

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 11, 2012

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I have received communication from the following Members: Dr. Keith Rowley, Member of Parliament for Diego Martin West and Leader of the Opposition, who is currently out of the country and has asked to be excused from sittings of the House, during the period May 05—May 13, 2012; Mrs. Joanne Thomas, Member of Parliament for St. Ann's East, is also out of the country and has asked to be excused from sittings of the House, during the period May 08—22, 2012; Mrs. Nela Khan, Member of Parliament for Princes Town and Miss Alicia Hospedales, Member of Parliament for Arouca/Maloney are also out country and have asked to be excused from sittings of the House, during the period May 11—14, 2012; the hon. Dr. Fuad Khan, Member of Parliament for Barataria/San Juan has also asked to be excused from today's sitting of the House. The leave which the Members seek is granted.

PAPERS LAID

1. Annual audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 2011. [*The Minister of Housing and the Environment (Hon. Dr. Roodal Moonilal)*]

2. Annual audited financial statements of the Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation Limited for the year ended December 31, 2011. [*Hon. Dr. R. Moonilal*]
Papers No. 1 and 2 be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee.
3. Ninetieth Report of the Salaries Review Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Hon. Dr. R. Moonilal*]
4. Ninety-Fourth Report of the Salaries Review Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Hon. Dr. R. Moonilal*]

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 64. Miss Alicia Hospedales** (*Arouca/Maloney*) asked the hon. Minister of Education:

Can the Minister state:

- a) the number of teachers referred for discipline during the period June 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011;
- b) the reason for referral to the disciplinary committee;
- c) the number of cases that have been concluded for the same period; and
- d) the number of cases under judicial review?

Vide end of sitting for written reply.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

The Minister of Housing and the Environment (Hon. Dr. Roodal Moonilal): Mr. Speaker, the Government will answer question No. 60 on the Order Paper. I believe question No 89 was answered on the last occasion. We will ask for a deferral for questions No. 96 and No. 97 of one week. We will also circulate, today, the written answer to question No. 64.

Miss McDonald: Mr. Speaker, can the Government tell us when will questions No. 96 and No. 97 be submitted?

Mr. Speaker: He said one week from today.

Miss McDonald: One week from today.

Mr. Speaker: Next week. At the next sitting.

Mr. Sharma: [*Inaudible*] Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday—

Mr. Speaker: All right, Member for Fyzabad, we can count.

**Percentage of Salary Increases
(January 2006 to March 2012)**

96. Mr. Colm Imbert (*Diego Martin North/East*) asked the hon. Minister of Finance:

Could the Minister state what were the percentage increases in basic salary for workers at Petrotrin, TSTT and T&TEC for each year over the period January 2006 to March 2012?

**Chief Executive Officer or Equivalent Office)
(Total compensation package as of April 12, 2012)**

97. Mr. Colm Imbert (*Diego Martin North/East*) asked the hon. Minister of Finance:

Could the Minister state, without naming the office holders, the total compensation package, inclusive of salary and all allowances, as of April 12, 2012, paid to the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent office in the following State Enterprises/State Companies/Statutory Authorities:

- i) First Citizens Bank Limited;
- ii) Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited;
- iii) Tourism Development Company Limited;

- iv) Government Information Services Limited;
- v) Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited;
- vi) Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago;
- vii) Caribbean Airlines Limited;
- viii) Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission;
- ix) Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago;
- x) Airport Authority of Trinidad and Tobago;
- xi) National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago;
- xii) Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Questions, by leave, deferred.

**Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago
(Details of Money Expended)**

60. Miss Marlene McDonald (*Port of Spain South*) on behalf of Miss Alicia Hospedales (*Arouca/Maloney*) asked the hon. Minister of Sport:

Can the Minister state:

- a) how much money was expended by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago during the period May 1, to December 1, 2011 for:
 - i) National Sporting Organizations;
 - ii) Community Groups;
 - iii) Athletes;
 - iv) Other Organizations—provide a list of all the NSOs, community groups, athletes and organizations and the amount of money received by each from the SPORTT?

- b) Can the Minister list the regional grounds that received Cabinet approval?
- c) Can the Minister list the community recreational grounds where the upgrade work started or is in the process of being restarted?

The Minister of Sport (Hon. Anil Roberts): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first of all humbly apologize, on behalf of the People's Partnership Government, for having to defer this question, but as you can see it is quite extensive as we try to answer any and all questions as soon as possible. As you will know, Member for Point Fortin, we are doing a great job. We have not left 128 unanswered questions. Getting on to question No. 60. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, funds expended by the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited during period May 01 to December 01, 2011 and the recipients are detailed as follows:

National Sporting Organisations:

The National Basket Ball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago—\$413,145.86;

The Trinidad and Tobago Volley Ball Federation—\$690,844.49;

The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board—\$1,429,438.61.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cycling Federation— \$736,543.66;

The Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation—\$3,451,199;

The Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association—\$538,780.44;

The Trinidad and Tobago Rugby Football Union—\$61,230;

The National Association of Athletes Administrators—\$1,589,922.65;

The Tennis Association of Trinidad and Tobago—\$347,671.30;

The Trinidad and Tobago Rifle Association—\$70,292.50;

The Trinidad and Tobago Golf Association—\$191,510.50;

The Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association—and we say congratulations to Mr. Lewis qualifying for the Olympic Games for the first time [*Desk thumping*] in history—\$311,6—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Imbert: Rawl Barrow went to the Olympics—[*Interruption*]

Hon. A. Roberts: Rawl Barrow in sailing? No, he went to the States, but I will double check. I stand corrected, but they told me it is the first time.

Mr. Sharma: “Imbert ain’t know nothing bout sport.”

Hon. A. Roberts: No, we will double check. I will take the information.

Mr. Speaker: Please! No crosstalk.

Hon. A. Roberts: Good crosstalk, Sir.

The Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association—\$311,630.28;

The Amateur Swimming Association of Trinidad and Tobago—\$1,228,292.60. That also includes the sport of water polo;

The Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board—\$1,112,855.64;

The Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control—\$716,035.99 for a total of \$12,889,393.52.

The community groups who received funding from the Sport Company are as follows:

Assistance in prizes: hosting annual football competition, Fishing Pond—\$10,000;

Official stipend: assistance hosting football competition, Fishing Pond—\$2,640;

Annual sports and family day, Mafeking United—\$1,700;

The Sam’s’ Soccer League, Mayaro—\$3,125.

1.40 p.m.

Arvin Moonan, trophies for Mafeking United Football-O-Rama, Mafeking—
[Interruption]

Miss McDonald: “Yeah dat is Mayaro!”

Hon. A. Roberts: Mayaro, okay, thanks. *[Interruption]* “Jus now, allyuh confuse me.” “Is ah tight thing yuh know, leh meh make sure.” Where it is.”
 Right. Ten thousand, nine hundred dollars.

Arvin M. Moonan, vouchers and trophies for Sun Rise Sports—sorry,
 \$10,900.

Arvin M. Moonan, trophies to assist the Mafeking United \$1,250.
 Hosting of a Rugby Clinic at Harvard Club! Harvard Club! Harvard
 Club!

Mr. Sharma: Where is that? Where is that?

Hon. A. Roberts: I think that is Port of Spain South, not so? Harvard Club,
 yes I think so. Four thousand, one hundred and ninety seven dollars.

Cynthia Kagan, hosting of Rugby Clinic, Harvard Club, \$2,000.

Tee-shirts for Clash of the Stars, \$2,040.

Sponsorship of Clash of Stars, volleyballs and footballs, \$2,000.

Coach stipend for St. Patrick Central Sports, \$1,080.

Kerin Calliste, coach stipend, \$900.

J. Joseph, St. Patrick, \$720.

Michael Gunness, coach stipend, \$720.

Keith Fraser, coach stipend, St. Patrick, \$1,320.

Lennox Gould, St. Patrick Central Sports, assistant coach, \$700.

Allan Phirangee, \$700.

Kenrick Fleary, central, head coach, \$800.

Kosi Jones, St. Patrick, assistant coach, \$1,100.

School's sports prizes for Little Hearts Kindergarten, \$1,000.

Geena Oliverie, coach stipend, St. Patrick, coordinator, \$1,320.

Rufus Lewis, coordinator, \$1,100.

Kurt Calliste, coach stipend, Central Sports Association, \$900.

[Interruption]

Hon. Member: "All ah dat yuh hah to read?"

Hon. A. Roberts: "Yeah, we now start."

Yvonne Daniel to replace cheque No. 15916, assisting with hosting of Thunder Birds Sports Club, sports day, \$925.

Anil Lackhan, Debe Hindu Primary School projects, sports programme for cricket, volleyball and tennis, \$1,200.

Robert Manoo, school projects, sports programme, cricket, \$900.

Noor Mohammed, cricket, football, volleyball and tennis \$1,000.

Gumptee Samaroo, sports programme, volleyball, table tennis, \$1,000. *[Crosstalk]*

Hon. Member: "Gumptee geh some money boy!"

Miss McDonald: "Gumptee an all get"? He is ah PNM."

Hon. A. Roberts: "Gumptee is ah PNM, yes." "Gumptee mus get, he working hard."

Imanhu Maharaj, Debe High School, \$1,000.

Veena Ramcharan, \$1,000.

Sport Lab, outstanding payment for 12-game officials, 24 Umbro jerseys, league/volleyball competition, \$8,760.

Kenrick Fleary, outstanding payment, \$960.

Kurt Calliste, outstanding payment, coaching session, Petrotrin Fyzabad Ground, \$700.

Alan Phirangee, outstanding payment for Delhi Road Ground, \$800.

“Oh, leh meh drink some water dey nah.”

Lalita Bhagwandeem, outstanding payment, \$800

Michael Gunness, outstanding payment for South Oropouche, cricket and football, \$840.

Anna Mc Clean, outstanding payment for Couva netball, Saturday camp, \$1,320.

Aldit Sandy, outstanding payment for Couva netball Saturday camp, primary school, \$660

Dexter Francis, outstanding payment for Saturday coaching session, Irving Park, coaching, \$1,440.

Carlyle Woods, outstanding payment, \$1,200.

Winston Asson, outstanding payment for coaching session \$1,200.

Marcelle Phillip, outstanding payment for coaching session, \$1,200.

Ramnaresh Samuel, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, Waterloo Institute of Soccer, \$1,080.

Wayne Wills, football, outstanding payment, \$1,080.

Shavaughn Harding, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, \$800.

Mosaic Rahamut, outstanding payment for sports camp, \$900.

Stephen Bartholomew, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, \$900.

Michael Davis, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, Waterloo Institute of Players held at Waterloo High School for the period May 07, to July 09, \$3,120.

Edward Paul, outstanding payment, Saturday sports camp, \$800.

Bharat Ramkissoon, sports camp, \$840.

Wayne Holder, outstanding payment, \$840.

Oswald Meyers, outstanding payment, \$800.

Edna Messiah, outstanding payment, Saturday sports camp for the period May 07, to July 09, \$840.

Shurland Hartley, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Secondary School, held from January—July, 2011, football and basketball, \$3,600.

Ryan Caesar, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Secondary School, January—July, 2011, \$3,600.

Warren Skeete, outstanding payment for Diego Martin Secondary School, January to July, 2011, \$3,600.

Ricky Phillip, outstanding payment for Diego Martin Secondary School, held from January—July, \$3,000.

Veronica Sandy, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, Diego Martin Secondary School, January—July, \$2,400.

Benjamin Browne, outstanding payment for services provided by officials of the Wind Ball Cricket Umpires Council, the Royal Bank cricket and family day, June 18, \$600

Jules Blackman, outstanding payment for services provided by officials of the Wind Ball Cricket Umpires Council, the Royal Bank cricket and family day, June 18, \$600.

Juliette Holder-Paul, outstanding payment for services provided by officials of the Wind Ball Cricket Umpires Council, the Royal Bank cricket and family day, June 18, \$600.

Desmond Fahey, payment outstanding, stipend for coaching sport,

extended programme, \$1,200.

Terrence Boseir, payment of outstanding stipend for coaching, extended programme, \$1,200.

Akida Bosier, payment of outstanding stipend for coaching sports, \$1,200.

Kevin Francis, payment of outstanding stipend for coaches in sport programmes, \$1,200.

Outstanding payment for purchase of medals and trophies for the Second Annual San Fernando Football Stars Tournament, \$6,210.

Kendell Crawford, payment of outstanding stipend, \$1,200.

Derek Byam, outstanding payment for coaching, in Coryal Tamana Community Centre, \$1,320.

Roy George, outstanding payment, Coryal Tamana Community Centre, \$880.

Danwatee Ramadin, outstanding payment for coaching session, Barrackpore West Secondary, volleyball, \$1,440.

Meera Basdeo, outstanding payment for Saturday coaching session, Barrackpore, \$1,200.

Chital Goberdhan, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, Orangefield Sports Club, \$2,420.

Allan Ramjass, outstanding payment for Saturday sports camp, Orangefield Sports Club, March—June 2011—

Trevor Seecheran, sports camp, Orangefield, \$1,500.

Christopher Joseph, coaching Orangefield, \$2,967.

Michelle Lynch, outstanding payment, Saturday, Manzanilla Recreation Ground, \$1,320.

Ishan Edwards, Manzanilla Recreation Ground, \$1,320.

Uma Beekley, payment for Manzanilla Recreation Ground, coaching and marshal services, \$1,100.

Ann Lindsay, outstanding payment for Saturday Manzanilla Recreation Ground, coaching, cleaner and marshal services, \$660.

Daniel Hernández, outstanding payment, Ojoe Road Recreation, Sangre Grande, \$1320.

Paula Alexander, outstanding payment for Saturday and Sunday, Ojoe Road, \$1,320.

Melissa Lovell, Ojoe Road, \$880.

Richard Mongo, outstanding payment, coaching, Ojoe Road Recreation, Recreation Ground, \$1,320.

David Muffet, outstanding payment, for Saturday and Sunday coaching sessions, Brooklyn Recreational Ground, Sangre Grande, \$1,320.

Jizelle Crawford, outstanding payment for Saturday and Sunday coaching, Brooklyn Recreational Ground, \$1,000.

Joseph Weekes, \$640.

Runako Bernard, sessions, Mayaro Youth Facility, \$1,080

Dunville Chitan, outstanding payment for coaching, Mayaro, \$960.

Amia Cozier, outstanding payment for Saturday coaching session rendered, \$400.

Roxanne George, for coaching sessions in Valencia Recreational Ground, \$1.320.

Matthew Williams, for coaching sessions in Valencia Recreational Ground, \$600.

Kerned Lewis, outstanding, Valencia Recreational Ground, \$800.

Marcelle Edmond, outstanding, Valencia Recreational Ground, coaching and cleaning services, \$1,100.

Elsa Almores, outstanding payment, for Saturday and Sunday coaching at Valencia Recreational Ground, \$660.

Peyton United Sports Club to replace a cheque for financial assistance \$1,680.

Gordon David, to replace a cheque for financial assistance, for official and coordinators, \$2,000.

Trophies and awards for La Horquetta, Alpha Sports, \$1,500.

East Port of Spain Development Company, race personnel and timing chips for East Port of Spain Fun Walk, \$7,500.

“Ah find allyuh gone quiet over dey, yuh know.”

Dribblers Sports and Cultural Club, Gasparillo, uniforms, footballs for their team, \$18,700.

Tyler Jeremiah-Scipio, outstanding payment for coaching in Irving Park, \$1,200.

Wendell Sylvester, to assist La Tosca Cultural Youth and Sports Club, \$2,500.

We also had other sponsorship, endorsement and help for athletes and assistance to:

Miss Maria Gooding to go to Belize to represent Trinidad and Tobago, \$6,897.

Maria Gooding, Belize, \$3,000.

Airfare to junior golfers to attend the Canadian Internal Junior Challenge, \$32,569.

The Trinidad and Tobago Golf Association to cover expenses for the fourth quarter end of the financial year October 10—September 2011, \$89,095.40.

The Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Boxing Association selected athletes to attend the 2011 World Elite Boxing Championship in Baku, Abidjan, airfare expenses for four athletes, \$131,502.40.

Ayanna Alexander, appearance fees for the Hampton International Games, \$6,405.90.

Assistance with hosting their biannual sports day:

Febeau Government Primary School, \$1,000.

St. Dominic Savio R. C. Primary School, \$1,000.

Assistance to Uttman Mohammed to purchase cricket gear, \$1,870.

Assistance with sports day, re Dinsley-Trincity Government Primary School, \$1,000.

Assistance with hosting of sports re Arouca Anglican Primary School, \$1,313.60.

The Secondary Schools Cricket League, tickets for 20 persons to attend the English Schools' Cricket Association Under-14 Festival at King's College, Taunton, Somerset, \$174,000.

Unified Promoters Sporting Academy request for fabricating boxing bags, \$15,595.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Team, with nationals over 50, participated in the Ninth International Senior Cricket Festival in Grenada, \$2,760 for jerseys.

T n T Alliance for Sports and physical education assistance to attend the Next Step Conference 2011, \$40,734.05.

Nazeem Mohammed, payment to cover transport for two Under 21 teams, \$1,600.

The Ministry of Sport and Sports Company worked together as a unit moving forward, and for community elements that were assisted, we had:

Josiah Burke, Queen's Royal College, track and field, his airfare,
Dionne Lendor, airfare, Queen's Royal College,
Jonathan Holder, Wayne Marcano, Hendrix Forsette, Jamaal James of Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain south, all their airfares were handled to defend relays for \$33,600.

Your constituents would be happy, Member for Port of Spain South.

Maurice Beggs, student scholarship football, his airfare, \$ 7,670.

Ruth Marchan-Peso, tuition, \$6,000.

Mr. Franklyn Harewood, head coach of Saky's Coaching School in Diego Martin, that was accommodation for \$6,000.

Roxanne King, Johnnie King Kindergarten Montessori, sports day, \$6,000.

Council of Elders and Spiritual and Shouter Baptist Faith, sports day, \$5,000. [*Interruption*]

Miss McDonald: Council of Elders, by Bishop Burke?

Hon. A. Roberts: "Or, so she cyah get nuttin?"

Mr. Speaker: Please! Please!

Hon. A. Roberts: The Trinidad and Tobago Firearms Instructor Association, South Eastern SWATT Competition airfare, \$47,120.

The Full Flight Empowerment North Zone Football League, the North—

"Member for Laventille East/Morvant, North Zone, not listening?"

North Zone Football League, sporting equipment—“for dem to train an ting,”

Miss Cox: Not by me.

Hon. A. Roberts: “Yuh not in de North Zone?” [*Interruption*]

\$47,120—“Not by you? All right; it by me.”

Gordon Pierre, North Zone Football League, sporting equipment, \$77,877.50.

Progressive Sport and Cultural Fund, cricket, sporting equipment, \$5,700.

The First Touch Cricket Football Academy, cricket, sporting equipment, \$5,080.

The New Dimension Cricket, sporting equipment, \$3,949.25.

Keddy’s Kindergarten Sport and Family Day, prizes—[*Interruption*]

Miss Cox: Where is that!

Hon. A. Roberts: No idea. \$1,753.29

“It in Trinidad and Tobago.” [*Laughter*] “Once people request of this Government we help; is de people money.”

The Green Restoration Organization and Workshop family day, in Trinidad and Tobago, \$2,482.10.

Technocrats Sports Club, volleyball tournament, trophies and medals, \$10,265.

The Guaico Village Council, sporting equipment, \$2,036.65.

The J. Hawkers Sports and Cultural Organization, \$975.

Powder Magazine—Diego Central, Powder Magazine Community Management Committee, sporting equipment, \$1,574.

Sports Associated Leaders of Trinidad and Tobago Football

Tournament, \$8,000.

Rock City and Environs, sports equipment, \$1,514.

Holica Sports Club, football tournament, gift vouchers, \$7,200.

Unity Sport Club, cricket, sporting equipment, \$5,370.

Peace and Love, St. Barb's—[*Hon. Roberts makes the peace sign with his fingers*] football and baseball tournament, medals and trophies, \$12,000—“Allyuh could pound de desk yuh know, St. Barb's, de biggest one so far.” [*Laughter and interruption*]

Miss Cox: We do not know who they are.

Hon. A. Roberts: Evolution and—“yuh doh know dem?” “Ah go tell dem call yuh.” Peace and Love, St. Barb's, peace.

Evolution and Cultural Sporting Club, sporting equipment, \$19,650.

La Horquetta FX Football Club, assistance \$5,600.

Barry Steward Basketball Academy, sporting equipment, \$3,599.88.

Harvard Club, football, sporting equipment, \$4,999.

Aaron Wilson, recommended by Dr. Amery Browne, table tennis tournament, airfare, \$7,790.20.

Hon. Members: “Waaayyy!”

Hon. A. Roberts: New Grant Primary School, cricket tournament, sporting equipment, \$10,500.

Michael Spencer, Excel Football Club, football, sporting equipment, \$4,556.25. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker.: Hon. Member, how long again? Would you—[*Laughter*] would you tell us how long?

Hon. A. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, in 15 minutes I will try to get through it, as you know in the People's Partnership Government, once questions are

asked, we want to answer as thoroughly and succinctly and make it pellucidly clear. Fifteen minutes, Sir. [*Desk thumping*]

Miss McDonald: Mr. Speaker—would you please wait, I have asked the Speaker for leave to speak. I do appreciate the comprehensive answer being provided by the Member for D’Abadie/O’Meara, and Minister of Sport. However, we will appreciate the remainder in writing, please.

Hon. Members: No! No! No! [*Crosstalk*]

Miss McDonald: Please, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker.: Continue!

Hon. A. Roberts: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One must realise I worked very hard to produce this answer, it took a long time coming and I am going to be proud to read out every item.

Mr. Peters: Read, it. Read it. Read it.

Hon. Member: “Read it, bredda.”

Hon. A. Roberts: And I will take supplementals also. [*Crosstalk*] Read it? I will keep reading. Let us go, man.

Hon. Member: Let us go! Let us go!

Hon. A. Roberts: “Allyuh ask question.” Yes. Let us keep going. Now, where was I?

Hon. Members: Start over! Start over! [*Laughter*]

Hon. A. Roberts: Aaron Wilson, recommended by the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin Central, table tennis tournament, airfare \$7,790.20. [*Desk thumping*]

Lane Rampersad, Principal of the New Grant Government Primary School, cricket equipment, \$10,500.

Excel Football Club, sporting equipment, \$4,556.

Roxborough Revival Centre, sports and family day, \$5,611.77.

Carpov's Youth Football Club, football tournament, sporting equipment, \$1,598.50.

Piccadilly Street Government Primary and Rose Hill RC, track and field, sporting equipment, \$1,964.20.

Laventille United—*[Interruption]*

Hon. Members: “Rose Hill RC close down.”

Mr. Speaker.: Hon. Member! Hon. Member for D’Abadie/O’Meara, could you just have your seat? Members! Members! Members! Member for Port of Spain South, Member for Laventille East/Morvant, please. Let us conduct ourselves with dignity, please. Member for Port of Spain South, I am on my legs, please maintain silence. I would ask you to allow the Member to speak in silence, and observe Standing Order 40(b) and (c) respectively. Continue, hon. Member.

Hon. A. Roberts: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, being one who shies away from confrontation, I value you protection. I do not like confrontation. *[Laughter]*

Shakira Worrell and Shemelise Allen, it states here, Piccadilly Street Government Primary School and Rose Hill RC, “If it close down well, me eh know.” Track and field—“but de two persons did not close down, dey there.”—sporting equipment, \$1,964.24.

Laventille United Sports Club, football tournament, sporting equipment—“yuh know dem?” \$3,900.

Hon. Member: Only!

Hon. A. Roberts: “Buh dah is all wat dey ask for, dey geh. How yuh mean only? Wat yuh ask, yuh cyah more dan yuh ask for.”

Deopersad Gookool, People Relief Organization, cricket, sporting equipment, \$ 6,690.

Dynamic Youths, cricket, sporting equipment, \$4,825.

Quarters United, family day, trophies and medals, \$1,500.

Customs and Excise, sports and cultural Club, football tournament, \$2,280.

Norman Wind Ball Cricket League, sporting equipment, \$10,000.

Victoria United Sports Club, cricket, \$11,000.

Caribbean Hoops, basketball, for basketballs, \$1,475.

Arima Old Road Sports Club, sporting equipment, \$18,925.

Khan Street Action Committee, sport and family day, trophies and medals, \$1,500.

The Immortelle Children's Centre for Special Education, sports day, equipment, \$2,488.

The Four Roads Government Primary School—let us see what we got there—sports and family day, prizes and equipment, \$2,165.

Chaguanas Stop Course Cricket Club, cricket, sporting equipment, \$9,980.

Green Giants Football Club, football tournament—Member for Diego Martin North/East, \$9,975.—“Yuh eh saying nutting, or haw.”

Cocorite Road and Bellamy Street Community sport and family day, football gear, \$431—“Dat is up by me, D'Abadie/O'Meara, yuh see, \$431, we still like dat. We say thank you.”

Customs and Excise, Sports and Cultural Club, football tournament, sporting equipment, \$2,484.

NHSL Sports Club, table tennis, trophies and medals, \$1,995.

The Benue Boy's football tournament, sporting equipment, \$19,515.

The Flamingos FC, football tournament, \$ 5,857.

The Air Borne Sonic Athletic Club, track and field, \$8,000.

The San Francique United Sports Club, football and cricket, \$3,500.

Frankie Boodoo, cross sports, football tournament, \$7,000.

The South Oropouche Development Committee, sport and family day, trophies, medals, \$20,000.

Steppes Bicycles, sporting equipment, \$10,000.

Arouca, St. Aden's Anglican Primary School, netball, football and athletics, \$13,485.

D'Abadie Progressive Athletics Club, sporting equipment and development, \$19,000.

Malabar Uplifting Community Group, October Fest, \$16,200.

National Academy of Business Arts and Computing, basketball, \$20,000.

Miss Cox: Who are they?

Hon. A. Roberts: "Me eh know."

Patna Sports and Cultural Football League, \$10,000.

Hon. Member: "Dat is Diego Martin North/East.

Hon. A. Roberts: "Where de Member for Diego Martin North/East gone?"

Trinidad and Tobago BMX Free Style Association, airfare and accommodation, \$60,000.

Damascus—"

"Allyuh bawl, 'Oh goood.' De best BMX man is from your constituency, eh. [*Hon. Roberts points to the Opposition Bench*] Yuh know him?" Or, he from Maloney" Oh, well, he from who ask de question. So, oh goood,

PNM, geh all dat? A-A!” Nice!

Damascus International SW touring, foot style competition, \$3,900.

Blue Ink Multi-Media, football and cricket, \$12,000.

Making A Difference, Mad Sports Promotions, football fiesta, \$20,000.

Port Authority Club, Caribbean All Port sports, \$20,000.

La Platta Gardens Community Groups, sport and family day, \$10,000.

National Youth Action Committee, awards ceremony, \$20,000.

Football scholarship, football airfare, \$11,590.

Queen’s Park Cricket Club, funds to support the Under-15 tournament \$50,000.

Dribblers Sports and Cultural Club, \$18,500.

Football scholarship, airfare, \$5,695.

Don Miguel Sports League, windball cricket, \$15,000.

Muslim Social and Sports League, wide table tennis competition, \$14,017.

Carenage United—“Where de Leader ah de Opposition?”

Cricket tournament, \$20,000.

St. Michael’s Anglican School, Princes Town east, \$14,797.

Belmont Boys’, Secondary RC, projects, \$2,579.

The editor, the sports symposium, Ministry of Sport sponsored, \$100,000.

Tobago Regattas Limited, regatta tournament, \$250,025.23.

All secondary schools, which included, 10 teams, to attend the 117th Annual Penn relays in the USA, Philadelphia, airfare, \$516,296.—“Yuh want to supervise?” Buh you cyah run.”

2.10 p.m.

You want to supervise, but you “cyar” run. I “woulde” send La Brea. La Brea could run in pick-up and “ting”.

Baden Powell Club, cricket, \$18,400;

Warrior Fusion, football training and counselling, \$31,640;

Rugby Tournament, \$42,880;

World Dragon Boat Racing Tournament, airfare, \$166,438;

[*Interruption*] What is that for 43 people to represent Trinidad and Tobago?

World Rugby Under 17 Tournament, airfare, \$34,608;

The World Police and Fire Games, \$144,000;

Pound the table! Pound the table, “nah”! I know you like that.

Power Pool Production, Seventh Annual King of the Caribbean Pool Tournament, \$91,174;

South District Convention, ticket and airfare, \$5,478.

This is cricket, now:

Explorers Sports and Cultural Organization, assistance with budget, \$15,000;

Brooklyn United Women’s Cricket Club, \$20,000;

Phoenix Women’s Cricket Club, sporting equipment, \$11,465;

Evolution Cultural and Sporting Club, \$19,980;

Esmeralda Sports Club, cricket sporting equipment, \$19,908;

Ghandi United Sports Club, sporting equipment, \$15,300;

Progressive Sports Club, sporting equipment, \$16,020;

Wanderers Cricket Club, sporting equipment, \$14,804;

Gasparillo Secondary Cricket, sporting equipment, \$8,980;

Evergreen Sports and Cultural Club, sporting equipment, \$11,000;

Red Lion Sports and Cultural Club, cricket, \$20,000;
 Dinsley Cricket Club, sporting equipment, \$20,000;
 Clarke Road United Cricket, sporting equipment, \$12,000;
 Diamond United Sports Club, \$15,495;
 Northern Sports Limited, sporting equipment, \$12,500;
 Spartan Cricket Club, \$19,000;
 Old Mac Exchange, \$3,600;
 Spoilers Sports Club, \$12,920;
 Old Boys Players United, sporting equipment, \$17,960;
 LTs Touring Team, sporting equipment, \$6,687;
 Triumph Sports Club—[*Interruption*] I cannot finish anyway—
 Windball Cricket Competition, \$19,925;
 Valencia Mixed Nuts Sports Club, sporting equipment, \$19,000;
 As you can see, the People’s Partnership is all across Trinidad and
 Tobago and continuing. Pound the table, man! All over!
 B’s Sports Foundation, \$5,000;
 Santa Cruz United, \$1,200;
 Fatima College Under 19, airfare, \$41,238;
 St. Mary’s College, [*Interruption*] I went both Fatima and St. Mary’s,
 and QRC and St. Joseph’s Convent; I went all “dey”. Cool yourself!
 St. Mary’s College Cricket team, airfare, \$5,000;
 Pasea Sports Club, sporting equipment, \$19,996;
 The Women’s Cricket Team, sporting equipment, \$7,740;
 Triumph Sports Club, windball cricket, \$20,000;
 Eastern Cricket Academy, \$20,000;
 St. Mary’s College Cricket Team, airfare, \$5,000;

Ministry of Sport Cricket Team, \$6,892;
Lopinot/La Pastora, \$14,985;
Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, cricket uniform, \$3,250;
Trinidad and Tobago National Cricketers to Australia, airfare,
\$104,535;
Carapichaima Business Association, windball competition, \$9,800;
Ministry of Sport Cricket Team, transport, \$3,000;
Trinidad and Tobago Canoe/Kayak Federation, \$170,508;
Trinidad and Tobago Equestrian, \$33,931.80;
Trinidad and Tobago Draughts and Checkers, \$63,930;
Trinidad and Tobago Draughts and Checkers Subvention 2010/2011,
\$242,486;
Trinidad and Tobago Draughts, Suriname travel, \$60,000;
Trinidad and Tobago Target Archery, \$279,565;
Trinidad and Tobago Windball Cricket Association, \$190,000;
Trinidad and Tobago Cycling Federation, \$30,000 for Adam
Alexander;
Tamer Williams, Trinidad and Tobago Tots and Tumblers, Elite
Artistic Gymnast, grant funding, \$231,000;
Trinidad and Tobago—

Mr. Speaker: Member, you may have your seat now. I would like to ask the Member if the rest of the answer could be circulated. Let us continue, please.

Hon. A. Roberts: No problem, Sir.

Vide end of sitting for written part of the answer.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POSTAL CORPORATION (AMDT.) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Public Utilities (Sen. The Hon. Emmanuel George): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move,

That a Bill to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act, Chap. 47:02, be now read a second time.

Let me say how much I feel humbled to address this august Chamber this afternoon and I hope that by the end of my presentation I would have convinced the Members Opposite to support the amendment which I propose to make to this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, in my presentation, I would want to argue what is the purpose of the Bill, first of all; the effect that these post offices not being vested in TTPost after all of this time have had on TTPost; to give to this august House some background as to why TTPost came into being, which led to the vesting coming as one of the issues to be addressed; to point to some reasons why this delay perhaps would have taken place; and to present to this House where we are now in the vesting process.

In 1999, when the TTPost Act came into being, section 61(1) stipulated, and I want to quote it:

“The Minister shall, by Order, within twelve months of the commencement of this section, vest in Trinidad and Tobago Post such property which was under the direction and management of the Postmaster General under the Post Office Act at the commencement of this section, as is specified in the Order.”

That stipulation in the Act gave one year’s deadline to undertake the vesting of the properties. That deadline was passed at the end of June, June30,

2000. In pursuit of the vesting of the properties, two bits of advice came to the then Ministry of Public Utilities. One bit of advice came from the Solicitor General and that bit of advice said, in essence, that if you want to vest these properties, you first have to amend the Act. I want to quote the Solicitor General's advice—it was very, very short.

I wish to inform you that in the circumstances Section 61 of the Postal Act, 1999 must be amended in order for the properties to be properly vested in TTPost.

That is so because—

Mr. Speaker: Correspondence.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: The correspondence is dated March 16, 2005 and it is addressed, from the Solicitor General, to the then Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment.

What the Solicitor General was advising was that the Act had to be amended in order for the vesting to take place. That amendment was suggested as far back as March 16, 2005 and we are here today, in May 2012, seeking to do exactly what the Solicitor General suggested needed to be done as far back as 2005.

I wish to draw the attention of this House also to section 61(3) of that Act. Section 61(3) of the Act also has implications for what we are doing today. Section 61(3) says:

“Within sixty months of the date of publication of the Order referred to in subsection (1), the value of the property vested in Trinidad and Tobago Post shall be determined by independent valuer who shall report to the Board.”

On the basis of that stipulation in the Act, the Chief State Solicitor, in

2004, suggested to the Ministry of Public Utilities that the accepted practice, even though this section 61(3) was saying that within 60 months within date of publication of the Order, that the valuation had to be done before the order could go out; in fact, before the vesting. The accepted practice, however, is that the valuations of the properties to be vested is completed prior to the drafting of the vesting order, so that two issues had to be addressed prior to any vesting being undertaken.

Our purpose here today is to seek to amend the law to remove that one-year stipulation for completion of the vesting and to extend it so that we can vest today.

What was the effect on TTPost of not having these properties vested? Simply put, the effect on TTPost was to affect its ability to serve the people. Now, these properties were scattered all around Trinidad and Tobago and because TTPost was unable to use many of them, it meant that it could not service some of the constituencies and communities it is required to service.

I want to quote from a newspaper clipping dated Monday, March 19, 2012, from the *Guardian*, which speaks to this particular issue of the difficulty presented to residents of certain areas who, because the post offices were not being used and were not vested in TTPost, had difficulty in getting adequate service.

“Thousands of residents in central Trinidad are being affected by inadequate service from TTPost. Among the affected areas, according to resident...Ragbir Singh, are Caparo, Mamoral, Mamoral Crossing, Chickland Road, Flanagin Town, Brasso Venado, Todds Road, Palmiste and Carlsen Field.

‘TTPost has become totally dysfunctional in these communities as we

have to go to Chaguanas at high costs to buy a stamp and mail a letter,'...He said numerous letters of complaints to the Minister...and the management of TTPost have yielded 'no comfort whatever'.

"We prefer the return of the village post offices as everyone had easy access to collect their mails, buy stamps, register mails and also to post their mails. 'TTPost service in our areas is now a total nightmare. Imagine there is not even a mailbox'—along the road—'from Tabaquite to Longdenville.'

Accountant, Avatar Ramkissoon said: 'My clients are very upset when they get their bills to pay their taxes because all the time, these bills come far beyond the stipulated date thereby necessitating additional penalties.'"

So, one of the effects of not having these post offices vested in TTPost is that they were unable to service large segments of the population spread across Trinidad and Tobago. Another problem experienced by TTPost, as a result of not being able to have these properties vested, was that TTPost was forced to rent a number of properties around the country and the total rental per year, as a result of this, amounted to some \$284,000 per month. Another problem that it created for TTPost was its inability to borrow money so that TTPost, because it did not have these properties as part of its asset base, could not use them as collateral to borrow.

So several effects on TTPost, all of them dysfunctional, were a result of the fact that we could not vest these properties in TTPost.

Mr. Imbert: I thank the Minister for giving way. I heard you say that because the properties were not vested in TTPost, TTPost was forced to rent properties. Does this mean that the properties are being used for some other purpose or are they locked up? Why can TTPost not use these properties?

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Well, TTPost is in some of the properties, but not all. I will come to that.

Mr. Imbert: The ones they are not in.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: The ones they are not in are simply standing there going to rot, largely. I will explain as I go along. There are some in Tobago. The Tobago House of Assembly is using three of the properties of the four that were available in Tobago. As we speak right now, there is a discussion going on between the THA and TTPost regarding the Tobago House of Assembly providing alternative accommodation. I will come to that eventually.

So I was speaking to the effect that all of this inability to vest these properties in TTPost had on TTPost, on its finances, on its asset base, on its ability to serve its customers and on the fact that it has a large rental bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I should give some background to TTPost. The coming into being of TTPost was based on the fact that, in the 1990s, the then post office was costing the Government in excess of \$14 million in subsidy annually, but the performance of the post office was particularly poor and there were lots of complaints coming from the population regarding the deficiencies at TTPost and its inability to receive an adequate level of service.

So the then Government agreed to a delegated management arrangement to bring into the postal sector a private management team. That manager became New Zealand Post after a transparent bidding process that was undertaken with the assistance of the World Bank. The Government borrowed, I think, about US \$14 million to assist in the transformation of the old post office into TTPost and to have it run by New Zealand Post, which

eventually became Transcend Limited.

Targets were set for the management operator to achieve and the management operator was paid on the basis of his achieving those targets. The delegated management arrangement between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and that management operator would have meant that they would have run TTPost for us for a period of time and then TTPost would be handed back to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to be run by local expertise. So, it was to improve the operations of the TTPost that this delegated management arrangement came into being. Indeed, in the first couple of years of its operation, TTPost did improve its performance and around 2003/2004, it achieved its lowest subsidy required from the Government.

Recall that I said that at the time it came into being the subsidy that the Government was providing to the post office was in excess of \$40 million; but in its early years TTPost was able to bring that need for subsidy down to about \$2 million. Sorry to say that it has gone back up again and, in 2010, 2011 and 2012, it has come back up in excess of \$40 million, so that we are virtually right back where we started.

One might ask what the reason for the long delay in undertaking this vesting was. I think that part of it would perhaps have to do with bureaucracy, but part of it, I think, has to do with a commitment on the part of the powers that be at the time to undertake the vesting work and to complete the vesting process.

I want to refer to the process of vesting. The vesting process takes several stages. You request the vesting to be done and after the vesting is completed, you have a cadastral survey to be done, a valuation, a title search

and opinions and then the vesting order and Cabinet approval in preparation of the legal notice can be done.

I want to say to this honourable House that the valuation was completed in 2007 and that valuation was completed using four different private valuers. So, from 2007, the valuation had been completed and we really should have been proceeding to the next stages. However, for whatever reason, we have not been able to complete those stages and hence we are here today.

We have completed the valuation as we speak and what the TTPost proposes to do—because the valuation completed in 2007 may now be outdated, they have asked the very four valuers who came in and did that exercise in 2007 to do what they call a desk top valuation, so that we can get a more current value put on those properties. When that is done—that is going on as we speak now together with the cadastral surveying—we expect that these would be completed in a short time and then we have the preparation of the vesting order.

We believe that now is the right time to come to the Parliament to seek approval to get this amendment to the Act because all these activities are coming to a head and will be finished in a short space of time and, in that regard, we would not want anything to then hold back the vesting of these properties in TTPost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give this honourable House a sense of how TTPost manages to deliver its service to the population. Currently, to satisfy the needs of the nation and to meet its mandate, TTPost manages 50 delivery offices and 14 corporate shops. Twenty-two of these are housed in rented properties. TTPost also has a network of 98 franchises, which

supplement this core network. There are also four properties that are required to be vested after consultation with Tobago House of Assembly, but the THA had served notice on the corporation to quit the properties located at Scarborough, Roxborough and Moriah, so that TTPost currently now operates out of the Speyside location and has rented properties in Scarborough, Bon Accord and Castara to be able to fulfil its responsibilities to the people of Tobago.

As I indicated earlier to the Member for Diego Martin North/East, the Tobago House of Assembly and TTPost are currently in talks having to do with the provision of alternative sites for those three other locations which the Tobago House of Assembly now occupies, but which had housed post offices that were supposed to be taken over by TTPost.

Some 56 properties in all were supposed to be vested in TTPost when it came into being. However, there was some consultation that took place between the then Ministry of Public Administration, Property Management Division and the Ministry of Public Utilities. A Note was taken to Cabinet where a decision was taken that 47, and not 56, of these properties would be vested. So, we ended up having 47 properties that were required to be vested in TTPost.

As I said earlier, the properties could not be vested because of the fact that they were not valued and surveyed because of the Solicitor General and the Chief State Solicitor's advice to the then Ministry of Public Utilities.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that anyone can dispute that the reforms undertaken within the postal sector has yielded significant benefits to the national population. TTPost continues to improve its service and in 2011 improved its domestic delivery performance with a rating of 87 per cent for

day plus one delivery and 94 per cent for day plus two deliveries. Door-to-door deliveries, that is home deliveries, to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago was expanded by 1.2 per cent, allowing TTPost to achieve a coverage of 94.14 per cent. This coverage is equal to the level achieved by many developed countries.

The retail point of sale was upgraded and that has enhanced the overall quality of service delivery and the first full service franchise was established in Tobago. TTPost diligence earned it an 86 per cent rating of public satisfaction in the 2011 Mori poll conducted between May 25, 2011 and July 15, 2011.

However, TTPost continues to be challenged to meet its goal of financial viability. Since 1999, TTPost has posted revenues between \$60 million and \$80 million, but losses before taxes for 2000 to 2004 range between \$4 million to \$15 million; and for 2007—2011, between \$45 and \$8 million. I provide these figures cautiously since the corporation has yet to have the later figures for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 audited.

Modern society has demonstrated that text messaging Internet usage, social networking, email and instant communication technology are the preferred communication tools. Letters and correspondence, both personal and business related are delivered via email, while photographs and documents are scanned and shared through social networks. The use of these tools of communication is negatively affecting the performance of TTPost. Competition for direct mail, availability of advertising media, the proliferation of couriers providing home delivery for Internet shoppers are all having an impact on TTPost's competitive position.

The effect of the 2008 world financial crisis also affected the postal

sector and large postal agencies such as the Royal Mail and the US Postal Services have been struggling to cope and, without appropriate survival mechanisms, this is a situation in which TTPost can find itself.

In response to these challenges, many non-core products and services were introduced to support the financial viability of the corporation—the bill pay service, local/international courier services, direct marketing services and so on. TTPak, which is an online shopping delivery service, saw severe competition from the numerous other competitors in the industry.

We must be mindful that, in the face of TTPost's challenges, that we as a Government support the corporation. Vesting of the properties required by TTPost will go a significant way in providing this assistance and I have indicated to this honourable House the advantages which would redound to TTPost in this regard.

I want to speak a little, Mr. Speaker, about the issue of why should we vest these properties in TTPost. If we are to use some of the arguments presented by TTPost, it suggests that, in attractive areas where some of these post offices are located, TTPost's plan contemplates that development of those properties over and above its own needs will allow for renting and leasing of the properties to third parties, thus generating revenue. It suggests, for example, that properties in such areas as Newtown, Sangre Grande and San Juan can be developed to accommodate just that.

2.40 p.m.

The TTPost estimates an increase in retail revenue of approximately \$28,000 per month at 21 of the locations that are not now in its possession. And they are projecting this kind of income on the basis of the traffic that will be passing through those locations when they are refurbished.

The vesting of the properties in TTPost will allow for the properties to be utilized to expand the current distribution network throughout Trinidad and Tobago. As you would be aware these post offices had been located in virtually all of the major towns and town centres, and in very, very dispersed communities around Trinidad and Tobago.

TTPost identified 22 locations in which it currently pays rent, and these could also be replaced by these vested properties. TTPost estimates that this will result in a cost saving, about \$284,000 per month. So, the question of, “why vest” is answered by TTPost in presenting these arguments.

We had argued earlier on of the vesting process what remains to be done. And we have argued that the vesting process is right now at the third stage where TTPost is undertaking the title search and opinion. And again, here, they have asked for the help of private entities to do the title search and opinions. Once that title search and opinion is completed, that is followed by the preparation of the vesting order, Cabinet approval and the preparation of a legal notice.

Mr. Speaker, I must speak to the issue of the audited financial statements from TTPost, because some people argue, “so why should we be giving these assets to TTPost when TTPost has not been presenting audited financial statements.” In fact, the last audited financial statements of TTPost were for the year 2005. The 2006 audited financial statements presented some difficulty as did the audited financial statement for 2007. But I want to say to this honourable House that TTPost has signed off on those a few months ago and, therefore, the audited financial statements for 2006 and 2007 have now been completed. I want to compliment the board and the

management of TTPost for their diligence in attempting to get this particular work done.

In respect of the audited financial statements for years following; what the TTPost did was to ask the Auditor General for leave to undertake the auditing of figures for 2008, 2009 and 2010 simultaneously. So as we speak—and the Auditor General has given that approval—the auditing work on the statements, the financial records for TTPost for 2008, 2009 and 2010 are currently taking place.[*Crosstalk*]

Hon. Sharma: Very good work.

Mr. Imbert: Two years later—

Sen. The hon. E. George: In respect of—two years later, I said we did 2006 and 2007 because the last audited financial statement was 2005, so 2006 and 2007 have been completed. Yes, it took us two years but by 2010, when you were in power, 2005 was the last one that was done. So, let us not make any argument about it. [*Crosstalk*] So, the 2008 to 2010 are now being undertaken.

I indicated earlier on too, that the TTPost is in the process of doing the title search and opinions, and has retained the services of a private grouping to do that. Once that is completed and the legal notices, and so on, are put in, we can work. I must speak also to the issue of the strategic and business plans because one has to place, in context, the issue of why and how TTPost sees the need for these properties to be vested in the corporation.

TTPost, over the years, has been undertaking its strategic and its business plans, and I has located the need for these properties in those plans. There do exist plans that have been formulated by TTPost; a strategic plan for the period 2010—2011 to 2014—2015 was untaken, but was revised for

the period 2011—2012 to 2015—2016. This was approved by the board of the corporation at the 17th meeting which was held in January of this year. So, there are indeed plans at TTPost which have been approved and which will include for the vesting in the TTPost of these properties.

My information is, Mr. Speaker, that in 2009, 2010, and 2011 TTPost produced and operationalized plans and business plans that had utilized and built upon the properties that we now speak about vesting. Those plans were done in the context of initiatives geared towards engendering viability and revenue generation through optimal utilization of those properties.

Hon. Sharma: I think they supported it you know.

Sen. The hon. E. George: I must speak also, Mr. Speaker, to the issue of the abandonment of a lot of these old post offices and the fact that they were not vested in TTPost, and what has happened. It speaks a lot to how we treat our assets in Trinidad and Tobago.

These properties would have been a lot better vested in TTPost very, very early on. It would have put them in the hands of a responsible agency that would have taken care of them and would not have allowed them to reach the state of deterioration that some of them have got to. Some of us who use the Priority Bus Route would look aghast at the old San Juan post office in.

I have been informed by people who travel regularly to Mayaro that when they pass through Rio Claro and see that landmark post office and how it is being left to go to ruin, that they too are very disappointed. [*Crosstalk*] The Rio Claro post office. So the fact that these post offices were not vested in TTPost really was a sad reflection on how we treat with our assets. This Government proposes, Mr. Speaker, not to allow that to continue. That we

need to hand these post offices over to a reputable and serious agency that will ensure that the deterioration is halted, that they are repaired, and that they are brought to good use to serve the population of Trinidad and Tobago. But to do that, we require that this amendment be made today to the TTPost Act.

And so, I seek the support of all of the Members of this House in the particular the Members of the Opposition to support this amendment. It will give to TTPost some support which it dearly needs, and which it could use to bring itself up to a more financially viable situation. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move. [*Desk thumping*]

Question proposed.

Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey (*La Brea*): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Permit me to extend Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers—[*Desk thumping*—and all mothers in the national community. [*Crosstalk*]

Mrs. Gopee-Scoon: The Partnership in the south western peninsula.**Mr. F. Jeffrey:** The Bill that is before us—[*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Sharma:—which we support.

Mr. F. Jeffrey:—should indeed be a very simple one. The very distinguish Member, the Minister of Public Utilities, gave us a very compelling dissertation. But, Mr. Speaker, “is a ole saying, that still waters run deep.” [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Sharma: “Long rope for maga goat”.

Mr. F. Jeffrey: It looks simple at the surface because really and truly we want to delete, “within 12 months of the commencement of the section”, and substitute the words, “on or before April, 09, 2017”.

But, Mr. Speaker, this Bill has to do with the vesting of properties, 56

or to a lesser extent 47.

Mr. Speaker: Member for La Brea. I am hearing a phone. Somebody is playing with their phone, and I am getting music emanating in the background.

Miss McDonald: The Prime Minister. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker: Continue, hon. Member for La Brea.

Mr. F. Jeffrey: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The fact that in section 33(1), where the Trinidad and Tobago Post in pursuant of its function is not subject to the Central Tenders Board Act; I think we must pay particular attention. You see we cannot deal with this Bill outside what is happening in the national environment, particularly, as it relates to property.

Mr. Speaker, you would recall that not too long ago, that this UNC-led coalition Government tried to gerrymander the committee that was dealing with procurement legislation which led our team to walk out of the committee. We are also aware of Invaders Bay project where the Central Tenders Board's principles were set aside. We could also remember that with the Regional Health Authorities Bill where this whole question of procurement was put in the hands of one Regional Health Authority. When we put all of this together and see the conflicting statements that are being disbursed by Members of opposite side—the hon. Minister of Public Utilities might be an innocent bystander in this case—but let me just use one quick example, because this is something that concerns the national community and has nothing to do with partnership; but has to do with the message we are sending out there to the young ones and those who are looking on at this presentation this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, you recall that our Prime Minister state visit to India, we

were told in this House—[*Crosstalk*—I would relate it, just give me two minutes. I will relate it.

Dr. Moonilal: Poste it to us.

Mr. F. Jeffrey: We were told that this trip was going to be funded by the Government of India. Not too long ago, we were told by another senior Cabinet Minister—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker: Member, please, please. I think you are stretching it a bit thin. Let us deal with the postal amendment Bill—Prime Minister and all these extraneous matters that you are introducing are not relevant to the Bill. Focus on the subject, please. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. F. Jeffrey: I will be guided by that, Mr. Speaker. I am more experienced, do not worry. Section 61(1) says,

“The Minister shall, by Order, within twelve months of the commencement of this section, vest in Trinidad and Tobago Post such property which was under the direction and management of the Postmaster General, under the Post Office Act at the commencement of this section, as is specified in the Order”.

The 12 months expired on June 30, 2000, without any of the proposed properties vested in TTPost.

I want to thank the hon. Minister for not trying to cast any aspersion when he was referring to that, because I have heard on the other side where they were trying to blame the People’s National Movement for this 12-year period. But, I want to put on the record, when that Order was made, that was in 1999, and when it expired on June 30, 2000, the People’s National Movement was nowhere in the picture. [*Desk thumping*] Mr. Speaker, the Members for Fyzabad and Siparia were present in that last Government.

What we need to understand, is when that agreement was signed with the IDB, they were the ones who orchestrated that 12-month period. The then Government knew quite well that given the complications with the vesting of properties it would have been very, very difficult to comply with. But, we wanted the loan, we recognized the importance of the transformation in the postal services and therefore we signed, Mr. Speaker.

We all knew quite well, because as I said, in 2000 the UNC was still in power, they could not handle all the processes, and what happened, we found that from time to time they were able to do some of the surveying and verification. And so successive Ministers of Public Utilities must be complimented for the role that they have played in bringing the Bill to this present stage.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, in 1995-2000 we had the then Minister Ganga Singh, then we had Mr. Martin Joseph, who lasted about ten months in the position, Mr. Rennie Dumas, he spend two years, Ms. Penelope Beckles, three years; Mr. Abdul Hamid, and now the distinguished Minister Emanuel George, in almost two years. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker, up to 2004, 38 properties were surveyed and there were verifications, and 10 valuations completed. What is indeed troubling is that 56 properties is what the DMA had recommended. And then we had the discussion between the Ministry of Public Utilities and a division in the Ministry of Public Administration where they recommended 47. So therefore, nine of the properties are not to be divested. And the question we must ask ourselves is, what will happen to those nine? We are going to vest 47 but it is really 56, so what is happening with those nine? But what is more troubling is that the corporation had recommended that six properties

not be considered: Guaico, Palo Seco, Valencia, Moruga, Guapo and Manzanilla. Mr. Speaker, I took a little problem with that, because two out of those six fall in my constituency, Guapo and Palo Seco; two, too many.

You have 39 constituencies in Trinidad, we have six that “yuh eh” go consider, and two in La Brea. “Wah we do, wah we do”? And I would like to find out what is going to happen to those six or those nine?

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be paying particular attention to those two in my constituency because the post office building in Guapo, and the post office building in Palo Seco are still in good shape, therefore, I am “Watching with a lizard eye” to see what is going to happen with those two premises. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker, when we look at that community—you see, when I listened to what is coming through the Bill, it seemed as though all our nationals in this country are computer literate; we good with the cell phone and so on. Let me put on the record, there are a lot of people, particularly pensioners, who are not computer or cell phone savvy. They still have to go to the post office to post their letters and so on; they still have to buy stamps; when it is time for birthdays, Christmas and so on, they still have to go and get their greeting cards. What happens to these people?

Mr. Speaker, I just want to look at Guapo, in particular, because when a pensioner has to take that little bit of money he has, and “to go and” pay \$4 to go to Point Fortin and \$4 to come back to post a letter, that is a problem. And I think that—what are we going to do with that old Guapo post office building standing there idly and not used. I want to make a special recommendation—that the Guapo post office—that you reconsider in terms of dealing with those people in Guapo, in Cochran, in Lot Ten, in Gonzales

and so on. I think it is something that we need to pay a little attention to.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the 47 properties, we mentioned that there is a valuation of \$56 million—[*Interruption*]—Good, that would increase the asset base, okay. The question I am asking myself, yes it increase your asset base, and therefore, you are able to go to the commercial bank and get a loan to do renovation, you may have to rebuild; you may have to refurbish and so on, but at the end of the day, you have to pay back that loan. Where are we going to get the money to service those loans? I know that we are paying rent, I think \$260,000 a month in rent right now; but would that be able to pay back the loans? We need to find a revenue stream, therefore, I think I really went through the “ting” here to find out about a business plan or something to show us how you are going to able to finance your expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubts in our minds that we have seen improvements in the postal services in Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*] Not only under the United National Congress or the People’s Partnership, but certainly under the People’s National Movement we did—[*Desk thumping*]—this is something that we, all of Trinidad and Tobago should be proud of what has transpired with the TTPost and so on.

Mrs. Gopee-Scoon: Under the PNM.

Mr. F. Jeffrey: And so, as I close, I want to urge that we really and truly think in terms of the business plan—now we have not seen a listing of all the properties that are going to be divested, we have not seen an updated evaluation, but I guess in the hon. Minister’s winding up, he would be able to do justice with it. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Local Government (Hon.

Rudranath Indarsingh): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I rise to make my intervention in this particular debate on the Bill to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act, I want to join with the Member for La Brea in wishing all mothers in this August Chamber a Happy Mother's Day, and also within the national community of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*] Having listened to his contribution this afternoon, that is the only thing that I could conclude he made in terms of making a point of significance, or being of relevance to this particular debate here this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that during the winding up in relation to this particular debate, the hon. Minister of Public Utilities will address the concerns as it relates to the remaining properties or what would happen to the remaining properties that would not fall under this particular vesting Order, and also take into consideration the very passionate plea of the Member for La Brea as it relates to the Guapo post office, or the future of the Guapo post office.

But what struck me in his contribution is when the Member for La Brea said that this particular administration was not really doing anything of significance in relation to this, and also he made the point that— [*Interruption*]

Mr. Jeffrey: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. I never made such a statement, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No, well that is not a point of order, continue. [*Crosstalk*]

Hon. Member: Ask him to give way—

Hon. R. Indarsingh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker—and also where he said that this particular issue has been around for some time. I want to remind the Member for La Brea here this evening, that the Government that he belongs

to had the opportunity to address this outstanding issue since 2002 until 2010. And they failed miserably to display that political will and expediency to address this outstanding problem which has been in existence since 2000, when the Order expired. Today, I want to commend the Minister of Public Utilities and the Ministry of Public Utilities for seeing the wisdom in attempting to bring a closure on this particular issue.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, just for the records, I want to refer to a contribution that you yourself made in the other place during a sitting on March 09, 2004. I want to quote extensively from what you referred to, at that point in time, in attempting to address this particular issue. It shows the history of this particular piece of amendment, and the relevance of what is being attempted by this administration here this afternoon.

I want to quote from what you said on March 09, 2004. I am quoting from *Hansard*.

“This is not the fault of TTPost. The Minister must tell us why the Minister did not, within 12 months of the commencement of this section, vest in Trinidad and Tobago Post such property which was under the direction and management of the Post Master General. Madam President, the Auditor General is saying that evidence of the vesting of property in TTPost was not seen. So, was property vested and the records...I am talking about 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and we are now in 2004. The PNM has been in office for 26 to 27 months.”

So, I am attempting to show that there was a lack of political will on the part of the PNM to address this particular issue. I think that it is of critical

importance that they give their support to this particular amendment here this afternoon.

All things being equal, I am sure that when we refer to the post office and the postal system in Trinidad and Tobago you, yourself, will reflect and have a sense of nostalgia in relation to the relevance and importance of the post office, and what it meant to the ordinary man and citizens in the years gone by, and still mean to the ordinary man and citizens. I want to agree with the Member for La Brea, as it relates to persons of an older age within the population of Trinidad and Tobago.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I grew up about four houses from the Caroni Post Office, and the site is still available today. Unfortunately, the structure was burnt down, and I will say more about the property itself and why I think that it is important to have these properties vested in TTPost.

From a historical point of view, the post office was a symbol of what we would term a finance house, a place of saving, for the village and the community. I, myself, when I was attending the Caroni Hindu School and walking to school by the post office on a day-to-day basis, I opened a savings account at the Caroni Post Office.

To say the least, it was not of any large sum and it did not grow into any size of what I would call tangible proportion, but it built a sense of thrift in me and a saving culture, and that is why it was a symbol to the community. It was a symbol to those who would have seen it in the context being a finance house, and that is why I could understand the play of the Member for La Brea as it relates to the future of this particular property that he talked about in his contribution, in terms of the future of the Guapo Post Office.

From a historical point of view, I am sure that we all know the trials and tribulations that the population at large would have gone through as it relates to the whereabouts and the timely arrival of mails and packages under the old postal system. In fact, that sense of frustration in terms of the delays, and not knowing where your mail went was of grave concern to all and sundry. Sometimes you are waiting on a letter, and when it comes you would see that it went somewhere to the United States of America or within the region and then it came to Trinidad and Tobago.

Taking into consideration the challenges in relation to the efficiency of the postal system, it was the UNC administration in 1999 which bit the bullet and addressed the issue of the reform of the postal system in Trinidad and Tobago, giving birth to what we call TTPost [*Desk thumping*] and it is in this context when I heard the Member for La Brea attempting to give credit to the PNM as it relates to playing its role in the reform of the postal system in Trinidad and Tobago, I think I should set the record straight and say that it was the UNC-led administration in 1999 that bit the bullet with the assistance of the World Bank and initiated the reform of the postal system in Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*]

More importantly, the success of that reform which was initiated in 1999 has seen its fruit being realized up until 2011. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the distinguished Minister of Public Utilities has given a breakdown in terms of providing the statistical information and data to show where TTPost is today, in the context of its relevance to the national community, and also the transformation that it has continued to lead in relation to being the “premier institution”, if I should use that particular phrase, within the context of the Ministry of Public Utilities.

Just to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you and to this august Chamber that the PNM cannot take any credit for the significant benefits to the national population where in 2011 TTPost had improved its domestic delivery and overall performance and got to a rating of 87 per cent per day plus one delivery and 94 per cent per day plus two-day delivery. In addition to this, the corporation's diligence and performance, in terms of the transformation of TTPost, earned an 86 per cent rating in the 2011 MORI Poll conducted during May 25, 2011—July 15, 2011.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is of critical importance that this valuable service continues for the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and it is of critical importance that TTPost continues to strive for greater efficiency, effectiveness, price competitiveness and that general movement towards profitability.

We can continue to ask ourselves the question, why the relevance of the amendment and why it is important to TTPost and the Ministry of Public Utilities. It is important for all to understand and, more so, the national community, that the vesting of the 47 properties must be seen as a critical factor in assisting TTPost in its growth strategy to achieve financial viability.

I am sure that those on the other side will also support what was stated by the then Minister of Public Utilities in 2004, as it relates to the issue of vesting of the properties, and properties being used for revenue generation and so on. I am referring to the then Minister of Public Utilities, Sen. Penelope Beckles when she spoke during the debate. I am quoting from *Hansard* and she said:

“The other issue will deal with some of the concerns raised as they

relate to not being able to meet their income has to do with the vesting of properties. We know that under section 61 of the Act those properties under the management of the Post Master General would be vested in TTPost in a 12-month period. In other words that should have been completed in February 2000.”

She went on to indicate the importance of using the properties to put TTPost in a position to raise revenues, and to expand the postal system within Trinidad and Tobago.

So, Mr. Speaker, we must understand that whilst this may be seen as a simple amendment to the Postal Corporation Act, it is of critical importance for that level of support in the continued growth, development and expansion of something that is near and dear to us in terms of the entity and, by extension, the postal system in Trinidad and Tobago.

The vision of the corporation for the vesting of these properties, as I said, is to utilize the properties to expand the current distribution network throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The expansion of this network will ensure that TTPost meets the expectation of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and, by extension, the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

As part of the overall Government’s philosophy and sense of delivery, the corporation is obliged to ensure a quality of service to corporate and individual citizens alike, as well as to add value to post in transit from the postal administrations.

In the absence of the subject properties, the corporation will continue to incur greater cost in relation to the process of ensuring a quality level of service to the population of Trinidad and Tobago. It is important to note that TTPost has identified 22 locations in which it currently pays rent, which

could be replaced by the vested properties, and this will result in a cost saving of approximately \$3.5 million to the taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition to the reduction in rent and the economic benefit to the taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago, there could also be a further sense of economic generation, growth and expansion and revenue accumulation through the issue of rental income, in addition to allowing the leasing of third parties. [*Crosstalk*] The Member for Diego Martin Central is referring to probably his future leader in the person of Louis Lee Sing. [*Laughter*] It is my fervent hope and wish that when that letter was read [*Crosstalk*] in the no confidence Motion and was actually posted—[*Laughter*]

Mr. Speaker: All right, go ahead, go ahead.

Hon. R. Indarsingh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was attempting to deal with the issue of additional revenue generation through the involvement of third parties on these properties—rental and leasing—would be vested and, in addition to that, this would play a part in enhancing the overall balance sheet of TTPost and naturally strengthen its asset base.

Therefore, we must understand that when these properties are vested into the balance sheet of TTPost, naturally there would be an increase in its asset base taking into consideration there is little or no, what we would term, correspondent increase in its liabilities, and it will place TTPost in a greater position in relation to enhancing its borrowing power as it seeks to address the very critical issue of the development and growth of TTPost.

Additionally, it would allow TTPost to periodically review its position overall in relation to arriving at new valuations, increasing its investment capabilities, among other things, and with the passage of time, all these

things will be connected and come into play as they relate to the whole issue of the development of TTPost and the postal service in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Speaker, the vesting will also address the issue or put a halt to the deterioration of the existing properties. And, as I said, I live four houses from the site which housed the Caroni Post Office. Today, I want to commend, again, Minister George, for bringing this amendment, because it seeks to secure and put the assets of the old post office system into the hands of TTPost and secure the assets of our country.

I want the Minister to take this into consideration. The site where the old Caroni Post Office existed on, today it is being utilized as a car park for a watering hole that is run by a senior operative of the PNM. In fact, he was a former permanent secretary in the Ministry of National Security, and brazen to the point where it is the State land, State property, and they would seek to violate that particular piece of State property, and this is why we must understand the importance of securing the assets of the old post system and to have them properly vested in relation to the future of TTPost.

Also, I have seen what occurred at the California and Couva Post Offices and I could go on and on in relation to the abandonment and stripping of the assets and vandalization and so on. I could parallel this in relation to—we have a sense of duty and a sense of care—to what happened with the closure of Caroni (1975) Limited.

The field engineering department of Brechin Castle ended up in illegal quarrying activities in the Far East. And, again, we have that sense of responsibility, duty and care and we must see this particular piece of amendment in that context as we go about the business of governing Trinidad and Tobago, and our responsibility to the wider citizenry of the

country. This is why I want to further commend the Minister of Public Utilities for having that sense of focus and attention in ensuring that there is a sense of accountability, transparency and good governance prevailing at TTPost.

I think the Member for La Brea and the Member for Diego Martin North/East when he made an intervention, he was concerned about what is being done in relation to ensuring that the audited financial statements of TTPost are brought up to speed, and during the Minister's presentation he gave, more or less, a detailed statement and a detailed sense of direction in terms of the sense of focus and drive as it relates to ensuring that the audited financial statements of TTPost are up to speed, and that in itself is indicative of the People's Partnership Government's philosophy and focus to ensure that there is transparency, accountability and good governance in all state enterprises throughout Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker, it is in this context we must also see the importance, relevance and the necessity for this particular amendment here this afternoon. It is part and parcel of an overall legislative package and agenda of the People's Partnership Government to ensure that there is a holistic development of Trinidad and Tobago from a legislative point of view.

We have pursued legislation with respect to judicial, education, social services, external affairs and trade and investment and I could go on and on, and today we are focusing on another avenue of development in Trinidad and Tobago, something that was left hanging by the People's National Movement, and, today, we are continuing to show that we have a sense of political will; we have a sense of commitment to the continued growth and development of Trinidad and Tobago, and that is why we must all support

this particular amendment to ensure that TTPost and the postal system of Trinidad and Tobago continues to deliver quality service to all of the citizens and to ensure that there is growth and development in all sectors of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

Mrs. Patricia McIntosh (*Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West*): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make a contribution to the Bill under review today in this honourable House, a Bill to amend the Postal Corporation Act, Chap. 47:02.

Mr. Speaker, before I get to the meat of the Bill, I must confess that when the Leader of Opposition Business in the House announced that we will be debating this Bill today, I half expected that a clause would have been inserted to address postal service efficiency. Despite the claims by the Member for Couva South that there has been great improvement in the postal services, the fact remains that Trinidad and Tobago is still well lagging behind the developed world in terms of international standard requirements, precision and timeliness of service.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons for this deficiency in our service is the dearth of a zip code or postal code, and this is what I was hoping we would have seen also in this Bill, in addition to the amendment that I should talk about just now. When we think of the mix-up, the consistent mix-up of addresses if envelopes or any mail is not properly addressed in respect of places with the same name in various different locations, it could be quite distressing for the public.

When we see an address that is Queen Street, but the exact location is not noted on the envelope or on the mail, are we speaking of Queen Street in

San Fernando, Arima or Port of Spain? To which Park Street are we referring, when we speak of Park Street? Is it Port of Spain or San Fernando? If that is not clearly indicated on the envelope, it causes a lot of havoc in the service.

Mr. Sharma: The code is the problem.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: When we speak of Mon Repos and this mail is destined for Mon Repos, is it Mon Repos in Morvant or San Fernando?

Mr. Sharma: What about Fyzabad?

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, Knox Street, is it Knox Street in Port of Spain or San Fernando. Quarry Street: is it Quarry Street in Diego Martin or East Dry River? Clifton Hill: is it Clifton Hill in Port of Spain or Point Fortin or Maracas St. Joseph, where my hon. colleague, the Member for Port of Spain South lives or the north coast? Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on. So, I was really hoping that we would have seen the introduction of a zip code in this Bill, which will decrease this confusion of addresses and save the postal services and the agencies much time and trouble.

Mr. Speaker, one last point I would make on this before I move on to the matter at hand, is that this introduction of a zip code or a postal code would greater international compliance and competitiveness. Many online data bases and registration forms mandate the use of a zip code or postal code and they demand that this be completed for registration. Very often, businesses or individuals have to abort their efforts at registering to participate in a programme or for a project because of this absence of a zip code. They cannot progress to the next level because we cannot fill out the zip code.

3.40 p.m.

This deficiency, where it is observed by some international agencies, you are allowed to use five zeros to satisfy these mandatory requirements, but if this is not allowed, we have individuals and businesses who are unable to access many data entry forms, and many registration forms.

I will like to suggest that, as soon as possible, we introduce this zip code or postal code, which will also help in reducing the number of misplaced packages, the number of late deliveries, and will create greater efficiency that I know the Minister has been talking about, he wants to see about greater efficiency, and productivity in our postal services.

Let me get to the amendment in this Bill. It is proposing one amendment, which is removing the time stipulation of 12 months for the vesting of the property which was under the direction and management of the Post Master General under the Trinidad and Tobago Post Act, Chap. 47:02.

In his contribution, particularly in other place, the hon. Minister of Public Utilities termed this a simple and straightforward amendment, and on the surface, hon. Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, it is just that, a simple and straightforward amendment, but upon careful examination, several complexities come into view. I will give a very, very brief synopsis because the hon. Minister did give a very comprehensive history of our country's postal services, but I would just pinpoint a few facts to contextualize the events leading up to this Bill, and the anticipated stated outcomes should it be passed.

Mr. Speaker, the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act, Chap. 47:02, came into being, as we all heard, from the Member for Couva South, in 1999 under the UNC administration, and we commend them for bringing

this legislation.

Section 61(1) of the Act reads:

“The Minister shall, by Order within twelve months of the commencement of this section, vest in Trinidad and Tobago Post such property which was under the direction and management of the Postmaster General, under the Post Office Act at the commencement of this section, as is specified in the Order.”

In 1999, the vesting of the property, as per the dictates of the UNC administration, ought to have occurred within the legislated time or period of 12 months, but it did not happen. We talk about Governments lapsing, and not realizing their goal. Well, that goal was not realized at that time.

Now today, 13 years later, and we are two years into this present administration, so you take those two and you take this two, you have four years of this lapsing under this administration, and I agree that under the PNM it also lapsed, but you know, when we debate, it is so easy for us to play the political blame game, it is the easiest thing we can do to gain—to score points, but I will not do that. Thirteen years later this Bill is brought before this honourable House, by this present administration, and clause 2 of the Bill is purporting to amend section 61(1) of the Postal Corporation Act by deleting the words, “within twelve months of the commencement of this section and substituting the words, “on or before April 09, 2007”, a time frame of five years.

Mr. Speaker, there were 56 post offices originally, initially to be vested, as the Minister said, Cabinet in 2001, had approved the vesting of 47 of them to TTpost. I want to go back to the time frame, and I will speak about it later in more detail, but I want say, the Minister keeps saying that

the whole process, the process of evaluating, and I will go into more detail, has almost been completed, and he said specifically that 43 of the properties have already been valued, and it is just a handful, left and I will quote him a little more as I go along. I am wondering, if we have gone so far in the process, I am just asking, and I would like him to clarify, why is it going to take so long, such a terribly long time, to vest these properties in TTPost—
[*Interruption*]

Hon. Member: To complete.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: —yes to complete it. It is just mind-boggling for me, a lay person in the field, and I am sure that the public would like to know, why is it that we have to take until 2017 for this process to be completed.

We complained here in this honourable House that the PNM did nothing for so long, well, we had four years of this present administration, two under the UNC, who brought this initiative into legislation, and two more since they have come again, and now we are looking for five more, so you are talking about nine years, and why is it going to take so long? I would like the hon. Minister to answer me that question. In his contribution in the other place, the hon. Minister said, and I quote—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, the relevance of the Senate debate does not form any part of our deliberations. We are not supposed to refer to what takes place in the other House, so whatever he said or any other Member said, does not form part of our debate. So I ask you to refrain from quoting from the Senate, it is not relevant.

Hon. Member: Well said, well said.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will be guided by that advice. The Minister did state that everything was near completion, the

whole process was near completion, but clearly, this valuation process certainly has not ended. I think by the Minister's own admission, we realized that that process has not ended, there are still various properties that need to be valuated, and he said, if I might quote what he said in this House, that he is getting four evaluators to do—is it a desktop evaluation you said, Sir? I take that to mean an update—[*Interruption*]

Sen. George: That is right.

Mrs. P. McIntosh:—an updated evaluation, but the process is not completed. At the same time, the Hon. Minister comes to this Parliament and expects the Members on this side to support unfinished business. Mr. Speaker, this is unfinished business, we do not have all the details.

The Minister said that the TTPost asset base will increase by \$56 million [*Crosstalk*] Where is this valuation, we would like to know? How could the Minister say that the asset base will increase by \$56 million? How could he say that when the exercise is still in progress, when the whole process has not ended? How could he put a figure to the value of asset holdings? He still has to do an updated evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that \$56 million was the valuation given in 1998 for the 47 properties, it cannot be the same today, that value cannot be same today. Forget the buildings which have become dilapidated, most of them, but land does not depreciate—[*Interruption*]

Miss McDonald: It appreciates.

Mrs. P. McIntosh:—land appreciates, and we are talking about an evaluation that we were given how many years ago, 1998. So how could this Government come to the Parliament and expect the Opposition to support a decision based on a half-picked duck? This is a half-picked duck,

and we all want, as I will go on to show, an upgrade in the postal services. We all want to see these buildings that have become dilapidated, we would like to see them be refurbished, but we need information to support this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, by any international accounting standards the valuation that was given in 1998 cannot be the same as today, and sometimes I feel that this Minister is just pulling figures out of a hat.

If as the Minister suggests, a current valuation was undertaken—I think he said 2007—was an independent evaluator selected by way of a transparent tendering process? One; who then, he said there were four evaluators, were the evaluators? When were these valuations actually conducted, which year, when? 2007? Are we specific about that?

And last but not least, what is the current market value—we want to know, the Members on this side want know—of each of the properties to be vested? You see, we would like to know, why has this information not been made available to this honourable House?

Miss McDonald: That is it.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: The Members on this side need full disclosure of the facts, and full transparency before we can support this Bill. We are willing to support it, but we need full disclosure of the facts, and full transparency, such information is vital as the Members of this honourable House engage in meaningful debate on the Bill presently before us, so that the country is not short-changed by the vesting and/or disposal of these properties [*Crosstalk*] belonging to the State. We need to be informed about the process of vesting these properties. We need to be informed of the details of the activity of the various steps. We want to know that before we flit away all the State's properties.

My humble suggestion, which does not have to be taken, because of the delicate nature of this case involving the finances, and the fact that these properties belong to the State and the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I humbly suggest that Parliament appoints a special select committee to oversee this initiative, a committee that would report to Parliament on the processes, procedures and cost involved, cost associated with the valuation of the properties to be vested in Trinidad and Tobago Post, and the current, what is the actual status of this initiative with all the details.

I humbly suggest that the committee reports its findings to Parliament, so that Members on both sides of the honourable House could arrive at well-informed decisions for the benefit of the country in general, and our citizens in particular.

The Minister also stated that certain properties were not necessary for the corporation to realize its goal. So that you have properties that are not needed, and will not be vested; of the 47, I think you have six properties that will not be vested, and I think those are Guiaco, Palo Seco, Valencia, Moruga, Guapo and Manzanilla.

The question that I must ask, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister, if these properties are not utilized for postal services, then how will they be utilized for the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago? Will they be put on sale on the open market, if so, will they be sold under the highest standards of transparency and profitability for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and its citizens or will it be a fire sale? We want to know because these properties belong to the State, and the citizens of this country must be informed as to what will be done to these properties, since most of them are

situated on prime real estate.

I must reiterate, that if this Government intends to sell these said properties, that that special select committee, that I am proposing very humbly, should ensure that they are sold under the highest standards of transparency and profitability for the benefit of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and its citizens.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, as an alternative to selling the properties that are not needed—again those properties in Guaico, Palo Seco, Valencia, Moruga, Guapo, Manzanilla—I want to suggest that if they are not for sale and they are not going to be used in the postal services operations, that they be converted into geriatric homes, halfway houses, early childhood centres, homework centres, et cetera; which would be a great benefit to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. As I said, most of the post offices are prime real estate, and we want to see them upgraded. I would like to endorse what my colleague the Member La Brea said and what the Member for Couva South said, it pains us to see these properties in such a dilapidated condition.

I would like to pinpoint some of these properties: there is one on Murray Street, Woodbrook in a state of disrepair, and I believe workers of the city corporation use it to house their tools and equipment—[*Continuous crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker: Member, Minister of Public Utilities, Member for Diego Martin Central and Member for Diego Martin North/East, we cannot have this kind of talking taking place whilst the Member is on her legs. Minister, I noticed this is a habit now, take notes. [*Laughter*] You are engaging talk whilst a Member is on her legs and I think it is very disrespectful and

discourteous, so I appeal to all Members to take notes and do not disturb the Member while she is on her feet. Continue, hon. Member.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I am thankful for your protection. But thank God, Mr. Speaker, you have guided me and they really were not disturbing me because I am speaking to you consistently. *[Laughter and desk thumping]*

Mr. Speaker, most of the post offices are located in prime real estate areas. For instance we have the one on Murray Street in Woodbrook, it is indeed in a state of disrepair and I believe it is used by the workers of the city corporation to house their tools and equipment and as a place to convene. Then we have that one in Tacarigua close to the Dinsey junction opposite the gas station, which is also in a state of disrepair. It is one of those that we would like to see rehabilitated and restored to its original form. Most of them were built anyhow in the colonial days. I know the residents of San Juan, Barataria and the environs are very concerned about the post office in the Croisee, and I know they want to see it restored to be the landmark it was and the heritage site that it once was.

The hon. Member for Couva South spoke about the Rio Claro Post Office—yes, we all want to see them being functional and upgraded and the landmarks that they were. They belong to our history. We should take pride in them. But there is one particular property that I am very, very concerned and that property is in my constituency, and that is why I am so concerned. This property is located on Maraval Road. There was a handsome post office there, but it was left to become dilapidated, but worse than that, yesterday I went to the school to greet the SEA students—the school opposite, Newtown Girls—and give them some pencils to do their exams

and I was shocked; I pass on that road all the time but I had noticed that the post office that was there obliquely opposite to the school has been completely demolished—

Hon. Member: By whom?

Mrs. P. McIntosh: That is not the point. It is now part of the property—whether it is leased, whether it has been sold, I hope it has not been sold—of a casino on the corner. It is nicely fenced. Beautifully fenced.

Mr. Imbert: What! What!

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, you can pass now and see it.

Mr. Imbert: “Ooooooh”, now we understand what they are planning.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Anyone can pass right now. [*Crosstalk*] Beautifully fenced. I could not believe it. It said “no, I must be mistaken; probably it was further up the road.” [*Interruption*] I had to call.

Miss McDonald: It is Maraval or Picton?

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Maraval Road. I had to call a friend who lives in the area and ask, and the friend said, “yes”. The cars were parked and it is nicely enclosed, beautifully enclosed. State land, state property, the people’s property is now the parking lot of a casino at the corner. [*Interruption*] Yes, it is. It is. [*Interruption*] No, no, this was fenced—

Hon. Member: The PNM.

Miss Cox: “At all; at all.”

Mr. Imbert: What! “Doh study him, wha he know. He doh know wha he talking bout.” [*Crosstalk*]

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I am hearing—I am not speaking to them, but I am hearing that it might be under the PNM days. This was freshly acquired. [*Desk thumping*] Newly acquired, and I want to

know who gave this permissions? Was it sold? Was it leased?

Mr. Imbert: “You feel is WASA fete we talking bout?” [*Laughter*]

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Who gave the permission for our land, our people’s land, our state land to be thus used?

Miss Cox: “Doh say people yuh know cause they will think its People’s Partnership.”

Mrs. P. McIntosh: No, no, no; citizens. The land that belong to citizens.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we have to be careful, and this is the one I know about, that I saw, that I went and stood and I called the residents because I know them, that is part of my constituency. I said I must be wrong, this could not be true and they confirmed.

[*Cellphone rings*]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, could you take your seat?

Hon. George: It is not my phone, Mr. Speaker, I just take it off the chair. It is not my phone. [*Laughter and crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker: No, I understand. You know, we have been very liberal in this House by allowing Members to walk with their devices. I have appealed to Members to have those devices on silent mode. I think my advice is being ignored. I would not want to revisit that particular arrangement, so I appeal to Members, please, make sure your cellphones, or your Ipads, or the smart phones are on silent. Please! Thank you. Continue hon. Member.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I pinpointed one property of which I personally know in my constituency and I could attest to the fact that anyone could go to see it. I would not stand here and say something that is so obvious.

What I wonder is how many other of those sites have been rented, leased or acquired by private entities? Initially there were 56 post offices which were to have been vested. In 2001 Cabinet approved 47 for vesting. I want to know, I am just asking questions, probably, the hon. Minister would be able to answer me, what became of those remaining nine properties? *[Interruption]* What happened to those remaining nine properties? You said 47 would be vested. What happened to the remaining nine? Then the Minister said, of the 47 he needs only 41, so we have nine and six; 15. We have 15 properties. I want to know about them, Mr. Speaker? I would like to know about them?

The Bill is silent on them. Well, it said nothing about this. There are questions that need to be answered for the benefit of the public and questions that need to be answered in respect of properties of the State, properties of the people. Should these questions go unanswered; the passage of this Bill will give to this Government unfettered discretion to dispose of the State's assets as they very well wish. This may redound to the benefit of a few in our society who are close to this Government. The Members on this side have every reason to be careful and responsible and guard the people's interest. This Government seems to have its eye on prime real estate.

I see they have been looking at the St. Ann's Hospital and the Minister has been recommending that that should be closed down and he said it is prime real estate—that is in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. I am looking on very closely too. Then they are looking at Fondes Amandes in my constituency in the area where the very humble people live, and the hon. Minister is trying to get them off the land, and they are saying that is prime real estate, land where they have been living for the past 95 years and more,

for donkey's ages; their parents who, some of them have died, they have lived there and they are looking at the real estate. The only thing I think the Minister has been made aware, that that land is not State land, that land is private property, a lot of it, where those people are living, so I doubt that he would be able to move them. But he would have a fight if he tries to do so.

[Interruption]

Mr. Speaker, once again, I am calling for the establishment of a special select committee to further deliberate on the proper strategy to vest the properties in TTPost and to properly dispose of those not needed and to report back to this honourable House, because without those salient facts we shall be walking like blind mice through a maze and I do not want to be in that maze. I feel it is very unfair to ask the Members opposite on this side to support this unfinished and half-baked piece of legislation before this honourable House today. It would be irresponsible of us as parliamentarians to do so. We were elected to look after the people's business and we shall do just that. *[Desk thumping]*

Miss McDonald: We are the watchdogs.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: We are the watchdogs, as my colleague the Member for Port of Spain South, who is teaching me so well. Yes, I am under her guidance—

Mr. Warner: What about mine?

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Yes, and certainly the Member for Chaguanas West.

[Interruption] You would not confuse me if you sit there, I know you.

[Laughter] Yes, I could recognize you anywhere.

Mr. Warner: Thank you very much.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: The Minister in his presentation proudly announced that

the T&T postal services were the most successful of the country's utilities and they said it is doing well, improved services, et cetera. I am not totally disputing this. I think that the postal services are quite good. There is room for improvement, a lot of room for improvement, but quite good. If you got the zip code, the postal code, things would get better. But they are doing well.

But, Mr. Speaker, in light of this it would be remiss of me if I failed to make mention of the driving force behind the successful operations of the postal services, and that is the human element, the postal workers. I pose the question, how will the postal workers benefit from this vesting of properties? Would it translate into increased benefits and better conditions of employment for them? I see the Member for Couva South there, and I was very proud to see that he was wearing his union attire as he rose to give his contribution. I am very glad, the union members would be very glad.

Mr. Indarsingh: Thank you very much.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: Usually he wears his suit but today he is wearing his union attire. I am very glad to see that. Mr. Speaker, I asked the question about how will this vesting of properties benefit the postal workers. I ask this because while the hon. Minister is claiming success of the operations of TTPost and forecasting that the corporation will increase its asset holdings by \$56 million, while he is doing that, the postal workers have been engaged in negotiations for better wages and they are protesting against poor working conditions.

I would like to refer to an article published in the *Trinidad Guardian*, on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 "TTPost workers protest again, Demand for start of wage talks." Mr. Speaker, please permit me to read from this excerpt

of the *Guardian*:

“TTPost workers staged another round of protest in San Fernando yesterday, demanding better working conditions and an immediate start to wage negotiations. The workers, led by officers of the T&T Postal Workers Trade Union, marched down High Street, before returning to their base at La Pique Plaza. General secretary of the T&T Postal Workers Trade Union, Reginald Crichlow, said their joint collective agreement expired in 2008, yet negotiations had not started. He explained that a job evaluation was undertaken by an external consultancy and recommendations were made for all workers to get a 15 per cent wage increase.

However, no increase was forthcoming, he added. ‘We are now into the second period of negotiations (2011—2014) and we have not even started collective bargaining for (2008—2010),’ he complained.”

This is deplorable.

4.10 p.m.

“Crichlow added that working conditions at several TTPost centres were unsatisfactory”.

OSHA he quoted—

“OSHA visited TTPost main centre at Piarco on two occasions because of poor working conditions and we are fed up of these conditions, he said, adding that the facility at Wrightson Road had poor lighting and no fire exit, while the San Fernando office had a faulty AC unit. He also called for the shutting down of the dilapidated Speyside facility in Tobago.

Crichlow explained that 90 per cent of the agency’s fleet of motor

scooters were in need of repairs. ‘This entire fleet needs to be replenished. Workers don’t have umbrella...’”

They deliver our mail in sun in rain.

“Workers don’t have umbrella or proper bags...”

They need bags to put the mail in.

“or proper bags to work, yet we are working hard and we are recognized as number one in terms of public utilities’, Crichlow added. He warned if the Chief Personnel Officer Stephanie Lewis did not begin wage negotiations, the workers would increase their protest action. Minister of Public Utilities Emmanuel George is currently in India and was not available for comment.”

What is my point? Where I am going with this? Why is this contextual framework in this *Guardian* article, why was it necessary? Good questions. After all, Mr. Speaker, we are here to discuss the vestment of properties,—
so why talk about the postal workers?

Well, Mr. Speaker, if we are honest with ourselves we would realize that we could have all the properties vested as the Minister would like, successfully vested; we can have all the zip codes that I would like implemented, but if the powers that be, do not demonstrate the requisite appreciation and respect for our country’s postal workers and fulfil their most basic needs, Mr. Speaker, then we shall never achieve the required productivity levels and morale that such initiatives are supposed to help us achieve. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Browne: Very well said.

Mrs. P. McIntosh: The postal workers are simply asking for proper bags, umbrellas and scooters to assist in the execution of their duties and

responsibilities. Is that too much to ask? They want decent salaries so that they could cope with the escalating cost of living. Is that too much to ask? While this Government attempts to consolidate the asset base of the country's postal services, it should at the same time seek the interest of the postal workers.

Mr. Speaker, before I end, I should like to wish all my female colleagues on both sides of the House, happy Mother's Day and I shall like to wish every single mother in Trinidad and Tobago especially those of my constituency, a very God-blessed, happy, fulfilled and peaceful Mother's Day. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. Colm Imbert (*Diego Martin North/East*): Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to enter this debate. However, when I heard the scandalous and shocking information that was brought to this Parliament and by extension the national community, by the hon. Member of Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West, I was duty-bound to participate? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that a parcel of State property in the Newtown area that used to be a post office has been demolished under the watchful eyes of this UNC coalition Government, and converted into a car park for a private casino. I cannot believe this, Mr. Speaker. But I have absolutely no reason to doubt the statement made by the hon. Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West. The Minister is not here for some reason he has left the Chamber, but I think it is incumbent upon the Minister to investigate and explain this matter to this Parliament [*Desk thumping*] and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago; today, before we conclude deliberation on this Bill. How on earth could a post office that is a property that is to be vested in the postal corporation, be converted into a car park for

a private casino? I would like to know what procedures were used to allow access for this private casino to this State property. Was there a tender? Was it auctioned? Was it publicized? Is there some compensation that is being paid to the State for the use of this very valuable piece of property on Maraval Road, in Newtown?

I think it is necessary to go through the list of properties that are to be vested. The first one I have on my list is the post office in Marabella. And Marabella is a fast developing area on the outskirts of San Fernando, prime commercial, industrial and residential property. I have absolutely no doubt that the Marabella Post Office is situated on a main road and is prime commercial real estate at this point in time.

The second post office is in Morvant; the third post office is in Moruga; the fourth is in La Horquetta; the fifth, Gasparillo, again a rapidly developing area in the vicinity of the Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery. The sixth is in St. Ann's, again prime real estate. All of these post offices would have been located on main thoroughfares which makes them even more valuable. The seventh is in Belmont; the eighth is in Williamsville; ninth is in Gonzales. We have a post office in Carenage. I am familiar with that one, prime real estate. Post office in Diego Martin, prime real estate Bill. A post office in Maraval—along that strip of Saddle Road, Mr. Speaker, land is selling in excess of \$100 a square foot and probably more.

The thirteenth post office is in Valencia; fourteenth Sangre Grande; fifteenth, Guaico; then we have Rio Claro; Maloney, Upper Santa Cruz, prime real estate. Debe where we are having the South campus for the law school—prime real estate; Cedros; New Grant; Oropouche another fast developing area of Trinidad. Carapichaima; Penal—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Sharma: And what about Fyzabad?

Mr. C. Imbert: Coming there. Santa Flora; Claxton Bay; Mayaro; Tabaquite; Newton which would be the post office the Member referred to which has now been converted to a car park for a casino. Couva; Toco, Manzanilla; and I am sure again the post office in Couva is on the main strip and would be prime commercial real estate. Manzanilla; Lower Santa Cruz; again prime real estate. San Juan, “cyah” get more commercial than that. Tacarigua; Curepe; Palo Seco; Fyzabad of course there is one in Fyzabad—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Sharma: Describe it as a growing town to.

Mr. C. Imbert: The Member for Fyzabad is asking me to describe Fyzabad as a growing town. I would have to take his word for it and I would have to assume that the post office in Fyzabad is also prime commercial real estate. Again Caroni; Cunupia; La Romain; Laventille, Guapo; Scarborough; Speyside; Roxborough; Moriah. And one has to assume that the post office in Fyzabad must be situated close to the town of Siparia.

Mr. Sharma: Near the MP’s office.

Mr. C. Imbert: Near the MP’s office—prime real estate.

Mr. Sharma: Forget La Brea “nah”. “Long rope for maga goat”.

Mr. C. Imbert: Now, Mr. Speaker, I had asked the Minister to give way, and I had asked him a particular question. What was the reason why the Postal Corporation (TTPost) was not occupying all of these 50-odd post offices?

Mr. Speaker, he dodged the question. He did not answer it. He said I would come to that, and he never came to it. There is no rational explanation as to why after the passage of the Trinidad and Tobago Postal

Corporation legislation in 1999, no rational explanation, where you have a Government department, the post office, now being taken over by a corporation, there is no explanation why the then Government did not give access or a licence to occupy to TTPost all of these 50 properties. The Minister has not told us why the then Government in 1999, did not hand over each one of these 50-plus properties to the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation with respect to the new postal service.

The reason I am particularly concerned that the Minister of Public Utilities has not told this House what went on and what went wrong in 1999, is because he was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities at the time. And he would have been the public servant charged with the responsibility to—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Sharma: 36(5).

Mr. C. Imbert: Please—charged with the responsibility to deal with this matter. If one goes, Mr. Speaker, to the report of the Auditor General, dated September 30, 2005, and if one goes to the second page of that report, Mr. Speaker, item 4.3 “Vesting of Property”. The Auditor General stated and this report was actually laid in 2009 which is another story, because the auditors did the audit in 2006, but for some reason the Auditor General did not complete her work until 2009. But in 2009, the Auditor General had this to say. Section 61(1) of the Act states:

“61. (1) The Minister shall, by Order, within twelve months of the commencement of this section, vest in Trinidad and Tobago Post such property which was under the direction and management of the Postmaster General under the Post Office Act at the commencement of this section, as is specified in the Order.”

Now this is very, very clear. The intention was that all of the properties under the direction and management of the Postmaster General would be handed over to Trinidad and Tobago Post (TTPost). That was the intention of the legislation.

The Auditor General then goes on to say: “The commencement date of section 61(1) of the Act was July 1, 1999.” And she further states, evidence was not seen that the property referred to was vested in the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation.

Now, what does this mean? It means that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities and the then Minister, had a responsibility between July 1999 and June 30, 2000 to organize the handover of the properties from the management of the Postmaster General to TTPost. The hon. Minister as I said was the permanent secretary at that time, but he has not told this House why he failed, he and his Minister at the time failed to hand over these properties within the 12-month period.

4.25 p.m.

Now as permanent secretary, he would have been intimately involved in the preparation and drafting of the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation legislation which was debated and passed in Parliament and then proclaimed in July 1999. So he, and probably only he in this entire Parliament, can tell us why the Government of the day did not continue and go through with the vesting of these properties.

What is interesting is that the 12-month period specified in the legislation to run from July 1999 expired in July 2000. The then UNC Government remained in office until December 2001, for a further 18

months beyond the expiry of the 12-month period. Why between July 2000 and the end of 2001 did the Government of the day not come to Parliament and make appropriate amendments to the legislation to allow the vesting of the properties? We have not heard that either. The only person who can tell us what went wrong and what went on, and what was in their mind, and why they did not want to vest these properties in the corporation is the hon. Minister of Public Utilities. He knows. He was there. He would know why they drafted the law this way and he would know why they allowed 12 months to lapse, and he would know why they allowed another 18 months to pass and them to go out of office while this matter was left in abeyance.

The fact of the matter is, after the 12-month expired the properties could not be vested without legislative action. It could not be done, because it says within 12 months of the commencement and the commencement was July 01, 1999.

So the Minister has not been completely forthright with this Parliament. He has a lot of explaining to do. Tell us why he did not do what was required to vest these properties. Now we fast-forward to 2012. I have just read out a whole list of properties. The Minister was supposed to tell us what the value of these properties was. I asked him. He said he could not give me the document because he was going to use it. Well, he “finish” talking, he still would not release the document.

Mr. Sharma: He “don’t” trust you.

Mr. C. Imbert: That is okay. He has to come and tell the Parliament. One way or another we will find a way, so that the Minister will release the

valuation that he has in his possession with respect to these 50-odd properties. I can tell you that that property on Maraval Road based on current valuations of—

Mr. Sharma: “Stop wasting time, nah man. Who yuh trying to impress?”

Mr. Speaker: Please! Please, continue.

Mr. C. Imbert: Typical of the Member for Fyzabad. I can tell you that based on current valuations of properties, that property in Newtown is worth at least \$5 million.

Mr. Sharma: So cheap?

Mr. C. Imbert: Now, you have 50 properties here and I do not expect each one of them to be worth \$5 million, but I can tell you that the Maraval post office is worth at least \$4 million to \$5 million, situated where it is and with the price of real estate in Maraval.

I venture to say the Diego Martin post office is worth a couple million as well; Carenage; the Marabella post office and so on. So let us put an average of \$3 million on each one. By 50, that is \$150 million and I am being very, very conservative.

The Minister said they have to do this now so that it will give the corporation the ability to borrow. But this corporation has been losing money since it was first formed in 1999. The Minister himself said that. The corporation has been losing money, has been operating at a loss for 13 years. You have a bankrupt corporation—because they also had a World Bank or an IDB facility, of millions of dollars that was given to this corporation several years ago for the takeover by the New Zealand Postal

Corporation and for the modernization of TTPost—millions of dollars. And the TTPost used up all of that money—used up the entire sum of money that was given to them for the modernization and the transformation of the post office—the whole thing, in excess of \$40 million.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East, it is 4.30. Acting Leader of the House, Member for Chaguanas West, before we suspend I would like to ask the Chief Whip and your good self to have a caucus with your Members. When we come back here at 5.00 p.m., this Parliament is no longer prepared to be disrespected by not having a quorum at five. A quorum is 12 Members and since I know myself as a Member, half-an-hour is for tea, until we decide as a House to change it. So Members must discipline themselves to be here, at least seated, at three minutes to five so that we can start the business of the people at 5.00 p.m. promptly.

This sitting is now suspended until 5.00 p.m.

4.30 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.00 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

Mr. C. Imbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad to see that the Minister has returned to the Chamber—

Mr. George: I never went anywhere.

Mr. C. Imbert:—so that he can tell us why, as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, he did not do what was necessary to vest the properties in TTPost for the 12-month period put into the legislation, which I am certain he would have been involved in the drafting of that Postal Corporation Act way back in 1999, where it was clearly stated that the

Minister, by order, within 12 months of the commencement of this particular section, should vest the properties that were then under the direction and management of the Postmaster General.

I am glad he is here. So through you, Mr. Speaker, the Minister can tell us why, as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, he allowed the 12-month period to lapse, and then why, after another period of 18 months he did not advise his then Minister to go to Parliament to make the necessary amendment, because the law is clear. After 12 months you cannot vest the properties anymore. You do not need to go to the Solicitor General to get that opinion; it is in English. So perhaps the Minister will tell us what went wrong; why he did not do it when he was the permanent secretary.

Coming back to the matter that I was talking about, the Members opposite are making out as if the transfer of over \$100 million in state property is a trivial matter. The Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West,, before the break, told us that a historical post office on Maraval Road obliquely opposite Newtown Boys', I believe, was demolished and is now being used as a car park for a casino.

Hon. Member: Fenced.

Mr. C. Imbert: And fenced, yes—state property. And since this is one of the properties that the Minister of Public Utilities should be jealously guarding—because he has come to this Parliament to ask this Parliament to allow these properties to be vested in TTPost. I would think that since the properties are going to be used as collateral for loans, as the Minister said, that he would have an interest in securing the properties, but for some reason

it is being used as a car park, and I was told by persons who frequent the Maraval Road area—Newtown area—on evenings, that it is also used by a mobile vendor at nights. So is this going to be the fate of all the Trinidad and Tobago post offices all over Trinidad? Are they going to be demolished then they are going to be sold; they are going to be leased; they are going to be given to friends and family? Perhaps the Minister can tell us.

The Minister, as I said, seems to think this is a trivial matter. But why should we in Parliament agree to give a bankrupt corporation all of these assets to be used to borrow money? Where is TTPost going to get the money from for the debt servicing, after they have used all of these properties as security to raise loans, since they are losing money? I took notes when the Minister was speaking, and he told us that TTPost has been losing money since 1999 and he also told us—which is quite astonishing—that within the last two years under his stewardship the corporation has lost up to \$14 million in a particular year, since this new Government has taken over.

So you have a company that has been struggling for 13 years to break even. It has been unable to break even for the last 13 years. It is posting large losses in the last two years. Where is this company going to get the money from after it has mortgaged all of these properties to borrow money? Where is it getting the money from to service the loans? That does not make business sense. The lenders will seize the properties when TTPost defaults, because if it cannot pay its operational expenses; it cannot pay for salaries; it cannot give the postal workers a wage increase because it is bankrupt and it

is running at a loss, then where is it getting the money to pay debt?

And the Minister has not come to us with any business plan and told us that over the next five to 10 years this is the plan for TTPost and this is the model, and this is how they are going to come out of the financial hole that they are in. Are they going to raise the cost of postage? Is that what is going to happen? Is it that the Government is going to raise the cost of postage to pay the workers the increase in wages that they believe they are entitled to? Are you going to raise the cost of postage to pay back for all of these loans? Are you going to raise the cost of postage in order to wipe out the cumulated deficit and to bring this company into profit?

The Minister has been very, very reticent. He has not told us a thing, and I am hoping in his winding up he will answer the question that I asked him: why is TTPost not occupying all of these post offices? What prevents TTPost from occupying them? Because if these properties belong to the State, then why has not—and I repeat it. Why in 1999 did the State not give TTPost a licence to occupy each and every one of these post offices before vesting?

It is a natural thing. It happens with the Housing Development Corporation. They do it all the time. They build houses and they have not completed the conveyance of the property, so they are unable to transfer title, so they give persons who have paid for the houses a licence to occupy, and the persons will pay a small sum until the conveyance and mortgage arrangements are settled and then they transfer the title. Why did the hon. Minister, as permanent secretary, not advise his Minister to give the TTPost

a licence to occupy each one of these 50-odd properties? He has not told us.

Mr. Indarsingh: Let me hear your position on the Caroni post office.

Mr. C. Imbert: I do not know anything about it. I am not from there. I do not represent there. I am not familiar with that particular post office. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister could have told us in his contribution, if he knows so much about what is happening with that particular post office in his area.

But you have a corporation; the last time this corporation prepared accounts for the vetting by the Attorney General was in 2005. The report of the auditors was dated September 08, 2006. It was referred to the Auditor General who, for some reason, took two-and-a-half years—almost three years—to audit the financial statement of the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation for 2005, and then submitted it to the Parliament in May 2009—for some reason.

But be that as it may, whatever the reason for the delay on the part of the Auditor General in laying the accounts—maybe there were problems, because when one goes into the records, one sees in all the reports that the auditors had difficulties in reconciling all of the ledgers; in reconciling all of the accounts; in reconciling inventory and so on. So maybe that is why the Auditor General took so long with respect to laying the accounts.

But the fact is that the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee or the Public Accounts Committee—I am not certain; one of these committees would audit or review the accounts of TTPost; it is one or the other—only has before it audited financial statements dated 2005—seven years ago.

5.10 p.m.

The committees of the Parliament are unable to ask questions of the board of directors and management of TTPost as to what has been happening in that corporation for the last seven years and particularly in the last two years. We cannot because as you know, Mr. Speaker, the Public Accounts and Public Accounts (Enterprises) operate *ex post facto*. We have to wait until the accounts are submitted to the Parliament and then they find their way to the committees and then the committees can look at the accounts. We are prohibited in dealing with matters where we do not have published accounts and where we do not have audited accounts that have been laid before the Parliament. So, at this stage there has been no scrutiny of the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation accounts for seven years.

Now, the Members opposite have a way of saying, “The PNM did it too.” They could say that if they want. I do not think the population is listening to that refrain anymore. Because, this Government was voted in because you were supposed to do better—[*Crosstalk*] “Yeah, yuh doing it”—you were supposed to be a positive change. But, two years into the UNC coalition Government, you cannot get TTPost to submit even their 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009 accounts, two years into your administration. So we have absolutely no idea.

Mr. Speaker, seven years have passed since we had any information on the income and expenditure of TTPost, on its balance sheet, property, plant and equipment. For example, as at September 30, 2005 TTPost had property, plant and equipment valued at \$45.8 million, what is the value of their property, plant and equipment now? Seven years later, we do not know. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Warner: What was it two years ago?

Mr. C. Imbert: Do not know that either. But you see, today is today. You see, the hon. Member—Mr. Speaker, through you—who just threw that question at me, likes to forget about, you know, he said yesterday was yesterday and today is today. But, today is today. [*Desk thumping*] And, it is our duty today on May 11, 2012 to ask these questions. And, we are not going to be side-tracked by any excursion into what has occurred before today because it is today that the Government of Trinidad is asking us to agree that these properties be vested in the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation.

The former Prime Minister used to say, “Wudda, chudda, shudda.” We never came to this Parliament; the PNM Government never came to this Parliament with a Bill or debated or entered into a debate and asked the Parliament to vest these properties in TTPost. The hon. Minister is asking us to agree to that. He has given us an explanation. He tells us that TTPost is renting properties and it is costing them money. Well, I would like to know, the post office that they demolished on Maraval Road because it is they demolished it. That post office was certainly there on May 24, 2010, unless, the eyes of my honourable colleague to the right of me— because this honourable colleague was elected on the May 24, 2010. So unless my honourable colleague’s eyes are fooling her, that post office was there on the May 24, 2010. So therefore, it was demolished after that. And therefore, it was demolished by this Government.

Mrs. McIntosh: The car park was not there.

Miss McDonald: They were asking for a community centre when I was in the Ministry. Yes, it was there.

Mr. C. Imbert: How are you going to save rent, if you knock down the post office you have to build back a new one now, which means you have to incur capital expenditure because you have demolished the post office? So, how do you save money by demolishing a historical building? I mean, that is the other thing. That post office, as far as I am concerned, was part of Trinidad and Tobago's history—

Mrs. McIntosh: Prime location.

Mr. Imbert:—which has been demolished by this administration, this new Government.

So, as I said, unless my honourable colleague is mistaken, how is it going to benefit TTPost if they are renting to be given a vacant piece of land? They will have to construct; they will have to enter into expense; they will have to borrow and the cost of borrowing may be more than the rent that they are paying somewhere else.

So the Minister has not told us anything that would satisfy us on this side that this is a good idea. Just to give the TTPost collateral to do what with? What are you going to do? When you get all these properties, what is the Postal Corporation going to do with them, just put them on your books? No, we believe that it is quite possible that these properties can be disposed of improperly. It is possible. I am not saying that the Minister is going to be part of this because I am not going to impute improper motives to the Minister, but now that the properties are going to be invested in the corporation, who is to say that when the corporation is disposing of the properties that it is going to be done in a manner that would attract public confidence?

If you go to the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act, Chap.

47.02 section 33 and my colleague from La Brea referred to this:

“33. (1) Trinidad and Tobago Post in pursuance of its functions, is not subject to the Central Tenders Board Act...”

Now the Central Tenders Board Act does not just deal with tendering, it may appear so, but, that is not the only thing that comes under the purview of the Central Tenders Board. The Central Tenders Board also has complete responsibility for the disposal of state property. If you read the Central Tenders Board Act, you will see that a Ministry or Government department cannot enter into a contract for the acquisition of goods and services or for the disposal of property in excess of \$2 million. The \$2 million is the limit of the Ministerial Tenders Committee and the Permanent Secretary has a limited of \$1 million. The Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act was carefully drafted as I said, the Minister the Permanent Secretary at the time must have been part and parcel of the legislative drafting process and part of the formulation of policy.

Mr. Warner: You say that four times.

Mrs. McIntosh: And he will say it four more.

Mr. George: No, well, I will answer him once.

Mr. C. Imbert: No you would not. You go ahead. Mr. Speaker, I am listening to the crosstalk, but through you, the Members opposite feel that when they do something that is the end of it. But, what is done in the dark will come out in the light. And, Mr. Speaker, they could use their majority and they could railroad through this legislation without giving us any sense of what the corporation needs these properties for, why prime real estate that is not being used as a post office has to be given to this corporation, why are you giving all of this valuable property to an insolvent corporation a

corporation that has not made profit for thirteen years since inception.

You could use your majority and railroad it through, no problem, no problem. But there are other ways of establishing what happens next. Because, I can tell you as night follows day that we are not going to leave this matter here. We will ensure that the public is properly informed on what is done with each one of these properties. They could run but they cannot hide. Sooner or later the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation will find itself before a Parliamentary committee and will have to answer and tell the Parliament and by extension the public, what they have done with all of these valuable properties.

You see the other thing with the Central Tenders Board—and, Mr. Speaker, you have some knowledge of this, I am not trying to draw you into the debate—but, in an earlier life you were a Minister of Public Administration who oversaw the auctioning of State property and it was done in accordance with the required regulations: that it had to be advertised in the newspapers and there is a proper process of evaluating the bids made for the properties and a proper process for the disposal of the properties and the transfer of title and a whole framework to ensure that there is value for money in the transaction. But, that is all in accordance with the Central Tenders Board legislation.

So that if the Central Tenders Board was disposing of these properties it would have to be done in a particular way for maximum transparency and accountability. But now that the Minister wants us to hand over these properties to TTPost, which is a State corporation run by political appointees, by friends and I dare say family members too, what rules will the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation be using to dispose of this

property? What rules, are there any rules contained within the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation legislation for the disposal of property? What are the procedures?

Let us say in the morning, one of TTPost's creditors calls in a debt because remember they have been losing money hand over fist for the last 13 years. If you go to the balance sheet of September 30, 2005 and I am looking at the—what page is this? One, two, three—it is about page 2 of the Financial Statements, the balance sheet; accumulated losses \$14 million, that is 2005. How do we know what is the extent of liability of this corporation to its trade creditors, how do we know? Are they paying their light bill, are they paying their water bill, are they paying their telephone bill, are they paying for the paper that they use to transact their business; what do they owe, what are their debts? The Minister has not told us. So how do we know that when they get all of these valuable properties—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Indarsingh: Mustapha Abdul Hamid.

Mr. C. Imbert: And, Mr. Speaker, you know we asked the Minister for the valuation, he seems to think it is a secret and he holds it inside his jacket. He would not release, he would not produce the document. And, Mr. Speaker, I understand instructions were given that Members on this side should not receive copies of the valuation. That is my understanding. And, I say that without any fear of contradiction. Because, I asked for them and instructions were given that we on this side were not to be given the 2007 valuation for these post offices.

Miss Cox: That serious.

Mr. C. Imbert: Yes. I am saying that without any fear of contradiction. So, here we have a situation where the Minister has not told us what is the

financial situation with respect to this company, who does it owe and how much is it owed and what are its current liabilities. He has not told us. He has not told us what they intend to do with these properties. We know that it is no longer subject to the Central Tenders Board Act, we know that a post office on Maraval Road is being used for purposes for which it was not intended under the watchful eyes of this administration. And I heard there was another one, I understand under the watchful eyes of this administration, another post office in the constituency of Couva South—

Mr. Indarsingh: You have to get your information correct, it is Chaguanas West.

Mr. Imbert:—it is being used for purpose for which it was not—whatever somewhere down there—intended.

Miss Randial: That is flippant behaviour, somewhere down that area.

Dr. Browne: He said Couva.

Mr. C. Imbert: He said Couva.

Mr. Speaker: Members, let us not engage in crosstalk, please

Mr. C. Imbert: Mr. Speaker, I get the impression the Members opposite have a difficulty with the things we say. You know, things would be staring them in the face, something that is palpably wrong, they know it is wrong but they are in absolutely denial, Mr. Speaker. So, there is absolute no way we on this side can support this legislation. We cannot, because the Minister has not been forthright. He has not come clean with this Parliament [*Desk thumping*].

I am hoping in the Ministers winding-up he will answer the following questions.

5.25 p.m.

Why did he, the hon. Minister, when he is was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, not do what was necessary to allow the properties under the direction and management of the Postmaster General to be vested in TTPost within the statutory 12-month period? Because as the Auditor General has told us that period began on July 01, 1999 and would have ended on June 30, 2000? I know that the hon. Minister was still the Permanent Secretary at that time—tell us why? Tell us why, after the statutory period expired, he, as the Permanent Secretary, did not do anything to cause an amendment to the legislation through his Ministry—
[Interruption]

Mr. Warner: Number five.

Mr. C. Imbert: I am summarizing—to allow the vesting to take place at a later date. Those are the first two questions. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister would tell us what these properties are valued at some point in time instead of holding everything close to his chest.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister would tell us what TTPost is going to do with these properties when they get them. Are they going to renovate them? Are they going to occupy them? Are they going to sell them? Are they going to demolish them? Are they going to give them away? Tell us what TTPost needs these properties for? And explain to us how it is beneficial to TTPost to get access to these properties. Let us know. If the Minister knows, he can tell us why the Maraval Road Post Office was demolished? He can tell us why and who authorized that, and who in the employ of the State allowed a historical post office in Newtown to be demolished and used for purposes that have nothing to do with the people's business. Also, tell us why we, on this side, should agree to give an

insolvent corporation these valuable properties to do with as they please.

Mr. Speaker, until and unless the Minister can give us cogent and compelling answers to these questions, we on this side will continue to jealously guard the public's interest in all these properties. [*Desk thumping*] As I said, we shall use questions to Ministers, Matters on the Adjournment, substantive Motions, freedom of information, and all the avenues available to us to find and what they are doing with all these valuable properties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker: Is there any other Member of the Opposition?

The Minister of Public Utilities (Sen. The Hon. Emmanuel George):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am so very disappointed in the contribution of the Member for Diego Martin West [sic]. I am also quite taken aback by the contribution of the Member for Port of Spain North/St Ann's West. You see, I am taken aback because, in the case of the Member for Port of Spain North/St Ann's West, she began her contribution by speaking to the issue of a postal code, and about the importance of a postal code in all of this debate here today. The Member apparently does not read the papers, watch the television and do the things that one expects that a Member of this Parliament would normally do so that they are informed of what is taking place in the country.

But, I want to speak to the issue of that postal code because the postal code is an initiative that started under the PNM Government, but has been continued vigorously under this Government because this Government understands the importance of improving the lives of its citizens.

I simply want to say, to answer the Member very briefly, that TTPost had stakeholders' workshops in May 2011 at the Crowne Plaza and at the

Tobago House of Assembly, Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities in September of last year. Both events were broadcast on the television and in the print media. The official who was leading this particular exercise spoke on national television, on TV6 Morning Edition, on CNC3, and also, on the Tobago Rise & Shine morning show. There was ample publication of the initiatives of TTPost in pursuing the implementation of this entire exercise.

Mrs. McIntosh: Would the Member give way?

Sen. The Hon. E. George: About two months ago, there was a consultation held at the Hyatt Hotel which was broadcast—

Mrs. McIntosh: Would the Member give way?

Mr. Speaker: Member, you cannot interrupt the Member if he is on his feet.

Mrs. McIntosh: That is not my point!

Sen. The Hon. E. George: So that the whole issue of the postal code is something that has been addressed vigorously by this Government and the ignorance of the Member of Parliament for Port of Spain North/St Ann's West on this matter is quite surprising in that regard.

Mrs. McIntosh: Would you give way Member?

Sen. The Hon. E. George: I will suggest—*[Interruption]*—You had a long time to speak, I am not giving way.

Mrs. McIntosh: But you missed by point!

Sen. The Hon. E. George: So that the postal code, I would suggest to the Member that she go and do some research and check and see how much information is out there on this particular matter of the postal code.

On the issue of why the amendment speaks to five years. I think it

speaks to five years just to be on the safe side that we have had an experience that the one year was not sufficient, and the amendment to five years is simply to make sure that there is adequate time, even with all the bureaucracy and all of what may possibly happen, because one never knows the future. So that this five years is to make sure that we set aside enough time so that we do not have a problem of coming back to this Parliament to seek another amendment if perchance the vesting does not take place in a short time.

The Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West spoke to the issue of the 1998 valuation. In all my discourse here earlier on today, Mr. Speaker, I did not mention any valuation being undertaken in 1998. What I did speak about was a valuation that took place in 2007. So, I cannot speak to the issue of the 1998 valuation.

On the issue of the Post Office in Newtown being demolished and used as a car park, my information is—and I got that information this afternoon, Mr. Speaker—that the TTPost has an arrangement where the location is being rented and a rent is being paid. [*Crosstalk*]

Mr. Imbert: It does not belong to them.

Hon. Member: To whom?

Sen. The Hon. E. George: And because they were written to—
[*Interruption and crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker: Please. Members, we all had our say and the Minister is now responding, even if you are shocked—

Mr. Imbert: I am shocked!

Mr. Speaker: Take notes but do not disturb the Minister or shout across the floor because you are shocked; you cannot do that. So, I appeal to Members

to be silent whilst the Minister is making his contribution, otherwise I will ask you to exit the Chamber and go home.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 33(4).

Mr. Speaker: Misrepresentation?

Mrs. McIntosh: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: That is at the end of his contribution, you get a minute. Continue, please.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your protection from the people that I am shocking with my statements here. Do not worry, you will be shocked further by the time I have ended.

So that the Post Office was being accused of abandoning property and leaving it to rodents and threatening the health of the people who use the neighbouring properties, and in that regard, TTPost took a decision to have the building torn down. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Imbert: It does not belong to them.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Even though it is not vested in them, they were the ones who were held responsible for it by the people who bordered it and TTPost now receives a rent for that property.

How would the vesting of the properties benefit the postal workers? This is a question that was asked also by the Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West. I simply want to say that—and to say by using an example—it will indeed benefit the workers of the TTPost. Because, as we speak, the Curepe Post Office is being used to cover the areas of Curepe, Caroni and Valsayn, and that means that many more postal workers than ought to be in the building occupying it, are in the building in occupation, so that there is a certain amount of overcrowding. If we had the post offices in those

communities to use, certainly that overcrowding would be a thing of the past. So even in that simple example that I gave, the workers of TTPost will benefit from having these post offices vested in TTPost.

I find it very strange that suddenly, the PNM has bleeding hearts for the workers of TTPost, and speaks about their complaining about working conditions and no umbrellas, bikes and so on, because all this was taking place under their watch. It is the same—we are trying to change it now but they were complaining then, and I did not here the PNM with their bleeding hearts seeking the interest of the workers.

Now, the Member for Diego Martin West (sic), again, I said I was disappointed in him. The Member comes to this Chamber continuously—sometimes I look at the Parliament Channel—and all he is focusing on is bacchanal and confusion.

Mrs. McIntosh: What?

Mr. Indarsingh: Oh yes!

Sen. The Hon. E. George: I have come here and I have spoken on this matter before, that why are we always sinking into the depths just to create bacchanal and confusion. I quoted here, one day, from Dr. Eric Williams, the founder and leader of the People's National Movement, at one time, from what Dr. Eric Williams had said. I want to quote it again, as a reminder to those opposite of what is expected from them and what their deceased leader expected from them. He said then:

“I have much pleasure in sending you this message today. Strive for excellence in character in the great virtues of truthfulness, obedience and honesty so that under God, our nation will produce worthy citizens.”

The quote continues and this is the section:

“Bacchanal and confusion cannot be the foundation of an orderly society.”

I want them to recognize this quote and give it due respect in how they speak in the House:

“Bacchanal and confusion cannot be the foundation of an orderly society.”

And I say this to say that the Member for Diego Martin West (sic) is taking issue and making a great deal of confusion about the fact that I was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry at the time.

Mr. Imbert: It is a fact!

Sen. The Hon. E. George: But, I want him to go back and check his facts because Ministries change from time to time. Remember—go back and check your facts—what happened in 2000, and you would find that when you go and do your research that I was not the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry at the time and that—[*Interruption*] I am saying 2000.

Mr. Imbert: So why are you saying 2000? “Doh try that!”

Sen. The Hon. E. George: I was there in 1999 but I am saying in 2000. So that you would find that I was then the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Human Development, Youth and Culture and WASA—sorry, not WASA—but the TTPost—[*Interruption*]

5.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Member for Diego Martin Central, this is my final warning and Member for Diego Martin North/East, this is my final warning. If you all disregard the ruling and guidance of the Chair, I will

have no choice but to invoke the Standing Order. This is the last and final warning to both the Member for Diego Martin Central and the Member for Diego Martin North/East. Allow the Minister to make his response in silence. If you do not like what he is saying, go in the Members' Lounge and watch it on television, but do not disturb him any longer. Continue hon. Minister.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If my memory serves me right, there were some changes made to Ministries in 2000. Again, if my memory serves me right, I became the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Human Development, Youth and Culture and the post office, again if my memory serves me right, went to the Ministry, I think, of Information. So, I will be very careful if I were the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin North/East to so vehemently accuse me of doing nothing in respect of this matter at the time and to say that I am not being forthright with this Parliament. [*Interruption*]

Dr. Griffith: Forever misleading the House. “Yuh eh shame?”

Sen. The Hon. E. George: I dodge the question as to why the corporation was not handed all these properties and I failed as a Permanent Secretary.

The final issue I want to raise is in respect of what the—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker: Please Member for St. Joseph and D'Abadie/O'Meara, please.

Sen. The Hon. E. George:—Member of Parliament for Diego Martin

North/East said. The properties as they stand, are going to rot. Of the 47 properties we speak about here, there are 29 that are occupied at present by TTPost. The other 18 are not occupied. They are going to rot. We have to stop that. We have to put these properties in the hands of a responsible agency. You might say that the agency is not subject to the dictates of the Central Tenders Board, but there are many other entities in the country that are not subject to the dictates of the Central Tenders Board, UDeCott, Nipdec and WASA, but they all have tenders rules, which first have to be approved and then followed. To say that they are not under the jurisdiction of the Central Tenders Board is a moot point because they do have tenders rules which they have to follow in anything that they do. I will not be one to preside over an agency that will be breaking these rules willy-nilly.

The Member for Diego Martin North/East speaks about audited financial statements. I do not want to use the word “hypocrisy” because it is not fit in this Chamber to use such a word, but it is disingenuous of the Member to be critical of this Minister for the fact that no audited financial reports have come in from 2006. I did indicate that since 2005, when the last one was submitted, there have no audited financial reports submitted by TTPost. But, the board and management of TTPost will testify to the fact that I have been pushing for them to complete the 2006 and 2007 and all of their financial reports and have them audited.

I indicated that earlier this year we signed off on 2006 and 2007. I did say so. Those reports will soon come to the Parliament and if the

Member for Diego Martin North/East as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee wants, he can then have his day in questioning TTPost as to what they are doing or what they will do with the properties.

I also indicated that TTPost had gone to the Auditor General and sought leave of the Auditor General, which was granted, to do the auditing of the accounts for 2008, 2009 and 2010. I am trying to get to the point where we can say that TTPost has all of its accounts audited and up to date. [*Interruption*]

Mr. Imbert: Standing Order 33(4), Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You will get a minute at the end of his presentation.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, this Government this doing its best to get all of these agencies, in particular and in my case TTPost, to keep to the rules and regulations by ensuring that its accounts are up to date and go through the process of being laid before Parliament so that they do indeed get to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee or Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, whichever is the relevant one.

In respect of the Member of Parliament for La Brea, the Member sought to have an undertaking that the two post offices located in the constituency of La Brea, one in Guapo and the other in Palo Seco, be refurbished and brought back into operation. Of course, that will depend on TTPost and how they configure all these post offices, but I certainly will speak on his behalf and try to urge them to pay particular attention to these two post offices.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there was any other significant point made, if any, by those opposite, so I think I could close off here, by simply saying that part of this whole exercise and part of what has motivated this amendment, is to seek to ensure, not only that TTPost gets assistance in enabling it to do its work, which is to serve the population of Trinidad and Tobago, but also to ensure that we take a particular kind of approach to Government property, which we seem to always be very, very neglectful of. This is not only in this particular case where so many of these post offices have simply been left to go to rot and to vermin. We have to put these properties in the hands—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Speaker: I would not like you to the move, because two Members have claimed that you misrepresented them and I am going to give them a minute each, just to deal specifically with the point of misrepresentation and then you will make your move by begging to move. You cannot move, otherwise they would not have a chance. I am just advising you, do not move the Bill for second reading.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, we have argued today, in respect of this matter on the purpose of the amendment that we seek today, the effect of the fact that these properties have not been vested in TTPost, the negative effect it has had on TTPost and on the population and I did quote earlier on, virtually a cry from residents of central for them to reinstatement of their post offices. We spoke also to the background for the establishment of TTPost and we also spoke to some of the reasons for the delay in the entire vesting matter. I

did speak also to where the Ministry and TTPost is right now in the vesting process in that we are close to the end of the process and that is why we are requesting this House to support the amendment to the TTPost Act that has been brought before this House today.

Mrs. McIntosh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hansard will show, when I began my contribution I specifically said, and I am quoting almost verbatim, that when the Leader for Government Business announced we will be debating this Bill today I thought, I half-expected, that the issue of zip codes and postal codes would have been introduced in this Bill. I never said the Government was not working on it. I never said that it was not in the papers and on television, and so on. I find it is very wrong for the hon. Minister to cast aspersions on my duties and responsibilities as a parliamentarian. I never questioned whether the Government was working on it. And how could I expect it to be tabled in this honourable House had it not been already discussed by the Government? I knew very well. I read the papers and I look at television. He was wrong to say that.

Mr. Speaker: Member for Diego Martin North East, kindly.

Mrs. McIntosh: You owe me an apology.

Mr. Roberts: Time up!

Mr. Imbert: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if he is eating into my time. The Minister, in his winding up gave the impression that I had accused him, when he was in his former incarnation of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, of having responsibility for the vesting of the properties under the control of the post office in TTPost

and he then went on to say that there were changes in Ministries and he was appointed as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Human Development in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear, I said, and the verbatim record will show, that between July 01, 1999, which is the commencement date of the Act, and June 30, 2000, which is when the 12-month statutory period for vesting expired, within which period the Minister was the Permanent Secretary, that this was absolutely correct. I have downloaded *Gazette* No. 142 of 2000, July 01, 2000, which, as you are aware, is almost a month after the statutory period expired and the hon. Minister was in the Ministry of Public Utilities at that time. [*Desk thumping*] His Minister was Ganga Singh. He was responsible for the vesting throughout the entire 12-month period. Thank you.

Sen. The Hon. E. George: I beg to move.

Question proposed.

5.55 p.m.

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Public Utilities (Sen. The Hon. Emmanuel George): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, that this House do now resolve itself into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.

House in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

House resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Housing and the Environment (Hon. Dr. Roodal Moonilal): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.

Mr. Speaker: Before putting the question on the Motion for the adjournment, I have granted leave to the Member for the Diego Martin North/East to raise a matter on the Motion for the adjournment of this honourable House.

Appointment to Board of Directors (Suitability of Persons)

Mr. Speaker: The matter is the policy of the Government with respect to the suitability of persons for appointment to the board of directors of the Education Facilities Company Limited (EFCL) and state enterprises generally. I call on the hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Colm Imbert(*Diego Martin North/East*): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that the Minister of Education is not here, but surely this matter deals with Government's policy, and I would think that either the Leader of Government Business, the Minister of Finance, Corporation Sole or any other person who has responsibility for board appointments within the Cabinet, could have answered. But I will make my presentation, and I assume at some appropriate time the Minister of Education would reply.

Mr. Speaker, let me deal with the second part of the Motion first—state enterprises generally—and this is why I felt the Minister of Finance could reply as corporation sole. You would recall that under the tenure of

this administration, the new Government, a particular individual by the name of Omar Khan was appointed to be the chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC).

I have before me the financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission dated December 31, 2009, and on page 3 at the bottom of it, there are three names and three signatures. The first name is Omar Khan B.Sc., LCCI, Chairman; the second name is Glenford Cyril, B.Sc. engineering, advanced diploma engineering, general management, acting; and the third name is Coleen Licuorice, FCCA, CA, assistant general manager, finance. My understanding is this document was laid in Parliament.

So in the Parliament we have one, Mr. Omar Khan signing his name B.Sc. In addition, I have a copy of the instrument of appointment given under the hand of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the said Omar Khan. It states as follows:

To Omar Khan: whereas it is provided by the section 4.1 of the Trinidad and Tobago Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission Act, that the Commission established by the Act shall consist of no fewer than five, no more than nine members appointed by the President, four of whom shall be appointed from amongst persons who have special qualifications in and experience of matters related to engineering, accountancy, law, economics or business management.

And whereas you, Omar Khan have special qualifications and have had experience of matters relating to engineering. I, therefore, George Maxwell Richards do appoint you, Omar Khan as a member and Chairman of the Commission for a period of two years.

This was November 2010. I am advised that prior to this appointment in October 2010, the Minister of Public Utilities—he is not here—was advised by the former Permanent Secretary in that Ministry, that her investigations had revealed that Mr. Omar Khan had never been awarded a bachelor's degree in engineering as claimed in his written curriculum vitae, which was attached to the instrument. It appears that the Minister—based on what I have been told—was aware, even at that time prior to the instrument on November 15, that Mr. Omar Khan's CV was false.

Now, arising from all this when it became a public scandal, the gentleman indicated that he had absolutely no idea who had put on his CV—the CV that went to the Cabinet, and the CV that was sent to the President of the Republic—that he had a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of the West Indies. He did not know who did it. The Minister of Public Utilities told the country he also had no idea how the curriculum vitae of the Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission was sent to the Cabinet indicating that Mr. Omar Khan had a bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies; because we are dealing with the policy of the Government with respect to these board appointments.

So after this became a public scandal, questions were asked as to whether the board of T&TEC was properly constituted, because T&TEC is an engineering company, so there are many engineers and they had not seen Mr. Khan's name appear on the list of engineers in the register of the Association of Professional Engineers, or in the list of registered engineers at the board of engineering. They were asking questions, and those who had been to UWI around the time that Mr. Khan claimed to have gone there, also did not remember seeing him there. So the question came up, and then we

heard all this mysterious information about nobody knew who falsified the CV and how it happened.

Mr. Khan then said he had a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Manitoba which he had obtained by distance learning. Mr. Speaker, I personally communicated with the University of Manitoba, and I asked them if they could confirm whether the University of Manitoba had ever offered or awarded a degree in mechanical engineering by correspondence or distance learning. The university replied to me in July 2011, and this is from the registry of the University:

To the best of my knowledge there has never been an engineering degree offered through correspondence and/or distance learning at the University of Manitoba.

Based on all the available evidence, we know that Mr. Khan did not graduate from the University of the West Indies with a bachelor's degree in engineering. We also know that a responsible person in the University of Manitoba is saying that as far as he or she is aware, they have never awarded a degree by distance learning or correspondence.

The Minister and the Government never answered this very serious question of falsification of résumés, and Mr. Khan continued as Chairman of T&TEC until, in my opinion, the matter became too hot, and he quietly resigned, giving no particular reason, and has now disappeared from public sight.

I would like the Government to tell me if it is discovered that a person has falsified his or her résumé, or he or she cannot produce any documentary evidence that he or she has the qualifications he or she says he or she has, and he or she has been appointed to a state board by some mistake, how long

does it take the Government to remove that person as chairman of the enterprise, especially an enterprise as important as the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission? How long do they take? The question has come out in the public domain, the first thing some “*anancy story*” about they do not know who falsified the CV, and then the next thing is the university in Canada says they do not do degrees by distance learning, that is one example, Mr. Speaker.

And I would like this Government which seems to have a penchant—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Sharma: “Stop wasting time nah!”

Mr. Speaker: Member for Fyzabad, do not shout across the floor, the Member has my full protection.

Mr. C. Imbert: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Fyzabad and some Members opposite—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Speaker: Forget the Member for Fyzabad and concentrate on me—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. C. Imbert: They do not like what I am saying.

Hon Member: Concentrate on Omar Khan.

Mr. Speaker: “Yeah,” you address me.

Mr. C. Imbert: Thank you, because I am speaking the truth and they cannot handle the truth. [*Desk thumping and crosstalk*]

Mr. Speaker, the other state board that I will use as an example, because when it is discovered that persons have falsified their record, whether it is their academic record or their employment record, because I am aware of a number of members of state boards who have been dismissed from their employment for a number of transgressions, who have found their

way onto boards of directors of state corporations under this administration.

I am aware of members of boards who have criminal records. We were grateful to the Member for D'Abadie/O'Meara informing us that he had been instrumental in the appointment and removal of a person to the boxing board who had a criminal record and had been convicted of fraud—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Roberts: “Ah buss he throat one time!”

Mr. C. Imbert:—yes, but you see the actions of the hon. Member for D'Abadie/O'Meara are always unique, Mr. Speaker. I not for a minute believe that the Member for D'Abadie/O'Meara represents the policy of the Government in any matter that is just my personal opinion, he is an individualist. Therefore, I do not believe that it is the policy of the Government when they discover that chairmen of boards—there is a chairman of a board right now, the chairman of MTS, his name is Jim Murad Mohammed, he imports items from abroad and recently a container of meat that was consigned to a company owned by that gentleman was opened and in it was found millions of dollars of compressed marijuana.

6.10 p.m.

These are facts. These are not—[*Interruption*] I can say it inside; I can say it outside. It is a fact that a container consigned to a company with which the chairman of MTS is associated was opened and millions of dollars' worth of compressed marijuana was found in the container. [*Desk thumping*] I can say that inside; I can say that outside. I can say that upstairs, downstairs; on the road; outside by the waterfront. These are the facts.

I would like to know what the policy of the Government is when a

chairman of a state board is associated with a matter like that. Do you just leave the person? [*Interruption*] I understand what I am hearing; the logic from the Member for Oropouche East.

When Mr. Dhanraj Singh, now deceased, the former UNC Minister of Local Government, was—

Mr. Speaker: Two more minutes.

Mr. C. Imbert: When the late Mr. Dhanraj Singh was charged for an offence, his portfolio was removed. When Mary King was accused of a matter, her portfolio was removed from her. Under the PNM, we had two Government Ministers who, unfortunately, found themselves before the courts—they were subsequently exonerated—they were removed from their portfolios.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance to tell this Parliament why the Chairman of Education Facilities is still holding the position of Chairman of Education Facilities, when he was dismissed from the National Training Agency when the Minister of Science and Technology was the CEO of that entity.

Let us connect the dots. The current Minister of Science and Technology was the CEO of the National Training Agency in 2005 when the current chairman of Education Facilities was dismissed for alleged forgery. That matter was taken to the Industrial Court—the chairman took the matter to the Industrial Court—and, in 2010, the Industrial Court dismissed the application brought on behalf of the current chairman, Mr. Ronald Phillip of the Education Facilities Company Limited.

I would think, in those circumstances where a sitting Minister, the Minister of Science and Technology, the hon. Faizal Karim, I am told,

handed the dismissal letter to Mr. Ronald Phillip in 2005—

Mr. Speaker: You have 10 more seconds.

Mr. C. Imbert: Yes. I would think, in those circumstances, that it is incumbent upon the Government, at least, to remove this individual as Chairman of Education Facilities. The fact that they have not says that this Government has no regard for proper standards of morality and integrity in public life. [*Desk thumping*]

The Minister of Housing and the Environment (Hon. Dr. Roodal Moonilal): Mr. Speaker, the Member for Diego Martin North/East was aware that the Motion was filed to the Minister of Education because he raised the issue of the EFCL as a central issue in his Motion.

The Minister of Education is not in the House. He is out of the jurisdiction on Government business and the business of the Ministry of Education. I would ask that this matter be deferred for a proper response by the Minister of Education on the next occasion.

Mr. Speaker: The response to this Motion has been deferred until the hon. Minister of Education is back in the jurisdiction and when this House resumes its next sitting.

Mother's Day Greetings

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we are all aware that Sunday is Mother's Day and I think it only appropriate at this time, whilst Members have in their individual contributions paid respect to our mothers both in the Parliament and outside the Parliament, to ask either the Chief Whip—where is the hon. Prime Minister?

Mr. Roberts: We have the hon. Member for San Fernando West.

Mr. Speaker: I will now call on the hon. Member for San Fernando West,

the Minister of Public Administration, to bring greetings on the occasion of Mother's Day. [*Desk thumping*]

The Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development (Hon. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity this evening, on this occasion, two days before Mother's Day, to say, on behalf of the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, that we wish all mothers a happy Mother's Day.

Just today, at the Ministry of Public Administration, we had a function for mothers in our Ministry and I reminded mothers that we carry a special role in our society of Trinidad and Tobago, especially as we face the many challenges as we go forward.

In many cases, in our workplace, there is so much taking place in terms of transformation and change and women today who are mothers, who understand the value system and our principles are the ones who are the custodians carrying these values forward. Therefore, mothers, as we look at their continued roles for children, as the believers in their children, they also play mothers in the communities and, by extension, the workplace.

Mothers are goddesses of this earth. [*Desk thumping*] They are the embodiment our constitutional love and we adore all our mothers. Therefore, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Members of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, I wish everyone here a happy Mother's Day and to all mothers of our nation, God's blessings unto them!

I thank you.

Mr. Colm Imbert (*Diego Martin North/East*): [*Desk thumping and laughter*] I have to ask you for protection.

Mr. Speaker: You have my fullest protection. [*Desk thumping and*

laughter]

Mr. C. Imbert: On behalf of the People's National Movement and on my own behalf—and this is not the first time I have brought Mother's Day greetings in this Parliament.

There is the general belief that Mother's Day is an American holiday and it was created by the persons who make greeting cards. The fact is that the earliest tributes to mothers date back to the time of the Greeks. Christians celebrated a festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honour of Mary, Mother of Christ. In England, this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.

So that long before the American celebration of Mother's Day, which is about 150 years old, there were celebrations of mothers and motherhood throughout the known world at that time; throughout the Roman Empire; throughout the western world and it had its origins both in Greek mythology and in Christian tradition.

The Mother's Day that we celebrate now, which has been expanded to include all mothers, originated in the United States and it was intended at the time to raise awareness of poor health conditions in a particular community, the Appalachian community in the United States. A particular lady called Anna Jarvis is the one who started the movement for the American celebration of Mother's Day. She believed that the best advocate for better health conditions in her community was her mother, so she felt that women were the best advocates to lift the communities out of poverty and to improve their working conditions. That was the beginning of the American celebration.

The celebration of Mother's Day, after many, many years, became a

national holiday in the United States in 1914 when the then President Woodrow Wilson signed a Bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday. In the beginning, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers and eventually sending cards, presents and flowers.

The original group which had advocated for Mother's Day was not at all pleased at this development because they felt it had become commercialized and there was actually a protest about the commercialization of Mother's Day and the giving of gifts, cards and so on.

Be that as it may, notwithstanding the protest, Mother's Day has survived and it has grown. It is a day when all of us pay tribute to our wives, to our daughters, to our sisters and to all women who have the responsibility to bring all of us into this world. It is a day when we pay tribute to them.

I join with the Government in celebrating this day that gives rightful praise and tribute to all women and to all mothers. I join with Trinidad and Tobago in the celebration of Mother's Day and hope that all of us will spend some time with our wives and our mothers and other women on Mother's Day in true celebration of how important mothers are to this nation.

I thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Speaker: Generations of mothers have laboured tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that their children become disciplined and productive Members of our society. Our nation has, in many ways, been built on their efforts and at this time of the year, as is done all around the world, we are called upon to express our deep appreciation, love and gratitude. I wish to pay tribute to all the hard-working mothers while we remember those who

are no longer with us. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to recognize the invaluable role performed by mothers and to extend Mother's Day greetings to all the mothers who are hon. Members of this House, and to all mothers of our beloved nation.

Happy Mother's Day.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 6.23 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

**Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago
(Details of Money Expended)**

60. Miss Marlene McDonald (*Port of Spain South*) on behalf of Miss Alicia Hospedales (*Arouca/Maloney*) asked the hon. Minister of Sport:

Can the Minister state:

- a) how much money was expended by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago during the period May 1, to December 1, 2011 for:
 - i) National Sporting Organizations;
 - ii) Community Groups;
 - iii) Athletes;
 - iv) Other Organizations—provide a list of all the NSOs, community groups, athletes and organizations and the amount of money received by each from the SPORTT?
- b) Can the Minister list the regional grounds that received Cabinet approval?
- c) Can the Minister list the community recreational grounds where the upgrade work started or is in the process of being restarted?

The Minister of Sport (Hon. Anil Roberts):

Community Groups

Date	Reference	Transaction Description	Debit Amt
5/10/11	15833	Assistance (prizes) with hosting of annual Football Competition from 16-29/4/11 re: Fishing Pond Sports and Cultural	10,000.00

UNREVISED

		Organisation	
5/10/11	15834	Official Stipend - Assistance with hosting of annual Football Competition from 16-29/4/11 Re: Fishing Pond Sports and Cultural Organisation	2,640.00
5/11/11	15903	Assistance (tents) with Annual Sports and Family day on 23/4/11 Re: Mafeking United FC	1,700.00
5/18/11	15913	Assistance with Sand Soccer League in Mayaro Re: Players League	3,125.70
5/18/11	15914	Assistance with hosting of Sports Re: Vega De Oropuche Village Council	500.00
5/18/11	15917	Assistance with hosting of Sports Re: Thunderbirds Sports Club	600.00
5/18/11	15918	Assistance with hosting of Sports Re: Thunderbirds Sports Club	10,800.00
5/23/11	15936	Assistance with sports day Re: Brooklyn Community Centre (replaces ck#11764)	1,150.00
5/24/11	16025	Polo Jerseys for Mark Daily Invitation Volleyball Tournament	2,024.00
5/31/11	16022	To assist Don Miguel Sports League-prizes for hosting the Super Sixes Cricket Tournament	12,500.00
5/31/11	16023	18 Awards -Annual Mark Daily Invitation Volleyball Tournament- Technocrats Sports Club	4,361.52
5/31/11	16024	P.A. System and D.J.	4,500.00

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		Services - Mark Daily Invitation Volleyball Tournament	
5/31/11	16026	Printing of Sports Company Logo on Jerseys	1,000.00
5/31/11	16027	Assistance with Medals and trophies for Annual Sports and Family Day to be held on June 2nd 2011	1,000.00
			55,901.22
6/1/11	3461	Assistance to Community Group -Eastern Regional Health Authority re: Aerobic Burn Out Competition	968.00
6/8/11	16042	Ian Clauzel - Gonzales United Sports and Cultural Club Coach	2,640.00
6/8/11	16043	Herwald Mc Kay - Gonzales United Sports and Cultural Club Assistant Coach	2,220.00
6/8/11	16044	Earl Charles - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26 March 2011 (Co- ordinator)	1,320.00
6/8/11	16045	Keith Ramoutar - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26 March 2011 Head Coach-Table Tennis	1,100.00
6/8/11	16046	Alvin Bidaisee - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26th March 2011 Head Coach-Cricket	1,100.00
6/8/11	16047	Michael Marshal - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26th March 2011 Head Coach-Football	1,100.00

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6/8/11	16048	Chenelle Anastacio - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26th March 2011 Marshall	660.00
6/8/11	16049	Brendon Charles - Biche Coaching Sessions 15th Jan-26th March 2011 - Cleaner	660.00
6/14/11	16086	Vouchers and Trophies prizes- Sunrise Sports and cultural Club	10,900.00
6/15/11	16088	Avind M. Moonan - Trophies- to assist Mafeking United Football Club for their Ball-O-Rama	1,250.00
6/15/11	16089	Hosting of rugby clinic-The Harvard Club	4,197.50
6/15/11	16090	Cynthia Cagan - hosting of rugby clinic - The Harvard Club	2,000.00
6/21/11	0109	T shirts for clash of the stars	2,040.00
6/21/11	478	Sponsorship of clash of the stars volleyballs and footballs	2,000.00
			34,155.50
7/1/11	St. Patrick 01	Lalita Bhagwandin - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association-Coordinator	1,080.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 02	Kervyn Calliste - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association - Head Coach	900.00
6/13/11	St. Patrick 03	Jay Joseph - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association- Assistant Coach	720.00

UNREVISED

7/1/11	St. Patrick 04	Ramjattan Gangadeen - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association Head-Coach	1,080.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 05	Michael Gunness - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association - Assistant Coach	720.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 07	Keith Fraser - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association	1,320.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 08	Lennox Gould - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association - Assistant Coach	700.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 09	Allan Phirangiee - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association - Assistant Coach	800.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 10	Kenrick Fleary - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association - Head Coach	1,320.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 12	Kosi Jones - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association- Assistant Coach	1,100.00
	Little Harts		
7/1/11	kind.01	Chhavals - School Sports Prizes for Little Hearts Kindergarten	1,000.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 06	Gina Olivierre - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association- Coordinator	1,320.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 11	Rufus Lewis - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association-	1,100.00

		Assistant Coach	
7/1/11	St. Patrick 13	Curt Calliste - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association	900.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 06	Gina Olivierre - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association- Coordinator	1,320.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 11	Rufus Lewis - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association- Assistant Coach	1,100.00
7/1/11	St. Patrick 13	Curt Calliste - Coach Stipend St. Patrick Central Sports Association	900.00
			14,060.00
8/5/11	16350	Yvonne Daniel - assistance with hosting of sports day - Vega de Oropuche village council to replace chq#15915	2,200.00
			2,200.00
9/12/11	16510	Yvonne Daniel - to replace cheque #15916. Assistance with hosting of thunderbirds sports club sports day on 30/5/11	925.00
9/30/11	AL 7/711	Anil Lakhan - Debe Hindu Primary School Project- SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & Table Tennis- took Place every Friday from 21/Jan to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	1,200.00
9/30/11	SK 7/711	Sonilal Kanhai - Debe Hindu Primary School Project SPORTT	900.00

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		programme for Cricket, Volleyball & table tennis- took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	
9/30/11	RM 7/7/11	Robert Manoo - Debe Hindu Primary School Project- SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & Table tennis took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	900.00
9/30/11	NM 7/7/11	Noor Mohammed - Debe Hindu Primary School Project- SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & table Tennis took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	1,000.00
9/30/11	GS 7/7/11	Gumptie Samaroo - Debe Hindu Primary School Project-SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & Table Tennis took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	1,000.00
9/30/11	HM 7/7/11	Himanshurai Manlal - Debe Hindu Primary School Project-SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & Table tennis took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	900.00
9/30/11	VR 7/7/11	Veena Ramcharan - Debe Hindu Primary School	700.00

		Project- SPORTT programme for Cricket, Volleyball & Table Tennis took place every Friday from 21/1 to 25/3 2011. Coaches Stipend	
9/30/11	SL 10/4/11	Sport Lab - Outstanding payments for 12 game officials and 24 Umbro jerseys for the players' League Volleyball competition held from 24/4 to 25/4 2011	8,760.00
9/30/11	GO 01/7/11	Gina Olivierre - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions-Petrotrin Fyzabad Grounds (football) May to June 2011	960.00
9/30/11	KF 01/7/11	Kenrick Fleary - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions- Petrotrin Fyzabad Grounds (football) May to June 2011	960.00
9/30/11	RL 1/07/11	Rufus Lewis - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions- Petrotrin Fyzabad Grounds (football) May to June 2011	200.00
9/30/11	KJ 1/07/11	Kosi Jones - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions-Petrotrin Fyzabad Grounds (football) May to June 2011	700.00
9/30/11	CC 1/07/11	Curt Calliste - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions- Petrotrin Fyzabad grounds	800.00

UNREVISED

		(football) May to June 2011	
9/30/11	KF 1/07/11	Keith Fraser - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions - Delhi Rd Rec. Ground (athletics) April to June 2011	960.00
9/30/11	AP 1/07/11	Allan Phirangiee - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions- Delhi Rd Rec. Ground (athletics) April to June 2011	800.00
9/30/11	CH 1/07/11	Casey Halls - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions-Delhi Rd Rec. Ground (athletics) April to June 2011	800.00
9/30/11	LB 01/07/11	Lalita Bhagwandin - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions-South Oropouche (cricket & football) May to June 2011.	840.00
9/30/11	KC 01/07/11	Kervyn Calliste - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions-South Oropouche (cricket & football) May to June 2011.	840.00
9/30/11	MG 01/04/11	Michael Gunness - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Session - South Oropouche (cricket & football) May to June 2011	700.00
9/30/11	FB 18/07/11	Fayola Balewa - Outstanding payments for Couva Netball Saturday Camp, held at Couva Gov't	1,320.00

UNREVISED

		Primary School 30th to 09th July 2011 -Coaches	
9/30/11	HM 18/07/11	Hannah Mc Lean - Outstanding payments for Couva Netball Saturday Camp, held at Couva Gov't Primary school 30th to 9th July 2011 - Coaches	1,320.00
9/30/11	TH 18/07/11	Theckla Hackett - Outstanding payments for Couva Netball Saturday Camp, held at Couva Gov't Primary School 30th to 9th July 2011 - Coaches	1,100.00
9/30/11	AS 18/07/11	Aldith Sandy - Outstanding payments for Couva Netball Saturday Camp, held a Couva Gov't Primary School 30th to 9th July 2011 - Coaches	660.00
9/30/11	DF 1/7/11	Dexter Francis - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Irwin Park Siparia (football) April to June 2011 - Coaches	1,440.00
9/30/11	CW 1/7/11	Carlyle Woods - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Irwin Park Siparia (football) April to June 2011 - Coaches	1,200.00
9/30/11	WA 1/7/11	Winston Asson - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions - Irwin Park Siparia (football)April to June 2011- Coaches	1,200.00
9/30/11	MP 1/7/11	Marcelle Philip -	1,200.00

UNREVISED

		Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Irwin Park Siparia (football) April to June 2011- Coaches	
9/30/11	RS 18/7/11	Ramnarace Samuel - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer Players held at Waterloo High School- for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	1,080.00
9/30/11	FM 18/7/11	Fariel Mohammed - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School- for the period 7th May-9th July 2011	720.00
9/30/11	WW 18/7/11	Wayne Wills - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School- for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	1,080.00
9/30/11	SH 18/7/11	Shivaun Harding - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	800.00
9/30/11	NB 18/7/11	Navin Boodoo - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo institutes of	840.00

UNREVISED

		Soccer players held at waterloo High School- for the period 7th May- 9th July 2011	
9/30/11	MR 18/7/11	Mozack Rahamat - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School- for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	900.00
9/30/11	MD 18/7/11	Michael Davis - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo high School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	3,120.00
9/30/11	SB 18/7/11	Stephen Bartholomew - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	900.00
9/30/11	EP 18/7/11	Edward Paul - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	960.00
9/30/11	BR 18/7/11	Bharat Ramkesson - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of	800.00

UNREVISED

		Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	
9/30/11	WH 18/7/11	Wayne Holder - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	840.00
9/30/11	OM 18/7/11	Oswald Myers - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	800.00
9/30/11	EM 18/7/11	Edna Massiah - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Waterloo Institutes of Soccer players held at Waterloo High School - for the period 7th May - 9th July 2011	840.00
9/30/11	SH 27/7/11	Shurland Hartley - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Sec. School held from January to July 2011 (football & basketball)	3,600.00
9/30/11	RC 27/7/11	Ryan Caesar - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Sec. School held from January to July 2011 (football & basketball)	3,600.00

UNREVISED

9/30/11	WS 27/7/11	Warren Skeete - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Sec. School held from January to July 2011 (football & basketball)	3,600.00
9/30/11	RP 27/7/11	Ricky Phillip - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Sec. School held from January to July 2011 (football & basketball)	3,000.00
9/30/11	VS 27/7/11	Veronica Sandy - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp at Diego Martin Sec. School held from January to July 2011 (football & basketball)	2,400.00
9/30/11	BB 13/5/11	Benjamin Browne - Outstanding payments for services provided by officials of the Windball Cricket Umpires Council at the Royal Bank Cricket & Family fun Day 18th June 2011	600.00
9/30/11	JB 13/5/11	Jules Blackman - Outstanding payments for services provided by officials of the Windball Cricket Umpire Council at the Royal bank Cricket & Family Fun day 18th June 2011	600.00
9/30/11	JHP 13/5/11	Juliet Holder-Paul - Outstanding payments for services provided by officials of the Windball Cricket Umpires Council at	600.00

UNREVISED

		the Royal Bank Cricket & Family fun Day 18th June 2011	
9/30/11	DF 29/6/11	Desmond Fahay - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	TB29/6/11	Terrence Boissiere - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	AB 29/6/11	Akida Boissiere - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	PP 29/6/11	Patrick Pierre - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	DF - 29/6/11	Kevin Francis - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	11960	Outstanding payment for	6,210.00

UNREVISED

		purchases of Medals and Trophies for second annual San Fernando Football Stars tournament held San Fernando Sports Academy 21/5/11	
9/30/11	94	Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	7,998.00
9/30/11	KF 2011	Kendell Crawford - Payment of Outstanding stipends for coaches for SPORTT extended program which ran for three months commencing on April 2nd to June 18th 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	DB 23/7/11	Derrick Byam - Outstanding Payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions- Coryal/Tamana Community centre- to pay coaches for services rendered 7th May to 16th July 2011	1,320.00
9/30/11	RG 23/7/11	Roy George - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions - Coryal/Tamana Community centre - to pay coaches for services rendered 7th May to 16th July 2011	880.00
9/30/11	DR 1/7/11	Danwantee Ramadhin - Outstanding payments for Saturday Coaching Sessions- Barrackpore West	1,440.00

UNREVISED

		Secondary School (volleyball) April to June 2011	
9/30/11	MB 1/7/11	Meera Basdeo - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Barrackpore West Secondary School (volleyball) April to June 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	MS 1/7/11	Mohini C. Samuel - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions - Barrackpore West Secondary School (volleyball) April to June 2011	1,200.00
9/30/11	CG 22/7/11	Chaitlal Goberdan - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp coaching sessions- Orangefield Sports Club March to June 2011	1,920.00
9/30/11	AR 22/7/11	Allan Ramjass - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp coaching sessions - Orangefield Sports Club March to June 2011	2,420.00
9/30/11	DP 22/7/11	Desh Pargass - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp coaching sessions-Orangefield Sports Club March to June 2011	1,500.00
9/30/11	TS 22/7/11	Trevour Seecharan - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp coaching sessions - Orangefield Sports Club	1,600.00

UNREVISED

		March to June 2011	
9/30/11	3730	Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp Coaching sessions- Orangefield Sports Club March to June 2011 - for Trophies and Medals	2,967.00
9/30/11	CJ 22/7/11	Christopher Joseph - Outstanding payments for Saturday sports camp Coaching Sessions - Orangefield Sports Club March to June 2011	1,500.00
9/30/11	ML 23/7/11	Michelle Lynch - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday Coaching Sessions - Manzanilla Rec Ground - to pay coor, coaches, cleaner & Marshall for services rendered from 7/5/-16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	IE 23/7/11	Ichon Edwards - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday Coaching Sessions - Manzanilla Rec. Ground - to pay coor, coaches, cleaner & marshall for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	GT 23/7/11	Gertrude Thomas - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday Coaching sessions - Manzanilla rec. Ground- to pay coor, coaches, cleaner & marshall for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,100.00
9/30/11	YB 23/7/11	Yoma Beekley - Outstanding payments for	660.00

UNREVISED

		Saturday/Sunday Coaching sessions - Manzanilla rec. Ground - to pay coor, coaches, cleaner & marshall for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	
9/30/11	AL 23/7/11	Ann Lindsay - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday Coaching sessions - Manzanilla recreation Ground-to bay coor, coaches, cleaner & marshall for services rendered from 7/5/ -16/7/11	660.00
9/30/11	DH 23/7/11	Danielle Hernandez - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions - Ojoe Rd Recreational Ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	MM 23/7/11	Martin Minor - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Ojoe Rd recreational Ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	PA 23/7/11	Paula Alexander - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Ojoe Rd recreational ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,100.00

UNREVISED

9/30/11	ML 23/7/11	Merlicia Lovell - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Ojoe Rd recreational ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	880.00
9/30/11	JO 23/7/11	Janelle Odle - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Ojoe Rd recreational Ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	660.00
9/30/11	RM 23/7/11	Richard Mungo - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday Coaching sessions-Ojoe Rd recreational ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5-16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	MH 23/7/11	Maureen Hernandez - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Brooklyn recreational Ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	DM 23/7/11	David Moffet - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Brooklyn recreational ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches for services rendered from	1,320.00

UNREVISED

		7/5/11 to 16/7/11	
9/30/11	GC 23/7/11	Giselle Crawford - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions-Brooklyn recreational Ground, Sangre Grande to pay coor, coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	1,000.00
9/30/11	JW 23/7/11	Joseph Weekes - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Mayaro Youth Facility/Recreational ground to pay coor & coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	640.00
9/30/11	RB 23/7/11	Runako Bernard - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Mayaro Youth Facility/Recreational ground to pay coor & coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	1,080.00
9/30/11	DC 23/7/11	Donville Chaiten - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Mayaro Youth Facility/recreational ground to pay coor & coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	960.00
9/30/11	AC 23/7/11	Aminah Cozier - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions- Mayaro Youth	400.00

UNREVISED

		Facility/recreational ground to pay coor & coaches for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	
9/30/11	RG 23/7/11	Roxanne George - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions Valencia recreational ground to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	1,320.00
9/30/11	MW 23/7/11	Matthew Williams - Outstanding payments fort Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions Valencia Recreational ground to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	600.00
9/30/11	KL 23/7/11	Kennard Lucas - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions Valencia recreational ground to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered form 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	800.00
9/30/11	ME 23/7/11	Marcel Edmond - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching sessions Valencia recreational ground to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	1,100.00
9/30/11	EA 23/7/11	Elsa Almores - Outstanding payments for Saturday/Sunday coaching	660.00

UNREVISED

		sessions Valencia Recreational ground to pay coor, coaches & cleaner for services rendered from 7/5/11 to 16/7/11	
			128,180.00
	gg		
11/2/11	16754	Peyton United Sports Club - To replace Chq#15285 (stale dated) financial assistance for officials & coordinators fees	1,680.00
11/2/11	16755	Gordon David - To replace chq#15286 (stale dated) financial assistance for officials and coordinators fees	2,000.00
11/24/11	3621	Trophies and award for La Horquetta Alpha Sports committee annual cricket tournament	1,500.00
11/24/11	EPOSDCL25/10/1	East POS Dev. Co. Ltd - Race personnel and timing chips for East POS fun run/walk health caravan	7,500.00
11/30/11	CS 25/11/11	Dribblers Sports & Cultural Club 2nd annual Street football League at Gasparillo 10th/7 to 27th/11 2011. Expenses uniforms, footballs, water coolers & first aid	18,700.00
			31,380.00
12/1/11	TS 1/7/11	Tyler Jeremiah Scipio - Outstanding payments for Saturday coaching sessions - Irwin Park Siparia	1,200.00

UNREVISED

		(football) April to June 2011 - Coaches	
12/15/11	WS 23/11/11	Wendell Sylvester - To assist La Tosca Cultural Youths & Sports Club with funding towards 1st Annual Sports & Family Day on Saturday 17th Dec. 2011 10am to 6pm	2,500.00
			3,700.00
12/31/11	TOTAL:		269,576.72

Vide end of sitting for written part of the answer.

Question No. 60

Question No. 60 posed by the Member for Arouca/Maloney reads as follows: Can the Minister state:

- a) How much money was expended by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago during the period May 1 to December 1, 2011 for:
 - i) National Sporting Organizations
 - ii) Community Groups
 - iii) Athletes
 - iv) Other Organizations. Provide a list of all the NSOs, Community Groups, Athletes and Organizations and the amount of money received by each from SporTT?
- b) Can the Minister list the regional grounds that received Cabinet approval?
- c) Can the Minister list the community recreational grounds where the upgrade work started or is in the process of being restarted?

Proposed Reply to Question No. 60

Mr. Speaker, with regard to **Part (A)** of the Question, funds expended by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited during the period May 1 to December 1, 2011 and the recipients, are detailed in the Table below

Recipient of Funding	Funds Received (\$)
National Sporting Organizations/ National Governing Bodies	
National Basketball Federation of Trinidad & Tobago	413,145.86
Trinidad & Tobago Volleyball Federation	690,844.49
Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board	1,429,438.61
Trinidad & Tobago Cycling Federation	736,543.66
Trinidad & Tobago Football Federation	3,451,199.00
Trinidad & Tobago Netball Association	538,780.44
Trinidad & Tobago Rugby Football Union	61,230.00
National Association of Athletics Administrators	1,589,922.65
Tennis Association of Trinidad & Tobago	347,671.30
Trinidad Rifle Association	70,292.50
Trinidad & Tobago Golf Association	191,510.50
Trinidad & Tobago Sailing Association	311,630.28
Amateur Swimming Association of Trinidad & Tobago	1,228,292.60
Trinidad & Tobago Hockey Board	1,112,855.64
Trinidad & Tobago Boxing Board of Control	716,035.99
Total	12,889,393.52
Community Groups	
A detailed listing of all Groups is at Appendix II	269,576.72

Recipient of Funding	Funds Received (\$)
Athletes	

Assistance (airfare) to Ms. Maria Gooding to participate in the Sol Belize 22nd Annual Women Cross Country	6,897.00
Assistance to Ms. Maria Gooding to participate in the Sol Belize 22 nd Annual Women Cross Country	3,000.00
Airfare for junior golfers to attend the Canadian International Junior Challenge	32,569.60
Trinidad & Tobago Golf Association - To cover expenses for the fourth	89,095.40
TTABA selected athletes to attend 2011 World Elite Boxing Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan from 22/9 to 10/10 2011- Airfare Expenses for 4 athletes	131,502.40
Ayana Alexander - Appearance fees re: Hampton International Games	6,405.90
Assistance to Maria Gooding to participate at an International Triathlon competition in Jamaica on 13/11/11. Fees includes accommodation, race registration, meals and airfare	5,805.07
Total	275,275.37
Other Organizations	
Assistance with hosting of Beinnial Sports Day re: Febeau Gov't Primary	1,000.00
St. Dominic Savio R.C. Primary - Assistance with hosting of Beinnial Sports Day	1,000.00
Assistance to Uthman Muhammad to purchase cricket gears	1,870.00
Assistance with Sports Day re: Dinsley Trinicity Gov't Primary School	1,000.00

Assistance with hosting of Sports Re: Arouca Anglican Primary School	1,313.60
Secondary Schools' Cricket League - Tickets for 20 persons to attend the English School's Cricket Association Under 14 Festival at King's College in Taunton Somerset	174,000.00
Unified Promoter's Sporting Academy – Request for fabricating boxing bags	15,595.00
T&T Cricket team with Nationals over 50, participated in the 9th International Seniors Cricket Festival in Grenada held during the period 24/11 to 8/12, 2011. Expenses were for additional jerseys	2,760.00
T&T Alliance for Sports & Physical Education - Assistance to attend the Next Step Conference 2011	40,734.05
Nazir Mohammed - Payment to cover transportation for 2 Under 21 Guyanese Teams to and from Piarco airport, who participated in the Shandy Carib Magnolia's Indoor Hockey tournament WYF	1,600.00
Total	240,872.65

Mr. Speaker, with regard to **Part (B)** of the Question, the regional grounds which received Cabinet's approval are:

- Penal Recreation Park, Penal
- Mayaro Recreation Ground, Mayaro
- India Ground, Malabar
- Dass Trace, Cunupia
- Ojoe Road Recreation Ground, Sangre Grande
- Preysal Recreation Ground, Couva

- Hickland Village Park, Fyzabad
- Irwin Park Sports Complex, Siparia
- Buen Intento Recreation Ground, Princes Town
- Pascal Road Recreation Ground, Maraval
- Eddie Hart Ground, Tacarigua
- Coronation Park, Point Fortin
- Samaroo Recreation Ground, Endeavour
- Moruga Recreation Ground, Moruga
- Alescon Comets Ground, Chaguanas
- Battoo Avenue, Marabella

Mr. Speaker, with regard to **Part (C)** of the Question, the community recreational grounds where the upgrade works have started are as follows:

- La Horquetta Hard Court (Phase 5)
- Samaroo Recreation Ground
- Tumpuna Rehab Centre
- Michelle Samaroo Recreation Ground
- Mendez Street Ext. Road Recreation Ground
- La Horquetta Recreation Ground (Phase 2)
- Surprise Recreation Ground
- Springvale Recreation Ground
- George Village
- Lilie Trace Recreation Grounds
- Standard Recreation Ground
- Quarry Village Recreation Ground
- Debe High School

- Clarke Rochard
- 4 3/4 mile Penal Rock Road
- George Boyce Recreation Ground
- Harding Place Recreation Ground
- Chickland Recreation Ground
- Lisas Garden Hardcourt
- Milton Recreation Ground
- Pelota Recreation Ground

Additionally Mr. Speaker, for those grounds where upgrade works are in the process of being restarted, thirty seven (37) have been identified, however, the Board Approval's is pending.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.