

*Leave of Absence**Tuesday, February 26, 2013***SENATE***Tuesday, February 26, 2013*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAVERS**[MR. PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, I have granted leave of absence to Sen. Dr. Victor Wheeler from today's sitting.

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers adopted at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in June 2011. [*The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh)*]
2. Recommendation No. 201 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers adopted at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in June 2011. [*Sen. The Hon. G. Singh*]

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh):** Mr. President, we are in a position to answer questions No. 32 and No. 33, the two questions for oral answer on the Order Paper, and we have circulated answers for the written questions No. 5 and No. 22 on the Order Paper.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Water and Sewerage Authority  
(Information on Employees)**

5. **Sen. Penelope Beckles** asked the hon. Minister of the Environment and Water Resources:

With respect to the Water and Sewerage Authority, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the total workforce of the Authority as at July 2012;
- (ii) the number of new workers employed since June 2010;
- (iii) the names, positions, addresses and qualifications of the persons at (ii) above;
- (iv) the names and number of employees terminated since June 2010 and reasons for the terminations?

**Water and Sewerage Authority  
(Collective Agreements/Negotiations)**

**22. Sen. Penelope Beckles** asked the hon. Minister of the Environment and Water Resources:

Would the Minister provide the following information:

- (i) whether the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has concluded any collective agreements/negotiations with any trade union since June 2010;
- (ii) if the answer to the above mentioned question is yes, could the Minister provide the terms and conditions of this new agreement/negotiation and the value of same;
- (iii) the list of all employees who benefitted from this new agreement/negotiation, their old and new remuneration packages and arrears paid if any?

*Vide end of sitting for written answers.*

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Tobago Regional Health Authority  
(Details of Board of Directors)**

**32. Sen. Dr. James Armstrong** on behalf of Sen. Dr. Victor Wheeler asked the hon. Minister of Tobago Development:

With regard to the board of directors of the Tobago Regional Health Authority, could the Minister please state:

- (a) the date that the board of directors first received their instruments of appointment;
- (b) whether there have been any changes to the members of the board of directors of the Tobago Regional Health Authority since that date; and
- (c) the names of the current members of the board of directors?

**The Minister of Tobago Development (Hon. Dr. Delmon Baker):** Thank you, Mr. President. The Ministry of Tobago Development has been assigned the responsibility for the Tobago Regional Health Authority as indicated on the schedule for Government Ministries. Notwithstanding this, the practice of nominating the TRHA board is usually done by the Tobago House of Assembly.

This practice was continued for the selection of the current board. The subsequent management of the TRHA is the sole responsibility of the Tobago House of Assembly.

With respect to the specific question, (a), the date that the board of directors first received their instrument of appointment was August 30, 2011; (b), there have been no official changes to the board of the Tobago Regional Health Authority; and (c), the names of the current Members of the board are as follows:

Chairman, Miss Jennifer Brown;

Deputy Chairman, Mr. Winfield Quamina;

A registered medical practitioner, Dr. Camille Mohammed;

A registered nurse, Miss Lystra Seebro;

An employee of the Tobago House of Assembly, Miss Vanessa Boyce;

A person with special qualifications, experience in finance, accountancy or economics, Mr. Kirton Daniel;

A person with special qualifications, experience in business management, Miss Jennifer Brown;

A person with special qualifications in personnel management or industrial relations, Miss Lydia Peters;

A person with special qualifications, experience in law, Mr. Ken Wright;

A person in any other area with appropriate expertise, Miss Pearl Wilson-Beach;

In addition, the person representing the public interest and welfare is Mr. Winfield Quamina.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Sen. Beckles:** Minister, could you tell us what is the life of the board, please, if you are aware?

**Hon. Dr. D. Baker:** At present, I do not have that information with me.

**Sen. Beckles:** Okay.

### **“Colour Me Orange” Programme (Details of)**

**33. Sen. Penelope Beckles** on behalf of Sen. Fitzgerald Hinds asked the hon. Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs:

With respect to the “Colour Me Orange” programme, would the Minister please indicate:

- (a) whether the programme has come to an end;
- (b) whether there is any plan or intention to extend the programme;
- (c) precisely how much was expended on this programme;
- (d) the number of jobs created by the programme;
- (e) what was the Government's rationale for its activation; and
- (f) did the programme achieve its objective?

**The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh):** Mr. President, I have the honour to answer this question. The "Colour Me Orange" programme was implemented by the Housing Development Corporation. The programme sought to employ skilled and unskilled young men and women to carry out maintenance and refurbishment works on HDC's rental units in seven communities, namely, Port of Spain East, Port of Spain West, Port of Spain Central, Morvant, Maloney, Couva and San Fernando.

Ninety per cent of the persons employed were between the ages 18 to 30 years. The programme provided an opportunity for employment for young skilled and unskilled men and women, during which time they learned new skills like painting, landscaping, general cleaning, roofing and ceiling repairs as well as learning to maintain their neighbourhood.

The "Colour Me Orange" programme was implemented in three phases, accordingly:

Phase 1 March 08, 2010 to June 30, 2010;

Phase 2 November 03, 2010 to December 29, 2010;

Phase 3 November 23, 2011 to February 15, 2012.

- (a) Yes, the three phases of the "Colour Me Orange" programme, which were implemented during the period March 2010 to February 2012 have ended.
- (b) There is no plan or intention at this time to extend the "Colour Me Orange" programme.
- (c) The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation expended approximately \$73,568,637.50 for the implementation of the "Colour Me Orange" programme.
- (d) The "Colour Me Orange" programme created 3,053 jobs.

- (e) The first phase of the “Colour Me Orange” programme was implemented during the period March 2010 to June 2010. The rationale for activating a second phase of the programme in November 2010 and a third phase in November 2011 was a backlog of 7,081 requests for repairs from tenants across the seven HDC rental communities in Trinidad.
- (f) Yes, the “Colour Me Orange” programme did achieve its objective of providing employment to persons within the HDC tenanted communities to assist in the upkeep and maintenance of buildings and properties. The targeted persons did gain practical work experience, which will assist them in their search for future work in the construction sector.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Supplemental question, Mr. President. Hon. Minister, thank you for the response. Hon. Minister, are you able to indicate whether there was any system for tracking included in the operationality and structure of the “Colour Me Orange” programme as to persons who would have matriculated or come out of the system and, therefore, moving on by way of recommendation to other jobs or facilities?

**Sen. The Hon. G. Singh:** That is an excellent suggestion and I think that if you pose another question, we will be able to answer it. I am not in possession of that information.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Thank you.

**Sen. Beckles:** Thank you kindly. To the hon. Minister, there was a figure initially provided to the public that this programme had cost some \$300 million. I do not know if you recall that. The three phases that you spoke about; the seventy-something plus million, is that per phase or is that all the three phases?

**Sen. The Hon. G Singh:** Based on the information I have, it is indicated that it is for three phases, the \$73 million plus.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Further supplemental, Mr. President, is the hon. Minister able to indicate whether the sums expended were purely from the HDC or whether there was any cross payment from any other Ministry aligned to this purpose?

**Sen. The Hon. G. Singh:** I am not in a position to indicate whether there was any kind of cross fertilization with respect to the funding of the “Colour Me Orange” programme.

**Sen. Deyalsingh:** Further supplemental, Mr. President. Could the hon. Minister say, of the 3,053 jobs created, have any of these resulted in meaningful, full-time employment?

**Sen. The Hon. G. Singh:** That question, in a supplemental nature, was basically asked by Sen. Al-Rawi and the answer remains the same.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Mr. President, before question time is concluded, if I may, with your leave, on the last occasion, the hon. Leader of Government Business indicated that part (d) to Sen. Deyalsingh's question relating to CAL would be answered at today's sitting. Is the hon. Leader of Government Business or the Minister of Finance and the Economy able to assist us with the status of that response?

**Sen. The Hon. G. Singh:** Mr. President, we are in a position so to do in keeping with our commitment to this honourable House.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Much obliged. Thank you [*Desk thumping*]

#### **LAN Chile/Dry Lease (Details of)**

**The Minister of Finance and the Economy (Sen. The Hon. Larry Howai):** Mr. President, the question which I had been asked is:

Did Caribbean Airlines do an evaluation of the suitability of the aircraft for the transatlantic route, i.e. the suitability of the aircraft to fly over water for most of the trip? If not, why not? If it did, then who did the evaluation? What is their background experience and what was the result and recommendation of their evaluation?

In response, as indicated at the last session, Ascend, an international aviation data and statistics expert company, was engaged by Caribbean Airlines to provide an evaluation of the wide-bodied aircraft and we had provided some background on Ascend at the last meeting of this honourable Senate.

They did indicate the suitability of the aircraft, but did indicate that since the Port of Spain/London/Gatwick route will involve flying across the Atlantic Ocean, an important specification for the selected aircraft would be extended twin-engine operation certification, otherwise known as ETOPS. ETOPS enables an aircraft to fly a route with the nearest diversion airport being up to 240 minutes away in some cases.

For background purposes, there were limitations to the piston engines that were used in early long distance flights. As a result of these limitations, the US Federal Aviation Administration introduced initially a 60-minute rule for selected aircraft. This rule stated that the flight path of the aircraft should not be further than 60 minutes of flying time from an adequate airport.

In May 1985, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved 767s for long-range flights of up to 120 minutes from an alternate airport. In 1988, this rule was amended by the US FAA to allow the extension to a 180-minute rule. In March 1989, the FAA approved the 767 as a first jetliner for 180 minutes extended operations or ETOPS, meaning that they can fly over water provided that they are not more than that period of time away from the nearest airport.

CAL has received approval for 120 minutes ETOPS from the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority and expects to receive 180 minutes approval after six months of operation.

As I understand it, Mr. President, this is in keeping with the Civil Aviation Authority's policy where they would initially approve 120 minutes and after monitoring, put you up to the maximum that Boeing would allow, which is the 180 minutes.

The TT CAA requires that airline crews first operate at a more restrictive limit of 120 minutes and after having:

- (1) gained the requisite experience; and
- (2) demonstrated the ability to operate efficiently and safely, approval for a less restrictive limit of 180 minutes will be granted.

CAL has indicated that during flight, the aircraft would be no further than 120 minutes from a suitable airport. The airports that are en route and are less than 120 minutes from the flight plan are Bermuda, Shannon and Dublin Airports in Ireland, Santa Maria and Lajes Airports in Azores; and all major airports along the eastern seaboard of the United States and Canada, which are used as en route alternate airports.

**1.45 p.m.**

The question was also raised, Mr. President, about the risk of not having the GPS and how that is mitigated. Caribbean Airlines has indicated that although the aircraft is not yet quipped with the GPS system, the stand-alone INS, which is the Inertial Navigation System, is currently installed and is being used by the aircraft. The stand-alone INS navigation system was used for over 20 years by BWIA in their L-1011 aircraft. This L-1011 aircraft operated the London and European routes without any errors caused by the navigation system.

It should be noted that in March 1989, the FAA approved the B-767 as a first jetliner for 180-minute ETOPS well before the GPS came into common use. This

endorsement by the FAA weighed positively on the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority's approval of the aircraft.

The chairman at CAL has stated that the issue of risk, as a result, does not arise. There is no risk. The system in which CAL operates has been tried, tested and proven for the last 40 years regarding transatlantic flights.

There was another question raised in relation to whether CAL had received approval from both the Civil Aviation Authority and the British Aviation Authority for use of these aircraft to fly the route. I had indicated that they did receive the approval, and the details I have here is that the approval from the Civil Aviation Authority was obtained on September 28, 2012 and approval from the UK authority was obtained on October 23, 2012.

**Sen. Deyalsingh:** Supplemental, Mr. President, to the hon. Minister. The recommendation from Ascend to lease these 18-year-old aircraft with an ETOPS range of 120 minutes—

**Mr. President:** Sorry, Senator, as we mentioned once before, there is no preamble permitted. You may ask a question. If, in fact, you need a preamble, then it is not relevant, because it should arise from what the Minister has said. So you need to ask a question without the preamble.

**Sen. Singh:** In other words, hold the horn. [*Laughter*]

**Sen. Deyalsingh:** Would the Minister be taking action against Ascend for these aircraft to fly?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** There is no need for us to take any action whatsoever.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Further supplemental, Mr. President. Is the hon. Minister able to indicate whether the approvals granted on September 28, 2012 and October 23, 2012 relate to the INS system or to the intended GPS system?

**Sen. Singh:** It is related to the safety of the aircraft. [*Laughter*]

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Mr. President, it is related to the safety of the aircraft as outfitted to fly into London, Gatwick.

**Hon. Senator:** Elementary!

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** So that is the INS system for clarification?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Yes, it relates to the INS system.



**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Further supplemental, Mr. President. In light of the GPS outfitting—I am sorry. [*Crosstalk*] Do not let the Leader disturb you. In light of the GPS outfitting, are these planes capable of flying solely with the INS system?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** That is my understanding, that they are capable of flying solely with the INS system—yes, quite right, the ETOPS and the INS system.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** So, therefore, it may be a redundancy or superfluous to obtain the GPS approval and installation.

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Mr. President, I am not that versed in all the technical aspects of it, but normally with these aircraft there are usually backup systems. There are two on the flights as we indicated; the ETOPS and the INS and, you know, the GPS simply comes in as additional ancillary support.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Is the hon. Minister able to indicate the cost of the GPS installation and time frame?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Mr. President, I am unable to advise of the cost, but I recall that, I think, we had indicated at the last sitting that the installation will be in the fourth quarter of this year.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Is the hon. Minister able to assist us with any limitations in respect of approvals? Just for clarification, is it 120 minutes or 180 with ETOPS and INS?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Mr. President, the ETOPS is approved and certified for 180 minutes. What civil aviation has done is given an initial 120 minutes. After monitoring it for a period of six months, they would then extend it to 180 minutes.

**Sen. Deyalsingh:** Further supplemental, Mr. President. Has the Minister factored in additional fuel cost and flying times, because we do not have more than 120 minutes ETOPS?

**Sen. The Hon. L. Howai:** Mr. President, no, I have not factored it in. [*Crosstalk*]

**GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**  
[Second Day]

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on question* [November 20, 2012]:

*Be it resolved* that the government reaffirm its commitment to these principles and the practice of democracy in Trinidad and Tobago. [*Sen. F. Hinds*]

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr. President:** Those who spoke on the previous occasion on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 were Sen. Fitzgerald Hinds, the mover of the Motion, Sen. The Hon. Christlyn Moore, the Minister of Justice and Sen. Subhas Ramkhelawan. Senators wishing to join the debate at this point may do so now.

**Sen. Shamfa Cudjoe:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I want to extend my thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on this Motion. I want to specially thank my colleague, Sen. Fitzgerald Hinds, for tabling this Motion. [*Desk thumping*] I think that it is very timely and very relevant with what we are dealing with in the country right now.

Now, Mr. President, even though this Motion had been tabled probably about three months ago, I still find it very relevant, and I think this demonstrates the timelessness of the whole idea of democracy, and it reminds us that democracy is never—the true essence of democracy or democracy in full linehaul is never ever accomplished anywhere at any time. That struggle, that battle, that fight for freeness, that fight for freedom and that fight for fairness is never ever completed.

From generation to generation we find ourselves having to reignite the flame of fighting for democracy. If you go back into the history from the days of the Greeks, the even recent Internet revolutions for democracy, you would see that it is never ever accomplished, and as we go on from generation to generation, something new is added to make this ideology more free and more fair for the people. So, Mr. President, I want to again thank Sen. Hinds for tabling this Motion.

Now, Mr. President, the last time we were here, it was the last Tuesday in November 2012. It was the final Private Members' Day for the year, because we would have been having Christmas in December and January was election, so it was our last Private Members' Day for the year. It was also our last day to discuss this Motion before the Tobago House of Assembly election. It was the golden opportunity—it presented a golden opportunity to address the nation and also to influence the Tobago electorate.

Now, Mr. President, we would have had a gentleman's agreement on that day, I think also, like we have today, to end at 4.30, so we would have only been able to accommodate three speakers. So, Sen. Hinds started and then he was followed by Sen. Moore who is not here today or not here yet and then followed by Sen. Ramkhelawan. I must say I found all three speakers very, very, interesting. The information presented was very informative and I enjoyed them all, but I must say, Mr. President, I was enthralled by Sen. Moore's contribution, by the contribution coming from the Government's side.

Now, Sen. Moore of the Government side was able to tactically spin the Motion and direct her guns at the Opposition side and the mover of the Motion. She was able to make a spin on the Motion where we asked for the Government to recommit to the principles of democracy. She threw it back in our lap, and asked for the PNM to discuss democracy at our meetings and for the Tobago House of Assembly to do the same. I found it very, very, very, very skilful, and I want to commend her on that contribution.

Mr. President, while Sen. Ramkhelawan would have entered the debate a little later, he found that her contribution was for the most part irrelevant, but Mr. President, nobody called a Standing Order; nobody made any attempt to interrupt her. [*Desk thumping*] Not even the President.

**Sen. Hinds:** What!

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** No, it was very, very entertaining.

**Sen. Hinds:** She was flying kite before the election.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** We could not have missed this opportunity to see an Oscar-winning performance right before our eyes. So, I cannot be mad at anybody for not— [*Interruption*]

**Sen. Karim:** Do not get mad!

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** No, no, no, I do not do that. That is not even like me, to get mad, “no way”. So, we congratulate her on that performance. Mr. President, the Opposition was all ears, whether we want to admit or not, we were all ears. The Independents were—all eyes with raised eyebrows, and the Government side was thumping like crazy. Mr. President, January 21 taught us that those who thump last thump best. [*Laughter and desk thumping*]

So, the performance was impressive; it was impressive and it was entertaining. I want to remind all of us, each and every one of us, that even though sometimes we may be called or sometimes we cannot resist the efforts to entertain and to impress your colleagues, sometimes we have to make a decision, a conscious decision, as to if we are going to go in for entertaining our colleagues or if we are going to really treat with the issues and educate the electorate. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Beckles:** And you are going to educate.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** And I am going to educate the electorate. [*Desk thumping and crosstalk*] On a serious note, we cannot ignore our responsibility to steadfastly safeguard the truth to represent our people and to remain committed to the true principles of democracy.

Now, I would like to say, in my very first contribution in this Parliament, I said you are once a parliamentarian, twice a villager. [*Desk thumping*] At the end of the day, you have to go back home and you have to sit among these people, you have to worship with them, Saturday morning you have to go to the market and buy fish and pigtail and whatever it is that you buy from them.

I want to remind us that this “desk thumping” is only for a while. Even some of these colleagues are only for a while, because as you know, every June or somewhere thereabout, the Prime Minister shuffles up her pack—[*Interruption*]

**Hon. Senators:** Ah!

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:**—and you may not be here the next time, Mr. President.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is democracy.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** And that is democracy at work. [*Desk thumping*] Now, Mr. President, we would remember former Sen. Subhas Panday, a wonderful man; a very, very, wonderful man. Every time he came to Tobago, he paid me a visit at my church, at my home, he found me—a wonderful man, honest and somebody you could depend on. You could count on his word, except this one time, but he got a thunderous desk thumping. He said, “I have the papers for de—I have de legislative agenda right here”, and they were thumping and thumping, Mr. President. Where is Sen. Panday now?

Mr. President, the same thing happened with—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** The Attorney General fired him.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:**—former Sen. St. Rose—former Sen. Verna St. Rose-Greaves. She was here and she asked us to join with her—the work of Parliament is fundamental—in passing the Children Bill. To this day, I am almost sure that that Bill has not been passed—not almost sure, I am very sure that that Bill has not been made law, has not been proclaimed. And while we were being encouraged to vote for this Bill—do it for the children—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Rush!

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:**—we were doing all that at midnight—we did not know that the following day it would have been their anniversary and they had a big celebration, and they already had on their programme: “Children Bill, done passed.”

So, Mr. President, while we are here getting a desk thumping and enjoying ourselves, we have to remember our responsibility to the people we represent and our responsibility to safeguard the truth, and to practise the true principles of democracy.

**2.00 p.m.**

Mr. President, I want to focus on four tenets that I think are very critical to the whole ideology of democracy, and those four tenets are: honesty, integrity, truth and respect. While Sen. Moore would have spent a lot of time in her contribution highlighting and underscoring the pillars of democracy: accountability, transparency and so on, I want to refer to honesty, integrity, trust and respect as the substance of which these pillars are made. As I proceed today, I want to be guided by the three pieces of advice that I have gotten from my political leader—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Which one? Which one?

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:**—that I use as a guiding principle as I proceed in Parliament, as I do my duties.

**Hon. Senator:** In Tobago—*[Inaudible]*

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Oh no, three. Hear me out. Speak the truth; two, do not underestimate the intelligence of the electorate and three—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** “Yuh forget. Aye ya yay!”

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** No! No! No! And three—this is the most important one, I had to give you the build-up. The third one: your parliamentary time is precious, “doh” waste it responding to foolishness. *[Desk thumping]* Mr. President, I will go on.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** “I go remember that point.”

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Yes, please do. I will proceed and I would be guided by these principles. I would speak to the issues that pique my interest the most. Mr. President, I want to point first—there were so many issues that were raised by Sen. Moore—but I want to start, first and foremost, with the issue of unspent balances. Sen. Moore would have made these allegations that at the beginning of the year, the Tobago House of Assembly received their allocations—we would have gotten a 4 per cent allocated in the budget—and we received this at the beginning of the financial year, and we take some of that money and put it into this fund before we even figure out how much we are going to spend.

Mr. President, I have to forgive Sen. Moore because she has been away from Tobago for over 20 years, and probably is not au courant with what happens in Tobago or what happens in the Tobago House of Assembly Act, but I trust that she is a very seasoned lawyer and she is a very brilliant young lady, and I know that she understands—*[Interruption]*

**Hon. Senator:** You sure?

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:**—the way that this thing works. I will tell you something, “She is from Tobago, you are not going to catch me saying a bad thing about her, I am sorry.”

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Ah, tell that to Hinds. Tell that to Hinds. [*Desk thumping*] “Take that in your pwefm”.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Mr. President, while Sen. Moore was stating these allegations, I kept calling to Sen. Howai, “Senator, guide her, that is not the way it works. You know that is not the way it works.” Mr. President, unspent balances has been a part of the Tobago House of Assembly, and the Tobago House of Assembly Act since the days of former President, ANR Robinson.

First things first, you have to understand the budget process. The Tobago House of Assembly discusses the budget, its plans for Tobago in about June of each year, sends that to central government, then central government would decide in October how much it is going to give to the Tobago House of Assembly, which should be 4 per cent. Central government might have provided sufficient funds for one line item and insufficient funds for the next line item, so then you have to make a judgment call. Which project are you going to go forward with? And which project are you going to save finances for, for the following year?

Because the money you do not use in recurrent expenditure let us say we had planned to set up a school and we did not get enough money—because if you got the chance to see the budget documents, you would see, like for RC school, one of these years the allocation was \$50,000. Both you and I know, Mr. President, that \$50,000 cannot build a school. So then you have to take a judgment call as to which projects you are going to proceed with and which ones you are going to leave for the next year. So this whole concept of unspent balances, we refer to it as savings. For the 32 years of the Assembly’s existence, we have referred to this as savings and it has saved our tails many, many time.

Mr. President, take for instance, this year, the budget, the central government allocated 4 per cent in October and January morning we had not received a cent, and that is the practice from central government, especially when the central government in Trinidad is different from that in Tobago. We have been down this road before.

So we have this allocation in October, no money in October, no money in November, “salt” in December, as the young people say, more “salt” in January, so here you are, leading up to an election and you have no money to pay people. It is

Christmas time, no money to buy ham, no money for curtains, no money for toys, and Sen. Moore did not stop to figure out: "Okay, then how is Tobago being run because the Minister of Finance and the Economy had not provided that funding."

The same thing for the year before where \$100 million was allocated for the health programme, for the division of health, and up to July last year we were still requesting this money. Where is this money? The same thing for CEPEP, but the hospital has to run. The same thing for CEPEP. February 2012 was the first time since this Government had been in power, we had received any money for CEPEP, but CEPEP had to keep running, and Sen. Moore did not stop to think about that.

So, Mr. President, it is one thing to come here and champion the cause of the people and so on, but you have to get your facts right and you have to stop and think before you come out here making all these allegations. You have a responsibility to honesty, you have a responsibility to be honest and that is the essence of democracy. If the electorate cannot believe a word out of your mouth then you are in trouble.

I can call many projects and programmes the Tobago House of Assembly has executed that are a result of savings, or what you call unspent balances. For instance, the housing programmes in Tobago; last year we received \$16.7 million for the housing programme. Not the housing programme, we received \$28 million for the housing programme, but the housing project still has to run. The same could be said for the Victor E. Bruce financial centre, we received \$16.7 million for that project; that project cost \$100 million.

So, as I have mentioned the Victor E. Bruce project, Sen. Moore would have made allegations that infrastructure is a way of how you measure democracy, and she took that time out to examine the infrastructural works of the Tobago House of Assembly. And she told this Senate that the Victor E. Bruce Complex was built and there are no working toilet facilities there, that the workers had to go to KFC "when duty calls". The Victor E. Bruce building is one of our major projects in Tobago, very well completed, the only green building in the nation; the only green building in Tobago and a project that we are well pleased with.

Mr. President, I work in the Victor E. Bruce building, so it was so shocking for me to sit here and listen to Sen. Moore speak about this building that has no toilets and people have to go to KFC. But, again, I forgive Sen. Moore, because she must have been out of Tobago for so long that she was mistaken, because next to Victor E. Bruce is the library, and in-between the library and the Victor E. Bruce is the NIB mall which is owned and operated by the National Insurance

Board here in Trinidad. Mr. President, that building is an eyesore to Scarborough: mossy walls, cobweb everywhere, toilet facilities that are always flooded with urine, and I did not hear Sen. Moore treat with those issues. I remember Saturday I went there to do my hair and I tried to go to the restroom and I had to go to KFC. So these are the issues that we need to treat with.

Mr. President, you see, “you can’t smell mess in the neighbour house and complain about mess in your neighbour house, and you have mess sitting right here on your top lip and doh complain about it”. Yeah? As Sen. Moore put it, “You don’t throw stones when you know you have glass window.” One end, Victor E. Bruce; the next end, the library; right in the middle, smack in the middle, the centre of town, the NIB mall.

With that said, Mr. President, I want to call on the NIB board, or the Minister or the Ministry that is responsible for the NIB mall, to pay some attention to the facilities, hire cleaners, make sure that the restroom is fixed, and so on.

Sen. Moore spoke about the BOLT agreement, I would not speak too much on that because as we know, the Attorney General would have asked for an investigation into the BOLT agreement and so on, but I remember last year when this Government was trying to make the BOLT agreement an issue for the election, we said we would provide the documents and post them on the Internet and give it to the Minister at the same time. We did so and after that you did not hear a word coming from this Government until a couple of days before the election.

Mr. President, in Tobago we do have some unfinished projects, yeah, and there are unfinished projects everywhere as you look over the landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. We have challenges with construction. Sometimes the challenges come from issues you may have with the contractor, with payments, insufficient funding, sometimes you have problems because you are waiting on a board to make a decision. I remember the library project was under the MTS board when this Government first came into power, and this Government took somewhere close to two years to put members on that board, so we there sitting, waiting, until they decided to move that project to another board.

Mr. President, we can sit here and talk, day in, day out, about unfinished projects and so on, but I want to take some time out to congratulate the Tobago House of Assembly for the infrastructural works that had been done in Tobago for over the past 12 years, because while other people complain, we have taken the decision to execute the largest projects that Tobago has ever seen in its history. One mistake we might have made is trying to take on all these projects at the very same time, especially considering the financing arrangements that we have with central government.



While you here in Trinidad have the luxury of coming back to the Parliament and saying, “Yes, I want more money”—I recognize that I need more funding for this and more funding for that, or to borrow an IDB loan or a World Bank loan, the Tobago House of Assembly cannot do that. And we depend, solely, on that 4 per cent that is allocated, and then we hope and pray that you actually submit the 4 per cent, and then we hope and pray that you submit it on time, rather than in the third or fourth quarter of the financial year. So when development in Tobago depends on what is taking place in Port of Spain, and Port of Spain refuses to cooperate with or even be civil with the Tobago House of Assembly, we have a big problem.

There are challenges with construction projects in Tobago, in Trinidad; under your Government, under our Government, under the Tobago House of Assembly. Sometimes we spend too much time complaining and bemoaning what has not been done, but I would like to state categorically the improvements that we have seen in infrastructure in Tobago have been way beyond the imagination that any other administration of the Tobago House of Assembly could think about.

Every community, each community in Tobago has their own—we can boast about new community centres, health centres, even when former Sen. Therese Baptiste-Cornelis was here, she spoke highly about the health centre programme we have going on in Tobago where we have 21 health centres, that is each electoral district having at least two health centers, and where primary health care is the focus. We can boast about lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, play fields.

### **2.15 p.m.**

Mr. President, you have to understand where we have come from, where there had been no new schools built in Tobago. This administration could boast about at least four new secondary schools, refurbishment to all the schools in Tobago, fishing depots. I brought a book of accomplishments. This is under the People's National Movement Tobago House of Assembly. Maybe I can give it to the person who conceptualized the empty centre page advertisements that this Government had running for the election, but I will not waste my time on foolishness, as my Opposition Leader said.

Sen. Moore would have spoken about the hospital. She said that people in Tobago were dying for this hospital, and that this hospital was the project that had seen the most overruns in this country. She spoke in a manner to imply that the Tobago House of Assembly was responsible for the delayed construction of the

Scarborough Hospital, when we all know well how many times I have come to this Parliament reiterating that the Scarborough Hospital is a Ministry of Health project. You would have heard here yourself on December 12 when the Minister of Health came here and answered Sen. Dr. Wheeler's question about the difficulties they were having with handing over the building to the Tobago House of Assembly.

What Sen. Moore forgot to talk about was that the mortality rate for the Tobago Regional Health Authority is the lowest in the entire nation, since the years 2008/2009/2010. When you read the Sixth Report of the joint select committee that treats with the regional health authorities you would see this: the lowest mortality rate in the entire nation; the shortest response time for ambulance services. Tobago can boast of 14 minutes response time. The average time in Trinidad is 30 minutes, and the international standard is 20 minutes, but Tobago could boast of 14 minutes. That did not happen just so. So when you take the time to ill speak the Tobago House of Assembly, and try to score cheap political points, you have to also look at the thing from both sides.

Mr. President, there is nothing as being semi-transparent. Semi-transparency is like being semi-pregnant, and I never heard of that. It is either you are being transparent or you are not. It is either you are pregnant or you are not pregnant.

**Sen. Singh:** Careful. [*Laughter*]

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** I want to move on now to opportunities for young people. I would have mentioned the library before. I want to place on the record that the Scarborough library is due for completion this year; also, there are libraries in each secondary and primary school. The Scarborough library is now located at a temporary location in Signal Hill that we have been using. I used to go there for SAT classes and everything. So to come here and give the impression that we have no access to our library, I find it quite disingenuous.

I want to move on now to opportunities for young people. I would say again that under this People's National Movement Tobago House of Assembly, opportunities for young people are numerous, countless. From the Enterprise Assistance Fund, the opportunities in the Business Development Unit, the Financial Assistance Programme, all fruits of the labour of the People's National Movement Tobago House of Assembly administration.

I talk about the YES programme that gives young professionals the ability to get internships abroad; the Home and Land Ownership programmes. It is under the People's National Movement that MuST, HYPE and OJT and so on came to Tobago.

I just saw this weekend on “Let’s Talk Tobago”, an exchange programme between the schools in Tobago and schools in the United Kingdom. Mr. President, people in Tobago have been earning an education in Tobago long before this Government. All these services and these new things that this Government says it is now bringing to Tobago, we have had them before. Arthur Lok Jack—people doing their masters in business administration in Tobago long before this Government. People have been doing their bachelor’s degree and their master’s degree in education long before this Government. Events management, you name it. We certainly do not have everything, and there is a way to go, but to come here and act like there are no opportunities, and “we break up yuh family”, and all that kind of thing; unnecessary drama.

I want this Government to take a look at their own opportunities for young people. Let us speak about the BEST programme. I remember being a part of this Senate when at the same time Mr. Subhas Panday was part of the Senate also, and he invited me to the opening of the BEST programme in Tobago in Bethel. The Members of the Government were there. They had promised the young people that they would get paid to learn a skill. I think that was in June or so in 2011. By the time December when the Prime Minister and the Cabinet came back to Tobago to visit for Christmas, none of these young people had been paid. They had been told, “Do not say anything; you do not want to upset the Prime Minister.”

The same thing could be said for the Hoops for Life programme. In Tobago I saw on the channel 5 news last night that these young people had been asked to play for the Hoops for Life programme and they were supposed to be given a stipend. That was the agreement. But apparently yesterday was pay day, and when the young men went to collect their cheques or their money, however they were going to be paid, they were told, “No, payment is for only those who are unemployed.” So there are people who had been playing ball for the last four months, taking time off work and going to Trinidad.

Many times I have travelled on the plane with the gentlemen, and we sit at the bar at the airport, and they would wait for their bus and I would wait for my taxi to come down to Port of Spain. Taking time off work, time off from your girlfriend, expecting that you are going to be getting this stipend, and to be met with disappointment yesterday that this money is only for people who are unemployed. One of the young men said on the television last night, “Well, if that is so, then this programme is not for Tobago, because we have jobs over here.”

Another concern was also raised, that the managers of the teams and the people who help out the teams, even though they had jobs, they were being paid. But the players who had been taking time out to be a part of the programme were

not being paid and were now told, "I am sorry there was some miscommunication." A representative from the Ministry of National Security was over there last night. I think her name is Miss Jean, I could be wrong, but she was saying, "There was some miscommunication." "We forget to tell them that they were not going to get paid because they have jobs." Tobago might be the wrong place to run that programme, as the gentleman said last night. He said, "If we know that we were not going to get paid, we would not participate in your programme, because we have jobs."

Mr. President, while this Government bash and mal speak the opportunities provided by the Tobago House of Assembly, they need to take a look at their own opportunities for young people, and see if they are serving the young people or fooling the young people, and let them know in advance, before they take time off their jobs and get injured and so on in your programme.

It was the same thing with the "Colour me Orange" programme. The question about it has been on the Order Paper for months, and every time we come here the Government defers, defers: "We are going to answer you next week." That is as much as I can remember right now, that I want to address from Sen. Moore.

Before I move on, I want to speak about all the allegations about the Auditor General's report: 2003, 2004 and 2005. Mr. President, Sen. Moore came to the Parliament, and it was interesting—it was shocking to me. As I sat there and watched Sen. Moore—and sometimes Sen. Moheni does the same thing—come to the Parliament and interpret the Auditor General's report to mean that there is malfeasance on the part of the politicians or on the part of the Tobago House of Assembly. She went from paragraph to paragraph listing all the things that the Auditor General had said in his report.

But I want to remind this honourable House that everybody knows that the Auditor General's investigation exercise is done when he or she, whoever is the Auditor General, comes to your department and looks at the documents that you provide for investigation. Then in her report she is going to say, "I did not see this document or I did not see that document", or "I see a withdrawal of such and such, but I did not see a warrant or paperwork to back this up."

This problem of reporting to the Auditor General and passing the Auditor General's test so to speak, straddles all our administrations and the Tobago House of Assembly. We have this situation where we have improper management of property assets, and so on. We also have a problem where we wait too long to submit these Auditor General's reports. We are in committee in 2013, and still receiving and

looking and examining Auditor General's reports from 2003, 2004 and 2005. When they are out of the 2000s, and they are in the 1990s, I do not even worry to open them. I do not even worry to read them.

We thought that this problem was only being experienced here, but I am happy to have been a part of this study tour, the study group that went to London, Wales and Ireland a couple weeks ago, around Carnival time, and the Welsh Assembly explained to us that they were experiencing the same problem. But they are like five or six months behind, and the Irish Assembly had some problems with theirs even five years behind. So this problem is not just for the Tobago House of Assembly. I was so disappointed when Sen. Moore came here saying, "Where de money gone", and Sen. The Hon. Anand Ramlogan, the Attorney General, bawling "Oh papa." "In some one ah dem PNM account." And you know very well, very well that cannot be.

First things first, when the Tobago House of Assembly received this information about the 2004/2005, it was a couple of weeks before they released the report. Mr. President, the Secretary for Finance at the time would have called on the Chief Administrator and all the administrators to report to the Auditor General, to give a response and to clarify and rectify these matters. That is nothing strange for the Government. It was the same thing that Mr. Phillips did with the PURE programme, when the Auditor General would have accused the PURE programme of \$5 billion in contracts and no paperwork to show.

As I said before, things are going on, all these issues are taking place right under your administration, but you took that last Tuesday, that chance to influence the minds of the Tobago electorate, to try to promote some kind of malfeasance going on in the Tobago House of Assembly.

There was one allegation that piqued my interest, and I said, "Oh, no way, that does not even sound right", and I found the need to go and investigate. This is where Sen. Moore said that \$.8 million had been paid—a loan had been given to rescue some private person, to pay a personal loan; that was it. When I did my investigation, I got to find out that, yes, \$800,000 was loaned to an indigenous Tobago business. At that point in time we were establishing the loan programme under the Enterprise Assistance Fund. The Executive Council took that decision to loan that money to that Tobago indigenous business, and I am going to say the name Bill Brown. We grew up with Bill Brown; our parents grew up with Bill Brown Supermarket in Tobago, a supermarket that is out of Tobago, for Tobago, by Tobago. I do not see anything to be ashamed about that.

**2.30 p.m.**

I am sure if we had the chance to rescue Bill Brown under the same circumstances we would rescue Bill Brown again because Bill Brown paid back his money, paid back the loan and is back in business. The business was about to flounder and about to go under. What kind of decision were we supposed to make, to leave Bill Brown to go underground? We made the necessary provisions as the executive council and provided that money to Mr. Bill Brown until we set up the Enterprise Assistance Fund and the loans through there. So that was that.

But, Mr. President, what was disheartening to me is when I went to research and said, okay, well let me see what going on in central government. I came up with the Auditor General's Report's for 2011 and 2012, and let me mention to you some of the things that are under this Auditor General's Report. One, some 931 cases of overpayment totalling \$8.5 million were discovered during the financial year in the Ministry of Education; this is the Auditor General's Report 2011. This is under this People's Partnership Government "eh".

Mr. President, only \$1.5 million was recovered out of a total of \$8.5 million in overpayment, 5,280 cases of overpayment for the entire financial year of 2011 which is 643 more than 2012—2010—sorry.

It gets better because it now goes to the Prime Minister's Office. No, no, before I get there. The value of cases for 2011 totalled to \$20.3 million, 11.84 per cent over the previous year. It gets a little better when it gets to the Prime Minister's Office because the Auditor General shows that 50 per cent of the sample of contract workers from the Prime Minister's Office: no formal service agreement, no contract.

I could come here to the Parliament and say, "Well the Prime Minister hire she friend, no contract", but we know the nature of reporting of the Auditor General's Report and you cannot come here making these allegations and trying to put the political directorate in a precarious position just because you are trying to score cheap political points.

Mr. President, it gets a little better. Also at the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, the required Cabinet Minutes approving posts were not seen for six people. Formal contracts were not produced for 31 of 32 contract employees. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the report stated that contracts were not produced for audit for two contractors, for refurbishment works in which expenditure totalled \$1.9 million. Did you hear the People's National Movement come here and say "the Government thief!" But the Government was so quick and so keen and trying to give the impression that somebody in the Assembly "tiefing de money".

Even right here in the Parliament there are irregularities. The report states that from a sample of 12 contract officers at Parliament, signed contract agreements were not seen for 11. Did we say, “somebody in de Parliament tief”?

In the Ministry—I am seeing here a case of \$248,000—payments totalling \$248,000 were made in September to the supplier of 30 desktop computers. The computers were not seen at the time of the investigation. I did not come here and say, “where de computers gone?”

Mr. President, 30 laptops and cases were purchased at \$256,132.50 and 20 at \$161,795, and at the time of the audit, out of the 50 computers, 12 laptops were seen or none. At the Attorney General’s Office an inventory register was not produced for audit.

So, I could go on and on and on, on inconsistencies and irregularities from the Auditor General’s Report, for the Government, from the Tobago House of Assembly, from many of our institutions across this country, but I did not come here to say, “somebody tief”. It is the typical case.

This demonstrates the attitude of the Government and it is the typical case of what we in Tobago call “kill pickney, kill momma” scenario, and it goes; kill pickney gih momma for eat, momma cyar eat. Kill momma gih pickney, pickney nyam and go down and ask for more.” It simply means, when this situation is presented to me, I have compassion, I care, I think about it, I care, but when the situation is given to you because you lack morals and values, you delve right into it and “yuh looking for more, yuh looking for more confrontation and argument because yuh have no morals and no values”. That is the typical “kill pickney, kill momma” scenario. Mr. President, they might not understand that, Sen. Moheni might, probably grew up with old people like I did. But, anyway, Mr. President.

So, I just found it very disconcerting to sit here and witness and to listen to the secretary—not the secretary—the Senator speak about all this trouble going on in the Tobago House of Assembly. Now, because of the kind of accounting that we practise in the Tobago House of Assembly—I am no accountant but I took some time to ask some questions, and it is called an accrual type of accounting, and we use that rather than the cash reporting system. The accrual type of accounting, it presents its own difficulties in that it calls for a higher measure of evaluation of the system. It is because we use this kind of accounting system why we were able to get a good score, a good grading, a good rating from Moody’s.

So, I want this Government to be more responsible in making its statements, and as I have said before, honesty and integrity are critical features, critical parts

of democracy, and you cannot ignore these principles to simply get acceptance from your friends, a little tap on the back or for some thunderous desk thumping.

Mr. President, I want to move on. Oh yeah, before I did the Auditor General, I was supposed to talk about this integrated campus and this college situation. Now, the Senator would have given the impression that the Tobago House of Assembly is not in agreement with a university or a tertiary education institution for Tobago and that is very far from the truth. What we are asking for is some kind of consultation as to what kind of tertiary education institution should be placed in Tobago. Because as I have said before in another discussion, the stakeholders who are involved in this thing do not have a clear understanding of how this thing is supposed to work. It does not hurt; it does not take any time to sit down and to consult so that we are in one place in moving forward.

How is this COSTAATT marrying into UTT and UWI going to work? The idea of a tertiary institution, an integrated campus for Tobago came on the scene before the whole Penal/Debe university and you are going full speed ahead with that because you had a clear design, a clear focus as to what this thing is supposed to be. To date, there is still some discrepancy and confusion as to what this thing is supposed to be.

Secondly, we in Tobago also want to ensure that whatever tertiary education is provided for Tobago, whether it is provided by the Assembly, central government or whoever, that it caters to the needs of Tobago. We do not want an institution that is offering business administration and events management and education, things that we already have, in areas that we already have. We want to look at fish processing standards, intellectual property.

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

*Motion made:* That the hon. Member's speaking time be extended by 15 minutes.  
[Sen. T. Deyalsingh]

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Thank you, Mr. President. I was on the tertiary education issue, the integrated campus, the tertiary education institution. I want to make sure, we want to make sure that we can deal with situations and employ strategies and have the necessary faculties and subject areas that treat with the Tobago economy, and go in the direction that we want to go with our Tobago economy: fishing standards, intellectual property, creative industries, processing, and so on. We are also concerned as to making, whichever area we choose, a university town, or a college town, where the locals could benefit from auxiliary services and so on.



**Sen. Singh:** You must have read our manifesto.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** So, while it is not about—[*Crosstalk*] I am sorry but Dr. Winston Murray had been promulgating this idea way, way before you, way before you even decided to come together to create this little partnership. Anyway, Mr. President—[*Crosstalk*]

**Sen. Singh:** Good DAC man.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Secondly, the school—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Singh:** He was a good DAC man.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** No, not just that, he is a good Tobago man.

**Hon. Senator:** Yeah!

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** So, Mr. President, this—one more thing she spoke about—“oh gosh is so many. Mr. President, yeah because she cook “ah good pelau there” and trying to get us in trouble, but people of Tobago spoke and we did not just speak, we shouted.

But anyway, the school for special needs and this touches on two issues. What are we going to do in moving forward nationally with special needs cases? Yeah. It is not just about schools. It is about food programmes, getting them to learn different skills, even taking care of them because some of these parents have no idea what to do.

So, a couple months before the election, this Government came up with an idea that they wanted to build a school for special needs students in Tobago. We have no problem with having a special needs—we already have one, and those services need to be expanded, but if the Government has this idea and wants to collaborate with the Tobago House of Assembly to do so, then we could talk. But the Government seems to have been interested in bringing in their own contractors and “kind ah running things” for the Tobago House of Assembly. And that brought some concerns as to having respect for the rule of law, and respecting the people of Tobago’s right to self-determination. It was a little troubling for me to sit back and watch members of the TOP, even the Minister for Tobago Development, Mr. Jack and so on encouraging the Government to do so.

I remember when Mr. Robinson was the head of the Assembly in Tobago and Mr. Jack and Deborah Miggins, former Senator Miggins and they were under his watch and under his care, he would tell them, do not let any Trinidad company come here or the government come here and do any road project or touch

anything under the Fifth Schedule for the Tobago House of Assembly Act. If they bring a tractor, sit in front of it, stretch out in front of it. It was just hurtful to see fellow Tobagonians now turn their backs on that principle that they had learned from what I would like to call one of the fathers, or the father, of this whole struggle for internal self-government for Tobago.

Now, the Tobago House of Assembly is not always going to get it right. The Government is going to have wonderful ideas, but we can talk. We could talk. There are areas that are under the remit of the Tobago House of Assembly, respect that.

So, Mr. President, this whole idea of rule of law and respecting the Tobagonian's right for internal self-government or anybody's right for self-determination, it brings into question or it raises the issue of internal self-government. I was very, very heartened when Sen. Moore would have raised the issue, and I am happy to know that this matter is still on the table for discussion. What I want to request is that we find some way in moving forward that is more peaceful and less divisive because the route that we are heading on right now with this Bill that says, okay, the TOP or the UNC supports this, and this is the PNM's position, I think we should go back to how we started. The intention in the beginning was for Tobago to speak to Trinidad with one voice.

**2.45 p.m.**

I think it would be wonderful if people from all the political parties, the MSJ, the TOP whenever it gets itself together, the PNM, the People's Partnership, the UNC, the technocrats, the independents, everybody who has good ideas for this thing, to come together and develop a proper way forward, so that when we come to the Parliament we would not be grandstanding and having these negative postures and then the Bill gets nowhere. This thing is too dear to the heart of all Tobagonians and even Trinidadians too. This whole issue of constitutional reform is too serious for us to be playing politics with it.

It hurts me to go to other countries and watch them move forward in trying to stand up and stay strong against the backdrop of global economic problems and so on, and we are here fighting against each other on itty-bitty issues, insignificant issues, that if we would be big people and sit and talk about, we could move forward and deal with the real issues. We could shake our tail feathers and have a good time on the international stage, because Trinidad and Tobago would be where it needs to be, rather than wasting so much time pulling down each other and keeping the country stagnant.

So I am heartened, I am very happy that the Government, that the Prime Minister has met with the Chief Secretary; I am glad that meeting has finally happened after two and a half years of the Chief Secretary writing to the Prime Minister. [*Desk thumping*] I have been able to witness the Prime Minister on the political platform saying, “he keep writing me, oh, what a cry baby”.

**Sen. Hinds:** See what a good “cut skin” does.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** I am telling you, and that tells you that a good flogging works on bad, big people just as much as it works on little children. [*Desk thumping*] As a big sister and older sibling I can tell you that I used to flog my little sisters and it would keep them in line—[*Interruption*]—and this was my chance to see firsthand how a good flogging could put some big people back in line. [*Crosstalk*]

So, Mr. President, I am happy to see that meeting happened and I am hoping that it is not just another “skin teeth” activity. [*Interruption*] I feel like the Chief Secretary has extended open arms and I hope that is it not met with clenched fists.

**Sen. Hinds:** You are suffering from—[*Inaudible*]

**Sen. George:** You too.

**Sen. S. Cudjoe:** Mr. President, I hope that this is the first step in more collaboration and communication with central government and the Tobago House of Assembly, not just from the seat of the Chief Secretary and the Prime Minister, but that line Ministers could speak to their line secretaries in Tobago and we move this country forward together. [*Interruption*]

Now, Tobago has spoken and what I want this Government to do is to respect the voice of the electorate, respect the voice of the electorate. There are many people who said, oh, we made this decision unfair, and race, and all this foolishness, but if you look back into the history of Tobago and the way in which we vote, and why we make the decisions we make, we are very intelligent and astute people and we said to Trinidad clearly that we do not want this kind of messy Government in Tobago. [*Interruption*] We were clear on what we want, we have spoken and we are asking you to respect that decision, and I hope that we work together as we move forward, so that we could bring some benefit and some productivity and good fruits to this twin island state of Trinidad and Tobago.

I know many are worried, they are saying, oh, there is no opposition in the Tobago House of Assembly and who is going to speak for the 11,000 that voted for the TOP? It is the same position we faced in 2010, Tobago East and West were

won by the People's Partnership and we did not complain and say, who is going to speak for us in the Cabinet. That is the nature of the game, we put our tails between our legs and we dealt with the decision and we got up and dust off and moved on from there.

So I just think a different kind of posturing needs to take place in moving forward and we need to be open and honest and genuine, and put down the politics for a while and the stupid fighting, Mr. President. I hope that we can move forward as sensible and intelligent people who, do not just wear the flags on our lapels, but have that red, white and black pumping in our hearts.

So, Mr. President, with that said and with those very few words, I want to thank you. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Helen Drayton:** Thank you, Mr. President. [*Desk thumping*] I speak on this Motion which asks the Government to reaffirm its commitment to the principles and practice of democracy as enshrined in the Constitution.

Now it is a very broad Motion, probably a little vague, but it provides ample opportunity for me to address a critical matter that goes to the heart of the principles and practice of democracy and the democratic rights of individuals under section 4 of the Constitution, specifically 4(a), which is:

“the right...to life, liberty, security of...person and enjoyment of property and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;

Too many innocent people are deprived of the right to life and security of person. As I speak on this issue, I extend condolences to the hundreds of families whose loved ones have died at the hands of criminals or in motor vehicle collisions and crashes. I will not go into statistics, suffice it to say that the level of murders and death by collision, motor vehicle collisions and crashes, mirror deaths of citizens in countries mired with civil strife. It is that bad.

But what is also distressing are also recent remarks by public officials and, in some cases, the department of senior public officials. Now this is what I read and understood the acting Commissioner of Police to say about the recent murders, and I am subject to correction. The commissioner said that from a policing perspective the police are doing all that they can. The Chairman of the Police Service Commission indicated that measures implemented over the recent years have failed. Now, granted, I do not recall reading or hearing specifically which measures, but if the police are doing all that they can and if measures implemented are not working, then exactly how could the Government and law enforcement agencies uphold individuals' right to life and security?

Now I believe that strides have been made over the past few years, but there are five significant characteristics with respect to the current situation. The first is the relentless level of murders on a daily basis; the second is the age group of most of the killers and most of the numbers of them who are in the pipeline and are ready to target their next victim. Most of those, of the victims, we have been told are allegedly gang members; others are innocent victims. The third is the lack of meaningful intervention to shut down the pipeline. The fourth involves serious issues in the public's domain surrounding the integrity of national security governance, and it is this perhaps more than anything else that worries many citizens, since as citizens we are relying on the hierarchy of national security to ensure performance at the operational level and to ensure that such performance is in keeping with the principles and practice of democracy. The fifth is the politicizing of crime.

Mr. President, I will try my best to pigeonhole this discourse, consistent with the Motion which is for Government to reaffirm its commitment to democratic principles and practices. Regarding the fifth matter which is the continued politicizing of crime, I submit the Motion should be amended. The situation with crime is far too serious, crime is a threat to stability of the country, it is a threat to the mental and emotional health of citizens, it is a threat to democracy.

I would have preferred to speak on a Motion and say, yes, to a Motion that read:

Be it resolved that the Government reaffirm commitment to democratic principles and practices concerning the safety and security of citizens by agreeing to the establishment of a joint national security committee of Parliament charged with responsibility to scrutinize and monitor defined national security matters.

Now, that is not anything new. In many countries of the Commonwealth, there are joint parliamentary committees on security for the very reason of ensuring democratic rights are preserved. It is time to stop politicizing crime in the interest of the citizens' rights to life, liberty and security.

Now what about the citizens' responsibility in the fight against crime and confidence in the police and national security authorities? I will touch on that in a while. For the time being, a pertinent question is, given the depressing situation, how does the average citizen assimilate these two statements by senior public officials? In the wake of the murder of the driver of the Minister of National Security—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Singh:** Gardner.

**Sen. H. Drayton:** Gardner—we are told that it was said that the criminals believed that he was an informant. Now, whether that was the case or not or whether the report in the newspaper was accurate, at the very same time those remarks were made and in the wake of the murder of Sergeant Mc Waren—  
[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Singh:** Manwaring.

**Sen. H. Drayton:**—Manwaring, the police chief was seen on television pleading with the public to give them information on crime.

Now, if people feel that they will be murdered if they inform the police of what they see and what they hear, then why should they? How could they have confidence that they will be protected? Citizens' confidence and willingness to do their duty in the fight against crime is directly linked with the performance and the perception of performance of the police and security forces.

Now, how do citizens deal, mentally and emotionally, especially families of murdered victims, with a stench that surrounds mysterious flying apparatus? Until there is clarification and hopefully there will be credible clarification, it remains a phantom anticrime machinery that no one in authority knows about, yet the police and authorities keep on asking the public to assist them with crime, asking the public to have confidence in the police and the security forces, and that is what we are confronted with.

Mr. President, this deals with the core of the fourth overarching issue of integrity of governance in national security and the principles of democracy. It leads to the legitimate question as to whether in the existing arrangements there is indeed moral authority to fight crime, and by extension, whether there could be citizens' confidence that their efforts in the fight against crime will make a difference in where they are now and where they want to be.

**3.00 p.m.**

There is something frightening about societies, when there appears to be a lack of a moral compass, guiding leadership or operational performance in critical areas of national life. There appears to be a blurring of operational and governance lines in national security. Now, if that is so, then governance at the highest level will be compromised.

Now, Mr. President, I am not saying that every time there is a newspaper headline accusing the Government or a Minister or a department the public should believe that—not at all. As a matter of fact, if anything, they should give the

Government the benefit of the doubt. But it has to be careful in its communication that if its line Minister's communication is as such that it gives credibility to stories, then there will continue to be a serious issue of public confidence, not only in the police, not only in national security, generally, but also in the Government.

I also believe that the very nature of national security means that some things, including tactical crime plans, should be kept confidential, and that is not inconsistent with the need for transparency and accountability. It is merely the ability to save lives. And I do not hesitate to say that I will be very comfortable as a citizen to know that there is a police flying squad, given the terrain of our country and the number of bodies that are turning up daily. A properly established flying squad, competently staffed, and accounted for, is probably a very good strategy in the fight against crime.

With respect to citizens' responsibility, it is true that citizens should not simply blame the Government and the law enforcement agency for the crime situation and that parents must take responsibility for raising children. But apart from the fact that parents are not the only influence on the character of children, many parents are not equipped to raise children and that goes to the heart of social and education systems. A mother who burns the hands of her children because they take cornflakes is not just a merciless abusive parent; this is an ignorant person, unwittingly breeding the next generation who would burn the hands of their children and sometime later in life lash out at society. Such behaviour in parenting arises out of intergenerational culture, emotional behavioural and other disorders of parents. These are things that, as a society, we need to understand.

A second and third trend mentioned—it has to do with the age group of the murderers and many of their victims, and the interventions to shut down the pipeline. The relationship between children becoming young criminals, parenting among other shapers of character, all these things are recognized. But that does not mean to say that innately children and youth do not know the difference between right and wrong, and they do not know that if they pick up a gun it will kill someone. So, while we acknowledge that many domestic and environmental circumstances generate young criminals, the rampant murder and mayhem taking place in our society cannot be excused away by those responsible for law and order, neither can successive Governments shirk their culpability for not making better effort with the very social and economic and educational issues that keep the engine room of crime in full throttle.

Now, what is the status of the research project between the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development and the Inter-American Development Bank regarding the framework for managing special needs of children? Now, this

project was to culminate in five assessment centres with integrated facilities for assessing and helping children with development problems and by extension their parents. I recall that it was sometime early last year that the Minister of Education mentioned at a national youth productivity forum that the Government had contracted EduNova of Canada to conduct a survey.

Now, the output of such assessment centres provides avenues for helping parents to be better parents. The cycle and culture of bad parenting can only be broken with education. It is not a quick fix, but had we started about a decade ago with such meaningful strategies we would have made incremental strides on the social side. As we concentrate on the current situation, the 2011 unemployment figures indicated that the population between 15 and 19 years was around 20 per cent—this is about 15,000 youth hanging around with nothing to do, some with no employable skills. Between 15 and 34, the figure was 20,000; maybe those numbers have since changed.

We continue to see a knee-jerk response to spikes in crime. The statistics declined marginally and there is a lot of self-commendation by the police and the Government. It goes up, then suddenly, the police and army are walking around the streets with machine guns raiding hot spots and lamenting poor parenting, the breakdown in family life and the need for citizens to help. And what follows—basketball hooping projects, make-work, more draconian laws, partnerships with this and that foreign Government and a few months later the cycle starts again; alas, we now await the Colombians.

The Government spends billions of dollars on security but there is something insidious operating. It is the abysmal crime detection rate and gangsterism, and unless the detection rate improves, we can put in all the laws we want, we will continue to experience the vicious cycle in murders and crime generally. Clearly, it is not just a matter of more laws.

The authorities were able to make a considerable dent in kidnapping for ransom, thanks to combined police and army under the anti-kidnaping squad. You see, when they succeed no one talks about improved family life or improved parenting. Failure, we are quick to ascribe the blame.

Anti-gang legislation was implemented. The Bail Act and Firearms Act were amended, DNA legislation and electronic monitoring legislation were also enacted. There appears to be little or no prosecutions under the Anti-Gang Act. The Government is now contemplating legislation to make firearm possession a non-bailable offence, precepting army officers and increasing joint army patrols. But



you are going to have to improve the detection rate and you are going to have to prosecute under the anti-gang legislation. Has anyone determined the manpower strength that is really needed? It is regretful to say that more legislation and patrols will not permanently curb the murder rate unless detection rate goes up. And unless we deal with integrity issues in the echelons of national security, public confidence will continue to erode.

In closing, Mr. President, I submit that there is need for reaffirmation to the rights enshrined in the Constitution, specifically, the right to life, safety and security. And I submit that the Motion should be amended for agreement on a joint national security committee of Parliament to monitor and scrutinize security operations. I thank you, Mr. President. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. President:** Before we proceed to the next speaker, I just needed to draw to Sen. Drayton's attention that if you propose to make an amendment to the Motion you must let our Clerk have it, so that before the question is put ultimately, we have the worded amendment you want to put before this Senate. So if in due course you can do that for us.

Sen. Ramnarine.

**The Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Kevin Ramnarine):** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the private Motion in the name of Sen. Fitzgerald Hinds that has to do with calling on Government to reaffirm its commitment to the principles and the practice of democracy in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Motion itself starts off as its base with the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, which in its Preamble recognizes and promotes the observation and practice of democratic principles. Our Constitution, which is the 1976 Republican Constitution, its Preamble reads in part:

“(c) have asserted their belief in a democratic society in which all persons may, to the extent of their capacity, play some part in the institutions of the national life and thus develop and maintain due respect for lawfully constituted authority;”

So, section (c) of the Preamble calls for maximum participation by all in the democratic life of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. President, having said that, section 4 of our Constitution, as pointed out by Sen. Helen Drayton in her very passionate contribution, deals with the rights enshrined and it speaks about the rights of the individual to life, to liberty, to security and so on.

Democracy is important to economic prosperity and economic development, but some may argue, it is not essential for those things to exist because there are States in the world that have achieved prosperity and are not necessarily democratic States. One could look at the example of China in the current day where they are achieving growth rates around 8 per cent per annum and China is not at all a democratic State.

One may also consider the example of Chile in the 1970s, where some scholars argued that the platform for the Chilean miracle was put in place by the military government of General Augusto Pinochet, and Chile today is one of the most prosperous countries in Latin America. So democracy, it may be argued, is not necessarily important for prosperity.

But I will argue that in this country where I have the honour to serve as the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs and to interact on almost a daily basis with the international energy fraternity, it is one of the advantages that we have as a country. Persons and companies make decisions to invest based on their assessment of risk and there is a tremendous amount of risk that can be loaded in any one project and in the energy sector the projects that we are talking about run into billions of United States dollars.

**3.15 p.m.**

Mr. President, while I was sitting here, I received an email from Repsol formally notifying me, in my capacity as Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, that they have finalized sale of their LNG assets in Point Fortin to Shell. This is indeed a very significant development for the energy sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

As I advised the House in a previous debate, Repsol is one of the world's largest oil companies, quite possibly the largest company in Spain. They ran into some difficulties some years ago with the Argentine government and their assets in Argentina, which constitute their YPF arm, were expropriated by the Argentine government. In order for them to maintain what they call investment grade, they want to reduce their debt burden and, therefore, they are selling their assets around the world, particularly their LNG assets.

So that was formally announced today, and as I said before, Shell is no stranger to Trinidad and Tobago. Shell had a long legacy presence in Trinidad and Tobago and left this country in 1974. Some 39 years ago, they operated a refinery in Point Fortin. Sen. Marlene Coudray is very familiar with Shell's presence in Point Fortin. They have also left in Point Fortin, as Sen. Coudray would know, a valuable legacy, and they will be coming back into the community of Point Fortin in the coming months.

So I wanted to put on record that companies' confidence in countries has a lot to do with the quality of democracy; with the capacity for that country to adhere to property rights, sanctity of contracts and the rule of law, and this country has always had that very good reputation internationally, and it is a reputation which we, as a Government, have sought to protect and to promote, internationally.

Mr. President, as I said, democracy is all around us in this hemisphere. There is democracy throughout the Americas, as we speak. Democracy is not only about elections every five years or local government elections every three years. Democracy is about the participation of citizens in every aspect of national life. And as Sen. Cudjoe pointed out—she made one valuable point in her entire contribution. She made several good points, but there was one point that stood out, and it is the point that democracy is an evolving idea, and who knows where democracy will be 50 years from now.

Mr. President, so as I said, this country has adopted the Westminster parliamentary style of democracy and we have a lot to be proud of. In 1986, Mr. President—both Sen. Cudjoe and I were very young. You would remember that in 1986 we changed a government in this country for the first time in 30 years, and it was a period in time when I was now coming into my own in terms of my political consciousness as a young person. One recalls that that is something which does not happen in other countries. We changed a government after 30 years of being entrenched in power and not a single shot was fired. There was no violence, and that is the beauty of Trinidad and Tobago, and we have done that many times thereafter. We have changed governments; there has never been—*[Desk thumping]* There has never been any sort of violence; no shots fired, and this is one of the things that the international community and international investors look at.

Mr. President, Freedom House is an international organization that was founded in the 1940s by Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt, as you know is the former First Lady of the United States and the wife of the US President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Freedom House ranks countries in three categories. They rank countries as being free, as being partly free and as being not free, and Trinidad and Tobago, along with the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean, ranks in the category of being free.

Of course, when one looks around at our country, you could see evidence of the fact that we are a free country. Probably some may argue we are too free; that there is too much freedom. *[Interruption]*

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As you mentioned Tobago, the exercise in Tobago was an exercise in democracy, and we have accepted the results of Tobago and we are already working—our Prime Minister has met with the Chief Secretary of the THA, Mr. Orville London, and as soon as Mr. London is ready to speak with me with regard to the energy sector in Tobago, I will avail myself, because we are committed to work for the development of Tobago and Trinidad, regardless of the politics. [Desk thumping]

Mr. President, I come back to Freedom House. Freedom House says that currently there are two billion people on this planet living under oppressive rule.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Not Freedom Chambers?

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** No, no, not Freedom House Chambers—and that these two billion people, of course—and most of that two billion would be persons living in the People's Republic of China who are not allowed to participate in a democracy, and they cite some of the aspects of a democracy as being “open political competition”. And one would certainly have to agree that we have more than open political competition in Trinidad and Tobago. We have a very open political system. I will talk a bit more about the 1925 election in Trinidad and Tobago because there are some of us who like to think that Trinidad and Tobago started in a particular year in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Hon. Senator:** 1956.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** 1956. But those of us who have read history will know that Trinidad and Tobago's history extends way before 1956.

In delving into that aspect of our politics, Mr. President, we should recognize the contribution to our democracy by Captain Arthur Andrew Cipriani. I remember fondly—we have been here now for almost three years—that when we were in the Red House there was a bust of Captain Cipriani, as there was a bust of Count de Verteuil, in the chamber in the Red House, and one would hope that when we return to the Red House—as we would eventually return to the Red House—that we would again see those busts of Captain Cipriani and Count de Verteuil being displayed in the Parliament.

So, Mr. President, the freedom that we enjoy today in Trinidad and Tobago did not drop from the sky, and this is a lesson that I hope that a lot of the young people—and I do not count myself as a young person anymore, Mr. President—

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** You should.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** And neither should Sen. Al-Rawi.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is why you should.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** I do not count myself as a young person anymore, but those younger people in their teens and in their 20s who take freedom and the democracy we have for granted, we should introduce at some point in time—and I have discussed this with the Minister of Education—courses in the history of democracy, in civics and so on. Those of us who are old enough to know, would know that there was a time in this country when civics was taught in schools in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Sen. Singh:** *Student's Companion.*

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** And I have been discussing this with the distinguished Minister of Education—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Singh:** Wilfred D. Best.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Wilfred D. Best, *Student's Companion.*

Mr. President, what we enjoy today also has its roots in another struggle in England that dates back to the year 1215 when the Magna Carta was signed, and the Magna Carta was the first attempt in England to keep in check—to check the powers of the King, and that continued, Mr. President, with the beheading of King Charles I in, I think it was 1669, and throughout the long flow of history, man has sought to assert his rights by checking the divine rights of kings, and that culminated, of course, with the French revolution in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and it continues to this day as we continue to refine democracy throughout the world.

In contemporary times, of course, I remember, Mr. President, when I was in lower six in Hillview College, 1989—very interesting year to be writing General Paper. In 1989, Trinidad and Tobago, for the first time, started to receive a signal from CNN. We started to see CNN on TV. I do not know how many of you all remember that, but before that we would only get Channel 2.

**Sen. Deyalsingh:** I remember Rediffusion.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** “Well, I not that far back”. But in 1989, Mr. President, we started to receive CNN and out of coincidence, some of the greatest events in the history of mankind were unfolding in Eastern Europe.

**Hon. Member:** In front our eyes.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** In front of our eyes, as students of General Paper in lower six we started to see history unfold before us. We started to see Eastern Europe wake up from a long slumber under the dominance of the Soviet Union, and that was a move towards democracy by Eastern Europe and today, some of us have been to Eastern Europe; some of us have friends from Eastern Europe; there are companies from Eastern Europe that are doing business in this part of the world, and that could not have been conceived of before 1989.

In like manner, a similar change is blowing across the Middle East and the winds of democracy are beginning to blow across the Middle East.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** The question is the effect.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** The question is the effect. Some historians have said that democracy is not necessarily for every culture and that it may be, time will tell, but one of the most powerful forces of the last, I would say five to 10 years, has been the role of the social media in promoting democracy. Of course, we know the role that Facebook has played in the Arab Spring; we know the role that Facebook has played in the US elections, and right here in Trinidad and Tobago, Facebook is a very powerful tool in the politics. Facebook is a very powerful tool in the dissemination of information. A lot of people get their information about the energy sector by coming to my Facebook page where I have almost 3,000 friends, and the Attorney General would tell you that he has 5,000 friends, so I am catching up with the Attorney General because he is capped at 5,000 by Facebook.

So, Mr. President, social media is very important to democracy. One of the observations—and I would credit my permanent secretary because public servants are not often credited, as Minister George would tell you. One of the observations that was brought to my attention, by my permanent secretary who has recently joined the public service again after a stint at the World Bank, is that Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. President, is unique, in that it is probably the only small, open democratic, hydrocarbon-dominant economy in the world. I repeat that again for you. Trinidad and Tobago may be the only small, open democratic, hydrocarbon-dominant economy in the world. I say that because, analog-type countries like Qatar, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Equatorial Guinea and so on, are not democracies at all; they are either kingdoms; they are Sultanates; they are Emirates and, therefore, that combination existing in this country has particular realities for our democracy that we as a people may not realize that we are in this very unique position.

So, Mr. President, there is an argument, therefore, that there is a relationship between democracy and economic growth and there is a broad consensus that democracy leads to economic growth and prosperity, the United States being case in point.

Mr. President, I turn now to the history of democracy in Trinidad and Tobago, and I know that there is a precursor to 1925, and those of us who have researched the history would know that opposition to the colonial authority started way before 1925, with that 1925 election. There was the Muharram massacre in San Fernando which took place on Ciper Street in San Fernando—

**Sen. Singh:** October 30, 1884.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** October 30, 1884, the Muharram massacre in San Fernando, where persons participating in Hosay openly challenged the colonial authority and they were dealt a very severe blow. Many of them were killed by the colonial authority.

Then there was the Canboulay riots around the same time—the 1880s—and culture, Mr. President, has always been a vehicle through which democracy and the human impulse for freedom expresses itself.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Ah, well said; well said. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** So it is no surprise that persons at that point in time, in the 1880s in Trinidad and Tobago, sought to express their desire for freedom; their desire for democracy through their different cultural vehicles. In the case of the Africans, it was the Canboulay riots and in the case of the Indians, it was the Muharram massacre on Ciper Street, San Fernando. I believe, Mr. President, that, you know, the appropriate landmark should be designated in San Fernando as the site where that massacre took place.

But fast-forwarding, Mr. President, to the First World War in Trinidad and Tobago; the First World War started in 1914, and a few months ago, on Memorial Day, I visited Fyzabad with the Member of Parliament for Fyzabad, Mr. Chandresh Sharma. We observed Memorial Day in one of three cenotaphs, I am told, in Trinidad and Tobago; one being in Port of Spain at Memorial Square and the other one being in Fyzabad, and I am told, though I am not sure, that there is a third cenotaph in Tobago.

**3.30 p.m.**

The cenotaph in Fyzabad, Mr. President—an historian, Mr. Angelo Bissessarsingh, has hold me—is located on the site of the head office of Apex Oilfields, and the reason for that is that many of the men who went to fight in the First World War were employees of Apex Oilfields. They went to fight mainly in Egypt. Some of them

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fought in what is today Israel, some of them fought in Palestine, and we are again told by historians that there are graves of Trinidad and Tobago's soldiers in Palestine to this day, that you could go to Palestine and see those graves.

The point I am coming to is that there was a leader among these men fighting in the First World War and that was Captain Cipriani. The history again tells us that when these men came back to Trinidad after fighting for the British in the First World War, they were badly treated by the colonial authority. As a result of that treatment, tension started to build in Trinidad and Tobago and Captain Cipriani entered into the politics.

In 1921, there was a royal commission that recommended limited adult suffrage in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1925, there was the very first election in this country and Captain Cipriani contested a seat in Port of Spain. He defeated one Randolph Rust after whom Rust Street in St. Clair is named—not sure how many people know that. Randolph Rust is also a pioneer of the oil industry—and that launched Captain Cipriani into the Legislative Council.

There was also Charles Henry Pierre. I do not know how many people know about Charles Henry Pierre. He represented the eastern counties, which today are Toco/Sangre Grande, Cumuto/Manzanilla and what used to be the Nariva seat. And, he had a famous son, my research shows. His famous son was a medical doctor named Sir Henry Pierre, who was a very distinguished medical doctor in Trinidad and Tobago. I say this because the history of this country is a glorious history, and it is a history that we cannot forget. So I feel honoured to put these names into the *Hansard*.

Mr. President, in the St. Patrick seat, there was a gentleman by the name of Otto Radcliffe Clarke, who was a white landowner and was elected to the Legislative Council, and, interestingly today—his name is Otto Radcliffe Clarke—there is a road named after him. It is called Clarke Road in Penal because he was a large landowner in that area of the country and he sold land to the East Indians in that part of the country. So Trinidad and Tobago, of course, did not start in 1956. Trinidad and Tobago had a long history before that.

Fast-forwarding now, from 1925, the Great Depression had taken its toll on Trinidad and Tobago and there was tremendous economic deprivation and social injustice, and stress began to build in the society, which manifested itself in the 1937 labour riots in Fyzabad. I found a book here by former Sen. Sahadeo Basdeo, who I understand is now living in Vancouver, having retired, of course, from politics and so on. He is an expert in the history of the labour movement in the Caribbean and he has in this book here, *Labour Organization and Labour Reform in Trinidad, 1919—1939*, proffered some of the reasons why there were those riots in Fyzabad.



Would you believe, Mr. President, that workers in the oilfield had to carry around something called a red book. That red book held a record of their performance in various oilfield companies, and bad reports would be put into that red book that would cause them not to be able to get employment in other companies. There was also the employment of white South Africans by oil companies in south Trinidad that led to the feelings of racial discrimination being played out against workers, and all this together with the poverty, together with low wages, together with the social stresses of the Great Depression led to the 1937 labour riots in Fyzabad, which in itself was part of a wider social unrest in the Caribbean.

There was social unrest in Jamaica, in Guyana and in Belize, and the colonial authority at the time responded by sending one Lord Moyne to establish a commission of enquiry, again, into the reasons for this unrest, and that, Mr. President, led to Lord Moyne recommending universal adult suffrage.

In 1946, there was the first election in Trinidad under universal adult suffrage.

**Hon. Senator:** After the language test was taken out.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** After the language test was taken out. In that election in 1946 there were nine seats being contested, and it launched into a political arena, the political careers of many famous sons of Trinidad and Tobago including Chanka Maharaj, who is from the San Juan area; Albert Gomes, representing the Port of Spain area; Ranjit Kumar, who is well known—his daughter is now the CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce—and Mr. APT James of Tobago, also known as Fargo—that was his nickname. He was so named after a type of truck that was popular in Trinidad and Tobago. These were some of the people who were launched into that Parliament, in that Legislative Council, in 1946.

**Hon. Senator:** Sarran Teelucksingh.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Sarran Teelucksingh and so on.

**Hon. Senator:** C.B. Mathura.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** C.B. Mathura. These were all people who entered into that Parliament in 1946. But in 1946, Tubal Uriah “Buzz” Butler, probably the most popular man on the island, decided quite quixotically that he would not contest a seat in his stronghold, that he would prove his national popularity and he would leave his safehold of his safe bastion of St. Patrick, and that he would challenge Albert Gomes in Port of Spain. He went and contested

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the seat in Port of Spain in 1946 and the result, of course, is a matter for the history books. Butler was defeated in 1946 by Albert Gomes, but subsequently entered the Parliament in 1950, having learnt his lesson in 1946.

So as I said, labour has an important role to play and I am standing next to my colleague here from the labour movement. [*Desk thumping*] Labour has played an important role, and labour essentially became the vehicle through which the peoples of Trinidad and Tobago began to challenge the order of the day—the status quo—and began to advocate for greater and greater independence and began to advocate for democracy. So there is a huge debt of gratitude that is owed by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the labour movement, and I put that on the record. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. President, we come now to 1956. You see how much history, and I am just touching the tip of the iceberg, and the arrival, of course, of Dr. Williams in 1955 on the political landscape. That, in itself, led to the formation in January 1956 of the PNM. In September 1956, the PNM entered into the Parliament, winning 13 of the 25 seats, I think it was, and with some assistance from the Governor General, they were able to form a Government.

Of course, we move on to 1962, our independence; 1970, which is an event in the history that is fading in the recollection of many of our young people, the Black Power Revolution; 1976, republicanism; 1990, one of the low points in our democracy, the attempted coup; and I put on record, again, that it is this Government that has listened to the cries for the establishment of a commission of enquiry into the 1990 coup.

Of course, Mr. President, coming to another low point, 1994, and by this time my political consciousness was full blown. So I was following the politics in Trinidad and Tobago, and in 1994 we had the house arrest of the Speaker, the presiding officer of the House of Representatives, Occah Seapaul. That has gone now into the history books as part of the history of Trinidad and Tobago, but it was a traumatic period.

In 1995, we had our first coalition Government, when Mr. Robinson with his two seats in Tobago decided to join with Mr. Panday with his 17 seats and form the Government of the day.

**Sen. Singh:** Not 1986, you know—

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Well, if you consider the NAR to be not a single party. In 2001—and this is something, of course, the Leader of Government Business would know very well, in 2001, because he was the elected Member for Caroni East—we had the 18/18 tie, which put a tremendous amount of stress on our

democratic institutions, and I would say that our country held together very well. The outcome eventually was not an outcome that was, I think, a popular outcome. It resulted in the formation of a PNM Government on December 24, 2001.

**Hon. Senator:** Moral and spiritual values.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** In 2010, Mr. President, a watershed event in the history of the politics of Trinidad and Tobago and our democracy—the first female Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. [*Desk thumping*]

**Hon. Senator:** The Opposition Leader of the Senate is headed by a woman.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Of course, I am told, the first female leader of the Opposition Bench in the Senate, in the year 2010, in the person of Sen. Penelope Beckles. [*Desk thumping*]

I go back to the Preamble of the Constitution that—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Next political leader in the PNM. [*Desk thumping and laughter*]

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:**—calls for broad political participation.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** I could handle that.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** She may, yes.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** So Faris will get soft. [*Laughter*]

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** The first female vice-president.

**Sen. Beckles:** In the Senate, of course.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** And the first female Vice-President of the Senate. [*Desk thumping*] So, Mr. President, I go back to the Preamble which I read from—I think it was section C—that calls on us, as much as possible, to have the broadest participation in our democracy and, therefore, women coming more and more into the political mainstream is a part of the evolution of the democracy of Trinidad and Tobago, and it is something that we should be very proud of. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. President, we are legislators, and lawmaking is a fundamental part of democracy, and there are laws that have been made that have promoted democracy—laws like the Freedom of Information Act which I am advised by my colleague to the left, Sen. Maharaj, that there was an attempt to water down the Freedom of Information Act by the previous Government. We have done no such

*Govt's Commitment to the Constitution*  
[SEN. THE HON. K. RAMNARINE]

*Tuesday, February 26, 2013*

thing. There is also, as the Attorney General will tell you, the Judicial Review Act of 2000; and there is also the Constitutional (Amdt.) (No. 3) of 1999, which establishes joint select committees to enquire into the operations of state enterprises and to enquire into the operations of regional corporations and Ministries and so on.

Of course, there is the Equal Opportunity Act which the Attorney General is very familiar with. The Equal Opportunity Act is also now operationalized and there is the Equal Opportunity Commission, which is also operationalized.

So democracy evolves, democracy is constantly refined. It is an idea that changes over time and, as a responsible Government, you would be seeing the ads that have started to be put in the papers by the Minister of Legal Affairs, that the Government is about to embark upon an exercise in consultation with the public with regard to constitutional reform.

**Hon. Senator:** “How the PNM do it?”

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** There are two significant promises that are in the manifesto of the People’s Partnership, and those promises are:

1. that there would be a two-term limit for Prime Ministers; and
2. fixed dates for general election and for local government election. [*Desk thumping*]

**Hon. Senator:** Not in the back pocket again.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Fixed dates for—I found it to be very, very backward that a Prime Minister could be teasing a population and saying that he has the date in his back pocket.

**Hon. Senator:** Which Prime Minister is that?

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** So I would hope that this is something that the Opposition would support—fixed dates. In the United States of America— [*Interruption*]

**Sen. Beckles:** When is it? “When you bringing it?”

**Hon. Senator:** A fixed date election?

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** The two-term limit, Mr. President, is in the manifesto of the People’s Partnership and, therefore, of course, the two-term limit applies in the United States of America.

**Sen. Lambert:** “It coming. Don’t worry.”

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Mr. President, in the year 2000, Bill Clinton had an approval rating of 65 per cent and, of course, he was at the end of his two terms and he had to go. But had Bill Clinton—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** That was before Monica or after?

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** That was even after the incident. He had a 65 per cent approval rating at the end of his term because he promised to fix the economy and he did that.

**Sen. Beckles:** That was when he was unfaithful.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** In Guyana, recently, we had the situation where President Jagdeo, having also served his two terms, had stepped down. We had a situation in Russia where President Putin served two terms, took a break and allowed Medvedev to serve a term. President Putin, again, is President of Russia. So the thinking, of course, is that when leaders stay too long in office—and this is also a thinking which applies to the corporate world.

**3.45 p.m.**

In the corporate world you do not see a person spending 30 years as the President of General Electric and so on, because your thinking becomes ossified, your thinking becomes petrified and there is a need for a constant churn at the level of leadership. Therefore, a two-term limit is something which applies, of course, in the United States and in other countries in the world. And this, of course, is subject to consultation and discussion with the population and I believe the Minister of Legal Affairs is starting this exercise on Saturday, March 02, 2013.

**Sen. Singh:** Invite Faris, invite Faris.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is not what the manifesto said.

**Sen. The Hon. K. Ramnarine:** Okay. But we are starting that exercise this weekend; so constitutional reform. And it is not the first time. I am not an expert in the history of constitutional reform like Dr. Hamid Ghany, but I remember from my reading of the history, there was something called the Wooding Commission that was chaired by Sir Hugh Wooding, HOB Wooding. And HOB Wooding proposed a mixed system of election, part first-past-the-post, part proportional representation and the then Prime Minister said that proportional representation was a dagger through the heart of the PNM, and that was in the 1970s and that too is part of the historical record of the country.

Then again, in the 1980s, after winning 33 seats, the NAR decided to have the Hyatali Commission for the Hyatali Commission to enquire into constitutional reform, so constitutional reform is an historic process. A constitution is not something written in stone, but there are certain core values that are, of course, if you read the Preamble of the Constitution, the core values of the country are there. We affirm our belief in God. We subscribe to the principles of moral and spiritual values in public office and these are the core values that generate the laws that we pass in this Parliament. So, I congratulate my colleague, the Minister of Legal Affairs, and I wish him well in his consultations that would be starting very soon.

Mr. President, as I speak a bit more about democracy and its relationship to the economy, I must mention the work of Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen. Amartya Sen is an Indian Nobel Laureate. He is from the state of Bengal and his most famous work is called *Development as Freedom*. And this is what Sen says, who is now considered to be a philosopher of economics: He says:

“No famine has ever taken place in the history of the world in a functioning democracy...”

Professor Sen, as he is, growing up in Bengal—I think you are familiar with Prof. Sen, Sen. Prof. Ramkissoon—growing up in that part of India, in places like Bengal and places like Bihar, was exposed as a young child, under the rule of the British Raj to incidences of famine in India and it greatly affected him as a young man and he decided to ascertain the reasons and the causes for famine and he then and there, through his research, ascertained that famine had nothing to do with a shortage of food, it had everything to do with a system of government that did not allow for an efficient allocation of resources in times of shortages.

And, therefore, democracy is a blessing on mankind. It is something which has been handed down to us by the ancients. I do not plan to spend much time today talking about Aristotle and Plato, because if we go down that road, I might be talking for the next half an hour. It is something which has been handed down to us by the ancients and it is something which we in Trinidad and Tobago, successive governments, have pledged to uphold and to protect and to enhance. And this Government has committed itself to the process of constitutional reform, to enhancing and strengthening our democracy. We know that our position in the world is where it is—our position of dominance in the energy sector is where it is because companies and countries around the world have a tremendous respect for our parliamentary democracy, our political stability, and for our respect for the rule of law and property rights and human rights and so on and this Government will continue to ensure, Mr. President, that that reputation is upheld as we move forward into the future. I thank you very much.

**Sen. Penelope Beckles:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. The only thing that I was—of course, I enjoyed the contribution of the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, but I was hoping that he would, at the end of the day, indicate his Government's position on reaffirming its commitment to these principles and practice of democracy. The hon. Minister sitting right next to him is saying there is no need.

Well, whilst it is very good to give a discourse on democracy throughout the world, the bottom line is that I was really hoping to hear what would have been said, as it relates to the Government's position on Sen. Hinds' Motion, but suffice it to say—*[Interruption]* Oh I listened very attentively.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Sen. Hinds is absent from the Chamber again?

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Sen. Hinds is right there, doing research as the hon. AG does.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** He is collecting some ammunition for me. *[Crosstalk]*

Mr. President, as the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs was speaking and giving us some data as it relates to democracy in certain countries in the world, I would like to come closer to home, because we are aware that, I think it was last week Tuesday to be exact, the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, that the people of Grenada went to the polls and the Keith Mitchell's opposition party won by a resounding 15/0. And a lot of what the Minister spoke about, I suppose is lessons for all of us, inclusive of what transpired in Grenada and I would certainly like to place on record my congratulations to the Hon. Keith Mitchell and his NNP party for the success. I know Sen. Lambert has special interest in what happens in Grenada—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Lambert:** Correct.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—and I am sure that, notwithstanding the outcome of the elections, he is very interested because of his links with Grenada.

But the point is that what is—and two days later on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Barbados had their elections and the Government of Mr. Stuart, some people may say that was a very close victory because the outcome was 16/14 and we were advised that only yesterday the Hon. Mia Mottley was returned as the Leader of the Opposition in Barbados. I know Miss Mottley quite well as an attorney and as a politician and I would want to certainly add my congratulations to her success.

Those two elections, of course, coupled with the fact that the Tobago election was just probably exactly one month away that we got those results, one month and one day, when the PNM, led by Chief Secretary Orville London, won Tobago by a

resounding 12/nil. We have had, within the last month, three very interesting elections and for some of us, it is always an opportunity for us to reflect, especially those of us who belong to political parties and those of us who have interest in moving forward and those who understand how important democracy plays in the people deciding who to vote for and who to vote against. And Grenada is probably one of the more interesting examples, if only because the situation now there is that the unemployment rate is over 30 per cent and for us in Trinidad, we have been able to talk about—I do not know the present—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. George:** Single digits.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—yes, we have been able to talk about single digits. I think the CSO figures, if I recall correctly, is about what, 5 or 6 per cent?

**Sen. George:** Five point four.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Five point four per cent. And the question is, I mean for many of us, we could never, we would not want to think of what unemployment rate in Trinidad and Tobago, the consequences of over 30 per cent, would be for our people. So some of us may have been wondering what would have caused such a drastic shift but I imagine the people of Grenada exercised their franchise and like what the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs said, they had, fortunately, a very smooth transition because we remember the days of the invasion of Grenada.

I was at Cave Hill at the time and when I saw some of the fighter planes that landed, I know that Minister Singh was there, I could not, I was very curious to see exactly what those planes looked like. And when I saw trucks piling out from those planes, one wonders, it was just mind-boggling to see how many vehicles that they were actually driving out of those planes in Barbados; all heading for Grenada and one thought of a place with a population of just over 100,000 and a very small island and exactly what would have transpired. We know many persons lost their lives, but at the end of the day, democracy is now alive and well and I think it is a tribute to the people of Grenada that that has actually transpired.

Mr. President, and having said that, I want to go to the most recent incident that has transpired in our country that has made us look at how easy it is for some of us to lose our lives going about our business on a daily basis and that is the recent incident of Miss Paul and her two daughters and the three other persons who were knocked down in Sea Lots. I certainly want to add my condolences to the family. Actually Miss Paul was my client. When I saw the picture on the papers on Monday, I was really in a lot of shock. But, not just condolences to her family, but, of course, to the people of Sea Lots.



Sometimes we forget that it is a community and as a community, they all reacted. But for me as a person thinking about issues of democracy and how we react when incidents like that happen, I looked at today's papers and I saw the pictures of the police officers who were there yesterday at the scene and I looked at what they were wearing and you saw the helmets and the guards. When I look at the television, I think the only time I see police officers looking like that is in countries where you have serious war taking place.

As we debate issues of democracy and we look at what is happening about crime in our county, people looking at the television footage and what was transpiring in Sea Lots probably are wondering what is really happening in Trinidad and Tobago. When I also looked at the newspapers and I looked at the footage and I read the newspaper as well and I saw that the police used rubber bullets and tear gas, I looked very closely at the residents, whether they had things in their hands, exactly what was transpiring, and we are all concerned that the murder rate today is about what, close to 76? I think there were two more murders today. I think the majority of the population would like the police to use, almost all that is at their disposal, in a manner in which, of course, you protect the citizens and in a manner in which Trinidadians and Tobagonians could feel a lot more safer.

**4.00 p.m.**

Well, one of the things we have to be very careful about is the impression that is sometimes created, that there are certain communities that seem to be the subject of different types of approaches by our police. We do hope that the promise that was made—and I listened to Mr. Warner saying that within a month, the walkover for the citizens of that area would start. That seemed to have quelled any further protest, and I imagine the entire Trinidad and Tobago will be waiting with bated breath to see whether or not that, in truth and, in fact, will take place.

Mr. President, Sen. Hinds filed a question today about the “Colour Me Orange”, and the reason—and it was answered earlier today—this is so important for this particular Motion, is that when the Government started this programme and made the announcement sometime in November 2011, and if you will allow me, I am reading from a newspaper article dated Tuesday, November 15, the headline is: 2,500 register for Colour Me Orange work programme. It is stated that—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Singh:** What newspaper?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** *Newsday*.

**Sen. Hinds:** Yes!

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** “A-A, what?” [*Laughter and crosstalk*]

**Hon. Senator:** Now wake up.

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** Yuh sneak in de Chamber and sit down so quiet, no wonder we eh hear yuh mouth.” [*Laughter and crosstalk*]

**Hon. Senator:** “Man sneak inside here so quiet.” [*Laughter*]

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Mr. President—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** “Doh leh dem distract yuh, yuh know. You do yuh business, yuh know.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:** It says that—“doh worry”, I am not being distracted—last week Persad-Bissessar announced a major expansion in the programme stating that the Government will put:

“...\$300 million into...” the existing “...social programmes...”

The article went on to say:

“We received an overwhelming response for the programme this year and it was quite strange to see so many unemployed persons from the East and Central Port-of-Spain.”

So, Mr. President, when I asked the question earlier on, having received an answer from the Minister of the Environment and Water Resources, well, answering for the Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs, that the amount of money that was spent was some \$70-plus million. Of course, I must say that I was really quite surprised, because in the minds of the public as far as I am aware, there was still the feeling that the \$300 million that the Government had said—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** The Prime Minister! The Prime Minister!

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—that they were allocating to that programme was actually spent on that programme. As a matter of fact, several persons in the Government were very pleased to announce that they were spending this \$300 million and that was announced in Hilton.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Packed audience!

**Sen. P. Beckles:** To a packed audience—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Hands up, hands down.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** I think when that figure was announced, it created such excitement in the room—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Hands up, hands down.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—that the Prime Minister had to then put everyone in class, and say to them to get their attention and for them to be quiet—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Yes. Yes.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—hands up, hands down. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Hinds:** “She really cyar do dat. You remember dat?” You remember? “Humiliate de people.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—so, that it would be—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Ramlogan SC:** “Ay, all yuh put ah berm to hide de people, yuh talking bout humiliate de people?” [*Laughter*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Go back and sleep.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—I am, therefore, calling on the Government to explain to the people of Laventille and all the different areas mentioned, why was it that they told the people that they were going to spend—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** “De last shall be de first, yuh know.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—\$300 million and they ended up only spending \$76 million?

**Sen. Hinds:** Where is the \$226 million?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** I, therefore, believe that the 230—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Where is it?

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—or 20-odd million that is still outstanding, that we would be hearing something from the Government soon, as to when that money—[*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Hinds:** They lied to the people.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—would be spent. I think the people—since the Prime Minister expressed in her statement that she was shocked—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Yes.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—that there were so many people—and she said:

“...it was quite strange to see so many unemployed persons from the East and Central Port of Spain.”

**Sen. Hinds:** Yes. Yes.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** The programme was expected to create 20,000 jobs.

**Sen. Hinds:** Twenty thousand? How much they said it created today, 3,000?

**Sen. Singh:** Seven thousand.

**Sen. Hinds:** Three!

**Sen. Singh:** Seven! [*Laughter*]

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Mr. President—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Where are the other 13,000 jobs for the East-West Corridor?

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—the Prime Minister indicated—[*Interruption*]

**Mr. President:** Senators!

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Thank you, kindly, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

**Sen. George:** “Give de Senator ah chance to speak nah.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Yes.

**Hon. Senator:** Stop interrupting Sen. Beckles.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** The programme was expected to spend \$300 million and create 20,000 jobs. They spent about \$76 million and created just about 7,000 jobs.

**Sen. Hinds:** And it was announced just after the state of emergency.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** I think if you recall correctly that this programme started a couple of months after the state of emergency, and having regard to what—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Singh:** It was June 2010.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** It was June 2010?

**Sen. Singh:** Two thousand and nine, and then 2010—[*Inaudible*]

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Continued, okay. I am corrected, it started, well, in June 2009—well, I am referring specifically to the project—[*Interruption*]

**Sen. Singh:** You mean the reactivated?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Yes, the reactivated project that was started following the state of emergency. Mr. President, you would recall that I had filed a question to the hon. Minister of National Security at the time, and that was Sen. The Hon. Brig. John Sandy and I asked the Minister at the time, the number of persons arrested during the state of emergency, the number of person charged, categories of offences and the number of convictions. I was advised that 8,174 persons were arrested; 7,044 persons were charged; the number of convictions during the period was 1,075 and those of us would know that to date, there is only one matter that was started under the Anti-Gang Act, 2011. I have not heard of the outcome, but all the matters where persons were charged, all of those matters were dismissed.

Now, Mr. President, everyone knows what happens to the freedom of an individual during the state of emergency, and the Government had put forward to the population that there was good reason for the state of emergency. As a matter of fact, I recall Sen. The Hon. Brig. John Sandy at the time saying, that the reason for calling this state of emergency was that it would have made the 1990 attempted coup look like a tea party. At the end of the day, for a couple of months, the freedom of the individuals of Trinidad and Tobago was curtailed, people were not able to move around as they liked—that was not the first state of emergency in Trinidad and Tobago—but the bottom line is this, that the debate has gone on and will continue to go on, as to whether or not the state of emergency was justified—[*Desk thumping*] and more importantly, whether the state of emergency was successful.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is right.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** So, when Sen. Hinds, in his Motion today, calls for the Government to reaffirm its commitment to these principles and the practice of democracy in Trinidad and Tobago, I think one of the critical things that we think about was that state of emergency.

Mr. President, what is more interesting is that the Government then rented a building from a company called Walla Walla Limited. [*Desk thumping*]

**Sen. Hinds:** Yes. Yes. You remember?

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** September 02, 2011.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Sen. Hinds filed a question, that question was filed and answered on February 28, 2012. In answer to the question, the then Minister of National Security, again, Sen. The Hon. Brig. John Sandy indicated that the modification and installation of that building cost \$50 million; the office accommodation cost \$3,329,250.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Million, three million?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Yes, \$3 million, yes, \$3,329,250, and the rental was at a cost of \$850,000 plus VAT per month.

**Sen. Hinds:** “Almost ah million dollars ah month.”

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Per month?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Per month.

**Sen. Hinds:** “Dey spend \$60 million repairing roof to date.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Mr. President, to date, two years and six months later, the rental, therefore, would be some \$25,500,000—*[Desk thumping]*

**Sen. Hinds:** Ooooh gooooo!

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—and the total figure spent to date would be \$78.9 million.

**Sen. Hinds:** That was what they gave to the people of Laventille—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is bare cost. That is bare cost.

**Sen. Hinds:**—on the corridor instead of the “Colour Me Orange” project.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Mr. President, the “Colour Me Orange” project cost, therefore, less than this money that they spent—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Hinds:** Than the money they paid for the jail.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** “And dey have 117 people in de jail.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—for setting up a facility that they called, well, first of all a prison, a correctional facility—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Containers.

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—and what is more interesting is what this facility contains. It was stated in answer to—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Hinds:** “Yuh see how dem dangerous?”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—Sen. Hinds—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Hinds:** “See how all yuh dangerous?”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—that the facility—construction of 12 general population housing units, an airing yard, a perimeter fence and 16 containers for segregation housing units.

So, you see, Mr. President, the people of Santa Rosa Heights, Arima—because I attended quite a few of the meetings—when they were told that this was a necessary facility for housing the persons that were arrested during the State of Emergency, and that would have been the 8,178 persons.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Arrested!

**Sen. Hinds:** Oh, my God!

**Sen. P. Beckles:** The figure that I indicated was that of 8,178, only 7,044 were charged.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** How much for anti-gang?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Under the anti-gang, I do not have the figure for the anti-gang, but what we do know is that only one trial took place.

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** Out of how many?

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Okay. So, that at the end of the day—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Hinds:** “Dey start back locking dem up under de anti-gang again, the Attorney General and de Minister of National Security, dey start back.”

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—\$78 million was spent on this facility in Santa Rosa Heights. The people again inconvenienced, their houses devalued by the establishment and the setting up of a prison directly opposite to where a residential housing project existed. In order for the persons living in that area to cooperate and decide, okay, yes, we will give the Government a chance to see whether or not, okay, you have a state of emergency, you have to put 8,000 persons there, so they decided to set up a fence to literally block the persons living in Santa Rosa Heights from their normal and easy access to the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway, and today this facility is what we call in Trinidad typically, a white elephant—*[Interruption]*

**Sen. Al-Rawi:** That is right!

**Sen. Hinds:** A UNC elephant! Yellow! *[Desk thumping]*

**Sen. P. Beckles:**—costing the taxpayers some \$78 million.

**Sen. Hinds:** “Ah yellow UNC elephant.”

**4.15 p.m.**

**Sen. P. Beckles:** And we found out that just the same day that they had put in some persons there, the roof collapsed and they had to spend some \$5 million repairing the facility.

So, you know, Mr. President, when this Motion was filed, there are a number of people who believed that it may not have had any value; maybe it is not the right time; there are a number of things, but it causes us to reflect on the whole issue of democracy and the freedom of movement of people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Now, I like the fact that the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs spoke about the Government's promises in their manifesto for the Prime Minister having two terms and basically constitutional reform. I know that Minister George did not agree with me when I said that the Government promised to have these things done in 90 days; not that they were going to have the reform done in 90 and have it brought before Parliament, but certainly that the talks and the discussions would have taken place 90 days thereafter. And there were a number of promises that were put into that manifesto that caused people in Trinidad and Tobago to vote for this Government. Amongst them would have been that promise of a Prime Minister serving two terms and even more importantly the issue of the Government ensuring and giving a commitment to the population that they were the only Government that had the answers to solving crime.

Today, as I have said many times when I stand to speak in this Parliament, crime is a very complex issue. It is not a simple matter; it is a matter that requires the cooperation of all citizens. It requires the intervention of the churches, of the teachers, of the schools, of the police, the politicians; almost everybody has a role to play if it is that we are to deal with this issue of crime and no one person has the answer to crime as some people tend to suggest.

One of the pillars of the Government's manifesto is the issue of consultation. If you look at that manifesto, you will see that almost every page speaks to the issue of consultation. I have seen where the Government intends to bring before the Parliament a piece of legislation that will precept soldiers. I am just cautioning the Government of the importance of consultation with members of the public and other relevant stakeholders before that piece of legislation comes to this Parliament.

It is a revolutionary piece of legislation. It is not that that practice does not take place in many parts of the world: India, Africa and some other parts of the world, some countries have adopted that, but the truth is that we are speaking here about Trinidad and Tobago. We are speaking about people that have been accustomed to a certain type of freedom, a certain type of practice, a certain type of interaction with the police service.



As a matter of fact, some of us may not know, but countries of both Britain and the United States have sent their police officers to Trinidad and Tobago to observe carnival and to observe the interaction between our police officers and members of the public during carnival, and how they are able to relate to the population, so that you have basically been able to have a pretty safe carnival. Quite a number of years they have been coming and I do not know if they have come in the last probably couple of years, but I know certainly when I was Minister of Culture a couple years ago, they came.

I know that when you have Labour Day in New York, their successes in their police officers treating with their carnival has been as a result of interacting with our police officers in Trinidad and Tobago. They are able to mingle pretty freely even through the mud bands and other bands, with the population respecting and knowing their limitation. *[Interruption]* Sorry? *[Laughter]* We have seen some instances where some women have sort of tested them and most of them have been able to stand fairly strong and firm without being distracted, but the truth is that some of us would say that is all part of our culture. At the end of the day—so we have developed over the years a certain sort of a practice.

I have seen though that, in certain communities for this carnival, the police actually stopped carnival very, very early. I know, in Arima, they stopped carnival both Monday and Tuesday, by eight o'clock. I think they also stopped in Sangre Grande, in Curepe, in San Juan. I do not think that happened in Port of Spain; I am not sure. I do not know what happened in Tunapuna as well. I am not sure if they did it in San Fernando, but the point is that they stopped carnival very early and the police took that decision because they felt that it was the best in the interest of the public.

Of course, that had some consequences because the revellers and the people who are accustomed—you would have had people who invested, for example, those who had their bars; those who prepared food; who did a number of things, would have just abruptly been told no more music. They were trying to get people off the streets.

Now, there is a benefit to that as well as there are negatives to it. Some people would argue that carnival is a time when people free-up, but some people argue that, within recent years, we have seen an increase in fights and we have seen an increase in certain things. My question is, if it is that the police are aware of the possibility of the increase in criminal activity, then there is the duty to increase the police presence because it was not stopped in Port of Spain; and Arima, Tunapuna, San Juan, Curepe, Sangre Grande are certainly much smaller communities.

Now, in places like the United States, when it is six o'clock, you would see hundreds of police officers simply at the back of the last band and they simply keep moving up until it is finished and everybody is aware that that is how they operate. Once the police officers are there, that is it. There is no more band; there is no more anything.

So, if it is that was done throughout the whole East-West Corridor, it meant that must have been a policy decision; that could not have been arbitrary, that you would have stopped carnival from Sangre Grande way up to San Juan, in all those areas, and the public just did not know about it.

I am saying that carnival is a special time for Trinidadians and if it is that is to happen, then again we go back to the police consulting with the people, as you have regional carnivals, and find a way to let the people know that you have taken that decision or that policy decision for a particular reason.

Mr. President, it is like what happened yesterday following the protest on the Beetham. Now, I think all of us looked at the newspaper clippings on Sunday night and we heard the residents say that they were going to protest the next day. That was on the television and, lo and behold, Mr. President, it would appear that they started somewhere in the wee hours of the morning around four o'clock or maybe before and the police were caught off guard.

**Hon. Senator:** [*Inaudible*]—Amitabh Bachan.

**Sen. P. Beckles:** Sorry. [*Laughter*]

Yes, Mr. President, the police were caught off guard resulting in people coming from San Fernando not being able to come into Port of Spain using the highway and you had a situation where people coming from the east—some people just did not go to work; some people took as much as four hours to come into Port of Spain and a number of the maxi-taxis simply took the position that it was not worth it to come into Port of Spain. So most of them decided “short drops” if “yuh” coming from Arima, just reach Tunapuna and then the people would have to find their way from Tunapuna coming all the way into Port of Spain.

I experienced it and it tells us two things: it tells us that we need to revisit the issue of a form of transportation in Trinidad and Tobago that is much better than what we have at present because the buses and everybody were caught up in this and it means that the entire city and environments were just gridlocked, whether you were using the Lady Young Road, whether you were using the bus route, the entire place was gridlocked.

It also tells us that, in terms of the intelligence of the police and paying closer attention to the statements that members of the public make when they threaten to do certain things, that they are not just cautious, but they take those statements seriously and they know the possibility is that people would be inconvenienced and they should put certain mechanisms in place.

I saw on the papers today where the police were able to stop a protest in Gran Couva because they found out that the people were going to protest in Gran Couva. They were going to protest for water and the police stopped them. They may not have gone to the television, the people in Gran Couva, and say they were going to protest, but I am saying that the people of Sea Lots said they were going to protest and, for whatever reason, they were not taken seriously.

Most of the public were unhappy because the level of inconvenience of not being able to come into Port of Spain, not being able to get out of Port of Spain, clearly meant that it was a serious challenge for the entire Trinidad and Tobago and when the city of Port of Spain is affected and people "comin" from Arima, it really means that the entire place is just thrown out of whack and we are not in a position to be able to give the impression that we are able to manage what should be very simple decisions.

So, Mr. President, when we talk about the issue of reaffirming democracy, one of the critical things must be the issue of the freedom of movement of people and that freedom of movement is not just the issue of your democratic right to choose between political parties, but it also has to do with, having made that choice, the expectation is that the persons whom you vote for will do the things that they promise to do and also make sure that the lives of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are much better.

To a large extent, I think that is where this Government has fallen short and my expectation is that when one of the speakers from the Government gets up to speak that they would not have any difficulty in reaffirming that commitment. I know that they are saying they do not have to do it because, in truth and in fact, that is what they practise, but I think the people of Trinidad and Tobago have other views. I think they have been looking at the Government's performance over the last two and a half years and they are asking the question whether those promises that they have made in their manifesto, whether or not those promises were simply made with the hope and the expectation that people would vote for them and once they are in office, then they would do something entirely different.

The last speaker, the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, gave us a number of comparisons and he also spoke about the fact that there is this view that Trinidad and Tobago started in 1956. Now, all of us are aware that when we speak of a number of countries in the world, they tend to talk of the times that either political parties may have started or they talk about the time when a country may become independent; maybe the time you become a republican country. When people speak of democracy, they tend to go back to the formation of some institution or organization that would have been responsible in some way for a country becoming democratic.

Therefore, when people talk about '56, they often speak about that time because that is a particular historical development in Trinidad and Tobago where a particular institution was created that has laid down the groundwork for a Trinidad and Tobago that exists today.

I, therefore, am quite comfortable with the fact that 1956 was a watershed time for Trinidad and Tobago, but I do not think any of us, particularly those of us who have gone to school and have studied the history of Trinidad and Tobago, will forget that we are talking about way back, from the Arawaks and the Caribs, coming up to where we are today with this Government, the united national government in office and in context.

So I certainly do not agree with my friend when he speaks about the fact that some people only talk about Trinidad and Tobago as though it started in 1956.

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, it is now 4.30 p.m. I intend to take the tea break at this point. Leader of Government Business?

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh):** Mr. President, as it is the tradition on Private Member's Day, I will now move the adjournment of the Senate, by agreement also.

I beg to move that this Senate do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.

*Question put and agreed to*

*Senate adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 4.31 p.m.*

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

*The following questions were asked by Sen. Pennelope Beckles:*

**Water and Sewerage Authority  
(Information on Employees)**

5. With respect to the Water and Sewerage Authority, could the hon. Minister of the Environment and Water Resources inform the Senate of:
- (i) the total workforce of the Authority as at July 2012;
  - (ii) the number of new workers employed since June 2010;
  - (iii) the names, positions, addresses and qualifications of the persons at (ii) above;
  - (iv) the names and number of employees terminated since June 2010 and reasons for the terminations?

*The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:*

**The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh):**

- (i) The total workforce of the Authority as at July 2012 is 4,387;
- (ii) The number of new workers employed since June 2010 is 193 as follows:
 

Monthly paid	158
Daily paid	35
- (iii) The positions of monthly paid persons at (ii) above are in Table 1. The qualifications of monthly paid persons at (ii) above are in Table 2. The positions of daily paid persons at (ii) above are in Table 3;
- (iv) The number of employees terminated since June 2010 and reasons for the terminations are 16 as follows:
  - (a) for abandonment of duties    5
  - (b) for gross misconduct         11

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</b>
Accounts Clerk	3
Accountant 1	1
Accounting Technician 11	1
Administrator/Project Accounting	1
Assistant Warehouse Supervisor	1
Civil Engineer	1
Contracts Technician	1
Customer Service Representative	2
Customer Service Assistant	6
Engineer, Senior	1
Engineer 1	4
Engineering Technician 11/111	3
Environmental Specialist	1
Engineer, Water Resources	1
Engineering Technician 1	1
GIS/CAD Technician	1
Heavy Equipment Operator	13
Hospitality Assistant	2
Human Resources Assistant 1	1
Graduate Engineer Trainee	2
Legal Officer	1
Legal Trainee	3
Management Assistant 1	1
Management Assistant 11	1

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Manager Employee Service	1
Mechanical Engineer	1
Office Assistant/Driver	6
Office Assistant	2
Operations Staff Assistant 1	3
Project Assistant	1
Project Manager	2
Project Officer	1
Project Officer, Senior	2
Process Plant Operator 1	63
Purchase Requisition Clerk	3
Quality Control Assistant	1
Staff Assistant 1/11	7
Site Clerk	2
Sewer Maintenance Officer	2
Secretary Assistant	2
Secretary 11/Executive Service	1
Secretary/Executive Service	2
Technical Assistant	1
Warehouse Assistant	2

<b>Table 2</b>	
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</b>
Master's degree	3
First degree	23
CXC/GCE	75
Other	57

<b>Table 3</b>	
<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</b>
Attendant	18
Handyman	1
Mechanical Craftsman 1	5
Process Control Craftsman 1	2
Welder Fabricator A	3
Electrical Craftsman 1	5
Machinist	1

**Water and Sewerage Authority  
(Collective Agreements/Negotiations)**

- 22.** Would the hon. Minister of the Environment and Water Resources provide the following information:
- (i) whether the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has concluded any collective agreements/negotiations with any trade union since June 2010;
  - (ii) if the answer to the above mentioned question is yes, could the Minister provide the terms and conditions of this new agreement/negotiation and the value of same;
  - (iii) the list of all employees who benefited from this new agreement/negotiation, their old and new remuneration packages and arrears paid if any?



*The following reply was circulated to Members of the Senate:*

**The Minister of the Environment and Water Resources (Sen. The Hon. Ganga Singh):**

- (i) Yes. Since June 2010, the Authority settled negotiations for new collective agreements with the three (3) bargaining units for the period 2008—2010.
- (ii) The following is a breakdown and total cost of the new terms and conditions of employment for monthly paid, daily rated and estate police:

<b><i>Monthly Paid Employees</i></b>
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Terms and Conditions of Settlement

The parties agree to the following matters in full and final settlement of the negotiations for a new collective agreement for monthly paid staff for the period January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2010:

1. A salary increase of five per cent (5%) over three years broken down as stated hereunder:
  - a. Year one (January 01, 2008)                      2%
  - b. Year two (January 01, 2009)                      1%
  - c. Year three (January 01, 2010)                      2%

2. Cost of Living Allowance

With effect from January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2010, \$145.00 per month.

3. On a pilot basis the use of staggered working hours in areas/departments where it is viable to so do as follows:
  - 6:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
  - 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
  - 12:00 noon — 8:00 p.m.
4. Transfers between Trinidad and Tobago.

With effect from January 01, 2008 where accommodation is not provided:

- (a) Two thousand, three hundred dollars (\$2,300) per month where an employee is transferred from Trinidad to Tobago.

- (b) One thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$1,700) per month where an employee is transferred from Tobago to Trinidad.
- (c) A transfer allowance of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) a month.

5. Travelling Facilities

- (a) A revised upkeep allowance:

With effect from January 01, 2008	\$1,950 per month
With effect from January 01, 2009	\$1,975 per month
With effect from January 01, 2010	\$2,000 per month

- (b) A revised kilometric allowance:

With effect from January 01, 2008, \$2.00 per kilometre for travelling officers.

- (c) A revised kilometric allowance:

With effect from January 01, 2008, \$2.50 per kilometre for non-travelling officers who are authorized to use their vehicle in the performance of official duties.

- (d) The existing car repair loan of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) be maintained.
- (e) The existing insurance loan of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) be maintained.
- (f) Effective from date of the signing off of the collective agreement a revised car purchase loan of one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000).

6. Subsistence/Meal Allowance

Revised rates as follows:-

I. Trinidad	2008—2010	\$40
II. Tobago	2008—2010	\$43

7. On Call Allowance

With effect from January 01, 2008 \$550

Total Cost of Settlement between WASA and Public Service Association

The value of the above settlement accrued a total of **\$103 million.**

<b><i>Estate Police</i></b>
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Terms and Conditions of Settlement

The parties agree to the following matters in full and final settlement of the negotiations for a new collective agreement for Estate Police Officers for the period January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2010:

- (1) A salary increase of five per cent (5%) over three years broken down as stated hereunder:
  - a. Year one (January 01, 2008)      2%
  - b. Year two (January 01, 2009)      1%
  - c. Year three (January 01, 2010)      2%
- (2) Cost of Living Allowance  
With effect from January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2010, \$145 per month.
- (3) Laundry Allowance  
With effect from January 01, 2010 to December 31, 2010, \$120 per month.
- (4) Shift Allowance  
With effect from January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2010, \$22.00 per day.
- (5) Transfers between Trinidad and Tobago to be maintained.  
With effect from January 01, 2008 where accommodation is not provided:
  - (a) Two thousand, three hundred dollars (\$2,300) per month where an employee is transferred from Trinidad to Tobago;
  - (b) One thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$1,700) per month where an employee is transferred from Tobago to Trinidad;
  - (c) A transfer allowance of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) a month.
- (6) Travelling Facilities:
  - (a) A revised upkeep allowance:
    - With effect from January 01, 2008, \$1,950 per month
    - With effect from January 01, 2009, \$ 1,975 per month
    - With effect from January 01, 2010, \$ 2,000 per month

(b) A revised kilometric allowance:

With effect from January 01, 2008, \$2.00 per kilometer for traveling officers.

(c) A revised kilometric allowance:

With effect from January 01, 2008, \$2.50 per kilometre for non-travelling officers who are authorized to use their vehicle in the performance of official duties.

(d) The existing car repair loan of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) be maintained.

(e) The existing insurance loan of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) be maintained.

(f) Effective from date of the signing off of the collective agreement a revised car purchase loan of one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000).

(7) Subsistence/Meal Allowance

Revised rates as follows:

Trinidad 2008 – 2010 \$40

Tobago 2008 – 2010 \$43

(8) On Call Allowance

With effect from January 01, 2008, \$550.00

(9) Vacation Leave

Salary Range 35 shall be replaced with salary range 32.

Total Cost of Settlement between WASA & Estate Police Association for period 2008—2010

The value of the above settlement accrued a total of **\$5.4 million.**

### ***Daily Rated Employees***

#### Terms & Conditions of Settlement

The parties, by consent, participated in conciliation, before a member of the Industrial Court under section 12(1) of the Industrial Relations Act, Chap. 88:01.

Arising therefrom, the parties agree as follows:

1. Allowances

The meal allowance shall be increased to forty-eight dollars (\$48) both in Trinidad and Tobago effective January 01, 2010.

10% increase on all other allowances.

2. Emergency Work

For Saturdays and Sundays double the basic rate shall be paid for the first four (4) hours, triple time for the next four (4) hours and quadruple time thereafter with a minimum guarantee of six (6) hours.

3. Article 20—Severance Pay

An employee with one (1) or more effective years of service shall, if he is retrenched, laid off or retired be paid severance benefits on the following basis:-

1—4 effective years 2 weeks full pay for each year of completed service, or part thereof;

5—9 effective years 3 weeks full pay for each year of completed service or part thereof;

10—14 effective years 4 weeks full pay for each year of completed service or part thereof;

15—24 effective years 6 weeks full pay for each year of completed service or part thereof;

25 effective years and over 7 weeks full pay for each year of completed service or part thereof at his/her current rate of pay.

4. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

With effect from January 01, 2008 the present COLA of \$4 per day shall be consolidated with the basic daily wage of each worker, thereafter the new COLA shall be \$7.30 per day for the life of the Agreement.

5. General Wage Increase

The actual wages for the life of the Agreement shall be as shown hereunder:

<b>Categories of Workers</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Attendant Water Distributer	\$299.57	\$309.64	\$320.10	\$333.96
Checker Building & Grounds Craftsman I Construction Craftsman I Waterworks Craftsman I	\$326.32	\$336.93	\$347.67	\$362.07
Building & Grounds Craftsman II Construction Craftsman II Waterworks Craftsman II Asset Maintenance Craftsman I	\$339.71	\$350.58	\$361.46	\$376.14
Building & Grounds Craftsman III Construction Craftsman II Waterworks Craftsman III	\$370.48	\$381.97	\$393.16	\$408.47
Asset Maintenance Craftsman III	\$382.53	\$394.27	\$405.58	\$421.13
Special Rate Craftsman III	\$402.59	\$414.72	\$426.24	\$442.21
W/W Collection Craftsman	\$369.60	\$381.07	\$392.26	\$407.55
W/W Collection Craftsman II W/W Asset Maintenance Craftsman I	\$384.79	\$396.57	\$407.90	\$423.50
W/W Collection Craftsman III	\$419.74	\$432.21	\$443.91	\$460.23

W/W Asset Maintenance Craftsman II				
W/W Asset Maintenance Craftsman III	\$443.40	\$446.15	\$457.98	\$474.59
W/W Special Rate Craftsman III	\$456.19	\$469.39	\$481.46	\$498.53

Total Cost of Settlement between WASA & NUGFW for period 2008—2010

The value of the above settlement accrued a total of **\$46.7 million**

Total Cost
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The following is a breakdown of the total value of the settlements among the Monthly Paid, Daily Paid and Estate Police:

<i>Monthly Paid Staff</i>	\$103 million
<i>Daily Paid Staff</i>	\$46.7 million
<i>Estate Police</i>	\$5.4 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155.1 million</b>

(iii) The following is a breakdown of all the employees who benefited from the new terms and conditions of employment inclusive of new salaries and arrears paid for the period 2008 to 2010:

Monthly Paid	3,370
Daily Paid	2,408
Estate Police	126
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,904</b>

The figures include retired and casual workers who would have been employed at any time during the bargaining period 2008—2010.