

*Leave of Absence**Tuesday, May 15, 2007***SENATE***Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS[MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Madam President: Hon. Senators, I have granted leave of absence from today's sitting to Sen. Angela Cropper who is out of the country.

SENATOR'S APPOINTMENT

Madam President: Hon. Senators, I have received the following correspondence from His Excellency the President, Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C., C.M.T., Ph.D.

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency Professor GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, T.C., C.M.T., Ph.D., President and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ G. Richards
President.

TO: DR. ROLPH BALGOBIN

WHEREAS Senator Angela Cropper is incapable of performing her duties as a Senator by reason of her absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 40(2)(c) and section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, ROLPH BALGOBIN, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 10th May, 2007 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Angela Cropper.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 3rd day of May, 2007.”

Oath of Allegiance

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OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Dr. Rolph Balgobin took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law.

CONSTITUTION (AMDT.) BILL

Bill is to amend the Constitution brought from the House of Representatives [*The Minister of National Security*]; read the first time.

PAPERS LAID

1. Annual administrative report of the Betting Levy Board for the period July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006. [*The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen The Hon. Conrad Enill)*]
2. Annual financial statements of the National Quarries Company Limited for the year ended September 30, 2004. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
3. Annual financial statements of the National Quarries Company Limited for the year ended September 30, 2005. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
4. Errata to the public accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2006. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]

GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES – PART I

**Joint Select Committee Report
(Presentation)**

Sen. Parvatee Anmolsingh-Mahabir: Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have the honour to lay on the Table the following report standing in my name, The Third Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to enquire into and report on Government Ministries (Part I) Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises falling under those Ministries on an enquiry into the Police Complaints Authority, an agency of the Ministry of National Security.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**European Trade Mission
(Details of Contingent)**

52. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs:

With respect to the cultural contingent which accompanied the Trade Mission to Europe during the period September 06 to 22, 2006, could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) the names of the countries visited by the cultural contingent;
- (ii) a detailed breakdown of the costs incurred;
- (iii) the names of the artistes and organizations that comprised the contingent;
- (iv) the amount of allowances/fees and other financial benefits received by each artiste and organization; and
- (v) the criteria employed for engaging the services of these artistes and organizations?

The Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Joan Yuille-Williams): Madam President, I am surprised to see the questions on this week. But I remembered last week I said research on the five questions have been prepared and would go before the Cabinet next week and with approval, the following Tuesday I should be able to answer Sen. Mark. So, I was not supposed to be asked these questions today. I remember what I said last week, the *Hansard* is here. Read the notes.

Sen. Mark: What are you saying?

Sen. The Hon. J. Yuille-Williams: The questions will go before the Cabinet Committee next week and with Cabinet's approval, on Tuesday I should be able to answer the questions for Sen. Mark. Sorry, I should have said that in my opening statement. I remember calling all those questions, 52, 53, 54, 69 and 70. I remember reading them out.

Madam President: I think most probably there was a misunderstanding all around because I think we were under the impression, even the Clerk, that they were going to come back this week, so if it was that, then we will have to put it for next week. Okay. Fair enough.

Sen. Mark: Maybe—but, I did not get that impression myself.

Madam President: Maybe there was a misunderstanding.

Sen. Mark: By the way, she is asking for one more week now?

Madam President: Yes. Minister, that will be questions, 52, 53, 54—

Sen. The Hon. J. Yuille-Williams: Madam President, those that are approved, I will present next Tuesday.

Madam President: 69 and 70. All right, so therefore, we will go then in that case, Sen. Mark, to question No. 67.

[Question, by leave, deferred]

Basdeo Panday v Wellington Virgil Matter
(Details of)

67. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Attorney General:

With respect to the matter of Basdeo Panday v Wellington Virgil, could the Attorney General provide the Senate with the following:

- (a) a detailed breakdown of the cost incurred by taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago in retaining the services of both national and foreign counsel in prosecuting the case at both magisterial and appellate levels; and
- (b) a list of the names of the attorneys retained by the State in the matter; and
- (c) a detailed breakdown of the fees paid to each attorney-at-law?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie SC): Madam President, the answer to the question is as follows:

With regard to the prosecution of the case, Assistant Commissioner of Police, as he then was, Wellington Virgil v Basdeo Panday, case No.12401-3 of 2002, Magistrates' Court, No. 75 of 2006 Court of Appeal, the state in fulfilment of its obligations to the people of Trinidad and Tobago to prosecute crime incurred cost in the following terms:

- A. Cost with respect to foreign counsel totalled £103,000 or TT \$1,327,723.20;
- B. Foreign counsel retained by the State was Sir Timothy Cassell, QC. No private national counsel was retained by the State in this matter. Sir Timothy appeared with counsel from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions at both the Magistrates' Court and the Court of Appeal; and
- C. Cost with regard to Sir Timothy Cassell, QC amounted to £103,000 or TT \$1,327,723.20.

Thank you, Madam President.

Sen. Mark: Madam President, could the hon. Attorney General indicate to us what was the cost at the level of the Magistracy for this particular senior Counsel, Timothy Cassell, as well as at the level of the appellate? If you can get a breakdown; he has given us a total, we asked for a detailed breakdown.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie SC: Madam President, the fee which we satisfied on requisition was £103,000 as I have stated it. I do not have a breakdown as to what he charged in respect of the magisterial matter and what he charged in respect of the Court of Appeal matter, but that is information which I can easily put my hands on. It would be information which I would have to retrieve from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, but I think I can easily retrieve that and I would give an undertaking to Sen. Mark and the others on that side to make it available when I retrieve it.

**Attorney General
(Role in Recent Matters)**

68. Sen. Wade Mark asked the hon. Attorney General:

Could the Attorney General provide to the Senate the following:

- (a) a comprehensive breakdown or account of his role in the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau; and
- (b) relevant information on his office's role in the recent court matters involving Mr. Basdeo Panday and the Chief Justice Satnarine Sharma?

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie SC): Madam President, the answer to question No. 68 is in final form, but it has not yet received the approval of the Cabinet. So, in those circumstances I ask for one week, hopefully, that is if all goes well; if there is a difficulty, I can see it stretching to perhaps two weeks with no more than that.

Question, by leave, deferred.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Sen. Mark: Before we move on, I am seeking your indulgence again. I see questions are coming but not any belonging to my good person, so could you again appeal to my colleagues, especially Minister Joan Yuille-Williams who has a series of questions for written responses.

Madam President: Members, there has been an answer circulated, a written answer, so you should have that, and of course, Ministers are reminded to bring the answers as soon as possible.

**Ministry of Health
(Detailed Expenditure for the PR 2002—2006)**

43. Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh asked the hon. Minister of Health:

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed statement of expenditure for advertising and public relations for the Ministry of Health for the period January 02, 2002 to December 31, 2006?

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- B. Could the Minister also provide the details of the salaries and allowances for all personnel employed for public relations purposes in the Ministry of Health and all Advisors to the Minister?

Vide end of sitting for written answer.

MEDICAL BOARD (AMDT.) BILL

Bill to amend the Medical Board Act, Chap 29:50 [*The Minister of Health*]; read the first time.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION (AMDT.) BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Social Development (Hon. Anthony Roberts): Thank you very much, Madam President. I beg to move,

That a Bill to amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1999, be now read a second time.

Madam President, let me once again express my gratitude to you for the opportunity to present to you and the distinguished Members of this Senate, amendments to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1999.

Madam President, we as a people have been socialized and grown accustomed to a system which is more concerned with the protection of property and the punishment of perpetrators of crime. But in the more recent years, we have seen some attention being paid and attention being focused on prisoner rehabilitation and their reintegration into society. I am pleased to indicate that this Government has firmly embraced the philosophy of restorative justice, because you see, we believe that attempts at reparation and restitution must be made to persons who have been ravished by crime. I am saying that some form of compensation, whether it be by the perpetrators themselves—as we have seen in a matter of Birk Hillman and others—in a corruption matter involving the construction of the Piarco Airport, a crime committed against the people of Trinidad and Tobago and where they have agreed to repay some TT \$39 million, and at this time, the country has received approximately \$10 million out of that sum. So whether it is by the perpetrators themselves or whether it be by the State making payments as compensation to victims of crime, we believe attempts must be made to assist persons who have been seriously affected by crime.

This is so because as a Government, we are striving to repair those torn and broken relationships in communities, so that we could have more peaceful communities in Trinidad and Tobago. I wish to indicate as well the types of crime to be considered for compensation is clearly stated in the legislation. But unfortunately,

this piece of legislation or the Act is yet another display of the callous and reckless approach to legislation by the former United National Congress government.

I wish to state that the idea of compensation to victims of crime is a good one and we embraced the idea, but it was just an idea and you would recall—I am saying it was an idea because there were no policy documents to inform the thinking of that piece of legislation. In fact, from our research we have come to the conclusion that it was a hustled, incomplete piece of legislation on the law books of Trinidad and Tobago.

For us, Madam President, in the People's National Movement, we consider legislation to be serious business. We understand that legislation impacts the lives of the people and at all times we believe that great thought must be given when they are being formulated. Legislation must never be done because of political expedience. I want to repeat, Madam President, it must never be done because of political expedience. And so, what we find ourselves in today can amount to time wasting, because as the Ministry of Social Development attempts to operationalize the piece of legislation, we now have to come back to this Parliament to attempt to straighten out the legislation so that we could move forward.

Madam President, for this reason, the Cabinet of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to take all appropriate steps to operationalize the Act and has agreed that after giving careful consideration to the legislative framework of this measure, we will again have to return to this Senate to do some additional work. So, the main purpose of this Bill which is before us today is that it seeks to clarify the categories of persons who may apply for compensation to be awarded and to provide the payment of reasonable funeral expenses.

The Act is amended in section 3 to include a definition of the term "deceased victim" and to amend the present definition for the term "victim". The Bill introduces a new section 4(3) which indicates that the Act will apply only to injuries sustained in Trinidad and Tobago. Again, the Bill introduces a new section 9(2) which authorizes the board to set guidelines for awarding compensation in keeping with current laws and compensation for personal injury or death.

Madam President, clause 6 of the Bill amends section 24 of the Act, in order to clarify the categories of persons who are entitled to apply for compensation, as well as, to make provision for applications to be made on behalf of a child who is a victim of crime or a child who is the dependant of a victim of crime. Again, a

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new section 24A provides for the keeping and maintaining of a register of applications which members of the public may inspect on payment of a prescribed fee.

Clause 8 of the Bill would provide for the board to consider every application, and to make an award without a hearing or to reject an application. The new section 29(2)(e) and 29(3) will now provide for the board to pay compensation for reasonable funeral expenses and for the board to be informed of any improvement or deterioration of the victim's circumstances.

Madam President, I wish to point out as well that in 29(3) of the Bill, there is a typographical error where it says, "primary loss" in the second line. It should read, "in respect of any loss of earning, power or pecuniary loss" and not "primary" and everything else follows. As well, Madam President, clause 10 of the Bill would provide for an increase in the amount of the compensation to \$100,000. The Act at the time provided for \$25,000 and we felt that—[*Interruption*]

Sen. Mark: Is that an amendment or is it a typographical error? [*Inaudible*] Which is it Minister Roberts?

Hon. A. Roberts: \$50,000. I am sorry. We considered these amendments to be very important at this time to facilitate the operations of the Act and so I commend these amendments to Members of this Senate and I look forward to the support as we proceed to operationalize this piece of legislation.

Madam President, I beg to move. [*Desk thumping*]

Question proposed.

Sen. Wade Mark: Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, the Bill before us today represents a very important piece of social legislation in the context of our society in which the Government has been unable to provide citizens of this republic with the guarantee that they all are entitled to under the republican Constitution, the right to life, the right to live in peace and security. And here it is today, rather than have an apology coming from the hon. Minister, for failing to come to this Parliament two or three years ago to bring this legislation which was passed into law, Act 21 of 1999, which was proclaimed in November of 2001, we have a Minister coming here today in a very arrogant manner, a man whom I saw marching for hunger and he tells the country, "poverty is cut in half". He is marching against hunger, but that is for another occasion.

I find it strange that the hon. Anthony Roberts, without any evidence—

Hon. Roberts: Your friend.

Sen. W. Mark: My friend—comes to this Parliament, provides you and the Senate with no evidence, but uses expressions to describe the former UNC Government—which will be back very shortly, hon. Minister, in the Government saddle—as callous and reckless in our approach to this very important piece of legislation and provides no evidence to support his spurious claim. He went on to talk about political expediency and legislation must never be done or passed for political expediency.

Again, Madam President, he left all of us hanging our heads, waiting patiently to get his rationale, for him to provide this Parliament with the basis for these wild and reckless allegations.

2.00 p.m.

We are still awaiting his submission. We will probably get it when he is winding up later on, and he describes his efforts here today as one of time wasted. It is very sad for a Minister of Social Development and his Government that spent almost five years sitting on a piece of legislation which was passed by both Houses of Parliament, assented to by the President of this Republic, proclaimed by the Cabinet, and for five years failed to operationalize.

You owe a public apology this afternoon to the country and the hundreds of thousands of victims of crime that your Government has been unable to solve and stop. It is reckless, callous and cold for you to come here this evening and describe a very landmark piece of legislation that we passed in 1999—the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act—so that people who are victims of criminals, and you have many in high places—must be given some financial assistance.

Madam President, there is a rationale for it. If a government is unable to provide its citizens with the necessary protection, safety, and security as they go about their law-abiding business and duties every day in this country, if you are not up to the task as the Minister of National Security, who comes here sleeping when he is supposed to be listening to the debate, he is sleeping.

Sen. Dumas: He was watching over you last night.

Sen. W. Mark: Do you understand? I am saying they are not up to the task; they are sleeping on the job. That is why I am bitterly disappointed today with Government's stance on this critical piece of social legislation designed to financially compensate victims of crimes due to the inadequacy of the system this Government has erected over the last five and a half years, and has been unable to guarantee people in this country life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in this land.

Madam President, the reason this legislation came into being is because we recognized even when we were in office that citizens went through physical, psychological, emotional and mental distress because of the fact they had lost their loved ones who were murdered. Since this Government came into office in 2002, over 1,500 citizens have been butchered, massacred and murdered under their watch.

Sen. Dumas: Be careful how you are glorying—

Sen. W. Mark: “You doh talk at all.” You should be taken to the Privileges Committee, this one they call “Stretch”, and I am investigating some activities in Champ Fleurs right now called “The Terraces”. I understand it is a four-storey structure being erected in “The Terraces” in Champ Fleurs. We are doing our own forensic enquiry into that matter.

Madam President: Sen. Mark, will you get back to the Bill?

Sen. Dumas: “Yuh giving me some land in Trinidad or what?”

Sen. W. Mark: No, we will deal with you shortly, in Tobago as well.

Madam President, as I said, we contained crime. It was still there, there was crime in the country, we cannot escape from it, but we sought to contain it during that time. Not a single kidnapping was reported under the UNC’s period of office, 1995—2001. Not one.

Sen. Dumas: I wonder why.

Sen. W. Mark: You must tell us why.

Madam President: Senator, speak to me.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, I am speaking to you, Ma'am. Kidnapping under the PNM has now become an industry. Under our watch, with less resources at our disposal, we proposed a sum of \$25,000 as a maximum, but we also gave the Attorney General or the Minister in question here, the Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Ministry of Housing which was at that time Community Empowerment the right to speak with the Minister of Finance with a view to increasing the compensation as time went on during the term or the years of any administration.

Under the PNM’s watch, and I am surprised that this Minister who was taken to court—we had to take the Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Ministry of Housing to court. We went for his Prime Minister—who has a lot of court clothes put away in his wardrobe—first and when he realized he would have

to appear in court, he reshuffled the Cabinet, and my good friend was given the task of the job of social services. That was the task of the Prime Minister before, he had that portfolio, but he dropped it like a hot potato when he realized he had to appear before Justice David Myers. We would say more about him at the appropriate time.

Madam President, I was hoping that my honourable friend would have come to this Parliament today and tell us why, under his watch, he did not appoint the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Why did the Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Ministry of Housing, and the Prime Minister who was there before him did not appoint the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board? It took the UNC, and in this instance, the Leader of the Opposition in her capacity as an attorney-at-law to bring an application for judicial review of the failure of the Prime Minister in the first instance, and thereafter, the Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Ministry of Housing to appoint a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. He did not tell you that, Madam President.

It was Justice David Myers, sitting in the High Court in Port of Spain who ordered that the Minister was obliged to appoint, and must appoint the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and that is pursuant to Act 21 of 1999.

Madam President, they could say what they want, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was the brainchild of the United National Congress. They do not like that, but it does not matter. They have to live with an airport, they have to travel every day, they do not like it, but they have to use the airport every day although he talks about activities which we can always detail later on in terms of his own administration.

Madam President, the purpose and intent of the Act was to establish a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and to make provision for the payment of compensation to victims of criminal injuries or their dependants, and compensation may be paid whether or not a person is prosecuted or convicted of the crime. That was the purpose of the legislation, and the board was supposed to be appointed by the Minister with responsibility for social services. From 2001 to 2005 the Prime Minister of this country who was responsible for social services never appointed a board and about May of 2005, a reshuffle took place and in came hon. Minister Anthony Roberts, Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Ministry of Housing who never appointed that board so that victims of crime to which an Act applies could have in fact accessed monetary compensation.

Hon. Roberts: Madam President, would the Senator give way? I just want to correct my colleague. The board has been appointed, it has been gazetted and the information is there for the public.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, like he did not understand me. I said during the period 2001 to 2005 the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board was not appointed by him. It was only on a court order by Justice David Myers in November 2005 that this heartless and cold Government eventually was forced to appoint the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. It took a High Court judge to order them to appoint that board. If we did not take that matter to the court on behalf of a lady whose husband was murdered in 2003, they would have never appointed that board. So do not get up here and talk about board appointed and gazetted, tell the country that was done only on the order of the court. It was not done voluntarily.

In other words, the reckless and callous PNM Government never appointed the board until they were ordered to do so. So I do not want to hear what he just said because it is not true. And he comes here today playing strong. He is wrong, but he is playing strong, that is the behaviour of this regime.

Madam President, do you know that the crimes to which the Act applies include murder; manslaughter; wounding with intent; inflicting injuries with or without a weapon; using a drug with intent to commit an offence; administering poison or other destructive noxious substance so as to endanger life or inflict grievous bodily harm; administering poison with intent to injure or annoy, and so too are offences under the Sexual Offences Act, like rape as an example?

It was Lilawatee Ramcharan who took the Government to court because as I told you, her husband was murdered in 2003 and he was the sole breadwinner in the family; he paid the mortgage, bought the food, took care of the children and when he passed away—not because his time had come—but some criminal decided to shorten his life and the lady went to the board because the Act said that she being a victim of criminal injury, was entitled to monetary compensation. But there was no board because you have a heartless, brutal and cold administration that just does not care about the poor.

Madam President: Mind your words, just be careful, Senator.

Sen. W. Mark: No, cold is a very good parliamentary term and brutal too. They are very brutal.

Madam President: Are you arguing with me?

Sen. W. Mark: No, I am not arguing with you. I am telling you that they are brutal.

Madam President: Just be careful.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, that is parliamentary language. Their record is littered with that. [*Interruption*] No, I am not speaking to you; I am speaking to Madam President.

So what we are saying is that without the Government being forced we would not have been where we are today in terms of getting this amendment in and getting the board. Do you know what they did? I want the hon. Minister—who could talk about things gazetted—to tell us who are the members of this board. We understand that a one-man board was appointed by a “fella” called Norton Jack. He was appointed as chairman, and we understand there is no staff, nothing. Have the six or seven members since been appointed? I do not know. We do not know, this is a secret society called the PNM. It is a lodge! They do things and do not tell the population.

So could the Minister indicate to us later who these members of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board are, apart from Norton Jack? We would like to know. All I am saying is, that is the only person I heard was appointed. He never had a meeting with the board. [*Crosstalk*] [*Interruption*] Do not worry with me, I want to deal with the Caroni/Arena Dam and how that cost went from \$80 million under your watch to \$198 million. I have a report from a Commission of Enquiry involving you, and a “fella” called Rabindranath Maharaj whose wife right now needs to be compensated because her husband was murdered, and we understand a senior Government Minister hired this person, a “fella” called Dominic London to murder a “fella”.

Hon. Senators: Ooooh!

Madam President: Order! Senator, please.

Sen. W. Mark: I have a report.

Madam President: Senator, I suggest that you be very careful.

Sen. W. Mark: I am being very responsible; I have the evidence here—

Madam President: Senator, I do not care what you have. I do not want you to be casting aspersions at anybody even if you did not call—

Sen. W. Mark: I am not casting any aspersions—[*Inaudible*]

Madam President: Senator! Are you listening to me?

Sen. W. Mark: Yes, Ma'am.

Madam President: All right. Drop that immediately and continue.

Sen. Dumas: Madam President, I have stood in this House and have been told that I cannot infer criminal behaviour on any individual and I am suggesting that that statement—I can be bold enough as a Minister to suggest—infer that I am engaged in— [*Desk thumping*]

Madam President: Yes. Please, that is what I am saying to the Senator, he cannot say that because even if he did not call a name he is inferring it to somebody or even to the Cabinet as a whole.

Sen. W. Mark: Do you want me to call the name?

Madam President: No, thank you.

Sen. W. Mark: All right, then do not push me.

Madam President: Sen. Mark! Sen. Mark!

Sen. W. Mark: Sorry Ma'am. I withdraw.

Sen. Dumas: We want the statement withdrawn with Sen. Mark on his feet.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, I—

Madam President: An outburst like that again—let me give you a warning. An outburst like that again, and you will be put out of the Senate today.

Sen. W. Mark: It does not matter.

Madam President: All right.

Sen. Dumas: Madam President, with all respect, I suggest that Sen. Mark needs to withdraw that remark on his feet.

Sen. W. Mark: “Nah.” I want to refer, Madam President to May's, page 343 in terms of my right of unqualified freedom of speech, and I want you to go to May's and be guided accordingly. [*Desk thumping*] I have studied the *Hansard*, I have studied May's, and I know my Standing Orders. I never implied or imputed improper motives to anybody here. I made a broad statement.

Madam President: I made a ruling.

Sen. W. Mark: Thank you very much. I will go on to the Bill, but you just tell those people on that side I have files on them. Do not provoke me; allow me to speak in silence.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: “Is fear Wade, is fear. Dey frighten.”

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, may I continue?

Madam President, we have evidence and we will do what we have to do at the appropriate time.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: When we release it.

Sen. W. Mark: We know who all the criminals are sitting in high places. We know them.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: The fall of this Government depends on that.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, I want to tell you that we are very concerned that innocent persons—

Sen. Dumas: Madam President—

Madam President: Is it a point of order?

Sen. Dumas: Madam President, I think the statement of inference in the Standing Orders is quite clear. I just want to be reassured that to the extent Sen. Mark can infer criminal behaviour against everybody on this side, that when I stand to speak that the same privilege is extended to me with regard to everybody whom I may have evidence on.

Madam President: All right, Senator. He has been pre-warned already.

Sen. W. Mark: “Doh worry, we accumulating your file too.”

Sen. Dumas: I would be very happy to see it.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, do you know what is sad about this exercise we are engaged in here? This Government has mounted a platform of innuendoes, what I would not want to call something that you might feel objectionable, but there is a term used in language called “terminological inexactitudes” rather than say “lies”. That is what they have been engaged in.

Do you know what is sad about this incident today in terms of this legislation? We were involved in crime discussions with this Government, anti- crime talks in 2005. The Prime Minister went to the House of Representatives, it is on public record, we agreed with the hon. Prime Minister in anti-crime discussions and here it is, a statement presented to Parliament by the Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic on a Round of Talks with Members of the Opposition on the matter of Crime, Red House, Parliament, Friday, November 18, 2005. [*Desk thumping*]

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Madam President, their words mean nothing. They are not committed to anything except themselves; they do not care about what they tell you or put in the record of Parliament. This is what the hon. Prime Minister put in the record of Parliament on that day, November 18, 2005:

“The intent of the development of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is to offer citizens who are victims of crime, compensation from the State or the parties who have wronged them. This legislation has not yet been implemented, consequently, a mechanism for implementation is to be determined.”

Madam President, hear this one.

“It has also been agreed that the maximum compensation that one can receive through this Act be increased from \$25,000 to \$250,000. [*Desk thumping*]

And you come to this Parliament today without even announcing an apology for this scandal of \$50,000 when your Government just had a cost overrun of the Brian Lara Cricketing Academy amounting to over \$300 million?

We want a forensic audit into that stadium. We want to enquire how a building that started at \$42 million could now be costing this country over \$200 million, and on the Prime Minister’s residence. We want a forensic audit to that because poor people who have been butchered and massacred, murdered, kidnapped, robbed and raped in this land, when it comes to compensation for them you are “chinksin”, “yuh cheating”. “You do not want to give them nutten.” How can we trust this Government? How can the population trust the Prime Minister and the PNM when they break their word? They told us there was an agreement; it is in the *Hansard* record that they will increase compensation to a maximum of \$250,000 on November 18, 2005. You come here in 2007 and you are telling this country \$50,000.

Madam President, my estimation is that there could be close to about 300,000 persons who have been directly or indirectly affected by crime in this country over the last five and a half years under the PNM. They want to be compensated, they are entitled to that, but you come here with a paltry \$50,000. Just how you tell the country, hon. Minister, that the poverty line you have to get \$655 a month, and if you are getting that, you are okay. If you fall under that, then you are poor.

Minister Roberts, I want to tell you that you cannot even buy grocery with that for two days, but you are telling the ordinary people—almost one million persons in this country—that they must live on \$655.00. Madam President, if that is not a crime I want to know what is. [*Desk thumping*] People need to be compensated for these acts.

Madam President, we want to make it very clear that we are going to move an amendment consistent with the Prime Minister's statement and promise based on this agreement. He agreed with the Opposition and the country that we are going to upgrade the level of compensation from \$25,000 to \$250,000 and we are sticking to the Prime Minister's word of \$250,000. That is what he agreed to, that is what must be in the legislation. [*Desk thumping*] So we are serving notice on the Government, that we shall be moving an appropriate amendment to have \$250,000 included.

Where are the Regulations, hon. Minister? Madam President, are there Regulations? I saw them here. There are Regulations in a package that was sent to the Opposition. So I am hoping when we pass this today with the necessary amendments that you would not stall again. Your task is to hold back the poor; it is to control the poor.

Madam President: Senator, do not talk to the Minister; talk to me.

Sen. W. Mark: I am not talking to him; I am not even recognizing him. I am talking to the air virtually in front of me, Madam President.

Why are they so against the poor people of this country? Why do they hate the poor and the ordinary working people of this land? People who are victims of crime are crying out for justice in this land and a Government that boasts that it has doubled its economy from \$56 billion to \$116 billion in five years cannot give victims of crime a maximum compensation of \$250,000, but you could bring Chinese from Shanghai and take out foreign exchange by hundreds of millions of dollars. The number one bribe payers in this country come from China. That is what Transparency International says, and we have about 11 Chinese firms brought down by a "fella" called Calder Hart from UDeCott.

I want to deal with that "fella" on a special motion. We think police should go into UDeCott, but that is another matter. The theft and corruption that is taking place at UDeCott, Madam President, it will make your hair stand in this country. [*Desk thumping*] Open theft is taking place.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: Fifteen billion dollars.

2.30 p.m.

Sen. W. Mark: Madam President, the poor people are suffering in this country and they cannot increase compensation to \$250,000. I want to tell the people of this country and you, Madam President, that a UNC government, if they do not change that figure from \$50,000, when we assume government very

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shortly, we shall increase compensation from whatever they put it; \$50,000 to \$250,000 for the poor people of this country. Poor, innocent people! I am angry today because I have seen victims of criminal activities in this country and they are suffering, and this Government stood on this legislation for five and a half to six years, and they failed to bring it, and now they bring it, they are saying we are wasting time. We are engaging reckless and callous legislation and we brought legislation for political expediency to defend and to ensure that ordinary people get something, Madam President, when they are involved in crime? It is unbelievable.

I call on Sen. Dr. Lenny Saith, to cause to be generated a forensic investigation and audit into the accounts and the operations of UDeCott. The country is losing through theft and corruption hundreds of millions of dollars at UDeCott and we want an investigation, and if the police want to investigate, let them go to UDeCott and take out this tyrant and oppressor and send him back to Canada.

I want to warn them at the same time. When the UNC returns to Government, I hope they all go to Costa Rica because I understand there is no extradition treaty with Costa Rica. That is the only way that you all would be safe.

Madam President, when we talked about crime in this country we were castigated; we were told by the Minister of National Security that we were not patriotic, we were anti-national, we were going about the country bad talking Trinidad and Tobago. We are now on the international landscape in a formal report, published by the World Bank and the UN Office on Drugs and crime. The title of it is: “Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Cost and Policy Options in the Caribbean.” This is where we have reached, where we are told in the Executive Summary, that crime and violence threatened the welfare of Caribbean citizens and beyond. The direct effect on victims, crime and violence inflict widespread cost, generating a climate of fear for all citizens and diminishing economic growth. Crime and violence present one of the paramount challenges to development in the Caribbean.

Madam President, do you think we did not know that? This is what we were telling the Government, but they will now believe it because it is coming from the World Bank and the United Nations. Here it is, we are seeing where crime and violence are a development issue, we are seeing where narcotics trafficking is very serious in the region, we are seeing the over reliance and criminal justice approach to crime in this document.

Madam President, as for the young people—Madam President, it was a sad thing when I saw—my heart goes out to the family of Vindra Niapaul- Coolman,

her husband, the mothers, the fathers, sisters, brothers, the family, the young people between 20 and 29 years of age. That is where we have reached today. I will talk about that on another occasion.

When I saw these youth on the newspapers, it reminded me of the cocaine trade in this country and in the world, where there is a mastermind behind the cocaine trade and they have these youth pushing it on the block. I saw youth in the newspapers yesterday and today who seemed to be puppets in a master game plan it appears, but we will have more to say on that in a short while, not today.

Madam President, I want to refer to page iii of this report. It talks about the youth. We have to take into account the fact that if we are talking about compensation for criminal activities we have to avoid that from occurring in the future. In other words, we cannot be expanding the fund for compensation for criminal activities. We must be implementing measures and taking policy decisions that will, in the long run, or the medium term, reduce the level of crime and criminal activity in our country. The youth is at risk in our land and they need help and what is being advanced by the World Bank and the United Nations Drug Office is that we should be engaged in Trinidad and Tobago, and I dare say in the region in:

“...early childhood development and mentoring programmes, interventions to increase retention of high-risk youth in secondary schools, and opening schools after-hours and on weekends to offer youth attractive activities to occupy their free time.”

Are we doing this? It is sad in a country bathing and drowning in so much wealth and income that this Government is going to deny—

Madam President, we understand, and the hon. Minister is not here but when she comes back, could she tell us in her contribution—whether some 4,000 youth, young men and women, who would have sat the SEA and they are going to make less than 30 per cent of the marks—would be going back to primary school to repeat the SEA in the following year? This is the estimation we have gotten. It could be a wrong figure but do you know why that has happened? It has happened because this Government has failed to build one secondary school in six years.

I am talking about how can we prevent our youth from getting involved in crime. How can the national fund that is being established to deal with criminal injuries and compensation be reduced over a period of time? We cannot just deal with compensation. We have to deal with a resolution so that we can reduce compensation in the future, and I am suggesting ways and means that have been identified by the World Bank to deal with it. So, I hope that my colleagues will understand the relevance of it.

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Madam President, murder rates in the Caribbean are now at 30 per 1,000 population annually. It is higher than any other region of the world and has risen in recent years from many of the region's countries. We are in a situation in which our young people are in serious danger, and we have to find ways and means of helping and saving our young people.

In the parent Act, the First Schedule—

Madam President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the hon. Senator has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Senator's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes.
[Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. W. Mark: Thank you, Madam President and Members. Women, like our youth, are exposed to violence in the home and in this report I quote:

“Violence against women affects a significant percentage of women and girls in the Caribbean. Police statistics offer only a very imperfect picture of violence against women, since the majority of these incidences are not reported to police and increased trust in police will increase reporting.”

Madam President, there is no provision—if this Government and the Minister of Social Development were concerned about women in our country, he would know that women are exposed to violence and abuse at home and would have incorporated the Domestic Violence Act into the Schedule if this was a progressive Government. But this Government does not care about the women, they do not care about young people, they do not care about the elderly, they do not care about the working people.

I ask the Government to add the Domestic Violence Act where there are hundreds of women who are victims of criminal abuse in their homes and outside of their homes. Hon. Minister, are you listening to me? You seem to be sleeping. I see him sleeping. I am speaking but he is sleeping. My problem is that I want him to listen to me because I am speaking. [*Interruption*]

Madam President, I would like the hon. Minister to take on board my contribution in the context of incorporating and adding to the Schedule, the Domestic Violence Act. I would ask the hon. Minister to give consideration to our proposal where we are asking him to add onto the Schedule, the Domestic Violence Act. That would go a long way toward boosting our women and protecting them and giving them some

kind of restitution, and the question of compensation. Hon. Minister, I know that you are a man whose heart is in the right place and domestic violence against women is a serious crime in our country. We believe that they ought to be protected and given some compensation.

Madam President, if you go to the actual Bill, we were trying to understand why the Government is seeking to make such sweeping amendments to the legislation which in some instances would water it down.

If you go to the original Act, and look at the term “victim” which “means a person who suffers criminal injury”, the Government says that is enough. Under our legislation:

“‘victim’ means a person who suffers criminal injury or is killed by any act or omission of another person which act or omission is a crime listed in the First Schedule.”

Why have you deleted this? You have not given us any explanation. What is the rationale for your deletion of this very important provision, the Minister did not say. Madam President, if you go to clause 5 of the Bill:

“The board shall set guidelines for the award of compensation having regard to current laws.”

I thought the regulations would deal with that. Why is this being put into the legislation? I do not see the relevance of it. They are governed by regulations and, therefore, we ask the Minister to explain why this repetition. Or are they trying to give the board a certain kind of power that they do not have without parliamentary scrutiny? If they are going with guidelines, then I have an amendment. I want those guidelines to be subject to an affirmative resolution of the Parliament so we can know what is happening at the level of that Criminal Injuries Board.

We saw also in clause 6, section 24, that the Government has decided to delete the entire section under subsection (5) of the Act, from 1 to 5 and they have added on. What is the rationale? Why for instance, are they seeking to make these changes? Is it to make things clearer or to allow people who are entitled to compensation, not to exclude them?

These are areas we would like the Minister to clear up for us. Under new section 24A, you will see again where the board shall keep and maintain a register of applications, where a member of the public may inspect the register on payment of a prescribed fee.

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These are areas, section 25 in clause 8, we need some clarification on that particular provision that they are seeking to insert here. Also, we would need the Minister to clarify clause 9 of the Bill which adds an additional paragraph which is there for you to read. Then it goes on to talk about:

“in respect of any loss of earning power, or primary loss or the expenses incurred as a result of the personal...”

Did you change that from personal injury? I saw personal injury in mine.

Madam President: Primary loss.

Sen. W. Mark: Okay. Madam President, there are some areas that we would like the hon. Minister to clear up.

I am very disappointed in his presentation today. This hon. Minister should have come to this Parliament today if this Government was interested in the poor who are victims of crime and tell this country how many citizens have become victims of crime under his Government between 2002 to the present time, rather than to have me estimate a figure. Let us know how many people have been victims of crime.

Madam President, there are many people who have come to me and who are crying out for compensation. The wife of this particular individual and her family is suffering. The lady who went to the court in order to get restitution in terms of compensation, is suffering. They want some support from the Government through this fund, through compensation and I hope that the family of a fellow called Rabindranath Maraj would be the second person to access this fund because of criminal activities that resulted in the murder of her husband in the 1990s.

There are many other areas that I could deal with but I do not think this is the appropriate time. I have to leave some ammunition to get rid of these people at the appropriate time. I am gathering my forces. We have the information we are gathering and at the appropriate time when we focus on the eye of the bird we will shoot. Not now, we are waiting patiently.

The time will come when the real criminals in this country will be addressed; the time will come when the victims of crime will be properly compensated; the time will come when those landless will be provided with land and not run from their land. And the only Government that has ever given poor people hope in this country, has given people in this country a chance to live and a chance to be part of the economy of this country and to participate in all aspects of its development,

is the United National Congress, and we are right around the corner. The time is coming again when the people of this country will have to choose and they will have to choose between evil that sits opposite and the good people of this country that want to see justice, fair play, equality, harmony, dignity and a restoration of safety and security for their family, children and community and constituency and for their country. I have no doubt in my mind that this Bill will be passed with the appropriate amendment. And if it is not passed with the appropriate amendments, I give the undertaking that a UNC government will put what is wrong, right, at the appropriate time.

I thank you.

Sen. Dana Seetahal S.C.: Madam President, I have to say to some extent, I share the views of the previous speaker, Sen. Mark. It is my opinion that this Bill before us does not significantly affect the parent Act. It makes very little significant changes to that Act. In fact, the amendments are deficient in themselves. For example, the Schedule to the Act of the existing Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill, 1999 which specifies the crimes for which compensation may be paid, says at “(d) Inflicting injury with or without a weapon.” There is no such crime in this country as “inflicting injury with or without a weapon”. It says at “(e) uses a drug with intent to commit an offence”. There is no such crime in this country as using a drug with intent to commit an offence.

One would have thought the reason the Government did not implement this Act was because it was unworkable and other things said in the past, that the Government would have looked properly at the Act and corrected things that are so wrong. There are a few things that are wrong. One of them is the list of offences in the Schedule but the Act could have worked despite that, but if you are saying that we are correcting this, improving it, making it workable and then you have glaring mistakes which remain there, it makes nonsense of the excuse of not implementing this Act previously.

I would explain. Crimes to which this Act applies which are specified in section 4(1) of the original Act which says:

“This Act applies to a—

- (a) person who suffers injury,
- (b) and dependant of a person who dies, as a result of a crime listed in the First Schedule.”

Which pre-supposes that all of those things listed are crimes. Crimes are those common law offences such as rape, murder and so forth, but the other crimes must be crimes that are contained in statute; anything for which you can be charged.

Madam President, in other words, no one in this country can be charged for something called “inflicting injury with or without a weapon”. This is the bottom line. You can be charged for “causing grievous bodily harm”, you can be charged for “unlawful wounding”, you can be charged for “inflicting grievous bodily harm”, you can be charged for “assault occasioning grievous bodily harm”, but you cannot be charged with “inflicting injury with or without a weapon”. There is no offence.

Furthermore, in relation to the other cause, if the intention was to say that a person can be compensated where drugs are used to commit an offence—I do not know why that would be so, but perhaps, using a drug with intent to commit an offence was meant to be the intention. There is no offence so called, “John Thomas you are charged with using a drug to commit an offence”. Clear up that first before we go to any other clarity in the substantive provisions of the Act. Which is why I say I am truly disappointed in the rationale and now the substitutions in this Act.

Madam President, there are also omissions that I think the Government could have included. For example, if you are talking about injuries—and injuries now read: “Criminal injury or injuries includes any harm or damage done to a person’s physical or mental condition”—why therefore is kidnapping not included? One would have thought that was obvious. I thought so, but apparently it did not occur to the mover of the Bill.

Robbery. In my experience the most common offence which generates that kind of fear is robbery because more persons are victims of robbery than possibly any other violent offence to the person. This is where you create fear and you steal the property of someone. And that person may have psychological trauma as a result probably and well lose something of economic value. It would seem to me another thing to be obvious to include as one of the offences from which harm or damage to a person’s physical or mental condition could have resulted.

Those are basic amendments that I had hoped would be included. There is another point that the original Act was meant to provide, state assistance for victims of violence for personal injury and compensation to the dependants and compensation for those who assisted the police in crime and apprehending an offender. Those are the three original purposes. There is nothing mentioned there

for persons who merely suffer economic loss. If somebody steals from you in the normal course of things, robs you and so forth, pure economic loss, it appears that under the Act you are not covered. I think there should be some limited recognition if you are going to have a proper amendment to a compensation for economic loss from robberies, larceny and so forth.

The power in the court to award compensation, that compensation, say somebody steals your car, you do not get it back. The car is valued \$20,000 and the person is sent to jail for two years and you say compensation to the value to \$20,000. Under the current law the alternative to non-payment of compensation is six weeks and that six weeks in any event will be subsumed within the two years so you do not get anything. What you have to do is sue the perpetrator.

3.00 p.m.

Now I personally feel that suing the perpetrator or their family should be another amendment, but before we get there, looking at the current law, you get nothing, even if the court awards compensation. For those crimes, I feel that there should be some kind of monetary compensation. This is not to say that I think that the State should provide for every single poor victim of crime, because the State is not the perpetual godfather of everything. There are criminals out there committing offences and the State must just pay and pay? That is not how it should be; that is not what is intended; that is not how it operates in other countries either. There must be a point where you stop. You have to draw the line. I think that there should be options for victims to apply and have the board consider their specific situation and that should include larceny, robbery and things like that.

I also feel strongly that, insofar as perpetrators of crime are concerned, persons who have been proven to have committed a crime or, even if they have been acquitted on a technicality, if there is to doubt—there is evidence that you are guilty—there should be legislation to make those persons liable. They should be made to pay back to the victims through the work they do in prison. I know, for example, in Minnesota where I lived for a while, many prisoners sold furniture to the public and part of the money went to victims. That should happen and you need legislation for that. Also, the family, at some level, especially if there is evidence that they may have assisted the person in their criminal effort, should be made to pay—the same family who paid their legal fees could possibly be made to pay the victims some money for the negative effect, for the problems, for the physical injury and for the economic loss that the victim suffered. So, it is not only the State that should be required to pay.

If we are talking about useful and meaningful legislation, do not just come with what I consider sops. This Bill is really just, in general, cosmetic. It is a cosmetic kind of proposal just to justify why the legislation has not been implemented before. For example, the proposal that the Bill be amended at clause 9(a)(ii), as Senator Mark has pointed out, to include a power for the board to set guidelines, is totally unnecessary because section 40 of the Act gives the Minister power to make regulations to give effect to the provisions of this Bill, including prescribing any procedures to be followed in the making and determination of applications.

So, with the consent of the board, or working alongside the board whom he effectively appoints, those guidelines can be made under that current provision of the Act. Like many other clauses, for example the proposed clause 3 where you say what you mean by a deceased victim, it means “a victim who is now deceased”. That, technically, makes the section clear, but no one was going to say that a deceased victim could possibly mean a victim who was alive at the time the offence was committed. Clearly, if you are dead and an offence is committed against you, there is no offence. It is redundant and it is like you are clarifying some law. It is really an example of cosmetics.

There is now a proposal to amend section 24. Sen. Mark was making the point that there is no explanation given as to why it is being changed. I draw his attention to the last two lines of clause 6, which say, “renumbering the existing subsections (2) to (4) as (5) to (7)”. So, in fact, the whole of section 24 is not being repealed. That is just to clarify that for him.

Madam President, in respect of the board, under the existing law the board comprises a chairman and six members and there must be a quorum of four. If there is one person who is the board right now—I do not know, but I heard it mentioned here—then, of course, it means that there is no board. It cannot sit. Clearly, you need to have at least four and one would hope that you actually have seven members—the chairman and six members—as is required by statute.

The suggestion that we include in the schedule the Domestic Violence Act, through you, Madam President to the Minister, the Domestic Violence Act does not create any offences of violence. The Act establishes a procedure for dealing with domestic violence matters. If one wants to deal with offences involving violence in a domestic situation, one has to go to the regular common law and statute law. This means that you include in the statute assaults occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding, grievous bodily harm, inflicting—Those are the offences.

My point is not that I disagree with what Sen. Mark is saying in substance, but I am saying that the Act itself does not create the offence. It establishes a procedure to deal with the violence of already existing offences against men and women—people in a domestic setting who would normally not want to report these offences of violence because of fear, because the person is still living there. It provides, for example, for getting the person out of the home while the situation is going on—you make certain orders and so on—but it does not create offences in itself, therefore we do not need to put that in the schedule. We need to put the substantive offence.

I think that I have made the points I wanted to make, which are that I think the Act could be expanded in a more meaningful way than currently before us; there should be some recognition that the accused persons—although many of them are men, and a few women, of straw—there is potential for making them liable to pay back the economic cost, whether through a fund or directly to the victim. We need really to make this work in a more properly organized way than we have at present.

That would be all, Madam President. Thank you very much.

Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh: Thank you, Madam President. The Criminal Injuries Compensation (Amdt.) Bill, 2007 seeks to change a few of the sections in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, which we brought and passed in 1999. The administration of the United National Congress (UNC) at that time realized that this country needed to move forward as other developed countries, which had introduced these pieces of legislation—in Britain, as early as 1964, and in Australia, in Queensland, in 1969.

When we brought the Bill in 1999, we were already, as a country, almost 35 years behind developed countries as far as this issue was concerned. The United Kingdom moved significantly from that time and in so many years, over a 35-year period, they had to change their legislation and now their Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is split into three organizations and we are now bringing our first Bill in 2007, almost 42 years behind.

They have now split theirs into a Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and a Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel. So they have an appeals panel, and that is a new body created to resolve appeals received under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, 1995. Their scheme had been in existence in Great Britain for payment of compensation to victims of crimes of violence since 1964. However, until 1996, it operated under royal prerogative and awards were made on the basis of common law damages.

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That whole scheme was wholly administered by their board which continued in a parallel existence until March 2000 in order to resolve outstanding claims. They received thousands of cases and their board considered thousands of compensation claims and there are a number of case laws that have been brought on as a result of these claims made in the United Kingdom. The Law Lords have had to sit on a number of these case laws over a period of time, where people who were not compensated properly went to courts to get their compensation. Their literature is filled with at least 100 cases of case laws that will guide the relevance of this Bill in future development.

A number of cases have been brought to the courts and the Law Lords have had to review them and bring judgment on them. As a result of the high workload in that country, they subsequently moved to an appeals' tribunal to hear the appeals of people who were not adequately compensated and who felt aggrieved by the compensation given to them.

We are now starting with this Bill and, as we have heard, there is someone who has been appointed to the board. As my colleague mentioned, why did it take this administration almost five and a half years to bring an amendment to a bill that really has no major significant deviation from the original Bill? When you examine it, as our colleague just mentioned, there are still errors in the amendment to the original Bill.

Madam President, the members of this administration have to hold their heads in shame because of the suffering that has been experienced by thousands of citizens who have been the victims of crime and who have been unable to sustain a livelihood because of the physical, emotional and psychological trauma that they and their families have had to undergo over the past five years. If they had sought to enact the legislation as early as 2002, when they came to power, thousands of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago would have benefited from this legislation and would not be in the appalling state that they are in at the moment, not receiving any compensation from the State.

They have no ability to go to the courts because they are poor and so many people do not want their business to be taken before the courts, so that they remain without compensation from the State and from the criminals themselves. This legislation is saying that the State will compensate the victims of the crime. We had that in our legislation so we will support that solidly. As my colleague mentioned and to emphasize the point, we believe that the amount should be more than \$50,000, and the Prime Minister had mentioned in Parliament that it was \$250,000.

The Minister gave a very short presentation of this piece of legislation—less than five minutes—and we would have gotten some statistics over the past five years to indicate how many citizens were affected by these criminal acts, which are put forward in the Bill for people to be compensated. It does not include kidnapping and we believe that it is a serious crime. This Government came to both Houses of this Parliament and asked that it be a non-bailable offence and we supported that. So what more heinous crime could there be beside murder and manslaughter? Kidnapping. Kidnapping is obviously left out of this legislation and we want to indicate that victims of crimes of kidnapping should be included in this legislation. [*Desk thumping*]

If we take a cursory look—I had to get figures for myself, but it is the duty of the Government and of Ministers presenting Bills. We have said time and again that there is a lazy and lackadaisical approach when presenting this honourable Senate with information in the presentation of their Bills for us to pass or not to pass. If you are a responsible person bringing legislation to the Senate, research information should be readily available to convince us that this needs to be done. When we ask questions for oral answer to get information, we are told that we have to do our own research by going to the *Gazette* and the Companies Act.

What has been considered under the Bill, as far as crimes, we said that kidnapping should be included. The other crimes are murder, manslaughter and wounding with intent. If we look at the statistics from 2002 to 2005, wounding and shooting with intent at an average, were about 600 cases per year. In 2001, there were 499; 2003, 784; and 2005, 464. But we know there have been at least 165 kidnappings for ransom under this administration. There have been over 1,200 cases of kidnapping and over 1,500 cases of murders under this administration.

Inflicting injury with or without a weapon, my colleague spoke about that just a while ago. Rape, incest and sexual offences average 600 every year. Narcotic offences average 600 per year; break-ins, about 6,000 per year; larceny, for which we would not say people ought to be compensated, about 3,000; robbery, about 3,000 and so on.

Altogether, there have been about 19,000 cases per year, on average, of serious crimes committed under the present administration. So, Madam President, here we have an admission of failure by the Government when it has to put a price on human life, suffering and sentiment. What is unfortunate is that the Bill has taken five years to be presented and lives have been lost tragically, with thousands of citizens suffering.

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This Bill seeks to do three things. It clarifies the categories of persons who may apply for compensation and this category has not really been clarified. As our colleague just mentioned, there are instances where there are serious crimes and people could be compensated, but that is by law not defined properly. The matter of increasing the amount of compensation, we went through that. It should be closer to what we talked about and not \$50,000.

In the matter of providing for the payment of reasonable funeral expenses, let us go to clause 6(a)(3), new subsection of the Act:

“The terms ‘mentally ill’, ‘mentally subnormal’ and ‘duly authorized medical officer’ have the meanings as assigned in the Mental Health Act.”

That is, section 24 of the Act is amended. Now, Madam President, mentally ill or mentally subnormal is a situation that occurs even to victims of crime. Victims of crime become mentally ill, mentally and psychologically deranged. They become psychotic as a result of heinous experiences during a crime situation and there is nothing in this Bill to suggest that even though someone may be a relative of a victim, they can also become mentally ill and mentally deranged. Nowhere in this proposed amendment Bill does it incorporate the families of victims to be compensated when they themselves are suffering as a result of this.

Then clause 6(a)(4) of the Bill says that:

“Where the victim or a dependant of a deceased victim is a child in the care of a children’s home or such other institution, or agency, pending the proclamation of the Children’s Authority Act, the person applying on his behalf shall produce a Fit Person Order...”

Madam President, we have been speaking in this Parliament ad infinitum of the necessity to implement this Children’s Authority Act and this Government has never thought it important that this piece of legislation should be brought to Parliament for enactment and proclamation; yet they are boldfaced enough to put in a clause “pending the proclamation of the Children’s Authority Act” and they know themselves that they have failed to do so. They are not ashamed to bring another piece of legislation saying “pending the proclamation of the Children Authority Act”, when they know that they have not done anything as far as the Act is concerned and so many parents and children have been suffering as a result of the non-proclamation of the Act.

Section 24 of the Act says that a member of the public may inspect the register on payment of the prescribed fee, so the board will have a register of all the cases where victims of crime have been documented. Will this be made

public? There are many instances where women have been raped or traumatized during grievous sexual assault and may not want to have their information available to the general public but may want to benefit from the compensation. When we make this document public, we are bringing out the business of the people who have suffered already as a result of the crime. Then they will suffer the public ridicule of having the information available to the general public—their names will be on that register. This will be an unfortunate situation. This has to be looked at critically. Important pieces of information like that should be very sensitive and the whole issue of having this made public needs to be reconsidered.

As far as the funeral expenses of victims are concerned, there is a funeral expense that the National Insurance Board gives—although belatedly it is days after the funeral has been completed—so you have to look at this piece of legislation in these cases of victims of crime versus the funeral expenses paid by the National Insurance Board.

Madam President, when we introduced this Bill in 1999, it was a different time. Back then, this country was not in the throes of the crime dilemma that we are in today and that is so deep and hopeless that—my colleague just indicated that a recent joint United Nations and World Bank Report says that it is impossible to get out of. I think it was that report my colleague had here just a while ago. Back then in our time, the crimes that this society experienced were controllable. There were murders only as low as 94 per year; now it is close to 400 in 2005—384 as far as we remember.

3.30 p.m.

We introduced this Bill with the intention of easing the financial distress and inconvenience citizens were forced to endure, as a result of the crime that was perpetrated on them at that time. We know that no society on earth is free from crime. It is a fact that the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security are fond of repeating, every time they bring a failed measure to fight crime—they say that no society on earth is free of crime. Those are their watchwords.

When we introduced this Bill, we acknowledged the fact that crime was a problem, but today the crime that is being experienced is almost 10 times the amount of crime under the UNC administration, because during our six years of tenure, there were only 667 cases of murder. In your five years there have been over 1,500 cases of murder, 172 cases of kidnapping and over 19,000 serious crimes which were committed. When we introduced this legislation—it is a different time in 2007.

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So drastically has times in this country changed in just five years, since the PNM came into power, this is the reality of life in this country. Today, this country—as a financial giant in the region, has the dubious honour of being one of the top three countries with kidnapping rates and murders—is among the first 10 in rape, domestic violence and sexual assault against young girls and, of course, is number one in kidnapping. We have to quantify what it is going to cost this country, in terms of payment for compensation to crime victims. It has moved astronomically from when we considered having this Bill in 1999.

Madam President, first of all, the composition of this board—in the United Kingdom, if you go on the website on the Internet, their board consists of approximately 15—20 individuals with wide-ranging skills, competencies and abilities. We have a chairman; two attorneys, one in criminal and one in civil with 10 years experience and one in medicine with, I believe 10 years experience; somebody from the THA and someone from the Ministry of Social Development. Bearing in mind the astronomical number of significant crimes that are committed on a yearly basis, more than 20,000, can this board effectively deal with 20,000 cases per year? How often will they meet? Imagine 20,000 cases coming to this board on an annual basis. No six members of the board will be able to function with that. That is unbelievable. That means, out of 20,000 cases, with 12 months in the year, it would have to deal with 1,500 or 1,600 cases per month, if you are working 20 days for the month. That means approximately 80 cases per day. Can a board deal with 80 cases of compensation per day?

When we ask for the regulations, it should tell us what the board is going to do. Are they going to set up an administrative or managerial area, where they will have people dealing with these matters first before coming to the board and the board then deals with it only if there are problems? When we asked that these regulations be put in as an affirmative resolution, this is what we are talking about. This country will not believe, based on the capabilities of this administration for implementation of anything whatsoever—that this administration has shown the lack of competence and ability for implementation of anything whatsoever.

The victims of crime will undoubtedly understand that they will not be compensated, because you will not be able to deal with it in a fast manner. When you say that you will deal with it within a month, you are fooling yourselves, because you know you cannot deal with it. You had five years to deal with so many things. One such thing is education. You had five years to build schools and you built only two early childhood education centres, not a primary or secondary school.

You had five years to build health centres and not one was built—promises after promises. When you promise the country that they would get compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill when it is enacted, you are really fooling the country and trying to fool the people.

The other issue with that is when we see the massive discrimination that takes place in this country, in terms of how people benefit from the State. The State resources are given in a lopsided manner, not to benefit all when we know that this country should have equality in almost all areas. This Government has shown unequivocally that words “equality before the law and equality for all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago” seem to be words that are not within their understanding. When they say that they would give compensation to victims of crime, we do not believe that this will be given equally. There will be discrimination and this is what we fear in the whole administration of compensation. This is money that would be given by the State. You know how the State deals with their money problems.

How do we ensure fairness in this method? Where will the fairness be in all of this? Who are the members of this board? On what basis will they assess whose grief and trauma is worth financial compensation? They say that there is a psychologist on the board. You can scarcely find a good psychologist in Trinidad and Tobago when you are looking for one. There are approximately three or four in north. I do not know if there is one in south. Do you know the emotional and psychological trauma that befalls, not only the victim, but the families of the victim? Who can understand the victim’s need for psychological counselling? How will the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Amdt.) Bill help those who are psychologically or emotionally traumatized as a result of the crime that has been perpetrated against their families or even the victims?

We have to ask these questions when the hallmark of this administration, in every form and fashion, is discrimination. They target perceived UNC supporters for marginalization in every field, from not prosecuting the murderers of Shazard Mohammed, but going after the Chief Justice and Mr. Panday, to not giving them the lots of land in Caroni. I am trying to show that we fear that there will be inequality in the administration of the law, to not giving them CEPEP jobs; to targeting innocent people for prosecution in voter padding and alleged corruption, but letting the PNM members blatantly ruin the coffers of this country by waste, expenditure and massive corruption, \$1.2 billion in CEPEP and approximately \$300 million in NEDCO, \$2 billion unaccounted by WASA to the PAC, Petrotrin \$130 million overrun, Scarborough Hospital, \$400 million overrun, et cetera.

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There is massive corruption. The list goes on: the Prime Minister's residence, from approximately \$40 million to almost \$200 million; Brian Lara Stadium, from \$200 million to almost \$700 million. That is the abyss that we are falling into. How can we really feel comfortable with this administration?

In the midst of this, we have people with insider trading staying in power and running massive organizations. Where are the checks and balances to ensure that this board will be fair to all citizens, because there is a real possibility that given the trend of this Government, when certain people make claims, they would be sidestepped for PNM supporters. After all, it is money you are dispensing. PNM administration dispensing money again.

This board will be the criminal equivalent of CEPEP, and we know what corruption that could spawn. On that merit alone, or lack thereof, your board is questionable no matter what the composition will be. It will be questionable. The real crux of this issue is how could you put a price on human suffering? They are responsible for human suffering of thousands and thousands of citizens. People have to flee this country. Who is responsible for the families who are losing their loved ones because they have to migrate because of the fear of crime? You cannot put a price on that. They have to leave and run their businesses by remote control from abroad. They have to sell out their businesses. They are well-knitted families working hand in hand and in synchrony with each other but they have to leave because of their fear of crime. They are threatened by kidnapping and gun power. You cannot put a price on the victims of crime. The whole country is traumatized. The citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are victims of crime because none of us in this Senate can walk out on our own any time of the night and feel comfortable.

When I was in Barbados for the Cricket World Cup, I could have walked the streets of Barbados, Grenada and Antigua. Here in Trinidad and Tobago, when you come back home you have to lock yourself in. Who is going to pay for all of us in Trinidad and Tobago who are traumatized by crime? We are victims of crime. The whole country, 1.3 million people are victims of crime.

How much money do you think you can pay the mother of Sean Luke? How much money can ease the pain and sleepless nights and the memories of that heinous crime that took her child away when she goes mad with grief? How much money would you pay for her sanity? You cannot compensate her. How much money would you pay for the hundreds of kidnapped victims who are afraid to come out of their homes?

I know some kidnapped victims who told me that they would wake up at 12 o'clock or 1 o'clock in the morning and they cannot go back to sleep because they are scared because that was the time that they experienced the kidnapping which was terrible. They wake up and are agitated and cannot go back to sleep. Your duty, as a Government, is to prevent this from happening. You are falling woefully short in your ability to do so. You know that you have failed this country. You have failed the people on the crime situation and you should demit office on your own. The people will cause you to be demitted in November or December, when the election comes.

How much money can you pay for the people who are traumatized like this? People want to run. Can you pay rape victims for the trauma and sexual disease they contract? Some people get AIDS as a result of rape. They are frightened when they are waiting for the three months or six months when they can be tested positive for HIV. They do not know whether they are HIV positive or if they would be committed to a life where they will die in a few years because of their contracting HIV.

This Government misses the point all the time, in a time when Trinidad and Tobago has once more become worse than the Wild West. What you are supposed to do is to uphold your social contract with the people and keep the country safe, which you have not done; not make deals with criminals that ensured that they would take over the country.

You were supposed to implement the laws, protect the people and seek to prevent crime. In times like these, compensation should not only be financial, it should be psychological. Your time is coming, the psychological stress and distress that you have caused on this population, the people will rebel and they will tell you that you have not done anything for them.

Where are the counsellors to deal with these patients who have been traumatized emotionally and psychologically? They arm guards to guarantee people's safety. You see them all over the place at the Prime Minister's residence. They blocked the former Prime Minister from coming into the House.

You do not see police patrol in the areas. Someone asked me yesterday: "Where is the E999 that you introduced?" You could have called for police backup and gotten it in five or 10 minutes, but now, although they have bought hundreds and hundreds of vehicles, VMCOTT is being used to buy \$61 million in spy equipment, instead of taking care of the vehicles, which is what they were supposed to do in the first place.

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When a family pays out millions of dollars to kidnappers to get back their loved ones, who is going to reimburse them? Would you prefer them to lose their loved ones, because they have been forced to pay the millions of dollars? If a family decides to take civil action against criminals, will you pay the legal fees? There is the ability, in this country, to take legal action against criminals, but some people are so poor, they cannot do it. We should consider whether the State will assist people who want to take legal action against criminals.

The other consideration is that we should have a mechanism whereby criminals who have property and who have means, their properties should be levied upon or confiscated by the State, because in the same way when the kidnappers and the people who are running drugs properties are confiscated, it is the same way people who have perpetrated serious crimes and have been found guilty, the State must have the ability to take some of their property to compensate for the crimes that they have committed. This is something that they must consider as well.

Where are the social policies that would ensure the young people in criminal lifestyles, change their ways? My colleague mentioned massive poverty. How can you ask people to survive with \$655 per month? The young ones have no way out of poverty and this is why they are committing crime, although that is not an excuse, but poverty breeds contempt. When a young person sees that they cannot get a meal for the day and they see someone driving around with a beautiful car, they feel aggrieved as to why God has done that to them. Why can we not have a society where we try to eradicate poverty altogether?

Our social policies are not designed to try to eradicate crime. Where are the policies to rehabilitate the young ones? Where are our social policies to prevent crime from getting worse? Everyday you speak about consultation and a new plan and you have failed and failed. It goes beyond buying multi-million dollar equipment and spying on our conversations.

The *UN World Bank Report* suggests that crime within the Caribbean—it pinpoints Trinidad and Tobago as one of the leaders in the world in the crime scourge.

Last week the Attorney General was boasting about Raoul Gutierrez paying back this country and apologizing. What are the measures that you would take to deal with corruption under your own watch, by members of your own administration?

My colleague mentioned that the expenditure on UDeCott alone is \$15 billion. This man is walking—

Madam President: Senator, you have gone off. Address me.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I have not gone off.

Madam President: Address me and not the Attorney General.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I am trying to address the issue of prevention of crime and we are talking about white collar crime. I have not gone off, because the hon. Minister said that when he was addressing it. He spoke about perpetrators such as those in the Birk Hillman corruption and the matter in the Piarco Airport. He spoke about white collar crime, a crime committed against the people of Trinidad and Tobago. I am speaking about the crime committed against the people of Trinidad and Tobago by Calder Hart and Uthara Rao of \$1.2 million.

Madam President: Senator, be very careful when you call people's names.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I can speak about it. I can call their names because I feel aggrieved. Why should one man, a foreigner in this country, be utilizing \$15 billion, when there are only four people around him and he gives contracts and tenders willy-nilly and everything that it goes to has a cost overrun? It is we, the taxpayers of this country who have to pay for this wasteful expenditure by the State. Billions and billions of dollars are stolen by this PNM administration.

Madam President: Senator, back to the Bill, please.

Sen. Mark: They “tiefing” the money—the PNM.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: They speak about the crime committed against the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We want to see what will happen to the two Ministers of Government who are before the courts, where there is alleged perpetration of some sort or the other.

Sen. Mark: We want the Attorney General to investigate Calder Hart.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Recently, the judge took them to the jail to have a view. They stopped the media from going to the jail because they are so ashamed of the filthy condition. They speak of recidivism and restorative justice. The jail is stinking with 6, 8 and 10 people in one cell. They speak about recidivism, restitution and reparation and that they focus on prisoner rehabilitation and re-entry into the society. That is what the Minister spoke about.

Madam President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the hon. Senator has expired.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Thank you, Madam President. What we have today is the nerve of this administration trying to sell earnestness, when it is a Government that engages in the highest form of decadence. Nobody buys into that. Stop trying to fool the population. You are only fooling yourselves. On that note, what are the measures to protect the people from the white collar crime? The Minister spoke about Gutierrez.

I want the Attorney General to tell this Senate how many private files of citizens were made public and fell into the criminal hands when his computer system was hacked into last year on many occasions. We know a big secret investigation went on. It proved nothing, but the Attorney General felt that he could have hidden this information from the country.

Madam President: Senator, come back to the Bill please.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I am speaking about personal files and victims of innocent crime. People in Trinidad and Tobago are victims of innocent crime because the files of these victims which were in the—[*Interruption*]

Madam President: Senator—[*Interruption*]

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh:—Attorney General's office when his computers—[*Interruption*]

Madam President: Senator, Senator!

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh:—were hacked into.

Madam President: You have used a Bill to go to all kinds of things and when I ask you to come back to the Bill, you try to make an excuse that you are addressing the Bill. Sen. Dr. Kernahan, that also talks to you too, if you are trying to tell him that he is right. I am getting tired of this now. Please come back to the Bill.

Sen. Mark: This is what a Parliament is all about.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I am only responding to the hon. Minister of Social Development's introduction on the debate on white collar crime. He spoke about Raoul Gutierrez and white collar crime in the context of Trinidad and Tobago. I want the hon. Minister to tell us—[*Interruption*]

Madam President: Would you give way to the Attorney General?

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Yes, he must tell us how many times the Attorney General's files have been hacked into.

Madam President: Senator, I have asked you to drop that.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: He is going to respond.

Sen. Jeremie S.C.: Ma'am, Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh is sitting so close to Sen. Mark that he seems to be, by osmosis, developing some of Sen. Mark's tendency for exaggeration hyperbole.

The Attorney General's Office, as many offices in the country, had a difficulty with its computer system last year, but we do not have the files of any public or private citizen, in relation to criminal matters, on our files. All that might have been hacked was information relevant to the Attorney General's office.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau, I have told them time and time again— "like stick break in dey ear"—has a separate system. I do not know what goes on in their system. That is all that I have to say.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: Thank you, Madam President. I am happy to note that the Attorney General has admitted that there was hacking into his computer last year and this population never knew whose or what files were hacked into. He owes this country an explanation, not only in Parliament, but he should make a public announcement on the hacking that took place. This is important information for all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. There are many citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who are victims of crime. Not only in criminal activities but white collar crime was on that computer. He failed to give the population the information that his computer was hacked into.

Sen. Mark: Danny is good at hacking. He said his son, before he died, hacked into an account. Danny said that. He got an account for \$10 million. He said so in the Parliament. It is on the record. I have it.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: The hon. Minister said in his introduction that we are a socialized people. Well, it seems as though we are extremely de-socialized at this time because we cannot go from home to next door to meet our neighbours, because we might be killed walking across the street.

Sen. Mark: That is the legacy of the PNM. The people will deal with you all.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: He admitted that the people are ravaged by crime. In his introduction, he said that the people are ravaged by crime. Thanks for telling the population that you have accepted the fact that under your administration, the people are ravaged by crime. He spoke about the crime committed against the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

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He said that the Government is trying to repair broken and torn relationships in communities. What communities do we have? We have communities living in fear. Everyday they are asking for police intervention and police support and they cannot get any. Communities are fragmented and broken up. People are living everyday, one man for himself. They are afraid to give evidence or witness another crime committed next door. What communities is he talking about? He spoke about peaceful communities. Tell us of one peaceful community in Trinidad and Tobago where I or you can go and live? You are living in Santa Cruz. [*Interruption*]

Madam President: Talk to me. I am still sitting here.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: I will give you that respect. You are the boss. He is living in Santa Cruz and now Brian Lara's home town is being bedevilled by murder upon murder everyday. In the international community, when you go to India and they ask you which country you are from and you say Trinidad and Tobago, they say: Brian Lara's country? Brian Lara's town is now being run by the criminals. How would the world feel about that? How would this Government feel about that?

He said they have a policy document to guide the whole aspect of this Bill and we hustled an incomplete piece of legislation on to the law books of Trinidad and Tobago; a beautiful piece of legislation. They have come to make a mockery of it by trying to make a few changes here and there. The whole thing could have been implemented within six months when they came into office. You spoke about hustling an incomplete piece of legislation. We consider legislation a serious business. Not you; you do not seem to consider legislation—[*Interruption*]

Madam President: Talk to me.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh: They brought legislation the night when it was supposed to have expired. We had to rush in the middle of the night to pass legislation, so that it would not expire. And they talk about seriousness of legislation?

I want to tell this administration, through you, that we have solutions to this. We have remedies to this type of situation. You have never really decided to consult us. You have embarked on a sham on crime consultations in the country in your fifth year of office. You are now beginning to consult with the people on crime. What a shame. For five years you did not believe that you should have consulted with the people. You now want, because it is an election year, to go out and say that you are consulting with the people on crime. That is a big disgrace. This Bill is yet another attempt to hoodwink the population into believing that you

are doing something for the crime situation. This is unpardonable and unacceptable. You are telling them that you are trying to do something about the worst form of terrorism that the citizens are experiencing in Trinidad and Tobago.

I want to end by telling this administration that all of this is not going to work. This country will never forgive this Government. They have seen the decadence that has gone on. They have seen a precipitous decline in the quality of life and well-being of every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. They have seen the scourge of criminal activity. They have seen the anarchy in the society. People no longer feel comfortable. No matter how much you try to compensate the victims by some financial reward, their psychological and emotional trauma rest and abide with them on a daily basis, hour by hour.

Come election, you will see the best forms of criminal injuries compensation that this country will ever witness; not financial. It is not financial. This country will witness the best form of criminal injuries compensation when the UNC would have beaten the PNM convincingly at the election in either November or December when it is called. Their time has come and it is time that they move out.

Sen. Basharat Ali: Thank you, Madam President. I said that I was going to be very brief in my contribution and I still hope to be brief. When the hon. Minister started off his presentation, his opening line referred to Birk Hillman and the Piarco Airport and I wondered whether I had read the right Bill. When I looked, I knew I read the Schedule and it had nothing except (a) to (h) and certainly nothing relating to corruption was there. I wondered where he was coming from then.

I had to conclude later on that the Minister must have decided that attack was his best form of defence and chose that line in this season, when we will be getting a lot of that kind of talk.

The hon. Minister really did not do justice in his presentation of the Bill because he was very, very brief in his comments on the amendments proposed. I in my innocence said I did not have many problems with what was before us and that we will have a clear sailing of this Bill before us today. Evidently, I was not right. I realized, from Sen. Wade Mark's contribution, that there was quite a lot in the pot before and there were reasons why the Minister may have taken such a stand. I realized from Sen. Dana Seetahal's S.C. contribution that there are quite a few areas which are open to amendments. In fact, she basically said that there are deficiencies in the amendments being proposed and, therefore, in the Bill. I will not go so much into that, although I will come back to it.

I made a little list of some of the amendments that were proposed to us in the Bill. From clause 3, which is the Interpretation, I understand that some of the definitions there are not sufficiently clear or precise. I know they have now changed the definition of "victim" to be "criminal injury". We must have a very good definition of "criminal injury". I am told that under criminal injury, while they speak of injury as a result of rape, there is no injury from pregnancy as a result of incest. We really need to look more closely at the definitions which come under clause 3 of the Bill.

Before the proclamation, when I first looked at this Bill, I was not sure that the Act had been proclaimed and there was no way for me to find out in the time available. It is only today I understood, after Sen. Mark raised the question of a court judgment, that the Act was proclaimed. If the Act was proclaimed, there are a few questions to be asked, because it became an Act sometime in 2005.

One of the questions relates to section 20 of the original Act, which refers to the subject of appropriation of two separate amounts under the Act. One amount is for the operating expenses of the board. We talked about the board. The other one, which is more important, is the subject of the victims' compensation.

With your permission I would look at that one because, in the parent Act it states that moneys appropriated by Parliament shall be a separate item from which the Ministry shall pay compensation to the victim on the written authority of the board. That is a very clear statement there. If the Bill has been proclaimed and it is now an Act, I would like to ask the hon. Minister or the Minister of Finance whether, in budget 2007, if there is a separate item to cover this compensation and if so, what is the amount that is there within the budget, so that the Ministry can pay the victims? I do not know whether any victims have been paid.

While I am on that, section 29, which has been extensively proposed for amendment, speaks of the board paying compensation. In the parent Act, section 1 speaks of the board paying compensation, when it really should be, according to section 20, the Ministry paying compensation. I am surprised that having gone through and made a number of amendments to section 29, the first line of section 29(1) has been left with the subject of the board paying compensation. I would like the Minister to react to that. At least that should be changed, because that is the only place where I see that the board has that responsibility.

Coming back to the subject of appropriation under section 20, I note that the board has one member of staff, as far as I can see, and that is the secretary. That is supposed to be an accounting person because that person will be the accounting officer of the board, which is a statutory board, which will have to prepare the

accounts and submit it to Parliament. I have not seen any other person. The composition of the board is one chairman, who is an attorney; two attorneys with over seven years experience, one in civil law and one in criminal law; a psychologist, which was mentioned; a member of the Ministry and a member of the THA. If they have to produce the estimates for the Sen. The Hon. Enill in time, I am wondering who is going to prepare that; one set of the operating expenses and the second set, the compensation. Things have changed from 1999 to now. With the amount of crime, there is much more likelihood that larger amounts of compensation will have to be budgeted under that item.

It would like the hon. Minister to say how they propose to handle the subject of the preparation of expenditure for appropriation from the Consolidated Fund for the two items, which are operating expenses and compensation, which they will look at or propose in the estimates.

On the subject of compensation, I think Sen. Seetahal S.C. raised a very important point, which is something that was in my mind: What does the perpetrator of a crime pay as part of this compensation? The Act says quite clearly that the compensation is an ex gratia payment, but there is no mention as to what might be the liability of the perpetrator who might be sentenced. Sen. Dana Seetahal S.C. did raise that as an item and I think it is something that should be looked at. They should not be the one to get away scot-free. We have a bar set on the amount of compensation, that bar of \$50,000 is discretionary to the board.

I think in today's world, with crime at its level today, that is a very small amount. If you have a statutory board and you want them to do their job properly then, you should give them a higher discretionary limit because \$50,000—including funeral expenses, et cetera—will be gone very, very quickly. I think that should be an item to be looked at.

Listening to Sen. Mark, I sympathized with a lot of what he said. I felt that the parent Act was a reasonably good Act and this was really a correction of some of the items with the efflux of time. I am concerned with all that Sen. Dana Seetahal S.C. has raised with respect to crimes, the victims' compensation and the liability of perpetrators.

I am wondering whether this Bill can be handled in committee or whether the Bill should be withdrawn and re-looked at by the hon. Minister and his team, or whether we should have a committee of the Senate that can look at the Bill and come up with some amendments which are meaningful, so that we will all be satisfied that we have a good Act, with which to work on this very important subject.

That is what I put before the Senate and I thank you very much for your time.

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. John Jeremie S.C.): Madam President, I join the debate to support the hon. Minister in his presentation of the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Amdt.) Bill. I would give some of the history to this legislation. I think a lot of what we have said today would be clarified. The legislation has its genesis—I was not here, unfortunately, when Sen. Mark made his contribution, but Sen. Mark was in those crime consultations.

Sen. Mark: I beg your pardon.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: He attended at least one of those crime consultations.

Sen. Mark: One.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: He was a part of the crime consultations held between the Government and the UNC, as it then was.

Sen. Mark: As we are.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: As it then was.

Sen. Mark: As we are.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: This Bill—I heard the Leader of the parliamentary Opposition yesterday in the other place talking about the fact that this piece of legislation had only just been laid in the Senate and that the Prime Minister had reneged on his promise to put a cap on the liability of \$250,000. The cap, of course, in the Bill is now \$50,000. In the initial Bill, it was \$25,000. As it stands here today, like the economy which has doubled over the last five years, the amount in the Bill has doubled to reflect the increase in the economy over the past five years. It might not have reached \$250,000, but it has certainly doubled in quantum, so that it is now \$50,000.

The point at issue is that we cannot say that the legislation is here by “vaps”. The legislation is here because the Leader of the Opposition, as he then was, Mr. Panday, and his team insisted on this and the Equal Opportunity Bill, both of which the Government has faithfully brought before the House, in compliance with our duty of good faith. We brought the Equal Opportunity Bill. That is in the other place. It might or might not go to a committee. I do not know what the business will be.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation (Amdt.) Bill is here before us, because it was part of a crime package. It was part of the give and take, which allowed us to bring the police package: the Police Complaints Authority, the Police Service Bill

and the Constitution (Amdt.) Bill, as well as the DNA Bill and the Breathalyzer Bill, all of which required, with the exception of the Police Service Bill, a special majority.

In order to bring those pieces of legislation, it was necessary for us to say yes to certain things, some of which had absolutely no bearing on the eradication of crime. In return for the Bail (Amdt.) Bill, which required a special majority which they gave with a sunset clause in the first instance, they extracted from us a promise to bring the Equal Opportunity Bill and the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Amdt.) Bill with the \$250,000 cap as it then was.

The primary objective of the Bill—it was assented to on September 29, 1999 and proclaimed on November 01, 2000—was to provide compensation for persons or the dependants of persons who have suffered injury as a result of the crimes listed in the First Schedule to the Act. The Act was passed in that period of timing in 1999/2000, when there were enormous difficulties with legislation.

This piece of legislation was not one of those which suffered from those enormous difficulties, but there were difficulties with the legislation. It is so critical that one would have thought that the legislation would have been carefully thought out. It was not. I would take hon. Senators through the legislation bit by bit, clause by clause.

Section 5 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board with responsibilities for receiving and considering applications for compensation and deciding what compensation, if any, should be paid.

The Ministry of Social Development endorsed that general principle. It was outlined in the document for which we have informed the drafting of the Act. They found this as part and parcel of their work product when they went into office. Minister, this might be the case.

There was a working paper on compensation for victims of crime. But there was no policy document for the legislation. What the Minister sought to do was to develop, after the Bill had been passed, a policy paper for the Bill. He worked in concert, as I understand it, with the working paper on compensation for victims of crime, but the Ministry was of the view—I am speaking for the Ministry, that there must be more limitations as to who should benefit from the award of compensation from the State. They felt, in the absence of such limitations, that it was envisaged that the State would be forced to disburse astronomical sums in the payment of compensation on an annual basis. Their figures, as I have them, were

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between \$0.5 billion not \$1 million and \$1 billion per annum. This is the feedback that I got from the Ministry. I do not know if the Minister of Finance would be able to find those sums of money out of thin air.

Further, in technical terms, it was felt that the following principles should be given prominence in the new Act. First, it was felt that the procedures governing the receipt and the termination of applications must be so facilitative as to ensure that the facility is adequately accessible by those for whom it was intended.

Secondly, it was felt that the operations of the board must be transparent and that, in the old draft, that was not the case. I am speaking for the Ministry. I must conform to the tenets of basic administrative law. As it was drafted, it was felt that was not the case.

Thirdly, it was felt that sound administrative measures were necessary to treat with the large volumes of applications that were expected to be received by the board. This is so, notwithstanding the fact that the Opposition might have demitted office at the time when the crime wave—which started under their tenure. They would have you believe otherwise, but it was a curve in an upward direction. It was a curve going in an upward direction.

Madam President, the fourth point was that all applicants—the wave has now started to go down as the Minister has so adequately and appropriately demonstrated here on the previous occasion two weeks ago. He is now going all about the country consulting with persons and letting them know exactly what is going on in relation to crime.

Fourthly, it was felt that all applicants must benefit from an expedient, yet just and equitable procedure for the hearing and determination of their applications.

Fifthly, it was felt that the payment of awards must be completed expeditiously, yet ensuring that the needs of the applicants are reasonably met.

These were the main shortfalls established by the Ministry, in the operation of the 2000 Bill. They were not the huge shortfalls which characterized certain pieces of legislation. Some of the legislation, which was passed in that period 1999/2000 did not provide for a board to do various things.

In the United Kingdom, these awards are made on an *ex gratia* basis and for years, were done without the sanction of a board.

The Ministry, therefore considered it necessary to review the Act in detail with a view to amendment prior to the establishment of the board, especially in light of the fact that there appears to be no comprehensive policy on the issue. They settled on a policy first, because in that period of time, it was difficult to

determine what was legislation, what was legislation by “vaps” and what was legislation which was informed by policy. [*Interruption*] I must give way to my colleague.

Sen. Seetahal S.C.: Thank you so much. I want to find out in all of this consideration, whether the Ministry did not consider this Schedule? Perhaps, the Attorney General could address that omission.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: I am developing my point as I go along and I do not wish to be broken in my trend of thought.

Madam President: Pull the mike towards you a bit.

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: There was a point made by Minister Kangaloo which had slipped me, not the question which you have asked. Sen. Kangaloo made the point that the Act was proclaimed, as so many of the other pieces of legislation; the Criminal Mediation Act, that was a disaster; the Dangerous Dogs Act, which we have heard nothing about since then. That too was proclaimed. It is somewhere languishing on the statute books. A dog bit somebody and the ever-diligent Attorney General was in Parliament the next week with a Dangerous Dogs Act, which has not been used since then.

There was no comprehensive policy on the issue, as my colleague who has some experience in this area, will say. There was no infrastructure whatsoever in the place.

Cabinet, therefore, agreed that the Act should be amended along the lines of a document which was prepared after great thought by the Minister of Social Development.

Cabinet also agreed that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Regulations, 2005 be made by the Minister under section 40(1) of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, 1999, along with a draft which was attached to a Cabinet Note and which also was the subject of great thought and reflection. It contained a coherent policy and that is the hallmark of the legislation which the Minister has produced today.

Madam President: Hon. Attorney General, I am sure that you still have some way to go. You are nearly finished?

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: In less than five minutes I would be finished.

Madam President: You want to finish and then we would go for tea?

Sen. The Hon. J. Jeremie S.C.: Yes, I promise.

4.30 p.m.

Madam President, in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Act, Cabinet agreed to the appointment of the undermentioned persons on the board. I think the Minister was seeking to set out the composition of the board. The board is comprised of: Mr. Norton Jack, an attorney-at-law of no less than 10 years experience in the practice of criminal law. I believe he was Solicitor General in St. Lucia for a period of time as well. He is the Chairman of the Board; Dr. J. Manohar, member; Mr. Gilbert Peterson, senior counsel, member; Mr. Mario Merritt, member; Dr. Krishna Maharaj, member; Ms Claire Brandi, member and Mr. Alvin Pascall, member.

Madam President, it is a strong board. It is a board appointed consistent with section 6 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1999. The skill sets are as stipulated in the Act; a medical practitioner of no less than 10 years experience; an attorney-at-law of no less than seven years experience in the practice of civil law and 10 years in the case of criminal law; an attorney-at-law of no less than seven years experience in the practice of criminal law. So, the board is compliant with the provisions of the Act. I am told by the Minister with responsibility that it is, indeed, a strong board. [*Crosstalk*]

In terms of the implementation of the Act, even though the Minister has done a tremendous job to bring the Act up to scratch from where it was before, he still has considerable challenges. Over the last three to four months, he has been making attempts to put in place the Criminal Injuries Compensation Unit as a support for the board, and as a necessary requirement for the implementation of the Act. That was nowhere in the scheme of the landscape in the previous dispensation.

There are several posts that are required to be filled for the creation of the unit. I am advised that the Bill is precisely doing that. To date, despite the fact that some of the interviews to fill these posts have been conducted, all of the required interviews are yet to be completed. I am advised that the Minister is making every effort to get the system off and running within the shortest possible time.

The staffing of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Unit is about to be completed, and interviews regarding outstanding posts are to be done, followed by the appointment of the required staff. The Board and the unit are to be housed in identified office space, easily accessible to the public. Equipment for the board's offices is shortly to be acquired in the necessary office infrastructure to be put in place.

So, all in all, what you have is a Minister and a ministry on the move, and about to take off with the provisions of the Act, and the appointment of the Board which has recently been put in place. [*Interruption*] He will deal with that in his summing up.

Madam President, all that is left for me to do, is to congratulate the Minister for the work done in respect of bringing the legislation that is before us. I have every confidence that the very few matters of detail which are left to be dealt with shall be dealt with in short order by the Minister. The Minister is resolved to deal with the legislation, and it cannot be doubted that the Minister has restored some degree of order and structure to the chaos which existed before. With these few words, Madam President, I thank you.

Madam President: Hon. Senators, we will take the tea break. We will suspend until 5.05 p.m.

4.35 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.05 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Public Administration and Information and Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith): Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate be now adjourned to Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 1.30 p.m. I believe it is Private Members' Day.

Madam President: Hon. Senators, there is a matter on the adjournment by Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh. Where is Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh? Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh, you are two minutes late, and you have a matter on the adjournment.

Sen. Dr. Gopeesingh: Sorry, Madam President.

Madam President: I am allowing it this time, but it would not happen again in future. If the person is not here, we just do not take it.

State Companies and Statutory Authorities (Guarantees of)

Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh: Madam President, I asked for a copy of the Auditor General's Report which I am unable to have at the moment, but I will deal with the Motion. In the meanwhile, I have asked for a copy of the Auditor General's Report for 2006.

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Madam President, in the Auditor General's Report of 2006, it indicates a number of companies and state enterprises that have incurred expenses, and they have borrowed money, and the State has accepted liability for these companies. The amount of money that these state companies and state enterprises have borrowed, and are asking the Government to stand guarantees for, amounts to about \$18 billion. It is detailed under the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts, 2006.

Madam President, we wonder why these state companies, about 15 of them, have to borrow to the tune of \$18 billion and then ask the Government to guarantee this on their behalf. We have approximately 105 state enterprises and statutory authorities in Trinidad and Tobago, and if only 15 of them have asked the State to guarantee \$18 billion, we are unaware of what the financial accounts are for these 105 state enterprises and statutory authorities. This is what prompted us to ask the question: What is happening to these state enterprises, in terms of profit and loss on an annual basis? When we asked the question, we were unable to get the answer from the relevant Ministers and they directed us to the *Gazette* and to find the information from the Companies Act down at the registry. This is untenable.

If this report did not show that a number of these state enterprises were asking the State to guarantee about \$18 billion, we would not have been aware of this situation and, therefore, the country would have been in the dark as to what really exists. If 15 of these state companies owe \$18 billion, what is happening to 105 statutory authorities and state enterprises?

I think it is important that whoever is responding—I believe it is Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith—

Sen. Dr. Saith: The Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Sen. Dr. T. Gopeesingh:—should give us an account as to why they had to borrow this money. This is just one book which deals with Joint Select Committees of Parliament appointed to enquire into and report on government ministries, with responsibility areas listed in Part I, so this would only have half of the government ministries; and half of the government ministries has 54 statutory boards and similar bodies, and 35 state enterprises, and the other half would have a significant number as well.

Now, if we look at the Ministry of the Attorney General, with respect to the Corruption Investigation Bureau Anti-Corruption Squad, we do not know what the state of finance is with that. When we ask questions, we are directed to try and

find them ourselves. Recently, we asked how much it cost the National Carnival Commission to bring about Carnival and so forth. We also asked how much money was spent on Carifesta and we realized that \$35 million was spent on that.

We also asked about the state of the National Insurance Board. There is a report, but we do not know what is happening in terms of the investments of the National Insurance Board with respect to \$12 billion to \$15 billion. Where is this money invested? What benefit is the country accruing from it so that it could pay pensions?

The National Energy Enterprises Limited is one of 16 companies in Trinidad which has been removed from the Freedom of Information Act; we have the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited; the Business Development Company, Taurus Services; Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company; the Agricultural Development Bank, the Export Import Bank; the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust; the Central Bank and the Integrity Commission, all of these companies have been removed from the Freedom of Information Act.

When we asked about BWIA, we understand that US \$250 million has been given to BWIA in their movement away from BWIA to Caribbean Airlines. What was the basis of that? The country seems to be unable to understand and appreciate this, because no meaningful reason was given, in terms of moving it from one company to another. Is it just the change of BWIA to two birds and with Caribbean Airlines marked on the plane? They spent \$1.5 billion. It is in this context that we are asking the Government to explain why these state companies have asked the State, our taxpayers, to ensure that they could have borrowed almost to the tune of \$18 billion.

If we look at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, recently they brought in a whole heap of street lights and so on. The country is unaware as to who is responsible for administering this Street Lighting Programme; whether it is T&TEC. Who were the purchasers of these street lights? Madam President, over \$6 million to \$7 million has been spent on the Street Lighting Programme.

We heard the Prime Minister talk about the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). He said about \$28 billion is needed to change WASA. We understand that when WASA was brought before the Public Accounts Committee, they could not account for almost \$1 billion at the time when they were being interviewed. They were not able to say why \$1 billion was missing. Now, we understand from this report, almost \$2 billion is needed to bail out WASA.

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That National Broadcasting Network is another example. Well, NBN was closed down, and about \$250 million has been spent to bring on CNMG.

With respect to the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago, we do not know what is happening. All these are state enterprises and statutory authorities.

With respect to the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), we brought up the issue recently with COSTAATT spending about \$500 million, and we were not sure about the transparency and accountability into the expenses of COSTAATT. To date, we are unable to determine where this money has gone and for what, but COSTAATT is going miles ahead in opening up their doors to more and more students.

The Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited was brought in so as to ensure profitability. The 60,000 tonnes of sugar cane which they said that they were going to produce have not been produced. We understand that only 20,000 tonnes of sugar cane have been produced, and we have a mass importation of sugar. Now, that is another state enterprise and statutory authority which is being bailed out by the State.

We also have the National Flour Mills which is another state enterprise. We have 105 statutory authorities and state enterprises spending money, and the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee could only investigate one or two of these state enterprises possibly per month or every two months. So, at the end of the year, we could only understand what is happening to about 10 or 12 of these state companies, and we have 105. How could this country be satisfied that the money is being spent profitably on all these state enterprises?

If we are given an account of these 105 state enterprises, somewhere in the budgetary figures—you may correct me if this is available in the country. We do not know where it is. You could guide us, so that we would know which company is making profits, which company is making loses, and how much money the State is subsidizing these companies by, and for what reason they are being subsidized. We would then have an idea as to how many of these state enterprises we need to divest or close down, because there is a National Enterprise Limited company called NEL, which is looking after divestment of state companies.

If a company is not profitable, why are we continuing to run the company? What is the reason for the company not being profitable? We are asking these questions. It is important that the Government tells the country: Why have they

decided to bail out a number of these state enterprises to the tune of \$18 billion? What have they borrowed the money for? What is the rationale for them asking for this money? Has anybody done a deep introspection into the operations of these state companies? Why does BWIA want \$1.5 billion? Why does WASA want \$2 billion? Why do a number of these statutory authorities need \$1 billion and \$1.5 million and so on? So, we look forward to the explanation for this. We cannot be spending our money all the time like this. We do not know what the statutory authorities and state enterprises are doing.

I thought I should bring this matter to the attention of the House by virtue of a Motion, because it is critically important for the nation to know how our money is being spent.

Madam President, thank you.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Christine Sahadeo): Madam President, thank you. The Senator began his Motion indicating that the money guaranteed by the State for several state companies amounts to over \$18 billion. You know, we seem to be a society that really loves to exaggerate about everything. If he had read the Auditor General's Report, it states very clearly, in the first instance, that the figure is \$13.5 billion.

Correctly, the Senator can read well sometimes, because he went on to indicate that there was an understatement of just over \$1 billion in terms of interest capitalized. Madam President, in the same breath, when you make repayments of those loans, it means that your guarantees would have been reduced and, in fact, the actual contingent liability; not of state enterprise alone, but both state enterprises and statutory authorities is really \$11.3 billion.

Madam President, the Senator seems to be very heartened by the Auditor General's Report, but let me refer him to the documents that were laid in Parliament. The budget statement was laid, and on page 64 of the *Review of the Economy*, it states categorically that the guarantees are to state enterprises. So, this is no news. I am not discrediting or disagreeing but, certainly, his statement sensationalising \$18 billion, for the record, let me indicate that the maximum guarantee was \$13.5 billion, and because of repayment of loans, the actual contingent liability is, in fact, \$11.3 billion.

Madam President, I am really happy that this Motion has been raised because, once more, it now affords us the opportunity to really inform the public and this Parliament of the state enterprise sector, and the tremendous job that they are doing. We seem to always want bad news, but today I am going to give you good news. Let me start off with the performing state enterprises.

[SEN. THE HON. C. SAHADEO]

Madam President, the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, in the last financial year, recorded profit after tax of \$1.7 billion. *[Desk thumping]* Madam President, the taxes that company paid was \$1,145,000,000. Madam President, I am almost tempted to repeat it.

The Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago had profit after tax of \$1,445,000,000. *[Desk thumping]* Madam President, I still have good news to give you. The taxes paid by Petrotrin which would be corporation tax, SPT and other petroleum taxes was \$5.5 billion. *[Desk thumping]*

You know, some of us do all kinds of fancy MBAs, but they have to learn how to analyse data. The problem is that they come here and make gross statements and, at the end of the day, try to hoodwink the public, but let me use my time well.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company showed a profit of \$6 million. We have First Citizens Bank, \$341 million. *[Desk thumping]* At the end of 2006, the retained earnings of the state enterprise sector was \$14.5 billion. *[Desk thumping]* What this tells you, for those who may not be very much into finance; it means that profits earned by these organizations, which have not been paid as dividends, have been retained by these organizations to expand their business and most of the time for capital infrastructure. *[Interruption]* I am going to get there. The other side seems a bit rushed, but I love to give good news, because it is important that we share such profound information.

Madam President, this Government continues to deliver. That is the concern on the other side. In order for us to really put into effect all our developmental programmes, as you would appreciate, this requires investment. There are only two ways you can get funds; either internal financing or external financing.

As I just indicated, this Government has a policy in place for companies which are profitable. There are two options. It is either you pay a dividend or the company is allowed to retain its profit in order to put towards its capital expenditure programme.

So, when this is brought to the attention of Parliament, at this point in time, with just \$11.5 billion in guarantees, let me assure you that this is not guarantees for this year, but this is what is called accumulated debt. So, it is not really debt for this current year, but a balance sheet item and, therefore, it means it is brought forward from year to year, whereas profits are based on an annual basis. So, those big profits that I have just mentioned are really profits that were earned in a respective year.

Madam President, the state enterprise sector is involved in economic activities in several sectors of the economy. We have energy and energy-based industries and we have companies like the National Gas Company, Petrotrin, the National Energy Corporation and the National Petroleum and Phoenix Park.

In the financial services sector, we have First Citizens Bank and the Exim Bank. In manufacturing in agro-based industries, we have National Flour Mills and NAMDEVCO. We also have the Infrastructural Development Company—

Madam President: Drink some water.

Sen. The Hon. C. Sahadeo: Madam President, I am so excited to impart all of this information in my limited time. The state enterprise sector manages approximately \$75 billion in assets. It employs approximately 17,000 persons. It is budgeted to expend just over \$8.6 billion in capital projects for 2007. It has earned approximately \$8.8 billion in foreign exchange in 2006, and contributed to the Treasury to the Consolidated Fund of \$762 million in 2006.

Madam President, I think I should take a minute or two to congratulate the state enterprise sector for their tremendous performance not just in profitability, but in terms of delivery. [*Desk thumping*]

We are very aware that these state enterprises are involved in very large projects which propel the growth of this country. We have the National Gas Company with the acquisition of a 24-inch national gas pipeline from British Gas Dolphin Platform to Beach Field, Mayaro; the Beach Field Upstream Development, a 36-inch offshore pipeline; the cross-island pipeline; and a pipeline to Union Estate. We also had the National Energy Corporation. They have been constructing the Union Industrial Estate. We have the Savonetta Pier to north, the Oropouche Bank Reclamation and Point Lisas South and East Industrial Estate and Port facilities.

Madam President, at Petrotrin, you would be pleased to note, as I just indicated, they contribute to the coffers in excess of \$8 billion. Madam President, at Petrotrin, we have the upgrade of the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit. We have the new ISO complex; the new Continuous Catalyst Regenerating Platform Unit and the new Isolation Acid Plant Unit.

Madam President, we are very much aware of the work being done by UDeCott on the revitalization of the Port of Spain Waterfront. Let me tell you, at this time, this is generating much excitement among foreign investors. Everyone who visits is talking about it and congratulating the Government on this Waterfront Project.

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I think we have said in this Chamber many times before that the public service is really an administrative body, and is really not geared and equipped to do the type of infrastructure development work that this Government has put on its front burner. In this regard, we have established several special purpose state enterprises and these enterprises have embarked on many of these programmes.

We have NEDCO which is the National Entrepreneurship Development Company. They have been mandated to assist ministries that do not have the institutional capacity to manage large scale projects. NEDCO has a responsibility for the procurement of designs, construction management and possible financing of many of these projects.

Madam President, I shall probably go through the various state enterprises and the guarantees in terms of these entities. If we were to look at a review of the loan guarantees, the first one that I would like to point out is TIDCO. TIDCO has a balance of \$180 million. If I were to ask you, how does this guarantee reside on that balance sheet, I am sure that you would have the answer. That is the result of a very aggressive and ambitious programme by the Government of the day in terms of the road paving projects.

So, when those on the other side bring a Motion to Parliament asking us why are these debts outstanding, I think they have the answer. We have Caroni (1975) Limited, and part of this is \$1.8 billion. Again, let me ask, how did this arise? [Crosstalk]

Madam President: You are coming to the end, so you would have to try and wind up.

Sen. The Hon. C. Sahadeo: I was saying that part of the guarantees for Caroni (1975) Limited is \$1.8 billion, and this amounts to losses that this company sustained. They were not provided with the resources so, therefore, loan funding was made available via guarantees. In addition to that, another \$719 million was also advanced. This is not to mention that there was a \$2 billion write-off in 1992.

I can go on and on, and I can also add that we have a balance of \$287.4 million to the Public Transport Service Corporation. Again, the Government provides guarantees for the purchasing of buses in order to provide transportation.

Regarding utilities, we have \$914.2 million in guarantees regarding T&TEC. Again, everyone knows that electricity rates in Trinidad and Tobago are the lowest in the Caribbean and Latin America. Similarly, we have a guarantee of \$3.2 billion for WASA and, again, part of this is regarding the low utility rates in this regard.

Madam President, I can go on and on, but time will not permit me. I certainly think that it is very clear that this Government has been putting the citizens money to good use to provide schools; to improve infrastructure; to provide affordable electricity and water; and to provide affordable housing and, in so doing, transforming Trinidad and Tobago's economy to developed country status before 2020.

Madam President, I thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Mark: Madam President, before we adjourn, I just want to ask my hon. colleague, the hon. Leader of Government Business, Sen. The Hon. Dr. Lenny Saith, if he could probably consider taking two Motions on the adjournment the next round. I have just submitted five and we have about four, so that would be nine. So, I would ask the hon. Minister to consider, at least, doing two or three Motions, so that we could get rid of them.

Sen. Dr. Saith: Madam President, obviously, at each sitting, one looks at how the sitting is going. If the hon. Member feels that there are too many Motions, it is really in his hands. He need not file nine.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 5.35 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Ministry of Health (Detailed Expenditure for the PR 2002—2006)

43. **Sen. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh** asked the hon. Minister of Health:
- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed statement of expenditure for advertising and public relations for the Ministry of Health for the period January 02, 2002 to December 31, 2006?
 - B. Could the Minister also provide the details of the salaries and allowances for all personnel employed for public relations purposes in the Ministry of Health and all Advisors to the Minister?

APPENDIX I

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 02 02 02 to 31 12 02**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
TV6	Personal Safety	\$ 27,319.45
	Dengue Alert	\$ 25,000.00
	Buy Fresh Fish	\$ 8,855.00
	Dengue	\$ 62,100.00
	World No Tobacco Month	\$ 34,347.14
	World No Tobacco Month	\$ 29,999.79
	Dengue Alert (Mosquito)	\$ 40,710.00
	World No Tobacco	\$ 23,575.00
	Advertisements: World No Tobacco Day	\$ 57,500.00
	Dengue	\$ 20,987.50
NBN	Advertisements	\$ 460.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 02 02 02 to 31 12 02**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
NBN	Advertisements	\$ 115.00
	Advertisements-Da Flava	\$ 47,150.00
	Advertisements- Dengue	\$ 5,934.20
	Dengue Alert	\$ 13,662.00
	Advertisements	\$ 4,025.00
	Mosquito Invasion	\$ 18,216.00
	World No Tobacco Day Campaign	\$ 23,000.00
	World No Tobacco Day Campaign	\$ 6,900.00
	Dengue Campaign	\$ 47,150.00
	Artwork in Trinidad Guardian	\$ 3,220.00
Newsday	Wanted Property	\$ 1,656.51
	Pesticides	\$ 1,963.28

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 02 02 02 to 31 12 02**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
The Print Shop	T- Shirt Printed	\$ 2,900.30
Express	Flyers for Health Promotion	\$ 345.00
	Winners for Health Promotion Month	\$ 2,156.25
	No Tobacco Campaign Month	\$ 39,551.43
	Advertisements	\$ 36,639.58
Trinidad Publishing Company Limited	Dengue Alert	\$ 39,551.43
	Advertisements	\$ 816.50
	Advertisements	\$ 17,915.50
	Advertisements	\$ 1,987.20
	Advertisements	\$ 198,720.00
	Advertisements	\$ 2,152.80

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 02 02 02 to 31 12 02**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Trinidad Publishing Company Limited	Advertisements	\$ 11,840.40
	Winners for Health Promotion Month	\$ 1,681.88
	Registration of Pesticides Notice	\$ 2,220.08
	Winners for Health Promotion Month	\$ 5,520.00
	Publication of Notice	\$ 1,210.95
	Dengue & Tobacco	\$ 3,363.75
	Dengue Awareness Campaign	\$ 332,610.00
	Dengue Awareness Notice to Doctors & Nurses	\$ 36,742.51
	Production of 3 Banners- Health Promotion Month	\$ 750.00
	Production of Banners- Health Promotion Month	\$ 1,050.00
Ian Campbell	Artworld for 7 TV Cards for Dengue Alert	\$ 315.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 02 02 02 to 31 12 02**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Communications Limited	Dengue Control	\$ 20,258.81
Blast Publication	Advertisements	\$ 1,868.76
	Dengue Awareness	\$ 4,671.90
	Advertisements	\$ 2,093.00
The Bomb Newspaper	Advertisements	\$ 3,450.00
	Advertisements	\$ 8,832.00
Bridgit Bocage	No Smoking Advertisement	\$ 600.00
Trinidad & Tobago News Centre Limited	Advertisements	\$ 6,468.75
	Advertisements	\$ 600.00
Jairaj Singh	Use of Mr. Singh's Voice on Tobacco Advertisements	\$ 600.00
	Total for 2002	\$ 1,292,729.65

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
CCN TV6	HIV/AIDS, Drinking & Driving Carnival tips	\$ 51,117.50
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking & Driving Carnival tips	\$ 92,875.00
	World Health Month	\$ 50,000.00
	Nestle/ Support Woman on the Go.	\$ 30,057.51
	World No Tobacco Day	\$ 15,000.00
NBN TV Radio	World AIDS Day	\$ 22,367.50
	Young Health Living	\$ 11,845.00
	Advertisements	\$ 12,000.00
	World No Tobacco Day	\$ 17,537.48
	Anti-Tobacco Day	\$ 2,875.00
I 95.5 FM Citadel ltd	Advertisements	\$ 43,449.97
	Ads. World AIDS Day & Drinking & Driving	\$ 18,319.50
	Road Safety	\$ 9,775.00
	Road Safety	\$ 13,282.50

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Gem Radio Ltd	Advertisements	\$ 10,833.00
	Advertisements	\$ 966.00
Power 102 fm	World Aids Day	\$ 10,005.00
Masala Radio	Advertisements	\$ 4,887.50
Radio 97 fm	World AIDS Day	\$ 12,409.93
H.C.U communications Ltd (Masala Radio)	World AIDS Day	\$ 9,568.00
	Advertisements	\$ 8,280.00
	Advertisements World Aids Day	\$ 9,970.50
Radio 96.1	Safe Driving Advertisements	\$ 14,835.01
	Aids Awareness	\$ 24,265.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Radio Vision Power 102	Advertisements	\$ 12,000.00
	Advertisements	\$ 15,000.00
Trinidad Style	Advertisements Trinidad Style Magazine	\$ 2,500.00
	Trinidad Style Magazine Dengue Alert	\$ 5,000.00
Advance Dynamics	Advertisement	\$ 5,500.00
	Advertisements Live and Let Live	\$ 8,585.34
Cyril Perez	TV messages media Awareness camp mental Health	\$ 23,000.00
	Advertisements	\$ 10,500.00
Rene Baksh	Media Awareness Campaign on Mental Health	\$ 3,000.00
	Healthy way of life (Amount due)	\$ 800.00
Telemedia Limited	World Aids day	\$ 7,486.62

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
CL Communicati on Network	Advertisements	\$ 11,575.70
Ria Berment	Amount Due Ministry of Health	\$ 700.00
Olympia Services Limited	Awareness campaign on mental Health Posters	\$ 6,752.69
Trinidad Publish Co. ltd	World Aids Day	\$ 23,287.50
	Protect Your skin	\$ 3,229.20
	Protect Your skin	\$ 15,688.88
	The Lung Story	\$ 6,076.60
Ian Campbell	Banners World Aids Day	\$ 400.00
	Banner Health Choice away of Life	\$ 400.00
	Mental Health Awareness	\$ 9,570.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Spectakula Promotion Limited	Advertisements	\$ 400.00
	Drink Driving Awareness	\$ 2,080.00
KA Soca Productions Limited	Advertisements	\$ 5,100.00
	Advertisements	\$ 7,955.06
Trinidd Express	World Aids Day Symptoms of Dengue } }	\$ 17,436.91
	Road Safety	\$ 11,515.08
	Advertisements	\$ 21,818.95
	Advertisements	
	Advertisements	\$ 21,818.95
	Advertisements	\$ 6,443.45

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01 02 03 to 31 12 03**

COMPANY	ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS	COST
Trinidad Express	Advertisements	\$ 11,900.69
	Advertisements	\$ 29,088.69
Heritage Communications Limited	World No Tobacco Day	\$ 21,818.98
	TV messages mental Health Media Awareness	\$ 20,100.00
Video Associates Soft Box Studios Limited	TV messages mental Health Media Awareness	\$ 23,000.00
	Awareness Mental Health	\$ 4,996.75
Family Focus Trinidad Broadcasting Limited	Advertisements	\$ 5,175.35
	Advertisements	\$ 20,000.00
	Total	\$ 824,951.19

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
103FM	Advertisement	9,999.83
	Diabetes Campaign	4,945.00
	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	10,000.00
	Dengue	10,005.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,005.00
96.1FM	Dengue Campaign	10,005.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,005.00
	AIDS Awareness, Drunk Driving	1,840.00
Citadel Limited 95.5	Drunk Driving	19,550.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drunk Driving	21,850.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drunk Driving	19,458.00
CCN TV6	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	17,721.50
	Media Awareness Campaign	80,000.00
	Dengue Awareness	57,995.20
	Diabetes Campaign	44,999.50
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	60,000.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	60,000.00
	World Tobacco Day Campaign	16,572.10
	Dengue Campaign	25,000.00
	Tobacco Campaign	13,427.45

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
CCN TV6	Dengue Campaign	25,000.00
Radio Vision Limited 102 FM	Diabetics Campaign	23,000.00
	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	13,750.03
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	14,998.99
	Advertisement	24,999.81
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	4,000.00
	HIV/AIDS Drinking and Driving	10,000.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,000.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,000.00
	Dengue Campaign	25,000.00
	Diabetes Campaign	9,999.99
NBN	Diabetes Campaign	19,550.00
	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	15,000.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	21,850.00
	Dengue	9,999.99
	Dengue Campaign	15,000.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Trinidad Broadcasting Company Limited	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	19,677.08
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	11,727.49
	Dengue	6,000.00
H.C.U. Community Limited	Dengue Campaign	14,998.88
Masala Radio Shakti 94.1	Advertisement	7,935.00
	Advertisement	7,935.00
Masala Radio Shakti 94.1	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	7,659.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	2,346.00
	Dengue	3,795.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Masala	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	7,659.00
	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	2,346.00
Radio Shakti 94.1	Dengue	3,795.00
Masala	Dengue	4,968.00
	Dengue	3,795.00
CL Communications Trinidad Express	Advertisement	19,676.51
	Dengue Fever	4,117.58
	Advertisement	17,047.03
	Diabetes Campaign	32,554.20
	Drinking and Driving	32,640.68
	Advertisement	10,578.16
	World Tobacco Day	6,559.60
	Abstinence	8,423.76

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Blast Publishing	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	5,002.50
Family Focus 98.1	Dengue	6,000.18
	AIDS Dengue	5,000.00
	Dengue Campaign	6,000.18
Trinidad and Tobago Mirror	Drinking and Driving	8,060.00
Kaisoca Production Limited	Diabetics Campaign	4,971.73
	Dengue Campaign	4,968.35
	Dengue Campaign	4,968.35
All Sports Promotion	Advertisement	17,250.00
	Advertisement	4,370.00
Daily News	AIDS, Drinking and Driving	40,643.21
	Advertisement	8,951.60
	World No Smoke	12,239.61
	National AIDS Programme	14,902.88
	Advertisement	8,869.40

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/04 — 31/12/04**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Network Limited T.T.T.	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	13,750.03
Trinidad and Tobago News Centre	Advertisement	1,150.00
	World No Tobacco Day	3,751.30
	National AIDS Programme	11,500.00
Regency Manufacturers	Supply of T Shirts	6,049.00
Corbin Communications	Drinking and Driving and HIV/AIDS	12,613.20
	World No Tobacco Day	2,300.00
Gayelle	Dengue	8,050.00
	Dengue Campaign	8,050.00
	Dengue Campaign	17,250.00
Tobago News	HIV/AIDS, Drinking and Driving	2,821.36
	Total	\$ 1,207,439.24

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Gayelle	Mental Health	12,000.00
	Drinking and Driving	15,000.00
	World AIDS Day	10,033.75
Trinidad Broadcasting Company Limited	Mental Health Promotion	11,999.59
	Diabetic Campaign	16,999.88
	World AIDS Day	15,000.01
	Dengue Campaign	14,998.88
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	17,999.37
	Advertisement	42,780.00
	AIDS, Drinking and Driving, Abstinence	64,996.13
	Hernia and Cataracts	9,998.34
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	9,999.65
	Health Talk Services	13,800.00
	Advertisement	34,997.26

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
T&T Radio Network Limited		
96.1	Mental Health Promotion	9,775.00
	Dengue Campaign	14,662.50
	World AIDS Day	14,662.50
	HIV/AIDS	24,437.50
	Advertisement	21,620.00
	Advertisement	17,999.80
Masala Radio	National Tissue Transplant	11,730.00
	Abstinence March	3,933.00
	Abstinence	29,999.99
H.C.U. Community Limited	Mental Health Promotion	2,990.00
	Mental Health Promotion	2,691.00
Masala Radio	Diabetics Campaign	7,475.00
	Diabetics Campaign	6,994.00
	World AIDS Day	7,935.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	5,520.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
H.C.U. Community Ltd.	Drinking and Driving Campaign	5,520.00
	Dengue Campaign	7,935.00
Masala Radio	HIV/AIDS	10,396.00
	Abstinence	11,040.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	15,042.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	15,042.00
	HIV/AIDS	7,787.00
	Abstinence	4,140.00
Newsday	Message	7,452.00
	Health Promotion Week	11,231.10
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	13,623.36
	Drinking , Driving and Walking Safety	5,980.00
	Safety	47,467.40
	Tobacco	5,520.00
	Diabetes	43,208.01
	Abstinence	17,756.00
	Advertisement	1,104.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Express	Advertisement	7,108.73
	Diabetic Campaign	36,479.15
	Diabetic Campaign	1,868.75
	Cataract Surgery	2,760.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	12,328.00
	World AIDS Day	15,183.45
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	13,623.36
	Abstinence	2,392.00
	Advertisement	12,707.51
	Advertisement	14,840.76
Express	Tobacco	12,558.00
	Abstinence	4,111.26
C.C.N TV6	Mental Health Promotion	1,800.00
	Dengue Campaign	35,000.00
	Diabetes Campaign	35,000.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	34,500.00
	World AIDS Day	30,000.00
	Abstinence	40,000.00
	HIV/AIDS	40,000.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
C.C.N TV6	Tobacco Abstinence	15,000.33
Telemedia Limited	Diabetics Campaign	9,589.97
	Advertisement	450.00
	National Tissue Transplant	8,681.06
	HIV/AIDS	11,799.00
Trinidad & Tobago News Centre Limited	Cataract Surgery Programme	1,150.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	5,175.00
	Diabetic Campaign	5,994.40
	World AIDS Day	3,162.50
	Advertisement	833.52
	Advertisement	8,202.83
	Tobacco	8,648.00
	Hernia Surgery	851.00
Bomb	Drinking and Driving Campaign	3,450.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Blast	Drinking and Driving Campaign	3,018.75
	World AIDS Day	1,811.25
	Drinking and Driving, HIV/AIDS	5,054.25
Synergy Network Limited	Drinking and Drinking	10,000.00
	World AIDS Day	15,000.00
	Drinking and Driving	15,000.00
Synergy Network Limited	Cataracts and Hernia	5,714.35
Trin Pad Limited	Posters for National AIDS Programme	12,937.50
York Garments Limited	Printed Shirts	16,134.55
Trini Bashment 91.9FM	Drinking and Driving	10,000.00
	HIV/AIDS	10,000.00
KMP Music Groups	Drinking and Driving	15,000.00
20/20 Production Limited	Tobacco Campaign	908.50

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Mr. Bernard Julien Radio Toco 106.7FM	Message Anti Tobacco	3,000.00
	Abstinence	1,960.00
Heritage Communications Masala	Tobacco Campaign	4,991.00
	Drinking and Driving	12,489.00
H.C.U. Community Limited	National Tissue Transplant	12,489.00
	Mental Health Promotion	10,143.00
Citadel Limited 95.5FM	Diabetic Campaign	16,322.50
	World AIDS Day	10,000.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	12,000.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,677.00
	Advertisement	32,000.00
	Message for Women	33,000.00
	Advertisement	2,875.00
	National Tissue Transplant	14,662.50
	Abstinence	3,450.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
103 FM	Mental Health Promotion	10,005.00
	Diabetic Campaign	14,950.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	14,950.00
	Dengue Campaign	10,005.00
	World AIDS Day	8,050.00
	HIV/AIDS	10,005.00
	Drinking and Driving	18,005.00
	Abstinence	10,005.00
	Tobacco Abstinence	17,940.00
	National Drinking and Driving	12,006.00
	National Tissue Transplant	15,042.00
	Hernia and Cataracts	10,046.40
	Drinking and Driving-Soca Chutney	3,450.00
	Abstinence March	3,450.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Radio Vision Power 102	Mental Health Promotion	12,000.00
	Diabetic Campaign	15,000.00
	World Aids Day	1,206,810.00
	Dengue Campaign	12,068.00
	Drinking and Driving	15,000.32
	HIV/AIDS	15,000.32
	Tobacco Abstinence	58,236.00
	Message	30,111.97
	Hernia and Cataracts	10,000.00
	National Tissue Transplant	15,000.32
	Health Talk	1,725.00
	Abstinence	3,450.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
NBN	Mental Health Promotion	12,000.00
	Mental Health Promotion	12,999.99
	Diabetic Campaign	14,999.98
	Diabetic Campaign	26,551.55
	Dengue Campaign	20,000.00
	Drinking and Driving Campaign	20,000.00
	World AIDS Day	12,000.00
	World AIDS Day	11,999.90
	Dengue Campaign	17,999.85
	HIV/AIDS	10,000.00
	Drinking and Driving	10,000.00
	Drinking and Driving	14,999.97
	Advertisement	28,633.29
Trinidad Publishing Company Limited	Advertisement	12,079.60
	Advertisement	16,556.56
	Abstinence	3,737.50
	Cataracts and Hernia	4,002.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/05 — 31/12/05**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENTS	COST (\$)
Trinidad Style Limited	Diabetic Campaign	12,500.00
	Advertisement	17,250.00
Neil George	World AIDS Day	10,000.00
Family Focus 98.1FM	Diabetic Campaign	2,000.00
Kaisoca Production Ltd.	Diabetic Campaign	6,994.00
	World AIDS Day	9,996.40
	Advertisement	9,996.40
Radio 90.5FM	National Tissue Transplant	10,000.00
	Drinking and Driving	14,550.38
	TOTAL FOR 2004-2005	3,333,317.45

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)	
Daily News	Advertisements	6,213.45	
	Abstinence	6,375.60	
	AIDS	15,525.00	
	Abstinence	8,082.20	
	The Smokers Body	19,675.35	
	Diabetics, World Mental Health Day	6,213.45	
	HIV/AIDS Testing	8,797.50	
	Bird Flu Strip	14,087.50	
	HIV/AIDS	3,944.50	
	HIV/AIDS	21,131.25	
Trinidad Publishing Company Limited	HIV/AIDS	26,972.10	
	Bird Flu, HIV/AIDS	41,595.50	
	Notice of Vacancies	8,372.00	
	Bird Flu	6,443.45	
	Chicken is safe	6,046.76	
	AIDS	5,606.25	

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Trinidad Broadcasting Company Limited	Abstinence	14,950.00
	Dengue	14,950.00
	HIV/AIDS	19,895.00
	HIV/AIDS, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	17,940.00
Radio 90.5	World Tobacco Day	34,822.00
	Advertisements	9,611.70
Radio News Network	Dengue Campaign	2,647.88
	Dengue	10,256.57
Telemedia Limited	Abstinence	23,571.55
Trinidad & Tobago News Centre Limited	AIDS	3,874.06
	HIV/AIDS	1,006.25
	World No Tobacco	3,680.00
	World No Tobacco	3,501.75
	World Diabetic/HIV	13,810.06
	The Smokers Body	4,536.18
	HIV/AIDS	18,683.00
	HIV/AIDS Testing	4,571.26
World No Tobacco Day	20,968.04	

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Blast Publishing	HIV/AIDS	2,434.55
	Bird Flu & HIV/AIDS	11,874.90
	HIV/AIDS	1,810.10
107.7 FM	HIV/AIDS	1,466.25
	Advertisements	2,760.00
Trinidad Express	World No Tobacco Day	4,945.00
	AIDS	18,293.64
	Abstinence	32,564.81
	Abstinence	2,055.63
	Chicken is Safe	6,347.66
Gayelle	AIDS	9,202.88
	HIV/AIDS	43,231.85
	No Smoking	1,840.00
	Smoker's Body	3,593.75
	Advertisements	67,000.00
	Dengue, Tobacco	70,000.00
	Drinking & Driving	2,328.75

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Masala 101	Dengue Advertisements	11,005.80
	Diabetics, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	8,010.90
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	10,999.98
	HIV/AIDS, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	5,999.99
	Abstinence	7,499.99
HCU 94.1	Dengue	12,000.25
	Alcohol	11,000.50
	Dengue	12,000.25
	Diabetics, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	8,000.55
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	10,999.98
Citadel 95.5	HIV/AIDS, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	5,999.99
	World No Tobacco Day	7,499.99
	Advertisements	5999.55
	Diabetics & Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	28,000.00
	Advertisements	24,000.00
Synergy	Advertisements	55,000.00
	Advertisements	18,000.00
	Advertisements	15,000.00
	World Tobacco Day	20,000.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
CCN TV 6	World Tobacco Day	94,999.99
	To Protect Yourself	90,032.50
	Diabetic, HIV/AIDS	65,256.75
CCN TV 6	HIV/AIDS, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	65,426.72
	World Tobacco Day	85,105.20
Family Focus 98.1	Diabetics	11,500.00
	Special Health Features	8,000.01
	Anti-Tobacco	15,000.00
	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS	28,000.00
	Diabetics	12,000.00
Kaisoca	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, Dengue, No Drinking & Driving	8,000.00
	AIDS	15,000.00
CNC 3		46,000.03
	Protect Yourself	63,317.97
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	58,604.00
	World No Tobacco Day	32,890.00
	Anti-Tobacco	65,492.50

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
TBL	Advertisements	56,695.00
	Abstinence	7,935.00
Trinidad Bashment 91.9	Advertisements	39,560.00
	Advertisements	56,770.71
	Dengue	41,526.43
CL Communication	Advertisements	130,760.50
	Hernia & Cataracts	11,914.00
96.1 FM	Diabetics & Tobacco/Drinking & Driving	26,634.00
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	23,000.00
	Drinking & Driving, Tobacco, HIV/AIDS	11,730.00
	World Tobacco Day	17,940.00
	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, Dengue, No Drinking	18,768.80
Harambee Studio	20 Printed T-Shirts	700.00
Advertising Association	Anti-Tobacco	47,695.45
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	7,000.00
Heritage Radio 101.7	Anti-Tobacco HIV/AIDS	13,000.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Olympia Services Limited	Re-printing Abstinence Flyers	10,138.40
Danielle Jones	Anti-Tobacco, TV & Print	1,200.00
Raymond Mendoza	Anti-Tobacco TV & Print	1,200.00
Ellis Chow Lin	Anti-Tobacco	7,000.00
Isaac 98.1	World Tobacco Day	7,992.50
Q Corporation	World Tobacco Day	10,000.00
	Anti-Tobacco	19,999.00
Advertising Association	HIV/AIDS	11,500.00
Innercity Broadcasting	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS	5,000.03
CNMG Sweet 100 FM	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, Dengue No Drinking or Driving	24,881.00
	Anti-Tobacco	4,968.00
WMJX Limited	Tobacco	10,925.00
Gem Radio 93	Campaign Diabetic	10,000.00
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	12,000.00
	Abstinence	6,000.00
	World Tobacco Day	6,999.99

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Radio Trinidad 94.7	Youth Health, Mental Health, Tobacco	14,973.00
Video Associates	Diabetics, Tobacco Drinking & Driving	39,999.30
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	14,999.45
	HIV/AIDS Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	26,449.45
	World No Tobacco day	19,999.65
	No Smoking, Dengue, HIV/AIDS	14,999.45
Supericors Infinite Production	Diabetics, Tobacco, Drinking & Driving	27,000.00
	HIV/AIDS Campaign	11,500.00
	Abstinence	5,999.55
	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS	15,000.00
	Anti-Tobacco, HIV/AIDS/ Dengue	15,000.00
	Anti-Tobacco	11,500.00
	HIV/AIDS	
Corporation Red 96.7 FM	Ads HIV/AIDS Campaign	10,000.00
	Abstinence	8,000.00
	Tobacco Drinking & Driving	12,000.00
	Advertisements	19,999.00
VL Communications	HIV/AIDS Campaign	9,982.00
	HIV/AIDS operation infant mortality	1,425.00
	Advertisements	5,750.00

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
CL Communication	Advertisements	19,665.00
	Diabetes Campaign	23,578.88
Synergy Limited	Advertisements	15,000.00
	Advertisements	15,000.00
Family Focus 98	Advertisements	18,000.00
	Advertisements	30,000.00
Video Associates	Advertisements	14,999.45
	Advertisements	17,988.30
Radio Vision Limited	Mental Health Campaign	7,250.00
Radio Vision Limited	Diabetic Campaign	20,700.00
Superior Infinite Programme	Advertisements	16,000.00
Gayelle	Advertisements	19,808.75
	Mental Health Campaign	29,900.00
103 FM	Advertisements	20,000.00
	Mental Health Campaign	25,000.00
Gem Radio 93	Diabetic Campaign	25,000.00
	Advertisements	10,000.00
	Diabetic Campaign	14,999.99

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Innerecity Broadcasting Express	Anti-Tobacco, Dengue Advertisements	10,000.00
	Advertisements	186,242.41
	Advertisements	101,579.74
Newsday	Advertisements	36,587.25
	World Mental Health Day Advertisements	91,241.59
	Advertisements	33,373.00
	Advertisements	79,746.75
	Advertisements	46,546.25
Trinidad & Tobago Pro League WMJX Ltd	Advertisements	34,327.50
	World Mental Health Day	12,633.90
	HIV/AIDS Anti Smoking	5,500.00
T & T Radio Network Citadel 95.5	Keeping An Eye on Your Sight	5,778.75
	Keeping An Eye on Your Sight	5,778.75
	Mental Health Campaign	14,490.00
	Mental Health Campaign	25,000.00
	Diabetic Campaign	25,000.00
Q Corporation	Mental Health Campaign	15,000.00
	Diabetic Campaign	18,000.00
CCN TV6		173,711.85

**Detailed Statement of Expenditure for Advertising and Public Relations for the Ministry of Health
for the period 01/01/06 — 31/12/06**

SUPPLIER	ADVERTISEMENT	COST (\$)
Trinidad Broadcasting Company	Mental Health Campaign	24,978.00
	Mental Health Campaign	11,500.00
Heritage Communications	Advertisements	14,950.00
	Diabetic Campaign	14,000.00
CL Communication	No Drinking/Driving Campaign	9,999.25
	Advertisements	11,999.99
Masala Radio	Mental Health Campaign	9,200.00
	Advertisements	11,998.52
	Diabetic Campaign	11,998.67
HCU Publishing	Advertisements	12,599.40
	Mental Health Campaign	9,999.99
	Advertisements	2,300.00
	Diabetic Campaign	14,000.00
	TOTAL FOR 2006	4,560,554.66

**APPENDIX II
Details of the Salaries and Allowances for all personnel employed for public relations purposes in the
Ministry of Health and all Advisors to the Minister**

Job Position	SALARY PER MONTH										ALLOWANCES					Remarks
	2002 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	COLA \$	Tel \$	Communication	Transport \$	Duty \$	Extra Duty \$	Special \$				
Public Relation Officer	6062	6244	6244	-	-	60.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manager Advisor Communication	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	500.	-	1,800.	1,000.	-	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment of Public Relations Officer with effect from 9/2/04 - 7/6/06
					16,000.	-	300.	-	2,500.	300	5,000.					Contract appointment with effect from 1/11/06-31/10/09
Communication Policy Implementation Officer	-	-	-	-	11,500.	-	-	300.	1,800.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment with effect from 14/6/06-13/6/09
			8,000.	-	-	-	350.	-	1,800.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment with effect from 16/2/04-23/3/06

**Details of the Salaries and Allowances for all personnel employed for public relations purposes in the
Ministry of Health and all Advisors to the Minister**

Job Position	SALARY PER MONTH							ALLOWANCES							Remarks
	2002 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	COLA \$	Tel \$	Communi- cation	Trans- port \$	Duty \$	Extra Duty \$	Special \$			
Secretary/ Office Assistant	-	-	-	-	6,000.-	-	-	-	1,800.	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment from 20/6/06-19/6/09	
Audio Visual Technician Assistant	-	-	-	-	4,700.	-	-	-	1,500.	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment from 1/7/06-10/7/09	
Communi- cation Specialist	7,500	7,500	7,500.	-	-	-	-	-	850.	-	-	-	-		
Communi- cation Specialist	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	-	300.	1,800.	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment from 12/6/06-11/6/09	
Communi- cation Analyst	-	-	7,500.	7,500.	7,500.	-	300.	-	1,500.	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment from 1/12/04-30/11/07 Contract appointment from 16/2/04-4/4/06	

**Details of the Salaries and Allowances for all personnel employed for public relations purposes in the
Ministry of Health and all Advisors to the Minister**

Job Position	SALARY PER MONTH										ALLOWANCES					Remarks
	2002 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	COLA \$	Tel \$	Communication	Transport \$	Duty \$	Extra Duty \$	Special \$				
Audio Video Technician	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	1,400	-	-	500.	Contract appointment from 5/7/06-4/7/09			
Advisor to Honourable Minister	13,000	13,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Contract appointment from 9/5/02-31/12/03 Contract appointment from 1/4/04			
Communication Officer	6,000.	6,000.-	6,000.	6,000	6,000	-	300	-	1,000	-	-	-	Contract terminated on 31/12/06			