon Recommendations”. The Prime Minister should speak to the Member for Arouca South, sometimes.

When I heard the hon. Member this afternoon quoting from the *Newsday*, I wanted to let her know that the *Newsday* is most times incorrect. They are biased in their reporting and must be taken with a pinch of salt. One would have thought that being a minister and having access to official data, the Member would have done some research and come here with official figures. If she had asked me I could have loaned her a little document which I have: *Statistical Data on Serious Crime for 2001—2002 and Total Reports to the Police by Type*. [Interruption]

Mrs. Robinson-Regis: If the Member opposite recalls, on the last occasion I did come with statistics. The *Hansard* would reflect that I made those statistics available to the House.

Mr. S. Panday: I would check the *Hansard*. In any event, if the Member had quoted figures, it would appear that she has perfected that recommendation. Do you remember when we went to school the use of English: how to lie with statistics? The Member has mastered that art. What the hon. Member did in her quotation—assuming that she did it, but not conceding that she did it—was that she has mistaken herself. The hon. Member is speaking about a debate which occurred in the House on the high crime incidents on July 28, 2000. My friend, the Member for Oropouche, has indicated that nothing was done. Even on that occasion, the Member took out statistics and quoted them out of context.

Mr. Speaker, the *Newsday* had carried out a campaign against the UNC government. The Member for Diego Martin West was used to going to the

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Newsday office and writing articles and letters to the editor. That is why he can speak like that. The *Newsday* has lost all its credibility.

Dr. Rowley: Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to my colleague for giving way, but just to set the record straight; I have a number of skills, none of which includes journalism. I have never been to the *Newsday* or any other newspaper to write any story; not even the one that says Satish Ramroop is the most popular entity in Central Trinidad.

Mr. S. Panday: Mr. Speaker, I saw the blush, which started from under his chin and went back to his neck.

The hon. Member spoke about the national library. I was informed by hon. colleagues that the national library was built and expanded by the UNC government. Moneys were spent on the library, but the Member for Arouca South has come to the House today, two weeks before election, to create animosity and hatred in the society when she said that the UNC would not spend money in Port of Spain because it is not beneficial to us. When the UNC government was in office it served every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. What is disturbing is when one looks at that beautiful edifice and one sees what the PNM has reduced it to, it has become an area where there is gang warfare. One would have thought that having given the City of Port of Spain such a beautiful building, the least the Government could have done was to ensure that the building was put for the purposes for which it was built. Instead, what we have there is violence, typical of that in other parts of the country.

Today the hon. Member also spoke about the free birth certificates project. We are all happy for that. As far as we are aware, birth certificates should have been given to persons who were born after 1984. In typical PNM corruption style, the first birth certificate was given to someone who was unqualified.

Miss Lucky: Who was that?

Mr. S. Panday: I do not know. That was the extent of her contribution today. In a few minutes, I will deal with the contribution which the hon. Member made on the last occasion. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to support this Motion brought by my able Member for Pointe-a-Pierre. I support this Motion in the form in which it was originally presented. We have the resolution as it stands.

At the same time, I must congratulate the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre on her excellent contribution in which she analyzed the situation of escalating crime in Trinidad and Tobago and her well thought out recommendation. As I said earlier in my contribution, at least part of it was heeded.

With respect to the Member for Arouca South on the last occasion, the extent of her contribution was not much different from what it is today. She was rambling, unfocused and added nothing of value or significance to such an important debate, but that is to be expected. I would not like to say she merely chatted and chatted and poured vitriol on people, or attacked persons' character. I would not say that. I think we have much more important things to say in this debate. Her entire contribution was characterized by irrelevancies. Now that the Speaker has ruled that the amendment is out of order, we can still say that with such an amendment, she added some humour to the proceedings.

The House has asked, in the first Resolution, that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation be removed from office with immediate effect. What the argument on the other side would be is that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation would have done so much for the suppression of crime and as such he should be retained. The statistics will put a lie to that statement. Maybe the load is too heavy for him, because he is the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation. The Member for Laventille East/Morvant was offered that part of the portfolio. I do not know why he rejected it, but I am certain that the hon. Prime Minister, Member for San Fernando East, would have offered that portion of the ministry to him. Having had experience in dealing with persons who are involved in drug-related and other offences, he would have been the best qualified person to do that job: rehabilitating prisoners and drug addicts. He has refused it and probably said: "I am already rehabilitated, the others do not matter." When one saw his performance at the last sitting of this House, one would surely hold that the Member still needs some caring.

Coming back to this topic, I want to indicate that we have come here today and we have asked that this Minister be relieved of his duties. Why are we saying that? It is because the Member has been a failure in the eyes of the public. Everyone can testify to that. Some have asked that we go further and ask the whole PNM to remove itself from office. If one looks at the statistics, over a period of time, one would see that whenever the PNM was in government there was an increase in crime. On this occasion, since this Government came into office, it has taken a steep rise.

The hon. Member for Arouca South indicated that the Member for Couva North had thrown his hands up in the air and said that he could deal with the situation of crime. I want to indicate that one must look at the history and record and determine from that whether that is so or not, or whether *The Express* was carrying one of their political and hostile attacks against us.

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I wish to quote from the *Statistical Data on Serious Crime for 2001—2002 and Total Reports to the Police by Type*. Under the heading “Serious crimes”, in 1991, 16,157; 1986, 18,093; 1992, 17,680; 1997, 16,989. The first year the PNM went into office, crime escalated. The UNC came and met it in 1996. When one looks at the records, one would see a decrease. In 1993, which was the PNM’s third year in office, serious crimes increased to 19,547. In 1998 it reduced by over 4,000, from 19,547 to 15,796. In 1994, it increased to 18,614; 1999, 16,260; 2000, 17,132. That is the pattern. I will not bore the House with statistics, but indicate that during the PNM’s time minor crimes ranged from 20,000—22,000. When the UNC was in power, it started with 19,808 and was reduced to 15,000. When we hear the *Newsday* wrote about someone throwing his hands up in the air, one must look at the statistics and come to a conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the records you would see when the UNC was in government it tackled crime. One would see that the crime rate speaks of 133 murders in 1994, under the PNM’s rule. When the UNC was in government we started with 107 murders. In 1999, it went down to 92 and 118 in 2000. Indeed, when one looks at the figures, one would see that the action which the UNC had embarked upon during its term had the effect of reducing crime. Many would have said that Trinidad and Tobago was indeed a safer place to live under the UNC.

Mr. Speaker, if one looks at the other felonious offences, one would see that in 1994 there were 533; 1993, 608; and 1995, 501. When the UNC left office, it was 387. These are the statistics and the facts. When one looks across the whole spectrum of the various types of crimes which were committed between 1991 and 2000, one would see murder, manslaughter, wounding, felonious matters, other crimes against the person, break-ins, burglary, robbery and larceny. All these crimes were reduced during the UNC’s term of office. That is why we say the UNC was working.

Further than that, during the period 1996—2000, one would observe that crime detection and prosecution was higher than any time under the PNM government. I have the report of serious crimes for December 2002. One would see that during the time of the UNC’s administration, the detection rate was between 34 and 44 per cent. If one looks at one month of the PNM, one would see that the detection rate during that period was reduced to approximately 24 per cent in some places and as low as 21 and 0 per cent in other places. These are the facts that we have before us. Since the Minister assumed office, the crime statistics have not been reduced. As a matter of fact, they have gone up.

The Member for Arouca South spoke about the prevalence of crime. I wish to remind her—I quote from *The Sunday Guardian* of June 22, which states that

there were 15 murders in 2002. It also stated that at the end of the year, 2002, 172 murders were committed. We are looking at the progress of the Minister: in January 2003, 17 murders were committed; February, 15 murders; March, 26 murders—almost one a day—April, 13 murders; May, 24 murders; June, 16. I think another one bites the dust today. I have information to show you how these murders occurred. The Member said there were three murders every week. Look at the frequency of these murders in June only: June 02, Jerry Wiltshire; June 03, June 04—June 17. It seems to me when a murder did not occur on one day, there were two on the other days to make up. That is why, when the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre and we on this side call for the removal of the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation, we hope those who oppose that request would explain these horrifying statistics to us in any manner and form.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Arouca South indicated in her contribution to the debate on the last occasion, that the Minister is working hard and has put into place certain plans: he has brought legislation and received a letter of commendation from someone at the American Embassy. I will come to that in a few minutes, to indicate that whosoever wrote that letter mamaguyed him. I have a document in my hand, speaking out of a bulletin, issued by the US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs Washington, DC, 20520. When we took, the information off the net, it said: “This information is current as of today June 25” Hear how the outside world views crime.

The Prime Minister indicated that he is not going to impose any state of emergency because we want to woo investors, and as such we must be careful of the signals we are sending. It would appear that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation and the Prime Minister are afraid of those criminals; or he is closely associated with them and that is why he is afraid to deal with them. One would have thought that people would have been happy to hear that the Government has imposed a state of emergency and is firm in its dealing with crime. The Government would have invested confidence. The Member for Laventille East/Morvant supports that. We would have encouraged tourists to come here and added strength to the economy. To make such a lame excuse that we must be careful of the signals we are sending because we want to bring investors—Let me read from this bulletin:

“Crime: Visitors should exercise normal caution and good judgment when visiting Trinidad and Tobago. The U.S. Embassy advises visitors to exercise caution when traveling from Trinidad’s Piarco Airport, especially after dark, because of incidents involving robbery armed robbers trailing arriving

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passengers from the airport and then accosting them outside the gates of their residences...

Violent crimes, including assault, kidnapping and murder have involved foreign residents and tourists, including U.S. citizens. Since the beginning of 2002,."

Who was the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation at that time?

"...there has been an increase in kidnappings for ransom...at least one American citizen has fallen victim to kidnappers. Burglaries of private residences are common. Robbery is a risk, particularly in urban areas. Visitors should avoid wearing expensive jewelry or displaying large amounts of money in public. In some cases, robberies of Americans have turned violent after the victim resisted handing over valuables."

The Member for San Fernando East does not want to impose a state of emergency. He does not want to face crime headlong, that is why were saying that the Government is with the criminals. The Government is in partnership with the criminals. They are merely fiddling and have no intent to deal with crime.

"Visitors should not travel alone at nights on deserted beaches or in poorly lit areas, such as scenic overlooks."

On the contrary, Barbados says: "Come and have a good time in Barbados. Barbados is a safe place." Hear what the outside world is thinking of us:

"Valuables left unattended on beaches and in other public places are vulnerable to theft. Visitors should avoid neighborhoods known for high crime rates."

You come to Trinidad from the cold and you come here for nice, beautiful Caribbean breeze and sunlight.

"Motor vehicle occupants should keep all their windows closed and car doors locked. Valuables including travel documents should not be left unattended in parked cars, especially in parking lots as several thefts have been reported."

This is what they are saying. When the UNC was in government, we made every effort to give resources to the police service and the Ministry of National Security. What has the PNM done for the last two years? One would see that they have reduced the allocation to the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation by over \$20 million. This is manifested when one reads the communiqué.

"Police are cooperative, but they are often hampered by lack of resources."

This is a government that is sharing money all over the place. Between the period November 01, 2002—June 25, 2003 moneys have been vired out of the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation. The observation by foreigners is that the “police are cooperative, but they are hampered by the lack of resources.”

Mr. Speaker, some supporters of the PNM, and the rest of the right-thinking members of the society, are saying that the PNM has lost the war on crime. This is what the foreigners who are looking at us, are putting on the Internet for the world to see. The Prime Minister states that he does not intend to call a state of emergency, because we may be sending the wrong signals.

2.30 p.m

Mr. Speaker, almost half of the year is gone and over 114 persons have lost their lives, and the rate at which people are being killed in this country, we have to hold our breath and keep our fingers crossed until Monday, June 30, 2003.

What gave us the impression that the PNM is merely trifling with the issue of crime is that the PNM Government has set up committees, and when one looks at the committees, they have said nothing new. It seems to me that this committee made fewer recommendations than the hon. Minister when he made his maiden speech in the Parliament. When one looks at the Minister’s maiden speech, it would appear that the PNM merely set up that committee, on this occasion, to “mamaguy” the population, and to give the population the impression that something is happening because local government election is coming. That is what they are doing.

When the hon. Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation spoke in the other place on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, he made a number of recommendations. The Minister spoke about the introduction of the Kidnapping Bill, the setting up of a plan and the strengthening of the Anti Kidnapping Squad. What does this new plan say? This new plan says that 400 elite officers would be taken from the police and regiment to set up this committee and \$3 million for crime stoppers et. cetera.

Mr. Speaker, to show how no one could take this PNM Government seriously, I would read *The Sunday Guardian* newspaper dated June 22, 2003, and the headline says:

“PM: 400 cops and soldiers for...Special Response on crime

More promises:

- \$3m for CrimeStoppers
- Upgraded Coast Guard,

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Customs and Excise

- Enhanced Community Police
- Surveillance cameras”

Now, I think I should read this into the record and I quote:

“The establishment of a Special Response Unit to tackle gang-related murders and serious crimes was one of the measures announced by Prime Minister.”

He was delivering the feature address at the PNM’s launch of the 2003 local government elections campaign...

Proposals for local government reform, a \$3 million injection of funding into the CrimeStoppers programme over a three-month period and re-establishment of the specialist Community Policing Unit, were also announced.”

Now, hear what the Government is doing. The Government is starting CrimeStoppers just before local government election, just like what it did with the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP). So, CrimeStoppers would get this money, and this money would last for only three months after the local government election.

“...Manning said after consultations with a group led by media magnate Ken Gordon, an action plan for crime was being developed.

He said the Special Response Unit was part of the short-term measures.

‘To tackle the problem of gang-related murders and serious crimes, with intelligence-driven operations,’”

Mr. Speaker, we do not need any special intelligence group to determine and tackle the problem of gang-related crimes; everyone knows who caused it and everyone knows what causes it. The Member tried to be comical by saying:

“...the Government was also considering regular polygraph testing for members of all special units.”

Mr. Speaker, that is really the sting in the tail. The Member is promising everything and then he is saying, the Government has to do this polygraph test before this unit is implemented. Polygraph testing would never be introduced, so that special response unit would go down the drain.

“Other initiatives include beefing up assets in the Cost Guard and Customs and Excise Division; expansion of the CrimeStoppers programme; the use of

surveillance cameras at strategic locations and revised management of security licence plates for motor vehicles.”

Mr. Speaker, that would appear to be the special plan, but it would never work, because this Government merely put that plan there and announced it before the election on that Sunday for political purposes. The Government is playing politics with crime and then they are accusing others of playing politics with crime, when they are the greatest grand players.

Mr. Speaker, lost in that and confusing the population, the Member also spoke about local government. The Member said that local government should be the executing agency and there should be a larger Senate, et cetera. When one looks at the whole speech, one would see that this was really a political statement to mamaguy the population.

One of the reasons that plan would not work is that we know that the PNM would not take it on. Furthermore, the great PNM that Ken Gordon is, he did not have the guts to tell the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East that one of the first things that the Member should have done was to fire Chin Lee. [*Desk thumping*] When one looks at Mr. Chin Lee’s statement in the *Hansard* on April 15, 2003 he said:

“The Anti Kidnapping Squad of the police service is relentlessly pursuing implementation of measures to curb the increase in kidnapping. This unit has been increased fourfold and has been known to share with highly technical surveillance equipment. They are fully organized around specific major objectives which include safety and security of victims; the identification; location and prosecution of those involved and prevention measures. These objectives were instituted recognizing that among the various types of kidnapping; kidnap for ransom is the one being executed here.”

So, what the hon. Minister was saying in April, this committee is now recommending the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, this new committee spoke about surveillance cameras, and hear what Mr. Chin Lee had to say in his statement on April 15, 2003:

“In order for us to solve this problem of kidnapping, three areas have to be fought. The area of surveillance which is what we are doing and the area of improved training to the police and Anti Kidnapping Squad.”

If one looks at the recommendations this week, one would see that the Member had already said that in Parliament, but just before the election, we are

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hearing about surveillance cameras, and on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, the Member spoke about that in the Parliament. So, the Government went to the population with old news merely to mamaguy them. The PNM does not have any concerted intent to really deal with crime. The Minister said:

“I would like to make it quite known that many of the cases of kidnapping were solved because of the crime stoppers’ hotline and information given to us by the public. I am pleased to report that information has been successful in closing some cases and to the arrest of many kidnapping suspects.”

Mr. Speaker, since April 15, 2003, the Government knew that crime stoppers was doing a good job—in May there was nothing—but the Government comes now just before the local government election to say that they are going to give CrimeStoppers money, and that is the point that we are making. No one should take them on because the PNM has no real intention of dealing with crime. I would come to that matter a little later and say why, since the PNM is a part of the crime problem.

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

Motion made, That the hon. Member’s speaking time be extended by 30 minutes. [Mr. G. Singh]

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. S. Panday: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amount of research that I have done, I could probably pass it on to the Members on the other side. [Laughter] Mr. Speaker, the Member for La Brea fought a case in the court. The Government is playing games with crime. When the Minister introduced the Kidnapping Bill the Member said that the Government would ensure that heavy penalties are imposed, and also that there would be no bail for persons who are charged with the offence of kidnapping. I want to inform hon. Members that that again is a political ruse, because there is adequate legislation on our statute books to deal with the issue of bail as it relates to kidnapping.

I wish to refer the hon. Members, on the other side, to the Bail Act, No. 18 of 1994. The Member for La Brea was appearing for persons for bail. Section 6(2) of the Bail Act says:

“Where the offence or one of the offences of the defendant is accused or convicted...the discretion of the Court to deny bail...”

Hear when the court could deny bail for kidnapping:

- “(a) where the Court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for believing that the defendant, if released on bail would—
- (i) fail to surrender to custody;”
 - (ii) commit an offence while on bail;”

But most of all:

- “(iii) interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice, whether in relation to himself or any other person;”

What this means is that if you do not do it yourself, but you get an agent to interfere with a witness and there is evidence of that, you could go to court and object to bail and the court would refuse your bail. Also, when police are doing investigations, they could tell the court that they have substantial evidence that this person may escape, and that person would be denied bail.

Section 6(3) of the Bail Act went on to say how the court should use its discretion and I quote:

“In the exercise of its discretion under subsection (2)(a) the Court shall consider the following:

- (a) the nature and seriousness of the offence or default and the probable method of dealing with the defendant for it;
- (b) the character, antecedents, associations and social ties of the defendant;
- (c) the defendant’s record with respect to the fulfilment of his obligations...
- (d) except in the case of a defendant whose case is adjourned for inquires or a report, the strength of the evidence of his having committed the offence or having failed to surrender to custody;”

So, if the police have strong evidence against a person and the police could convince the court on that evidence, then there would be no bail, but you cannot allow the police to merely arrest a man and throw him in custody—the evidence could be weak and the man could be innocent—and they could keep that person in custody all the time. That is what this Bail Act is saying. What we are saying is, that is to really pacify the population, and the Government has not really thought out the Bail Act. There is adequate legislation in place, and to compound this

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matter, hear what are the powers of the Bail Act: The judge or the magistrate can take “any other factor which appears to be relevant.”

So when the Government comes here and jumps across the country and asks businessmen to put pressure on us to support this Bill, we are saying to the nation that the Government is mamaguying the nation. The Government is merely trying to pacify the fears of the population, but is not implementing the legislation which are on the statute books. I want to report to the Government that one of its criminal friends, KKK Enterprises of CEPEP fame of Enterprises, the police have objected to bail in that matter using the Bail Act, and that person is still in custody. The court did show how that law could be implemented.

If one looks at what the Government is doing with the Kidnapping Bill, and when one compares it with the level of detection; is it that the Government is saying that it would catch one or two fellows and throw them in jail? At the end of the day, we see where the rate of detection was only 20 per cent. So, boys in certain places would be assured that the police would not be going up in that area to deal with them and they could continue the way they are going.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is running out, but I want to remind you that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation has been a dismal failure. The Minister came up with operation Anaconda, and how many persons who committed serious crimes were held? Persons were held on maintenance warrants and first instant warrants for small offences. How many persons who have committed serious murders have been arrested by the police?

Mr. Speaker, the Minister then came with operation Baghdad. When one looks at operation Baghdad, one would see that the results were similar, or even less successful than operation Anaconda, so the PNM is going downhill in dealing with the crime. That is why we are asking that the line Minister be dealt with. When one looks at operation Anaconda and operation Bhagdad, one would see that there is nothing new—the same old khaki pants—PNM cannot deal with the problem. The reason PNM cannot deal with the crime situation is that PNM is a part of the problem.

One would remember that before the general election, the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East walked through Laventille and John John with Mark Guerra. And what could be said about Mark Guerra—the company which the Prime Minister kept? The record: No. 77328 Mark Guerra alias Abdul Halil was arrested for malicious wounding; attempted murder; possession of firearms; possession of ammunition; and possession of ammunition to endanger lives. I will

give the dates of the arrests: January 08, 2001 and November 19, 2001. Subsequent to that Mark Guerra was walking with the Prime Minister on his campaign trail. The criminals are their friends and they are associating with criminals, and that is merely pulling wool over the eyes of the population.

Mr. Speaker, the Government would have known just like us that Mark Guerra was one of the suspects in the shooting of the presidential car in which Lady Hassanali was. Everyone knew that and that was the man that the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East was hugging, kissing and embracing just before the last general election. The Government has decided to deal with the crime situation only with legislation; it does not decide to deal with it in any other manner.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Guerra was the man whom the Prime Minister would have met after that, so the relationship was not an on-and-off relationship, but the relationship was one which continued after the general election, when the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East elevated the status of this gang leader, and other gang leaders to community leaders. I am quoting from the *Newsday* newspapers dated Tuesday, March 25, 2003 and it says:

“Guerra who had described himself as a community leader, had put forward proposals to the Prime Minister to deal with the killings.”

Mr. Speaker, the Member for San Fernando East is hugging up criminals. When the Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East was hugging up this criminal and hugging up this gang leader the police said:

“He was described by the police yesterday as a gang leader who distributed guns to teenagers to carry out crimes, a high ranking member of the Jamaat Al Muslimeen, a close associate of Muslimeen leader Abu Bakr and a suspect in several murders.”

It is no wonder then today children are in schools with weapons such as ammunition and guns. We are asking the people at the national library to have metal detectors because there might be blood flowing in the national library by children.

“Guerra was also a deportee.

He lived at John John with his wife and eight children of his 14 children.”

Mr. Speaker, this was the man, who was not only hugged by the Prime Minister, but the Saturday evening before Mark Guerra was gunned down he was seen in Couva—when the PNM went into Couva—terrorizing UNC people the Saturday evening and by Sunday he was gone.

Mr. Valley: That is what happened? [*Interruption*]

Mr. S. Panday: Mr. Speaker, he was killed by gangs from Laventille. The UNC is not involved in any crime, but the Government is involved in crime. They are hugging up the criminals. I will say it again, before the last election, the Government gave them land, and when right-thinking persons in the society cried out before the issuing of the land—to show that the Member still wanted to have a relationship with the criminal element—the Member said. “But ah still want yuh vote.” That was a message the Member was sending saying that they needed help and once they got through they would get what they want. I do not know if that is the reason they have the Tamana Quarry and priority bus route pass. The Member for Ortoire/Mayaro came here and said that the man is a leader of a religious group, when everyone knows that is a sham organization, but the Member for Ortoire/Mayaro had to give him because they went to Ortoire/Mayaro with Mr. Ken Gordon—Ken Gordon also campaigned up there—and they voter pad and that is why they are so strong now.

Mr. Speaker, this is the legacy of the PNM. The PNM’s friendship with the criminal element is too strong. We want to tell the Government that when they are bringing in criminals in the electoral and political process—and we are in dangerous times—when these criminals support political parties openly—the way in which they have supported this political party—they have two things in mind: they want easy money and political power.

When the money was flowing and the gang leaders in Laventille were taking home \$80,000 per fortnight, things were going all right. If one looks at the record, one would see that just before the election—when the money was running—there was a decrease in crime. A lady had indicated that her husband had 80 ghost names, and after the election, when they went into power, her husband was killed and that number was reduced to eight and the lady was vexed. The Government gave away the Unemployment Relief Programme to criminal gangs and they are using CEPEP now to service other areas.

The reason for crime in those areas is simple, and the reason for the gang warfare is simple. The Prime Minister and Member for San Fernando East knew about it. When the Prime Minister heard about Guerra’s death he said he hoped that Guerra’s death did not lead to more gang warfare. The Member knew what was the cause, and after the general election—when the money started to slow down—they started killing one another for turfs, because when they kill that person the ghost names would go to them, and that is the reason for the crime. PNM is the cause, PNM has created the crime and PNM is the problem. So, when the

Government says that it cares for communities, they are the cause of crime in this country. When they were bringing out all these people, all the Government had to do was to deal with the issue and educate the persons but, as I said, when criminals support you for the political process, you are always indebted to them, and they would blackmail you, and enough is never enough.

Mr. Speaker, these criminals also have political ambitions, and the day you do not run things the way they expect you to run things they would be coming for you; they are coming for political power and they are coming to shake you out. I think I saw in some newspaper talks about another one. I pray and hope that it would never come to that. The Government knows what is the problem; they know that they are the cause of the problem; they have created the problem; they are now perpetuating the problem; and all these committees and recommendations would go to naught because the Government is playing politics with the people.

Not only has the Government allowed the criminals to run amok, but the PNM itself is criminal to its own people, and I make reference to the CEPEP programme, when the Prime Minister said that CEPEP would ease the social problems and reduce crimes. Those poor people who are labouring outside in that hot sun—in that prison suit—I feel pain for them. Do you know why? The Government gave contracts to its friends and they did not monitor the contracts. What the Government told them was to get 10 persons here and there, and bring them to meetings, and the Government abused them. The Government is not really helping these people with their problems, they are abusing them, and I will tell you why.

Do you know that the PNM contractors who got these contracts are working these people and they are not paying any national insurance for them? These contractors are taking taxes from the workers and they are not paying the taxes. Most of these contractors are not paying workers with a pay slip; they are only giving them an envelope. These workers came crying to us saying that the PNM is taking advantage of them, and they do not know what to do. Do you know that if a holiday falls during the week these workers do not get paid? There is no protection for these poor people. Also, if a holiday falls during the week, they would have to work on a Saturday or a Sunday to make up that time. Many of these poor persons have gone to the National Insurance Board and they have found out that these contractors are working them and they are not paying any benefits for them. This is the legacy of the PNM.

The Prime Minister was boasting and saying that he would continue the programme—giving contracts to his friends. There is no workmen's compensation. Do you know that if a man is using a brush cutter and that rotating metal hit

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someone in his eye and burst that person's eye, there is no compensation for that person? No workmen's compensation and no insurance! If a worker is sick and stays at home for one day, when the worker goes to work the next day they would fire that worker without asking any questions. The single mothers in Laventille are crying and saying that these PNM CEPEP contractors are abusing them. They are using the social services for political purposes and they are not really solving the issue of crime, and the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation is not looking at this matter. The Minister must go!

The uniform that the CEPEP workers are wearing, when we asked the question about the cost of these uniforms it was about \$200,000. The way the questions were answered, we wonder who paid for these uniforms but, assuming the contractors paid for these uniforms, and the uniforms were part of the package, did the Government, the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation tell these contractors, "Well, look, you are getting this thing and we are making you beneficiary of unwarranted contracts and make sure that you treat the people good?" But not at all! The CEPEP programme is just to get 10 people from every polling division to vote for the PNM. That is what CEPEP is about.

Who gave the contracts for the uniforms? When one goes to Petrotrin or any other company to work these companies would provide overalls for you, but those people who have the CEPEP uniforms, every fortnight the contractors are taking about \$20 or \$30 out of their wages. If a person was fired because that person was sick, they would go to your home—not to take back the coveralls—but to force you to pay for it. This is what these people are doing and this is what the PNM is doing to the people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, look at the kind of people who are getting these contracts—I have to call names—Prescott. Who is Prescott? Prescott is from San Fernando East—and I am only giving his surname. The Prime Minister said that there are many persons in this country who cannot compete. Racial intonation! He said they are in the business world and, therefore, the Government must give them assistance for them to compete. Although, the Member for Oropouche once said that these CEPEP workers are producing nothing, what we have observed is that only PNM party hacks got these contracts. Who Prescott cannot compete with? Well, Prescott is the Chief Executive Officer of Classic Caterers of the Mayor of San Fernando. I see the Member for Point Fortin is smiling, because he has an acquaintance that has a high job at the city corporation. Mr. Speaker, this is what is taking place, and it is these people who are being exploited.

There is another person by the name of Suresh Seecharan from Gulf View. Suresh Seecharan was a former UNC Member who went across to the PNM. He is an operator with Petrotrin and making \$20,000 a month, and the Government took him and said that he is one of those persons who cannot compete. PNM hack!

Mr. Manning: At least one Indian got a contract.

Mr. S. Panday: I heard the Prime Minister saying that at least one Indian got a contract. I do not see this as a race matter at all, because I know of a certain person of African descent who went for a contract and the Government gave him the contract, and when that person got the contract that person said about half an hour after they called him and said, “We hear you was with UNC up in Ortoire/Mayaro area, yuh cannot get it.” That is why I cried today. I cried for those people who are toiling at the side of the road without any kind of remuneration, and to say that the Government is using these people for political purposes.

Mr. Speaker, this PNM Government is now sowing the wind. The Government talked about rehabilitation. Guerra was a deportee and since Guerra came back to Trinidad has the Government put any plan in place to deal with the rehabilitation of deportees? I defended a man who was a deportee—I would not call his name—for manslaughter. This man was a deportee and he had nowhere to live, and he went somewhere in Point Fortin and got in confusion and killed someone.

When one reads the newspaper one would see that there are many deportees who are sleeping on the streets. I spoke to the hon. Prime Minister about this matter, because I fear that when that person is released from prison, he would have nowhere to go and he would commit more crimes and go right back to prison. The hon. Prime Minister told me to contact the Minister of Social Services, Christine Kangaloo. In order to deal with that matter, we need to look at that system where there are returnees or deportees who have left here as little babies—all their families are abroad—and when they come here there is no one for them to turn to and they go into a life of crime. I ask the hon. Prime Minister that when someone is replying to tell us what steps the Government would be taking to bring these deportees into the society. There is no CEPEP for them but there is CEPEP for the PNM hacks! Mr. Speaker your finger looks so beautiful in that direction.

Mr. Speaker: That was signaling to you that you have one more minute.

Mr. S. Panday: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to talk for the sake of talking and waste time. I want to say that I am very generous; I would not abuse my privileges. I stand here to support this Motion of the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre

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and, in particular, the resolution that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation be removed with immediate effect from his office.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much. [*Desk thumping*]

The Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation (Mr. Anthony Roberts): Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for recognizing me. Notwithstanding the theatre, the Member for Princes Town appeared to be very much unprepared for this debate. In trying to listen to what the Member had to say, one would never believe that they were in government, and they had the opportunity to apply some of the suggestions that he made today. It is amazing that they could not advise their own leader, who was the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Security and who had the responsibility and the opportunity to deal with crime in this country.

I was told by some of the Member's colleagues in law that they were not surprised about his unpreparedness, but that is how they behave. The Members would come here and make utterances that are unfounded, because they are wrapped up in a notion that Trinidadians and Tobagonians are foolish, and that they have short memories, because the level of criminal activities that the UNC inflicted upon the people of Trinidad and Tobago—in the short six years that they served in government—they believe that the people would forget.

I want to tell them today that their misbehaviour in office has earned them the reputation of being the most corrupt government that has ever served in this part of the world and yet, today—and in previous weeks that I have had the opportunity to sit in this Parliament—they would come here and try to portray their innocence, and one could come to the conclusion that they are shameless. They believe that this country became dazzled by their brilliance in banditry, but the UNC must accept full responsibility for the level of criminal activities as they are in Laventille. They are the authors of that unwholesome behaviour in Laventille. I am confident of what I am saying, because when the history is written, they would never be forgiven. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to take them back to the scene of the crime, because I was told that when criminals commit crimes they usually go back to the scene, so I want to take them back to 1996 and 1997—their early days of reign of terror on the people of Trinidad and Tobago. They became so intoxicated with power that they were prepared to do anything to hold on to and having displayed the art of cunning the people, manipulating and corrupting the electoral process to get into government, they were not prepared to allow it to slip away, so they were prepared to do anything. When they got into office,

recognizing that they had free access to state resources— it was like honey on their tongue—they went crazy, and that is why I indicated that Laventille became a target for the UNC.

Mr. Speaker, it was a former Minister of Works, in the UNC government, who introduced millions of Trinidad and Tobago dollars to young men in Laventille, and they did not have to work for it. [*Desk thumping*] I recall that there were about 170 gangs and 100 were ghost gangs, and over TT \$60 million were given out under false pretences. That was the stewardship of that Minister of Works under the UNC. The Member was creating monsters out of the young people and decent citizens in Laventille. That is what the Member was doing, hoping that he could get votes in return. [*Desk thumping*]

I understand the Member for Couva North was speaking to a small group of people in Point Fortin, and the Member indicated to them that the money that was being spent on URP and CEPEP was causing crime in the country. What the Member was doing was using the UNC as a yardstick to measure other people. It was an admission of guilt, because they used the URP in Laventille and the effects that we are enduring today is as a result of their involvement. [*Desk thumping*] I am saying that the blood of the young people of Laventille would continue to haunt them.

Mr. Speaker, I recall again—because at that time I had the opportunity to serve in another capacity in San Juan/Laventille—the former Minister roaming over the hills in Morvant and Laventille, pretending to love the people; kissing children and painting water tanks. Mr. Speaker, the Member could be regarded as a local Judas, because what the Member was doing was destroying the young people of Laventille and Morvant. So the crime situation today is as a result of that behaviour. The increase in ammunition and gang warfare is also as a result of that behaviour.

Mr. Hinds: And his nefarious activities.

Mr. A. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, all of that took place under the Member's stewardship and it was under his stewardship that the term "community leader" was born. [*Desk thumping*] I ask the question: Why is this term not associated with other communities in Trinidad? I have to come to the conclusion that they believe that Laventille is the heartland of the PNM, and it was singled out for special treatment and targeted for destruction. I want to tell the Members on the other side today that the PNM heartland is Trinidad and Tobago and that includes central. [*Desk thumping*]

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Mr. Speaker, with all their fancy talk, they must accept responsibility for the blood of the people in Laventille. So they cannot come here today and behave like angels, as if they are so innocent. The people of this country would never forget the wicked and evil deeds of the UNC. This country understands that the problems that we are having today—the fruits of crime that we are reaping—are as a result of the seed sowed by the UNC and, as a result, they would have another opportunity on July 14. I want them to take a note of that date, which is the date for local government election. It is an opportunity for the people of Trinidad and Tobago to once more grind them to the dust. [*Desk thumping*] Mr. Speaker, more than that, since I made reference to the local government election, I want to say that we are going to dedicate that election to the late Hansraj Sumairsingh, who was the Chairman of the Rio Claro/Mayaro Regional Corporation. [*Desk thumping*] That is what we are going to do.

We of the PNM, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago understand and have accepted—as my colleague indicated earlier on—that there should be no partisan approach when dealing with the problem of crime in Trinidad and Tobago. As a result, this Government would leave no stone unturned in its attempt to bring peace and good living to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

I recall the Member for Siparia, in her contribution in another debate—I think it was the debate on a bill to amend the Immigration Act—saying that that issue was very important to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The Member for Siparia indicated that it was not about the UNC, it was not about the PNM, but it was about the people of Trinidad and Tobago. And I wondered why did the Member not use the same principle as it relates to crime. I am convinced that it is necessary for my friends, on the other side, to rearrange their priorities. We on this side were hoping that they would have shocked the people of Trinidad and Tobago and, for once, behave responsibly and work with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on this very important issue of crime, but that is not to be. I am saying today that crime must be fought on every front.

My colleague, the Member for Arouca South, in her sterling contribution, highlighted some of the crime fighting initiatives of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as spearheaded by the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation. I want to continue in that vein because I think I need to highlight another initiative, and I make reference here to the penal reform system in Trinidad and Tobago. I wish to inform this House that the Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the task force on prison reform, and this report espouses restorative justice philosophy; a philosophy which we believe is ideal in dealing

with this situation. It is ideal because it incorporates and integrates the offender, the community, the victim of crime, the corporate society and the penal agencies. All these stakeholders are coming together in an effort to fight against this scourge of crime.

Mr. Speaker, as we proceed, it would be necessary for us to employ various strategies and other initiatives to provide the effective management of offenders—whether they are in the prison or outside the prison—and this would entail the enactment of certain pieces of legislation. So it might be a good time to put the House on notice to accept that one such piece of legislation—the 1834 prison rules—is long outstanding and outdated.

3.30 p.m.

To facilitate the Government's rehabilitation programme, it is necessary for the Government to embark on some infrastructural development in the penal system. You would appreciate that the prison buildings are very old and dilapidated. They were not built to accommodate the present population, neither were they built to cater for the kind of rehabilitation we intend to implement. As a result, we have started the infrastructural development—and I am pleased to inform this honourable House today that the dormitory facilities for the officers at Golden Grove have been completed. [*Desk thumping*] We have started the construction of an administrative building at Golden Grove. We have also started the construction of a workshop which would facilitate the kind of rehabilitative programmes that we intend to do, as well as refurbishment work has begun at the Youth Training Centre (YTC).

The Cabinet has given its approval for additional teaching staff for the school at YTC. Cabinet has also given its approval for the necessary funding to facilitate work to ensure that the Maximum Security Prison becomes fully operational in the shortest possible time. Once we get the Maximum Security Prison going it would assist with the overcrowding situation at the nation's prisons. While all this is taking place as it relates to the infrastructure, the necessary management structures to facilitate the full-scale rehabilitation programme are being put in place. I say full-scale because some of the aspects of this programme have already started in the prison, and though limited it is yielding positive results. I just wish to indicate that for the CXC examinations this year we have had 136 inmates writing the CXC examinations and there are other success stories that would be brought before the national community in due course.

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I wish to advise this honourable House as well that agreement has been reached between the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Education with respect to the construction of a school at Golden Grove. We are at the stage where officials from the Ministry of Education are holding discussions with the officials at the prison, so as to arrive at the curriculum—because you know it must be tailored to meet the needs of the inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Member for Princes Town did raise the issue of the rate of recidivism. It is approximately 60 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago. It is a question where we have a problem with a number of young persons who are skipping in and out of the prisons and our research has shown that most of these young persons are homeless and, because of their activities, were abandoned by their family; they are illiterate and without any skill; they are users of illicit drugs and as a result the Ministry of National Security and Rehabilitation is in consultation with the Ministry of Social Development and the Social Deliveries Division of the Office of the Prime Minister. So that we are developing a programme that would provide temporary accommodation for these young citizens to correct their deficiencies and to assist them in terms of their resettlement back in society so that they would be in a better position to make a positive contribution to national development. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that this Government is a working Government. Maybe, I should say it again so that other people could hear; it is a working Government; not a “tiefing” one. [*Desk thumping*] We know that performance without corruption beats “ole” talk anytime. [*Desk thumping*] This Government is not about playing games with the people of Trinidad and Tobago because there is no quick fix. This situation we are in did not happen overnight as the hon. Members on the other side would want us to believe. There has been a level of social decay which this Government has the capacity and the political will to deal with. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that we are going to deal with it, and I want to remind them, before I take my seat that, again, this local government election would be the final nail in their political coffin. After this election the reality would be that they would have to regroup; they would have to form a new political party; and they would have to find a new leader. I am saying that they would have to do these things because the UNC’s sun would have been set.

I thank you very much.

Dr. Fuad Khan (*San Juan/Barataria*): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to make my contribution in this debate. I stand here this evening supporting the Motion that has been brought by my colleague from Pointe-a-Pierre. The

resolution of this Motion that a Committee be formed comprising persons selected by the Government in consultation with the Opposition to formulate an Action Plan to fight escalating crime in Trinidad and Tobago, and also that the present Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation be removed with immediate effect from his office.

We understand that a committee has been formed and I am very glad to see that the hon. Member for San Fernando East has taken on board the direction of the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre. Albeit, he has not consulted with the Opposition, but has apparently consulted with that gentleman who did yeoman service for the PNM, the Chairman of the *Express*. He has given him certain recommendations and we have heard in this honourable House today that he has accepted.

Mr. Speaker, although the Motion does call for the removal of the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation, I want to go a little further and say to this honourable House that Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee, Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation, did not appoint himself. He did not stand one day in Trinidad and Tobago and say that he wants to be the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation and he appointed himself. He was appointed by the Prime Minister of the country and from what I remember—because I lost count of the number of Ministers being presented; he was presented last, after searching far and wide for a Minister of National Security. The blame for the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation should fall squarely on the shoulders of the Member for San Fernando East, [*Desk thumping*] because he was the person who chose his Cabinet—this means no disrespect to the Member for San Fernando East.

If an hon. Member has been in this honourable House for 30-odd years, and has said that his political acumen is such that it is beyond comparison because of his long standing; and also, he has been Prime Minister more than once, chose to put a person who was inexperienced and who has never served in any public department or ministry, or in any situation of security in this country, in a position of such a high nature that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation would formulate policies, direct the police and liaise with the security council—he was given that portfolio by a senior Member of a Government—it just proves that the senior member may have erred. And if he has erred he should do the honourable thing and shift the portfolio before more citizens have their lives threatened, their security threatened, their liberty threatened and the policy could be formulated.

Mr. Speaker, when I opened the *TnT Mirror* today there is an article on the front page which says that Mr. Gordon—who was once a Minister lasted two

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years, he did his business and then he left—has been touted as the new Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation. I do not think the hon. Prime Minister would inflict such a process on the people of Trinidad and Tobago; I think he has more sense than that.

I would like to read from page 3 which says that the Member for Laventille East/Morvant, is being considered as junior Minister to the Member for Diego Martin East. These were the names touted in the article as the supposed Ministers of National Security and Rehabilitation. But we all know that the Member for Laventille East/Morvant refused to serve under the present Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation. In fact, there were lots of problems coming out of that portfolio and it ended up with him being much better off—because he has a nice car now and he is practising his law after being in the last seat; as the hon. Member for La Brea has said, the last seat is when you are going out, as he is also in the last seat.

Mr. Speaker, let me get back to the Motion. I am quoting from page 3 of the article—I am not disrespecting the hon. Member for San Fernando East—which says:

“Manning has been reluctant to shift his ‘blue-eyed boy’ Chin Lee from the position, despite repeated calls for his removal or resignation; but lately, sources close to the PM, say he has been told, ‘enough is enough’.

Members of the PNM hierarchy and the rank and file, like the rest of the country are hugely dissatisfied with the failure of businessman Chin Lee in the ministry.

Calls for his resignation have come from several quarters, both in the PNM and the Opposition United National Congress (UNC).”

Mr. Speaker, I did not say that; this is what sources have said in a newspaper article which commanded the front page of one of our weekly newspapers. When I saw this I asked myself: Who possibly in the PNM hierarchy would call for the removal of Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee? I asked myself: Is it the Member for Tunapuna? He is an SRM. Is it the Member for Laventille West? She is an SRM. Is it the Member for Tobago West? Another SRM. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Manning: What is an SRM?

Dr. F. Khan: I would tell you just now. Is it the Member for San Fernando West? Another SRM. Well, the Member for St. Ann’s East has reached the final placement. The people of principle said that he has reached the level of incompetence

so it cannot be him. [*Desk thumping*] The Member for Tobago East is an NM; and the Member for Laventille East/Morvant is an NM. The reason I said SRM is because Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee was chosen and he has never faced the polls; he had no experience and was given a ministerial portfolio. These goodly people faced the polls and ended up with SRM status as something resembling ministers. [*Laughter*] So I am wondering if these are the people who were called the PNM hierarchy and had asked for the removal of Sen. The Hon. Chin Lee. You see, Mr. Speaker, when you are put forward as a candidate—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Bereaux: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. Member tell me what was his initials when he was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance?

Dr. F. Khan: I was also an SRM. [*Laughter*] Mr. Speaker, at least my senior was an elected UNC Member so I did not feel too badly. When we look at the Motion before us, it deals with crime and criminal activity; it deals with policy formulation; it deals with life, liberty and security; it deals with approaching the hon. Member for San Fernando East to, please, do something constructive and forget about association; forget who is financing him and deal with the problems at hand. I understand the hon. Senator was at the back of the launch in Woodford Square, so maybe he has done that. I also understood from my colleagues that there was an emergency Cabinet meeting today—we are not supposed to discuss Cabinet business—and they heard that Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee was removed. I do not know if that is true, but if the Member for San Fernando East wants me to give way, I would do so in order for him to address that matter.

Mr. Speaker, let me go back to the problems that we are experiencing in our country. The police statistics have shown an increase in murders—hardly any were solved—172 v 72; an increase in woundings—655; an increase in rape, incest, and sexual offences—641, and hardly any of them were solved; kidnappings—well, this has gone through the roof; robberies—4,675, and hardly any of them were solved; serious crimes totalling 16,810, those that were determined are 4,363; the percentage of determination of criminal activities—26 per cent. That is not good enough. These problems should be around 50 per cent to 60 per cent and even as much as 70 per cent.

Do you know that the hon. Prime Minister has agreed with me? In an article in the *Trinidad Guardian* on June 06, 2003, page 7, headlined: “PM admits crime’s getting out of hand”. It says:

“The crime situation ‘may have deteriorated’ recently, Prime Minister Patrick Manning admitted yesterday.

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He also revealed there has been an increase in the number of guns in T&T and that Government is actively considering a Gun Court”.

So I call upon the Member for San Fernando East, if he could think about giving a gun amnesty for six months and after that have zero tolerance for any illegal firearms in this country, as well as a gun court. The quote continues:

“That internecine warfare that is taking place among a certain group in T&T, the average citizen is not involved in that and is not threatened directly...you can always have collateral damage...

Manning said Government noticed an increase in the number of guns in the country following the civil unrest in Venezuela last year.

Government, he said, has reason to believe that Colombian drug lords have used the opportunity afforded by the chaotic situation in Venezuela to re-route weapons, resulting in an increase in guns in T&T.”

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister agrees with us. He agrees that the life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property should not be deprived. This is the Motion:

“Based on statistical data it is evident that the incidents of crime, especially and including the offences of kidnapping and false imprisonment...we are calling on the Government to formulate effective policies to combat crime;”

If you have a Minister who is not up to the task and his own Members are saying that the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation should be removed; enough is enough, this is no indictment on Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee as a private citizen. He is a very nice person and a down to earth person, but we are dealing with things of national security; we are dealing with criminals in this country who have better guns, better equipment and faster cars than our police officers.

We have noticed that the Prime Minister has indicated that there would be a crime plan of joint army/police patrols—which is something for us to feel good about. Mr. Speaker, I want to read again from a *TNT Mirror* article where this gentleman has said that the Prime Minister must come down from his guarded ivory tower, put on a disguise, dress as a peasant and walk among the people. I know he has done that before, but not in these times where the average citizen has to sleep with one eye opened and one eye closed.

Recently, there was a blackout throughout the country and every person, including myself, I spoke to, said one thing: “When I realized that there was a

blackout and electricity had gone, I got up and waited for the criminals so I would have seen them before they take me”. Everybody said that. *[Interruption]*

Mr. Imbert: What about the angels?

Dr. F. Khan: Mr. Speaker, I would come to the angels just now and we want \$3 million like the crime stoppers. I continue:

“I am sure Manning never experienced getting hit on the head or a bus head with a missile in the form of a bottle, a can of coffee like a Charlotte Street, Port of Spain supermarket owner when he caught a woman wearing Muslim garb stuffed with stolen items at the corner of Queen and George Streets. He was ambushed and attacked by her accomplices.

Parents should take some responsibilities and actions if their sons and daughters are not working at steady jobs but yet can buy expensive shoes; afford expensive ‘bling’ jewellery, gold and diamond watches, gold and silver necklaces, drive around in flamboyant and flashy cars, with hard ‘pong’ and lots of loose women; bring home a brand new stove and washing machine; microwave for mammy, etcetera”.

He goes on to say these things because he is trying to make the connection that the crime and criminal activity in this country is as a result, not only of a poor education system that we inherited and we tried to change, but from 1956 to now after years of successive governments, the criminals—for some strange reason in the last quarter—have gotten more demanding and more violent.

I read something from today's newspaper—this is serious business—which says:

“At 8.45 p.m. a couple was standing in front of the Parrot Club in Grand Bazaar when two men...

The reason I researched this is because my daughter called me from Canada last night and told me about this and I went to look for it—

“armed with guns forced the couple into the car, drove them to Maraval to the ATM machine, withdrew money and then drove them to the Caroni Cremation site.”

Now this article does not go on to say it—but they wanted to rape the girl and a taxi-driver who was passing at the same time found it suspicious and the men drove off with the car. They were rescued and then taken to the police station. That is the level we have reached in this country.

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I call for a gun amnesty in this country—as they have done in Britain and certain parts of the United States—and if people do not bring in their illegal weapons after a certain time then let it be open season for the police officers on those people. Deal with them appropriately with stiffer penalties. You see, Mr. Speaker, prevention of crime has different facets; there is a facet called primary, secondary and tertiary: primary is when you lock yourselves up and make sure that nobody can get to you; secondary is when there are causal factors, but tertiary level is stiffer penalties. If one does not legislate or implement stiffer penalties the criminal activities in this country would go haywire.

We have had talk about the association between the Member for San Fernando East and certain religious groups; we have had talk about intimidation during electoral processes. We know that there is voter padding in the form of house padding that is going on right now. All in all, it is just to win an election to stay in power. If you go into an election to stay in power you must make policy decisions that would assist the people of Trinidad and Tobago. When people cannot, in some form or fashion, enjoy section 4 of the Constitution which says: “the right to life, liberty and security” we have to do something about the people who are responsible for promoting policies that would implement penalties as a result of this legislation.

There is a part in the crime plan where the hon. Prime Minister indicated that there would be joint army/police patrols of 400 persons, and we have the Commissioner of Police saying that he does not know anything about polygraph testing and psychological testing. He said that he does not even have any idea as to where the people came from. Right now, Mr. Oswyn Allard has the army patrol in the Vehicle Maintenance Company of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) area, and the poor police officers are working 24 hours on and 24 hours off; no human body could stand that; they are tired; they are frustrated; they are angry, and these are the gentlemen that have to be pushed out into the joint army/police patrol.

A group of police officers was speaking to me recently and they said that it would appear that the higher levels of the police service are just waiting on retirement. They said that Commissioner of Police, Hilton Guy, is going to leave on July 12, and another successive couple is just one year or six months apart from retiring. So you end up now with a system of police officers forming policies and who he has said are brain dead. He also indicated in an article here that one should check on the bank accounts and the lifestyles of members of the Anti-Kidnapping Squad as well as that of the Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit (OCNU). He said that there is need for a total shake up in the police service before

that is to be done. We are afraid to say it, but certain things have to be said because members of these units have been there too long.

If one goes to any bank one would find that when one deals with a bank manager for some time, after two to three years he is removed. So he does not have an association with the customers so that corruptive practices could take place. This needs to be addressed. You may laugh; you may say that the Opposition is irrelevant; you may say that there is no need for consultation with the Opposition but this Motion, albeit is asking that you remove the Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation—no malice is intended—and we are just asking for efficient Government.

Under the UNC's term of office, as many fingers that were pointed at us about 60-something bridges were built. That is efficiency. If you can recall, Mr. Speaker, Mayaro only had one bridge and you had to wait for persons to pass. Now, going to Mayaro is a dream; the area has now been opened up and there are two-sided bridges. The value of the land has gone up and the people are enjoying a better life; people are building new beach houses and trade is occurring.

We built the airport and—[*Interruption*] Mr. Speaker, they could say shame if they want—it is an airport that I have seen in a tourist trade journal which says that “Trinidad and Tobago has a brand spanking new airport to make it the hub of the entrepot trade, air transport trade for the Caribbean”. Mr. Grimes is going to address a conference in Mexico on the advantages of desalination. The Member for Diego Martin West had said not to build any desalination plant; build dams instead. [*Interruption*] Mr. Speaker, I was here when the hon. Member said that. A dam takes seven years to be built. In fact, he damned the desalination plant and now they are promoting the desalination plant. [*Interruption*] Now, do you hear what he is saying? Periscopic thinking.

When you talk about efficiency—Mr. Speaker, have you ever passed by the airport and seen that lovely red TTPost building? All the action takes place there and then it is distributed. It is the same TTPost that attacked the guardian angels. I hold no malice to them. It is a lovely building. The guardian angels were born out of criminal activities in this country, and I would read an excerpt to you, which I was able to get on the Internet. It is about the police service and the community. It is a Rudolph Giuliani kind of report. It says:

Eyewitness accounts are crucial to the resolution of investigation and to the prosecution of cases in court. Police failure to illicit full and accurate accounts from witnesses, can be a significant factor leading to prolonged

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investigations, unsolved cases and even miscarriage of justice. Police officers, due to technology, have begun to lose the art of dealing with the community. They have gradually lost their art of talking to people.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to talk about the attitude of police officers when you go to a police station. It states:

And it advocated as Giuliani has done that a method used to assist the police in the real issue of combat of crimes involves having civilians trained in dealing more with administrative, financial and logistic tasks so the police can deal with the real criminal issues. In the United Kingdom, for example, it is common now that when someone goes into a station to report a crime their first contact is with a civilian. The same holds true for investigative roles as well.

You see, Mr. Speaker, public relations need to be addressed and allow the police officers to do their action on crime. It goes on to say that:

There are two theories of criminal activity; it is called the deterministic theory and the rational choice theory. The deterministic theory argues that offenders are influenced by factors beyond their control and are therefore bound to commit offences. Crime prevention for the deterministic must involve the removal of the factors that caused crime. Irrational choice theory holds that offenders chose to act in the way they do because they see a benefit in doing so or an opportunity that can be exploited. They can therefore be influenced by the criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at these types of theories of criminal activity you ask yourself: Is the Government really doing what is necessary to address criminal behaviour? This article goes on also to talk about increasing the manpower: you have reached something called the dimensional marginal returns. When you over put a factor into any productive aspect, you reach a point where the more factors you put in the less efficiency you get; and an increase in police officers does not really mean a better service if you have reached that level of dimensional marginal returns.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the whole scenario of what we are trying to present, it is not an attack on Sen. The Hon. Howard Chin Lee, the public person. It is a request for the hon. Prime Minister to identify his weakness and his mistake, which he made almost two years ago, and say to the public of Trinidad and Tobago that I have made a mistake. I am sorry. I would remove the gentleman and I would take over as he has done. [*Desk thumping*] Attacking crime at different levels is good, but when there are people who, when they see eyewitnesses

they say crime stoppers are getting \$3 million for whistle blowers and the guardian angels were rushed out of office and a vigilante group was called in. The guardian angel movement was a surveillance type of movement. They were persons reporting to the Members of Parliament—so they trust him—and we would then report it to the police officers whom we trusted.

I am not saying so in a vacuum; the hon. Prime Minister has said that his squad would have polygraph testing and psychological testing which are necessary. In a bank there must be psychological testing for any employee. If anybody's account is fattening up you look at it and you determine where that fattening is coming from. So polygraph and psychological testing is correct. Get a few people whom you know you could trust to do that type of training, but it must not be partisan. You see, Mr. Speaker, there is something called the Gaussian theory which dictates that in any sampling there is a bell curve and in a bell curve there is good, mediocre and bad. So if you just choose from a partisan effort you would end up with a poor sampling of good.

When we bring this Motion asking for consultation with the Government and the Opposition to formulate an action plan we asked it from a point of service because we are trying our best to have a non-partisan approach to service the constituency of Trinidad and Tobago. If the Government chooses not to consult with the Opposition because they think we are irrelevant—I know it is politics and when you use emotionally charged words like “I am going to licks them; and I am going to flog them”—they may sound good on a public platform.

If you are like the Member for Diego Martin East who nobody takes on; if you are like the Member for Laventille East/Morvant and the Member for St. Ann's East whom nobody listens to, but when you are the Member for San Fernando East you are using emotionally charged words on a public platform as the Prime Minister of a country. You are telling people that it is right to flog and beat people. That is what he is saying. The Member for San Fernando East may not mean that; it may sound good to the supporters who are jumping up there; the CEPEP people who are coming there; and they would come anyway because they need their job. They are not going to stay home because they would not get any job from CEPEP, but the hon. Member for San Fernando East was on the national TV saying he would emotionally charge, flog and beat people in an election. That does not sound good. And the message is being carried to the youths in Laventille, Point Fortin, Barataria, to Caroni Central, all over the country. The hon. Member for San Fernando East is carrying the message to all the youths—men and women—that it is okay to do like the video games and kill persons.

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For the last couple of years, cable TV and video games have put our country in a mode and it has changed the human mind. Imagine a baby in a womb who is hearing violent talk; grows up and the first thing he or she sees is killing, stabbing, video games at the age of four, and it escalates like that, Mr. Speaker. You would eventually get a product, at the age of 10 or 12, of a violent person. When the number one video game that is being sold, idolizes criminals and criminal activities—it is about prostitution; the hon. Member mentioned it the other day—you end up with a population of young persons who are prone to criminal activities.

Mr. Speaker, let me go to a very interesting article on page 11 of the *TNT Mirror* of Friday, June 27, 2003. The headline is: “Sterilize criminals!” The author is Charles Kong Soo: It says:

“You know it’s Local Government elections time again, when politicians campaign promises start to fly...

Prime Minister Patrick Manning fed the PNM masses promises, like manna from heaven, of more money to fight crime and the establishment of a Special Response Unit, compromising of 400 carefully selected persons from the Police Service and the Regiment.

Then there was a promise of \$3 million for the expansion of the Crime Stoppers Programme, the re-establishment of the specialist Community Policing Unit, upgrading the coastal radar detection system, surveillance cameras and a \$1,000 monthly...

...the image of Nero fiddling while Rome burns...

It took an FBI agent to come all the way down here to tell us that the best solution for kidnappers is to jail them for a long time.

How much money did that cost the taxpayers?

If the US can dump dangerous deportees back on our shores, a treaty can then be signed with the US Government to keep our rapists, criminals and kidnappers in cold storage at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba.

After careful screening of members for the special units, not only should regular polygraph testing be mandatory but psychological evaluation, just as the blood-sucking banks...as compulsory drug testing for all police and army personnel.

If a bank employee's or relative's account is mysteriously fattened after a ransom has been paid for the release of a kidnap victim, who has an account at that particular bank, the authorities should be called in.

You don't need a Sherlock Holmes to determine that something is amiss when certain rogue police officers have massive bank accounts, are buying up properties and business investments, building expensive homes, driving several cars and living lavish life-styles on a policeman's salary.

Make state-of-the-art DNA testing and forensics equipment available to the police. It is ridiculous when there is a shooting and the perpetrators leave behind damning tell-tale DNA data in an evidence rich environment at the scene of crime and the police are clueless where to start making arrests."

I am going to say something on that note, Mr. Speaker. This said article was cut out from June 26, 2003 headlined: "Police lost evidence"; it says:

"Crucial evidence was misplaced by police officers investigating a kidnapping charge. Or, according to a police officer 'testifying in Port of Spain court'—I would not call any names—

Some lady was forced to drink a liquid that made her dizzy and drowsy and was carried somewhere. A female police officer was given the blood sample and placed it in a refrigerator of a police station. She was awaiting instructions how to proceed with the blood sample. She said she never received any instructions and she did not know that the blood sample had to be taken at the forensic laboratory. In two weeks time she went to check back this article and later 'it had disappeared'. She added afterwards, I believe the sample had been misplaced. Also giving evidence is another one—on the night of the said incident he told the said officer to take the sample to the Forensic Division. The person denied being given a swab and a sample of the blood etc.

What was most interesting from the other police officer was that the interviews were recorded in his police diary, which was lost during a police chase. That is the level that we have of forensics in this country.

I would go further to tell the Minister of Health who is the Member for Diego Martin East, that not only do we have inadequately prepared officers to deal with criminal forensics, we also have inadequately prepared doctors as district medical officers dealing with forensic medicine and forensic analysis in this country. Not only is the police at fault but also the medical fraternity; not only that is at fault, the forensic laboratory is a disgrace and the technicians do not have enough

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equipment. So we have it right over the board. We passed the DNA legislation and it has not been implemented.

Mr. Ramnath: What about breathalyser?

Dr. F. Khan: Breathalyser is simple. Mr. Speaker, if you have been reading about what has been happening in the United States with respect to the criminal justice system, people are being freed after 20-odd years because of DNA sampling. We have the laws here. Not only is DNA sampling there but there must be proper forensic movement; proper investigational analysis; proper handling of specimens; proper trained officers to go to the scene of the crime; sterilize the scene of the crime; mark it off and determine who is going to enter there and who is not.

Do you know sometimes they do not even use gloves and tweezers to pick up specimens? It is just lost there. If somebody is raped and you ask: Do you take a swab; do you take a slide; what do you take? Do you take samples of the hair of the victim? Do you take a blood sample of the victim and also of the offender? You cannot take a blood sample of the offender in certain things unless you are legislated for it. These things are not recorded anywhere. Sometimes you take a victim to a health office, when you go there are no bottles; there are no bags; there are no gloves; you do not have anything to deal with a forensic analysis. The system has to be revamped. The DNA testing is one major part of it. Equipment has to be there, but we have to determine policy formulation to know how we are going to approach a criminal scene.

We have gone through the eyewitness accounts which are necessary. I call upon the Member for San Fernando East; the guardian angels need a little thing to boost them in the same way the crime stoppers got a little thing. The next thing I would hear is that the guardian angels would get a couple million dollars, because it was the guardian angels who were able to give us the numbers of the regiment vehicles that went and beat the El Socorro residents. That is how we got it.

Mr. Ramnath: I know they beat UNC supporters.

Dr. F. Khan: They beat everybody, not just UNC supporters. There are people who belonged to the area who had called into the office and gave the information. Mr. Speaker, witness protection is very important. Mr. Trevor Paul was saying recently that it is important that we get an eyewitness account. When you have an eyewitness account—and as they say, “you give money and incentives for people like crime stoppers to bring evidence forward”. In the eyewitness account—they ask you to work on the family and friends of the neighbourhood because they are

the ones who are doing the report. You have to show them—rather than just only getting money—that if you are able to finger a criminal activity, however small it is, in the beginning you would be assisting that person from continuing a life of crime, so that he would no longer reach a certain level of armed robbery, rape and murder, and just normal robbery and assault. The mindset of the community that is close to that person has to change; once you could change that mindset then you could bring on board the eyewitness account—whistle blower is not a nice word; it is a word that is basically connotative with emotionally charged persons who are rats; and people do not like to be rats.

Mr. Speaker, the country on the whole is calling for a movement from the Government of the day, the PNM Government not to play politics—and we are not playing politics with this Motion—and to decide how we are really going to restructure, not only the removal of a Member of Parliament or a non-elected Member of Parliament but how are we going to restructure the movement in such a manner that persons be given their right to life, liberty, security and not to be deprived of it.

Recently, I read something about an upsurge in gated communities. Everybody wants to live in a gated community now. Why? Developers are using the crime upsurge in digging peoples' eyes out for cost of land and housing units because of the criminal activity that is going on. Gated communities have now become a watchword. The Opinion of the Daily *Express* of Wednesday, June 18 has also indicated "time for radical action on crime". It says:

"The times call for a major intervention to stem the rising crime rate in a small country with a population well short of a million and a half. The statistics are revealing enough. As of June 14, there were 39 more murders, compared with the same period last year; while the solution rate has been cut by almost half. Up to that time, there were 107 murders, a 57 per cent increase over the first six months of last year, when 68 murders were recorded.

Of the 68 murders last year, 31 were detected. This represented a 46 per cent solving rate. This year, however, only 29 of the 107 murders have been solved, representing a 27 per cent success rate, with the police explaining that the murder increase had to do with the rise in gang murders in Laventille, as did the decrease in the rate of arrests since many eyewitnesses were afraid to come forward because they fear for their lives."

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the speaking time of the Member has expired.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Dr. F. Khan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quote continues:

“Given past and tragic experience, this is not an unreasonable fear and, indeed, it highlights one area that cries out for official intervention. After the initial political hue and cry, the witness protection programme is in a state of near-collapse, with only a few ultimately unhappy people having been afforded any degree of security. The irresistible conclusion is that it was introduced by the then ruling United National Congress (UNC) mainly for its announcement value with little thought...”

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to attack the UNC with safe houses.

“...the natural restlessness of people who suddenly found their freedoms circumscribed, albeit voluntarily and, of course, the desperation of the alleged murderers who saw the live witnesses as the one threat to their freedom, if not their lives.

Moreover, it would also be a mistake to seek comfort by dwelling on the fact that most of the murders now happen to be...in Laventille...”

Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to get at is that we need properly put, properly directed protection of witnesses in any crime in this country. In this Motion, I am calling, one, for a gun amnesty, if it can be done, then there would be no tolerance after that period is finished. You would deal with them the same way it is done in Malaysia and in other places with respect to drugs and then the amnesty could be granted so that they would not have any excuse. Then you put a proper witness protection programme.

I would tell you something, Member for San Fernando East—because you are in the driver's seat now. I am making it known so that persons would understand. When I went to the bank one Friday night the bank machine took my credit card and there was this gentleman—I lost my credit card—stupidly or unstupidly—because I did not know about the system, so I decided to make noise. I got the papers to take in and people were aware now that this was a scam going on with this kind of show business. After a while there was about 20 or 30 persons calling, people saying that they were conned of \$30,000, \$40,000, all kinds of thousands of dollars. I was lucky so I suspected and called the bank early on Saturday morning. It did not stop there.

They apprehended the fellow. He was a soldier from the regiment, who was convicted of rape and different things—I would not call his name. We were called by the Members of the CID to identify this person. So they were going to take us to St. Vincent Street with the one-way mirrors. So we said, Okay. There were about 10 or 12 persons there. We went there thinking that we were going to be able to point out—through a one-way mirror—this person. When we reached there the officers apologized and told us that they could not do that because the offender has demanded that he use the confrontation letter. I asked if it was correct and he said, “Yes, that is his right.” He wanted to confront the people. So I said that this could not be right because this fellow is a massive fellow and he knows who we are. So we said “Okay, I would confront him”, and I said, “If you all want to come, just come.” So we were escorted to Henry Street. One by one we went in. There was a police officer and a Justice of the Peace. The police officer asked: Is this the man? You have to go up and touch the man. The man stood up. He was about 6 feet 7 inches tall and he watched as if he wanted to kill you. I told myself yes, this is the man. But what is really going to happen to these other people who have to come and touch this fellow. That is why he was always getting away. He utilized the legal system of confrontation to intimidate and we have to do something about this, because he got bail and would now go back and terrorize the people. So, Mr. Speaker, suppose somebody is a murderer; you know he shot and killed somebody and you have to go and identify that person. What has to be done is to put a proper witness protection system in place. [*Desk thumping*]

I heard my good friend, the Member for Laventille East/Morvant talk about the Police Service Reform Bill. Why not? We would support it. Put the Equal Opportunities Commission in place. If you do that I would support it. I am very serious. I would give you that undertaking. You cannot whitewash race relations in this country with research in the Centre for Ethnic Studies with a new person. It is a waste of time. Do not try to whitewash that. Put the Equal Opportunities Commission in place and I would support the Police Service Reform Bill.

Mr. Speaker, my time is almost up and I have decided, in a brief intervention, to call for certain points that I think this Motion should represent. Mr. Speaker, I want to go to one new point. This is a good looking picture of the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre and myself working—

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Speaker, obviously, the hon. Member is not going to finish in a short while and, therefore, I beg to move that the House do

Adjournment
[HON. K. VALLEY]

Friday, June 27, 2003

now adjourn to Friday, July 04, 2003 at 1.30 p.m. So he would get another chance to continue at the end of July.

Mr. Speaker, may I inform the Chief Whip and other Members on that side that on July 04 we would debate, firstly, the Pharmacy Board (Amdt.) Bill 2003, by the Minister of Health. Secondly, the Customs (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2003, by the Minister of Finance. On the Order Paper there would be amendments to the Kidnapping Bill coming from the other place.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked by Dr. Adesh Nanan (Tabaquite):

2002 SEA Examination (Names of Students Upgraded)

105. Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the names of the students who were upgraded following complaints by their parents to the placement of their children following the 2002 SEA examination and identify the secondary schools involved?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House.

Every year, the Ministry of Education entertains queries related to student performance and placement based on the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examination. Of the twenty-one thousand, four hundred and forty eight (21,448) students who wrote the SEA in 2002, the Ministry of Education received two hundred and twelve (212) requests for reviews. These requests for review were received during the period July 05, 2002 to December 13, 2002. The deadline date for the Requests for Review was initially given as 2002 July 22.

The procedure adopted by the Ministry of Education in relation to these reviews is as follows:-

- (a) applications for review were completed at the point of registration of the student at the secondary school to which he/she was assigned or the applications were completed at the district office in the area where the

secondary school is located or the application was completed at the SEA Transfer office of the Head Office of the Ministry of Education.

- (b) The SEA Transfer Committee chaired by the Chief Education Officer met to appraise all of the applications which were received and to verify the accuracy of the information on the forms completed.
- (c) All reviews were then referred to the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) with headquarters in Barbados. The CXC is the examination body responsible for the setting, marking and reviewing of the SEA.

Of the two hundred and twelve (212) requests which were received for review and processed by the CXC, only fifty-six (56) students qualified for re-assignment to other secondary schools. Of those fifty-six (56) only forty-nine (49) have actually been re-assigned to date.

The list of students who have qualified for re-assignment and have been placed is attached at Appendix A.

The list of students who have qualified for re-assignment but who have not yet been re-assigned is attached at Appendix B.

APPENDIX A

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT 2002
RESULTS OF REVIEWS**

Table I - Students who were re-assigned

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School to which Originally Assigned	School to which Re-assigned
1.	Adams, Marisa M.	17608	San Fernando Senior Comprehensive	Holy Faith Convent, Penal
2.	Arjoonsingh, Sheldon	17610	San Fernando Senior Comprehensive	San Fernando Government Secondary
3.	Baksh, Steffi-Ann	02976	Bishop Anstey High School (East)	Holy Name Convent
4.	Balgobin, Mark Gabriel	01391	Cunupia High School	Hillview College
5.	Balkisson Delia E.	17612	ASJA Girls' College	Naparima Girls' High School
6.	Chinaleong, Teneshar	09376	Five Rivers Junior Secondary	El Dorado Secondary
7.	Chunilal, Naressa D.	01402	Saraswati Girls' High	Couva Government Secondary
8.	Dass, Megan I.	17617	ASJA Girls' College	Naparima Girls' High School
9.	Deokiesingh, Sinead S.	18304	San Fernando Government Secondary	St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School to which Originally assigned	School to which Re-assigned.
10.	Fairchild, Kristie S.	07596	St. James Government Secondary	St. Francois Girls' College
11.	Figaro, Safiya K.	16526	Princes Town Junior Secondary	Cowen Hamilton Secondary
12.	Gayadeen, Vincent	17621	Iere High School	Naparima Boys' College
13.	Gillezeau, Melody A.	17622	St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando	St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando **
14.	Goordeen, Navin A.	17623	St. Stephen's College	Naparima Boys' college
15.	Hackett, Sinead K.	05562	Diego Martin Government Secondary	St. Francois Girls' College
16.	Harding, Alysia E. M.	04630	Diego Martin Government Secondary	Providence Girls' High School
17.	Hunte, Jonathan D.	05565	St. Anthony's College	Fatima College
18.	Jennings, Christopher	12509	Curepe Junior Secondary	El Dorado Secondary Comprehensive
19.	Jobe, Tonia	07618	South East Port of Spain Secondary	St. Francois Girls' College
20.	King, Reuel	07476	St. Anthony's College	Fatima College

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School to which Originally assigned	School to which Re-assigned.
21.	Khan, Sean D.	07474	St. Anthony's College	Trinity College, Moka
22.	Koongebeharry, Meera	17628	San Fernando Government Secondary	ASJA Girls' College San Fernando
23.	Logie, Giovan G.	17629	Presentation College San Fernando	Presentation College San Fernando
24.	Lutchman, Trianna	04592	Bishop Anstey High School	St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain
25.	Magloire, Danielle G.	00571	Diego Martin Government Secondary	Providence Girls' High School
26.	Mahabir, Randell J.	18352	St. Benedict's College	Naparima Boys' College **
27.	Mahabir, Rydell J.	18353	St. Benedict's College	Naparima Boys' College **
28.	Mohammed, Kiberly K.	18367	ASJA Girls' College San Fernando	St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando
29.	Mohammed, Kryston R. S.	17631	St. Benedict's College	Naparima Boys' College
30.	Mohammed, Shahana R.	18369	Debe High School	San Fernando Government Secondary

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School to which Originally assigned	School to which Re-assigned.
31.	Mohan, Nalini	04711	Providence Girls' High School	Providence Girls' High School **
32.	Parag, Shivesh V.	17632	ASJA Boys' College San Fernando	Naparima Boys' College
33.	Persad, Amrish	16017	San Fernando Government Secondary	St. Stephen's College
34.	Price, Joel B.	7008	Belmont Boys' Secondary	St. Anthony's College
35.	Quan Soon, Kristina L.	16751	Cowen Hamilton Secondary	St. Stephen's College
36.	Ragbir, Alphonsus J. L.	17633	Cowen Hamilton Secondary	St. Benedict's College
37.	Rajaram, Sharada T.	17634	Gasparillo Composite	St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando
38.	Ramharack, Mikhail O.	10149	Five Rivers Junior Secondary	North Eastern College
39.	Ramnath, Keenan D. R.	17636	San Fernando Senior Comprehensive	St. Benedict's College
40.	Ramoutar, Nadia R.	18201	San Fernando Senior Comprehensive	San Fernando Government Secondary
41.	Rampersad, Reshma O.	11081	St. Dominic's Convent	Barataria Senior Comprehensive
42.	Ramsundar, Jyoti S. S.	01469	Couva Government Secondary	St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School to which Originally assigned	School to which Re-assigned
43.	Rooplalsingh, Shivani	17638	ASJA Girls' College San Fernando	St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando
44.	Sammy, Sian T.	08660	Lakshmi Girls' Hindu College	St. Augustine Girls' High School
45.	Seepersad, Shivani D. R.	16781	Tableland Government High	Cowen Hamilton Secondary
46.	Smart, Sherelle L.	17639	Gasparillo Composite	Holy Faith Convent, Penal
47.	Stephens. Crystal	04434	Daniell's Educational Community	Woodbrook Government Secondary
48.	Thompson, Ruqayyah A.	12425	El Dorado Secondary	St. George's College
49.	Williams, Alyssa T.	07701	Providence Girls' High School	St. Joseph's Convent Port of Spain

** Students were initially selected to attend the school on the twenty (20%) per cent allocation to Principals of Assisted Schools. However, on the review, the student would have been assigned to the school on the eighty (80%) per cent allocation.

APPENDIX B

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT – RESULTS OF REVIEWS
STUDENTS WITH INCREASED SCORES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RE-ASSIGNED

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School of Original Assignment	School for Proposed Re-assignment	Remarks
1.	Goindoo, Ritchell	8206	South East Port of Spain Secondary	Bishop Anstey High school	No additional spaces in Form I
2.	Ramroop, Neisha S.	12423	ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna	Tunapuna Government Secondary	No additional spaces in Form I
3.	Sawh, Barindra V.	20279	San Fernando Government Secondary	Naparima Boys' College	No additional spaces in Form I
4.	Henry, Tyann A.	12544	Arima Government Secondary	Bishop Anstey High School (East)	Will repeat the SEA
5.	Mangalee, Varune	3003	Vishnu Boys' Hindu college	Hillview College	Will repeat the SEA
6.	Peru, Nalini J.	04646	Daniell's Educational Community	St. James Government Secondary	Opted to remain in attendance at Daniell's

No.	Student Name	Student No.	School of Original Assignment	School for Proposed Re-assignment	Remarks
7.	Gaff, Natasha	8367	Daniell's Educational Community	Tranquillity Government Secondary	Opted to remain in attendance at Daniell's.

**Primary Schools Approved Textbooks
(2002—2003)**

110. Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the approved textbooks used in primary schools for the years 2002—2003?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

The following are the texts which have been approved for use in primary schools over the period 2002 – 2003. In accordance with the existing procedures in the Ministry of Education, these books were reviewed by the Textbook Evaluation Committee prior to being placed on the list of approved textbooks.

Name of Text	Author
Trinidad and Tobago New Republic Readers Infants to Standard V	Frank M. Porter
Integrated Mathematics for Primary Schools – A Problem Solving Approach	K. Parmanand, D. Harbukhan and D. Seegobin
The Junior Dictionary	Lindsay Knight and Andrew Delahunty

Name of Text	Author
Longman Active Study Dictionary (New Edition)	--
Longman School Atlas for Social Studies, Geography and History (3 rd Edition)	--
Macmillan Caribbean Junior Atlas	--

**Computers Received by Schools
(2002—2003)**

111. Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the schools that have received computers from the ministry over the years 2002—2003?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

Two hundred (200) computers have been distributed to ninety- six (96) secondary schools between 2002 – 2003. In addition, thirty-three (33) primary schools from all educational districts received computers during the same period. The list of secondary schools which have received computers from the Ministry of Education is detailed **first** followed by the list of primary schools by educational district and the total number of computers.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

CARONI EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	ASJA Boys' College
2.	ASJA Girls' College

No.	School
3.	Aranguez Junior Secondary School
4.	Barataria Junior Secondary School
5.	Barataria Secondary Comprehensive School
6.	Carapichaima Junior Secondary School
7.	Carapichaima Senior Comprehensive School
8.	Couva Junior Secondary School
9.	Cunupia High School
10.	Holy Faith Convent, Couva
11.	Miracle Ministries Pentecostal High School
12.	Presentation College, Chaguanas
13.	Saraswati Girls' Hindu College
14.	St. George's College
15.	Vishnu Boys' College
16.	Waterloo High School
TOTAL	27 computers

NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	Holy Cross College
2.	SWAHA College
3.	Valencia North Secondary School
4.	Malabar Composite School
TOTAL	8 computers

PORT OF SPAIN AND ENVIRONS EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	Belmont Boys' Secondary School
2.	Belmont Junior Secondary School
3.	Bishop Anstey High School
4.	Diego Martin Junior Secondary School (no computers)
5.	Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive School
6.	Sixth Form Government Secondary School
7.	South East Port of Spain Secondary School
8.	St. Anthony's College

No.	School
9.	St. Mary's College
10.	Success/Laventille Composite School
11.	Tranquillity Government Secondary School
12.	Excel Composite School
13.	St. Pierre Composite School
TOTAL	26 computers

ST. GEORGE EAST EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	Curepe Junior Secondary School
2.	Five Rivers Junior Secondary School
3.	Hillview College
4.	Lakshmi Girls' Hindu college
5.	Malick Secondary Comprehensive School
6.	San Juan Secondary Comprehensive School
7.	St. Augustine Girls' High School
8.	St. Augustine Senior Secondary Comprehensive School

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No.	School
9.	St. Joseph's Convent
10.	Blanchisseuse High School
11.	ASJA Girls' College
TOTAL	22 computers

ST. PATRICK EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	Point Fortin Junior Secondary School
2.	Siparia Junior Secondary School
3.	Penal Junior Secondary School
4.	Cedros Composite School
5.	Fyzabad Composite School
6.	Siparia Senior Comprehensive School
7.	Vessigny Government Secondary School
8.	Iere High School
9.	Palo Seco Government Secondary School
10.	Shiva Boys' Hindu College

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No.	School
11.	Holy Faith Convent, Penal
12.	Holy Name Convent, Point Fortin
13.	Point Fortin Senior Secondary School
14.	Fyzabad A. C. Secondary School
TOTAL	28 computers

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	Barrackpore ASJA Girls' College
2.	Mayaro Composite School
3.	Moruga Composite School
4.	Princes Town Junior Secondary School
5.	Princes Town Senior Comprehensive School
6.	Rio Claro College
7.	St. Stephen's College
TOTAL	14 computers

TOBAGO

No.	School
1.	Black Rock/Bon Accord Secondary School Centre
2.	Roxborough Secondary School Centre
3.	Scarborough Secondary School Centre
TOTAL	30 computers

** The Education Division of the Tobago House of Assembly has indicated that they have already provided computers for the administration of their schools. They have requested that computers be provided for laboratories only.

VICTORIA EDUCATION DISTRICT

No.	School
1.	ASJA Boys' College
2.	ASJA Girls' College
3.	Presentation College, San Fernando
4.	Naparima Girls' College
5.	Corinth Sixth Form College
6.	Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School
7.	San Fernando East Junior Secondary School

No.	School
8.	Naparima College
9.	St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando
10.	San Fernando Secondary Comprehensive School
11.	St. Benedict's College
12.	Marabella Senior Comprehensive School
13.	Gasparillo Composite School
14.	Parvati Girls' Hindu College
TOTAL	28 computers

LIST OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH RECEIVED COMPUTERS

CARONI EDUCATION DISTRICT	NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION DISTRICT
Longdenvile Government Primary School	Guaico Government Primary School
Warrenville T. I. A. Primary School	Sangre Grande Seventh Day Adventist Primary School
Edinburgh Government Primary School	Cumana R. C. School
3 computers	3 computers

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PORT OF SPAIN AND ENVIRONS EDUCATION DISTRICT	ST. GEORGE EAST EDUCATION DISTRICT
St. Agnes A. C. Primary School	Bourg Mulatresse R. C. Primary School
Gloster Lodge Moravian Primary School	La Pastora Government Primary School
La Puerta Government Primary School	Arima Centenary Government Primary School
Laventille Boys' Government Primary School	San Juan Boys' Government Primary School
Chinapoo Government Primary School	Maloney Government Primary School
Point Cumana R. C. School	Arouca Government Primary School
Eastern Boys' Government Primary School	
Nelson Street Boys' R. C. Primary School	
8 computers	6 computers

ST. PATRICK EDUCATION DISTRICT	SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION DISTRICT
Eric R. C. School	Mafeking Government Primary School
Santa Flora Government Primary School	Sixth Company A. C. Primary School
2 computers	2 computers

TOBAGO	VICTORIA EDUCATION DISTRICT
L'Anse Fourmi Methodist Primary School	San Fernando Girls' Government Primary School
Hope A. C. Primary School	Pleasantville Government Primary School
Signal Hill Government Primary School	Mayo R. C. Primary School
	Tabaquite R. C. Primary School
	Anstey Memorial Girls' A. C. Primary School
	San Fernando Methodist Primary School
3 computers	6 computers

**Secondary Schools Under Construction
(Reasons for Delay)**

112. Would the hon. Minister of Education provide a list of the secondary schools under construction that have been delayed and indicate the reasons for the delay?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

There are nine (9) assisted secondary schools which are scheduled for construction in 2003. They are as follows:

1. Vishnu Boys' Hindu College
2. Charlieville ASJA Boys' College

3. Charlieville ASJA Girls' College
4. Sangre Grande SWAHA Hindu College
5. Barrackpore ASJA Girls' College
6. Miracle Ministries Pentecostal High School
7. Tunapuna ASJA Girls' College
8. Holy Name Convent, Point Fortin and
9. Saraswati Girls' Hindu College

Construction has begun on five (5) of the nine (9) schools and the progress of the works on three (3) of these schools has been slow due to the delays in certification of the valuations for payments and payment of the certificates. The three (3) schools thus affected are as follows:-

1. Vishnu Boys' Hindu College
2. Sangre Grande SWAHA Hindu College, and
3. Barrackpore ASJA Girls' College.

Of the four (4) schools remaining, tender documents for one (1) school – Miracle Ministries Pentecostal High School—are being evaluated. The tender documents for the other three schools listed have not been submitted by the respective denominational Boards of Management to date. These schools are:

1. Tunapuna ASJA Girls' College
2. Holy Name Convent, Point Fortin, and
3. Saraswati Girls' Hindu College

A comprehensive Progress Report is attached at **Appendix A**.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF SCHOOLS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SCHOOL	SCOPE OF WORKS	STATUS	REASONS FOR DELAYS
Vishnu Boys' Hindu College	Construction of Phase I	10 % completed	Outstanding payments of TT\$3,024, 122.00 to be made
Charlieville ASJA Boys' College	Construction of Phase II	65% completed	No delay
Charlieville ASJA Girls' College	Construction of Phase II	65% completed	No delay
Sangre Grande SWAHA Hindu College	Construction of School	45% completed	Outstanding payment of TT\$2,346,836.00 to be made
Barrackpore ASJA Girls' College	Construction of Phase I	45% completed	Outstanding payments of TT\$2,430,000.00 to be made.
Miracle Ministries Pentecostal High School	Construction of School	Not started	Tender documents submitted by the Board of Management on April 22, 2003. Documents are being evaluated. Decision expected by the end of May 2003
Tunapuna ASJA Girls' College	Construction of School	Not started	Awaiting tender documents from Board of Management. Expected to be submitted by the end of May, 2003.

SCHOOL	SCOPE OF WORKS	STATUS	REASONS FOR DELAYS
Holy Name Convent, Point Fortin	Construction of School	Not started	Awaiting tender documents from the Board of Management. Expected to be submitted before the end of May, 2003.
Saraswati Girls' Hindu College	Construction of School	Not started	Awaiting tender documents from Board of Management. Expected to be submitted on June 03, 2003.

The following question was asked by Mr. Manohar Ramsaran (Chaguanas):

**Flood Victims
(Compensation Details)**

- 111.** (a) Would the hon. Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Social Services) provide a list of the names of the persons in receipt of flood relief compensation in the areas of Caroni Village, Frederick Settlement, Warrentville, Endeavour, Guayamare and Bejucal as a result of the flooding that occurred in November and December 2002?
- (b) Would the hon. Minister state whether settlement of all claims have been effected?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

- (a) The list of names of persons in receipt of flood relief assistance in the areas of Caroni (Guayamere), Frederick Settlement, Warrentville, Chaguanas (Endeavour) and Cunupia (Bejucal) has been lodged with the Clerk of the House.

- (b) Not all requests for flood relief assistance have been honoured to date. Those which were not honoured were due to the following reasons:
- i. Duplication of requests, in that several requests were received from the same persons, with some bearing different descriptions of the damage suffered while others had applications for different amounts. There were also several applications from the same household.
 - ii. Some requests are still being investigated in terms of dates of submission to the relevant authorities.
 - iii. Requests that were not verified, despite several visits by personnel from the Regional Corporations, as the applicants were not present at the time of such visits.
 - iv. There were requests, which were submitted with neither a description of the damage nor the quantum of damage suffered.

WARRENVILLE

AMEENA ALI

ANSAR ALI

SHIROON ALI

RAKEEMA ALI-SUDAN

DONMAN ANOOP

DINESH M BADAL

ATWARIA BALGOBIN

GYANMATTEE BALKARAN

NEELA BALKARAN

RITA BAYNES

YASMIN BELLE

CHERYL MAHABIR

GANSHYAM MAHABIR

GUMTI MAHABIR

JASPAUL MAHADEO

JAIKARAN RAGBIR

DOON RAGOOBAR

RAMESH RAGOOBAR

CHANROUTIE RAGOONATH

CAROL RAMDASS

MANDIAL RAMDEEN

SAVITRI RAMDHANIE

Written Answers to Questions

STEVE BENNY
MICHAL BOODOO
RHONDA V. BOODRAM
BRENDA K. BOODRAN-SEENATH
JOHN CEPHAS
RANU CHARRAN
ELLIN DAVIS
SIEUKUMARIE SEOKARAN
LEELA DEOLAL
MACDONALD ECCLES
JANE FRANKLIN
KELVIN FRANKLIN
JANETTE S. GREAVES
RUPNARINE HARIPERSAD
ANTHONY B. HARPER
EVELYN HARRIPAUL
ANDREA P. HAYNES
KENT HAYNES
MARLON HAYNES
ASHA HENDRICKSON-SEENATH

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PRAKASH O. RAMDIAL
LIZA D. RAMGOOLIE
HIMRAGIE RAMLOGAN
MERLYN E. RAMNANAN
HEMRAJIE RAMPERSAD
RUPCHAN RAMPERSAD
TARA RAMPERSAD
RADAY RAMPOOP
PATRICIA RAMROOP-SAMUEL
SUSANA RAMTAHAL
VERONICA RAYMOND
JOSEPH REYES
LYNCIER R. REYES
KERRY-ANN R. SAMAROO
DONNA SAMUEL
PATRICK SAMUEL
PETER SAMUEL
WILFRED SAMUEL
YANDATH SEEGOLAM
SHERRY ANN SEENATH

Written Answers to Questions

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KEITH JACOB
LENNOX JACOB
NATHAN JACOB
PAUL JACOB
GAIL JAGROO
COSNELL JAMES
DEOKIE S. JANKIE
LATOYA R. JOHNSTON
NANKI JOSEPH
ANNA KHAN
ASSIM KHAN
DAISY PABLO
TERRENCE PABLO
DILLON SUDAN
DANIEL SUNDARSINGH
PATRICIA RAYMOND
HAMAWATI RAMNARINE
RANDY RAGBARSINGH
KIMRAJ ROOP
POORAN RAMDIAL

SUMARIAH SEERAJ
ANTHONY SOOKHAI
RICHARD SOOKWAH
SIMON SUDARSINGH
ANDY THOMPSON
VANESSA WILLIAMS
BUDHIA MATABADAL
ELDICA M.C KETNIE
FEROZA MOHAMMED
JOEL MOHAMMED
JOHN NIDHAM
SUZETTE KHAN
NAMDEO LALL
ASHLEY A. HARRACK
ETWARIA JACOB
NNEEL KHAN
DEORAJ KOON KOON
IVAN MACK
KAMACHY MADAR
RICKY MADAR

Written Answers to Questions

DIANE SOODEEN
INDRA SOODEEN
HINDAI RAGOONATH
BHEDIA RAMBARAN
NEIL PERSAD
VICTORIA MOHAMMED
FARAH N MOONSAMMY
SAMDWAYE LALCHAN
CANDY JAGESAR
RAGOONATH BUDREE
LYSTRAN BUNSEE BABOOLAL
RUSSEL WILLIAMS
LUTCHMIE RAMNARINE
ASTA ALEXANDER
MUMTAZ ALI
HAZARA SHARON ALI-SUDAN
SHAWN BABOOLAL
RARHA BALKARAN
TOY M. BALROOP
SANDRA B. BALROOP

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ISLINE MADH00
PAUL MAHABIR
FARIA N. MAHADEO
RAGENDRANATH J. MAHARAJ
MONA MOHAMED
NOREEN MOHAMMED
DAVID NILES
BRIM PARTAP
PHULMATI RAGBIR
GOOLCHARRAN RAMNARINE
PHOOLBASSIA RAMROOP
PROORANDAYE RAMSAHAI
DANNY RAMSAROOP
RICHARD RAMSAROOP
NATRANIE ROOPCHAND
HAROLD S. SANKAR
LILAUTIE SAROOP
ARANDAYE SINANAN
SHARAMRAJ SOOKHAR
JOSEPH SUNDARSINGH

*Written Answers to Questions**Friday, June 27, 2003*

POURANDAIE BOODHAN
LOLITA BOODOO-ALI
VIGIYATIMALA BOODOO
PADMINI BRIDGELAL
VICTORIA BUDHI
SAMUEL SHARLES
MELISSA CHOON
DENISE DAVIS-PRIMAL
SHAMERA SEENMADAR
BEENA DEONARINE
SHEILA DEONARINE
NAMDEO GOBIN

KENNETH SUNDARSINGH
CARL TOUSSAINT

CHAGUANAS

MANNIRAM BACHOO
BISSOONDAYE BALDEO
SOOKRAM BHAGWANDASS
SUGDAYAH BOODOO
SUMARIA DEONARINESINGH
CARL EMMANUEL

SOOMARIA ALBERT
HANIFF ALI
NATALIE ALI
ZAIRA ALI
IMZAN ALI
SHAZAMUDEEN ALI

Written Answers to Questions

ANDY GANGARAM
DAVID GANGARAM
POORAN GANGARAM
SAMDAYE GOOMANDIN
NEELA KATHAN
OMAN MAHARAJ
JAGESSAR MANGROO
SYBIL SOHAMMED
DEXTER NANDLAL
JASSODRA RAMNANAN
BATCHIA RAMCHARAN
PETER RAMPERSAD
SANDY RAMPERSAD
MAHADAI RAMSEWAK
SANDRA RUDAL
GUNNESS SAMAROO
NARESH SAMLALSINGH
LACKPATEE SAMUEL
SOOKRAM SEECHARAN
GANGARAM SIEUDASSIE

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BABOORAM AMRATH
SONNYLAL AMRATH
JAI AMRATH
LALITA ANOOP
BIRBAL BHAGWANDIN
KIMEMA BONAPARTE
POORAN BOODOO
SAMAROO BOODOO
RAWIE CRAIG
HARRINATH DANIEL
JOSEPH DANIEL
DANNY DEEPAN
RIA DHANESSAR
MANGAREE DWARIKA
ELROY NERO
RAMESAR GAYADIN
LEO C GILL
BASDAYE S GOPAUL
LALA HARRYLAL
PATRICK HERBERT

*Written Answers to Questions**Friday, June 27, 2003*

MOHAN BALROOP
CARL JAGESAR
BHAGWANDAI JIWAN
LILAWATEE JOHN
JAMEER KHAN
GEETA MAHARAJ
KRISHNA MALLOORAM
NORMA MANGAL
JOYCE MANICKRAM
NEAL MARAJ
DEBORAH MCMILLAN
RAMDAI SAMAROO
BOODRAM RAMDATH
BASDEO S RAMDHANIE
DHANMATIE RAMDIAL
JOHN RAMKISSOON
BAINMATIE RAMLAL
JOANNE RAMLAL
SYBLE RAMLOCHAN
MAHADEO RAMLOGAN

AZAD HOSEIN
SUNARDAYE MOHAMMED
DHANDAY NANCOO
RAMDEO NARINESINGH
ANGINITA W NOEL
DULSIE OLIVIERI
SONIA PERSAD
RIKKI PERSAD
ANNETTE PREDDIE
SARA V PREDDIE
LAXMI RAMA
LINDA RAMA
VAGREM RAMPERSAD
VIDYA RAMSUBHAG
MANIRAM ROOPLAL
ARUM SALICKRAM
ANTHONY SAMAROO
TERENCE W SAMULA
KAREN SINGH
AWADH SINGH

Written Answers to Questions

RAMDEO RAMNARINE
PAMELA SOOKNANAN
ZORLENA SOOKNANAN
BOODRAM SOOKRAJ
DOLLO SOOKRAM

MIDA ALI
SOOKDAYE BOCAS
RAJNARINE CHAN
NAVIN CHAN
DALCHAN DUKERAN
GERALD DEONARINE
DHANRAJ GAYAPERSAD
ANTOINETTE JAIKARAN
YUSUFF KHAN
BISHNA LALCHAN
SAMDAYE LALCHAN
SOMARI LALCHAN

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DOLLIN SOOKDEO
JOHN SOOKDEO
PAMELA SUTTON
LYNETTE P THOMAS
PAKOO TULSERAM
LANGRIDGE VEERASAMMY

CUNUPIA

DOODNATH LATCHMAN
DOODNATH MAHADEO
GLORIA MAHARAJ
AZIZA MOHAMMED
ZAID MOHAMMED
ZORINA MOHAMMED
RANGASAMMY PONEN
JOSEPH RAMKEESON
KATHYANN ROSS PERSAD
JAIRAM RAMNARINE
POORAN SAMAROO
YASMEEN SEERAJ

FREDERICK SETTLEMENT

SURESH SIEWAH	SAHADEO BAHADOOR
TARA BERNARD	LOLIT BAHADUR
KRISHNA BERNARD	RAMKISSOON BAJNATH
SOBHARAM BERNARD	RAMJIT BALKARAN
TARAMATEE DAVIS	SENITA BALKARANSINGH
TULARAM HARRYCHARAN	LUCY L. PAUL BARASINGHA
JUGUNDAYE HARRICHARAN	MUKHRAM BARRAN
SHERIZA MOHAMMED	KISSOONDAYE BEDASSIE
KALAWATEE BANDOOR	RAMDAYE BEDASSIE
BASDEO RAMSARAN	RAMESH BEHARRYLALL
JOSEPH FAZAL ALI	KRISHNA BERNARD
RAMDAI B. BACHAN	POORAN BERNARD
BHANMATIE BROWN	RONALD BHOLA
RAVINDATH BUCHOON	KUMARIE BISNATH
RESHMA CHARRAN	REENA BISNATH
SUSHMA HARRICHARAN	ROOKMIN BISNATH
VISHMA HARRICHARAN	ROWTIE BOOCHOON
JUGANDAYE HARRICHARAN	VISHNU BOOCHOON
TUCARAM HARRYCHARRAM	MALA BOODRAM

Written Answers to Questions

CARL JOSEPH
JEWAN KOONOLAL
DEWAN KOONOLAL
SAVITRI KOONOLAL
SEETA KOONOLAL
SHANTI KOONOLAL
VALENTINE MC SWEEN
ROY PARKS
MALTEE RAGHOO
LILAWATIE RAMJATTAN
BHARAJ RAMSAMMAY
KESTON THOMPSON
RAZACK ABDOOL
CAROL PEARL AJODHA
CYNTHIA AJODHA
DOLIYA DHANMATIE AJODHA
VICTORIA ALI
DAVID AMOGAN
SHANTIE AMOGAN
KAMAL ARJOON

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MULCHAN SAINI BOODRAM
CHATESINGH BRIDGLAL
BERNARD BROWNE
RAMRATTAN BUCHOON
NICOLE CHIATRAM-DABAN
EDWARD CHARLES
MOLLY CHATTERPAUL SINGH
SHERWIN DAVE DABYDEEN
TARAMATEE DASS
IVY DEONARINE
DUKARAN DHABAN
ROSEY DIPSINGH
CYNTRA DOON
FAIDAL ECCLES
INDIRA ELAHIE-SHAH
CHRISTOPHER ELCOCK
PAULETTE ELCOCK
TREVOR ELCOCK
RAMDAYE GANPAT
KRISHNA GOBINDA

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SIEWAH BABWAH
SOOLERAM BABWAH
BASDEO BAHADOOR
SADHNA GUPTA
DIANNE HERNANDEZ
LUENDA HOGAN
JAFFER HOSEIN
KAZIM HOSEIN
RAZUL HOSEIN
RHODA HUTCHINSON
SAVITRI KUMARIE HUTCHINSON
CARLYLE HUTCHINSON
AVALON ISAAC
PAMELA LOPEZ JACKSON
MYRTLE JACOB
SITA JAIPAULSINGH
SHIRLEY JOBE
ANSUL INDRAWATI JOHN
DOLLY KALLOO
KAMINI KALLOO

REOTIE GOBINDA
SAMUEL GOPAUL
ROSEMIN GOSEIN
RADICA KUMARIE MAHADEO
CHANDARICKA MANACK
JAGRAM MANPAUL
CHANDRA ROOKIM MARAJ
CARMEN MARAJH
HAZEL MARCOVICHE
CHERYL-ANN BARDINE MC DONALD
DAVE MC DONALD
PAMELA MC DONALD
TERRANCE MC DONALD
FYZIL MOHAMMED
HAZRA MOHAMMED
MAIROON MOHAMMED
NALINI MOHAMMED
RASHEEDA MOHAMMED
VERA MOHAMMED
YASMEEN MOHAMMED

Written Answers to Questions

SOOMATTEE PARO KALLOO
NEISHA ANITA KALLOO-SANKAR
POLO KANGAL
SAHDEO KANGAL
ISHWAR KANHAI
JASODRA KANHAI
KAMLA KANHAI
SOMARIA KANHAI
SAHEDAN HAZRA KARIM
GUPTEE KATOO
FAZREEN KHAN
SHARZAN KHAN
RAMPIARE KHANHAI
KIMRATIE RAMPERSAD
COLLEEN JOY LA FOREST
GRACE LA FOREST-LIVERPOOL
DHURPATEE TEEKA-LAKHAN
RAJKUMAR LALLA
GEORGE LEWIS
NICOLE ANN LOUBON JEFFERY

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BASDAYE MOOKRAN
KALAUTIE MOONSAMMY
EMELIA MORRIS
KEDAR MYKOO
MALTIE MYKOO
GEETA NABIJOHN
MYMOON NABIJOHN
SABINA RAHNI NANDLAL
LEELA NARINE
SANDRA NARINE
ROSALIND NARINESINGH
VOSHIST PANDAY
BHAGWANDAY PARASRAM
BETTY-ANN PARSOTAN-BOASANT
VEETA PERSAUD
INDRA POPAN
ANNETTE PRESCOTT
SHASTRI RAGBIR
DHANRAJIE RAGOO
JAI RAGOONANAN-SINGH

Written Answers to Questions

Friday, June 27, 2003

DENNIS LUTCHMAN
JOAN LUTCHMAN
LATA MAHABAL
NOKHAI MAHABAL-SANKAR
NARINA MAHABIR
ROOPNARINE RAMAYA
POLLY RAMBARAN
DOOLARIE RAMCHARAN
GAINDALAL SAMUEL RAMCHARAN
SUMINTRA COOARIE RAMCHARAN
SYTRA RAMCHARAN
ESTER RAMDEEN
GANESH RAMGOBIN
REENA RAMHARRACK
MOONIA RAMIAH
SAMDIAH RAMIAN
RAMDHANIE RAMIYA
KOONTIE RAMJITSINGH
RAMDASSYE RAMNARINE
SUSAN RAMNARINE

KRISHNA RAGOONANANSINGH
SOOKRANIE RAJKUMAR
ROGER RAJKUMAR
SEURAGIE RAM
SONIA RAM
RENOKHA SEWAHSINGH
COLLIN SHANKLIN
NICHOLAS SHANKLIN
SHANTI SOOKHAI
KRISHENDAYE SHORAB
KENNETH SIEWAH
SURESH LARRY SIEWAH
JAIKISHAN LAKRAJ SINGH
JEAN SINGH
MALA RAMROUTIE SINGH
RAJENDRA SINGH
RAM SINGH
GEETA SOOKHAI
BEESHARAM SOOKRAM
LINDA SUBRIAN

Written Answers to Questions

TOY RAMOUTAR
SAVITRI RAMOUTARSINGH
DEOCHAN RAMPERSAD
HAFEEZA RAMPERSAD
MERLE BHAGMAN RAMPERSAD
MOHANNE RAMPERSAD
HAMATE RAMSARAN
HAMID RAMSAWACK
LUKE RAMSAWAK
VERNON RAMSAWAK
BASDAYE RAMSOOBHAG
PARASRAM RAMSOOBHAG
NATALIE RAYSIDE
ROOKMIN RESALSINGH
EARLONE ANCISKA RICHARD
RODNEY VICTOR RICHARDS

MICHAEL RAMSINGH
MALTIE ROODAL
PRIMATEE ROODAL

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SYLVIA SUBRIAN
KOOMARIE TAMBIE
KATHY-ANN WALCOTT-WHYLE
CARL WELSH
MARISA RACHEAL WILLIAMS
BISSOONDIAL ROGERS
MAHADAYA BODIE SAMAROO
SANDRA SEEPERSAD
RAJMINIE SARRAN
GANGADAYE SEECHARAN
LALCHAN SEECHARAN
GHANSHAM SEEOBIN
IRENE SEECHARACK
RICKI SEECHARACK
SYLVIA SEECHARACK
BISSUNDAY SEEPERSAD

CARONI

SHAFFIRAN BAHADUR
FAIZA BAKSH
BIPTA BALROOP

Written Answers to Questions

Friday, June 27, 2003

VENATIUS WILLIAMS
ALLAN ABDOOL
CATHERINE ALEXANDER
EGBERT ALEXANDER
MARGARET ALEXANDER-DASSENT
KATIJA AH ALI
MYROON ALI
NAFESSA JOANNE ALI
RAJACK ALI
SAFFINA ALI
SHAZIR ALI
SHELDON SHAKEER ALI
ZAID ALI
ANDREA LISA ALLEN
KUMAREE ARJOON
SOOKRAJ ARJOON
CINDY ARJOONSINGH
RAMLAL BACHAM
BASDEO BACHAN
ELISE BACHAN

LATCHMIE BASDEO
KATHY LUTCHMIN
SHIRMATEE BEEPAT
KUMAR BHAGWANDEEN
ROGER T BHARATH
CINTRA BHOLA
GAWKARAN BHOLA
MOONA BHOLIN
DURPATEE BOODHRAM
NAWANIE NARAD BOODRAM
SINANAN PRETEE BOONDIAL
ALLAN CHAMBERS
ADESH NARENDRANATH CHANDLER
NIRMALA CHANDLER
SHANE CHASE
CHANDRA CHATOO
PHOOLIA SUMARIA CHOUTIE
SOOKHRANEE DABYDEEN
NANAN DAVID
DHANIRAM DINDIAL

Written Answers to Questions

HARRIRAM BACHAN
KUNTI BACHAN

SYLVIA MAHABIR DOOKRAN
JAGASSAR GARIB
KUBAIR GARIB
SANICHARIE GARIB
RUPATIE GHANY
SHAMEED GHANY
SHARIF GHANY
RAFEENA GOKOOL
ANESHA GOORAH
ANAND HARRYPERSAD
RAHAMUT HASSANALI
INDRA HEERALAL
MAHADEO HEERALAL
ROSABELLE HERRALAL
ENITE HOSEIN
SOOBAGIA JACKTOO
BASMATIE JAGGERNAUTH

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CHATAN DIPCHAN
VASHTIE DOLAM
BASDEO SINGH
JOHN S MITCHELL
ZAHURA MODIKHAN
ANESSA MOHAMMED
ISHA MOHAMMED
ISHMAEL MOHAMMED
SHAHEED MOHAMMED
WAHID MOHAMMED
RAMCHAND MOHAN
DOODNATH MOONSAMMY
ANJANIE MOONSAMMY-SAGAN
BISSOONDAYE NANAN
PARBATIE NANAN
HALIMA NARINESINGH
SHARDA ODIE
CARMEN PARINATH
RAVI PERSAD
ROHAN DHARMENDRA PERSAD

Written Answers to Questions

Friday, June 27, 2003

JASODRA JAFFERNATH
PRAKASH JAGGERNATH
JEAN JAIRAM
ADELINE FLORENCE JOSEPH
ANALISA JOSEPH
DEVON P JOSEPH
ELAINE G JOSEPH
VIOLET JOSEPH
JANKIE JULUM
SASHI KABEERA
PREETAM KABERA
DOOLIN KALLOO
SOOKDAYE KANHAI
HAZAROON KHAN
SAPOORA SHAN
SEEMA KISTOW
DAVINA PATRICIA KOTIAH
GALON LAKHAN
NOEL LALA
ALLISON LAU

SHERMA PERSAUD
JOSEPH PHILLIP
RANDOLPH PHILLIP
NARINE POLLUCKSINGH
CHERRY-ANN RAJKUMAR
PARMANAND RAMBALLY
HARRY RAMDIAL
SUBASI RAMDIAH
BASMATIE RAMHARACK
JANACE RAMHARRACK
KAMLAWATTE RAMHARACK
DULARIE RAMHARACK-LALLA
STELLA INDRANI RAMHARACK
BISSOON RAMKISSOON
CHARMAINE RAMKISSOON
DEO BALROOP RAMKISSOON
KALOUTIE RAMOUTAR
NISHA TARAMATEE RAMPERSAD
MAYGANTIE RATTAN
DILMATEE RAMRALTANSINGH

Written Answers to Questions

DEBORAH BERNADETTE LUCIEN
MONA MAHABIR
LOLITA MAHARAJ
BASDEO MARAJ
CRYSTAL SHIVANE MATHLIN
SHERRY-ANN SAMPSON
KAWATIE SAMSUNDAR
BABOONIE ROSAN
RANDOLPH SCOTT
NEELA SEEGOLAM
ALICIA SEENATH
DHANPAUL SEENATH
TOLLY SEENATH
MOLLY SEERAJ
DEONARINE SEURAJ
ANNTIAMEY NATASHA SHARPE
CLAUDETTE SINGH
DOOKHNIE SINGH
DIRLIP SINGH

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ROOPU RAMSINGH
RAMDAYE ROOPNARINE
BABY SAGAR
ROBERT SAGAR
MUKESH SAGRAMSINGH
LOUIS BRIAN STEWART
BETTY SUDWAH
NARINE SUGRIM
SURUJDAYE SUGRIM
ANN CATHRINE SULTON
ARNOLD WALTERS

RUSSELL SINGH
SAROJINI SINGH
AOKRAM SOHAN
POONIA SONNY
PRAEMATTEE SONNY
VARUN SOOKDEO
MALA MOHINI SOOKHAI

The following question were asked by Mr. Chandresh Sharma (Fyzabad):

**Oropouche Police Station
(Construction Details)**

- 145.** Would the hon. Minister of National Security and Rehabilitation please indicate when work will commence on the rebuilding of the Oropouche Police Station, and state:
- (i) the amount of moneys to be spent on same;
 - (ii) the names of contractors engaged for this purpose;
 - (iii) the details of works to be carried out?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

While the Ministry of National Security has included the rebuilding of the Oropouche Police Station among its priority projects in its Draft Estimates 2004, construction works can only commence when the necessary approval is granted and funds are released.

The budget estimate for completion of the Oropouche Police Station, including furniture and outfitting, is *TT\$4.5M*. The Ministry, in its Draft Estimates 2004, has requested the sum of *TT\$1.2M* for design and commencement of reconstruction works.

The Ministry is not in a position to engage Contractors at this point, however, as the invitation for tenders and the award of a contract are contingent upon approval of the draft estimates and the subsequent provision of funds.

In keeping with established procedures, the scheduled plan of works includes:

- a. Award of consultancy contract to design a new station and prepare tender drawings and bills of quantities;
- b. Demolition of the existing station building;
- c. Construction of a temporary building to house the officers during the reconstruction period;
- d. Construction of a new police station in accordance with the design drawings and contract documents.

**National Energy Skills Centre (NESC)
(Moneys/Grants/Donations for 2002)**

153. Would the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries provide a list of all moneys/grants/donations obtained by the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) for 2002 and indicate the donors and value of each donation?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the House:

The list of all the financial contributions to the National Energy Skills Centre for the year 2002:

Public Sector Investment Programme	-	14,817,000
Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago	-	2,481,000
Schlumberger Trinidad Incorporated	-	833,461
Trinidad and Tobago Methanol Company Limited	-	814,125

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BHP Billiton (Trinidad) Limited	-	629,000
Industrial Agencies Limited	-	25,000
Mc Enearney Motorist	-	2,000
Venture Production (Trinidad Limited)	-	1,000
Total	-	<u>\$19,602,586</u>