

Leave of Absence

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

SENATE

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. VICE-PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, I wish to inform you that the President of the Senate, Sen. The Hon. Danny Montano is out of the country. I have granted leave of absence to Sen. The Hon. Dr. Emily Dick-Forde, Sen. Laurel Lezama, Sen. Wade Mark and Sen. Helen Drayton who are all out of the country.

SENATORS' APPOINTMENT

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, I have received the following correspondence from His Excellency, the Acting President, Danny Montano, LL.B., BComm., C.A., and His Excellency the President, Prof. 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: MR. NOEL GAYLE

WHEREAS Senator Danny Montano is incapable of performing his duties as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, NOEL GAYLE, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with immediate effect and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Danny Montano.

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 26th day of May, 2009.”

Senators' Appointment
[MR. VICE-PRESIDENT]

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency DANNY MONTANO, LLB.,
BComm., C.A., Acting President and
Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago.

/s/ Danny Montano
Acting President.

TO: MR. JOEL PRIMUS

WHEREAS Senator Dr. Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde is incapable of performing her duties as a Senator by reason of her absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANNY MONTANO, Acting President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, JOEL PRIMUS to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 26th May, 2009 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of Senator Dr. Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde.

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 22nd day of May, 2009.”

“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: MR. FOSTER CUMMINGS

WHEREAS Senator Laurel Lezama 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, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the

Senators' Appointment

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, FOSTER CUMMINGS, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with immediate effect and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Laurel Lezama.

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 26th day of May, 2009."

“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: MR. LENNOX SMITH

WHEREAS Senator Wade Mark is incapable of performing his duties as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, LENNOX SMITH, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 26th May, 2009 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Wade Mark.

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 25th day of May, 2009."

There is another Senator to be sworn in, but we will do that at a later stage.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Noel Gayle, Joel Primus, Foster Cummings and Lennox Smith.

PAPERS LAID

1. Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission annual report for the financial year ended September 30, 2008. [*The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Mariano Browne)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the consolidated financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2008. [*Sen. The Hon. M. Browne*]
3. Second report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the National Housing Authority for the nine months ended September 30, 1998. [*Sen. The Hon. M. Browne*]
4. Second report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the National Housing Authority for the year ended September 30, 1999. [*Sen. The Hon. M. Browne*]
5. Administrative report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for the fiscal year October 2004 to September 2005. [*The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill)*]
6. Administrative report of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for the fiscal year October 2005 to September 2006. [*Sen. The Hon. C. Enill*]
7. Appointment of the Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Qualification and Selection Criteria) Order, 2009. [*Minister of National Security (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph)*]
8. Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Selection Process) (Amendment) Order, 2009. [*Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph*]
9. Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Acting Appointments) (Selection Process) (No. 2) Order, 2009. [*Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Spanish Nationals Residing in Trinidad and Tobago
(Eligibility to Vote)**

- 28. Sen. Lyndira Oudit** asked the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the current number of Spanish nationals residing in Trinidad and Tobago who are presently eligible to vote in any election to be held in this country in 2009 or 2010?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, we are in a position to answer that question and the answer is as follows. In accordance with section 13(c) of the Representation of the People Act, Chap. 2:01, there are approximately 60 Spanish nationals residing in Trinidad and Tobago who are presently eligible to vote in the municipal election in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Aluminium and Steel Plants
(Modification to Government's Plans)**

41. Sen. Mohammed Faisal Rahman asked the hon. Minister of Finance:

Could the Minister state whether there has been any modification to Government's plans to invest in aluminium and steel plants in the light of worsening global economic and financial structures?

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Mariano Browne): Mr. Vice-President, the Government has no plans to invest in steel plants at this time. The Government is pursuing a planned investment in an aluminium smelter plant, Alutrint, and sees no good reason why it should change its investment strategy in this project at this point in time. This is in keeping with the Government's programme for national development and economic diversification.

**Trade Links
(Changing Conditions)**

53. Sen. Mohammed Faisal Rahman asked the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry:

Could the Minister inform the Senate whether the Government is reformulating its trade links to mitigate changing conditions caused by contracting economies of trading partners?

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Mariano Browne): Mr. Vice-President, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will continue to play a pivotal role in assisting the private sector in gaining predictable and enhanced market access in the international marketplace. In this regard, the Government will continue to provide the local business sector with enhanced training opportunities with other countries.

1.45 p.m.

At present, local manufacturers benefit from trade agreements with Cuba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Venezuela. Such agreements

provide opportunity for manufacturers to utilize these options in lieu of the challenges faced to the markets of more developed countries.

Also, the contraction in Caricom markets suggests that it may be necessary to accelerate efforts for additional opportunities to be created in respect of Latin American markets. The opportunities contained in the Cariforum-EC Economic Partnership Agreement provides our manufacturers and service providers with the opportunity to further diversify their exports.

In addition, the country's negotiating schedule provides for enhancing its trade relationship with Canada, via permanent secure trading arrangements in the form of a trade and development agreement. As part of Caricom, Trinidad expects to commence negotiations of a reciprocal two-way permanent trade agreement with Canada. This new agreement will replace the existing preferential one-way CaribCan agreement and provide enhanced opportunities for trading goods as well as investment on new export opportunities for service providers.

Negotiations are expected to commence shortly. In the context of monitoring the responses of our trading partners to the global conditions, the Ministry of Trade and Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will keep under scrutiny the trade and non-trade measures implemented by other countries, which may have a negative impact on our exports. This will be facilitated through an exercise currently being conducted by the World Trade Organization to monitor trade and trade-related measures implemented by all World Trade Organization members.

Such information assists the World Trade Organization to update, revise and improve the accuracy, transparency and comprehensiveness of the reports on recent trade and trade-related developments, as a result of the impact of the global financial and economic crisis that emerged towards the end 2008.

Information Technology Software (Government's Intention)

54. Sen. Mohammed Faisal Rahman asked the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry:

- A. Could the Minister state whether it is the intention of the Government to encourage and facilitate the development and marketing of Information Technology Software with local talent to supplement our trade enterprises?
- B. Could the Minister also state whether it is the intention of the Government to transform the country into a supplier and not a user in the same technology?

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Mariano Browne): Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. The Government has been continuously supporting the local software industry since the 1970s, when the first IT companies began writing software. With the Government's thrust into e-Government, there is even more support being provided to the local software industry. In this regard, Tamana Intech Park represents Government's main initiative to provide a managed environment, built with world-class IT infrastructure and delivering business support services and financing, all to stimulate innovations in software development.

The Tamana Intech Park is intended to provide the facility for research and development of IT software through its affiliation with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). It will also provide for the Intellectual Property Rights Management of such developed software, in order to ensure that the financial benefits of such development remain within Trinidad and Tobago.

Intellectual Property Rights Management will also ensure that the country becomes well known on the international IT circuit as they have for ICT research and development. Tamana will become established as we hope it to be, the silicon valley of the Caribbean region. Tamana Intech Park is also aimed at attracting local and foreign investors in computer software development, in addition to telecommunications equipment, manufacturing services and computer hardware manufacture.

It should be noted that a cluster programme is currently being implemented by Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited, aimed at developing new businesses in the IT industry; focus on IT for the energy and business process outsourcing in the healthcare industry.

**St. James Muslim Cemetery
(Details of)**

55. Sen. Mohammed Faisal Rahman asked the hon. Minister of Local Government:

Could the Minister advise the Senate what steps are being taken to have the St. James Muslim cemetery staffed and manned on weekends in order to accept burial fees and permit Muslim burials?

The Minister of Local Government (Sen. The Hon. Hazel Manning): The Western Cemetery in St. James is staffed and manned on weekends. Like all other cemeteries, which fall under the purview of the Port of Spain Corporation, it

Oral Answers to Questions
[SEN THE HON. H. MANNING]

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is open to the public Monday to Saturday from 5.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and on Sundays from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. It should be noted that the administrative office, which is responsible for arranging burials, is open Monday to Friday from 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., and the cashiers department, where payments for burials are made, closes at 2.30 p.m.

Weekend burials are accommodated once all overtime charges are borne by the applicants and the necessary arrangements are made during the working hours of the corporation. In recognition of the religious practice of persons of the Muslim faith, with respect to burials, the Port of Spain Corporation has implemented a system to facilitate weekend burials at the Western Cemetery in St. James. This system requires persons to produce a letter from the imam, in addition to a death certificate to the cemetery keeper, who subsequently makes all the necessary arrangements for burial.

Sen. Rahman: The submission of death certificates to the cemetery keeper, is it possible to be done on a Saturday or Sunday? I missed what you said.

Sen. The Hon. H. Manning: Mr. Vice-President, I want to respond and say yes, that is what I just read.

National Gender Policy (Implementation of)

89. Sen. Gail Merhair asked the hon. Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs:

With respect to the National Gender Policy, could the Minister inform this Senate of the timeline for implementation?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. President, the answer to that question has not yet been prepared and therefore, I would expect a period of three weeks would be required to deal with this particular question.

Question, by leave, deferred.

National Test Results (Details of)

91. Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan asked the hon. Minister of Education:

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate whether all primary schools in Trinidad and Tobago have received the June 2008 National Test results?

- B. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Minister inform the Senate of the reason(s) for the delay?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): The answer to this question is not ready at this time, Mr. Vice-President. I would like to have it deferred for one week.

Question, by leave, deferred.

**A' level Places
(Shortage of)**

95. Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan asked the hon. Minister of Education:

- A. Would the Minister advise the Senate whether there is a shortage of A' level places?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, would the Minister inform the Senate what measures are being put in place to correct this?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, we are in a position to answer that.

It is to be noted that there are 74 public schools with Sixth forms, because students only apply at several locations. While there might appear to be a shortage, the number of spaces required is difficult to determine. The ability of schools to offer particular subject combinations is dependent on the staffing establishment, the number of students who want to undertake particular subject combinations, as well as the availability of laboratories and specialized rooms.

Science and business subjects are more popular among students. Subjects such as law, sociology and environmental science are growing in demand and there is a decline in the popularity of modern studies and modern language. The popularity of some schools over others is another factor in the demand for Sixth form spaces.

For example, one school might receive 298 applications to fill 60 places in Lower Sixth form; on the other hand, another new school received 26 applications for 40 places, 15 students were eventually placed. This is because new schools take time to build up reputations of excellence and achievement at the Sixth form levels. Some schools are therefore oversubscribed, while others have available spaces that are not utilized. As a result, students make multiple applications to ensure that their entry into Sixth form may be accepted by a number of schools from which their choice is made.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of holding discussions with principals to increase the Lower Sixth form intake for school year 2009/2010. Presently, the Lower Sixth form intake stands at 3,515 students. It should be noted that over the past four years tertiary level institutions have accepted CSEC Form 5 qualifications as the matriculation requirement for entry.

However A' level results still continue to be used as the matriculation requirement for entry into many universities.

The Ministry of Education has been collaborating with schools and districts to satisfy the demand for Sixth form spaces by:

- (a) Purchasing spaces at private institutions, example School of Continuing Studies;
- (b) introduction of Sixth form classes at new schools;
- (c) expansion of places at secondary schools under construction and those proposed for expansion;
- (d) expanding capacity at existing Sixth forms;
- (e) providing subject teachers for areas not presently covered within districts; and
- (f) provision of extra lab spaces where required.

Sen. Dr. Nanan: A supplemental, Mr. Vice-President. In the answer to part B of the question, you gave a listing in terms of what the Ministry is putting in place or how they go about the shortage, but I did not hear any mention of constructing A' level colleges. I do not know if that is an oversight or if that is no longer existing.

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: You are correct, that was not contained in the answer and I would therefore seek to have the Minister provide that for you.

IDB Secondary Education Loan

97. Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan asked the hon. Minister of Education:

Would the Minister indicate to the Senate whether there was a final drawdown of the IDB Secondary Education Loan?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): The Secondary Education Modernization Programme (SEMP) commenced operations in 1999. The overall goal of SEMP is to create a modern technology-

driven, efficient and relevant secondary education system that produces graduates who are equipped with the necessary skills, training, qualifications, aptitude, attitudes and competencies for effective participation in the world of work and higher education.

The total cost of the programme is US \$150 million, with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) providing funding in the sum of US \$105 million, and the remaining US \$45 million representing counterpart funding to be provided by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The original loan agreement came to an end in June 2006. In November 2006, an IDB administrative mission met with the Ministry of Education to review and finalize the request for the re-profiling and extension of the said programme. In December 2006, the IDB agreed to the extension of the loan facility for an additional two years in the first instance, retroactive to July 2006.

In 2008, an additional one-year extension was granted with a final date of July 05, 2009, for disbursements. Currently under SEMP, there are several projects either in the implementation phase or in the procurement phase and as such, there has been no final drawdown on the IDB secondary education modernization loan.

It should be noted that as of April 27, 2009, the remaining balance on the loan is US \$27,970,853.85.

Renewable Energy Sources (Projects Planned)

99. Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan asked the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:

Could the Minister inform the Senate whether any specific project or projects have been planned to utilize renewable energy sources?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, question No. 99 is ready but not approved. There are two projects but I will tell you that next week when the answer is approved.

Question, by leave, deferred.

Replacement of MTBE

100. Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan asked the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:

A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate whether ethanol will replace MTBE as the gasoline additive?

- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, would the Minister advise as to the time frame for its introduction?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has no intention at this point in time to replace Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ethane (MTBE) with ethanol as a gasoline additive.

**Association of Caribbean States
(Benefits Derived)**

126. Sen. Gail Merhair asked the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs:

With respect to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), could the Minister advise the Senate of:

- (i) the benefits this country derives from its membership in the Association; and
- (ii) the benefits derived by this country by hosting the Secretariat of the ACS?

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, we are not in a position to answer this question. However, I think we need another two weeks for this one.

Question, by leave, deferred.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked by Sen. Wade Mark:

**High Court and Court of Appeal
(Backlog of Outstanding Cases)**

35. Could the Attorney General advise the Senate of:

- A. the number of outstanding judgments pending in the High Court and Court of Appeal since the date of trial or hearing of the Appeal?
- B. what steps, if any, are being taken by the Chief Justice to deal with the backlog of outstanding cases?

**Court of Appeal
(Number of Decisions Upheld)**

37. Could the Attorney General state the number of decisions of the Court of Appeal during the past five years which have been upheld and the number which were overturned by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council?

**National Petroleum Company
(Details of Gasoline and Diesel Oil)**

- 66.** Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries advise the Senate of:
- (a) the total volume and value of gasoline and diesel oil sold by the National Petroleum Company on the domestic market for the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009; and
 - (b) the volume and value of the same products that were exported?

**Production of Crude Oil
(Details of)**

- 67.** With respect to the production of crude oil under the Farm and Lease Operatorship, could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate of:
- (a) the quantum and value of crude produced for the years 2004 to 2008;
 - (b) the number of leases and oil wells farmed out during the same period;
 - (c) the average production per well; and
 - (d) the names of the companies to whom the crude produced under this agreement is sold?

**BPTT
(Details of Revenue)**

- 69.** Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries provide the Senate with an up-to-date account of the total revenue received and actual royalty paid by BPTT to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009?

Details of Taxes

- 70.** Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate of the amount of royalties and other petroleum taxes inclusive of corporation taxes paid by British Gas, BHP Billiton, EOS Resources (Trinidad Limited), Repsol, Petro-Canada, Canada Superior among others for the period January 01, 2007—March 31, 2009?

**Local and Foreign Wells
(Details of)**

- 72.** With respect to explorations and/or drilling of new wells by various Oil companies, both local and foreign, during the period January 01, 2004 to

December 31, 2008, could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate:

- (a) how many wells have been drilled annually;
- (b) the depths of these drillings;
- (c) the estimated cost of explorations or wells drilled;
- (d) the result of the efforts of these explorations or wells drilled; and
- (e) what are the various incentives provided by the Government to the oil companies for the drilling of exploratory wells?

**Private Security Firms
(Details of)**

- 85.** Could the hon. Minister of National Security inform the Senate what is:
- (a) the total number of registered private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
 - (b) the total number of unregistered private security firms operating in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
 - (c) the total number of security guards (both precepted and non-precepted) employed by each firm, as at the end of March 31, 2009?

**Private Security Firms
(Legislating of)**

- 86.** (A) Could the hon. Minister of National Security advise the Senate if the Government intends to introduce legislation or to amend existing legislation governing the operations of private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago?
- (B) If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform the Senate of the exact time frame for the introduction of such legislation?

Vide end of sitting for written answers.

2.00 p.m.

SENATOR'S APPOINTMENT

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, before we move on, we now allow the Senator to take his oath.

“THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency DANNY MONTANO, LLB.,
BComm., C.A., Acting President and
Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago.

Senator's Appointment

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

/s/ Danny Montano
Acting President.

TO: MR. ROLPH BALGOBIN

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANNY MONTANO, Acting 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 25th May, 2009 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Helen Drayton.

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 20th day of May, 2009."

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Vice-President: Before we move to Private Business, Sen. Rahman, could you please have a read of Standing Order 42. Okay!

**WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
(RETENTION OF SEWERAGE FUNCTION)**

[Third Day]

Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question [March 24, 2009]

Be it resolved that Government take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Authority remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority as provided for in law. [Sen. Dr. A. Nanan]

Question again proposed.

Mr. Vice-President: A list of those who spoke on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 was Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan the mover of the Motion. On Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Sen. Prof Ramesh Deosaran, Sen. Lyndira Oudit, Sen. Wade Mark, Sen. Corinne Baptiste-Mc Knight, and Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill. Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill had 13 minutes remaining.

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. On the last occasion I started to discuss the background to this but the Minister who has responsibility for this matter is here and he will deal with this matter completely.

WASA (*Sewerage Function*)
[SEN. THE HON. C. ENILL]

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However, during the course of the debate the mover of the Motion placed on the *Hansard* some statements which I considered to be erroneous—as is his habit from time to time—and I wish to point them out and correct them. During the course of his debate he made the following statement—

Sen. Dr. Nanan: Mr. Vice-President, Standing Order 36(5).

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: Mr. Vice-President, I was saying he made a statement, that was the only aside.

Sen. Dr. Nanan: What was the statement?

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: It says, “There is no planning in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries. None!” That is an erroneous statement and I am simply putting on the record that he is wrong! [*Crosstalk*]

Sen. Joseph: There is no Standing Order 36(5).

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: So, Mr. Vice-President, how could it be a matter of opinion when I as Minister, I am saying categorically, that statement is wrong.

Sen. Dr. Saith: There is no Standing Order 36(5) either.

Sen. The Hon. C. Enill: And of course, there is no Sanding Order 36(5). [*Laughter*] So that as well is also erroneous. [*Desk thumping and laughter*] However, I will repeat it:

“Mr. President”—he says—“there is no planning in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries. None! All the Minister comes and says is that they are looking at other markets. Where is the Minister...on renewable energy? Every time we put on our television we are seeing wind turbines and solar power, and we are not hearing anything from the Minister.” [*Interruption*]

Well, he goes on and on.

What I wish to do is to indicate that on Friday, February 13, 2009 at a public function held at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries at 10.30 a.m., the ministry gave effect to a Cabinet decision on the establishment of a Renewable Energy Committee to formulate a Renewable Energy Policy Green Paper to promote the development of renewable energy in Trinidad and Tobago. And just for the information of the Senator, we said at that time that the Green Paper on Renewable Energy is intended to foster renewable energy development, educate the national community and promote widespread recognition and acceptance with respect to the opportunities for renewable energy usage.

Renewable energy development in Trinidad and Tobago—that is solar, wind, biomass, et cetera—holds vast potential for Trinidad and Tobago. We indicated that among the major potential benefits to the country were as follows:

1. Renewable energy contributes to the enhancement of the natural environment and results in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the impact on climate change.

We said this.

2. Create opportunities for research and development into the area which has tremendous growth potential globally.

And we said a number of things. We also at the time indicated that we were putting together a committee—and let me just name the committee for the record. The committee comprised representatives from various Government agencies and institutions as follows: The chairman is the Director of Energy, Research and Planning, Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries; we have a professor of energy systems and vice-provost for graduate students as studies, research and development, UTT; a lecturer, Department of Physics, UWI; Chairman of the Solar Committee of the Caribbean—we have one of those—we have a Director, trade facilitation, Ministry of Trade and Industry; a senior engineer generation interfaced, T&TEC; Senior Economist, Research, Planning and Technical Services Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education; we have a team leader, Business Development, National Energy Corporation; Senior Economic Policy Analysis, Ministry of Public Utilities; an Environmental Economist attached to the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit, Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment and of course the Secretariat.

Mr. Vice-President, that is the only thing that I wish to deal with in the matters raised in this particular Motion brought by Sen. Dr. Nanan as it relates to matters relative to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries which was incorrectly stated and which I now wish to correct.

Thank you.

Sen. Basharat Ali: Mr. Vice-President, I join the debate on the private Motion before us and I think since it has been four weeks since we did it I would like to read again what the Motion is and the Motion says:

Whereas the operations of the Water and Sewerage Authority are vital and indispensable to the good health and welfare of the people of Trinidad and Tobago;

WASA (*Sewerage Function*)
[SEN. ALI]

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And whereas the Water and Sewerage Authority and its functions are provided for by Parliament;

Be it resolved that Government take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Authority remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority as provided for in law.

I rise to support this Motion. In other words, I am not in favour of a proposed separation which we will be hearing about.

Last Sunday, May 24, 2009, I was reading the *Guardian*. I had not written a word yet on this project but then I went to the columnist page and I saw a column there and there was one word that struck me and that was the word "WASA". Let me read just a short bit here of what this columnist was saying. It was not really about WASA, it was about English law which the columnist was studying, and the quotation is:

“English law is convoluted as WASA's pipes, as unreliable, and able to shut down and rust and poke and surprise.”

The columnist goes on to say:

“As English law, a yardstick for regulating a society, took shape in my mind, I saw, imperfect as it was, it worked in England.”

And the final paragraph which I will quote here:

“And our legal system, largely inherited from the British, was crumbling just like our WASA pipes, through neglect.”

This is a commentary by Ira Mathur. I often read her on a Sunday, I know her and her family personally and I thought it was a good way to start my contribution today because I am not a friend of WASA from the point of view of their performance and there was this person putting together English law and "Trini" law in the context of WASA's performance and really blaming everything on the question of neglect. That is still a debate that we need to work on.

What I would like to do is to address Government's water policy over the years, in fact from pre-Independence right on to now and I will do so by going to a budget statement, et cetera. The first document is one which I referred to before in this Senate and it is *Government Water Policy in the year 1950*—that was before Independence—and it was a paper laid here in this Legislative Council on January 27, 1950.

I believe, Mr. Vice-President, there has been a consistency on water policy from those days right into now and let me just read the first sentence of this water policy paper. I have read this before into *Hansard* in October 2006. Many of the people here were not here at the time so I think it is worth reading it again; but it is still very much what is our water policy at the moment and the sentence is:

“It is Government's policy that good water for drinking, domestic and other purposes should be provided for every inhabitant of the island and that water rates should be as low as possible for all domestic purposes.”

I believe that is still the policy of succeeding government's since from Independence and at that time in the Legislative Council there was a proposal as to what needed to be done to implement this policy and that is where I start.

2.15 p.m.

The policy then was split into a couple of stages. The first stage of the implementation was in fact called Stage I and it required that there will be:

- Renovation of Port of Spain Mains at \$5 million;
- Renovation of San Fernando Mains and three new Reservoirs which are \$1.5 million;
- Valsayn waterworks with associated facilities and Eastern Main Road pipeline, all of those together came to \$1.27 million;
- Trunk mains between South and North \$254,000;
- Caura they have here, but I do not know whether Caura was ever implemented;
- Tobago, \$300,000; and
- Rural distribution mains and village supplies, a token figure of \$500,000.

So that in fact came up to the sum of \$14.7 million, almost \$15 million, and that stage was supposed to be completed in five years. So by 1955, we should have had these pipe replacements, et cetera, renovations of the works into Port of Spain. But did we get it done? I would not be able to say.

The second stage which is Stage II referred to development of works: Maracas Valley Pipeline; Penal Bores; Eastern Trunk Mains; Edinburgh Well; Centeno Scheme; Tobago Mains; Caura Scheme, clearing up; and that was another \$9 million. So for the grand sum of \$24 million, we were supposed to have had by 1960 an implementation of schemes which would have put us in a good position

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to service our population, to meet what was a policy. Today, I question whether we ever got there by that time, pre-Independence by 1960, and I really wonder where we have gone in all these years. What sums have we expended in the intervening years, including the sewerage scheme which we did for Port of Spain, San Fernando and Arima? That is a lock joint project which came in fact before the establishment of WASA. It was ongoing at that time, WASA having been established in 1965.

I have to also admit that later on we did quite a bit of establishment of additional water supplies from surface collection and from groundwater. Surface collection, for example, projects like the dams, and the big one of course, into the 70s already which I still know about, is the Caroni Arena Dam. So, we have been doing a fair amount of work in the provision of water supplies and yet what has suffered is really the transmission of water, old pipes which always break. We all know that, we all suffer from that. How many of us are not aware that even into the 80s, we had very poor supply of water? I know for myself. I live in Maraval and water came sometime after midnight, three days a week. So if you wanted to do your laundry, et cetera, that is when you were supposed to do it. So I wonder whether the Minister can say how much money has gone into systems and what has been the benefit to us in terms of satisfaction to the needs of our people?

I am of the view that we have not been achieving our goal of "water for all", and I do not think anybody will disagree with me on that one. Also for disposal of waste, even with the completion of the Beetham Wastewater Treatment Plant which I believe has either a capacity or is operating at 20 million gallons per day, there are some questions of whether that is the capacity or whether it is the level of operation, because 20 million gallons a day is only 90 million litres. Whereas, I have seen in other places that the capacity of Beetham water treatment is 180,000 cubic metres, which is 180 million litres a day. So I do not know if you may wish to let me know, but the figure that we see bandied around is 20 million gallons a day and that is the only number other than in some other document where I have seen this other figure.

Mr. Vice-President, in the 2007 budget, there was a statement made on October 04, and that statement said there was an initial assessment of the complete replacement of the water pipelines network in the country and that the assessment was estimated at \$27 billion. This was in October 2006, but that estimate was done two years before, so it was 2004 and I quote:

"However, a project of this magnitude will require a major development programme and a review of the existing management structure at the Water

and Sewerage Authority. The restructuring of the Authority is under review by the Standing Committee on Energy and decisions in their regard will be made shortly."

I wondered why the Standing Committee on Energy is looking at a review of what is our expenditure on water. Maybe that was the only Standing Committee there at that time, so that was then from that budget statement.

Less than a year later—because that first one was for October 04, 2006, Budget Day—when we had our pre-election budget which was read on August 20, 2007, the hon. Minister of Finance—he was still the hon. Prime Minister at that time—told us and I will read from the document:

"Mr. Speaker, our programme to provide water for the entire nation to which the Government is resolutely committed has faced several challenges, including sharply increasing demands emanating from industrial expansion, climatic changes and the proliferation of new housing communities. The management and organizational challenges facing the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) have also added to these problems.

The Government insists that WASA must develop the capacity to ensure an adequate supply and distribution of potable water to the population; to process wastewater consistent with international standards, and to promote prudent and cost-effect management and conservation of natural water resources.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, in May this year, the Government contracted a reputable international consultant to develop the Water and Wastewater Master Plan, the aim of which is to transform WASA into an efficient and viable business entity providing reliable water and waste water services.

They will also determine the country's future demand for water and wastewater services, and provide alternatives for the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing water and wastewater facilities and the construction of new facilities.

This Master Plan, Mr. Speaker, will ensure that all of Trinidad and Tobago will have a nationwide 24-hour, 7 days a week water supply and standards and regulations for industrial wastewater treatment and discharge.

With global warming expected to have a significant impact on weather patterns in our region, the Government has taken a decision to reduce the country's dependence on surface water, that is, the water from our dams.

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Accordingly Government intends to explore the desalination option in providing service to various parts of the country."

An addendum:

"Mr. Speaker, we also intend to build two more Wastewater Treatment Plants around Chaguanas and San Fernando."

So this was a total statement from the 2008 Budget read in August 2007, on the subject of water provision, and the main thing that comes out of that is that water and wastewater master plan was started or had been contracted and we believe that is Genivar. That was what Genivar was doing as of that time from that date, May 2007, according to the budget statement.

If we go on to the next stage and that is the Budget Statement of 2009, this is where we have the Finance Minister, and this statement is from September 22, 2008—so that is not so long ago—and hon. Minister of Finance said:

"Mr. Speaker, the Government re-affirms its commitment to providing the people of Trinidad and Tobago with a safe and reliable supply of water comparable to that of any developed country. Over the next several years, the highest priority will be given to improving the quality of service delivered to the country by our water authority.

The resulting Master Plan and Policy for the water and wastewater sectors is a revolutionary step to address the various problems that have frustrated the adequate provision of water and wastewater services to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for many years. The full extent of the Plan is expected to be completed by November 2008."

That is as much as I will get in terms of the water plan because the second section dealt with the strategic water supply plan which I will leave out.

The final line in that was the Government will invest approximately \$10 billion over the next five years to complete these projects. The projects which are:

- The Desalination Plants;
- The Moruga Dam;
- The National Water Transmission Grid;
- The implementation of Demand Management Programme; and
- The completion of the Beetham Water Re-Use Project. And at least two more similar plants in San Fernando and Central Trinidad.

So this is an investment of \$10 billion in the next five years. This is from the 2009 Budget, so presumably that is going to carry us into 2014.

Mr. Vice-President, this is not all the Minister of Finance said about water and wastewater. Because in the budget under the question of "the Environment", the hon. Minister said:

"Mr. Speaker, as part of Government's move to increase efficiency at all levels within the economy, we propose to restructure the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) in order to concentrate on its core mandate of waste management, including waste water management which will be transferred from WASA. Therefore, the administration of CEPEP has been removed from SWMCOL and will be managed by a special company established for that specific purpose."

I, at first did not make the linkage between the water programme and the waste water programme, and this is the first statement that I have read which brought to us that SWMCOL was now the preferred operator or manager of the waste water system that we were going to have.

2.30 p.m.

There is where we find ourselves; where I find that we have reached. At that time, the Water and Waste Water Master Plan was virtually at the point of being completed, I presume, because this was September 2008, and I believe the target we had was November 2008. I will come back to that Water and Waste Water Master Plan as conceived and done by Genivar.

Mr. Vice-President, with this concept of separation between water management from waste water management, there has not been a very explicit statement, but I have heard it said that was no different from electricity power generation and distribution separation that we already have, and which has worked successfully. I beg to differ. I hope I can convince this House that is not a viable option, because they are not parallel situations.

If we look at the electricity model, it has its phases, the use of our natural gas and energy source for power generation; presently that is done by PowerGen and Trinity Power, I believe they are called. Soon we will have Trinidad Generation Unlimited, which would be the big power plant that will be built in Union Estate and which will provide power supply for the smelters and will also provide power for the grid.

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The difference now is that you really have two phases, the power generation which is done by one party, and the distribution right up to the consumers. They may be industrial consumers, commercial consumers and, lastly, the rest of the residential consumers. The point I wish to make is that if there is wastage in that or if there is any waste in that process, it is not comparable to the waste that comes up from the WASA system, because that is, in fact, wastage. Every consumer pays for his wastage.

So T&TEC collects money if anybody wastes electricity. If you waste it, if I waste it, if the commercial people leave their lights on and even if the big industrial plants have high MVAs during their operation, they pay for that in accordance with tariffs. So there is no parallel, as far as I am concerned, between the two, because T&TEC is not involved in the saving of waste or energy. Energy is not like water or waste water; it is a different concept. It is not something you hold and feel.

There is no waste energy for recycling by T&TEC. To me, to say that is the model is a faulty proposal. I would like somebody to tell me otherwise, but that is as I see it. When we look at water and waste water model, we have water resource, which, is in fact, ground, surface, sea water even, collected and processed by the water supplier. In this case it is WASA; also it is Desalcott, which produces desalinated water, or others. Then that water is distributed by the Water and Sewerage Authority to all its consumers: industrial, commercial and residential.

The industrial consumers, I think, by and large, would be responsible for handling their waste water. The commercial and residential consumers, by and large, would be handled by WASA or through WASA, whether by public sewage system or by oversight of private waste water systems from, let us say, housing developments.

At last count, do you know what we have in Trinidad and Tobago in that sector? Some 30 per cent of the population have sewer connection; 58 per cent rely on septic tank soakaways and 10 per cent on pit latrines. So the biggest interface between the supplier of water and the treatment of waste water is WASA.

Is the householder now going to have two entities coming to his home, one to provide him with water and one to look after any waste water system? It is a question I pose, because I cannot see how we can make that separation. With any house, you apply, you get your water connection, and you get the approvals. Depending on where you live, you either have a septic tank system still or you are

into a housing development where there is a small waste water treatment plant. That is a model. How are you going to separate it? Will the individual householder have two persons to deal with and two sets of bills to pay? I am not even talking about the law here, because we do not have any law which would give anybody else the right to go and look after your household system.

Mr. Vice-President, I want to give one example of a country which has had a very successful water experience; that is what I call "the Singapore experience". I am going to quote from a paper, which is from 2006, so it is not an old paper; it is a published paper, by the way. The paper is called "Water Management in Singapore by Cecilia Tortajada, from the Third World Centre for Water Management in Atizapán, Mexico. This is published by Routledge in Water Resources Development, Volume 22, No. 2, pages 227—240, June 2006.

This is a serious paper, and I would like, in starting to discuss this, to acknowledge this paper which has come from another paper, in fact, which was prepared, a master plan. We will look at the master plan for Singapore. This paper is really an extended version of a great paper by the same person, prepared for the Human Development Report for 2006. That is a United Nations organization.

Mr. Vice-President, we often use the Singapore model for everything, economic and otherwise; Singapore has been a most successful model. In certain respects, there are a lot of commonality between Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago. We are an island State; Singapore is a single island State; we are a twin island State. Population wise, they have much more people than we do, because they have 4.5 million people, which is 3.5 times our 1.3 million. So there are a lot of people and in a very small area, because Singapore has 700 square kilometres as against our 5,000 square kilometres. Their acreage or square area is one seventh of ours; you can work out then how much per person in terms of area there is. I am not going to do the arithmetic on that.

The final thing is that Singapore is just above the equator, one degree, 22 minutes; and we, of course, are between 10 and 11, so very similar kind of features from Singapore to us.

Singapore has, in fact, an annual average rainfall higher than ours, 240 centimetres, as against our annual average of 185 centimetres, so they have a serious constraint, because even with all that water, they have no land to contain it so they could collect it, process it, treat it and supply it. They have had alternatives, but it is a problem which has always been recognized. Even before

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Singapore and Malaysia got independence, they were both part of the British Empire, Singapore was receiving water from the State of Johor under a British government signed agreement. That is still in place, so pretty well most of Singapore's raw water comes across that little strait there between Malaysia and Singapore.

Right now it is a very difficult position, because the agreement between those two independent countries now has been the subject of longstanding negotiations, because at that time, Singapore was paying below one cent per thousand gallon for the water. So the question of price is of less concern to Singapore. The question then is the security of supply.

It is almost like Russia, Ukraine and Georgia; the battle over price was a question that would once again remain the supply of natural gas for the people. This is one of the items that Singapore is faced with, and this is why they have the incentive to go ahead and do things which others have not done.

That is why I want to speak about the institutional arrangement. This comes from this paper that I have here, which I will read it. It says:

"Until April 01, 2001, Singapore's Public Utilities Board (PUB) was the agency responsible for managing potable water, electricity and gas. On that date the responsibilities for sewerage and drainage were transferred from the Ministry of the Environment to the PUB. This transfer allowed PUB to develop and implement a holistic policy which included protection and expansion of water resources, stormwater management, desalination, demand management, community-driven programmes, catchment management, outsourcing to private sector specific activities which are not core to its mission, and public education and awareness programmes. The country is now fully sewered to collect all wastewater, and has constructed separate drainage and sewerage systems to facilitate wastewater reuse on an extensive scale."

That is a quote from this paper.

Some of the significant achievements of Singapore are: Unaccounted water is 5 per cent of production. We are still fighting with 50 per cent of our production literally going down the drain; production of treated waste water to quality higher than potable water requirements; it is a common feature in Singapore now. In Singapore they have the introduction of what is called "new water" of such high quality that it is potable. They use their new water primarily because of the psychological effect of drinking water which comes from sewage; they tend to downplay that, but the bulk of that water will go into the commercial and industrial field.

Right now they have introduced this so-called "new water"; 5 per cent blended into the raw water in the reservoirs and treated for domestic use. So they are using it in a way, very quietly, for drinking. New water plant capacity, at this time, 2006, was 20 million gallons a day, and the target capacity for 2011 is 65 million gallons a day of which 55 million will be for industrial and commercial.

So there is this little country with limited resources, concentrating on using their waste water to, in fact, catalyze the whole process of development in their country.

I will just read some of the concluding remarks, because, to me, this is a model which we might want to follow, rather than doing what we say we are going to do: to separate the two fixed systems.

2.45 p.m.

Just a summary of what has happened and conclusions of this in terms of the remarks.

“In other words, the country has successfully implemented what most water professionals have been preaching in recent years.

By ensuring efficient use of its limited water resources through economic instruments, adopting the latest technological development to produce ‘new’ sources of water, enhancing storage capacities by proper catchment management, practicing water conservation measures, and ensuring concurrent consideration of social, economic and environmental factors, Singapore has reached a level of holistic water management that other urban centres will do well to emulate.”

I recommend this paper to those who want to learn more about this interface between water and waste water, and I am sure the hon. Minister and his team will know this.

Clearly, I am in a difficult position because I do not see how we can separate in Trinidad and Tobago our water system from our waste water system. When I say so, I have been trying to pick up data from the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), or about WASA and to get that is like pulling teeth and I say so with apologies to the mover of this Motion who is an expert at pulling teeth. But for me, it is really like pulling teeth. [*Laughter*]

If you go to the WASA’s website it is bereft of information. What I recovered from that source were two requests for proposals for a programme manager for what is called a BOO project; build/own/operate project. The build/own/operate desalination plants and build/own/operate Beetham Water Re-use Plant.

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I do not know what those are because if you wanted to see the documents for this tender for these two programme managers—I do not know whether it is a single person or a group of people—you have to pay US \$100 for each, so US \$200. So I hope I will be able to save US \$200 by asking the hon. Minister what is this all about.

I believe the first BOO operating desalination plants will be what has gone out, from my recollection, invitation for various people and I heard there are a lot of people who want to build desalination plants here. The second one, Re-use Project, Water Re-use Plant, I think this is probably—and I wish to stand corrected—really the work that Genivar has done.

I believe it is a conceptual design as to how we will go in this phase to take the water from the Beetham Treatment Plant and distribute it to a site where it can be used successfully, like the industrial area like Point Lisas where good, potable water is taken and used.

I think there is potential even for places like industrial estates and so forth because many depend on high quality water. The hon. Minister will know that because they engage in heating water, boiler water, for example, and high-pressure boiler water requires you to demineralize facilities of methanol plants and ammonia plants. They all have a treatment system in front of them, so if the water is to be used and bettered to World Health Organization's (WHO) standards, it will also be relatively free of all these other metallic compounds which we encounter and have to be removed before they go into a boiler.

So, we have a good situation there and I do not know what this plant is and what exactly has been done so far in terms of design. I do know that this Wastewater Rehabilitation Project by Genivar says—and this is not from the WASA website, it is from the Genivar website. It says:

“Construction cost
\$60,000,000”

Presumably that is Canadian dollars.

“Year 2006—2008”

And it gives a description of what they are doing.

“Description

Genivar was recently retained to perform the evaluation and upgrade of twenty-one wastewater treatment facilities in Trinidad, with a total capacity of approximately 13 MLD. The project involves field investigations, condition assessments,

environmental assessments, preliminary design, detailed design, and construction supervision. Recommendations have been provided in regard to combining several plants into one centralized plant. Some of the secondary treatment technology alternatives evaluated include fix film growth such as, Rotating Biological Contractors; Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge systems; Biological Aerated Filters and Trickling Filters. Suspended growth processes were also evaluated as secondary treatment alternatives such as: Sequencing Batch Reactors, Conventional Activated Sludge, Membrane Biological Reactors, Extended Aeration, and Lagoons. The upgraded plants will use ultraviolet disinfection and sodium hypochloride to disinfect the effluent and the by-pass flow, respectively.”

This is as much as I know of this waste water treatment which is a project of Genivar and listed on their website under Expertise.

Mr. Vice-President, as I said, I had great difficulty in getting information from WASA. I do not know what is its structure at the moment because if you go to that website, you cannot even find out who are the directors of WASA because they say that page is temporarily unavailable, please try again later. Now that is for the directors, if one goes to the same site and seeks the executive management of WASA you get the same answer, so this website is hardly worthwhile.

Mr. Vice-President, do you know where I got the information with respect to the board and management team of WASA? I got it from the Information Memorandum for the \$300,000,000 bond issue and it was not on their site, I think it was Central Bank's site I got it. I saw that we have six commissioners. I would not call their names but I know the WASA laws require a minimum of five and a maximum of nine and they must have experience in the various disciplines which are: management, engineering, communications, and things like that.

It is all there in the WASA Act, but these names here I do not know who is an engineer among the six. I know Mr. Shaffique Sultan-Khan is not an engineer, I believe Mr. Andre Vincent Henry is not an engineer, I do not know if Miss Stacy Dillon is an engineer, maybe Mr. Trevor Dean is an engineer.

They probably have satisfied the requirement, but what is noteworthy is if you go back just a few years when they did the \$400,000,000 bond issue, there is not a single member of this WASA board who was there at that time. I know Mr. Rollin Bertrand, for example, was the Chairman of WASA for a while; I do not know what has happened to him. He is a very fine person with whom I had interfaced quite often. So even at that level there is no continuity as far as I can see.

Mr. Vice-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. Prof. R. Deosaran*]

Question put and agreed to.

Sen. B. Ali: Thank you, Mr. Vice-President and my colleagues. Coming back to the data provided on this information memorandum, more important than the board members is the listing of the executive management.

Mr. Vice-President, eight out of the 11 listed are acting appointees, from the CEO whom I believe it was said was a COO, in fact, he is an acting CEO now, a French man, I believe. When I first saw the name Patrice Aurley, I did not know whether it was a man or woman because in Trinidad there are a lot of "Patrice" who are women, so I found out that it is a person with experience and so forth.

So here it is, all these people acting in various positions, and this comes after I raised a matter in November 2008 when I had read that WASA had just let go three of their top people, one of whom I happened to know and I thought he was a very knowledgeable person, I still think he is a very knowledgeable person. He represented WASA at the WHO and he was one of the three persons sent home and I am looking for the information.

I brought that to this Senate because those three persons just disappeared from the scene; they were on contract, they told them to go home and wait until the contract has expired and then it is not renewed. So here is an organization with all these acting people and some are probably quite capable but now you can afford to leave out and lose that kind of knowledge-based, institutional memory these people have. I know some of them and what they have.

I heard on the grapevine that some of these people had been given just before they were let go, a bonus for performance, and the next letter was from the Chairman of the Board saying the board has lost confidence in you and off they go. I do not know what is happening. Is that associated with this splitting of WASA? Because there is a splitting into waste water. In fact, what expertise does Solid Waste Management have to handle anything with respect to waste water?

I understand they may have been doing a couple of these treatment plants and I do not know what their track record is, but they are the people designated to handle waste water. WASA has been doing it, I do not say it is doing a perfect job, but if you take Solid Waste now and put them there and separate these two elements, what are you creating?

I just cannot understand what we are doing. If you tell me what experience and expertise resides in SWMCOL to do this task, then I will be happy to know. Or is it the intent that this entire thing will be contracted out to foreign persons to look after? Maybe that is what the solution is, but I do not know because we now have so many actors in executive management they probably do not want to say much.

When you are acting in a position you become very susceptible, you cannot say what you want, when you want, because you have no authority. The next thing you know, they send you back to your job, or you do not have a job.

3.00 p.m.

Even the acting communications manager in WASA, that position is acting; she cannot say anything. So I really am very, very concerned with what is happening there. In the time that I have, I want to spend it on the water project, the Genivar work, the Water and Waste Water Master Plan. I have had very limited access to that document. It is a huge document. I think the date of it is—the draft document was sent out on October 16, so that was after the budget was read; after this announcement. But looking at it, using my technical ability to examine these things, I could not figure out what they really wanted. They started off, even on this desalination, by saying: “We had two large plants and a lot of small ones”, and then at the end they are talking about four large plants. This is, more or less, what the hon. Minister said to us.

They have not said that they have made any firm proposal on the separation, because I had gone through the document. Go and look at the organization charts; go and look at the infrastructure division. The infrastructure division or the operation division still—it is WASA’S document—has an operations manager or whatever it is, for water and waste water. There is no separation and really there is no justification in all this document, from whatever little I have seen, to say why we are going this route. Because they themselves just mentioned that presumably SWMCOL is now going to do that and the only thing they can say is that has to be modified. All of us know that that will have to be modified to permit that. That is no big thing, but they have not said yea or nay about whether, as a consultant and a very reputable consultant—they have not said yea or nay whether it is a good thing or a bad thing or a neutral thing.

So I am at a loss, because I say there are a lot of inconsistencies. Early on in that same report was talking about the leakage from WASA, the 50 per cent-plus leakage of water, or unaccounted water, which was supposed to be the priority.

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This is what I said in my budget contribution in October last year. I said so, that that should be the priority, not the priority about building desalination plants, because if you are losing 50 per cent and you can correct part of that, even, then you are saving desalination capacity. Desalination is the most expensive form of energy. Waste water treatment facility is cheaper. Singapore said so and I do not disbelieve them.

So I have difficulty on the whole question of this Water and Waste Water Master Plan, which is morphed into Water and Waste Water Master Plan and Policy for Trinidad and Tobago. The policy was never there; I never saw it before. It suddenly came up there. So the question I ask is: Has Genivar's terms of reference been extended between 2007 and now to be able to look at this? I know what the fee is, supposedly; I think that fee should be at TT \$44 million. That is the cost of the consultancy study in that document. I used to think it was \$10 million or \$15 million, but it is \$44 million—US \$6.9 million. Convert it and you will find it.

So what are the terms of reference? I know normally when you get a consultant's report they will say: These are the terms of reference, and then proceed to tell you what we are going to do. There are no terms of reference on that. In fact, even if I go back to a project which started before that—and I had mentioned once before that this title is the same as another one: Water and Waste Water Master Plan for the City of Montreal. That is what was first there and this is on their website; it is there and it gives you an indication of the scope of their services. [*Interruption*] Pardon? This is a Genivar website, okay? And it says—and the scope of work of this was:

- “Manage the entire water and sewer network upgrading program for the next 10 years.
- Perform an exhaustive data inventory using data bases connected with GIS softwares.
- Digitalise all existing plans of the water and sewer network; completing these operations with site surveys.
- Perform a detailed diagnostic of sewer and water pipes.
- Develop a master plan for upgrades to the water infrastructures.
- Prepare plans and specifications for water pipes and servers rehabilitation.
- Provide engineering and site services during construction.”

This is a big project; this is a Canadian \$2 billion project and they, in fact, have the business of management of the programme—manage the entire programme for the next 10 years. This is from 2005 to 2015.

So there you have it, what they said, but this same website which gives us Water Rehabilitation, 2006 to 2008, does not say anything about the bigger project in Trinidad and Tobago, and that is a water and waste water master plan and I am concerned because suddenly I see this term, “and Policy for Trinidad and Tobago” stuck onto the title, and even in the letter of transmittal on this draft programme.

So I am very skeptical; I hope I can get some answers on this whole issue. With my time running out, as usual, I would like to say that I have tried to make a dispassionate appraisal of what we have here. I see the hon. Minister who is an expert in civil engineering and water works is shaking his head, but I, in my own way, have used my background and I have made what I consider to be a dispassionate appraisal of what is being proposed here today. I can say for myself, certainly, that I cannot see the benefit that will accrue to us by the separation of water and waste water management systems and that we really need to take the bull by the horns and change WASA to do the job, but not to separate waste water from the other part. It is one job and that is why Singapore says it is a holistic approach. We often hear the word, holistic. There it is being used there. So that is why I say I support the Motion and I am pleased to do so on the basis, I believe, of what I feel is correct.

Thank you very much. [*Desk thumping*]

Sen. Dr. Sharon-Ann Gopaul-Mc Nicol: Mr. Vice-President, as we resume this adjourned debate on the question of whether the Government of Trinidad and Tobago should take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Water and Sewerage Authority should remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to one of the senior officers at WASA, Mr. Figaro, for the many times over the six years that he graciously extended himself, the services of WASA, to the residents of St. Joseph and Port of Spain and the environs in such an expeditious and professional manner.

This Motion that we are currently deliberating on is important, especially when one considers the critical role of the Water and Sewerage Authority for the overall well-being and health of our citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. The Motion before us is whether the Water and Sewerage Authority should keep both

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functions of water supply and service treatment under one umbrella as it is now, or whether there should be two separate agencies looking after these two separate functions, water and sewerage.

To facilitate the understanding of my contribution, I would like to state clearly how I plan to proceed. Firstly, I would like to highlight in a general sense, the benefits of WASA in its present form, then I would examine whether there are any advantages of separating WASA into two entities. Finally, I would like to make some recommendations to this honourable Senate with respect to how I believe we should proceed.

There are three questions that we are looking at, at present: One, the question of whether waste water management should be removed from WASA's responsibility and passed on to Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL); two, the question of whether the water resource agency should be separated from WASA; and three, the question of whether WASA should be privatized. These three questions should form the crux of this debate.

I will not waste the time of this honourable Senate by repeating what has been so eloquently stated by my colleagues before, who spoke on April 28, I believe it was, when this Motion was first brought forward. However, I must be clear that this issue of the private sector involvement in the water and waste water issue has been on and off the agenda for the past 16 years by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, so it is truly time that we put to rest this matter.

There is no question that there is a continued decline of the water and waste water facilities and this worsening is noted among the facilities both above and under the ground. A lot of wastage has been noted as well and, of course, the worst part of all is that a relatively low percentage of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago receive continuous water supply 24 hours per day. As it stands right now, the most recent statistics show that 70 per cent of the people of Trinidad and Tobago do not receive water every day. One can well imagine, if this statistic is so poor, what is the statistic like for the treatment, management and disposal of sewage.

As a result of this poor service from WASA, a task force was formed with the goal of coming up with a plan of action to ensure that there is a sustainable industry of water and waste water treatment in Trinidad and Tobago, the objective, of course, is to bring WASA en route to efficiency. The challenges, of course, are that there are four Ministries involved in water resources and the management of water and they tend to overlap from time to time, making the entire system a bit

cumbersome and unclear. These ministries are: the Ministry of Public Utilities; the Ministry of Works and Transport; the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources.

I recognize that all of these matters still have to be sorted out if the intent is to improve the water and sewerage services. But what I find confusing is that in June 2005 the CEO of WASA, Mr. Errol Grimes, wrote an article entitled: "Ensuring Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation", and it was cited in the UN Chronicle online edition. He expressed great confidence in the fact that Trinidad and Tobago is well on its way to ensuring by 2015 that people without adequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities will be improved by 50 per cent. Rather ambitious, but certainly he projected this.

Mr. Grimes also projected that water and sanitation services will be delivered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to the entire population by 2015. In particular, he emphasized that socially depressed areas would be the focal points. Given the statistics presented, the projection is that we would be moving from 30 per cent of the population who are connected to the sewerage system, which means that only 5 per cent, according to the projection, would be using pit latrines and the rest would be using cesspit tanks and soakaways.

In 2005, we saw the Minister at that time, Minister Beckles, also projected that the commissioning of the new waste water treatment plant was among several growth areas in Trinidad and Tobago. All of these were fairly good projections. Therefore, I ask: Why are we not trying to see if we could attain these proposed goals, especially in light of the fact that WASA hosted and supported its senior staff going to international, local and national workshops designed to raise awareness of the best practices in the use of water and sanitation facilities?

3.15 p.m.

What we are seeing here is that there were projections made that we ought to honour to try to attain, as opposed to simply dismissing what was put forward by the Minister and even the WASA CEO back in 2005. I will not list the many complaints at this point that were brought to my attention over the years and certainly within the last year, since this is not really the purpose of our discourse, albeit we are sensitive and aware of the concerns of our citizens of Trinidad and Tobago with respect to their plight, as it pertains to water.

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The question is: Should the Government ensure that the sewerage function of the authority remain solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority? It is obvious that there is indeed a problem with WASA. We are not denying that there are challenges. The question is: Is the problem that WASA is facing a problem of water or is it a problem of waste water treatment and management? These are the kinds of issues that we have to look at, because then, it would certainly determine the direction we should be embarking upon.

Regarding waste water management and waste water in general, there are about 250 waste water treatment facilities throughout the country. Interestingly, only about 20 per cent, which is only 50, actually belong to WASA and about 16 per cent or 40 in number belong to the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the rest about 64 per cent, which is about 160 of these 250 facilities belong to the private developers. The issue is: What is the status of these treatment facilities? Most of them have not met international standards, so that many of them are health hazards.

The unfortunate issue is that when WASA was mandated to take over these facilities, it was not given the additional resources to assist in this process, hence, the major setback to WASA. It seems to me that the problem is that the entire WASA system is not functioning optimally to the level that we know that it could function, given the highly qualified gentlemen that I had the privilege of meeting in my time over the last six years and given the amount of training and investment that was put into WASA. In any event, even though it is not functioning optimally, while that may be so and while some of you may argue that WASA does not seem capable of fulfilling the current functions and therefore, should not be expected to continue doing so, notwithstanding all that and the substandard operations that we all recognize exist, I still beg to differ that we should be looking at separating WASA into two entities.

I think that the respective Minister, the Cabinet and we in Parliament, should place our efforts and energy in ensuring the restructuring of WASA, especially since it is a state-run organization. Our goal should be to ensure that all state-run organizations are functioning optimally and up to international standards, especially since we have this bid to be at developed country status by 2020.

While one understands the challenge it has been in managing WASA, the Parliament must ensure that WASA carries out its function. This is partly to meet the challenge with which we are faced. As we aspire for developed country status, we should be aiming to improve standards of all our state-run units. This is certainly something that we should focus on as opposed to shifting the

responsibility to another privately-run organization. This to me is not development. I see no reason that this honourable Senate cannot mandate that we streamline the operation of WASA and demand more efficiency and ultimately restructure WASA so that it can continue to perform effectively in its dual function role. I do not see this as so far-fetched an idea, nor do I believe that our WASA executive members do not have the skill base and are incapable of bringing this about. Certainly, it is not an insurmountable task.

I understand that there are certain internal changes with staff that have already been proposed by the Minister and the new board—I suppose that the Minister can verify this. All this, if the goal is to bring forward a greater level of efficiency, this is a good move. Regarding the treatment of sewage, let us challenge our ministry to go a step further and demand efficiency in this area of treating sewage which is where the real challenge seems to lie at this time. I think it is possible. We do have the capable staff that is required and if necessary, we could mandate training. We are capable of working towards efficiency in this area. Even with all the challenges of the laying of the pipes and the new methods of surveillance, I still do not believe that we need a separate agency.

WASA could perform if given the proper direction and monitoring and I think produce an efficient supply of water and the proper treatment of sewage. I still have not heard this point. Having read all the documentations and examined as much data as possible, I still have not heard what benefits will accrue to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and, by extension, the people of Trinidad and Tobago by having WASA's function be divided into two and operated by two different and separate agencies.

As such, I cannot support this position that is put forward to separate WASA into two distinct and separate agencies. While I cannot support the Government's policy to put forward the idea of separating WASA into two distinct different agencies, I certainly support our Motion to maintain WASA under one entity. I read in January 2009, that the Minister of Public Utilities expressed concern that WASA did not produce in the way that the Government had anticipated in that, as much as 70 per cent of the citizens do not have access to any central sewerage system. I have to ask why, considering how long, over 16 years, this issue has been back and forth on the agenda of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. If 30 per cent of our people are connected to sewerage, it means that 70 per cent are operating using septic tanks, cesspits and other forms such as soakaways. Again, we have to ask: Why are we not challenging ourselves to rise up to what we, 16 years ago, proposed as a government that we were going to do?

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Notwithstanding this, I do not see how renaming WASA and shifting waste management to SWMCOL would solve the problem. This is just passing the buck and not demanding a loftier standard of performance. Likewise shifting CEPEP from SWMCOL to a special purpose company established for that specific purpose, with the hope that SWMCOL could now direct its energy to waste water management is still just passing the buck. It is going around in circles and we have been doing this for the past 16 years. We should be talking about training our people to be efficient. That is what we should be looking at.

Dividing WASA into two is merely going to create two sub-units, WASA and SWMCOL and there is no guarantee that there would be improved systems from all the indicators that we have been looking at, so why not simply improve the current system that we have at this time? Why did the Government not hire persons right at WASA and try to get them to improve their specialized knowledge-base and skills to deal with waste water management, which is where the challenge is at the moment? It is clear to me that the issue is one of poor governance and delivery of services if this is where we still are at this time.

What about the CEO of WASA who in 2005 spoke so confidently that Trinidad and Tobago is well on its way to achieving UN millennium developmental goal of ensuring environmental sustainability; adequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for its 1.3 million? This could not be all bluff because knowing Mr. Grimes, I think that he would have meant what he, at that time stated. What about the Minister who as recent in 2005, Minister Beckles who spoke about WASA using state-of-the-art technology at the time? She had stated that we had spent about US \$200 million to improve the entire system of service in water and waste water treatment and service delivery.

Recently, our present Minister, a year ago stated: "The achievement of Vision 2020 demands that standards are established consistent with international best practices." If you were to look at the countries that Trinidad and Tobago is fashioning its polices after, such as Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, you would not see that these identified countries at this point, have this divided arrangement that the Government is now proposing. That is the separation of water from waste water. On the contrary, these countries have a centralized approach to waste water and water sewerage treatment and management.

I think that WASA, if given the necessary attention; the right preparation and the implementation structure could deliver as it promised in 2005, and can do as well as our current Minister indicated in 2008. We should not be talking about

shifting responsibilities. It should come down to demanding that WASA, all the agencies and relevant ministries should become more efficient in keeping up with international standards.

Another concern of mine is what happens to the employees of WASA who will now be responsible for waste water treatment if this proposal goes through. Will they be automatically transferred to SWMCOL? Maybe the Minister can respond to that. Will all the equipment that WASA is now using for treatment of waste water be sent over to SWMCOL, or will there be new cost when you consider the new company, SWMCOL in this case, will expect to have new equipment and staff? I think that if we empower WASA with the appropriate resources; the required equipment and the necessary skill base, this would improve a system already in place and actualize the expectations and fulfil the promises of all the Ministers for the past eight years who spoke so highly of the potential of WASA.

Out of curiosity I need to ask as well: Did the Government do a cost benefit analysis? In other words, will it cost the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago more money to pay for water if this division takes place? Will there be two bills coming, one from WASA for water and one from SWMCOL for sewerage? We need to think about all this as we deliberate on this Motion. I will like to make some recommendations, but before doing so I will like to share with this honourable Senate, an experience I had about two years ago, when I came face to face with a situation right here in Port of Spain in the Sea Lots area where there were no bathroom and toilet facilities.

In fact, much to my chagrin and pain, I recognized that people were actually defecating in plastic bags and throwing it out in the water area. This was not in Sea Lots alone. There were some parts of the John John area here in Port of Spain where the same thing was happening. There is a term for this, I was just told. It is called "skyng". I will like each and every Senator here to have the experience of visiting these environments that we call "home". It is a sad thing to experience it just one time. I experienced it many times subsequently. I think that it will be something for us to visit. One of these days we must make a visit to the very socially depressed areas in this country and witness how people actually live every day. Seeing it one day is bad enough, witnessing what people go through every day just simply to have a bath and use the toilet facilities. I certainly implore all of us to make a special trip to those areas because we are talking 2020 vision and this is critically important.

3.30 p.m.

In any event, here are some recommendations for consideration. The most obvious, of course, is the upgrading of water services and waste water treatment and management to international standards. I would also like us to look at, besides providing state-of-the-art technical assistance to WASA, water and sewerage services that would benefit the poor. This is the bottom-up model of governing. Let us pay attention to the poor.

When you are talking about services available or opportunities in the water and sewerage industry, let us look at how it would also benefit the small businessman. I would like to see sewerage for fish farming or irrigation, livestock maintenance and trading in water and the bottled water industry. How can they economically benefit the small businessman? Likewise, there are industrial benefits of the water industry, for example, cooling machinery such as air conditioners, et cetera, can also benefit the small businessman.

Of course, even the desalinated water production is another possible business venture. All of this could be explored to the benefit of WASA and, by extension, the small businessman and the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago as a whole.

Just some information to the Government, I am not sure how or where you are with international grants; this is being directed to the Minister. I am pleased that you are here. There are many international grants available to developing countries, in terms of water development and waste water service. I would like us to look into that and, again, see how this can be to the benefit of enhancing the services and also the skills base of our staff at WASA.

Finally, I would like to see an establishment of the scientist practitioner policy makers model of governing at WASA. This is very important, because it marries science with practice. It gives respect to the university scholars and professors working closely with WASA, who would continuously assess, through research and practice, the best practices in the water and waste water treatment services.

At this point, I cannot support the separation of WASA; the dividing of WASA into two separate entities. I simply do not seem to believe that there is enough evidence to support this. I believe that the original purpose of the Water and Sewerage Authority should remain as a single entity and be accorded the economic and human resources it needs to provide the most optimal service to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Let us give our Water and Sewerage Authority all the support it requires to see an enhancement of WASA; our home-based water supplying agency.

Mr. Vice-President, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to engage in this debate yet again.

The Minister of Public Utilities (Hon. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid): Thank you very much, for the opportunity to be able to make a contribution to this Private Members ' Motion, presented to this House by Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan.

I have been paying close attention to the debate. When I was not here, I was looking at the television and I have taken the time to read the *Hansard*; some of the contributions that have been made. I want to take the opportunity to thank two Senators in particular, Sen. Prof. Deosaran and Sen. Corinne Baptiste-Mc Knight. I think both Senators demonstrated a clear and proper insight of the general issues that are associated with WASA.

Both referred to the very serious challenges that we do in fact have and have had for a very long time, decades really. We, as a country, have been struggling with achieving the kinds of targets and standards we expect in the water and waste water sector. Both called for greater efficiency and better use of the resources. Both agreed to hold their position, I think. Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight as well agreed to hold her position, I am not sure about Sen. Prof. Deosaran, until we have had an opportunity to present our case.

We have had many studies over the decades into the organization, that is the Water and Sewerage Authority. Some have described WASA as ungovernable. Some have said that, given its size and complexity, it would be very difficult to ever get that organization in a position to focus on its various tasks to allow for success in the various sectors. Some have said, given the range of disciplines within WASA, it would be a Herculean task, if at all possible, to get that organization to be successful. What I am hoping to do is give what we consider to be a very practical approach to the challenge that is the Water and Sewerage Authority; a challenge that has been with us since the establishment of the organization in 1965. I think Sen. Ali would have gone into some performance issues that really relate to the colonial powers before that.

A lot of good information has been in circulation. I would like to put together the information to allow me to present our analysis of what has happened. As we all know by now, WASA was established by Act No. 16 of 1965. It incorporated the functions and responsibilities of seven different agencies: the Central Water Distribution Authority; Port of Spain City Council; San Fernando Borough Council; Arima Borough Council; and the Water and Sanitation of the Ministry of Public Utilities. All these were associated with the production of water in some way.

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At that time, the water supply system relied on a few wells and a few reservoirs. The reservoirs at Maraval, Hollis, Navet and Hillsborough are the ones that we would remember. At the time, our total production was 47 million gallons per day. Of course, that number would tell you that we had very limited production capacity. We had a very limited transmission and redistribution system and very limited reach. We were generally confined to the urban areas and we had very limited services as a consequence of that.

I am using 1965 as our starting point. A very important number is our total production capacity. Of course, with that you can get a good sense of the kind of transmission and redistribution infrastructure that was present to support that. Ten years later, in 1975, Courland Water Works, that particular project in Tobago, added 1.5 million gallons to our production capacity. Four years later in 1979, the North Oropouche Water Works added 20 million gallons and Navet expanded to 19 million gallons per day production capacity. One year later in 1980, the Northern Range Valley Projects were completed, bringing on the system water treatment facilities at Aripo, Guanapo, Caura, Acono and Lengua. In 1981, the following year, with what is perhaps the largest water treatment facility, the Caroni Water Treatment Plant, we added 60 million gallons per day. Of course, at that time, it may have been felt that would cure a lot of our water issues. In 2002, just over 20 years, later was our next very significant addition where the desalination plant at Point Lisas added 24 million gallons per day.

Over the period, there were significant increases in the number of wells. In addition to these large projects that added significant volumes, we have increased our number of wells to just over 220. Today we have in place just over 220 wells. These wells range in their production capacity. You can have a well producing anywhere from 50,000 gallons per day to one million gallons per day. We have about three wells that are producing one million gallons per day.

We also have a number of rural intakes. Some of us would be familiar with the challenges associated with rural intakes. These are located in Santa Cruz, Cantaro, Pipiol. There are a number of them. We also have a couple of them in Cascade, St. Ann's, Las Cuevas and Blanchisseuse. These are small water production facilities that are really located on the river. We simply take water off the rivers and are able to distribute to local communities. Our pipeline infrastructures—all told, our production capacity, over the years, with these projects—are the major ones, together with the wells and the rural intakes. Today we have moved our production capacity from 47 million gallons per day to 225 million gallons per day; a significant leap.

While it is true that a lot of people complain about the quality of service of WASA, one cannot argue that some of their complaints—but WASA, in terms of water production, has seen significant strides over the years. There is a lot more to be done; we recognize that. Significant strides have been made. We have moved from 47 million gallons per day, to 225 million gallons, which is our production capacity even now.

With respect to our pipeline network, in 1965, we had 450 kilometres of pipeline, transmission and distribution. Today, we boast of approximately 6,000 kilometres of pipeline. There is a reason I am providing these statistics. I am trying to make a case that says in the water sector, while we recognize that there is a lot to be done, we must also recognize that a lot has in fact been done in the water sector in particular. I want to make a comparison with the achievements in the water sector versus the non-achievement in the waste water sector.

Today, we produce 225 million gallons per day, which is eight times the volume of water we produced in 1965. Twenty-five per cent of our population would have water 24 hours per day, seven days per week. They have a near perfect water supply. This is the portion of our population who would complain if they do not have water for 10 minutes. There are citizens in our country who experience a near perfect water supply. That is the ideal standard to which we aspire. We have approximately 30 per cent who have a water supply of five to seven days. That is a reasonable water supply, we might accept. We may also want to accept that there is another 30 per cent who have a water supply three to five days.

The real challenge is the 15 to 20 per cent that are known as class four and class five. Those citizens receive water less than three days per week and in some cases they do not have direct access to potable water. These citizens, generally speaking, exist in South Trinidad. There is a scientific reason for it. The groundwater sources in South Trinidad are extremely poor. Where there is a good water supply in the South, generally speaking, that comes from somewhere in the North. The Caroni/Arena Plant provides water to San Fernando, Chaguanas and so on. All in all, approximately 90 per cent of our population have access to potable water. There are varying degrees of acceptability, in terms of the standard from near perfect, as I have said, to what we might call reasonable and then we have others who get less than reasonable, in some cases very poor. We recognize that. That is our reality.

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Mr. Vice-President, there is still much to do. We have to improve the regularity of the supply to increase the percentage of the citizens who are getting water 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We must work very hard to eliminate that class four and class five. In fact, our primary target, as we move forward with our development programme, is to look at our citizens in those communities who get water less than three days per week. That would be given top priority. To do that, we are proposing to embark on a major infrastructure programme, which has already been outlined in the public. We might have cause to discuss some of it as we proceed. So, I am asking that we understand what has taken place in the water sector. Whilst there have been complaints, WASA did not disappoint completely in the water sector, but let us take a look at the waste water sector by comparison.

The first major sewer was built in 1861 in the Port of Spain area, and that was mentioned earlier. There was limited expansion from 1902—1936. The Lock Joint project was also mentioned where the Government laid 384 kilometres of sewer lines—the entire Lock Joint project and the construction of pumping stations, lift stations and treatment plants and so on in three areas; Port of Spain, San Fernando and Arima. Again, the emphasis is in the urban areas.

At the time, this Lock Joint project was the largest ever to be undertaken in this country. Before the Lock Joint project, we had 84 kilometres of sewer lines. So, if you add that to the 384, you can get a sense of what was done up until that point. Since then, the next most significant intervention in the waste water sector was in 1994 with the Scarborough Waste Water Treatment Plant which provided service for about 10,000 citizens. In 2004, we had the new Beetham Waste Water Treatment Plant which has the capacity and is able to serve about 150,000 citizens. Remember, I said 384 plus 84, and last year our sewer line network had a total of 600 kilometres. So, from 1962 to present, you can ask yourself: How many kilometres of pipelines have been added by WASA?

Hon. Senator: What is the point?

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: The point I am making is the imbalance in the development of both sectors. The reality is that over the years WASA has been so focused on the development of the water sector, and one can understand that, given the pressing demand for potable water. Even now the demand for potable water is pressing for WASA. It is a top priority. Water must be among the top priorities in the country and it is.

The Government has demonstrated its intention to invest in the development of the water sector. The point I am making is, over the years—understand what the realities of the 1980s were, in terms of the availability of resources and so on; and understand in those circumstances what would have been the priority. At the end of the day, in 2008, the reality in Trinidad and Tobago is that we have 6,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution water pipelines and 600 kilometres of sewer lines. So, while there have been reasonable and appreciable gains in the water sector one cannot say the same for the waste water sector. Waste water has been sorely underdeveloped within WASA. That is the reality.

Sen. Oudit: Whose fault it is?

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: I am going to tell you. If you are asking, whose fault it is, I am going to have cause to tell you. [*Interruption*] Well, do not ask anything then. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Vice-President, 30 per cent of the population has access to a central sewer system. We know that. WASA has emphasized the development of the water sector to the detriment of the waste water sector.

I think Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight mentioned earlier that only 10 per cent of the resources of WASA would have gone into waste water. A very clear and obvious comparison is to look at the number of employees. Of the 4,000 employees within WASA, only 200 are employed directly in the waste water sector, and it tells you a story about the kind of emphasis, and this is across governments. That did not happen last week or last month or within the last two years or five years, but this is across governments. That is the point Sen. Prof. Deosaran made and, I think, that is the point Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight also made. Across governments, this has been the pattern. Every government has emphasized water, and WASA itself would have emphasized the development of the water sector to the detriment of the waste water sector.

So, it is said that one definition of "madness" is that you do the same thing over and over and expect to get different results. That is one definition of madness—you do the same thing repeatedly and you expect to get different results—but that is only part of the story. That is the history. We have told the population that we are going to expand our water production capacity, and we have declared to the population that we are presently working on the construction of a number of desalination plants—the expansion of the existing plants from 24 million gallons per day to 40 million gallons per day—and that is one of our major projects, the construction of a number of new desalination plants.

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Again, what we are attempting to do with the desalination plants is to diversify our water source portfolio, because there is great value in doing that. We have groundwater and surface water sources. We have a desalination source, and if you look at the percentages that each one will contribute, we are trying to ensure—given all the issues associated with climate change and so on—that we do not find ourselves in a situation where we are overly dependent on one water source.

We are attempting to diversify our water source portfolio so that we are not vulnerable to the vagaries of any one source. The surface water and the groundwater sources are particularly vulnerable in circumstances where we have significant adjustments of rainfall patterns. That is part of the justification, but in terms of water production, we are aiming to move our water production capacity from 225 million gallons, which is what it is presently, to just over 400 million gallons per day. We are almost doubling our water production capacity.

In addition, we are also working on a new transmission system. Yes, we recognize the issue of unaccounted water. It is bad. Some of it has to do with the technology that might have been available in the earlier periods. For example, there is something called Jamaican PVC. One of the problems they had during the early parts of the 1970s when they utilized certain kinds of material in the laying of the pipes was that the glue was broken and it created leaks with the effluxion of time. So, there were issues associated with the technology that might have been available at the time, and the cost of utilizing the best technology, but the reality is that today we do have a serious problem with unaccounted for water. Our unaccounted for water is somewhere in the vicinity of 40 per cent.

With respect to international standards, we have set a target for ourselves to get to about 25 per cent. The best countries in the world—if you want to talk about Singapore and Germany, they are in the vicinity of under 10 per cent, but some of these metropolitan countries they do exist at 20 to 25 per cent. We have set a reasonable and practical target for ourselves of getting to about 25 per cent. That is what we have set for ourselves within a reasonable time frame.

A transmission system has to be designed, and we are in the process of identifying the companies that will design and undertake that work. This is a detailed design. So, we are asking WASA—remember the new transmission system has to take into account the new water sources and these new water sources will be the existing sources. We are proposing to add these new desalination plants. So, there has to be a transmission network which has been

integrated and which has taken into account the location of the desalination plants together with the new communities that are being developed as a consequence of activities, mainly of the Housing Development Corporation.

So, we have a new transmission and distribution system together with new sources of water, but nobody would like for our existing transmission system to end up like what we have now. So, we must ensure that we have the quality of the management and allow the management to be in a position to focus on its work.

We are also contemplating a new metering system and that is very high up on our agenda. It is before a sub-committee and we are working on it and progress is being made. Not too long from now we will be in a position to come to the Parliament and make a formal statement giving a detailed update as to where we are with respect to the development of those plants in the water sector.

So, there are many new responsibilities for WASA in water. The standards that we are expecting of them should be higher than the standards they have maintained over the last several decades. At the same time, waste water has to be developed. The numbers were made clear and I am not going to argue with any of the numbers. Mr. Vice-President, 30 per cent is poor, and there are serious risks associated with the underdevelopment of the waste water, and those risks have been identified, and chief among them is the return of the waste water into your water sources. We recognize that as a serious risk. We cannot continue for too long to allow the waste water sector to be underdeveloped thus leaving it behind.

As we speak, there are about 250 facilities for which WASA has been asked to take responsibility. I think Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight made reference to some of them. There are private facilities. Some private developers have established their own local waste water treatment facilities for their communities. There are a number of HDC facilities. The Land Settlement Agency has a few and the Sugar Industry Labour and Welfare Committee had one. In Tobago, hotels would have their own, because there is no central system. Again, there are risks associated with allowing that to continue for too much longer. With respect to the waste water sector, as we speak, we are in the process of undertaking a number of projects that would lead to the development of that waste water sector.

I am asking Senators to consider this responsibility of WASA, because while we have been hearing arguments that WASA has been responsible for sewerage—Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol pointed out the percentage that WASA itself has been responsible for—but it is not a majority of the number of facilities. So, there are all kinds of people out there who are, in fact, associated with waste water

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treatment. The standard at which they might be undertaking that task is a standard with which certainly there is uncertainty and doubt. When I say “doubt”, I mean we are not comfortable that the highest standards are being maintained. So, there is this new responsibility that the Sewerage Division of WASA is being asked to accept major responsibility, and we must ensure that WASA is in a position to undertake that responsibility in the best possible way.

4.00 p.m.

Right now, beyond that responsibility, a company is doing detailed designs—not conceptual designs—at a cost of \$21 million for a waste water treatment system for San Fernando. When I say detailed designs and I say \$21 million, let me just tell you what are the kinds of things we get for that \$21 million.

They would do economic and financial analysis, oceanographic studies, that is to examine the impact on the seawater, any potential or possible damage for the discharge of effluent, the tide and so on, all these things have to be measured. They would have to do analysis associated with the environmental impact assessment, all the surveys, the plant design and the design of the collection system.

What we are talking about are the pipeline, the lift station, the treatment plant, the manholes and so on. It is a detailed design that is being prepared by a consultant as we speak. San Fernando and the environs is what this particular study is addressing, and we expect that about 100,000 persons would be able to be direct beneficiaries of this San Fernando waste water treatment system.

Chaguanas as well. Chaguanas is one of the more densely, if not, the most densely populated borough. Many new communities are moving into Chaguanas. Chaguanas is also well known for a number of these private communities. We have Orchard Gardens, Homeland Gardens, and Edinburgh. There are a number of communities that have their own waste water treatment and many of them have been either abandoned, in some state of disrepair or are not operating at the standard that one would expect in a serious system. The conceptual designs have been completed and we are, at present, in the basis of that, attempting at this point to identify land for the siting of the waste water treatment plant, and we expect to award the contract for detail designs not too long from now.

There we have San Fernando, Chaguanas; designs are in the making and we have the East-West Corridor, densely populated area; these are our priority areas. Malabar was identified some years ago as being an area where it is absolutely necessary that we proceed with dispatch. There is an existing small plant in the

Malabar area and as a consequence of the size of the plant, relative to the size of the population, Malabar was deemed to be the most critical in the East-West Corridor.

What we are doing at this time, is looking towards the design of a major system for Arima and environs, including Malabar. The contract has been awarded and we expect those designs to be completed by the end of 2009. So, work is ongoing in that area as well.

In Tobago, what I mentioned earlier, in terms of the necessity to ensure that our hotels are connected to a central sewer system, the Southwest Tobago Waste Water Project is the project that we expect will be able to provide the kind of service to make sure that we are operating at acceptable standards.

The point I am making, hon. Senators, is that there is plenty of work that we have set out for waste water, and what we are attempting to do, given the history of water and waste water, given the new expansion in the water sector and the waste water sector, we felt, in our judgment, that it was prudent and it was a good decision to have the appropriate institution, infrastructure and organization that would dedicate itself, wholly and completely, to the development of the waste water sector, given a number of factors, given the history of neglect that waste water has suffered within WASA, given the new development programme, the major expansion in the water sector, contemplated and being pursued at this point in time, and given the development that we must undergo and undertake in the waste water sector.

We felt at this point in time in our development, as a country, we needed to have an organization that was dedicated to and focused on the development of the waste water sector. There have been arguments made, claims made, points made, that there is a relationship between waste water and water, and yes. Having two organizations, one organization dedicated to waste water and managing waste water, managing this new expanded infrastructure—and remember it is not only about adding infrastructure, it is about the quality of management and service that we demand consistent with developed country status—at the same time, expanding water and demanding a higher standard, a higher quality of service, we felt that it would be in our best interest to ensure that they are both organizations, dedicated to their respective tasks: one for the water sector and one for the waste water sector,

Yes, there have been arguments that there is a relationship, as I said, between water and waste water, true, but as it is now, waste water is of no use to water in Trinidad and Tobago. The waste development is so poor that it is of very little

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use and it can be of very little use to the water sector. In other words, what we are hoping to do is to allow for the development of the sector and in the future we can design and allow the waste water company, whichever company is responsible for the waste water, and I will come to the solid waste management question shortly. A relationship can be established between the two to allow for a high degree of functionality between the two.

Sen. Prof. Deosaran: Could I? I am very, very sorry to interrupt you because I am enjoying the very eloquent and enlightening contribution, given what has preceded you in this debate. Could you, Minister, clarify two important points that arose during the debate? One was what are the difficulties in restructuring WASA to accommodate sewerage treatment? I understand the emphasis on water but is there still a possibility? What are some of the difficulties? Secondly, why choose SWMCOL, which gives rise to a feeling of a lack of competence, given the kind of work that SWMCOL does.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: Sir, the first question is a trick question, in the sense that you know, as I have said earlier, government after government, decade after decade— We have a formula that was put together in 1965, and in a short while I want to come to making some comments on the quality of the construction of the Motion itself—all kinds of studies, all kinds of formula have been put forward, and in our judgment, Sir, waste water requires complete dedication, complete focus, and it must also be, Sir, manageable.

Remember, I said earlier, that some have referred in the past to WASA as being ungovernable, size, reach and so on. It is a judgment that has been exercised in terms of what will allow us to manage, to have this institution, this organization, given its task, the size of your management that would allow for an efficient management, as opposed to attempting to do something that does not allow you to manage efficiently.

I want to come to the issue of the Solid Waste Management Company. We recognize what the law says: WASA has responsibility for water and sewerage management. Nobody is saying that we are going to hand this responsibility to SWMCOL. In fact, the decision was taken some time ago and there is much work to be done in order to take ourselves to the point where anybody, other than WASA, is in a position to take responsibility for waste water. There are three main issues we have to look at. There is the issue of the legislation; the issue of human resources, and the issue of plant and equipment.

What we have done in the interim is, we have established a transition team, and that team is looking at all of the details associated with managing the separation of waste water from WASA. The amendments or change to the legislation will have to come, and that will come as it would normally do, it must come to Parliament, and we will discuss it when it comes.

The human resource issue, we have had well over 20 meetings with all of the unions, the board of WASA and the management of WASA, to ensure that no worker is disadvantaged. That is a position that we have taken, that in this entire exercise, no worker of the Water and Sewerage Authority, in the process of the transition, will be disadvantaged.

To guard against the disadvantage of any worker, we are taking all action as it relates to the separation of waste water, from WASA. We are acting in close collaboration with all three duly elected unions. There is a reason that I am underlining the duly elected unions; the recognized and duly elected unions; recognized for, as being representatives of WASA workers.

So, those discussions are ongoing; the unions are playing a major role in managing the transition and the separation of waste water. In terms of the plant and equipment, that transition team is also charged with the mandate of identifying all of the resources that now exist within WASA, that will move to the waste water sector—let me say the waste water division, for the time being, separate it out of WASA.

What we have done until now, we have separated, identified the resources, and it is still within WASA but it is separate from the water sector within WASA, and we have moved all of those resources into a building in the Chaguanas area, which is our waste water headquarters, as it were. We are attempting to build a mature waste water organization within WASA; it remains under the umbrella of WASA. In fact, Mr. Grimes has been appointed the project leader, especially and particularly responsible for overseeing the transition and all the new projects as it relates to the waste water sector.

All those projects that I have identified in San Fernando and Chaguanas, the person who is responsible for those projects, the point person, is Mr. Grimes, as project leader. So, he has been asked to dedicate himself, recognizing the underdevelopment of the waste water sector over the years, to take full responsibility for overseeing the creation of the entity that would manage waste water, and to oversee the projects that would lead to the further development of the waste water sector.

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Mr. Patrice—it is a French name, there are a number of names that look like female names; for example, Michelle is Michael and Patrice is Patrick in French—as chief operating officer, has taken responsibility for the development of the water sector. What we are essentially doing, is building a waste water company within WASA—SWMCOL now.

We would not take an important responsibility as the development of the waste water sector and put it into an organization that does not have the capacity to manage the responsibility. So, as we speak, SWMCOL has its targets in terms of its own development. We have mandated SWMCOL; you are going to be getting this responsibility at some point. There is a reason for it, because it is waste management.

We have asked Solid Waste Management Company to develop itself, to understand this is what your mandate is, and we are asking that you build your institutional capacity, so as to allow you to accept that mandate. Our intention, as we go along, is to merge a functional waste water entity, with a solid waste management company, that will itself, be functional, and that merger would take place when both entities are mature and ready to allow for a functional relationship.

4.15 p.m.

We do not propose to move a dysfunctional entity—that is waste water—as it is in the condition that it is in today into another organization that is unable to accept that challenge at this point in time. So, the issue of dropping waste water into SWMCOL does not arise. The issue of dropping waste water into an organization that is not ready to accept the responsibility does not arise. *[Interruption]* Yes, Sir, but there are stages, there is a process that is in place to allow for a constructive and a developmental process to take place that at the end of the day it is our intention to make sure that we have a functional waste water sector with its expanded mandate and a functional water company with its expanded mandate. There has been some—

Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight: I thank the hon. Minister for allowing me to clarify. Do I understand that in the terms of reference that you have given the entities involved in preparing the details of the waste water management systems is included—the aspect of returning the waste water into economic usage as opposed to pumping it into the ocean? Thank you.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: Thank you very much for that question. Very fortunately for us, our major population centres are located along the west coast.

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You have Port of Spain, Chaguanas and San Fernando. Coincidentally, fortunately, as well, our industries are also located along the very same west coast, different points, you have Point Lisas, La Brea and so on.

The 20 million gallons of water per day which will be produced out of the Beetham Waste Water Facility, the intention is that would be treated to industrial grade water for use in industry and pumped by submarine pipeline to the various industrial plants. Likewise, as we harness the waste water resource that will be produced out of Chaguanas, again, we are not quite sure as yet what the total volume will be at this point in time, but whatever it is that volume will be dedicated—

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, the speaking time of the hon. Minister has expired.

Motion made, That the hon. Minister's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes. [*Hon. C. Enill*]

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President. The waste water resource, again, from the Chaguanas Borough and environs and we are looking towards that, what that does for us. It allows us to use the other potable water, it allows it to be released for domestic use otherwise and all of those have been factored into our general development programme, but the thinking is—given our industrial development—to harness the waste water for constructive use in the industrial sector. In some parts of the world they are comfortable using it as potable but I will say that is a very hard sell in this part of the world especially in Trinidad. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Vice-President, that would give us some of the thinking that would have gone into our decision, so at the end of the day what we are aiming for, given our history, given our projections, we are aiming for a waste water institution that will be completely and wholly dedicated and focused on the development of the waste water sector. So, this point that was made by—I mean if you read the Motion, the Motion really says:

“*Whereas* the operations of the Water and Sewerage Authority are vital and indispensable to the good health and welfare of the people of Trinidad and Tobago;”

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Reasonable!

“And whereas the Water and Sewerage Authority and its functions are provided for by Parliament;

Be it resolved that the Government take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Authority remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority as provided for in law.”

Now this provision in Parliament was made in 1965. The only basis for the resolution is the fact that the law exists. It exists in law, there is no explanation, reasoning or no analysis of any reality; what this says is because it was done in 1965, they leave it so and this is what this Motion really says, you know. This Motion says, "do not change anything." Do you know why? Because Kamal says so.

When Sen. Mark spoke, Sen. Mark said Kamaluddin Mohammed said something on some day in August 1965 or something like that. So, what he is really saying is because Kamaluddin Mohammed said so in 1965, do not change anything now. There is a hypocrisy in that! There is a hypocrisy in that because there used to be something called the General Post Office which is now TTPost and that was changed in 2000. So, what are you saying? The Parliament of today cannot have a view. The Parliament of today cannot change, given 45 years of history. That because the Parliament in 1965 took a position, all of us here today comprising this Parliament cannot have a different policy, cannot have a different view. That is what this says! This says that the Water and Sewerage Authority is provided for in law so leave it so. So, what is the purpose of the Parliament?

Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol: Thank you for giving way, Minister. I just want to understand something that I am hearing here if I heard correctly. You said that WASA neglected to deliver on its mandate of providing the appropriate waste water service management and services and, as a result of this, this is one of the justifications for hiving off waste water management to SWMCOL. This is the very same argument that we have had for why there was justification for 15 private companies or agencies that were formed by this Government with respect to—
[*Interruption*] Just a second—

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: But you talked for more than an hour.

Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol: I talked for less than an hour.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: [*Inaudible*]

Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol: Could you please respond to that issue of why is it we have to keep forming new—

Mr. Vice-President: Both of you all cannot be standing.

[*Sen. Gopaul-Mc Nicol remains standing*]

Mr. Vice-President: Senator! Senator, when I am standing you cannot be standing! Okay?

Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol: [*Inaudible*]

Mr. Vice-President: Yeah, but you are taking a lot of the Minister's time.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: No, she is finished. [*Laughter*]

[*Sen. Gopaul-Mc Nicol remains standing*]

No, you are finished; you are finished. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Vice-President, I spent 45 minutes explaining the rationale for the separation of the waste water, I want to spend at least four or five minutes explaining the nonsense that this Senator spoke.

Sen. Dr. Nanan: Before you go there—

Mr. Vice-President: Only if he is giving way.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: No, I am saying I am not giving way. [*Interruption*]
No, every time you stand up I give way.

Sen. Dr. Gopaul-Mc Nicol: Will you give way?

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: No. [*Laughter and crosstalk*]

You know, the question on moral authority always comes up, but this Motion has to be the laziest Motion that you could ever construct. All the Motion says is that because that is what it was in 1965, because Kamaluddin Mohammed said so in 1965, who are we today to propose a change. I am suggesting that we have had 45 years of reality—I am less concerned about what the WHO had to say in 1965; I am more concerned with our reality over the last 45 years, and that reality is what we have analyzed, we have understood our reality and we are responding to certain realities as they exist.

Sen. Dr. Kernahan: That is stupidity! It makes no sense what you said there.

Sen. Dr. Saith: Even COP fighting for UNC.

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: Yeah. [Laughter] Mr. Vice-President, we also know that thousands of amendments have been made over the years. The role of Parliament is on an ongoing basis to review what has been done and to correct itself where necessary. To change law and to make law. This is the role of the Parliament. So, to simply say that this is how it has been and that is how we ought to continue is not something that I think really represents our highest intellectual capacities.

I did think that, as I have said before, the Independent Senators in particular would have made some very valuable contributions. I think Sen. Baptiste-Mc Knight made reference to the possibility of some independent company and so on. We are moving, as we said, to ensure that the kind of emphasis and dedication is in fact relevant to our realities today and we are working diligently as we speak to making sure that all of the decisions that are necessary and all the work that is necessary to making this decision a success—we feel very comfortable that in terms of our development as we go forward that we will see and get the kinds of results. There are a number of variables that are important. We need as a Government to ensure that we make the investment in the infrastructure. That is absolutely necessary. There has to be a government commitment and a government preparedness to invest the capital resources necessary.

But we must also ensure that as we invest we have the right kind of management, the right management structure and the right management in terms of personnel to undertake the task, otherwise we may find ourselves putting resources into an organization and the organization itself does not have the capacity, the capability or the structure to give us the kinds of results that we would like to have. We think that the decision that we have taken to separate waste water is a good decision and we think it would allow the waste water sector to do some of the catching up that it needs to do and it will also allow us to expand and develop the water sector to the satisfaction of the population and we also would like to renew our commitment to our population, to offer to our population the best quality service—

Sen. Dr. Nanan: Mr. Vice-President, on a point of order.

Mr. Vice-President: What is the point of order?

Sen. Dr. Nanan: Standing Order 34(b), I want to hear clarification on that matter. [Crosstalk]

Mr. Vice-President: Well, the Senator is willing to give way. Right! Minister are you willing to give way?

Hon. M. Abdul-Hamid: Mr. Vice-President, thank you very much. I wish to conclude my contribution at this time. Thank you very much for the opportunity to come to this honourable Senate and to make this contribution. I am hopeful that the words that I have said would at least be able—some of our hon. Senators, I did hear Sen. Prof. Deosaran when he spoke say he would like to hear our arguments. I am hopeful that I have been able to present the arguments in a coherent and reasonable way and I am hopeful that I would have been able to provide some explanation as to what the Government's thinking was in this particular matter.

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators it is now 4.29 p.m., we will take the tea break now. This Senate is now suspended until 5 o'clock.

4.29 p.m.: *Sitting suspended.*

5.00 p.m.: *Sitting resumed.*

Sen. Lennox Smith: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President. I rise at this time to support and make a contribution to this Motion that is currently being debated. You would have to forgive me if I was standing a bit slowly, because I have spent many years in the public gallery and the rules of the Senate are that you remain silent. So now that I am in a position to speak, I had the tendency to still remain silent, so you would forgive me. [*Desk thumping*] In addition to which, I would like to thank God for being here if you would allow me and to thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition for appointing me, and of course, to thank the hon. Members for the warm welcome that they had given me so far. [*Desk thumping*]

The Motion before the Senate today is laid by my distinguished colleague, Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan, and speaks to the need not to separate WASA, or not to separate WASA in the context of its water functioning and distinguishing it from the sewerage authority, or its sewerage function or waste water function. I was minded firstly to do a roundabout, to argue on the side of those who may wish for the separation and not keep it together. Having heard the hon. Minister, I find it necessary not do the roundabout route, but to take a direct approach in terms of supporting this Motion because I sincerely believe that his argument really in large measure, has in fact supported this Motion. [*Desk thumping*]

I say so from the point of view when he said, "that at the present time there is a section of WASA that is occupying premises in Chaguanas." Firstly, that is what he said. He also said that the rationale, the mandate for that section of WASA—I

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think that was one of the terms, section—would be to oversee the existing situation with respect to waste management and all the appendages that go with it. And more significantly, that Mr. Grimes is responsible for overseeing that, and therefore, attempted to suggest that it was a sort of transitional arrangement, but still in a very square sense contradicting, by saying that it will eventually be turned over really or handed over to SWMCOL. However, SWMCOL must now be upgraded to receive this new entity, and from that you have a new entity.

I find it unnecessary to talk about separation in that context, given that no mention was made of the fact that there was a need, and in fact support the arguments that there is no need really for separation. Because here it is, you have an entity that is responsible as was said in this Senate, to oversee waste water management in this country, and therefore, it is a part of WASA. I cannot see the linkage in terms of the need for having a separate and distinct entity with respect to that.

With respect to the argument that is laid in terms of making the analogy between PowerGen and electricity generation, with respect to the arrangement with T&TEC and PowerGen, my view is that that is chalk and cheese really. Because with respect to the PowerGen/T&TEC arrangement, there is in my view a sort of continuum, that is to say, one generates, one distributes. If you had told me, for example, that you are doing that with respect to WASA, I would have expected that you would have said that WASA wins water and somebody else distributes. You are not saying that. You are saying that you have gone to a totally different tangent, and meaning that you are talking about the waste management aspect if it, take that out and let that be separate and apart from everything else with respect to WASA as an independent entity.

As I have said earlier on, my position is and what I have understood from what has been said here from an authoritative figure, is that there is really no need for that separation. What you probably need is exactly what they are doing. Mr. Grimes has his team; they are in a separate building; they are looking at the whole issue; you fund them; you give them the management skills; you give them the technical requirements and, of course, it is operating under WASA. So therefore, there is no need for legislative and other amendments that I am sure will have to come in order to separate, if that is the intention of the administration.

Indeed, when one looks—and I am speaking from my own experience—WASA focuses on water and from what I have heard here, it looks as though St. Babb's and parts of Gonzales and so on, are living in the South or are in south Trinidad. [*Desk thumping*] Because I am familiar and I say so with authority, that

you have many places in the hills and so on, that get less than three days supply of water. I think that statement is a bit erroneous in terms of it is mainly in south, but we have that in the North as well. In addition to which, I am of the view that when one does something over and over and expects a different result, one is not a madman, one is a fool. Do it over and over and you expect to get a different result, then you are a fool, not a madman.

I say so from the point of view, that here it is we have had almost similar—and I will use those analogies with respect to CNMG, with respect to Caribbean Airlines and so on, where you are doing the same thing over, changing companies, configuring different companies, creating new entities and so on, but getting the same results. [*Desk thumping*] It is not history really, that TIDCO was once responsible for pitching roads—dealing with roads—and in the wisdom of this administration, they thought it fit to form a company separate and apart from that in order to pave roads and so on—a road paving company, I believe it is—and we have had nothing different in terms of our road infrastructure. I say so in the context really of Laventille in particular, and those areas in north Trinidad where I traverse almost on a daily basis and have a lot of problems in traversing these places because of the potholes and so on, and so on, and so on.

Yes, as was the case with respect to when the Ministry of Works and Transport was responsible for it, you have the same problems as you had then, so therefore, there is no change. Therefore, to say that because you would have changed the entity itself, that you would have more performance and so on, I think you are living in a fool's paradise. [*Desk thumping*]

With respect to WASA, there are cogent and demonstrable examples to show, Mr. Vice-President, where this thing—I do not want to be too pessimistic, but, of course, from where I stand, I believe that it will not work. Simply because, when you look at WASA, for example—and it may be a reverse irony really from the statement that I am going to make now—is responsible for the distribution of water and so on, and when they had to do some repairs with respect to the roads, it was the norm for the roads to remain in a state of disrepair and they leave and go and some months afterwards, some other entity comes and fix the road.

The reverse irony I am speaking about now, is that it appears now that they have developed a different policy, that is to say, they repair the roads when they would have left. But the roads still remain in a state of disrepair because that is not their expertise and, therefore, it makes the point—I am making the point—that if you take waste management and that part of WASA and hand it to an institution

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that is not prepared or does not have the expertise in that area, in this case Solid Waste, clearly what you would do is that you would experience exactly what WASA has. That is to say, WASA expertise is in water generation and, of course, dealing with waste water management. Therefore, you must now treat it in that concept, because there would have been years of experience since 1965. That is history to me and I am very grateful for the edification that was displayed earlier. But clearly, if you would have done that, you would have seen that that would not work. You would have seen that from experience.

So you make WASA more efficient by saying, "Okay, we are vex that you are digging up the roads and that you are not repairing it." You are giving them the capacity to repair it, but they are doing an awful job of it. So it means therefore, if you are to take a part of WASA and put in another entity, you will have the same problem. That is to say, WASA or the entity may have to go to each other in order to maybe create links and so on, in order to create or to distribute to the population the services for which they were created and designed, and that is where the misnomer is. I am simply putting that from the perspective of one who has been engaged for many years, particularly in underprivileged committees and to say, and to emphasize, that given the track record of these kinds of arrangements, they simply do not work.

I have mentioned Caribbean Airlines, CMNG that they are operating at huge losses to the taxpayers, and yet still they were entities before that, TTT, BWIA and so on, and therefore, I do not expect anything else. Therefore, that is why I said that doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result, the person or persons or institution are fools. They are not mad. Therefore, we must now think sensibly; look at WASA in its entirety; look at what is required in terms of personnel; look at examples of good practices in terms of water winning and distribution, and in this case the arrangement is, do not separate the waste management aspect of it; and look at the argument made by Sen. Ali. He talked about Singapore and the holistic approach. I would want to advance that argument, and therefore, to look at the Singapore model, as he had indicated and see whether or not we can have a synergy.

5.15 p.m.

To talk about having two separate entities, and we were told that after we separate them there will now be a linkage coming together—I mean, come on; these are some of the things I would be very concerned about. [*Desk thumping*] How can that better deliver waste water management services to Trinidad and Tobago? How can it be done?

The argument that the Water and Sewerage Authority has been good at water winning and distribution, clearly, again, has been shut down by the very argument itself, when you look at the element and the content of it; that is to say, they are not so good, but they are getting there; because 10 per cent of its budget was dedicated to waste water management, there is an argument for the separation and, therefore, a new entity, in order to deal with that, and then talk about Vision 2020 and First World status.

I am saying, with the greatest of respect and deference for those who are on the side of splitting and making two entities, that you revisit it, and that the expertise which has been developed within WASA over the years, small as that aspect of WASA's operations may be, you look at what is there, augment it and look at best practices in the system. We have a lot of expertise here that have delivered arguments with respect to that. I am no expert at that, but, certainly, I am an expert in terms of shoddy and incompetent delivery. [*Desk thumping*] That is what we have been getting, in spite of all the talks about specializing agencies in order to treat with the country's needs and the services that rightly the State must provide, because we have given them that authority so to do by various constitutional mechanisms.

It is against that background, Mr. Vice-President, I have grave difficulty in supporting the arguments on the other side. In other words, I will support this Motion. I commend the Motion to the other side as well, so that they look at it, if the intention is to do otherwise, and see the merits in it.

Incidentally, I noticed that as part of their upgrading of the water supply and distribution of Trinidad and Tobago, they looked at an important part of it, the establishment or the construction of water desalination plants. As you know, that is a creature of the UNC, [*Desk thumping*] and more than that, it was criticized by that very administration, only to see, I understand, that they are not doing only one, but I think two or three and it may be four; and, who knows, it may be five.

The thing about it is that one does not take gratification for that on this side; we will simply say that you look at what you have. In the context of the argument that is being placed before us through this Motion, it is clear that it is not about somebody said something, sometime ago and, therefore, it must not change; that is superfluous; it is irrelevant, as far as I am concerned. The argument must be whether or not we can deliver an effective, efficient waste water management system to Trinidad and Tobago and, by extension, of course, water, in a manner and within a structure that would ensure it materializes. That is all the argument. Given the difficulties we have had over the years with respect to enterprises, and

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even in the normal public service sector we have had difficulty in delivery, I cannot see that separating both functions would deliver the kind of service to the national community, as the argument is before me. I cannot see it.

Therefore, I must support this Motion, not because I am on this side, but simply because it is common sense and logical and it is necessary. [*Desk thumping*]

With that, Mr. Vice-President, I thank you for the opportunity to make this intervention on this Motion.

Mr. Vice-President: Let me just take the opportunity to congratulate the Senator on his maiden speech.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn to Tuesday, June 02, at 1.30 p.m., where we will continue debate on the Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on May 05, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (Amdt.) Bill. Thereafter, we will continue with an Act to amend the Integrity in Public Life Act, Chap. 22:01.

Mr. Vice-President: Hon. Senators, leave has been granted for a matter to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment by Sen. Merhair.

Fifth Summit of the Americas (Government's Failure to Involve Population)

Sen. Gail Merhair: Mr. Vice-President, I thank you for granting me leave to raise such an important issue as a matter on the adjournment. My Motion is the failure of the Government to involve the general population of Trinidad and Tobago in the recent Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Before I go further, I refer to an article published in the *Newsday* on April 21, 2009, entitled: "What a Summit!" I quote:

"So from the mouths of three regional leaders came the affirmation that Trinidad and Tobago had indeed made its mark in the affairs of the hemisphere, especially in being the place that largely saw the healing of tensions over Cuba. Of course there were issues surrounding the hosting of the Summit, such as what the cost was and whether it will be recouped in benefits down the road for Trinidad and Tobago. Was the population sufficiently engaged, and were protestors allowed adequate space to make

their voices heard? Had the Government spruced up Trinidad for the visitors but ignored pleas from local people to do the same? The debate will rage on about these questions."

I also make reference to a comment published in the newspaper by the Managing Director of Scotia Bank, Mr. Richard Young, a prominent banker in Trinidad and Tobago, in which he found that the business forum brought no relevance to the process.

Mr. Vice-President, the point of the matter is that it is perceived by the people of Trinidad and Tobago that the engagement process leading up to the Fifth Summit of the Americas was not properly done, in the fact that many persons found themselves in a position of not even knowing what the Summit was all about. I do know that several advertisements and public relations campaigns were done prior to the Summit, but I felt that the general consensus was that people from all segments of the society were totally unaware as to what were the benefits, if any, or how they could have contributed.

There was a general perception by many persons in the public domain, and I want to reiterate that it was a public perception, that it was mainly persons who belonged to the PNM party and that the officials were allowed to participate as staffers and volunteers. If you did a survey of the brightest and the best persons of Trinidad and Tobago, across the board, you would realize that quite a number of them were not involved in the process of planning such an elaborate event, in which I take pride in saying that all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago should have been included.

When we looked at events management and events coordination, in various areas, even with the accreditation, which I will deal with at another point in time as that is another matter, a lot of areas saw deficiencies and problems encountered. When you look at the overall happenings, I dare say and I must add that some of the brightest and best persons in Trinidad and Tobago were not involved in this process.

I know that it was everybody's democratic right to participate in the Summit, and I do not blame any particular party for involving their supporters in such a magnitude of collaboration of efforts, however the perception was, in fact, maintained in the wider society.

I know that in the formulation of the Declaration of Port of Spain, and it has been argued, that several forums in terms of the private sector forum, the civil society and the youth forum took place generally within the time of the Summit,

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however, most of the comments coming out from the delegates who attended were that the Declaration was already done. We would have thought that if the people of Trinidad and Tobago were to engage in that type of activity, it would have been done months before, perhaps in a people's symposium of the Summit of the Americas, instead of trying to do everything altogether, at the same time, where people's voices, after they concluded their deliberations at the Summit, a day or two before, were not included in the Declaration, because it was, in fact, done months before.

I think that was mostly the consensus in terms of the business sector forum, the civil society forum and the youth forum. We would have expected a larger involvement of these groups in the Declaration that was prepared months before. I would have liked to see persons included months before. When the hon. Senator responds he might very well tell me that this is the norm in other parts of the world, but not necessarily because it is the norm in other parts of the world we should not include our people, especially when it is the taxpayers' dollars that fund such an elaborate exercise.

I was a bit concerned that persons in the Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs movement and other interest groups that tried to conduct peaceful and lawful demonstrations throughout the streets of Port of Spain, away from the security zone, were not allowed to do so. We even saw the arrest of one Michael Parris in Couva on April 17 for putting up posters on utilities poles advertising "Drummit-to-the-Summit".

I agree it is against the law to put up posters on electricity poles, I understand that; but the point remains that Mr. Parris spent a night in jail and was eventually released on \$100,000 bail, which was eventually thrown out. The point of the matter is, if this gentleman was allowed to air his view in a proper manner, he might not have had to resort to posting up signs on electricity poles. Of course it did not stop there. We saw at the amphitheatre in St. James, the "Drummit 2 Summit", formed by a grassroots group to protest energy insecurity, anti-sustainable development and pauperism in Trinidad and Tobago, that at about 3.30 p.m. they were shut down by the St. James police with the threat of mass arrest.

I might add that permission was granted by the persons who ran the amphitheatre for such an exercise to take place; however, at about 4.25 p.m. riot police moved in and a bunch of drummers in a circle began singing, dancing and clapping. Of course, there was much television and media coverage of the entire event, which, I might add, did not augur well for the democratic process of

Trinidad and Tobago. In the end, the official finally decided to revoke the permit, after being coerced by the police to do so, and then at about 5.10 p.m. a senior superintendent decided that they should leave the premises until the 6.00 p.m. time when they would be allowed to do so.

5.30 p.m.

As we continued, we saw the Guard and Emergency Branch and a Riot Squad surround a small contingent of FITUN while they were picketing the Cipriani Statue, we also saw that there were two Members of Parliament of the United National Congress who tried to hold a meeting outside the Brian Lara Stadium, who were under heavy surveillance, and some said intimidation by the protective services.

Mr. Vice-President, this is a democracy and we would like to see democracy at its finest. This is what Trinidad and Tobago is all about; this is what democracy is all about. At other Summits of the Americas held in other parts of the region, citizens were allowed to fully express themselves, and although I fully understand and appreciate the security measures that took place, I would also like to add that our protective services did an excellent job and should be complimented and they were, more or less, taking instructions.

Might I just interject here that if you can do such an excellent job for a summit, you know sometimes, you may have to add these skills to what is happening to the other times in Trinidad and Tobago when we have a crisis taking place where we feel that we are under siege by the criminal elements. So perhaps some of these similar things that were implemented could probably take pattern and we would in fact see a full appreciation of dealing with the criminal elements. That was just to deviate a little bit.

I would also like to mention that it was our taxpayers' dollars that were being spent and we have a right to shape and define the processes that take place and, as a result, I think Trinidad and Tobago's citizens should have been more involved in the summit.

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-President.

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Mariano Browne): Mr. Vice-President, I am given the responsibility today as Chairman of the Organizing Committee to respond to this Motion on the Adjournment. It would appear that our PR may have fallen down a bit in as much as Sen. Merhair does not seem to understand as much of the process as she should.

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The mandate for hosting the Fifth Summit of the Americas was won approximately three years before its hosting shortly after the Fourth Summit of the Americas which was in fact, attended by a fair amount of discord even if discussed in the fashion of a democratic right to protest, alternatively, it could also be viewed as an attempt by the hosting country to sabotage its own summit in pursuance of a wider political North/South agenda.

With respect to the hosting of the Summit I would like to say that the net for organizing it was actually cast very far and wide and several efforts were made to incorporate the general public, and I shall give and demonstrate the examples. Suffice it to say, the summit in itself had a massive private sector input, if only because the 12 subsector organizing committees were all headed by private sector personnel to make it come to pass, a fact which seems to have gone unnoticed. Perhaps we should ensure that Sen. Merhair is part of the organizing committee for the next programme.

In fact, those committees consisted of approximately 10 to 12 persons per committee and they covered a wide segment of the business sector to give us the best advice, as well as to scope, and if you want, to do a review of all the various risks that we would have. It encompassed security which, of course, would have had the protective services; it encompassed health, coordination, logistics in infrastructure, public utilities, accommodation, accreditation, a wide range of areas. The idea was to ensure as far as possible that we encouraged a sufficiently wide net to bring the people of Trinidad and Tobago into organizing.

Of course, when you have a summit of this nature, not everybody can be involved in the organization, so you have to select and the person on the left of you, Sen. Mehair, would have been Chairman of the Transport Committee. [*Crosstalk*] No disrespect to the hon. Senator, but I do think he is one of our brighter people.

Also, not only did we have the committees, but as far as possible we attempted to have a wide outreach programme by way of an engagement with the various population centres that would have been affected by the various security arrangements. And this was to ensure that we not only publicized the arrangements, but also to engage the population on a one-on-one and giving them the opportunity for discourse, to encourage debate on a number of other areas.

Also, as part of the outreach programme, we held, as far as possible, a wide range of discussion formats and areas to encourage people to give vent to and explain the process which was a very thorough and engaging one.

So that in large measure, there was an outreach programme to reach the public of Trinidad and Tobago and explain to them exactly what was taking place, how it would take place and how they would be affected. It cost us a considerable amount of money which, of course, is part of the expenditure to be undertaken to have those public meetings to allow people to ask questions and by the same token to ask for explanations in terms of the security measures, how they would be affected and exactly what took place.

Also, I would think that all the various Ministers concerned were involved in a sense in both television as well as radio debates to engage the public and let them know beforehand exactly what the summit was about, what took place and what would be taking place.

The difficulty with specifically involving people in the details and actually on the day of the summit—this was a meeting of Heads of Governments, that is the reality, Heads of Governments in fact, who themselves were constrained in the number of people that they were allowed in a plenary session which consisted of each Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and such Ministers or advisors that he would require to be brought to the meeting, up to a total number of four persons. So at any one stage, the only people who would have been involved in the plenary session were the Heads of Governments and four others, so that is 34 multiplied by four that would have been allowed in addition to the Heads of the various multilateral institutions at any point in time. That would be the UN, the various investment banks; the IDB, the World Bank, CDB and so forth and they were allowed in the room with the Head of that particular organization and one supporter. So at the maximum point in time the total involvement in the discussions would have been no more than 150 persons at any point in time. You would have outside of that translators as well as support staff, people who are rapporteurs and those keeping record of minutes and so forth.

So it is not a particularly big event in terms of participation but it is very much of the democratic process insofar as it allows people to engage in free and fair discussion amongst countries, and given the fact that there were 34 countries, there were also specific time limits which were involved in terms of how long any particular Head of Government could speak, although we did have some examples of some Heads of Government exceeding their time limits.

You would have noticed that President Obama kept well within his time frame in terms of his speech and discussions at the Summit, whereas on the other hand, you had the example of Mr. Ortega making the point that he was entitled to speak for 45 minutes.

Hon. Senator: President Ortega.

Sen. The Hon. M. Browne: President Ortega. Thank you. Comrade President. So that it was a particularly tight event.

The comment with regard to the Declaration; the Declaration is a document negotiated between countries so there is a very strong negotiating element in terms of what is going to be declared. First of all, you have to negotiate on the theme, in terms of how it is going to be couched, what is going to be actually discussed, the parameters of those discussions. That process actually took months working with the various technicians and it was finalized only two weeks in advance. In many instances, the declarations were not decided until the post-meeting; they were still negotiating while they were talking. In this particular case we were actually two weeks ahead of schedule. The actual Declaration had been negotiated and agreed and every word in that Declaration had been agreed to by the various countries and their technical delegations that were part and parcel of that process.

The actual details of the negotiations; it is very difficult to involve a population in that exercise and one of the other things that needs to be remembered, it is very difficult to involve a population, for example, in the meeting of a Heads of Government. This is not a state visit, a state visit is more a relaxed affair which allows a Head of State to visit the country and actually to meet and engage with people in that process.

In this case we would have Heads of Governments who are coming in literally within a six-hour time frame; in one instance, 45 minutes before the actual Summit began and two who arrived late, actually they missed the opening, one arrived I think as late as midnight. The President of Ecuador arrived very late and one other person arrived late. So it is very difficult to have an engagement or a rapport session where the Heads would actually meet with people of your country in a wide-ranging session.

They were coming in for a very short time frame prior to the Summit opening which means they are arriving just hours before to get to the session and coordinate their delegations, and then you have an opening ceremony which lasts approximately two to three hours. We did our best in the circumstances to televise that ceremony and I understand as well, that one of the reasons why people would have felt that they could have had a better engagement would have been the presence of President Barack Obama who has made a huge impression on our public and it was the general feeling that everybody would have liked to meet him and see him.

I can say to you that we certainly did try to arrange a public event which would have allowed President Obama to actually make a presentation to the public of Trinidad and Tobago. Unfortunately, that could not happen and the security services had other things in mind and by the same token, President Obama also had a pretty hefty schedule. So at 1 o'clock on Sunday he left. The reality is that we were not able to arrange it. It was not that we did not try, ask or negotiate. It was not possible. If you look at his agenda prior to the Summit, he was in Turkey; he was in Iraq, Afghanistan, he was in the Group 20 Summit; and he was in Mexico immediately before he came here and literally, as he landed in Washington, I think the following day there were pictures of him in a public meeting. So he had a rigid agenda and we had certain constraints in terms of what we could do and negotiate and we did the best in terms of our circumstances.

It would have been good if we could have been able to meet—and everybody stood at the door waiting for him. They saw him coming on television and everybody stood at the door and expected to see him. All the other Heads of Governments passed through the front door, where did the security service pass him through? The service entrance. That is the reality, that is the circumstance under which we were operating.

We were required to provide security up to a particular level, but at the end of the day, the Secret Service actually controlled Mr. Obama's movements. That is the reality. In terms of the engagement process with the public, as far as possible, all the public events leading up to the Fifth Summit, the opening ceremony and the cocktail parties, we made as wide an invitation list as possible, and I think in every opening session we had approximately 1,000 persons where we should have had much less. The civil society, the youth forum had an attendance of just under 400 persons for both of them as the business forum. It is not well-known but certainly it is true, and you can correct me if I am wrong, that certainly the Worker Summit is also treated as an extension of the Fifth Summit and it was also marked by the presence of the hon. Minister of Labour as was the Secretary of Labour on the American side who also participated and attended that particular Summit.

5.45 p.m.

So as far as possible, efforts were made to involve the public to bring them in; there was an outreach programme to try to educate the public in terms of what was required and certainly to keep the public in touch with the security arrangements and so on. I must add that the security arrangements, literally Trinidad was visited on at least three or four occasions by the security delegations

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from each country that visited Trinidad and Tobago, because no Head of State would have come to Trinidad and Tobago until their security detail signed off on the security arrangements.

So the security arrangements were not things that we just simply invented, but they were arrangements which we have come to in relation to the secret services of the various countries which were attending. We were responsible for the safety and well-being of the Heads of Governments and it would be an international incident of no little magnitude if anything had happened untoward at this Summit.

Whilst we saw—I guess you could call it expressions of democracy at the Group of 20 meeting the week or two before, I am not certain if that would be an expression of democracy or an expression of mayhem in terms of the destruction of property, because it had no influence on the discussions or the debates. And certainly, with regard to our security arrangements, the law allows for public demonstrations and there is a methodology to deal with that and I certainly think that those who were requiring demonstrations did attempt to have them and they were refused by the security services for reasons of risk. I might add after the fact, that there was clear evidence of persons trying to get into Trinidad and Tobago to stir the pot up.

Having regard to all the circumstances, we did the best that we could and we gave the Trinidad and Tobago public a view, if only by television, to involve them in all the activities that we did have and there was also the people's space at the Savannah and also a cultural summit which was an attempt also to bring the people of Trinidad and Tobago into the Summit directly.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. [*Desk thumping*]

Indian Arrival Day
(Best Wishes)

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): Mr. Vice-President, on behalf of this side we would wish to extend to the national community our best wishes on the celebration of Indian Arrival Day which takes place before our next session. We would want to associate ourselves with the seriousness in which the celebration would be observed and we would want to extend the very best wishes to members of the East Indian community who will be engaged in this particular activity. [*Desk thumping*]

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Sen. Dr. Adesh Nanan: Mr. Vice-President, I join with my colleague, Sen. Enill, with respect to his wishes and I also want to wish all my colleagues and, by extension the national community, a safe and enjoyable Indian Arrival Day.

Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran: Mr. Vice-President, this is a—I hope I am not wrong—an unprecedented occasion where we extend greetings on Indian Arrival Day. That shows you the recognition and the mutual respect which have become attached to that particular occasion. On behalf of the Independent Bench—I believe all of them will be involved in some way or the other in either sharing in, if not the festivities, but in the delicacies, I hope. So on behalf of the Independent Bench, I wish also to extend our best wishes and let the celebration also reflect the ideals of nationhood: peace, harmony and justice.

Mr. Vice-President: I thank you. I would also like to extend best wishes—and I would take it a step further—to the entire Trinidad and Tobago on “Arrival Day” because I believe we all arrived. So I would just like to say that it is a serious day, as Minister Enill said, and we should all look to celebrate it in some form or fashion.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

High Court and Court of Appeal (Backlog of Outstanding Cases)

35. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Attorney General advise the Senate of:

- A. the number of outstanding judgments pending in the High Court and Court of Appeal since the date of trial or hearing of the appeal?
- B. what steps, if any, are being taken by the Chief Justice to deal with the backlog of outstanding cases?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Brigid Annisette-George):

- A. 1. The number of outstanding judgments before the High Court as at 28th February, 2009 is 87.
2. The number of outstanding judgments before the Court of Appeal as at 6th April, 2009 is 18.

- B. The following measures have been adopted:
1. The recruitment of temporary judges who were specifically assigned the responsibility of hearing and determining the backlog of civil cases under the old Rules of the Supreme Court. In this regard, the number of matters that were awaiting trial as at 16th September, 2005 that have been determined as at 30th March 2009 amounts to 3,983.
 2. The continued introduction and use of case flow management systems supported by information and communications technology initiatives.
 3. The introduction of an Audio Digital Court Recording system that eliminated the need to record or transcribe the notes of court proceedings in longhand.
 4. The upgrade of the Judiciary's case management information software to render it more efficient by placing more information at the disposal of the judges allowing them to better coordinate the progress of cases throughout the system.
 5. The advancement of the process of alternative dispute resolution to encourage the earlier disposition of cases, particularly in the civil and matrimonial matters.
 6. The introduction of modern technology in the other court registries to streamline procedures and processes to render them more efficient.
 7. The introduction of modern records management solutions to ensure that complete and accurate records could be before the courts at all times to facilitate informed decision making.

**Court of Appeal
(Number of Decisions Upheld)**

37. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Attorney General state the number of decisions of the Court of Appeal during the past five years which have been upheld and the number which were overturned by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Attorney General (Sen. The Hon. Brigid Annisette-George): The answer is as follows:

In 2004, 7 appeals to the Privy Council were dismissed, 5 appeals were allowed and 2 appeals were partly allowed.

In 2005, 8 appeals to the Privy Council were dismissed, 8 appeals were allowed and 1 appeal was partly allowed.

In 2006, 4 appeals to the Privy Council were dismissed, 4 appeals were allowed and 1 appeal was partly allowed.

In 2007, 2 appeals to the Privy Council were dismissed, 4 appeals were allowed and 1 appeal was partly allowed.

In 2008, 5 appeals to the Privy Council were dismissed, 6 appeals were allowed and 1 appeal was partly allowed.

In 2009, (the information received covers the year up to March 16,) 1 appeal to the Privy Council was dismissed, 2 appeals were allowed and no appeals were partly allowed.

It should also be noted that an examination of the Privy Council's website will confirm that the Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal ranks quite well, in terms of the confirmation of its decisions by the Privy Council when compared with other jurisdictions.

**National Petroleum Company
(Details of Gasoline and Diesel Oil)**

66. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries advise the Senate of:

- (a) the total volume and value of gasoline and diesel oil sold by the National Petroleum Company on the domestic market for the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009; and
- (b) the volume and value of the same products that were exported?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): The answer is as follows:

- (a) Domestic Market—Gasoline

The total volume of gasoline sold by the National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited (NPMC) on the domestic market for the

period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 was approximately 1,277 million litres. The value of the gasoline was approximately TT \$2,990 million.

Domestic Market—Diesel

The total volume of diesel sold by the National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited (NPMC) on the domestic market for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 was approximately 990 million litres. The value of the diesel was approximately TT \$1,660 million.

(b) Export—Gasoline

The total volume of gasoline exported for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 was approximately 2,255 million litres. The corresponding value of the gasoline was approximately TT \$8,279 million.

Export—Diesel

The total volume of diesel exported for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 was approximately 3,251 million litres. The value of the exported diesel was approximately TT \$12,477 million.

Production of Crude Oil

(Details of)

67. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

With respect to the production of crude oil under the Farm and Lease Operatorship, could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate of:

- (a) the quantum and value of crude produced for the years 2004 to 2008;
- (b) the number of leases and oil wells farmed out during the same period;
- (c) the average production per well; and
- (d) the names of the companies to whom the crude produced under this agreement is sold?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): The answer is as follows:

- (a) The quantum of crude oil produced by Farmout and Lease Operators for the years 2004 to 2008 is as follows:

| YEAR | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Lease Operators (Bbls) | 1500,867 | 1513,087 | 1706,967 | 1702,595 | 1796,418 |
| Farmout Operators (Bbls) | 408,535 | 364,524 | 323,355 | 409,185 | 438,176 |
| TOTAL OIL PROD/ BBLs | 1909,402 | 1877,611 | 2030,322 | 2111,780 | 2234,594 |
| TOTAL OIL PROD/ BOPD | 5,217 | 5,144 | 5,563 | 5,786 | 6,105 |

- (c) The lease operatorship blocks, farmout blocks and wells for the period 2004 to 2008 amounted to the following:

| OPERATOR TYPE | BLOCKS | WELLS |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| Lease | 25 | 2,799 |
| Farmout | 11 | 680 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 3,479 |

- (d) The average production per active well ranged between 4—5 bopd during the review period 2004—2008.
- (e) Crude oil produced by the Lease and Farmout Operators programme is sold to Petrotrin.

**BPTT
(Details of Revenue)**

69. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries provide the Senate with an up-to-date account of the total revenue received and actual royalty paid by BPTT to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill):

The total revenue provided by BPTT to the Government over the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 amounted to TT \$21.4 billion of which petroleum taxes amounted to TT \$20.4 billion and royalty amounted to TT \$1.0 billion.

Details of Taxes

70. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate of the amount of royalties and other petroleum taxes inclusive of corporation taxes paid by British Gas, BHP Billiton, EOS Resources (Trinidad Limited), Repsol, Petro-Canada, Canada Superior among others for the period January 01, 2007—March 31, 2009?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill):

The total revenue received from the Petroleum Companies over the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009 amounted to TT \$48.15 billion of which petroleum taxes amounted to TT \$44.8 billion and royalty amounted to TT\$ 3.35 billion.

Local and Foreign Wells

(Details of)

72. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

With respect to explorations and/or drilling of new wells by various Oil companies, both local and foreign, during the period January 01, 2004 to December 31, 2008, could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate:

- (a) how many wells have been drilled annually;
- (b) the depths of these drillings;
- (c) the estimated cost of explorations or wells drilled;
- (d) the result of the efforts of these explorations or wells drilled; and
- (e) what are the various incentives provided by the Government to the oil companies for the drilling of exploratory wells?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Conrad Enill): The answer is as follows:

(a) Wells Drilled During 2004 – 2008

| Year | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Exploration | 9 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 9 |
| Development | 125 | 77 | 97 | 104 | 96 |
| Total | 134 | 84 | 111 | 119 | 105 |

(b) Average Footage Drilled per Well for the Period 2004 – 2008

| Year | Average Footage Drilled |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 2004 | 3915 |
| 2005 | 4600 |
| 2006 | 4845 |
| 2007 | 4900 |
| 2008 | 4740 |

(c) The Drilling Cost Summary for the Period 2004 – 2008

| YEAR | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| TOTAL | 3653.301 | 2814.236 | 3904.446 | 5119.141 | 5227.598 |

*All costs in \$MMTTD

- (d) There was a 55% success in exploration drilling. Out of the 54 exploratory wells drilled, 30 wells encountered hydrocarbon bearing formations.

- (f) The incentive is accelerated depreciation allowances which are granted under the Income Tax in Aid of Industry Act to operators and an uplift is granted for deepwater exploration.

**Private Security Firms
(Details of)**

85. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries inform the Senate what is:

- (a) the total number of registered private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
- (b) the total number of unregistered private security firms operating in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
- (c) the total number of security guards (both precepted and non-precepted) employed by each firm, as at the end of March 31, 2009?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of National Security (Sen. The Hon. M. Joseph): The answer is as follows:

- (a) As at March 31, 2009, there were 109 private security firms approved as protective service agencies, in accordance with the Supplemental Police Act, Chapter 15:02 of the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- (b) Under the current legislation, only companies that require precept for its officers are obligated to register as Protective Service Agencies. The Ministry of National Security is therefore not in a position to determine the number of unregistered private security agencies that are operational in Trinidad and Tobago. This is one of the key areas being addressed by those currently conducting a legislative review of the private security industry.
- (c) As at March 31, 2009, there were 5,331 precepted, and 7,771 non precepted security guards, employed by approved security firms operating in Trinidad and Tobago. A list detailing the number of precepted and non-precepted officers, disaggregated by firm, is appended.

Appendix
LIST OF PROTECTIVE AGENCIES APPROVED BY
THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Amalgamated Security | 1116 | |
| 2. | Allied Security Force Limited | 121 | 550 |
| 3. | Amforce Security Limited | 12 | 24 |
| 4. | Advance Security Company Limited | 19 | 40 |
| 5. | Alpha Protective Services | 6 | |
| 6. | Alphega Security Limited | 13 | 40 |
| 7. | Anscot Security and Services Limited | 5 | |
| 8. | Anticrime Security Services Limited | 6 | 7 |
| 9. | Blanket Security Limited | 33 | 42 |
| 10. | Commercial Protective & Private Investigation Department | 65 | NIL |
| 11. | Citizen Security Service Limited | 23 | 2 |
| 12. | C.A.W. Security Services | 9 | 30 |
| 13. | Cassar Security Services Limited | 3 | 14 |
| 14. | C.T.C Electronics Security Services | 5 | |
| 15. | Centurion Protective Agency Limited | 6 | 15 |
| 16. | Car Search Limited | 14 | 4 |
| 17. | Catch Security Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 18. | Captain Gary Griffith and Associates Limited | 7 | NIL |
| 19. | Corporate Protection Services Limited | NIL | NIL |

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|-----|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 20. | Delta Security Services Limited | 10 | NIL |
| 21. | Donrich Security Kennels Limited | 3 | 22 |
| 22. | Executive Body Guard Services Limited | 65 | 200 |
| 23. | Elite Security Consultants Limited | 31 | NIL |
| 24. | Essentia Limited | NIL | 65 |
| 25. | Essential Security Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 26. | Eureka Security Advisors Limited | 32 | NIL |
| 27. | First Protection Security Services | 3 | NIL |
| 28. | Foresight Security Services Caribbean Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 29. | Four Paw Security Services Limited | 18 | 50 |
| 30. | Feds Investigations and Security Limited | 26 | 16 |
| 31. | First Guards Security Group Limited | 13 | 36 |
| 32. | Guardia Security Advisors Limited | 82 | 82 |
| 33. | Guardsman Security Services Limited | 14 | 32 |
| 34. | G4S Trinidad Limited | 23 | 30 |
| 35. | G4S Security Services Limited | 251 | 349 |
| 36. | Hydro Agri Trinidad Limited | 8 | NIL |
| 37. | Hi-Tech Security Limited | 10 | NIL |
| 38. | Heller Security Service Company Limited | 50 | 117 |
| 39. | Home Security Systems Limited | 56 | NIL |
| 40. | HCU Security Services Limited | 25 | NIL |

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 41. | Holden Security Services Limited | 1 | NIL |
| 42. | Homeland Security Services | 41 | NIL |
| 43. | Ibis Security Services Limited | 14 | NIL |
| 44. | Imjin Security Services Limited | 80 | 235 |
| 45. | Industrial Security Consultants Limited | 62 | NIL |
| 46. | Intercept Security Limited | 12 | 129 |
| 47. | Internal Affairs Detective Agency | 1 | NIL |
| 48. | Innovative Security Technologies Limited | 187 | 585 |
| 49. | Jasiel Security Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 50. | Jarvis Security Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 51. | Kaktus Security Services Limited | 13 | NIL |
| 52. | Kingdom Security Services Limited | 3 | NIL |
| 53. | K9 Security Methods Limited | 28 | NIL |
| 54. | K.P. Securities | 6 | 25 |
| 55. | Law Enforcement Agency Limited | 9 | NIL |
| 56. | Mega Force Security Services Limited | 2 | NIL |
| 57. | M I 4 Security Service Company Limited | 50 | 40 |
| 58. | M I 5 Investigations Limited | 45 | 125 |
| 59. | M I 6 Protective Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 60. | 4 M's Brooks Enterprise | NIL | 6 |

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 61. | Melfor Security Services Agency Limited | NIL | 20 |
| 62. | Metropolitan International Investigative & Security Services (T'dad) Limited | 7 | NIL |
| 63. | National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited | 1203 | 1755 |
| 64. | Olympic Security Services Limited | 30 | NIL |
| 65. | Phoenix Protective Services Limited | 60 | NIL |
| 66. | Paragon Protective and Consultants | 48 | 103 |
| 67. | Pegasus Services Limited | 14 | 85 |
| 68. | Pentagon Security Service Limited | 41 | 220 |
| 69. | Princepts Security Services | NIL | NIL |
| 70. | Premium Security Services Limited | 67 | 105 |
| 71. | P.R.D. Security Services Limited | 30 | 120 |
| 72. | Procamtec Security Services Limited | NIL | - |
| 73. | Property Protectors Limited | 13 | 18 |
| 74. | Propound Protective Company Limited | 3 | 11 |
| 75. | Protective Agencies Limited | 14 | - |
| 76. | Personnel Protection Services Limited | 68 | 71 |
| 77. | Personal Safety & Security Training Limited | NIL | - |
| 78. | Quality Security Bodyguard Services Limited | 66 | 212 |

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 79. | Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago | 292 | - |
| 80. | Rapid Response Security Services Limited | 16 | 59 |
| 81. | Revolutionary Security Services Limited | 3 | |
| 82. | Safeguard Services Limited | 32 | 229 |
| 83. | Sentinel Security Services Limited | 76 | 106 |
| 84. | Skybird Security Services Limited | NIL | |
| 85. | South Eastern Security Services Limited | 14 | 77 |
| 86. | Smartt Security Services | 9 | |
| 87. | SESL Limited | 167 | 535 |
| 88. | S.W.A.T. Security & Maintenance Company Limited | 16 | 250 |
| 89. | Soastan Security Services Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 90. | Security Force 1997 Limited | 17 | NIL |
| 91. | Stevens International Limited | 13 | NIL |
| 92. | Superior Security Investigations & Maintenance Service | NIL | NIL |
| 93. | Strike Force Security Service Limited | 8 | 28 |
| 94. | Sure Security Service Limited | 25 | 247 |
| 95. | Sphinx Limited | NIL | NIL |
| 96. | Specialist Shooters Training Security Company | NIL | NIL |
| 97. | Safety Security Company Limited | 32 | NIL |
| 98. | Security Experts Limited | NIL | NIL |

| NO. | NAME OF COMPANY | NO. OF PRECEPTED OFFICERS | NO. OF NON PRECEPTED OFFICERS |
|------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 99. | Special Elite Investigations Services Limited | 18 | 85 |
| 100. | Telecom Systems (Trinidad) Limited | 69 | 180 |
| 101. | The Security Experts Limited | 2 | 4 |
| 102. | Thor Security Company Limited | 81 | 204 |
| 103. | Trinidad and Tobago Security Services Limited | 12 | 90 |
| 104. | United Security Company Limited | 9 | NIL |
| 105. | United Security Canine Cops Limited | 7 | 45 |
| 106. | Unique Security Services Limited | 3 | NIL |
| 107. | Winero Services | 1 | NIL |
| 108. | YUJA Security Services Limited | 3 | NIL |
| 109. | Yara Trinidad Limited | 5 | NIL |
| | TOTAL | 5331 | 7771 |

**Private Security Firms
(Legislating of)**

86. *The following question was asked by Sen. Wade Mark:*

- (A) Could the hon. Minister of National Security advise the Senate if the Government intends to introduce legislation or to amend existing legislation governing the operations of private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago?
- (B) If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform the Senate of the exact time frame for the introduction of such legislation?

The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:

The Minister of National Security (Sen. The Hon. Martin Joseph): The answer is as follows:

- (A) It is Government's intention to introduce a comprehensive legislative framework for a Private Security Bill comprising, inter alia, the variables outlined in the attachment hereto.
- (B) Based on current progress, the drafting exercise is expected to commence before the end of the 2009 calendar year.

APPENDIX
PROPOSED COMPONENTS OF A PRIVATE SECURITY BILL

| REGULATORY FRAMEWORK | DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES | CRIMINAL JUSTICE RELATIONS |
|---|--|--|
| Establishment of a regulatory body responsible for licensure, resignation and ongoing regulation of the private security industry | Establishment of minimum standards for competence, training, development of skills and improving working conditions for people within the industry | Provision of training and other developmental opportunities for joint training on shared needs, staff attachments, benchmarking visits and other networking and collaborative opportunities that encourage learning and innovation |
| Creation of a database (registry) of security companies | Establishment of a certification system according to a tiered structure | Communicating the roles, powers responsibilities and competence of security personnel to the public |
| Creation of a database of security officers which will include fingerprint and other DNA information on personnel | Working collaboratively with accreditation entities to develop standards for teaching and learning | Classifying the security industry as an 'essential service' |

| REGULATORY FRAMEWORK | DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES | CRIMINAL JUSTICE RELATIONS |
|---|--|--|
| Introduction of a system of external system auditing and evaluation | Establishment of a training academy to harmonize standards | Sharing of information and databases that are of mutual benefit |
| Introduction of a system of annual reporting | | Providing technical support and advice to firms requiring support to meet standards |
| Establishment of standards for health, safety and environment as well as employer and employee rights | | Developing a 'good practice' database that highlights exceptional practices in security management |
| Regulation of minimum pay levels according to a tiered structure and required competence level | | |
| Establishment of sanctions that include the suspension, cancellation or revocation of the licenses for not complying with threshold/minimum standards | | |
| Collection of fees for registration and licensure as well as ongoing approval to operate a security firm | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Establishment of a system for public complaints by individuals who feel their rights are infringed by workers in the security industry | | |
|--|--|--|

