



2018/19 SESSION
of the
BERMUDA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

10 May 2019

Sitting number 19 of the 2018/19 Session
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Hon. Dennis P. Lister, Jr., JP, MP
Speaker

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BERMUDA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT****10 MAY 2019****10:05 AM***Sitting Number 19 of the 2018/19 Session**[Hon. Dennis P. Lister, Jr., Speaker, in the Chair]***PRAYERS***[Prayers read by Mr. Clark Somner, Deputy Clerk]*

The Speaker: Good morning, Members. Welcome back. I trust everyone had a good recess.

*[Gavel]***CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES***[Minutes of 18 and 22 March 2019]*

The Speaker: Members, the Minutes of March 18th and March 22nd have been circulated. Are there any omissions or corrections?

No omissions, no corrections.

The Minutes are confirmed as printed.

*[Minutes of 18 and 22 March 2019 confirmed]***MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The Speaker: There are none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER
OR MEMBER PRESIDING**

The Speaker: Yes, there are three this morning.

MOMENT OF SILENCE*[In memory of Mr. Lloyd James, former MP]*

The Speaker: First, I am going to ask all Members to join me in standing to give a moment of silence to one of our former Members, the honourable Lloyd James, who was laid to rest while we were absent from this place.

I think it is only due that we recognise a former Member in this way. So, we will have a moment of silence beginning now.

*[The House rose and observed a moment of silence.]***APOLOGIES**

The Speaker: Thank you, Members.

The second announcement is that of Members who are absent. And you will note on the Order Paper that we have received notice that the Honourable Member Gordon-Pamplin and the Honourable Member Ben Smith will be absent. We have Mr. Pearman included on that, but we note that Mr. Pearman is actually with us this morning. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING SEMINAR

The Speaker: The third announcement this morning is a reminder to Members who attended the Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar, that all Members who attended are required to sign a consent form, meaning as you know, the CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] likes to take photographs to put in their regular publications of the different CPA events that take place. And it is a requirement of the CPA that you have a signed-off consent should you show up in one of those photos. We do not know which photos will be used, so all Members who attended, if you have not already signed the consent form, please see Mrs. Place or Mrs. Bowers, and they have the forms in the office here for you to sign. Thank you.

And, let me say "thank you" first to all Members who did attend. It was greatly appreciated that we had the support of Members, and we trust that it was most beneficial and enjoyable to all Members who were present.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

The Speaker: There are none.

**PAPERS AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE HOUSE**

The Speaker: We have, I believe, four Ministers today who have papers and communications for the House.

The first is in the name of the Premier.
Premier.

**LABOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC),
SUB-COMMITTEE: REVIEWING THE RETIREMENT
AGE 2018 REPORT**

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to you, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the [Labour Advisory Committee \(LAC\), Subcommittee: Reviewing the Retirement Age 2018 Report](#).

The Speaker: Thank you, Premier.

The [next] papers or communications this morning are in the name of the Minister of Finance. I believe he has six negative resolutions he would like to do.

Minister, you can do them all together.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Good morning.

**ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE AMENDMENT
REGULATIONS 2019**

**ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE AMENDMENT (NO. 2)
REGULATIONS 2019**

**COMPANIES AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
(BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD EXTENSION) ORDER 2019**

**PARTNERSHIP, EXEMPTED PARTNERSHIPS AND
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (BENEFICIAL
OWNERSHIP) (TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
EXTENSION) ORDER 2019**

**CUSTOMS TARIFF (APPROVED BUSINESSES)
NOTICE 2019**

**CUSTOMS TARIFF (APPROVED ORGANISATIONS)
AMENDMENT NOTICE 2019**

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the following:

- Economic Substance Amendment Regulations 2019;
- Economic Substance Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2019;
- Companies and Limited Liability Company (Beneficial Ownership Transitional Period Extension) Order 2019;
- Partnership, Exempted Partnerships and Limited Partnership (Beneficial Ownership) (Transitional Period Extension) Order 2019;

- Customs Tariff (Approved Businesses) Notice 2019;
- Customs Tariff (Approved Organisations) Amendment Notice 2019.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The next paper/communication this morning is in the name of the Minister of Health.

Minister Wilson, you have the floor.

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Good morning.

**BERMUDA HOSPITALS BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Mr. Speaker, I would be honoured to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the [Bermuda Hospitals Board Annual Report 2014](#).

The Speaker: Thank you.

The next Minister who has papers and communications this morning is Minister De Silva, who actually has some 25 negative resolutions.

Minister, please do them all together.

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Okay. Thank you.

**MERCHANT SHIPPING REGULATIONS 2019
[Various]**

**MARINE BOARD CONTROL OVER MARITIME
TRAFFIC (NO. 2) NOTICE 2019**

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the following:

- Merchant Shipping (Anti-Fouling Systems) Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (Compulsory Insurance of Shipowners for Maritime Claims) Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (International Safety Management (ISM) Code) Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation Convention) Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Amendment Regulations 2019;
- Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Amendment Regulations 2019;

- Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution from Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Amendment Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Amendment Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping (Seafarer's Employment) Amendment Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Vibration at Work) Regulations 2019;
 - Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Artificial Optical Radiation) Regulations 2019; and
 - Marine Board Control over Maritime Traffic (No. 2) Notice 2019.
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

That brings us to an end of the Papers and Communications.

The Deputy Clerk: Did he do the Marine Boards?

The Speaker: Yes, he did all 25. He did the Marine Boards, yes.

PETITIONS

The Speaker: There are none.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS AND JUNIOR MINISTERS

The Speaker: I think we have seven this morning. And the first is in the name of the Premier.

Premier, would you like to put your Statement? Copies are being circulated now, yes?

An Hon. Member: Yes, sir.

Hon. E. David Burt: Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

REVIEWING THE RETIREMENT AGE—A REPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY (LAC) SUBCOMMITTEE

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, there is a growing tendency to use statistics around our declining birth rate and what is referred to as the “greying of our

population” in support of arguments that mitigate against innovation or economic success. Make no mistake, the trends are challenging and are not unique to Bermuda. However, the responsibility of leadership is to convert challenging trends into opportunities for growth and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will recall this Government's 2018 Speech from the Throne in which we noted the following: “The time has come to revise the mandatory retirement age to take account of our longer lifespan, the necessity to add stability to pension funds and to promote greater choice among the working population about when one retires from full-time employment.”

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the promise to invite the Legislature to “discuss options for such revisions to the age of mandatory retirement from the Public Service,” Honourable Members and the public will have noted from the Order Paper that I will today table a motion inviting this Honourable House to agree to the recommendations of the Report of the [Labour Advisory Subcommittee entitled *Reviewing the Retirement Age*](#).

Mr. Speaker, as was observed in November's Throne Speech, “in many cases, the designation ‘senior citizen’ does not describe our energetic men and women aged sixty-five and older.” The report now tabled for the consideration of Honourable Members provides useful details and a sound rationale in support of its recommendations. There is a need to stabilise pension funds, to allow working men and women the benefit of greater capacity to earn and therefore better prepare for their eventual retirement, and to use the longer lifespan in the modern era to the benefit of society and the people of Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, following the debate on the report and what I hope will be the unanimous support of this Honourable House and the other place, the Government will revert with amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act to give effect to some of these recommendations. I wish to be clear, Mr. Speaker, this initiative is part of a series of measures which will be implemented by this Government to promote more economic activity in Bermuda. The reality of the trends in many societies has caused several countries to take similar steps while concurrently pursuing economic diversification and other growth strategies. We must do the same.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier.

I believe the next Statement is in the name of the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Are copies being circulated?

[Crosstalk]

The Speaker: You have them? Okay.
Yes.

EUROPEAN UNION TAX LISTING

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide additional background information regarding the actions which Bermuda has taken to be removed from the [EU List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions in Tax Matters](#) as adopted by the EU Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) at their March 12th meeting.

I can report that Bermuda has acted promptly and effectively in order to be formally removed from the EU list, mostly likely at the May 17 meeting of ECOFIN. On March 28th, Premier David Burt and I met with EU Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, responsible for economic and financial affairs, as well as taxation and customs. Thereafter, on April 1st, I met with Mrs. Lyudmila Petkova, Chair of the Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation. These meetings, together with visits to the German and French Ministries of Finance, were open, transparent and cooperative. They permitted Bermuda to further explain in detail the source and reasons for which there was a technical omission in our economic substance regulations submission. This omission was addressed and corrected to the satisfaction of the European authorities.

Subsequent to these meetings, we understand there was a meeting of the Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation on April 11th. Following our meetings and the assurances we received, we have every reason to believe that the EU Finance Ministers, on May 17, will remove Bermuda from the Annex 1 of the List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions in Tax Matters, the so-called “blacklist.”

Mr. Speaker, I can add that when Bermuda is removed from Annex I, we will be placed in Annex II of the EU list with three other jurisdictions—Bahamas, British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. This is because of EU concerns regarding the need for legislative framework for collective investment funds (CIVs) that meet their expectations.

Mr. Speaker, we have already committed to continue to cooperate with the EU with respect to the adoption by the end of this year of a proper legislative framework for collective investment funds. Bermuda officials have already engaged, last month, in a positive dialogue with EU representatives to finalise the scope of the required adjustments to our legislation. We want to ensure an efficient implementation of our commitments and will carefully address certain concerns raised as they relate to the substance criterion in the CIV’s sector, as required by Annex II jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the Bermuda/EU relationship is well developed. For example, our industry sectors have many clients in the EU, and economic studies indicate that the value of Bermuda’s financial contribution to the EU is significant. More than 10 European

Union countries export about \$6 billion in goods and services, and annual two-way trade is normally \$30 billion between the EU and Bermuda. Bermuda’s economy supports almost 150,000 jobs in the European Union market through trade, foreign direct investment of its multi-nationals and its portfolio investment capacity, mostly in the UK, Germany, France and Ireland. Mr. Speaker, most of this trade between Bermuda and the EU is in the areas of reinsurance and finance.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to recognise the cooperation the Government received from industry stakeholders throughout the process. It was remarkable. I want to thank all stakeholders for their support and show of unity. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The next Statement on the Order Paper this morning is in the name of the Deputy Premier.
Deputy Premier.

STREAMLINING PLANNING PROCESSES

Hon. Walter H. Roban: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform this Honourable House about new initiatives the Department of Planning are expecting to introduce to [streamline processes](#) to support the construction and development industry over the course of this financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members would most likely be familiar with the required planning process one needs to navigate in order to obtain permission to build. It is a widely held belief that the process is slow and cumbersome. There are some who would even suggest that Planning is impeding opportunities to encourage and attract investment. This Government does not desire any department to be perceived in this fashion. This Government recognises the crucial role that the Department of Planning plays in facilitating and supporting new investment and, as such, is desirous to improve procedures that will result in more efficient decision-making and, overall, unburden the process.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of initial steps that will be taken in order to achieve improvements. First and foremost, as Minister responsible for the Department of Planning, I will be engaging with key stakeholders from the construction industry on a periodic basis to understand first-hand the range of concerns. Through this dialogue, it is expected that we will be able to discuss the proposed changes and obtain valuable feedback.

Mr. Speaker, I must inform you that the department has invested heavily in a new EnerGov system, which will allow for the electronic submission of applications and provide for an automated and electronic workflow, which will eliminate the generation of paper. It is being tested by staff and stakeholders and will be fully implemented in September.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of areas in which changes are recommended. Firstly, starting with the planning application process, the team has commenced exploring those types of proposals that can be processed administratively and not required to be presented to the Development Applications Board (DAB) for a decision. This procedure, known as the “delegation to director,” is a process that section 5A of the Development and Planning Act 1974 enables. It is anticipated that this mechanism will greatly reduce processing times in respect of allowing internal approvals for those fully compliant applications and those requiring only minimal discretion.

Mr. Speaker, the department will also be producing guidelines and procedures to (1) handle emergency applications, and (2) fast-track applications for structures that are temporary in nature such as seasonal concession stands. The latter process will assist small business entrepreneurs to obtain permission quickly, provided that they meet certain guidelines that will be made available to the public as soon as they are produced.

Mr. Speaker, it has also been acknowledged that there are a range of development types that, under the Act, require permission, but are considered *de minimis*, which means minor in scope. These types of applications, if eliminated, would free up additional resources to delegate to the processing of applications that are more complex in nature. It is the intent to apply a more common-sense approach for minor development matters.

Mr. Speaker, it is acknowledged that, during construction, it is commonplace to make on-site changes. For those minor types of changes, it is currently a laborious route in which to authorise these desired alterations through an “application for revision” process. Oftentimes, construction has to cease on-site whilst approval is sought, thereby adversely interrupting construction time frames and impacting jobs on the ground. Criteria will be [developed] for the most common types of alterations to enable a sign-off in the field by building inspectors, thereby avoiding the time-consuming revision process. We hope this will assist developments that find themselves in this situation to avoid disruption and Planning infractions. It will also facilitate a cooperative approach between the department and the developer.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Planning does have greater enforcement tools. These will be deployed where evidence shows that enforcement is necessary. The department intends to provide as much support to agents, contractors and their clients as is needed to prevent potential infractions as circumstances arise.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of public outreach, it is proposed that the Department of Planning will hold a series of planning clinics in different areas of the Island on a quarterly basis where members of the public can obtain planning-related advice and

guidance on the submission of applications. It is the aim through this initiative to bring greater public awareness of planning requirements and also to raise the profile of the department.

Mr. Speaker, whilst unfortunate to mention, it must be acknowledged that the department has been often used as the classic scapegoat by agents, which has resulted in unnecessary confusion and frustration, for landowners in particular. To this end, the department will be amending its communications structure so that all parties—and I repeat *all parties*, including the applicant, agent and contractor—will simultaneously be in receipt of all correspondence. Concurrently, the department will endeavour to improve its internal communication strategy.

Mr. Speaker, we will be introducing legislative changes to allow the Bermuda Plan to become a more fluid document whereby landowners will not be required to wait every five-plus years to request a change to the zoning of their land. At the same time, legislation will also be introduced to give protection in perpetuity to those areas of conservation value which are increasingly under threat from development, such as woodland and agricultural reserves.

Mr. Speaker, the Government is pleased to report that following the culmination of the Draft Bermuda Plan 2018 process technical officers will dedicate resources to community planning initiatives for the Island’s nine parishes. It is this initiative that will focus on more of a grass-roots approach to planning, where residents will have a greater influence over the future of their community.

Mr. Speaker, since becoming the Minister responsible for Planning I have spent time listening to a cross section of people about their interaction with the department. Generally, Planning does a good job. But there are instances where it is clear that the department needs to examine and change, where necessary, its policies and practices. This is acknowledged and is currently being worked on. We will engage regularly with stakeholders in the community to ensure that we are being responsive to their valid concerns. We have listened, Mr. Speaker, and we are prepared to act.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the Department of Planning is committed to making the necessary changes for the ultimate betterment of Bermuda.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The next Minister who has a Statement on the Order Paper this morning is Minister Caines.

Minister, would you like to put your Statement?

Hon. Wayne Caines: If it pleases you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Continue.

WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Wayne Caines: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide this Honourable House with an update on the Department of Corrections. I would like to say from the outset that we appreciate and value the work of our corrections officers.

Mr. Speaker, the health and safety of our corrections officers is paramount. I would also like to highlight that I have full confidence in the Bermuda Department of Corrections senior leadership team, led by Acting Commissioner Keeva-Mae Joell-Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, most recently, the Prison Officers Association [POA] raised significant concerns. The concerns centred around (1) the conditions of the correction facilities, (2) security, and (3) health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, the Bermuda Department of Corrections produced a strategic plan. The aforementioned plan articulated a systematic method for (1) security upgrades, (2) personnel development, and (3) facility upgrades.

Mr. Speaker, most recently, there was an impasse between the Bermuda Department of Corrections senior management team and the Prison Officers Association (POA). Mr. Speaker, as a result of the aforementioned impasse, a number of prison officers called in sick. Consequently, there were not enough officers to handle the day-to-day operations within the Department of Corrections. Please note that the senior officers were drafted in to carry out the day-to-day operations in the housing units within the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Speaker, the Bermuda Police Service was used to transport inmates to and from court and to medical visits. The impasse reached 'fever pitch', and in turn the Prison Officers Association, the Department of Corrections, the Labour Relations Manager and Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of National Security, Colin Anderson, met in an attempt to solve the outstanding issues.

Mr. Speaker, there were concerns with reference to the corrections officers dealing with mentally ill prisoners and the training required to manage prisoners with mental health issues. There are ongoing discussions with the Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Health, and the Bermuda Hospitals Board, to establish a mental health forensic unit here in Bermuda. There is no official timeline as of yet.

Mr. Speaker, the [Westgate Correctional Facility](#) had limited hot water supply. The budget for the new industrial water heater was recently approved by Cabinet. The industrial water heater will be shipped to the Island and will be operational by July 2019. The facility was also in need of two industrial washing machines. One washing machine was purchased in 2018 and is currently in operation, and the other industrial washer was recently approved by Cabinet and will be

on Island and in operation in July 2019. There were major leaks in the Westgate water tank. The repairs to the water tank have commenced.

Mr. Speaker, the Prison Officers Association are deeply concerned with reference to the health of the corrections officers as a result of mould in the corrections facilities, and rightly so. The Acting Commissioner has implemented a mould remediation and cleaning regime. An air-quality assessment is to be completed prior to the end of June 2019. Industrial cleaners will be used to assist with mould remediation in June 2019.

Mr. Speaker, the POA have concerns with reference to staff shortages. Please be advised that 25 new corrections officers were hired in September 2018. The recruiting process for 22 new corrections officers commenced in March 2019. Training and development of officers is paramount, as is succession planning. The new senior leadership team have been tasked with discussing the plan with the POA to ensure that the training and development programme is robust and fit for purpose.

Mr. Speaker, the security within the Department of Corrections was also a concern. A part of the 2017 Corrections Strategic Plan included a security matrix. There are significant elements within the security plan that have been completed or are indeed a work in progress.

Mr. Speaker, please note that the Duress System in all facilities was recently upgraded. The unified power system [UPS] was recently upgraded. The telephone system was recently upgraded. The fire alarm system was recently upgraded. The infrastructure system for the security system at the Farm Facility was upgraded. The infrastructure for the Farm Facility cameras was also upgraded.

Mr. Speaker, at the Westgate Correctional Facility, the CCTV system was upgraded. Cameras were replaced, and additional cameras were installed. There was a software upgrade to the Westgate facility camera system. Security fencing at the Farm Facility was completed. Security fencing at the Co-ed Correctional Facility has commenced and should be completed by the second week in June 2019. Please be advised, Mr. Speaker, that the Cabinet has recently approved a budget for a CCTV upgrade at the Co-ed [Correctional] Facility.

Mr. Speaker, there is a security plan in place for drone sightings.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Corrections have trained canine officers who use dogs to assist with drug detection at all of the Correctional Facilities on Island. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, representatives from the Ministry of Works and Engineering visited the Westgate Correctional Facility to tour the facility and to put together a list of priorities for maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Prison Officers Association Executive, the Department of Corrections, the Labour Relations Manager and the Permanent

Secretary of the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Colin Anderson, met and distilled all of the outstanding issues with a view to agree upon a way moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the first outcome was that they would create a working maintenance list of issues. The aforementioned maintenance list would be set in order of priority. The parties agreed to set a time continuum with an accompanying schedule including deadlines.

Mr. Speaker, the second outcome was that all of the elements within the strategic plan will be discussed as a standing agenda item at the monthly Department of Corrections and Prison Officers Association meetings. Also, action points will be discussed and the progress [will be] signed off by the Prison Officers Association at the end of each meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the most significant concerns centre around the POA's desire for an increase in pay and the POA membership payment into the Government Employment Health Insurance (GEHI). Please note that the requested increase in salary and the payment into GEHI are subject to the [public] sector negotiations. Mr. Speaker, the [Public] Sector Negotiation Team and the Prison Officers Association have struggled to come to a consensus regarding the terms of reference. Both sides have now come to an agreement. The terms of reference are now with the Attorney General's Chambers for sign-off. Once the Attorney General's Chambers have signed off on the terms of reference, both matters will go to the arbitrators and arbitration will commence.

Mr. Speaker, please note that in July 2019, personnel from HM Prison Inspectorate will be on Island to review all Department of Corrections facilities and will provide an independent assessment of all Department of Corrections processes and procedures.

Mr. Speaker, the Prison Officers Association's members continue to work to rule. This means that corrections officers will not work overtime, programmes and classes are restricted, and visits are restricted. Please note that dialogue between the POA, the Department of Corrections, the Ministry of National Security, and the Department of Labour and Training is bearing fruit. All sides are committed to resolving the outstanding issues.

Mr. Speaker, the corrections officers' safety and well-being is paramount. The Acting Commissioner is tasked with executing the 2017 Strategic Plan. The Prison Officers Association have highlighted their concerns, and the concerns have been taken seriously. The stakeholders must continue to work together to solve the challenges so that the Department of Corrections can get back to their work of regularly scheduled duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The next Minister on the Order Paper this morning is the Minister of Health.

Minister Wilson, would you like to put your Statement?

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

BERMUDA HOSPITALS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am very pleased to be tabling in this Honourable House today the [2014 Annual Report for the Bermuda Hospitals Board](#). This marks what is expected to be a process of publishing the next five outstanding annual reports to bring BHB in line with its legislated requirements over the course of the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I can further provide an update that the 2015 financial statements have already been audited and the annual report is underway. BHB is working with the Auditor General's Office on completing the audits for 2016 to 2019 and will soon be completely up to date.

Mr. Speaker, this 2014 annual report provides a summary of activities during the fiscal year under review, along with full financial statements, salary information and statistics. During that year, BHB managed to end the year with a surplus, achieved by reducing budgets by 10 per cent and controlling costs. This resulted in a reduction in expenses from \$312.3 million to \$259 million. These savings were needed to pay for new equipment and to ensure that financial obligations could be met when the new Acute Care Wing was completed in the summer of 2014. This enabled BHB to financially prepare for the new wing without any additional funds or grants from Government.

Mr. Speaker, the 2014 annual report gives details of the operational readiness project, which included training and preparing staff and planning moving 90 inpatients over safely. It also highlights service and care improvements in all services provided by the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, the Mid Atlantic Wellness Institute and the Lamb Foggo Urgent Care Centre campuses, as well as the various BHB-run group homes. To close, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to bringing the future annual reports as they are made ready and to see BHB move forward on its legislated schedule of financial reporting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The next Minister who has a Statement this morning is Minister Foggo. Minister.

ROLE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SECTION

Hon. Lovitta F. Foggo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to you, to the House, and to the good people of Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to provide to the Members of this Honourable House an overview of the [role and functions of the Labour Relations Section](#) in light of the various concerns and queries that the Ministry of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports has received recently.

Mr. Speaker the Labour Relations Section sits within the Ministry of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports Headquarters and comprises the Labour Relations Manager, an administrative assistant, and three Labour Relations officers. Mr Speaker, the role of this section is to:

- educate employers and employees on Bermuda's labour laws—that is, the Employment Act 2000, the Labour Relations Act 1975, the Trade Union Act 1965 and the Labour Disputes Act 1992;
- investigate and mediate labour complaints while remaining neutral;
- make appropriate referrals of unsettled complaints to the appropriate body for determination; facilitate the process of union certification and decertification;
- prepare, for the UK Office, International Labour Organization reports; and
- promote amicable and productive industrial relations within Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, the Labour Relations Section has various functions under each of the aforementioned Acts, which I will now expound upon.

The Employment Act 2000—this Act sets out the minimum standards for the terms and conditions of employment for persons working full-time in Bermuda and comprises the majority of the work managed by the Labour Relations Section. The Labour Relations Officer conducts an investigation into a complaint made pursuant to this Act and mediates the parties to a resolution. If a resolution cannot be reached, the complaint will be referred to the Employment Tribunal for determination.

Under the Labour Relations Act 1975, the Act establishes and governs the procedure for the settlement of labour disputes within essential industries and essential services. The Labour Relations Officer conducts an investigation of a labour dispute pursuant to this Act and mediates the parties to a resolution. If a resolution cannot be reached, the labour dispute will be referred to the Minister responsible for Labour for consideration and referral to the appropriate board or arbitration panel. Those panels are the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal, the Essential Industrial Disputes Settlement Board, a mediator, a sole arbitrator, or an arbitrator and assessors.

The Labour Disputes Act 1992 establishes a Labour Disputes Tribunal where it is expedient for the settlement of certain labour disputes within a non-

essential service or industry. If a resolution cannot be reached and both parties do not consent to the referral of a labour dispute under the Labour Relations Act 1975, the labour dispute will be referred to the Minister for consideration and referral to the Labour Disputes Tribunal.

The Trade Union Act 1965 governs the certification and decertification of unions in the private and public sectors. The Labour Relations Officer reviews the certification application, assists the parties in determining the appropriate bargaining unit and conducts a secret ballot of the workers to certify whether or not a union will act as their sole bargaining agent. Parties have a right to appeal the order granting or refusing certification. The Labour Relations Officer, upon receipt of an application for decertification from the workers within a bargaining unit, enquires into the appropriateness of the existing bargaining unit and conducts a secret ballot of the workers to determine whether or not the certification of the union will be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, as announced in the Throne Speech, the Minister of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports, working together with the unions and employer groups, will modernise the current labour legislation—that is, the Employment Act 2000, the Labour Relations Act 1975, the Labour Disputes Act 1992, and the Trade Union Act 1965—to ensure protections for employees whether unionised or not.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports has received a number of complaints from workers and members of the public pertaining to unfair contractual terms and the perceived disproportionate treatment of Bermudian and expatriate workers. Workers are urged to address any and all concerns and/or complaints with the Labour Relations Section, which is responsible for the investigation and conciliation of all employment- and labour-related disputes.

Mr. Speaker, the Labour Relations Section is located at 23 Parliament Street, Hamilton, in the old Magistrates' Court building. They are open Monday to Friday from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm and can be reached by telephone on 297-7714 or 297-7716. And the office welcomes walk-ins as well as appointments, Mr. Speaker.

The section will shortly be commencing an educational campaign to advise employees of their rights under the various Acts. I urge any employee who requires assistance or advice to contact the section. They are there to provide just that, advice and assistance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member Foggo.

The next Minister, the final Statement this morning is that of the Minister of Transport.

Minister De Silva.

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Go ahead.

PUBLIC BUS SERVICE

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Transportation [DPT] implemented a new 50-bus schedule on the 18th of March 2019 to provide a reduced public bus service that could be reliably met with the available buses and no cancellations. However, the frequency and capacity of the new schedule was insufficient to meet the demands of our commuters, visitors and students. Additionally, there were challenges with the rest times between some trips, presenting health and safety concerns for not only bus operators, but also for the traveling public. As a result, it was decided to reinstate the previous schedule effective 29 April 2019. The 2019 bus schedule was closely monitored over a period of six weeks, consolidating feedback from bus operators and the public. The decision to revert to the former schedule was not taken lightly, but was the only recourse to address the concerns of our operators and passengers.

Mr. Speaker, implementing the 2019 bus schedule was a learning curve and is an advancement to build on as we move forward. The Ministry, unions and DPT have fostered stronger working relations, demonstrated in part by our ability to agree [to] the definition of “night work.” And I think that deserves repeating, Mr. Speaker—demonstrated in part by our ability to agree [to] the definition of “night work,” and collectively develop and implement work rosters. Once implemented, we consulted on the performance of the new schedule, and decisions were made in the best interest of the public and our employees.

Mr. Speaker, this Government is committed to delivering a quality [public bus service](#). As such, replenishing the bus fleet remains a priority for the DPT. Over the past year, the average in-service bus count has increased from 50 buses up to 65 buses. This was accomplished through a combination of new bus purchases, mid-life refits and out-of-service repairs. We have taken delivery of six new buses in the past year, with a further six new buses arriving between June and September this year.

In addition, DPT has recently concluded a request for information [RFI] for new buses, and is in the process of preparing a request for proposal [RFP]. We are taking this opportunity to review the bus market and available vehicle types that meet Bermuda’s needs, as well as international public transportation standards. This includes consideration for sustainability and the environment, appropriately sized buses, accessibility, on board features and the total cost of ownership. The information gathered during the RFI process is encouraging, and we are confident that there are solutions that can replenish the bus fleet in a

timely manner and improve the bus service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

That brings us to a conclusion of the Statements for this morning.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Speaker: There are none.

PREMIER’S QUESTION TIME

[Standing Order 17(11)(i)]

The Speaker: Premier’s Question Time, yes. Members, just as a reminder, under Premier’s Questions, the Leader of the Opposition may ask three questions. Any other Member may ask one question only. And only Members asking the question may be afforded two supplemental questions.

Again, the time period for this is 30 minutes. And those 30 minutes are the first 30 minutes of the entire 60 minutes which are allowed for the full Question Period. So, with that, we will start our Question Period.

And, Mr. Premier, there are Members of the Opposition who have indicated that they have questions for you, as well as others. And the first question is in the name of the Opposition Leader.

Opposition Leader, would you like to put your question?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, and good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Good morning.

QUESTION 1: MOU WITH PERSEID

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: And to the House and visitors.

The first question I have for the Honourable Premier is . . . there was a lot of excitement around a particular company, Perseid, which won awards away for interesting technology that it was bringing forward to light. And, quite frankly, I think we were all excited about the fact that there was an MOU that was being signed by the Government with this particular company, in conjunction with another company, using Shyft.

So, I wanted to find out from the Premier, where are we?

We understand that it was supposed to kick off sometime in the first quarter. That passed in February. I would like to know where we are with this particular great opportunity that we understand would have even been lucrative for the Bermuda Government at some point in time.

Could you give us an update on what is happening?

The Speaker: Thank you, Opposition Leader.
Mr. Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the question from the Opposition Leader, I believe the Opposition Leader is asking about the Government's EID [electronic identification] project, which has been spoken about on numerous occasions. Last year, almost about a year ago, I believe, at the Consensus conference in New York City, there was a joint venture signed where a Canadian company, Shyft, invested in a Bermuda company, or formed a joint venture with a Bermuda company, Trunomi, to create a company, Perseid.

Perseid was to work with the Government of Bermuda on the implementation of an electronic identity pilot. I am not going to get into the details of it because I do not want to discuss internal issues with particular companies as they exist. But, needless to say, there were some particular challenges with the execution of this particular arrangement. Discussions continue with the Government of Bermuda. Discussions happened as recently as two weeks ago.

We will continue to do it. And the intent is to implement an electronic identity pilot this year.

However, Mr. Speaker, as honourable colleagues *may* know, but those persons who are familiar with the distributive technology space *do know*, in technology, as this is a nascent technology, happen very quickly. The Government is looking to adjust its approach to the electronic identity project, as opposed to having one vendor and/or one system being tied in which may expose the government to technology risk in the future, as we do not know how the system will develop.

We are looking at implementing a regulatory framework, which we are calling the Reliance Framework, which will basically allow multiple different companies to be able to attest to and verify the identities of persons. And that is sought as a process which will broaden this identity project.

Perseid will still be used to do the pilot of that, and that is a negotiation which we are currently doing. But the Government is working with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on developing the Reliance Framework. And we look forward to updating Members on that once that has passed through the Cabinet.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Opposition Leader, would you like to put a supplementary or a new question?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, certainly. No, no, no, no. A supplementary.

The Speaker: Supplementary? Okay.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I appreciate some of the updates. I just want to be sure so I understand correctly. The MOU then still is in place. We are still continuing with Perseid. And I guess the question then would be, Is the commitment still [there] to invest the \$10 million that they said they also would be investing in the next three years? Have any of the conditions of that MOU changed since the revelation of working with the university that you just mentioned, and the likes?

The Speaker: Thank you, Opposition Leader.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Opposition Leader may be talking about two different particular issues. There is the joint venture between Trunomi and Shyft, and then there is the MOU itself with Shyft. And so, there has been no change on either one of those processes. The Government continues to engage with those companies.

However, as technology moves very quickly (that [MOU] was signed a year ago), the space itself is evolving rapidly. The analysis that the Government has done, which is being spearheaded by the Chief FinTech Advisor, Mr. Denis Pitcher, working with MIT, is to look at a broader framework, which we believe can bring more adoption to electronic identity in Bermuda and advance the pace of, I would say, Bermuda as being a centre in this space.

This is very hard stuff to explain because it is incredibly technical. It is very difficult for me to understand. That is why I am fortunate to have someone like Denis Pitcher, who understands this particular stuff. But we are changing it. So, there has been no change in the MOU with Shyft. Perseid is the entity that is continuing to work with the Government to launch the pilot. And once we confirm the parameters of that . . . because what is most important, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government's interests and the country's interests are advanced in the best way.

The Speaker: Thank you, Premier.
Supplementary?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, yes.

The Speaker: Second supplementary.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I appreciate that. And I just want to say, in asking this question, that I think it is a great idea, this whole process. And I am hoping that, as we move forward . . . the Premier mentioned that within the year. Are we saying that we will have something established as far as a digital ID by another year from now? Is that what you are saying?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to respond to that. As the Honourable Member would know from updates that were given by the Minister who was previously responsible, and myself, this is something that we wanted to have done already. But, as the old adage says, *Measure twice; cut once*. Things are advancing very quickly. And we do not want to have ourselves trapped in, what is called in IT, a “technology risk.” And that is the reason why we are making sure that we are analysing this carefully.

I would love to give the Opposition Leader a specific timeline on when this would be. I cannot present that at this time, as the Government is still working with Perseid to outline exactly the parameters of what the pilot would look like in conjunction with the budgeted amount that has been approved by the Cabinet of Bermuda.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Opposition Leader, you are done with the supplementaries for your first question. Would you like to put your second question?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I did three already?

The Speaker: There are two supplementaries.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Two? Oh, that is right. It is two. I was trying to cheat you and get three.

The Speaker: No problem.

[Laughter]

QUESTION 2: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I would like to move on.

We had a Statement given to us concerning the negotiations and issues with the prisons. What I wanted to find out . . . and I adjusted this question just slightly. I was going to ask about the prisons and the police. But I wanted to find out from the Premier if he can give us an idea of where we are with the negotiations concerning the police department. We know that it has been ongoing. And in light of the fact that we have issues with the correctional services, where are we now with the police department negotiations?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will just state that [off] the top of my head, I do not know the exact status of the negotiations with the police officers. I will seek to get with the Minister, the Opposition Leader, and write with clarity on that. The Minister for the Cabinet Office is the one who holds those particular responsibilities. And I am very sorry that I do not have that update; but I will look to provide it as quickly as possible.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary? Yes, your first supplementary.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Taking that into consideration, we know that it has been a major concern with both departments, correctional services and the police department. I would hope that we can get an update, and, in addition, understand exactly what is going on, find out what are the major concerns so that we can move along in resolving this, understanding that both correctional services and police department work hand-in-hand with one another. We do not want a situation whereby we are having more sick-outs, sit-outs and that kind of a thing. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Opposition Leader. Clearly, this is a challenge that the former Government had as, according to this Government, one of the major sticking points with both the prison officers and the police was the issue with GEHI contributions. It is something that was inside of Throne Speeches from the former Government; it is something that has continued to be worked on under this Government.

And for the public's edification, there are about seven different public sector unions and negotiating bodies. And not all of them pay into the Government Employees Health Insurance Scheme at the same rate, and that is one of the major sticking points, as the Minister for National Security had mentioned, with the prison officers. And it is also one of the challenges and sticking points with the police officers, as well.

The Speaker: Opposition Leader, do you have a second supplementary?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: No, that's it.

The Speaker: Do you want to go to your third question?

QUESTION 3: MINISTERS AND/OR JUNIOR MINISTERS AS PAID CONSULTANTS

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to an update concerning the matter that I know that they are taking into hand.

Yes. The third question that I do have is, since the election of July 2017, could the Premier let us know if any Ministers or Junior Ministers have been hired as consultants, or are they being paid to do work in addition to being appointed as Minister or Junior Minister since that period of time?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I will try to get answers off of the top of the head. Outside of regular service on government boards, I do not believe so. The only thing would possibly be the Efficiency Committee, which I believe was shared by the Junior Minister for Finance, which had multiple members who were remunerated who did work. But I do not necessarily, off the top of my head, have any specifics on that.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I thank the Premier for being willing to take that in hand. Could the Premier could also let us know for what Ministries those were for and approximately what the amounts were for those contracts that may have been meted out?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that there were any particular contracts which were stated. I believe, under section 61(4) the Bermuda Constitution allows all Ministers to appoint boards and committees to advise particular Ministers. I know the Efficiency Committee did excellent work. And with that excellent work, I know that there were a number of Members on it from both sides, from both places, including Independent Senators and others. And the work of which they do, hopefully we will be able to bring to this House in the near future.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Your second supplementary?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: You are fine? Okay.

That brings us to a close of the questions from the Opposition Leader. The next Member who has questions is MP Jeanne Atherden.

Honourable Member, would you like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: FINTECH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the Premier: Can the Premier advise, and this is relating to the FinTech Development Fund which was introduced in 2018. Can the Premier advise how much money has been deposited into the FinTech Development Fund? And in those monies deposited, what were the specific purposes for such sums received in the "Other Purposes" category?

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, though there are two questions, I am happy to answer. As has been stated previously in both the media and in this House the last time I was asked, at this point in time—

The Speaker: I was pausing because I was going to see if I would make them into two separate [questions,] but being that you want to take them as one, go ahead.

Hon. E. David Burt: There have been no deposits to the FinTech Development Fund. And when there are deposits to the FinTech Development Fund, I can assure the Members of the Opposition that they will know.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: I thought I had a supplementary. But—

The Speaker: You used it twice. See, you used up both of your questions.

[Laughter]

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: But, *but* I am going to make sure that this is clear. The other part of the Act envisioned that the Government could put some monies into the FinTech Development Fund. I just want clarity that the Government itself has not deposited any money into the fund.

The Speaker: Premier.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, the Government has not.

The Speaker: Continue on.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Another supplementary? You have two supplementaries. Would you like to use your second? Or we can move on.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: In it, you stated that you would surely invite Cabinet to approve amendments to relevant legislation to formalise Ministerial private offices. You also stated that you had invited the Policy and Strategy Section within the Cabinet Office to conduct a jurisdictional review of consultants.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: I am going to use my last one.

Honourable Premier, can you please update this Honourable House on these two items?

The Speaker: Use your last supplementary, yes?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: And I am doing this for clarity. Because the reason . . . when the fund was set up, it was envisioned that monies would be paid out for technical education for individuals and for sporting organisations. And I am just trying to clarify that, because no money has been paid into that fund, no money has been distributed to community organisations or for the purposes of technical education.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, [I am] happy to update the Honourable House on these two items. As has been stated by the Honourable former Premier's question, what was promised in the speech has been done. Reviews have been carried out, not only for a proposed code of conduct for Ministerial private offices, but also for revisions to legislation. And I would expect to bring that legislation to this Honourable House next week.

The Speaker: Mr. Premier.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Honourable Member has answered her own question.

Supplementary? No supplementaries.

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

The next Member, Premier, who has a question for you is the Honourable Member, Mr. Simons.

The Speaker: Okay. Members, Members! Thank you.

Honourable Member Simons, would you like to put your question?

The next Member, Premier, who has questions for you is the Honourable Member, MP Dunkley.

MP, would you like to put your questions?

QUESTION 1: CLOSURES/MERGERS OF BERMUDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[Crosstalk]

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good morning to you and to honourable colleagues.

Question to the Honourable Premier.

Mr. Speaker, during the 2018/19 Budget Debate press briefing, the Premier promised that there would be no closures or mergers of Bermuda's public schools. And he went on to say that this is not something that we are looking to do right now.

[Crosstalk]

Can the Premier give us an update as to his intentions for this year? Will he be closing or merging any public schools?

The Speaker: Members!

The Speaker: Premier.

QUESTION 1: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/CONSULTANTS AND ADVISERS—A REVISED CONSTRUCT, UPDATE

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Honourable Premier, on the 11th of March, you delivered a Ministerial Statement to this House entitled Professional Services/Consultants and Advisers—A Revised Construct.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, the first thing I can say is I do not fully recall saying that. But if the Honourable Member says that, I will take him at his word.

What I can say, however, is that this Government was elected with a promise to phase out middle schools. And we are currently engaged in that process. We are measuring multiple times so that we only have to cut once.

[Gavel]

But what I will say, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking on the topic of schools that have been closed, is that I think it is very interesting to note the issue of T. N. Tatem. And the reason why I say "the issue of T.

N. Tatem,” Mr. Speaker, is that it is very important to note that when the former Government was in office, they were provided with recommendations on what to do to fix the source of the problems at the school. And, guess what? They did not fix the source of the problems. They did cosmetic cleaning.

We have now received the report on the full extent of what is required to fix the source of the problems and prevent the problems from re-occurring. And those are the things of which we will be examining. So, the only school at this time which is closed, unfortunately,, is closed due to the negligence of the former side not following the advice of which they were given and fixing the problems at the source—

Some Hon. Members: Ooh!

The Speaker: Members!

Hon. E. David Burt: —as opposed to . . . as opposed to doing cosmetic work.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Member, would you like to put your supplementary?

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Yes. I have one question and two supplementaries, right?

The Speaker: One question, two supplementaries, correct. This is your first supplementary.

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Okay. Well, I will keep going.

The Speaker: This is your first supplementary now.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Okay. My first supplementary: What was the source of the document that the Premier was referring to?

The Speaker: Premier, would you like to [answer] the question?

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, there are a number. But the source of the reports . . . I have it here in front of me. [I will be] happy to table it for the Honourable Member’s attention. It was written to Mr. Dwayne Caisey, Facilities Manager for Bermuda Water Consultants. And it says, “In our opinion, everything that we observe is directly related to general and routine maintenance of a facility. The issues that we noted today are the same issues that we noted back in 2013 and the same issues that closed out in 2017.” And that was roof leaks which were not fixed, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Second supplementary?

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Second supplementary.

During last year’s comments, the Premier also said, “¹[What] we are looking [at] right now” is ensuring that “we improve the outcomes of the public education system.” Can the Premier give us an update as to when he can expect for the public and the House to get the results of the Cambridge middle school exams that took place in early 2019?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the exact timing of that. But I will ask the Minister of Education to speak to the Shadow Minister to provide him that particular update on the timing of the release of those particular figures.

The Speaker: Thank you.

That brings you to a close of questions from that Honourable Member. Premier, you have another Honourable Member who has questions for you this morning. And it is the Honourable Member Pearman.

Honourable Member, would you like to put your question?

Mr. Scott Pearman: Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Good morning. Good morning.

QUESTION 1: DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Mr. Scott Pearman: Honourable Premier, as you know, there is an ongoing investigation into the Department of Child and Family Services being conducted by the Department of Internal Audit. Can the Premier show the House and the people of Bermuda when that investigation is likely to be concluded and a report produced?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Mr. Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that there is an ongoing investigation. I believe that this investigation has concluded. That is to the best of my knowledge. But I am happy to check. But it is my understanding that this investigation has been concluded.

Mr. Scott Pearman: Supplementary.

The Speaker: Okay. Honourable Member, you have a supplementary, yes.

¹ [Royal Gazette](#), 20 February 2018

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Mr. Scott Pearman: Honourable Premier, given the importance of this matter to the public and to Bermuda, will that be a report that you yourself will be considering?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I am going to try and go back from memory on internal audit reports. But I do not think that internal audit reports actually go to Ministers. The Department of Internal Audit and the Internal Audit Act, I think, specifically restricts the interference of Ministers in internal audit items. So, those items are administrated by the Cabinet Secretary. That is to the best of my knowledge regarding the Internal Audit Act.

The Speaker: Your second supplementary?

Mr. Scott Pearman: Second supplementary.

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Scott Pearman: Given the importance of this report, is the Honourable Premier prepared to consider whether to make it public?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I do not actually believe that this is allowable under law. However, I am happy to discuss the matter. And possibly, it might be something that a parliamentary committee may be able to request.

The Speaker: Thank you.

That actually brings us to a close of questions from the Opposition. I do believe that we have some questions from Government Members. (There are actually eight minutes and 25 seconds left. So, we have got some time there.) The first is from the Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker.

QUESTION 1: PLP PUBLIC EDUCATION REFORM UPDATE

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the Progressive Labour Party election platform stated that the Government would reform public education by phasing out middle schools and introducing signature schools at the secondary level which focus on the learning styles and interests of our children, including academic, technical and other trades, business, sports, arts and special needs education.

Will the Honourable Premier please inform this Honourable House of the status of this election promise?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Deputy Speaker for his question.

The Ministry of Education has been reviewing the outline of this current system. As I had said in responses to questions from the Opposition earlier, this is something that we are making sure that we analyse fully, as these are our children, and we want to make sure that any changes that are done to the system are done in the best interests of our children.

The Cabinet recently had a presentation on the possible construction of new schools and a system redesign. And the Cabinet has asked for additional information, Mr. Speaker, as it is the Cabinet's view that we cannot deal with only the matters of buildings and facilities as we look to phase out middle schools, but we also have to look at accountability for teachers and administrators, as well. So, that is particular information. The Minister of Education, as he and I discussed this morning, said that he is aiming to have that information to the Cabinet as was requested in July. And at that point in time, I am certain that the Minister of Education will engage in public consultation on this particular matter.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Supplementary.

The Speaker: Supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I know many of my constituency voted for the PLP based on this pledge. When I go knocking on doors, what can I tell my constituency is the timeline to deliver this election promise?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that I am on public record saying this, and I will say that, ideally, the next school year, which is 2019/20, will be the last school year under our system, under the current system. The school year 2020/21 will be the first with signature schools.

However, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say this, the Government will not rush this just to make this particular timeline. These are our children. And, espe-

cially as my daughter will be starting in the public school system in the fall, I want to ensure that we probably do not measure two times, but three times, before we cut once. But it is my every expectation that this will be delivered before we go back to the polls.

The Speaker: Thank you.

No supplementary?

The next Member, the Government Whip.

Mr. W. Lawrence Scott: It has been asked.

The Speaker: Been asked? Okay.

MP Tyrrell, would you still like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: MEASURES TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, yes. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Premier please inform this Honourable House what measures are being taken to make this Government more efficient?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Member for his question because, oftentimes, we hear lots of particular issues about misinformation. And there is one thing that I want to certainly bring to the fore, because I think that it is critically important that people understand the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read to you two figures. I am going to read to the total number of employees employed by the Government of Bermuda on the 31st of March 2015. That number was 5,039. On the 31st of March 2019, at the end of the last fiscal year, that number was 4,704, a decline of 335 persons.

Mr. Speaker, not only have we worked in making sure that we are constraining and making sure that the public service is efficient, but we have also, as I said, had the work of the Efficiency Committee, which was led by the former Junior Minister of Finance. They made a number of recommendations which have been implemented. One recommendation collected over \$4 million of taxes by [the examination of] departments.

There is another thing of which the Efficiency Committee has actually also commented on that will streamline the process for approvals for land. In addition, the Minister of Home Affairs just spoke about the efficiency measures which are going to be taken for the Department of Planning.

There are a number of things that we are making sure [are] efficient. But the most important

thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we live within our means. And it is important to correct the false narrative that is out there and recognise that, between 2015 and today, there are 335 fewer persons employed by the Government of Bermuda—not more, as the Opposition would lead you to believe.

The Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Supplementary?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Ah! Ah! You cannot add supplementaries.

Supplementary?

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Mr. Speaker, I think we should be sharing more . . .

[Crosstalk]

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: Members, Members! Members!

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Mr. Speaker, I think we should be sharing more of the good work that this Government is doing. Will the Honourable Premier look to be tabling any reports of the Efficiency Committee in the House?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for his question. What I will ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to do is review that report, as it did go into a number of sensitive topics. And we want to make sure that there are certain things that possibly may not be suitable for public dissemination. But certainly, the report and any appendices which can be released, I think we should. Because it is important that people know the work of the Efficiency Committee.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Tyrrell, you used up your questions.

The next Member who has a question for the Premier is Honourable Member Famous.

Honourable Member Famous, would you like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: BERMUDA COLLEGE MOBILE APPLICATION APPS, UPDATE

Mr. Christopher Famous: Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, the Progressive Labour Party election platform stated the Government would (and I quote) “²Collaborate with Bermuda College to promote mobile application development skills by having students design, maintain and enhance mobile apps that make government better and more efficient.”

Would the Honourable Premier please inform this Honourable House of the status of this election promise?

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member will, or the public should, know that we have delivered on that particular election promise. I was proud to announce a few weeks ago that we have launched the Bermuda Government’s first mobile application, which was designed by students at the Bermuda College in conjunction with an overseas firm. That app provided practical experience to students at the Bermuda College.

But the Government is not stopping there. We are upgrading the computer labs at the Bermuda College to provide more instruction and more allowance for students to have these experiences. And those persons are going to have the opportunity to work on that, [as well as] more persons who are coming to the programme at Bermuda College, as we continue to prepare Bermudians for a future of technology.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Is there a supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Mr. Christopher Famous: Yes.

Could the Honourable Premier tell us exactly how many times has the app been downloaded? Because that would be a true measure of its success thus far.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what I will say is that the total number of application downloads . . . as of May 7th the total number was 300. So, we have some work to do to get that number up.

The Speaker: Thank you.

No more supplementaries from that Member.
There are 12 seconds left. I was going to call on Ms. Furbert.

Ms. Furbert, would you like to use your . . . well, eight seconds now? Or we can move on to the other questions.

An Hon. Member: Move on.

The Speaker: It looks like time is going to run out on you before you get—

Mrs. Tinee Furbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Timer beeps]

The Speaker: I think the time has run out.

[Laughter]

Mrs. Tinee Furbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: We are now going to move on to the questions from today’s Statements. And the first Statement was in the name of the Premier.

And, Premier, you actually have a question from a Member. We call on the Honourable Member Simons.

Honourable Member, would you like to put your question?

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: For the Premier?

The Speaker: For the Premier.

An Hon. Member: He forgot.

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: I did forget.

The Speaker: Well, would you like for us to move on?

[Crosstalk and laughter]

The Speaker: Okay. You came back the second time.
All right. We will move on, Premier.

The next Statement is that of the Minister of Finance. And, Minister, you have two Members who would like to put questions to you. The first one is from the Member Pearman.

Would you like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: EUROPEAN UNION TAX LISTING

Mr. Scott Pearman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, you spoke in your Statement about the forthcoming legislative framework of changes for the collective investment funds. As per previous, are

² [Bernews](#), 25 April 2019

you prepared to give an undertaking that you will consult with the industry stakeholders, and additionally to provide draft legislation well in advance of the debate in the House?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Minister.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: The responsibility for the legislation and regulations around collective investment funds rests with the BMA [Bermuda Monetary Authority]. As per their standard practice of consultation and drafting, I suspect that they will follow the norm, and consult and provide drafts as appropriate.

The Speaker: Supplementary? Okay.
We will move on.
Mr. Simons, you have a question for the Minister of Finance?

QUESTION 1: EUROPEAN UNION TAX LISTING

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: The Minister's Statement indicated . . . Mr. Speaker, I should add that when Bermuda is removed from Annex I, we will be placed on Annex II of the EU list.

Can the Minister confirm that, by going on Annex II, we will be going on the greylist and not the whitelist?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Minister.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: Annex II is the greylist.

The Speaker: Supplementary, yes.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Yes.
Can the Minister give a roadmap as to what we need to do to get onto the whitelist?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: I have been informed that the resolution of the issues surrounding collective investment funds will be the issue that takes us from grey to white.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary? Supplementary?

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Thanks.
And what type of timeline will we have in place to have this brought to completion?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson: We are anticipating getting appropriate guidance from the European Commission in June or July of this year, with an expectation that we will have our submissions made by the end of the year.

The Speaker: Thank you.
No more questions? Good.
We move on to the next Statement. And the next Statement is in the name of the Deputy Premier.
Deputy Premier, you have a question from the Honourable Member Simons (again).
Honourable Member Simons, would you like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: STREAMLINING PLANNING PROCESSES

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Okay. In regard to the streamlining of the planning process, how will this streamlining process impact the Development Application Board?

The Speaker: Deputy Premier.

Hon. Walter H. Roban: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
One of the things that one of the streamlinings will do is it will avoid certain types of applications that will no longer have to go to the board and will be administratively approved as long as they meet certain requirements, particularly if it is a standard application where all the boxes have been checked, it fits in all the development requirements, and it will not need to go to the board. So, that means that there is a considerable percentage of applications that will no longer be slowed by having to be prepared for the board process. And that should compact the development application process for those types of applications.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Yes.
So, will we be bringing amendments to the Planning Act [Development and Planning Act 1974] and Planning Regulations to facilitate this change in responsibility and function?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Deputy?

Hon. Walter H. Roban: It was outlined in my Statement, Mr. Speaker. Section 5A of the Planning Act already allows for this procedure.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Any further questions? No further questions.

Deputy, those were the only questions for you.

We now move on to the fourth Statement, and that was in the name of the Minister of National Security.

Minister, you have a few Members who would like to put questions to you. And the first is the Opposition Leader.

Would you like to put your question now?

QUESTION 1: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Honourable Member, for the Statement, which we believe is timely.

I would like to point out on one of the pages—it is not numbered, so I do not know which one it is. But he mentions that there is a security plan in place for drone sightings. And we recall some situations that happened in the past. Can he give us, kind of like, just an overview? Obviously, we want to leave out the details, but maybe an overview of what that might look like so that we understand what the security plan is?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: I will take your guidance, Mr. Speaker. I do think that there is a security plan. I do not believe it wise to discuss the security plan in open, in earnest. There is a plan that deals with the reporting elements of it. There is a plan in place to get a technical device on Island to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if that proved helpful.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
You are okay?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Well, I guess what I wanted to point out . . . we did talk about getting something put in place and getting equipment here. Is there any timeline that you have given these guys to get that equipment here, considering the severity of this issue?

Hon. Wayne Caines: The Government has procurement processes. It is going through the procurement process, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: All right.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary? You are fine?

Minister, the next question would be from the Honourable Member Dunkley.

Honourable Member, would you like to put your question?

QUESTION 1: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the Honourable Minister: On page 5 of the Statement, the Minister mentions, “The most significant concerns centre around the POA’s desire for an increase in pay.” In regard to that, what has been budgeted in this financial year for the pay increase?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I would have to come back to that. And give me two seconds. I need to look in the Budget Book. And I can get that and come back.

The Speaker: The Minister is indicating that he will have to retrieve that figure for you.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Supplementary?

The Speaker: Supplementary, yes.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Carrying on from that, on page 5 and page 6, it says [that] the terms of reference have been agreed on both sides, and they are now with the Attorney General’s Chambers for sign-off. Once they are signed off, the matter will go to arbitration. How long does the Honourable Minister think it will take to get these terms of reference signed off so that it can go to arbitration?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: That is an administrative process. I have spoken to the Attorney General. That is to happen imminently, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Supplementary?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Supplementary, sir.

The Speaker: Second supplementary. Yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, carrying on with that page, page 6, the Honourable Minister says that “Prison Officers Association’s members continue to work to rule. This means that corrections officers will not work overtime, programmes and classes are restricted, and visits are restricted.” So, the question to the Honourable Minister is, what is the meaning of “restricted”? Specifically, what programmes and clas-

ses are being conducted? And how are restricted visits conducted? Who gets permission to get in?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, it means just that. There is a regular schedule. Prisoners are allowed to leave their cells. Prior to this, the agreement, the temporary agreement coming into place, prisoners were under lockdown. Since the agreement has come into place, prisoners are no longer on lockdown. They are not having classes at the moment. They are restricted; [classes] are not taking place. The object in this enterprise is for both sides to get to the table and, as soon as possible, have all of the services ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, we know that it is not convenient for all of the classes which are now taking place. It is not convenient for all of the visits that are limited. The object is to get both sides back at the table forthwith so that we can have the business of [the prison] working as soon as possible.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary or new question? Actually, it would have to be a new question. You used your two supplementaries, yes?

QUESTION 2: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yes, sir. I was going to say that. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Next question: On page 3, the Honourable Minister says, "The POA have concerns with reference to staff shortages." And in that regard, the Commissioner of Corrections has been seconded under the PLP for some time now. Is it intended for the commissioner to return? And if so, when?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, we believe that the commissioner will not return. We believe that this commissioner is acting. She has all of the responsibilities. She has full access to the budget. She has full dominion over the staff. We believe that it is simply an exercise.

The civil service has a significant procedure with reference to . . . the substantive Commissioner of Prisons is working as a permanent secretary. There are plans afoot to regularise that. As soon as that is available, we will see specific administrative things taking place.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary? We will take a supplementary from the Deputy Opposition Leader.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Ms. Leah K. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister, in his Statement on page 3, the recruiting process for 22 corrections officers started in March. Have you identified anybody to be hired from that date to this date, please?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, as we know, there is a period in place where people have the opportunity to put in requests. So, there is a position. When you do a recruiting process, the dates for recruitment are from the 22nd of March until the specific date. The officers now are getting all the applications in. They are vetted. They are doing security tests. They are doing physical tests. They are doing academic tests. At the end of that in-depth process, we get a feel for the candidates. They go through a battery of tests. And at the end of that process, we have what we believe is a starting cohort of officers who will commence the process to go through to become corrections officers, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary or new question?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Continue.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, on the top of page 2, the Honourable Minister says that most recently there was an impasse between the Department of Corrections senior management and the Prison Officers Association. Exactly what was this impasse over? And how many officers called in sick at that time?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Approximately 36 officers called in sick. The impasse centred around security concerns. I went through each one of the security concerns in the Statement. They centred around concerns around the physical plant. I went through each one of the elements that was considered in the Statement, as well, Mr. Speaker. Their issue, which we could not discuss because it fell under the public service negotiation parts, was the GEHI contribution and the salary increase.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Second supplementary or new question?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Second supplementary.

The Speaker: Go ahead. Yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, carrying on, on page 2, the Honourable Minister says the Bermuda Police Service was used to transport inmates to and from court and to medical visits. Then it goes on to say, “The impasse reached fever pitch” What caused the fever pitch (in the Minister’s words) to take place?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, dealing with the Prison Officers Association, things became . . . both sides became very concerned, because they were at a deadlock. They could not come to an agreement. And then cooler heads prevailed. They were indeed able to get around the table with the help of the Labour Relations Manager. And they were able, each side pulling together their viewpoints, and indeed, a roadmap to go forward [was attained]. I highlighted in the Statement what the key points were going forward, and they negotiated some key moving points going forward.

Mr. Speaker, issues centred around the security. It centred around the physical plants. And it centred around the health and safety, specifically the mould. The mould was a growing and a significant concern with the prison officers. They believe, and rightfully so, that their health is being affected by the mould in the facilities, number one. And I will repeat this from the Statement: We have looked at a mould remediation plan. We have an air quality survey that will take place in the not-too-distant future. Directly thereafter, Mr. Speaker, we will have the first element of it where we will have a professional team to come in and clean the prisons.

The health and safety of the corrections officers are paramount, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

New question, your third question?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Third question, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

QUESTION 3: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: On the bottom of page 2, the Honourable Minister says, “the Westgate Correctional Facility had limited hot water supply.” When did this start, and what areas was it limited to?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, hot water is hot water, is it not? When you have a facility that is governed by two hot water heaters . . . the hot water heaters at the Westgate Correctional Facility were not working. This was something that was not budgeted for. It had to go through the procurement process. After it went through the procurement process, it had to go through Cabinet. It then had to be ordered. It then has to be shipped to Bermuda. Then it has to be installed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

First supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I note the answers, but it did not say when it started and in what areas, Mr. Speaker.

The supplementary question.

The Speaker: Yes. Put your question.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: At any time, Mr. Speaker, was the facility without hot water?

The Speaker: Minister.

[Crosstalk]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I apologise. Mr. Speaker, can I have the question repeated, please?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly.

At any time was the Westgate Correctional Facility without hot water?

Hon. Wayne Caines: I would have to confirm that, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Would you like to put a second supplementary? Okay.

Supplementary? Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Considering that the Minister brought up having to go out to procurement and the like, does he have an idea of the cost of some of this remediation work that they have done?

The Speaker: For the hot water heater?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: No . . . well, you mentioned that it had to go out to procurement. I am asking, with all of the remediation that he has spoken to here, and

it was not in the budget, does he have an idea of the cost?

Hon. Wayne Caines: I did not say that there was a remediation that was not in the budget, Mr. Speaker. I spoke to something specific. I was asked specifically about the hot water heater. When asked about the mould, I said that indeed a plan will be put in place and we will commence some of the remediation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to clear up something really quickly. With reference to . . . I was asked specifically by MP Dunkley about the hiring of a new Commissioner of Corrections. I just want to make the record clear, Mr. Speaker. The hiring of any civil servant does not fall within the ambit of any Minister. That is indeed 100 per cent the remit of the Public Service Commission [PSC].

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Just a point of correction, of clarification.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I did not ask about the hiring of a new commissioner. I asked if the seconded commissioner was coming back to the facility.

Hon. Wayne Caines: And that is indeed a matter for the PSC and not the Minister, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you for the clarification on the question and on the response.

If you can get one of your other Members to ask, because you have used up all of your questions (I allowed you to clarify).

[Crosstalk]

The Speaker: You do have one supplementary, yes. Yes, yes, you do. Correct.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I saved that. It is like the last phone call you get to make, you know. It is a supplementary.

[Laughter]

The Speaker: It is your second supplementary, your final one. Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: My last supplementary question, yes.

Mr. Speaker, the Prison Act defines certain responsibilities that the Minister can take. And I would suggest that under the Act the Minister does have responsibility for some running of the prisons.

So, how long does the Honourable Minister think it will take to have the Acting Commissioner confirmed or to have a Commissioner of Corrections put in place?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: That is a matter for the Public Service Commission and not the Minister.

The Speaker: Okay.

Did you have a supplementary to your . . . no.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I think he misunderstood my question. I would clarify the question. Can I clarify the question?

Yes. What I said was, since he mentioned that he had to go to procurement involving the mould and the likes, and he also mentioned . . . I said, in mentioning in his Statement other work that had been done, I was trying to find out, did he have an idea of the total costs?

He has mentioned all these other things that they have done. Did he have an idea of the cost of all of these works that were being done? Upgrading, he mentions, of a power system, the telephone system, the alarm system, infrastructure system. He goes on about several things that were addressed.

The Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I would have to aggregate the cost of each one of those things.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, of course.

Hon. Wayne Caines: I would aggregate the cost. And at the earliest opportunity, I will come back with an aggregated cost of the things that were mentioned and present that to this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Moving on, Minister, you also have questions from the Honourable Opposition Whip.

Would you like to still . . .? Okay.

And the Honourable Member sitting next to you, would you like to put yours?

Honourable Member Atherden?

QUESTION 1: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the Minister: On page 3 (or the third page, even though it is not numbered), there is an indication that 25 new corrections officers were hired in September of 2018. And the re-

cruiting process for 22 corrections officers commenced in March 2019. Could the Minister indicate to us what has been the attrition level in the past couple of years?

The Speaker: Thank you.
Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak to the attrition levels. But what I can tell this Honourable House is that currently there are 186 corrections officers—186 corrections officers. Let us do some numbers here. We have, as of this morning, 166 people incarcerated in Bermuda, totally. Of those, 129 are at Westgate; 11 of those are at the Co-ed Facility, and 26 of those are at the Prison Farm.

Now, let us look at the other end, with prison officers. There are 186 corrections officers. In September of this year, we hired 25 prison officers. We had a vacancy of 32 prison officers. In the next two months we will have an intake of 22 new officers. I do not have the numbers of people at the attrition, but the attrition, obviously, with people retiring, is a number that we have to factor in. But the ultimate aim is that we have a very high ratio of prisoners to officers. We have officers who are rightly trained. We have a clear indication that people are still trying to come to the prison service, because we have people who are coming here every year.

There is a training and development programme that is in place by the Commissioner of Corrections, and we plan to continue to train and develop the Bermudians who come in there for service for the Department of Corrections, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Supplementary or second question?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Supplementary.

The Speaker: Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Could the Minister indicate to us what has been the retirement ratio? Because, obviously, on the one side it is recruitment, the other side is retirement. Could he indicate to us what has been the retirement ratio over the last couple of years?

The Speaker: I think he made some reference.
Go ahead. Continue.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, we would have to get the retirement ratio. This is the first I have ever heard of a retirement ratio, Mr. Speaker.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Wayne Caines: If the learned Member could explain what she means by “a retirement ratio” . . .

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: I can clarify that.

The Speaker: Clarify it for us, please.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: And perhaps it will make it very simple. If you say that 20 people are retiring that year, and you have 186, well, you are going to end up having a retirement ratio of 12 [per cent] or 13 per cent. And the retirement ratio, obviously, is relating to the recruitment ratio. So, can the Minister say how many people have been retiring on a yearly basis in this department?

An Hon. Member: From when?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Over the last few years.

Hon. Wayne Caines: I cannot, Mr. Speaker.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: The last three years will be sufficient.

Hon. Wayne Caines: I cannot speak to those numbers, Mr. Speaker. That is something that I can look into.

Mr. Speaker, with your leave, the Department of Corrections over the last year has spent no more than \$200,000 on repairs. The prison was completely without hot water for approximately nine months.

Some Hon. Members: Whoa!

An Hon. Member: What? Nine months?

The Speaker: Supplementary?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Supplementary.

The Speaker: This is your second supplementary.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Second supplementary.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated, in terms of he told us how many prisoners were there, and he told us how many prison officers were there. But if the Minister would indicate that . . . my understanding is that the numbers of prisoners has been going down. So, could he relate the numbers of prisoners that we are having in Westgate to the numbers of prison officers that we have, what the ratio is? Bearing in mind, I am understanding that it has been going down.

An Hon. Member: What?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I seek your indulgence. I am actually not clear with the questions. I was not clear on the question, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Member, could you clarify your question a bit for the sake of the Minister so that he can respond to it?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: My question was, based on the numbers of prisoners whom we have had over the last, say, three years, the number of prison officers who have been, in terms of the establishment, I just wanted to understand the ratio. Because if you are having fewer prisoners, then you possibly would need fewer prison officers to manage them.

The Speaker: Minister, did you . . .

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, could you translate the question, please?

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Minister, I suggest that you just clarify it if you can, and answer that you will try to get information for her at a later point.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what I am getting information for. I do not understand the question fundamentally. And I say that respectfully. I do not want to promise something I do not understand the basis of the question. We have given an indication that we have 166 prisoners incarcerated at present, totally, in the Island, and that we have 186 prison officers. I do not understand what the question is. She asked about how many officers have retired year by year. I said I will get that number. I do not understand the essence of this question, Mr. Speaker. And that is basically—

The Speaker: Well, Member, for the sake of clarity, I will allow you to get to your feet again if you want to clarify one last time.

Would you allow your colleague to put a supplementary and clarify it?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Ms. Leah K. Scott: I am going to try to clarify it.

Over the past three years, what was the number of prison officers employed in 2016, 2017, 2018? And what was the number of prisoners in 2016, 2017, 2018? So, it was the ratio per.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get those numbers, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Now, do you have a second question?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Second question.

The Speaker: Yes, your second question.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Second question.

The Speaker: Yes.

QUESTION 2: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: On the next page there is an indication of a lot of upgrading that was taking place. And there is an indication that the telephone system was recently upgraded. Could the Minister indicate whether there are any old analogue systems still in the department?

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, clearly, you cannot . . . there are two types of systems. There is a fully digital system, and then there are very few places on the planet that are still using analogue systems, Mr. Speaker. I know when people try to sound as if they understand telecom . . . it is a digital system. And it is a non-digitised system. But there are very few people using analogue communication. They have a PIN system, and they have a regular telephone system in the prison, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Nobody uses analogue.

The Speaker: Supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Just to clarify then. So, there are no different systems that need to have seamless communication there?

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, all communication systems have to talk to each other. Sometimes if communication systems . . . the officers have duress systems that operate under a frequency. And so, that will be a telecommunications system. The officers use radios. That is a form of telecommunication system, has the ability to use a frequency. There are PIN phones in the system which are used by the prisoners. That is a specific system. There are telephones which are used by the officers; that is a specific system. Those systems do not necessarily have to com-

municate with each other. They all have to be operable at the same time, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Any further? No further questions?

Okay. Minister, that brings a close to the questions for you. We have one further Statement that has questions, and that is for the Minister of Transport.

Minister, you have a question from . . .

[Crosstalk]

The Speaker: You had a question for . . . yes, I did overlook you. I had you down for Transport, too. But you are still doing your transport one, right?

Ms. Leah K. Scott: Yes, sir.

The Speaker: Okay. Minister Caines, the Deputy Opposition Leader has a question for you, as well.

QUESTION 1: WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Ms. Leah K. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, my son is incarcerated. And a couple of months ago, one of the inmates attacked his roommate and bit his ears off, wrapped them around his neck in a necklace and went to chow hall. And I am telling you this story because I am concerned about the corrections officers having to deal with mentally ill patients (on page 2). And I know that there is going to be a Mental Health Forensic Unit established, but what is being put in place in the interim to protect the prison officers and to assist them in dealing with the mental health prisoners who are currently there? So, there is going to be a Mental Health Response Unit, but what is in place in the interim to help the [officers] deal with mentally ill [prisoners]?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, therein lies some of the challenges, the teams. A number of the prison officers have challenges in dealing with them. And, Mr. Speaker, I will not go too far off. That is a challenge that we are having in our country, dealing with mentally ill people all through the Island. The prison is no different than what they are having in the courts, what that they are having in the Department of Social Services. As an aside, we have people who are incarcerated with mental health challenges. We do not have the right training and we do not have the number of people that we need to help in these facilities. The team is desperately putting together a plan to manage this.

When it is needed, they get the help from the MAWI [Mid Atlantic Wellness Institute] team. The MAWI team are overworked based on the challenges that they have. And it is about finding balance.

What we have realised is that we need a forensic mental health unit in Bermuda and that there is an effort to put all of the teams here together to put together a plan. In the interim, they have a team at the Westgate Correctional Facility that is dealing with it. When inmates are significantly in need of mental health treatment, they are sent to the Mid Atlantic Wellness Institute for treatment.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I just had some answers to a few of the questions. I seek your leave, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Well, there are still other questions that need to be put in relationship to other matters.

Supplementary on this? Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: The Minister made reference to the plan that was being put together. If the Minister would reflect that there was a plan that was put with respect to having those persons who needed mental health [treatment] assessed and going off the Island, I just wondered if he could indicate where that plan is. Because that would obviously alleviate some of the issues at Westgate.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: That plan is a plan in progress. We have one particular person who has been sent overseas for treatment. We do full assessments. And based upon the need, if the requisite need is there we do send people abroad for treatment overseas.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Supplementary? Supplementary?

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Yes.

The Speaker: Okay, we have got nine seconds, seven seconds.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Supplementary. Nine seconds?

The Speaker: Two seconds left now.

[Timer beeps]

The Speaker: That is it. That brings us to a close of the Question Period for today. And we now move on.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

The Speaker: Would any Member like to speak to this matter?

I recognise that the Honourable Member Brown is on his feet.

Honourable Member.

Mr. Walton Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning, colleagues.

The Speaker: Good morning.

Mr. Walton Brown: I would like to ask this Honourable House to send condolences to the families of three individuals. The first is Ms. [Joan] Alsace Trott, from Somerset, whom you will know, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes. Yes.

Mr. Walton Brown: She lived a full life, and she is sadly missed by her children, including Cookie Brown, Steven and Dennis Brown and Joan [sic] Brown. So, I would like to ask the House to send condolences.

The Speaker: It is Judy.

Mr. Walton Brown: Judy.

An Hon. Member: Include everyone.

Mr. Walton Brown: I include the entire House on this.

Secondly, it is also sad to announce the passing of her daughter, Ms. Deborah Brown, who served over 30 years in the Bermuda Police Service. And she is also sadly missed.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jean Holder, my aunt as well, who passed away a few weeks ago. I would ask this Honourable House to send condolences to her family.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Loretta Morton, who passed away last week. I associate Mr. Neville Tyrrell and Jeanne Atherden. Ms. Morton lived a full life. She is the mother of my brother-in-law, Randolph DeShield. And I would just like this House to send condolences to her family, as well, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Does any other Honourable Member . . . I recognise the Honourable Member, Minister De Silva. Minister.

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to send congratulations to a young man, Mr. Zeeko Johnstone. He is a mechanical engineer trainee at Public Works. I am sure that the Minister, Colonel Burch,

would like to be associated. This young man, Mr. Speaker, graduated last year with a distinction, *cum laude*. He also introduced robotics engineering to middle school students. And he is the son of a proud mother and father, Ernest Johnstone and Yolanda Johnstone, who both happen to work for the Department of Transportation. So, I am very happy to have the House send congratulations to not only him, but to the family.

Mr. Speaker, whilst I am on my feet, I would also like the House to send congratulations to Mary Louise Darrell, who lives in Sunnyside Park and turned 104 years old last week. And she is the mother of Glenda Todd, whom I think you know, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Zane. J. S. De Silva: And being the family that they are, I remember when she turned 100 and they preferred not to have any fanfare whatsoever. And they would like that tradition to continue. But I did get permission from the family to at least acknowledge. And I associate Mr. Kim Swan with this. It must be the water up in Southampton, Mr. Speaker, because you will know that the mother of former Member, Mr. Reggie Burrows, lived until she was 104, as well. So, it is nice to see that that Southampton tradition continues.

Thank you.

The Speaker: We recognise the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had the opportunity to celebrate, with the Premier and with the Governor, to celebrate Christ Church of God, Christ Church, Church of Scotland in Bermuda, their 300th anniversary in Bermuda. And so, we had a wonderful service that we were treated to.

What I would like to say about this particular church and its 300th anniversary was that there was a gentleman who came to Bermuda back in the 1930s at a time when the churches, quite frankly, amongst the Island, were pretty much segregated. And he had gone to a particular church, and he got there, and because of the segregation he was told—coming from the sister Island, he was of colour—he was told where to sit. And after they told him where he could sit in the church, they then proceeded to take up an offering. And, of course, he had brought his offering and gave it. But the church decided to take up a second offering, which pretty much vexed him at that time because he had only prepared for one offering.

And so, he wound up at the Church of Scotland up in Warwick, that we are celebrating the 300th anniversary of. And that member, well, he has passed now, the Honourable Member then became the first black Premier of Bermuda, Mr. Edward “ET” Richards. And so, we have the delight, and he wound up serving at this church. And the reason he served at this

church is because he went there and it was not segregated. Back then it was not segregated. And so, we celebrate the fact that there were many, even back then, who were attempting to be progressive at a time when segregation was at its height in Bermuda. And so, I congratulate the church on its 300th anniversary and its willingness to integrate even back then.

I would also like to congratulate the Bermuda Outstanding Teen Awards. I must say that there were several Honourable Members there, the Minister of Education, the Premier, the Governor, and the likes. We had the opportunity—yes, Minister Weeks was there, as well. And our Shadow Minister of Education was there, as well, Cole Simons. And, my goodness! Bermuda is in good hands. We have some very talented young people within the Island. And I believe that the Premier was able to get up, and when he gave his speech, to reiterate the fact that we are looking good. And I appreciate that.

I also would like to congratulate . . . I had the opportunity up at Southampton Princess, and there were so many people, I cannot recall who else was there. I know that Cole Simons, the Honourable Member, was there. I cannot remember any other MPs.

[Timer beeps]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: But I want to congratulate Deepak [Chopra] for coming to Bermuda and telling us that we should walk around barefooted.

The Speaker: I recognise the Minister of Education. You have the floor.

Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will speak very quickly. Mr. Speaker, could the House send its condolences to the family of Leroy Simmons, a well-known musician, who passed away (and would you associate the entire House with that) . . . a well-known musician who was a constituent of mine, and also a teacher in the public school system?

Again, I want to join in with the former Premier congratulating the Outstanding Teen Awards, once again another successful event.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to send congratulations to the organisers of Spring into the Arts, which is done by the Department of Education, Dr. Durham-Thompson, Education Officer for Arts and Leadership. This is a performance that has been going on since 1995. And this week, last night it was the Dellwood Middle School portion of it that was held at Ruth Seaton James [Auditorium]. I would also like to have a special mention made to the students of Dellwood Middle School and West Pembroke Primary School, who did a tribute to the 60th anniversary of the theatre boycott. It is something that I did ask the department to put out to the schools, and I was very

happy to see that two of the schools took the mantle up and did a performance dedicated to that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to send congratulations to the staff and students of Francis Patton Primary School. And I would associate MP Wayne Furbert with that. Mr. Speaker, we were treated to a very special performance. By way of explanation, Francis Patton is a school that has a Lighthouse School certification, which is a certification that is obtained through the Franklin Covey's *7 Habits* education arm. Mr. Speaker, Francis Patton is the only school in the Caribbean to have achieved this certification. It is a certification that requires a minimum of four years prior to being even considered. So, it is a phenomenal accomplishment that the school has done.

I also want to send congratulations to the former principal, who started the initiative, Ms. Garita Coddington, and a shout-out to the rest of the principals. The principal who is there now continued on with that and put it in place.

The one thing that I do want to make a special notice of is that the students gave performances on the day. And I want to talk about a P2 class that did a performance dedicated to standards-based education. They did a performance that showcased what standards-based education is and showcased why it is important for us to move towards that and how its implementation will improve our education system for the better.

So, I find it very interesting that a P2 class can articulate and put out there exactly what standards-based education is, while some persons within these Chambers cannot seem to understand what is going on there, Mr. Speaker. But I will endeavour to get that—they filmed it. I will endeavour to get a copy of that film and pass it on to Members further.

[Timer beeps]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I recognise the Honourable Member Richards.

Mr. Sylvan D. Richards, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer condolences to the family of June Audrey Gwendolyn Swan, more fondly known as "Granny Swan" by my family. She was actually the mother-in-law of my sister, Sherry Swan, and the mother of her husband, Brian Swan. I will associate the whole House with the passing of Granny Swan. Granny Swan lived a full life. She enjoyed traveling. She cruised to all sorts of different places around the world. And she always had an enthusiasm, a very youthful enthusiasm for life, even though she passed at 92 years old. She was the backbone of the Swan family. She is survived by her son, Gerry Swan, whom many in this House will be familiar with from his sporting activities; Mrs. Velma

Anderson; Gavin Swan; and my brother-in-law, Brian Swan.

Granny Swan also had a very close relationship with my nephew, Sean Swan, and it was always amazing to me to watch him, [as] he is young, and her, obviously an elder, interact, dance and laugh. And I know that he is going to miss her. So, I just want to extend condolences.

I would also like to extend condolences to the family of another young, beautiful lady who passed, Giovanna Watson. Ms. Watson was very well known in the Salsa community here. She loved to dance to Latin music. And she was also the author of a book detailing her battle with cancer. The book is entitled *Let Me Introduce Myself*. She was also rewarded the Global Relay for Life Hero of Hope Award last year. Ms. Watson carried herself in a very dignified manner, dealing with a very difficult disease. And many people in Bermuda are feeling her loss. And she will always be remembered. She had a very vibrant, very sparkling personality. Once again, I would like to extend condolences to the family of Ms. Giovanna Watson.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I recognise the Honourable Member Commissioning.

Honourable Member Commissioning, you have the floor.

Mr. Rolfe Commissioning: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is great to be back in your Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, they say that the good that men do is often interred with them upon burial, in their graves, their bones. Well, certainly, that does not apply to Mr. Lloyd James. And it was fitting that we took a minute of silence to honour him for his work as a former Parliamentarian, as a sitting Member of Parliament for Warwick East. I remember, as a young teenager, when he and Mr. Brangman took those coveted seats in Warwick East. It did provide some sense of optimism for us in the PLP, even the young persons like myself, that a better day was coming.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. James represented that area of Warwick East and the people of Bermuda very well. He was a man of integrity, a gentleman giant if ever there was one, and he is sorely missed. Of course, I cannot sit down without also acknowledging the role he played as a leading cricketer in this country. At an even younger age, I guess by the time I was two, three—well, no, three, four or five years old and the family would take me to Cup Match, I always marvelled at him when he came out. And, you know, the damage he did on successive Cup Matches to the Somerset team—

The Speaker: You were on a good wicket, you know. You *were* on a good wicket.

[Laughter]

Mr. Rolfe Commissioning: But again, I mean, that man . . . can you imagine when we were like four, five or six years old, and to look up at that man?

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Rolfe Commissioning: And then to witness the damage he would do with that bat. I actually loved Mr. James. And again, I knew him personally.

The Speaker: We will not forget those eras. That is for sure.

Mr. Rolfe Commissioning: We will not forget that era, and we will not forget Mr. James. He has cemented his reputation as a true legend on so many domains of Bermuda.

Last, Mr. Speaker, before I go, before I sit down, I just want to also acknowledge a constituent, Ms. Sybil Perinchief, Ms. Perinchief who spent her final days at the Elizabeth Hills Park senior residences up on Happy Valley Road, just off of there. She was born in Jamaica but had lived here for a number of decades. And she passed away only recently. People may remember her son, Paul Pearce [Perinchief], who graced our football fields, I guess back in maybe the late 1980s, early 1990s. He predeceased her. And again, I just want to offer my condolences to her family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Honourable Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be associated with the remarks concerning Lloyd James, who will be fondly remembered by the Somerset fans.

[Laughter]

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: He threshed their boulders to all parts of the field with some of the biggest sixes in the world, Mr. Speaker. You know Mr. James also leaves to mourn his wife, Betty, and his brother, a former Minister, Elvin James.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for this House to send condolences to the family of Rowena (Smith) Riley, from Heritage Bay, who died and passed. She was the mother of Cordell Riley. I would like to associate the whole House with these remarks.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: A wonderful lady from Heritage Bay, and she had five children—Fred, Delwin, Robin and LeeAnne.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like this House to send condolences to the family of Ms. Dorothea Horton, the mother of Bobby Horton, former Speaker Randy Horton, Ellen-Kate Horton, and June Dill.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: The whole House.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: I associate the whole House with those condolences.

Also, to the family of Ms. “Pinky” (Phillips) Dixon, a cousin of mine, mother of Gary Phillips. I would like for this House to send . . . associate the House with the condolences sent to her [family].

And Mr. Lloyd Walker, better known as “Sonny” Walker, from Bailey’s Bay, Hamilton Parish, lived in St. George’s. He leaves to mourn his wife and some children. One of his children, Damon, works for Planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Now I recognise the Deputy Opposition Leader. Honourable Member, you have the floor.

Ms. Leah K. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congratulations to all of our young athletes who participated in the CARIFTA games and represented Bermuda very well. And they brought substantial medals home. So, I would like to congratulate all of those athletes.

And I would also like to congratulate the members of the Bermuda Pilot Gig Club, who represented Bermuda over in the Scilly Isles in the UK. I do not have all of the statistics, but the women came 80th place out of a group of over 160 boats. And the men came 88th out of, I think, 163 boats. And in particular, I would like to congratulate the members of my club, Laura Lyons and Nives Filice, who also represented Bermuda over in the Scilly Islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I recognise the Premier.

Honourable Premier, you have the floor.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin with my remarks, I would just like to be associated with the condolences to the family of Ms. Giovanna Watson; the former Member, of course, Mr. Lloyd James; for the mother of the former Speaker, Ms. Dorothea Madeline “Peggy” Horton; and also to be associated with the remarks that were given to Brother Leroy Simmons.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to send my condolences to the family and friends of a constituent of mine, Ms. Janet Stuart, who passed away last month. Ms. Stuart leaves to mourn her husband, Toby Stuart, and her daughter Tanya Stuart. She was in her 81st year, of West Park Lane. And I fondly remember when I first started canvassing in Pembroke West Central, she always had a sharp wit. But she would always make sure that she would willingly give vegetables from her garden, which she tended to all the time.

The second thing, Mr. Speaker, I want to send heartfelt sympathies, and I will associate the whole House with this, to the family and friends of Ms. Rosheena Beek, who sadly passed away last month.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. E. David Burt: Ms. Beek was well known for her cultural bookstore, Nubian Nook, and gladly assisted members of the Progressive Labour Party with African garments for the PLP’s Wakanda Royalty Gala last year. Her big and infectious smile will surely be missed, and we pray that her parents and her three children will find comfort during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend condolences on the untimely passing of Mr. Antoine Hugh Fleck Seaman, son of Rudolph Seaman and Angela Seaman, who was in his 22nd year, of Granaway Drive. And I will certainly associate the whole House with this, Mr. Speaker. It was without question an unfortunate accident. And I know that the thoughts of the entire House are with this family during this loss. The young man on that day was actually on the carpet at National Stadium, and it is very sad what happened during that instance.

The final thing, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to be associated with the congratulations to the Outstanding Teen Awards. And I just want to send a special note of congratulations to the overall winner and Outstanding Teen, Miss Madison Quig. She is without question an exceptional young Bermudian, and we are looking forward to excellent things from her in the future.

The Speaker: Youth Parliament Member.

Hon. E. David Burt: And a Youth Parliament Member, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I recognise the Honourable Member, Mr. Simons, here. He jumped up pretty quickly that time.

Honourable Member.

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to associate myself with the comments made in regard to the CARIFTA Games and Mrs. Horton, Dorothea Horton. I would like to also as-

sociate myself with the comments made in regards to the Church of Scotland and its 300th anniversary. I actually went to Sunday School at the Church of Scotland, and I met many, many long[-time] friends at that school. In fact, I think that the church was a fertile ground for politicians. Now, I did a quick list of the politicians who went there: E. T. Richards, his son Bob Richards, John Patton, Quinton Edness and myself, and others. So, the very political church.

I would also like to associate myself with the comment in regard to Lloyd James. He was a neighbourhood mentor to boys of my age at the time. At the time, he was a teacher. He was a giant of a man, a gentle man. He also took us youngsters fishing and taught us about life and cricket. And it was because of him that I became a member of the St. George's Cricket Club. Because he was our mentor, and he played on behalf of all of South Shore.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Well, well . . .

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: I would also like to send congratulatory remarks to Union Square Productions and the Child Development Programme. They hosted the Early Childhood Symposium, back in March, Mr. Speaker. The theme was *Laying a strong foundation. Teaching the whole child.* They had over 100 people there, and it was probably the most informative seminar I have ever [attended] on the development of young people. It was timely because I have a young grandson who is only 10 months old. And they gave me lessons on how to raise a young boy and how to get the best out of them from an academic and a developmental point of view. So, I would encourage people to attend the next workshop that they have, because it is educational and it would help with the development of our young people.

I think that is all I have, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I recognise the Honourable Member, Ms. Furbert. Honourable Member Furbert, you have the floor.

Mrs. Tinee Furbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to send condolences to the family of a matriarch of Hamilton Parish, Hilary Richardson. I would like to associate Hamilton Parish MPs and anyone else who knew Aunt Hilary, who was the aunt of Laverne Richardson and Marva Bridgewater. She did not have any children of her own, Mr. Speaker, but she was a mother to many in the area of Hamilton Parish. And I just want to share a funny little story in regard to Aunt Hilary. She got her driver's licence at the age of 65. And so, also, Aunt Hilary was also the wife of the late Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. William Richardson. So, she got her licence at the age of 65. And

Aunt Hilary drove really slowly. So, if she would offer the neighbourhood children a drive in her car, they would tell her no because she drove really slowly. I would like to send condolences out to her family.

Also, condolences to the family of Ms. Beverley Holder, a constituent of mine. She leaves behind her daughter, Christy Taylor. Beverley Holder was known . . . I would like to associate with Minister . . . your cousin?

[Inaudible interjections]

Mrs. Tinee Furbert: Okay. Yes. She is a known truck driver, yes. And they actually had a really nice procession where they drove her coffin out to Southside. And so, it was a really, really good sentiment to Ms. Beverley Holder.

I would also like to send condolences out to the family of Mr. Javone Henries. Mr. Javone Henries was a young gentleman who was an amputee, who experienced many things throughout his life. I wanted to send condolences out to his family, as well.

And also, congratulations to all of the teachers of Bermuda, because this week is actually Teachers Appreciation Week. So, if you see a teacher today, thank a teacher.

And I also wanted to send congratulations out to our Youth Parliamentarians, who wrapped up their sessions this year. I will associate the whole House with them. They did a spectacular job representing the issues and concerns of our Island. And I want to send a congratulations out to all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Honourable Member from constituency 36. Honourable Member, you have the floor.

Hon. Michael J. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is only because you are at constituency 35 that you recognised me, as neighbours.

[Laughter]

Hon. Michael J. Scott: I am grateful for that.

The Speaker: Well, it was a choice between you and a St. George's Member. How is that?

Hon. Michael J. Scott: Oh, there you go. There you go.

[Laughter]

Hon. Michael J. Scott: So, Mr. Speaker, I want to be associated with all of the warm expressions of condolences for the many noble citizens who have been transitioning. And they have been done in the House.

But I particularly wanted to be personally associated with the condolences to the mother of eminent Member, the Horton family. And the Minister of Health, the Honourable Member, Mrs. Kim Wilson, wishes to be associated. And I am happy to be associating her with the condolences to the family of Dorothea Madeline Horton.

I want to be associated with the condolences—I attended the service, the homegoing for Leroy Arthur Simmons. It was a fine service for a sad loss and a fine gentleman of our community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, could I ask the House to send condolences to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Marie Bean, of Warwick, the mother of Mrs. Carol Stoneham, the grandmother of Mr. Marshall Barrett Blair Stoneham? Again, the Minister of Health, my colleague, wishes to be associated, Minister Kim Wilson. And certainly, a member of the Warwick clan and family, the Honourable Member, Mr. Cole Simons, wishes to be associated. I was saying that Mrs. Bean was the widow of Mr. Naurice Bean, a great family in the Warwick Parish. Mrs. Bean is the grandmother, as I said, of Marshall Barrett Blair Stoneham and Lady Justice Nicole Stoneham. And her homegoing service was one that was a lovely occasion to be present to say farewell to this dear lady. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Honourable Member, the Opposition Whip. Honourable Member, you have the floor.

Ms. Susan E. Jackson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to get up and send condolences to the family of Clairann Moore. She was a resident at Summerhaven.

The Speaker: Yes.

Ms. Susan E. Jackson: And she was one of the first members, residents, to live at Summerhaven. I want to associate my colleague, Leah Scott. And I am going to associate the entire House, because there are many hands that have risen today.

Clairann Moore was one of the first residents at Summerhaven. She was also one of the more outspoken residents, especially during a time of challenge at Summerhaven. And she was, I believe, the catalyst in bringing about a much better quality of life at Summerhaven. And she certainly remained a representative of Summerhaven, especially during our family and friends social events and such. So, she was an active member of the community at Summerhaven. She will be missed. And I would just like very much to send out condolences to her family and friends. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Honourable Member, Ms. Foggo.

Ms. Foggo, you have the floor. That was a difficult choice. There was another Somerset Member who rose. You almost lost out that time.

[Laughter]

Hon. Lovitta F. Foggo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to be associated with the comments regarding the congratulations to our CARIFTA teams, both the athletic team, as well as the swim team. The athletic team did achieve six medals and placed sixth out of 17 nations. And the swim team received 42 medals, as I think everybody understands. In swimming, competitors can take place in many events, whereas in athletics, they can only take place in two events each, outside of relay. And that was a great get for both teams. And the swim team placed second overall, especially after their last day, which brought in a few more medals, allowing them to push up to second place.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say congratulations to our men's football team for qualifying for the CONCACAF [Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football] Gold Cup. That is a great feat. I would like to associate Member, MP Weeks—well, our whole House, whole House, with those remarks. Mr. Speaker, again, Bermuda is punching above her weight, and she is showing the rest of the world her abilities. And that is great indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also highlight—I am pretty sure it was not while we were sitting before—our Special Olympians. They did a tremendous job also. We see that. I would like to associate—okay, the whole House. They did a spectacular job over there in Dubai. And again, it speaks to what we produce here in Bermuda, some fine, fine, superb individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be associated with the condolences for the James family, the Horton family, the Philips family, the Beek family. And also, I would like to point out the loss of the Pitcher family in St. David's and condolences to Ms. Carol Pitcher and her family, for the loss of her husband.

I finally want to [be associated with] the condolences for Leroy Simmons, who was a fellow, not classmate, but a graduate, a fellow graduate of both myself, Walton Brown and MP Weeks. And so, we all closely knew Leroy, and we will miss him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

We now recognise the Honourable Member from constituency 32, I believe it is. Yes. Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Scott Simmons: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to express my deepest condolences to the family of Ms. Dorothea Horton, who certainly . . . so, I associate myself, having been already associated to this with my honourable colleagues to this honourable lady, who served our community in the constituency. And she was one of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Horton represented an era in Somerset, an era in the West End that cannot, cannot be overlooked nor forgotten. I believe that she represented [herself as] a mother of fine children who have devoted a sincere amount of their time to serving the community, as she had served. And they were well taught. And their children have proven that they are willing to serve our community, as well. So, I believe that it is fitting that we recognise her contribution.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity on numerous occasions prior to joining this Honourable House of sitting down with her and talking much on politics, much on the ways of the party and also the ways of the community. She represented [herself] as a woman, a stalwart in our community, who saw the value of family, who saw the importance of making sure that she served her family, but also served her community. And she will be, like so many in our West End community, sorely missed. So, I join our House in giving this honourable lady certainly our tribute, and we appreciate her and appreciate her family for the work that they have done and the work that they continue to do in our community as they commemorate and serve her, her memory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Member from your neighbouring constituency, constituency 33. Honourable Member Simmons.

Hon. Jamahl S. Simmons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

I rise today to begin with a tribute to someone who epitomised the often-overused clichéd term “African Queen.” Rosheena Beek was an intellectual component of Bermuda’s Afro-centric movement. She was a spiritual component of that movement. And she represented the cultural movement through dance and art, and she will be truly missed. But I think one of the things I had the pleasure of was knowing Ms. Rosheena Beek since I was 14 years old. And a little anecdote she probably would not have ever shared, she taught me how to dance. And the last time I saw her was New Year’s Eve. She brought in New Year’s Eve at my house with my family and friends. And it speaks to the passing nature of life of how quickly someone should go.

And if nothing else I take from her life, it is to not only be conscious and be aware of who you are and love who you are, but hug and be precious with

the people whom you have close to you because you never know when they can be taken.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to be associated with the remarks related to the passing of Mr. Leroy Simmons, whom I knew for many years through broadcasting and have known for many years. But I first became close to him when we were both highly educated Bermudians who were required to work as night watchmen because we could not find full-time employment in our own country.

He served the Bermuda Entertainers Union with honour because he lived it. He lived what it was like to struggle as an entertainer in this country. He lived what it was like to be able to try and stretch that dollar to make it go further. And for that, he was a strong and uncompromising advocate for our people, and he will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, the late Honourable Lloyd James was my father’s neighbour in Parliament when they first got elected together in 1980. And I remember my father saying that Lloyd James said to him, *I have faced some of the toughest bowlers in the world, but none so tough as the catcalls and attacks that came from the other side.* But despite that, he overcame that. And during his brief time in this Parliament, he spoke for our people, he advocated for our people and he fought for our people. We owe him a tremendous debt.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congratulations to David and Beryl Furbert on [their newest] Mr. Chicken [restaurant], who now have five franchises. And the House would like to be associated with that. Five franchises are now in the beautiful parish of Sandys. And I think that when we look at entrepreneurship as a path to economic empowerment, we look for role models of people who want to find a way to do for self and employ our people, they are a model. And I think that they should be commended and praised.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, and I am sure not everybody in the House will want to be associated with this one, I would like to wish my wife, Bermuda’s number-one talk-show host, a happy belated 50th birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

We now recognise the Honourable Member, Ms. Atherden. You have the floor.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to send condolences to the family of the late Rene Senegas, who was the husband of Pamela. When the Member was just talking about people and how quickly they go, I spoke to Rene very recently. And all of a sudden, when you look in the paper and you see it, you think, *Gone too soon.* So, I would like to have condolences sent to his family.

I would also like to be associated with the remarks to the family of Lloyd James. But on a different way in the sense that I am obviously a Somerset supporter. And, yes, Lloyd had lots of successes. But I got to know Lloyd as a golfer.

The Speaker: A golfer, yes.

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: Because when Lloyd stopped playing cricket, Lloyd started to play golf. And we started to go on a couple of trips together with—you know, the men go, and the women come along. And I realised that we got to . . .

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

Hon. Jeanne J. Atherden: We got to talk about things that are happening. And you suddenly realise that sometimes you have more in common than you think. And it is good to discuss things that you have differences on.

I would like to be associated with the remarks to the family of Loretta Morton, because I met Loretta a long time ago when I knew her husband, Charles. But her daughter lived right next to me. So, I would see her coming up, and she was looking out for her granddaughter. And I think we forget that there is always what I call the circles, the six degrees of separation, that if we look at people and we talk to them, we realise that we interact with lots of people in Bermuda. So, if I can be associated with those remarks.

And last but not least, the remarks with respect to Clairann Moore. I, as Minister of Health, had opportunity to be down at Summerhaven. But also, I knew Clairann when I was actually down as the Director of Finance at the hospital. So, you know, she was one of those persons who battled on and was not going to give up. So, I am really sad to hear of her passing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

We recognise the Honourable Member, Mr. Tyrrell. Honourable Member, Mr. Tyrrell.

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations have already been sent to the CARIFTA team, in general. But I would certainly like to ask for congratulations to be sent to a particular athlete, Nathan Armstrong, who, whilst he was at CARIFTA, was on the podium twice in his favourite events. He got a silver and a bronze. But he has followed it up this week, because he is at school in New Jersey. And he has certainly acquitted himself in the Passaic County Outdoor Track Championships by placing in [second place twice] in his favourite events, which is the 1,600 and the 3,200 metres.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Yes, 1,600 and 3,200. No, they are 1,500 in CARIFTA. In New Jersey, it was 1,600.

The Speaker: It is US calculation.

Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that when we last recessed, I had the opportunity to attend the Kappa Classic. Let me say that I am particularly mentioning it because the Kappas have actually taken over an event that was, I think, run by the Heritage Association, which was the Peewee Soccer Tournament for young kids. And Kappa have taken it over. (I am sorry. I understand.) The Kappa have taken it over over the last 20 years. And it is the premier youth soccer tournament in Bermuda. And I certainly would like for them to be congratulated, and also the winners of those respective divisions, as well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I now recognise the Honourable Member, Mr. Swan. Honourable Member Swan.

Mr. Hubert (Kim) E. Swan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like a letter of congratulations sent to St. George's Mayor, Sir George Dowling, III. And I wish him very well. I associate the Honourable Member, MP Ming, and Minister Foggo, with those comments, and anybody else who would like to be associated with that, his MP, MP Scott.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be associated with many of the condolences that have been expressed today, but Mr. Lloyd James was a very close personal friend of mine, with whom I spent a great deal of time. And I just want to say that Bermuda has lost a giant of a man in many, many avenues of Bermuda life. And maybe something will be written to formally attribute to the greatness of this man, particularly his influence on the youth of Bermuda and his style of communicating and teaching through his talents.

Mr. Chester Wilkinson, from Ferry Reach, my cousin, passed away. And he was an ambassador for tourism in his later years, a great, great family man. [He was] associated with me through our common hall connection, which we often proudly talked about. MP Ming would like to be associated with that.

And also, Ms. Claudine Wilson, from Stokes Point, has passed on. And we send condolences to her family, as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I would like to be associated with the condolences expressed to the family of the late June Swan, whose daughter, Ms. Velma Swan—I know Velma Anderson very well, out in Ferry. And her son, Gerry, taught me at Berkeley. And I know she . . . MP

Sylvan Richards did a very good job in outlining her many attributes.

I would like to be associated with the congratulations offered to the CARIFTA [athletes] and the football team, the Special Olympians, as well as the swimming team. There has been a great deal of success. Our young people have done us proud, and we need to continue to invest in them so that we can lay the groundwork for future generations, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I recognise the Honourable Member, MP Ming.

Mrs. Renee Ming: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and listening audience.

The Speaker: Yes.

Mrs. Renee Ming: First of all, I would like to be associated with the comments for the Horton family, the Beek family, the Simmons family, and the James family.

And I would just like to add my own comments for the family of June Swan. I know that my colleague has already done it. But I happened to know Ms. Swan very well. We were part of a breakfast club for years that met every Sunday morning for breakfast. Her daughter, Velma Anderson, which she has been for 42 years, is married to my uncle. And we enjoy the craziness that she brings, and we understand it. We understood where that craziness came from as we got to know her mom.

One of her favourite sayings to us was, *I'll see you when I look at you*. And so, I am going to leave that on that one. She always left us with that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the new Mayor for St. George's, Mr. George Dowling. We are encouraged.

[Desk thumping]

Mrs. Renee Ming: And we look forward to working with him over the next few years.

But on that note, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say thank you to the outgoing mayor, Quinell Francis, for her four years of service and some of the things that she did and she brought to the table for St. George's. And one of the things that stands out to me at this time is the fact that we now enjoy a public participation part at the monthly meetings. So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the new mayor, Mr. Dowling, to see what path and what footprint he makes within our town. And I think, like I said, be encouraged.

I would also like to send congratulations to the East End Mini Yacht Club for their annual seniors tea; also to the family of the Master Pilot, "Jemmy" Darrell,

on the annual service. Also, the St. George's Community Centre for their annual kite-making event. And a big shout-out to the organisers of the Walk to Calvary. I think, Mr. Speaker, you might even want to speak to that one this time, as you were down in the East.

The Speaker: Yes. I was there.

Mrs. Renee Ming: The annual Walk to Calvary.

And I would also like to close, Mr. Speaker, on just a happy birthday greeting to everybody's favourite Nana, happy 80th birthday, and that would be my Nana, Dorothy Peniston. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak on condolences or congratulations?

Mr. Famous, are you up for that?

Mr. Christopher Famous: Yes.

The Speaker: Okay. Mr. Famous.

Mr. Christopher Famous: Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to give some condolences to some members from Devonshire. Ms. Jeanette Moniz, Ms. Noelette Fray, Mr. Carlton James and Ms. Ru-nette Hill-Brand.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the staff of the House of Assembly for the brilliant CPA conference, a strengthening seminar, last week. It was something that is well needed.

I want to thank the staff of the Works and Engineering who have designed and now are constructing a sidewalk in the Middle Road in Devonshire for the people of Sousa Estate and the children who go to Somersfield Academy.

And lastly, as hard as it is, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Liverpool and Tottenham football club.

[Inaudible interjections]

Mr. Christopher Famous: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

And with that, I believe . . . well! Minister, you almost lost out that time.

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: Mr. Speaker, I am not in any capacity to be jumping up and down today.

The Speaker: All right. I noticed you did not have your little wheel with you today, your scooter.

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: No, no. It is parked outside in my parking spot.

The Speaker: All right.

[Laughter]

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: Mr. Speaker, I will not be long. I would like to be associated with the condolences to the family of Lloyd James and Leroy Simons. I think in the case of Lloyd James, before he started putting licks on us at Cup Match, he was quite a distinguished teacher.

The Speaker: Yes.

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: And so, in spite of the fact that he was a St. George's player, I do not think he discriminated against those of us who supported Somerset in the classroom.

[Inaudible interjection]

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: Biggest in the world, we heard. Talk about exaggeration. We will have the same exaggeration at Cup Match this year, I guess, when the cup stays, goes back to Somerset.

The Speaker: Yes. Yes.

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to be somewhat associated with the congratulations to Zeeko Johnstone. He has been in Canada, along with a colleague of his, Jamar Dill, on secondment since January. And I have been sending smoke signals to the both of them that I do not appreciate the fact that I have to hear on the street, word about their exploits, that I expected to get that information direct.

The Speaker: Directly. Yes.

Lt. Col. Hon. David A. Burch: And so, I sent that message again this week, having gotten news on *Bernews* that he was doing well. But I am quite pleased that both of them are excelling in this experience and will come back to Bermuda with more experience and will be certainly well positioned for their professional engineering designations.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also be associated with the congratulations to Youth Parliament on their 34th annual awards reception that was held earlier last month. But finally, Mr. Speaker, even though the tag day for the Salvation Army was on Wednesday, I would ask that we send congratulations to the Salvation Army. And I would encourage all colleagues, if they have not made a contribution, to do so for the great work that the Salvation Army does in Bermuda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I recognise the Honourable Member Dunkley.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I too would like to be associated with many of the condolences and congratulations offered here this afternoon. Obviously, to former Speaker Horton on the passing of the matriarch from the West End of the Island, to Lloyd James. I can still remember as a child, much to my angst, and yours, I am sure, as well, when he punished our bowling.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: And it simply was not score and runs and doing what he had to do. It was *punishing* the bowling. I have not seen the likes of that until very recently, until Mr. Cup Match punished the bowling quite often, of the East Enders, which those Members on that side do not like to talk about.

The Speaker: Yes. Yes, yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I would like to be associated with the condolences to the Swan family on June Swan's passing; to the Moniz family. And Cole Simons would like to be associated. Ms. Moniz from down in the Devonshire/Smith's borderline area, she would always call when there was a potluck supper or something going on. So, I could be sure to get the phone call from that. And to the Philips family.

And too, very recently, this morning, to a good friend of the Opposition Leader and mine, and many other Members of this House, "Cooley" Robinson, whose father, Burnell, passed away just this morning. So, condolences to the family. And I am sure that many Members would be associated. Deputy Opposition Leader Leah Scott, Sylvan Richards and Susan Jackson—

The Speaker: The whole House. Yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —and the whole House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: On a more positive side, congratulations to Mayor Dowling on winning the election. And thank you to Quinell Francis for stepping forward.

Congratulations to Bermuda and our Gold Cup team, our CARIFTA team, to the Kappa Classic. All of these events show that Bermudians compete at the highest level. And certainly, to the Triathlon Association for a fine event just a couple of weeks ago. Even though the World Champion was not competing, it was certainly good to see such a great show be put on at the time.

Congratulations also to the organisers of the Ag Show for doing a tremendous job when we saw

reasonable weather and a great turnout for the Ag Show.

I would like to be associated with Members who congratulated the Nurse of the Year, Janice Mullings-George. And I would like to be associated with the congratulations to Mr. Chicken on opening another outlet in spite of the challenges he had in making that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members would like to be associated, as well, with Mr. Chaka DeSilva winning the Johnny Walker Golf Classic. His father-in-law sits in this place, so I am sure Minister Furbert would like to be associated with Chaka winning a great tournament under good competition from very strong Bermudians. And the Honourable Member Kim Swan, as a professional golfer, would like to be associated, as well.

And finally, as my three minutes come to an end, Mr. Speaker, I would like to send a congratulations to Herbie Siggins on 50 years of working at the airport, most recently with 30 years working for United Airlines. And many Members would like to be associated with that. Fifty years working in the airline industry, and I hope that he has a happy and long retirement.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member Weeks, would you like to make your contribution?

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: I would like to start my remarks off on a sad note in associating the remarks for Brother Leroy Simmons. Like the Honourable Minister of Sports said, Leroy and a few of us went to school together. But I was one of a group with Leroy that went to the same nursery, elementary and high schools. So, you can imagine the depth of our friendship. And Leroy was one who fought for justice for the musicians' industry right up until the end. So, my heart goes out to his mom, his wife and the rest of his family.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to be associated with the remarks to Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Seaman on the loss of their son, who was eulogised last week. I would like to remind the House and public that this week here is actually Road and Water Safety Week.

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: And there is a vigil going on right now, as we are here in the House, at City Hall, to remember all of those who have died on our roads over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to be associated with the remarks for the Teen Services award. I was there, and it is always a pleasure to see so many of our youngsters who are doing so well. Because, as we know, we get a lot of negative stuff when it comes to our youngsters. But Teen Services is one [organisation] that shows that we have a lot of talent, and we have a bright future coming from our youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also be associated with the remarks that were made for the new Mayor of St. George's, Mr. George Dowling. And I would like to associate the Premier.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Yes. And I would like to associate the Premier with that.

But as I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I have saved my association for the remarks of the Kappa Classic for last.

[Laughter]

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate the Premier and the rest of the Alphas in the House.

[Laughter]

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Other than Cup Match, Mr. Speaker, the Kappa Classic is the biggest sporting event in Bermuda, you know. And some may argue that it is bigger than even the County games. But we have 1,200 to 1,300 youngsters every year, you know, and we are looking to expand, Mr. Speaker, to have more foreign teams next year. So, Kappa Classic is good—the dedicated brothers who put together this event every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I believe that that brings us to a close of condolences and congratulations.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE

The Speaker: There are none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: There are none.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Speaker: There are none.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Speaker: I believe we have one Government Bill to be introduced.

Minister of Health.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

FIRST READING

HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT ACT 2019

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the following Bill for its first reading so that it may be placed on the Order Paper for the next day of meeting, namely, the Health Insurance Amendment Act 2019.

The Speaker: Thank you.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

REVISIONS TO MANDATORY PUBLIC SERVICE RETIREMENT AGE

The Speaker: We have a motion in the name of the Honourable Premier.

Mr. Premier.

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I propose to move the following motion at the next day of meeting:

WHEREAS the Government undertook in the 2018 Speech from the Throne to “revise the mandatory retirement age to take account of a longer lifespan, the necessity to add additional stability to pension funds and to promote greater choice among the working population about when one retires from full-time employment”;

AND WHEREAS the Government undertook to cause the Legislature “to discuss options for such revisions to the age of mandatory retirement from the Public Service, which will preserve the right to retire at sixty-five but permit a post holder to work beyond that age without the requirement for permission to do so”;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House support the recommendations of the Subcommittee of the Labour Advisory Committee as contained in the Report “Reviewing the Retirement Age.”

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. That takes us to the Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: I understand that all of the Orders of the Day are being carried over.

So, Mr. Premier.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. E. David Burt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn until Friday, May 17th.

The Speaker: Are there any objections? Would anyone like to speak to that?

I recognise the Honourable Minister . . . Member Weeks. You have the floor.

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am Honourable former Minister Weeks.

The Speaker: Yes.

BERMUDA’S HOMELESS

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Mr. Speaker, on a serious note, I rise to my feet this afternoon feeling compelled to address an issue that is deeply concerning to most of us.

Before the House rose in March, Mr. Speaker, a homeless man had passed away who, from what I was made to understand, suffered from pneumonia and was found collapsed in town. This homeless man, Mr. Speaker, had a name. As you know, he was a classmate of yours, he was Mr. Keith Peniston. Some knew him only from being around town. Others knew him from a time past, Mr. Speaker, as a Berkeleyite, one of those guys from down Loyal Hill, a pretty boy.

I knew him as all of those things, Mr. Speaker. But also because he was a cousin of my wife and the Clerk, and he was just somebody we knew in a different time. But, regrettably, I was off Island when he was eulogised, so I was unable to pay my respects.

Mr. Speaker, also a few months ago, another homeless man died. Most of us knew him from around town as “Sonny.” Others knew him better as Mr. Reginald “Sonny” Furbert. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him, other than what I saw on the street. But I remember seeing Sonny walking around town with items in his hand, sitting in a vacant location, trying to find shelter from the elements.

But, as I am told about Sonny, in a time past, Mr. Speaker, he went abroad to school and was an accomplished tennis player. This would indicate to me, Mr. Speaker, and to us . . .

[Inaudible interjections]

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: He was an accomplished tennis player—

The Speaker: Tennis player.

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: —and polo, Mr. Speaker.

But I say that to say, because like the rest of us, Mr. Furbert also had his dreams and goals and aspirations in this life.

Mr. Speaker, in the daily recently someone did a story of a homeless man by the name of Mr. Patrick Henderson. Mr. Henderson and I are the same age. Mr. Henderson can often be seen trying to avoid the elements in the abandoned building outside of the abandoned building across from Victoria Park up there on the hill. The title of the story that was done by the *Gazette* really, really made me stop, Mr. Speaker. The title of the story was *A worse life than a stray dog*. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Henderson could not even remember how long he has been homeless. He estimated that he was homeless for about 15 years.

But I came to know Mr. Henderson many years ago, Mr. Speaker. We called him Patrick or Pat. When he was a medic with the mighty Dandytown Hornets way back 20 or 20-plus years ago, he was a very kind, helpful and hard-working man, who took his job as a medic for our team very seriously, Mr. Speaker.

Then, there is the story of a young man, Mr. Speaker, who not many days ago was discovered living down among the brush in St. George's where the new hotel is being built. Excavators cutting down trees in the area stumbled upon his well-put-together outdoor space built in the brush. This space had rooms that he had created out of materials he found. He had bedrooms all crafted up in the brush for himself and his children. He had a bathroom. He had a window cut into the brush where he caught fresh rainwater. And I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. This man, who was truly an architect in his own right, had been living in the brush unbeknownst to most of us. But his home now has been displaced.

These stories, Mr. Speaker, could be repeated 100 times over, as there are just that many persons who find themselves in Bermuda homeless, or just a pay cheque away from being homeless, Mr. Speaker.

Having worked at the Salvation Army for the better part of these last two years, Mr. Speaker, I got to see and hear first-hand about the struggles of a growing segment of our society. Financial Assistance is doing a commendable job, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, with the task of helping or assisting the unemployed, the underemployed, the physically challenged, our seniors and so forth.

But our challenge, Mr. Speaker, is to address the growing population of the homeless. We have heard of the poor state of our current homeless shelter presently being run by the Salvation Army. I have been there, Mr. Speaker, not just as a visitor being guided around, but as an employee having to do occasional business at the shelter. This shelter, Mr. Speaker, is long past its expiration date. There is currently work being done to remedy some of the issues of an ageing facility, and for that I commend the Minis-

ter of Public Works and our Government for trying their best to keep this facility going.

But it is time for us as a country, Mr. Speaker, to invest in a multipurpose facility that will address the changing needs of our homeless. And I say "our," Mr. Speaker, because these homeless that we speak of are ours—our family, our friends, those that we came up with—so it is not "us" and "them." We have to address what is happening to our community.

Some of those, Mr. Speaker, just need a bed. Others need much more than that. But we desperately need a multipurpose facility, Mr. Speaker, where the homeless can receive counselling, functional skills training, health care and education, for example.

But let us not forget, Mr. Speaker, that they also need somewhere for respite, a place to go during the day, because a lot of our homeless people have nowhere at all to go during the day, especially those who are homeless in and around our city.

Some of the homeless that I mentioned earlier have succumbed to the elements. And before anyone can chant or rant, this is not finger-pointing at our government, but a clarion call to both sides of this aisle in this Honourable House and our whole community at large to assist, Mr. Speaker, in addressing this issue of homelessness once and for all.

This is a bipartisan issue, Mr. Speaker. Homelessness is not a political issue, so let us not politicise it. We cannot continue to beat our collective chests talking about our standard of living in Bermuda when we have our people—largely black men—living on the streets, in doorways, in parks, in the bushes around Bermuda, Mr. Speaker. For whatever reason, they are homeless.

If we do not take care of the least among us, Mr. Speaker, then we need to hang our collective heads in shame.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to take more than us just talking about the issue or speaking to the past lives of our homeless brothers, sisters, classmates, and friends. With as much passion as I can muster I implore us all here today to come together with a spirit of true humanity and an unwavering resolve to put the plight of our homeless at the top of any agenda. We cannot put a price tag on this most critical of issues.

As was stated in the ³*Royal Gazette* by a contributor to the story about Mr. Henderson (and I quote), "For such an affluent society, we shouldn't have anybody laying out in the cold streets." And I say that is so true, Mr. Speaker.

Homelessness should keep us up at night. The plight of our brothers and sisters who are homeless should bring tears to our eyes, Mr. Speaker. The loss of their dignity and self-respect because of their homeless situation should cause us to act.

As one who has sat and talked with many a homeless man and woman, Mr. Speaker, as one

³ [*Royal Gazette* 1 May 2019](#)

whose family does not eat a meal at Christmas until we help to feed the homeless, I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that we will not be judged by how many degrees we have earned (although that would be admirable), we will not be judged by how much money we do or do not have in the bank (although that is nice), nor will we be judged by whether our house has a pool, Mr. Speaker, or a view, or both. I do not believe we will even be judged by how many times we come to this House, Mr. Speaker, and pontificate, elaborate, or relegate, or, at times, obfuscate. But I do believe that each of us, Mr. Speaker, will be judged by how many persons we have reached, by how many of those we have reached down and tried to bring up, even just a little bit higher.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Michael A. Weeks: Homelessness must be eradicated in this country, Mr. Speaker. Let us do this and address this here once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Does any other Honourable Member . . . we recognise the Honourable Member Dunkley.

Honourable Member, you have the floor.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Members of this Honourable House listened intently and support the Honourable Member who just took his seat. And certainly it is a challenge that seems to have grown in recent years, and it is something that we need to do a great deal about.

The Honourable Member, in fact, when he was a Minister for a short period of time, delivered a statement to this Honourable House and gave timelines for this Government to move forward. And the Opposition, I am sure, would support us moving forward to deal with this challenge which is rising and look for some funds to be found in the budget to make things happen this coming year which . . . and I do not think any funding was put into the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on two subjects tonight. And the first subject . . . while the Honourable Member talked about people who face significant challenges in our community, I would like to also talk about individuals who face significant challenges in our community.

WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I thank the Honourable Minister of National Security for the Statement he delivered this morning in regard to Corrections. But Mr.

Speaker, [what concerns me] is not what was in the Statement and was written in the Statement and what the Minister spoke when he read the Statement, but it is what is not in it and the questions that were answered. The questions raised certainly highlighted many more concerns about the situation, and I think to some extent show why we are in such a precarious, delicate situation.

And first, like the Minister, I want to start out by thanking the officers and the leadership of Corrections for continuing to stay to the wicket in doing everything they can to fulfil their responsibilities to those who have been incarcerated, and they have a responsibility to [accept] underneath the Prison Act.

But, Mr. Speaker, what is very concerning, upon questioning by myself and honourable colleagues, are some of the answers that we got. And I think they illustrate very clearly why we are in this significant challenge that we face at the current time. And I will highlight just a number of areas, because I would like to speak to something else in the motion to adjourn.

The first, the Honourable Minister when questioned about the Commissioner of Corrections who has been seconded to another area (and that was done some months ago under the PLP when they became the Government) [as to] whether he would be coming back, the Honourable Minister said that, *No, he would not*. Therein lies one of the small parts of the challenges that we face. When you remove the top person, the main leadership person, you leave some sort of vacuum. And this is not critical in any way of the management team there and the Acting Commissioner, but an Acting Commissioner does just that—they “act.” They fulfil it with all the responsibility that they can, but you are taking a very senior person out of the position and they have not been replaced.

So while the Acting Commissioner, as far as I know, has done a good job with what she has in her hands to deal with, you have taken the most senior person out of that position and you have not replaced him. That is a significant challenge.

And that is why we asked, Mr. Speaker, what is the budget allocation going forward, not only for replacing the Commissioner, but for dealing with many of these issues that are up there, and dealing with the negotiations that are taking place, trying to go to arbitration to deal with the conditions of services—mainly pay and the health insurance thing. And if Government has not set aside a budget for that, we are going to be operating from a very difficult position, and the Minister of Finance is not going to meet the budget surplus that he said that he would meet last year.

So it is amazing. Until these questions were asked, we did not know that the most senior person was not coming back. Did Corrections know? Did the Prison Officers Association know? Is there, or was there, a plan in place to deal with this?

Going on, Mr. Speaker, on page 2 of the Statement by the Honourable Minister it says very clearly in there that the “facility had limited hot water supply.” And when I questioned that, I was informed by the Honourable Minister that they were without hot water for nine months. Now, Mr. Speaker, in talking to the Honourable Minister when we passed out in the confines of the House of Assembly the Honourable Minister did explain that it was not for the whole nine months, that it was for periods within the nine months.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you are without hot water in any facility or any operation for more than a very short period of time—and a short period of time, to me, is a day or a couple of days—that facility would be closed.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: And I hear Members on that side say no. But Mr. Speaker, if you are without hot water for days and weeks at a time, how do you ensure that the kitchen runs effectively and hygienically? How do you ensure that the laundry is done effectively? How do you ensure that the inmates . . . how do you—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —and I hear Members say *you can boil water*. Yes, we can boil water. But an operation as big as that . . . it takes a lot of pots and a lot of boiling of water, and [it is] ineffective.

How do the inmates have the hygiene that they need in that facility? Yes, they are incarcerated and you could say *a cold shower will do you good*, Mr. Speaker. But under proper conditions of incarceration they are entitled to certain things, and hot water is one of them.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: So in this period of time the inmates—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Members, Members.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —the laundry and the kitchen—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Members.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —and you know I hear Honourable Members say . . . you know, they are cat-calling. That is because—

[Gavel]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —the button is red and the red button is being pushed and we are hitting points.

It is unacceptable that hot water has been a challenge for those periods of time. And, Mr. Speaker, I know it is an old facility. I know that there are challenges within that, within maintenance, but hot water is an issue that after a couple of days it has got to be fixed . . . it has got to be fixed. And it was only upon questioning that we found that the “limited” access to hot water meant there was “no” hot water. There is a difference in wording in “limited” and “no.”

Now I go on, Mr. Speaker. On page 6 it says that there are restricted, there are restricted . . . and I will get to it, Mr. Speaker . . . there are restricted programmes and classes, and visits are restricted. The last that I checked, Mr. Speaker, the dictionary says *restricted is limited in extent, limited in number, limited in scope*. Or, it can mean *restricted in space, limited space, limited . . . confined quarters*.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I understand, and [when questioned] I think the Minister confirmed that no classes are taking place. That is not “limited,” Mr. Speaker, that means that nothing is happening up there. And as we work through this “work to rule” and as it goes to arbitration, if we continue to be in this position where no classes are taking place, where there are no programmes taking place, we are doing a disservice to the charges that we have under our remit. They sit in a cell. How can they be rehabilitated? How can they be helped to be reformed? How does that do anything for them when they become closer and closer to the day that they get released? But the statement says “limited” and I understand that there are no classes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to get to another point that I want to speak about. But this issue of Corrections is one of many which show that this Government is slowly, but surely, being disconnected from the people that they serve. And their logo, their mantra is *Putting Bermudians First*. Well, how can you put Bermudians first when Corrections is to a point where they are under work to rule, with no end in sight as to when that will finish, because we do not know when the arbitration is going to take place, Mr. Speaker? We do not know how long that arbitration is going to last. So the officers are being subjected to that, the inmates are being subjected to that. At the very least we know that the hot water is going to be fixed sometime in July, but do we really know that this is going to be the case, Mr. Speaker?

An Hon. Member: Yes, of course.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: So I ask the Honourable Minister, with all of his good intent to get these things done, now we need to have some good solutions as we move forward because any other facility—*any other facility*—would have been closed under that. If the Department of Health had have gone to another place [and found] they did not have hot water in the kitchen, they would have closed it down. They would have given them a couple of days to do something or they would close it down. But here we only learn when the Minister brings a Statement to the House and is questioned by the Opposition doing their job.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: We only [just] learned about it, Mr. Speaker.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Now, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will have an opportunity to speak when I am finished.

ARBITRADE—RED FLAGS

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: The second subject that I would like to talk about in the 10 minutes that I have left is the ongoing embarrassment of many situations this Government has put us in.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Now, Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: Members, Members.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —the ongoing saga, the red flags that are still raised in regard to Arbitrade.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Arbitrade became public with many unanswered questions . . . I think it was about a year ago. And those questions have continued to mount. And I have followed this matter intently from the beginning, and I have asked questions. It was a year ago—

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —it was a year ago—

[Inaudible interjections]

[Gavel]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I am hitting that nerve again, that hot button is on.

The Speaker: Members, Members.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: It was about a year ago when the Honourable Premier—yes, the Honourable Premier—tweeted about a meeting with Arbitrade. Shortly after that, I think it was in July, Arbitrade held a press conference in which they threw out commitments—or you could say allegations—of title, to \$10 billion in gold. That number, I think, has risen to about \$15 billion now. They threw out a commitment, or an allegation, that they would donate a million dollars to the Government, a commitment of 200 jobs to Bermuda—many unsubstantiated donations that have never taken place to this time.

Mr. Speaker, a short time later, during the Premier's Question [Time] in July, I put questions to the Honourable Premier and many of those questions remain outstanding . . . simple questions like, who did you meet with? Who are the local principals of the company? And in spite of a commitment to reply, the Honourable Premier has not.

Next, as we go on, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, as the Minister of Finance, after what he called “due diligence,” signed off on a licence for a non-Bermudian company to purchase land and buildings owned by Bermudians.

And let me be very clear, Mr. Speaker, I think all Members of Parliament are [aware] that the law allows, I think under section 4AA of the Companies Act [1981] . . . so my concern at the time was not that the licence was signed off (because it could be done under the Act), but it was twofold. I asked the Honourable Premier what due diligence was done on what I said at the time appeared to be a ghost company. And why did I say “ghost company”? Because it was all board and no employees and nothing has materialised to date.

The Honourable Premier gave some understanding of what due diligence was done, but had to come back during the Budget Debate on a Monday to give a personal explanation.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I did call it a “ghost company” (to the Honourable Member), and I can go to the—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: —I can go to when I spoke on the motion to adjourn.

The Speaker: Members, Members, one conversation, and it flows this way.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, the second concern, and what is very interesting and I view as somewhat concerning, is that this company has been granted a licence to own Bermudian land, and at this point has no licence. As per recent announcements by

Government, no licence has been granted for the company to do any business in Bermuda. So we have an empty building sitting a couple of blocks from here owned by a non-Bermudian company that cannot open the doors to do any business.

So, Mr. Speaker, what happens to the land? What happens to the building, if the company is not in fact granted a licence to do business in Bermuda? Did the cart not get put in the wrong place—in front of horse when the horse should be in front of the cart?

Now, Mr. Speaker, this saga continues with embarrassment to Bermuda. This week a PATI request by a media in Bermuda highlighted a number of things. A trader, an investor in Arbitrade, [was] reaching out to the Premier with concerns. I think the public wants to know some answers. What did the Premier ask? What did the Premier reply to this trader about his concerns that this company was trading on Bermuda's reputation? Those were the concerns, Mr. Speaker.

No company should trade on our reputation until they are licensed to trade in Bermuda, until they are regulated by Bermuda and governed by our laws. They have no right, and they should not be trading on our reputation at this point in time because they do not have a footprint, other than a building that is growing weeds, Mr. Speaker.

Another story was of the lack of knowledge to KYC [Know Your Customer] and compliance that the oversight people looking at the licence had placed on them. And perhaps the most concerning thing about this (because it shows a number of different challenges, Mr. Speaker), was the PATI request which showed that the Government tried to obtain a million dollars that this company promised. A million dollars, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, anybody with a whiff of common sense listening to the press conference last July would know that if somebody promised you a million dollars without any fundamental strength around it, you are either grasping at straws, you are gullible, or you are not fit to be put in those positions of responsibility. This company promised a million dollars without any footprint in Bermuda, without any understanding or knowledge that they could actually donate that type of money.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it perhaps goes against the grain of the anti-corruption and bribery legislation that we have, so the company might be put in a difficult position here. But it gets even more concerning and alarming when a civil servant *probably* (and I am pretty sure) under the direction of a Government Minister was informed that he needs to go chase that company for the money.

Mr. Speaker, we see a blank cheque in the [newspaper] . . . that is Mickey Mouse.

An Hon. Member: You don't know that.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I think my daughters probably could have done that when they were in their graphic and arts classes in high school years ago, Mr. Speaker.

But we have a civil servant put in the difficult position of calling the company, writing the company, meeting with the company and saying, *Where's our million dollars?*

Mr. Speaker, this is wrong. This is not the way Bermuda does business. We are a sophisticated, well-regulated, and well-respected jurisdiction. We cannot have Mickey Mouse running around asking for million-dollar cheques, Mr. Speaker. And I hope the Premier or the Minister now responsible for the Cabinet Office has got to the bottom of this, because just like the fiasco with the credit cards, Mr. Speaker, the public deserves answers because Bermuda is a laughing stock. It is a laughing stock when somebody writes and says, *Please send me the million-dollar cheque.*

Those people probably laughed on the other end of the email, laughed at how gullible we are as people in Bermuda, who are going to say, *Where's my million-dollar cheque?* This is concerning, Mr. Speaker. It is very concerning. It is simply not acceptable.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier comes out and the first thing he does is criticise the Opposition Leader when he speaks (quite rightly) this week about this subject. And he says, *But you know the Opposition Leader (my words) forgets about the 80 FinTech companies that have been formed.* Well, you know what, Mr. Premier? [Claps hands in applause] Awesome! Eighty FinTech companies . . . the number has risen—40, 45, 50 . . . 80.

But Mr. Speaker, I will come back to that in a minute, the first responsibility of the Premier is to come out and get to the bottom of this nonsense and stand up for the Bermudians who elected them to serve, not to try to defend a cheque we are trying to chase, not to try to criticise the Opposition Leader. He needs to have a responsibility to the people of Bermuda who are starting to say, *Arbitrade, this is a scam.* This is not suitable for the time of Cabinet which has got a lot of promises to face. But no, he attacks the Opposition Leader rather than protect the people of Bermuda and the good reputation we worked so hard for for many years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me get back to those 80 FinTech companies in the 15 minutes that I have left. Just paying attention, I know . . . I have been around long enough to know that I have got 20 minutes next week.

Mr. Speaker, the 80 FinTech companies is positive news—very positive news. But you know what? Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Premier today should come back in his motion to adjourn and say, *You know what I also want to tell you with those 80 companies? Here is the work, here are the office buildings that are being rented, and here are how many Bermudians have obtained jobs in those indus-*

tries. That is what the people of Bermuda want to hear. That is the economic substance of what we are looking for, not that 80 companies are formed.

We know that companies are formed all over the world and they have to configure to our regulations. But what we really need is economic substance. We need to have buildings—not bought, really but buildings rented—and Bermudians hired in those industries. And I respect the training, the training helps. But I have heard about 80 companies and I am not seeing Bermudians hired. I am sure there are many work permits that have been given out, perhaps, rightly so. That is what we want to know—the economic substance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while the Government are not keen on our oversight as the Opposition, we will never back down from standing up to these difficult subjects and holding them accountable. Arbitrade has failed to date to meet any of the promises that they have given. The Government has courted them and Bermuda is embarrassed, and it must stop.

We live in difficult times, as the Honourable Member Weeks pointed out. We have many difficult challenges to defeat. It is a difficult environment. Business and consumer confidence are at low levels. Bermuda cannot afford, under any circumstance, that our good reputation built over the years is blotted by a company and a Government which acts in haste and fails to see red flags.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I recognise the Minister of National Security. Minister, you have the floor.

PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING SEMINAR

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I had the occasion last week to attend the Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar that was put on by the CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association].

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Wayne Caines: I had the opportunity to still have parliamentary responsibilities, professional responsibilities, family responsibilities, civic responsibilities, but I made it a priority to be there.

During that seminar we learned how to interact with each other, how to deal with each other appropriately. I was absolutely personally surprised at the personal and professional growth that I achieved from that seminar. I could not help but notice that one of the key themes of the seminar was how we interact with each other to get the salient points out of our arguments. But, more importantly, the ultimate aim was to keep in mind that we work for the people of Bermuda and for the betterment of the people of Bermuda.

I do know that many of us in this room had reasons and specific commitments, but certain key Members were not there.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Hon. Wayne Caines: The key [points] that we have all personally and professionally decided [to follow], as a result of those meetings, is to make sure that we have the correct interaction, to make sure that we stay professional, to make sure that we use social media and that we use the media for the betterment of the people of Bermuda.

Those specific people that were absent, who could have benefitted . . . if you look at the people that were absent, it is noteworthy, every one [that] was absent had one specific thing in common, and I will leave that with you, Mr. Speaker, from the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WORK TO RULE UPDATE

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Department of Corrections, everything that we as a parliamentary group have to do is not to inflame a situation that has the potential to affect the lives of incarcerated men. I believe that the Department of Corrections, the Corrections Officers, have raised legitimate concerns. I support the leadership of the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Speaker, we took a painstaking effort to outline the things that were done and that have been ongoing with the Strategic Plan of the Bermuda Prisons. It is almost mischievous, if not criminal, for anyone to leave this room, to take everything positive that we said around security, around mould remediation plans, around training and development, and to leave this room and to leave the people of Bermuda with the misguided notion that our country's prison system is in trouble.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Wayne Caines: I would say, like every other relationship, there are problems and there are challenges. The problems and challenges have been highlighted. Both sides said that they want to work to fix those problems.

They sat around the table and they said, *You have said that you want to do things with security. We want to put a list of priorities in place, and we want to make sure that we agree with that list of priorities. We accept that you have done things with the CCTV, we accept that you have done things with the fencing, we accept that you have done things with the PIN telephone system. We accept that those changes have been made. We know that we cannot discuss the*

GEHI. We know that we cannot discuss the salary increase. Let's get back to the table around this. Let's agree to these terms.

And everyone has said that we realise this is critical. The prison is not in a state of anarchy. It has never been in a state of crisis. There are specific concerns that are critical around the mould in the prison and that is now a priority. We go to the water situation at the prison. It is almost incredulous that the [Member] who was the Minister at the time that was tasked with fixing these problems a year ago did not fix it and now stands up in this House—

Some Hon. Members: Yes, yes!

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Yes, yes.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: I will take your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: The Honourable Member is totally misleading the House.

Hon. Wayne Caines: I am not misleading this House!

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: I was not the Minister—

Hon. Wayne Caines: Retract it! Retract it!

[Gavel]

Hon. Wayne Caines: I am not misleading this House!

The Speaker: Minister, Minister, Minister, Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Take it back!

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: The Minister said “a year ago.” I would ask him to calm down and get his facts correct. I was not the Minister one year ago, two years ago or three years ago.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Minister, I relinquished the ministerial responsibilities to Senator Baron at the time. And so if the Minister wants to criticise the OBA, that is fine; but get your timeline straight.

It is a crisis now because it is on lockdown.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Wayne Caines: First of all . . . first of all, there is not a lockdown. Second of all, even if he was not the Minister, he was the Premier of this country, and he had dominion over every aspect of the running of this country.

Some Hon. Members: That is right!

Hon. Wayne Caines: Has he forgotten his responsibility? The absolute gall!

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Talk to me, just talk to me.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Talk to me.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, under—

[Inaudible interjections and general uproar]

[Gavel]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: Members!

Hon. Wayne Caines: —under the OBA Government it was highlighted—

The Speaker: Calm down.

Hon. Wayne Caines: —that there was a problem with the boiler. They purchased an electric boiler when they were given instruction not to purchase an electric boiler, under the leadership of Michael Dunkley.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is once again misleading the House.

Those instructions, if they are in fact correct, were between the civil servants and the people who do procurement—

Some Hon. Members: Ooh! Ooh!

[General uproar]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Oh, now . . . now we see that—

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker—

[General uproar]

The Speaker: You made your point. You made your point.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Now we see that—

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: You made your point.—

Hon. Wayne Caines: Now we see that—

[General uproar]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: No, no, I am not—

[Gavel]

The Speaker: Members, Members!

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: No, Mr. Speaker—

[General uproar]

The Speaker: Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah! Stay in your seat! Stay in your seat.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: No, Mr. Speaker, because this—

An Hon. Member: Don't blame the civil servants!

[Gavel]

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: No, Mr. Speaker, this highlights a concern. No Government Minister is allowed to go in—

Hon. Wayne Caines: Who approves the funding, Mr. Speaker? Who approves the funding, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, no Government goes in—

[Gavel]

The Speaker: I did not take a lunch because I thought we would be able to go through—

[Laughter]

The Speaker: I thought we would be able to go through without the need for a lunch.

But, Members, it is looking like your stomachs are getting a little rowdy, but you are not going to exercise it in here. If you cannot sit in here and [act] as you should, the door is right there. That goes for everyone, no matter which side you are on.

We come in here to discuss the people's business. There are going to be differences. We are going to get through those differences in an orderly manner. What we are displaying right now will not be tolerated.

You have got . . . start to wrap up your comment—

Ah, ah, ah, I am still on my feet.

Wrap up your comment and then we are going back to the Minister.

POINT OF CLARIFICATION

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the point of order and clarification is that Ministers, while the budget is approved, every purchase does not come to their desk to be signed off on. If it does, that is micromanagement and it is wrong.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, this is the double-speak and hypocrisy that plagues that particular Member of this House. This was a major purchase of *over* the amount that must go to Cabinet and must be discussed, and that Member knows that.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with the boiler commenced under the OBA Government, under his leadership as Premier of his Government.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Labour Party Government knew that there was a problem with the boiler and at the first opportunity, going through the procurement process, has made it a priority to get a gigantic boiler on the Island. Again, it is a false narrative that will stir up strife in a very delicate matter to insinuate to the people of Bermuda that this Government does not care about its prison officers and does not care about the incarcerated men of this country, Mr. Speaker. And it is the *modus operandi* of that Member, and I say that respectfully, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we looked this year at the programmes in this prison, and we know that we have to get these programmes up and running. There were 12 inmates over the last year . . . Mr. Speaker, let me rewind real quick. There are over 50 men that are incarcerated in Bermuda for convictions of murder or serious crime of gun- and gang-related violence. The Government has put in a plan called the Violence Reduction Programme. That is a programme that . . . for a period of six months, prison inmates that are convicted of serious—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Talk to the Chair.

Hon. Wayne Caines: [Inmates] that have been convicted of significant criminal offences go through that programme. They are given tutoring, they are given mental health treatment, they are given BARC [Bermuda Assessment and Referral Centre] assessment, they work hand-in-hand with the Corrections staff. Over the last two years we have seen 12 men go through this particular training.

At the end of it we invited the press and we sent a press release, we articulated the concerns, the significant strides that they were making. The press did not publish that. The press did not publish . . . it was not put in the *Royal Gazette* this particular . . . and we sent it back again to be published because that will not sell papers—the fact that this Government ensured and made sure that these men got the necessary training that they had, made sure that they got the necessary mental health training. There are programmes that have been put in place in the prison.

We believe there is a challenge with mould in the prison. There will be a specific emphasis on making sure that prison officers have the right elements to deal with that problem.

Mr. Speaker, we talked about the HM Prison Inspectorate. That is a body that will come to Bermuda from the United Kingdom, they will look at the inners and the outers of the prison and they will give clear indications of what will take place. That was not mentioned in the rebuttal minutes ago.

We highlighted the specific plans around each and every element. The Strategic Plan for the Bermuda Corrections Service, Mr. Speaker, was written in September 2017—September 2017. This was led by the Acting Commissioner. She and her team put together key elements that will be worked on. Members of the POA were present. They are not marching and going together without a plan going forward. This is a systematic plan to get the prison staff, to get the prison officers, to get the department and keep them on track. It includes a security plan. It includes a physical plant plan. It includes a personnel plan.

The Prison Officers Association is highlighting their concerns. Their concerns will be put into a specific order. The two entities remain around the table. I do not want to leave this country, this Honourable House, feeling that the prison is on its way to collapse. The Prison system, the Department of Corrections, is not. There is impasse. The issues have been articulated, the key components are at the table, and those components are being dealt with. Do we have a timeline? We do not. But we believe that everyone at the table has the impetus.

The former Member spoke that the prison service is at work to rule and so things must be upside down. Has he forgotten the legacy he left this country in—debates at the House, protestations outside of this House, the country almost brought to its proverbial knees—as a result of his leadership?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Hon. Wayne Caines: And he has the audacity now to challenge a Government that . . . every move [this Government is] making is to balance this country, to bring it back on track, after a hundred million dollars was spent lavishly on a boat race! When all of the money that we are now trying to redirect, after it was

misdirected under his leadership, we are now trying to fix and bring into touch, deal with the salaries, deal with the hirings . . . he now is challenging the very same people who are trying to create . . . to fix the mess that his leadership created.

An Hon. Member: But we are a bunch of Mickey Mouse, that is what he said.

The Speaker: Members, Members.

Hon. Wayne Caines: He goes back—

An Hon. Member: Mickey Mouse.

The Speaker: Member!

Hon. Wayne Caines: He goes back . . . he goes back . . . the Honourable Member retreats to his very comfortable position of knocking FinTech. It is a clear case of an ideology that, number one, he does not understand technology . . . does not understand technology.

Mr. Speaker, I would put pension on it, that he has absolutely no idea what block technology does or what it is or what it would take to set up a company of that nature in Bermuda.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Blockchain, not block. Blocks are for building a house. Blockchain.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Blockchain.

The Speaker: Speak to the Chair.

Hon. Wayne Caines: And what distributed ledger technology is.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Yeah, right.

Hon. Wayne Caines: He has no idea of what it means.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken an industry that was nascent, that was in its genesis. The building blocks are in place. I, as the Minister, have seen the companies setting up in Bermuda. There are key people that are moving to Bermuda that are seeking to buy . . . to rent houses.

And now, of course, he is right. Excuse me, the Member of Parliament is right, that we now need to start highlighting these things and the Ministry is now working to collate and to highlight the jobs that are being created, the impact—the social impact—that it will have with them coming to Bermuda and working tourism, setting up businesses in Bermuda and hiring Bermudians and training and development. Of course, those are things that should come in the right order to quantify the advances that are being made in FinTech.

We can tell you that we are going in the right direction. Naysayers and purveyors of doom will not take us off our plan and our trajectory. He speaks of Arbitrade, the very—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Members.

Hon. Wayne Caines: —the very reality is that he speaks as if it is the Government that is responsible for regulating companies that come into Bermuda.

An Hon. Member: You are bragging about them.

Hon. Wayne Caines: That is the responsibility of the Bermuda Monetary Authority. So if the Bermuda Monetary Authority says that a company is not in the right order, they have not filled out the proper paperwork, and it should not come to Bermuda, have they not done their job?

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: Speak to me, speak to me.

Hon. Wayne Caines: We have had the opportunity to create a fund that upon the successful licensing the companies would put the money into a fund that was set aside. Could we see how long the process would take? The money has been . . . by their teams, been set aside, and when the process is completed, the money will be put into the fund. Has the process been completed? Of course the process has not been completed. So what? Should they put the money in the fund before the process is completed? You cannot have your cake and eat it too.

You are saying . . . the country has said that we want a robust vetting process. The process of being vetted is being robust. And now that the process is being robust and that every stone is being overturned, we now downcry the very same process that we are doing? We have to make up our minds. The country understands that we are seeing contractions in certain parts of the economy. Look at where we are going and understand how we are trying to push tourism, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the next few months we will see a review document that has come through by one of our leading accounting agencies that highlights some of the strides that we are making in tourism, highlights some of the opportunities that are presented in tourism.

If we continue to rise to our feet and decry the Government, decry every move that is being made, why would people want to come to a country where at

every chance you get every element is being decried, made corruptible?

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Not every element, come on, man! Give me a break.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Members, Members, Members. Speak this way.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member is, once again, about the third time, misleading the House.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mister . . . Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: Now, now, now, wait, wait, wait—

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, I have—

The Speaker: Wait, wait, wait, wait.

Both of you sit down, okay? Both of you sit down. Everybody sit down.

Wait for me to acknowledge you first when you come up, all right? If you want to make a point of order, I am going to accept your point of order. That means the speaker needs to take his seat. Take your seat, give me your point of order.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker, I respect every decision you have ever made from that seat. He . . . that Honourable Member to rise to his feet and say *for the third time this Member is misleading this House* is improper and it is inflammatory, and I will not accept it, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Have a seat, let me . . .

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: Mr. Speaker, this is at least the third time I have risen.

The Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Michael H. Dunkley: But on that specific point, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister says that “every time” we criticise the Government’s actions. We do not criticise every time. We criticise when it is appropriate with the facts.

The Speaker: Okay.

Now, I am asking you both to tone it down a bit so it does not get out of hand . . . do not get out of hand.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simons, you can repeat that. You can repeat it.

Mr. N. H. Cole Simons: If not go home.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Minister.

Hon. Wayne Caines: Mr. Speaker, I started off on the line of the Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar. I believe that we have a responsibility to paint an accurate picture of what is going on in Bermuda with FinTech and with reference to, in these sets of circumstances, the Bermuda Department of Corrections.

It is a false narrative to tell Members of our public that the prison department is on its way to implode. It is not correct. There is a security plan in place, there is a plan of leadership in place and there is a plan for the physical plant. There are areas of concern that have been raised. There is a plan to deal with them. We believe in all of our corrections officers. We believe in their health and safety. We also have . . . I have the full confidence in the leadership of the prison. I believe we have come to a difficult period and I believe that with the proper support we can work through those issues.

We should not leave this building, go into the public media, and do things that are normally done by specific Members of Parliament to inflame and polarise this community for political gain.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.
No other Honourable Member?

The Honourable Opposition Leader, you have the floor.

PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING SEMINAR

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank you for the seminar . . . and your team. I appreciated the fact that . . . and I have been talking in this House for some time now about the temperament in the House, and I have spoken to you personally about some of the issues that I felt that we needed to address. And so I just wanted to get that out of the way and say thank you for that opportunity. Mrs. Wolfe here, as well, and a lot of the work that you did to organise this two-day seminar that I found to be rather helpful in clarifying a lot of issues that we have had as we have moved along in this House and especially—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Sorry?

The Speaker: Let the Member talk, the Member is on his feet . . . the Member is on his feet.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: There we go.

The Speaker: The Member is on his feet.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: And that just goes completely into the issue that we are having in this House. I was there the second day. I know that his car was there, but I certainly did not see him in the morning on that second day. I was there.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: So, what he would need to do—the Honourable Member—is worry about himself rather than everybody else before he opens up his mouth, because there is certainly enough stuff to throw around in this House. And I try to prevent from going that route, but invariably there are Members within this House who just cannot get out of their own way. They cannot get out of their own way, Mr. Speaker.

And so I recognise that, oh yes, I recognise that certainly the Honourable Member always has a lot to say. We just want to make sure that the Honourable Member gets the right bus schedule in place—

[Laughter]

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: —so that we can ensure that our people can catch the bus, Mr. Speaker.

So if he can just concentrate on that part. It has been 17 years trying to get to a schedule, Mr. Speaker, and we finally got there. We had a whole lot of fanfare around the fact that we have a schedule, we go and put a schedule in place and then we ask questions about it and we have to revert back to the—

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: —we have to revert back to the old schedule.

The Speaker: All right, Members, Members.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: So the Honourable Member, again, needs to stick to the issue of the Ministry that he is in and fix it. That is all we want because Mr. and Mrs. Bermuda who are catching the bus were very much concerned. In fact, we had videos going around [with] people screaming—literally screaming—at the bus drivers, which was unfair to them. They did not put the schedule in place. And to have a schedule that was put in place that had to subject them to other Bermudians—Mr. and Mrs. Bermuda—screaming and

shouting at them, quite frankly, is concerning and was concerning to all of us.

And I know it was concerning to the Minister as well, which is why we reverted back to the schedule that was in place before. And hopefully we will see, as we go forward, some positive changes. But the chirping does not help the matter. He can say all he wants in this House and go back and forth it is not helping the schedule.

Which brings me to a story line. The other day I was riding down on South Shore, Mr. Speaker, on a bike, and there was a van in front of me. And as we were going by the Botanical Gardens there he put on his indicator to the right and the next few minutes later to the left, but kept going, to the left again and to the right, and I was like, *What in the world is going on with this guy? I can't understand what's happening here.* You know, and at first I was like, *Well, maybe he is lost.* And then I realised as we got down towards going past Collectors Hill towards the traffic lights he certainly was not lost because the lights just kept going on left and right. It was not until we got to the traffic light, Mr. Speaker, where I had the opportunity to slow down and to essentially stop . . . basically stop. We stopped.

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: We stopped. They understand what I am saying. We stopped.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yep, you continue, you continue, more coming for you.

I stopped at the traffic light and realised that I was behind the van, and it was not until I had that still moment while sitting on the bike that I realised that my indicator was on. And what the van in front of me was attempting to do was send a message to me, *Listen, you might cause an accident because your indicator light is on.*

An Hon. Member: It happens all the time.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: It happens all the time. And so in this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to have that session, but yet here we are. Honourable Members cannot even slow down to listen. Slow down to even maybe just think for a moment so they can have clarity. But yet the chirping has got to go back and forth. We are not going to get anywhere. We are not going to get anywhere.

And I can guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, that we will be the rest of the year trying to figure out how to figure out what to do with the bus schedule, what we to do about lowering the cost of living for Bermudians, what to do about the economy that is faltering in Bermuda. And no matter how much spin we put to all

of these issues, when we look at the figures, beating a dead horse, this economy is tanking.

JOB CREATION AND THE ECONOMY

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: And when you read in the newspaper the articles by professional services who have come and said [that] since 2008 we have lost 7,000 jobs in this country, that we need to get more people back into this Island because every work permit that is issued out, every person that comes back into the Island, whether it is a Bermudian or a work permit holder, it means a job for a Bermudian. So everyone that comes back, whether it is Bermudian, work permit or the likes, there is a job created for a Bermudian.

And so my concern—

Mr. Scott Simmons: That is not a correct statement.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: That is a correct statement. It is a statistic that has been in place for years.

[Gavel]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: So what you need to do is go check your statistics.

[Gavel]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Speak—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: You have no reference for it at all.

[Gavel]

The Speaker: Member, just direct your conversation this way. Do not turn and talk to anybody else, just speak to me, okay?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, it has no reference at all.

The Speaker: Point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Yes, the Honourable Member is misleading the House, Mr. Speaker, and I am going to help him out—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Sure, help me out.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: —because he just made a statement that said for every non-Bermudian job it creates a Bermudian job. And the Honourable Member Scott Simmons told him he was wrong and that is where he went off on a little tirade.

The Honourable Member, if he is going to get up and talk statistics, should get it right. And let me help you out.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Sure, help me out.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: The actual number is, for every non-Bermudian job it creates 2.1 Bermudian jobs, not 1 to 1. So if you are going to quote, let us get it right.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just clarify what I was saying. We have had that statistic all along. I was reading a statistic that was done by John White, as he was the President, or whatever the title is that he had—

An Hon. Member: Chamber of Commerce.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: —Chamber of Commerce. And he put the statistics into the paper based on the information that he had been given. And I will read it to you, Mr. Speaker.

It says, “⁴Statistically, every work permit holder—or wealthy non-Bermudian resident—creates at least one job for a Bermudian.” And that was the statistic that I was referring to.

So I understand and I appreciate the Honourable Member wanting to clarify, but it goes back to the importance of this economy and what it is that is needed in order to get us where we need to be, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to hear about the idea and the—

Mr. Scott Simmons: Point of order, Mr. Speaker, point of order, point of order.

The Speaker: Your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Mr. Scott Simmons: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Opposition Leader is misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to his point on whether or not every single foreigner . . . every single work permit holder, irrespective of what he read just now, it is quite obvious to us all that unless there are certain segments in this community—business community—where an IB job will create, or a foreigner’s job will create a job for Bermudians, we should not leave this Honourable House with the . . . presenting

the perception that every single foreigner who comes here, every single permit holder, creates a job for a Bermudian. It is incorrect, it is not right, and that is not how it goes.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will let everyone sift through exactly . . . slow down and think about what he just said and sift through that.

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Just talk to me and you will be safe. Direct your comments here.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: This is wherein lies the challenge with getting the economy where it needs to be. Because we have some who have thoughts and ideas about where they think it should be, some who have thoughts and ideas about statistics and the likes. We know—as we just heard from the Honourable Minister—

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Point of order, point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Deputy?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with what Scott Simmons said, because if you bring in a dishwasher, tell me how many jobs—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Well, well, let him make his point of order.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: How can he do a point of order on what he is saying? I have not even said anything yet.

The Speaker: No, no, he was making a point of order on the comment of work permits providing jobs.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: No, no, he just referred to the Honourable Member and what *he* said, not what I said.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: And the perception. The Honourable Member said “perception.” It is a perception.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Mr. Speaker—

⁴ [Royal Gazette](#), 12 October 2018

The Speaker: Okay, hold on, hold on.

Your comment has to be directed at the speaker.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: Right.

The Speaker: Your comment is in regard to *his* comments on work permits. You have to aim your comment there.

Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr.: That is an erroneous statement because not every work permit holder creates “X” amount of jobs for Bermudians. A dishwasher does not create any jobs for Bermuda. Now, if you are talking about somebody in a higher income bracket, that may be true, but not . . . so we cannot say that.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will probably get point of order right on through the total amount of our time, but it is incredible that I would hear from two Honourable Members that do not understand that even if it were a dishwasher who was washing dishes, he spends money in the economy! And that money . . . and the statistics have been there from the beginning of time—

[Inaudible interjections and general uproar]

Mr. Rolfe Commissiong: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Unbelievable!

The Speaker: Members, Members!

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: If you would let me finish what I have got to say, then you will hear it.

The Speaker: Members! Members, we can let the Member finish his statement and then you can make your own statement, you know.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Exactly!

The Speaker: Make your comment real brief.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Rolfe Commissiong: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that Best-in-Class research in the case suggests migration at the higher levels—professional and otherwise—can bring demonstrable benefit to a country. But they are perfectly right. At the lower occupational levels, if I can use that term, low-skilled foreign labour harms your labour market with respect to non-college educated persons in your own economy.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member.

Mr. Rolfe Commissiong: That is research, global research.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member.
Member, continue.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Mr. Speaker, therein lies the challenge and therein lies why the economy is tanking. Therein lies why we have gone almost a full year of retail sales declining, confidence declining, and we are continuing to struggle—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. W. Lawrence Scott: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member just said this is why the PLP Government’s economy is tanking and we just released GDP increases—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order. I did not say “PLP.”

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. W. Lawrence Scott: You said “their” economy is tanking, which would be a reference to the PLP Government’s administration.

The Speaker: Okay. Your point is made.

Mr. W. Lawrence Scott: The point is we just released GDP growth numbers, which means that the economy is actually growing, not tanking.

The Speaker: Continue on.

An Hon. Member: Your speech is tanking.

[Laughter]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We certainly agree with the Honourable Member, if we listen to the rhetoric that is going on, that this speech is tanking. I cannot even get two sentences out because, obviously, they have not been reading the numbers. You can say your GDP has increased, but I have been looking at the retail sales figures. And if we look at those figures, they continue to decline for Bermudians in jobs every single day.

There probably is not one of these Members in this House who is not bombarded with the fact that somebody is looking for a job, that somebody is looking for some way to lower their costs, and the only way that we have seen thus far for the lowering of the cost in Bermuda for our members is that we get a poster that says, well, we are lowering the cost of living for residents of Bermuda by taking diet soda from 35 per cent down to 15 per cent and tout and boast

that this is the way that the Government is lowering the cost of living. I thought the whole purpose of the soda was to get people from drinking soda in the first place! A health message! But yet we get bombarded with—

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Oh, yes, I want to hear from you.

The Speaker: Point of order. We will take your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. Kim N. Wilson: Thank you. This Honourable Member is misleading the House. And I will give him the benefit of the doubt and perhaps it is inadvertently.

The Government did raise the sugar tax, as you will know. We reduced it several months ago with respect to diet sodas, primarily as a result of a call from those persons in the industry that sold diet soda.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really—

The Speaker: Continue, Member.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I appreciate that. And that is why they took it down from their post, because I do not think the perception by the public was because of that. Can you find that poster now? They took it down. And they took it down for a reason, because it did not make any kind of sense.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: No sense at all.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: None whatsoever.

The Speaker: Members, Members.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: And the Honourable Member who . . . the Honourable Member gets up in this House talking about a sugar tax . . . had they listened to the people, they did not want this sugar tax of 75 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Amen!

[Inaudible interjections]

An Hon. Member: Who are “they”?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Seventy-five per cent. Yes, and let us talk about who “they” are.

Mr. Speaker, they have the honour of having 25 seats in this House where the people of Bermuda voted unanimously in favour of them. But yet to this date—

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, against the OBA. And to this date we have not lowered the cost for business, we have not lowered the cost for the people of Bermuda—Mr. and Mrs. Bermuda—and now, as the Honourable Member said to me earlier talking about perception, the perception is out there, *What is going on? What is happening?*

The only thing that we are hearing about is FinTech. And then when we hear from the Premier, and we hear from other Members, *We are sticking to our guns, it is the FinTech area, we are going to go ahead with this here.* Well, what about the economy?

And now you see playing outright in the newspapers where businesses are now complaining, coming right out and saying, *Listen, by doing this here they are inadvertently . . .* we are affecting other things, not understanding how everything is connected. And so the Premier gets up and he talks about, *We measure several times and then we cut once.* Well, all you have got to do is look at what we have been doing in this House. That is not the case at all! And we have to come back and then the people of Bermuda are coming back and complaining, and we have to revisit and look at things, and yet this Opposition has not said, *Listen, we’ve got one day just to do this Bill.*

Okay, in the [interest] of wanting to make sure that things get done we cooperate, we cooperate, we cooperate, and allow Bills to go through in short periods of time. And then what? We have to retract or have to go back over and listen to things.

And so the perception out there—not amongst . . . you know, they can say all they want about OBA supporters. But the perception amongst those 25 seats and the constituents in those 25 seats, because if this Government believes that we are not out there listening [and that] there are some of our members who are not connected to ground, then they are being fooled by themselves.

We are hearing that people are out there who are complaining today about the conditions and where Bermuda is today. One of the issues that Bermuda has is this: unless we start getting some things going here, which is not happening . . . it is not happening. Now we are starting to see where the tourism figures are starting to falter after almost two years of this Government. I am not blaming them, but it is starting to falter. And what that means is if that starts to falter, then jobs start to falter, just like what we see with what is going on with the locals who are in this community

who have businesses who are trying to survive out there, who are trying to get something going, who are trying to keep Bermudians employed . . . it is faltering.

And now on top of that we have international businesses who are going forward with—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. W. Lawrence Scott: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member is talking about it is the PLP Government's fault for the tourism numbers, but the tourism numbers are going down because airline fares are going up because there are taxes that have been increased on the per person ticket because of the airport deal and the way it was structured. So that is actually the OBA that is causing the tourism numbers to go down.

[Desk thumping]

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: All right. Thank you.
Continue on.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: You know what? I am so glad that the OBA exists, because every time something goes wrong, or on every issue that this Government has to deal with . . . every single issue that they have to deal with, when it comes up and they are questioned on it, the answer always is, *Oh, well, it was because of the OBA.*

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me remind them of something. We had 14 years of a PLP Government that put a whole lot in train. And they wanted four and half years for our OBA Government to fix it. They go on and on about the mould issues and all of these things, but the mould existed back then. The mould might have been grey then, but it is now black, just like we got blacklisted because of errors . . . because of errors, Mr. Speaker. And you know what?

An Hon. Member: You didn't fix it.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, we did not fix it, but you did not fix it. You did not address it in the first place. So, tit [for] tat, go back and forth. You are Government now, you have the answers to the issues that are there, and if you get on going with the business that is at hand then we would not have to be going back and forth.

They complain about the America's Cup—\$300 million dollars put into the economy. A panel comes forward and does a whole report . . . a mix of PLP supporters, OBA supporters, and no supporters at all, puts out a fair report to say that this was a good deal. But yet we still continue to cast it in a shadow of darkness. *Oh, well, it didn't do anything.* Well, I can tell you the people that I am hearing on the streets

where I come from, Pookie down in St. David's is still looking for a job and said, *You know what? During the America's Cup I got something.* And what we read in the paper today, we see the Endeavour Programme and the likes . . . we are not . . . I am not talking about white members, I am talking about black members who benefited.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Black members who benefited from the America's Cup, okay? But yet we had all kinds of music fests and all kinds of things back in the day and it did not amount to anything.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes. It is all over.

So you fix the economy. Get jobs on the table because the only jobs that were created and are being created, quite frankly, are from the legacy of four and half years of the OBA where we saw positive numbers.

An Hon. Member: Amen!

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: What jobs have you created? And every time we ask the Premier . . . *Please, listen bye, tell us what is going on. The 80 companies, you must be able to tell us a little something about those numbers.* We get nothing back. How many work permits have been produced? Tell us something. Give Bermuda the opportunity to say something, Mr. Speaker.

And so we have . . . this is incredible—

[Timer beeps]

[Inaudible interjections]

An Hon. Member: Thank God.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, thank God.
You guys are killing this economy.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: If you don't do something, it is going to crash on your head.

The Speaker: We recognise the Minister for Transport.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Members, Members, Members! Members!

[Inaudible interjections]

[Gavel]

The Speaker: Thank you. Thank you.

[Inaudible interjections]

[Gavel]

The Speaker: Quiet down.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Member, Member, do you want to cool down a little bit? You can take a walk. You can take a walk and cool down.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Oh! He is letting you know.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Just cool down. You have had your part. Let somebody else—

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Do not send him home, Mr. Speaker, please do not send him home.

The Speaker: Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah! I do not need any help!

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Take your seat. No, no, no. Look, I am on my feet . . . I am on my feet. That means, if I get up again, we are going to be going home early. I have been up twice this time; I do not intend to get up a third time. If I get up a third time—*gavel sound*—that is going to happen and we are going out that door. Do you understand me?

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Got it.

The Speaker: Everybody understand?

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Yes, sir.

The Speaker: Okay. Do not let me rise a third time.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: I better talk real quick.

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting because the Opposition Leader started off his speech talking about the sessions we went to last week and look at the way he carried on in the end. He absolutely lost his cool, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Just, just speak to the Chair.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Just speak to the Chair. That is all, just speak to the Chair.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member cannot speak about that, I did not lose my . . .
Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Okay. Ah, ah!

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is still standing, Mr. Speaker, he did not go to the session.

The Speaker: Take your seat.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: I did not hear him acknowledge your point of order.

The Speaker: Ah, ah, ah, ah!

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I certainly did not lose my cool . . . I got a little—

The Speaker: Oh, okay. You made your point. You made your point.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I certainly got excited. If I lose my cool, believe me, they will know.

The Speaker: You made your point.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: They will know.

The Speaker: Minister, continue.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Well, Mr. Speaker, you know what? I will let everybody draw their own conclusions about who was out of control and who was not. But that is that Honourable Member's Jekyll and Hyde personality—

The Speaker: Well, well, well, Minister. Minister, let us not . . . let us not go that level.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Okay.

The Speaker: Let us not go that level. Let us keep it on the facts.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Okay. All right. Here we go, Mr. Speaker, here we go.

[Inaudible interjections]

An Hon. Member: Take your time.

JOB CREATION AND THE ECONOMY

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Now, the Honourable Opposition Leader, Mr. Speaker, I thought the comments he made were very, very, very rich. We have been in government now for almost two years and he had the audacity . . . the audacity to ask what jobs we have created. The same person, before he resigned, told the people of this country that he was going to create 2,000 jobs and he went on to lose 2,000 jobs, Mr. Speaker.

[Inaudible interjections]

[Gavel]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: So in four years he did not create 2,000. They lost 2,000. And therefore the PLP Government in 2017 had 4,000 jobs to fill.

Some Hon. Members: Yes!

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: And [he] has the audacity to say, *What jobs have you created?*

And then they want to knock us when we have 80 companies—over 80 companies—that have registered since we have been in Government.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

The Speaker: Take your seat. I will take your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER *[Misleading]*

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: We did not knock the 80 companies that have registered here. We were encouraged by that. What we said was, we wanted to know, how many jobs have they have created? That is not knocking. How many jobs have they created? That is a fair question.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, before the Honourable Member takes my valuable time, can you ask him to please listen? I did not . . . I did not—

The Speaker: Just speak to the Chair, speak to the Chair.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: I did not say anything about them “knocking.” I said we have had 80 companies . . . 80 companies. Now, when they said “don’t knock” I heard them just now—

POINT OF ORDER *[Misleading]*

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member exactly said that we were “knocking the 80 jobs”—exact words. We were “knocking the 80 companies.”

The Speaker: Minister, I am sure you can straighten that out a little. Just get your points across.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Well, I tell you what, Mr. Speaker, let us back up a little bit.

We heard several Members, led by the Honourable Member Dunkley, we have heard the Opposition Leader in the newspaper this week talk about some of the companies that have come to Bermuda. We have heard them cry “Wolf!” over and over and over again about FinTech companies, blockchain companies, and the rest, every time. We have heard Members on this side say over and over and over again that this is what the Bermuda Monetary Authority does. They are not going to let companies come in and register in Bermuda without doing the correct due diligence.

So why do they continue to get up and slam Members on this side of the House that have responsibility for encouraging companies, in particular, FinTech companies to Bermuda?

I did not hear any point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[Laughter]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is—

The Speaker: You could not resist it, could you? Go ahead.

POINT OF ORDER *[Misleading]*

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The point that was being made was how does this Government allow a company which is not licensed to register to do business buy a company *[sic]* before they even get that licence?

An Hon. Member: A building.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: A building, sorry. That is not due diligence.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, before they do these things, that is what the Bermuda Monetary Authority does. They talk to these people, they vet them, they go through their process.

But Mr. Speaker, let me get on to something more important, because the Honourable Member that just took his seat (the Opposition Leader) talked about black people benefitting from the America's Cup. And he seemed to be very proud of that. But what he does not tell you is where the majority of the money went. Some of our black people benefited, yes. Some of those who might work for Burland, Conyers and Mariree, who made millions and millions of dollars. And I can assure you that the millions and millions of dollars of profit that was made, Mr. Speaker, was not by any black person. I can assure you of that.

And Mr. Speaker, while we are on that, let us not forget, when was the last time in Bermuda's history that somebody got an OBE [Order of the British Empire award] for doing a contract for government? And whilst we are at it, an untendered contract for government.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: An untendered contract for government, Mr. Speaker.

And the Honourable Member has the audacity to say, *Well, black people benefited from the America's Cup*. I would challenge that Honourable Member to bring back some information to the House where that money went and who it went to and what they—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: —look like.

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member, again, is misleading the House. All he has to do is read the newspaper to see what black families did benefit from that, the Endeavour Programme and the like, all the companies that were hired up there. In fact, the Honourable Minister of Public Works can go up to WEDCO and get a listing of all of the companies that were black up there that were working who gained from the America's Cup.

The Speaker: Continue on.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Mr. Speaker, I will just repeat what I said. Let us see what the colour make-up was, the amount of money that was spent, and the colour of the people that made the most money. That is what I will say to them, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other thing the Honourable Member said was . . . he talked about our 14 years and his four and half years. But what he will not tell you is this. And since he wants to bring up a little history, let us not forget one very important fact. In 14 years the PLP Government amassed a debt of \$1.2 billion—in 14 years. In four and half years they doubled that. The OBA Government doubled that debt! Doubled it! Doubled it, Mr. Speaker. And you will remember . . . you will remember a former OBA Finance Minister who stood up in this House—their very first budget—and said he was going to borrow \$800 million to last three years because *I am a smart business government* (the OBA).

Well, you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that within a year they came back. It was gone, and they had to borrow another \$160 [million]. Okay?

And Mr. Speaker . . . but I will tell you what, in light of all of that, they still found money for the America's Cup.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: And where did they get that money from? How were they able to find that money, Mr. Speaker?

You heard the Honourable Opposition Leader talk about buses and concentrating on the bus schedule. Well, let us talk about the bus schedule for a moment.

An Hon. Member: Oh, we want to hear about that. Show the videos.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Why, why, Mr. Speaker, why are we struggling with the buses and the bus schedule in the country? For four and half years what did they do? They found a \$100 million for a boat race but they could not find \$20 million for new buses.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: And let us think about who participated in the boat race and who uses the bus system in the country.

Who do they care about? Maybe that is why we have the majority that we do today, because the people of this country saw where they put a \$100 million for a billionaires' party instead of putting it into the people of the country that needed it most.

[Inaudible interjections]

[Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr., Deputy Speaker, in the Chair]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: They do not like to hear that, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: I love to hear that.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: They do not like to hear that because you know why? It is the facts. And that is why they are over there and we are over here in historic numbers. And the people of this country, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker, made a decision based on their total mismanagement—gross mismanagement—of the funds of this country.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Oh, that is not true.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: It is not true?

The Honourable Member says it is not true. That is why we are here, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker. Do you know why? Because they found money for their friends, but they could not find any money for the people of this country.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: They could not do it, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: And, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker, they found that . . . they took \$165 million of the taxpayers' money to guarantee Morgan's Point. And guess what? It was never announced in this House, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker, never! We forced it out of them one day; it just slipped out . . . it slipped out. [They] never told the people of this country that they put us on the hook for \$165 million.

And guess what else they did? They conveniently forgot . . . conveniently forgot that it was in default in January [20]17 and they forgot to tell the people of the country.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: So, first of all you put the taxpayers on the hook for \$165 million and do not tell them, then it goes into default and you do not tell them—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Hang on, hang on. I have not recognised you. What is your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This Honourable Member has said several times over and over and over that he would guarantee to the hilt all of these programmes just to get them done as a Government. He said it in his own words.

The Deputy Speaker: That is, that is . . . take your seat, take your seat.

Minister.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Honourable Member went to that session last week and something happened with the water he was drinking.

But look, Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me tell you something else, all right? It is amazing, it is amazing how . . . and that is one thing I have got to give the Deputy Opposition Leader of the OBA. If she makes a statement and makes a mistake she will say, *Look, I made a mistake*, as most of us do. But I will tell you what, with the buses . . . now buses come under her remit. And you noticed that the conversations between her and myself have been fairly, fairly quiet really. Do you know why? Because we communicate.

Now what I do not understand is how the Leader of the party does not understand. He does not get it. And Mr. Deputy Speaker—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is saying how I do not get it. Can you explain why I do not get it? Explain that.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order. That is not a point . . .

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Well, Mr. [Deputy] Speaker, if the Honourable Member would just keep his seat for a bit he might get the answer, okay? And it is obvious he does not get it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is obvious, because he says, *Look, you need to concentrate on the bus schedule, it's been 17 years, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah*. What did they do for four and half years? Did they try anything, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I do not recall . . . I do not recall them trying to do anything. Did they buy any new buses, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, yes, yes.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: How many buses did they buy, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

I will take a point of order if they want to clarify how many buses they bought.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: We bought new buses.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Okay. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, did they hire mechanics that were needed? You had the funded posts—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: There were.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: —you had funded posts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why were they not filled? Why were the buses that we had not maintained correctly?

You see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is because the OBA did not feel that the people of this country were important enough. It was more important to have a boat race.

An Hon. Member: Correct!

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: It was more important to have a boat race.

And you know what? The Honourable Member, the Opposition Leader, Mr. Cannonier, said about four times in his little speech *this economy is tanking*. You see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see the same thing starting again. I am just waiting for the word “corruption” to come up, because that has not come up yet. I guess they will save that for about a year . . . a year away from the election. But they did it over and over and over when they were in Opposition in 2011, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They talked about how this economy is crashing, *it is crashing, it is crashing*. In 2008, we had a worldwide crash and it was the PLP’s fault. It was the PLP’s fault that Portugal was bankrupt, Greece was bankrupt, Dublin was bankrupt, Ireland was bankrupt . . . it is the PLP’s fault.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Why is it tanking?

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: You had the worst worldwide economic crash that we have ever seen or witnessed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it was the PLP’s fault. And when we had 6,000 or 7,000 people leave Bermuda, it was the PLP’s fault.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Who said that?

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: And then you had employment drop all around the world and countries going bankrupt, it was the PLP’s fault.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Who said that? Who said that?

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: You see, that is what they would have you believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And now to hear the Honourable Member . . . I mean, he is saying that the Bermuda economy is crashing, but yet Stephen Catlin opened up a \$1.8 billion company last week. The confidence that he has in this country . . . the confidence that Stephen Catlin has in this country to open up a new company . . . \$1.8 billion. But the Opposition Leader is saying the economy is crashing.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Oh, nothing to do with it all, [he has] no confidence in Bermuda, does he? No.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: It was the market, the world market.

The Deputy Speaker: Hey, hey, now, now, now, we are not going to have this here, you know. We are not going to have this here. Now, if you want to go home early you can. Thank you.

Continue, Minister.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know it is funny because their former Finance Minister, Mr. Bob Richards, always used to say *looking under the hood*—how much time have I got left, Mr. Deputy Speaker, any idea?

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Four minutes.

He used to talk about looking under the hood. Well, we managed to look under the hood, too. You know, when you get things like the OBA Government, again, doing things under the cloak of darkness . . . and I will tell you something else we found. They struck a deal with a certain cruise line—\$16 million—to do some work in the Island so that they could get in a bigger boat—interest rate double what the current interest rate is. Guess what? Along with that deal, while this loan is outstanding, there will be no increases in taxes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course, all that was done so it would not hit the books. Got it. Got that. So guess what we did? Guess what we did? No, you could not . . . no increase in taxes while the loan is outstanding. If one dollar was outstanding, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you could not increase the taxes. So, you know what this Government did, Mr. Deputy Speaker? We paid off that loan, saved a couple of dollars on the interest rate, and guess what else we were able to do? We were able to take up the taxes. Okay, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

We are doing some things in our ministries that are going to make a hell of a lot of difference in terms of the bottom line, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All that is going to come out soon. We are working . . . we are working . . . and guess what? Another big thing that they could not fix was education. Diallo Rabain is going to fix that. He has got a really good team, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Any by the way, when we talk about what we are doing for our people, you will remember how we gave \$300,000 to assist folks, young people, to go up to Bermuda College. We have, I think, 126 people going to graduate next week. And out of that 126, guess what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? About 30 per cent of those students are the ones that took advantage of the \$300,000 uplift that the PLP Government gave them!

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Thirty per cent of those students that are graduating received assistance from this Government.

And that is only the start, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We will get there. We will get there. It is just like the buses, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will get there, trust me! If Lord spares life, I will fix that bus schedule, I will guarantee you that. And you can put a mark under that because I know a little bit about fleet maintenance, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know a little bit about fleet maintenance, okay? All right?

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to talk about the sugar tax for one moment because the Opposition Leader talked about the sugar tax and what we are doing, okay? And I think he complained about the [reduction] in the duty on diet Coke. I am a diet Coke man because I found out years ago that sugar is not good for you.

Now I will say this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now you have heard me say on the floor of this House before. To me, we should not stop that sugar tax. And everybody knows, I spoke about it that day. I think sugar tax should be taken up to like 2,000 per cent. So if somebody wants to go get a Snickers bar and that Snickers bar is \$50 they are going to say, *I ain't getting no Snickers bar*. Because you know what we do not realise, or what the Opposition Leader does not realise? Is that, guess what, he said we should have left the sugar tax alone. Go find out how many people are down at the hospital getting their legs cut off.

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Honourable Member?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I never said such a thing . . . to do away with the sugar tax at all or did not ever reference to the fact that sugar is a problem for diabetes. Not just sugar, though.

The Deputy Speaker: Continue, Minister, you have 13 seconds.

Hon. Zane J. S. De Silva: Thirteen. I will leave it at that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

All I am going to say . . . let me finish on this note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all right? The sugar tax should be made to go through the roof so that it discourages everybody from eating sugar and you can add chicken to that too, fried chicken too.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Chair recognises the Honourable Salvan *[sic]* Richards.

Mr. Richards, you have the floor.

BISHOP SPENCER FACILITY

Mr. Sylvan D. Richards, Jr.: I like the way you said my name—*Salvan Richards*—that is real Bermudian.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to take a long time because we are all hungry up in this place . . . we are all hungry up in this place, and I missed my lunch. But I felt that I needed to get to my feet to lend my support to the comments that were made earlier today by the Member from constituency 16, MP Michael Weeks.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he made some very salient points in his comments that a culture is only judged by how it treats and takes care of the least of us. And we have a problem in this country, obviously, with homelessness. When I walk through the city and I see primarily black men sleeping on benches on Front Street, sleeping in bushes in our public parks . . . I saw a gentleman . . . I was driving the other day, it was like one o'clock in the afternoon, he was fast asleep on a bench. And you could tell that he was someone who was challenged with having a place to live.

And, you know, we live in a fast-paced world. We are all living our lives and taking care of our families and having different challenges and whatever we are dealing with on a day-to-day basis. And it is easy to become immune and almost blinded to the plight of our homeless people.

So when MP Weeks got to his feet earlier today, you know, he touched me with his comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I can also relate to his comments because I, too, sat in the seat where I was

meeting with the then Major of the Salvation Army about the challenges with the current homeless shelter down there on Parsons Road in North Hamilton. And we were working, when I was Minister along with my PS at the time, to come up with a solution. And this is something that predated our time when we were in Government and it continues even now.

So the question I have today is: What is being done with the Bishop Spencer building that was donated to the Salvation Army to redevelop it into a multipurpose facility for the homeless? And there have been Ministerial Statements brought to this place over the last couple of years about the development of the Bishop Spencer facility. It was not only to house people who are challenged with having a place to stay, but also it was going to have a kitchen there. I believe, there was going to be a barbershop and facilities there to aid with drug rehabilitation and teaching life skills and various other things that would help people to get back on their feet and function in society as best as they can. Mental health treatment facilities and all that was supposed to be under one roof.

Now that has gone quiet. So I would like to hear from the Government, whichever Minister would speak to this, about what is going on up there with the Bishop Spencer facility, because I do know that there were negotiations going on. And some of the negotiations were that Government would donate the building—the Bishop Spencer Building—and the Salvation Army would actually renovate the building. They were going to go on a fund-raising effort to raise monies to renovate that building.

And then Government had pledged funds for the annual operation of the facility. And, like I said, there has been radio silence on that in recent months.

So I just wanted to back up what the Honourable Member Weeks said. And, you know, he speaks from a position, as he stated. He knows social work, he knows the challenges of dealing with the homeless, and he worked at the shelter and whatnot. So I just want to lend my support that this should be a bipartisan effort. This is something that we all agree on and we are put here in this place for a reason, and taking care of our homeless is a noble one.

So I would encourage the Government, the Premier, the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Health—let's give this, finally, the attention that it deserves and let the Bermudian people know what the plans are in this regard.

Thank you, sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Any further speakers?

The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Mr. Christopher Famous.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG BLACK MEN

Mr. Christopher Famous: Good afternoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues and good afternoon Bermuda.

I am going to carry on in the vein slightly from MP Weeks and MP—not Salvan, but Sylvan—Richards. I am not going to talk about homelessness. I am going to talk about young black men who need opportunities because if they do not get the opportunities these are the same ones that become not-so-young black men who are homeless.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last time we were in the House and I got a chance to speak I spoke about a young man in my constituency who came to visit me, while we were in Parliament, looking for employment. It pained me that as his MP I could not give him a job.

So a few weeks later I was given the opportunity to introduce this young man to the Premier. I did not speak, I just said, *This is the Premier; this is Mr. So-and-So*. The young man articulated that he had several skill sets, including welding. He spoke three different languages—English, Flemish, French and Dutch. Well, Flemish and Dutch are similar, for those who do not know, so four languages. And I left. I just introduced them and I just said, *Okay, you two talk*.

An hour later the young man came out and says the Premier has set up an appointment [for] me [with] the Department of Workforce Development for next week. So said; so done. We kept in contact. He comes over and helps me out to do stuff around the community.

A week later he said to me he had an interview with Mr. Talbot, from Club Road, Harrington's Bay. Not Greg but Jibreel. Perfect Pass Welding. He also had an appointment at Workforce Development. So, again, kept following up, following up.

Last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that young man was offered a full-time apprenticeship, partially sponsored by the government. This is a young man who is 19 years old, never been in trouble, most likely will never be in trouble. He is very humble.

Yesterday I drove through Devil's Hole, Harrington Bay and I said to myself let me stop. And I saw the young man, I saw a guest worker, and I saw Mr. Greg Talbot. So I went to Mr. Talbot and I said, *Mr. Talbot, I want to thank you for giving this young man a chance*.

Do you know what he said to me? He said to me, *Famous, no, thank you guys—the Government—for making sure young men are learning a trade*. Because in his 50 years of doing that he has seen the number of young black men getting into trades go down.

Now we could talk about the Tech, why it was closed; we could talk about Robert Crawford, why it

was closed; we could talk about that forever. But we have got to stop talking and start doing.

So I challenge the Premier and all of us in this room that if we know young black men, young black women who have skills, or even if they do not have the skills, have the attitude to want to get ahead, you take some time, you take them yourself and go to Workforce Development. Do not just say, *Go see this person at Workforce Development*. They might be intimidated. You, as their MP, or whether you are their MP or not, take 5, 10, 15, 20 [minutes], an hour out of your time, and you make the appointment and you take that person there. You follow up. If they get a job, go there and make sure they are making their time. Because at the end of the day we have companies in this country which hire a Bermudian—a black Bermudian—six months later, *Oh, they did not quite work out*. That was just a ploy to say, *We gave them a chance*.

I have running battles with some of my colleagues about this issue—lack of skills meeting lack of opportunities. This Government, no matter what the Opposition says, we feel it. Do you know why? Every price that goes up in this country . . . we are not immune from those price raises. Every time somebody black loses their job, that is most likely going to affect someone in our family. We feel it. So I do not want to hear from the Opposition or some Members of the Opposition (let me be clear) about this Government is not doing enough, this Government is tanking the economy.

[Hon. Dennis P. Lister, Jr., Speaker, in the Chair]

Mr. Christopher Famous: Let me go on, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to thank you, Premier, and I want to thank, not just the Minister of Workforce Development, but the Minister of Education who put things in train. Most importantly, I want to thank the people at Workforce Development for putting this in train.

But let me move on, Mr. Speaker, because sometimes I feel like we are up here in a Game of Thrones or something . . . sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning I got a WhatsApp—

[Inaudible interjection]

JOB CREATION AND THE ECONOMY

Mr. Christopher Famous: I'm late but I am going to start.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning I got a WhatsApp from a gentleman who said, *Brother, I'm considering leaving the Island*.

So I said, *Why?*

[He said,] *I can't make it here with continuing expenses. Every time I look, the expenses are going up, every time.*

Again, let me repeat for the people of Bermuda, not one MP, not one Minister, is immune from the rising costs. It is not like we go into MarketPlace and they say, *Oh, Scott, you get 10 per cent off because you are an MP*. No, we get affected by it. Our families get affected by it. My daddy religiously goes to MarketPlace, Lindo's, and Arnold's every Wednesday. And every Wednesday he comes in shaking his head, *I don't what you byes are doing, Chris, because the prices keep going up*. He could tell me if a price had gone up \$0.10, and every week something has gone up.

But you know what, Mr. Speaker? Let us go on to reducing taxes. This Government has reduced duty on staple items—vegetables, some sodas and other items. Yet, when we go in MarketPlace those prices have gone up. But do we hear anything from certain people in the OBA? No.

Mr. Speaker, last week I wrote a piece about the price of mobile data. Everybody in here uses cell phones, half the Island—more than half—uses cell phones. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that Bermuda is the third most expensive place to have data? We spend almost four times what the lowest price is in the Caribbean. Why are our data prices higher? Yet when we put things in place to lower these, we hear chirps—*Oh, the Government's not doing anything*.

I understand why people are frustrated because prices are going up. But every time we try to do something to lower prices, what happens? The greedy—I am going to repeat that, the greedy—merchants and service providers in this country just continue to raise their prices. Mortgage rates are going up. So what happens? Our landlord has got to raise the rent. And then what is going to happen? People are going to say, *Oh, my rent's going up. I've got to move to a smaller place*. Somehow it becomes the Government's fault.

Mr. Speaker, let me touch on something. We are undergoing things called health care reform. A couple of months ago a certain company declared \$20 million profit—net profit. What did we see a couple of weeks later? Oh, premiums are going up—

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Famous: Not just a little 5 per cent, not a little 10 per cent, exponentially [*sic*] . . . that is not the right word, but it is going up.

An Hon. Member: Exponentially.

Mr. Christopher Famous: And, again, what do they do? They send out a letter and say it is the Government's fault. But we hear nothing from certain people in the OBA.

Now, I understand there are some of those who care about Bermudians, but why aren't the same

[complaints] about Arbitrade put on what BF&M is doing?

Some Hon. Members: Ah!

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Famous: Why are they not raising their voice about that?

[Inaudible interjections]

An Hon. Member: Well, well!
Not a word about that!

Mr. Christopher Famous: Now, I am going to say this: There is a certain Member here who has declared that they have interest in insurance companies. I ain't calling no names.

[Laughter]

An Hon. Member: Protect the guilty.

Mr. Christopher Famous: My point, Mr. Speaker, if you care about Bermudians, if you are a shareholder, speak up! Do not make it look like it is just the PLP fighting against Bermudians. You are sitting there being silent, collectively, while we are here fighting to lower things for Bermudians.

An Hon. Member: They won't do that!

Another Hon. Member: Keep those dividends coming!

Some Hon. Members: Yes, yes!

[Inaudible interjections]

Mr. Christopher Famous: Mr. Speaker, my point is this . . . anybody want to point of order me so I can sit down?

Mr. Speaker, may I continue?

Here is the thing, Mr. Speaker, every day . . . last week I spoke about social media. Social media is a gauge of how the people are feeling. The people are vexed right now—rightfully! This price has gone up, that price has gone up. But what is the quick thing they want to say? *Oh, it's the Government. Oh, it's tax!* Who is taxing the banks for them to raise their mortgage rates? I am going to suffer as a landlord because I am not going to raise my rent on my tenants. But my mortgage rate is going up—not because of Government. I am going to suffer because I am going to subsidise somebody's health insurance.

You see, Mr. Speaker, I am going to revert back to this young man. Like you, Mr. Speaker, I like to go out in my constituency and my people talk to

me, sometimes harshly. But the point I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is as a Government we were elected 17 months ago because we were to put Bermudians first. And in that effort to put Bermudians first, at times, the message gets lost when people see rising prices and they think, *Well, maybe they ain't putting us first.* We have to do a better job at communicating how we are doing this.

I am going to take personal responsibility. I am part of that, to help communicate that, but each one in the House has to do it as well. There is no Minister in here that can get all the message out by themselves. Whether you are Opposition or not, if you know it is a good policy [that] we are doing, speak to it.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish up here. On Game of Thrones they have a saying, *Winter's coming. Winter's coming.*

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Christopher Famous: No, but it is relevant at the moment.

In Bermuda the saying is, *Price increases are coming, Price increases are coming.* So I am saying this to every Minister in here: Continue to educate the people about what we are trying to do to lower the prices for Bermudians. Do not get sidetracked by some people, because they are not the ones speaking up about these price increases, for some reason.

So Mr. Speaker, I say this to the people of Bermuda: Continue to hold our feet to the fire, continue to demand that prices go down. But the reality is, as long as greedy merchants continue unabated, prices are going to go up. I am going to repeat it: As long as greed is considered good in this country prices—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Christopher Famous: It is not capitalism; it is something else. I do not want to say what the word is, it is greed—unadulterated greed. When you can tell me that on an island like St. Kitts, I could spend \$4 for a gigabyte, and here in Bermuda I have got to spend about \$12 for that same gigabyte, what is it? They are not paying import duty on data. It is not there anymore.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude here. In 2012, we had 35,443 people employed in jobs. In 2017, we had 33,653. Again, do the numbers. The same people that complained about us lost jobs. But the people do not want to hear that, Mr. Speaker. They do not. So I implore all of us not to bicker about this and that and the other, let us continue to educate the people about what is really happening in this country, because the war is not political. We will win the next election, I can guarantee that. But we will lose if the unadulterated greed in this country is allowed to continue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

I recognise the Honourable Member Commissioning.

Honourable Member, you have the floor.

SIR JOHN SWAN'S REACTIONARY RACIST COMMENTS

Mr. Rolfe Commissioning: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, earlier we had the Leader of the Opposition come out with the old canard from the 1980s or 1990s, the comments or analysis from John White about the fact that all things with respect to immigration into Bermuda, migration into Bermuda of foreign workers, is good. We had a number of persons on this side, including the Member from constituency 5 and the Member from constituency 32, including myself, who disputed that.

Mr. Speaker, during the time when we were preparing the final report of the Joint Select Committee, in one of the earlier versions of that report I had included this bit of research here from the UK Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, and with your indulgence I would like to convey this to the Members and the listening public.

That analysis found that empirical evidence would suggest that if immigrant workers, with respect to the native ways' distribution, are competing with low-skilled local workers, the effects can be negative when it comes to wage compression in particular. Although they found that the effects are more positive overall the further up the so-called distribution one looks as it relates to median to higher skilled workers.

Translation: Inundating a country with low-skilled, low-paid workers does not help your economy. They are directly competing against your own mostly non-college educated, low-skilled workers, who are having to endure, what I call, the race to the bottom on wages. And after 25 years since the great doubling that occurred with the globalisation, which led to a doubling of the world's workforce, Bermuda has not been immune to these effects. That is why you are hearing calls for higher wages in the US, UK, Bermuda—statutory wages, living wages—in an attempt to combat this trend.

So let's not have a one-size-fits-all on the issue of immigration. We have some more nuanced discussion that is required here.

Mr. Speaker, Harvard's Richard Freeman, for example, a professor there, wrote a book called *The Great Doubling: [The Challenge of the New Global Labor Market]*, and he focused on this. He specialises in looking at the global economy and migration trends and the like. And he said that during that time of the 1980s and 1990s, the global workforce doubled from 1.46 [billion] to 2.93 billion, coupled with the whole ethos around globalisation, the lowering of borders

and barriers (including migration and immigration), you see the result today—especially from places like Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and the like. Those who have been most impacted by that are, again, low-skilled non-college educated in these respective countries.

Mr. Speaker, I am just going to segue here to what is going to be the basis of my conversation, my discussion, today (and actually around the same topic of immigration to some degree). During Black History Month there was an infamous interview that occurred on ZBM News with Tari Trott being the host. Mr. Trott had his guests, the interviewees, Dame Jennifer Smith and Sir John Swan. The topic was Black History Month. Sir John Swan, when asked about Black History Month, basically opined that white Bermudians were not like the whites in the southern part of the US, after all. He went on to say that they did not lynch black Bermudians, for example. He said that on ZBM News during Black History Month. And if you are talking about an insult to black Bermudians, but particularly the black Bermudians of his generation, I do not think you could do much worse than that.

Sir John Swan grew up in that same neighbourhood with my family, my mother, the Talbots, that Government Gate, St. Monica's Mission, Marsh Folly neighbourhood. Even today my mother is hard core PLP, as you know. But you mention his name and a little twinkle comes to her eye because they were all little kids at 4, 5 and 6 years old running around that neighbourhood. But let us be under no illusion here on who Sir John Swan is. And he keeps reminding us, even at this late age with his tap-dancing for those who form the most reactionary and racist elements in Bermudian society.

In 1954, for example, only three years before I was born, Sir John Swan would have already been in his late teens or early 20s. Mr. Hill (I forget his name, there was an article in the paper, he was a shipwright) builds miniature ships. And it was a great article there. And you know he was tied into that whole Bailey's Bay/Eastern Counties matrix of families down there. He related that what drove him initially to wanting to become a lawyer was an event that took place, I guess, around 1954, only three years before I was born. Down in the square in St. George's a neighbour of his, a relatively young man, teenager, had stolen a bike. Do you know the authorities took him down to the square in St. George's, tied him to a stake and whipped him publicly?

I did not say 1924, Mr. Speaker, I did not say 1890—1954. That was the world where Sir John Swan grew up, a world that saw blacks probably earning \$1 for every \$4 that a similarly qualified white person would have made in this country; a world that saw a House of Assembly that may have had, at that time, no more than 7, 8 or 9 MPs even though blacks even at that period were the majority in the country.

But they didn't lynch us.

[Laughter]

Mr. Rolfe Commissiong: But it does not end there. Let us fast forward now to a few weeks ago. Sir John Swan, again, their go-to person, was on . . . was it ZBM News again? This time being interviewed by Toni Waterman (and I have been on her show actually) in the presence of two white *foreign* journalists—this is important—on the issue of immigration.

Now, I am going to say this, we can all have a difference here on immigration. Our Minister, Minister Caines, is grappling with that issue now, coming with a set of recommendations. And it is going to lead to a robust debate. That should be. Some will have a more liberal view on immigration, some perhaps a more conservative view of how far the country should go. That is all fair. That is what we should have in a democracy as we have.

But Sir John Swan, who clearly wants to see a more liberal immigration regime did not stop there. He then looked over and glared at Toni Waterman . . . and said, *No, we need to open up immigration* (I am paraphrasing here), *and I mean rich white people*. And the veins almost came out of his neck when he said it. I mean, he is 83 years old, but he is still doing the tap dance for the most reactionary, racist elements in Bermuda society. And I started thinking, hey, it has worked for him for 50 or 60 years. Ah! Translate that into the ability to tap into sources of patronage and capital throughout his career, by saying what racists in Bermuda wanted to hear.

Left a legacy where black Bermudians are still a minority presence both in ownership and in terms of high-level jobs within Bermuda's private sector. That is Sir John Swan's legacy, not the legacy of people like Lloyd James and people we talk about. That is who Sir John Swan is. You want to know why there is only one Patrick Tannock? Look no further than John Swan. Do you want to know why there is only one Sir John Swan? Look no further than . . .

Mr. Speaker, our Premier, thank God (I was away) heard about it, got up and told them, *Listen, we will take investment from wherever it comes*. As long as they can pass the Bermuda standard, I might add—Indian, Chinese, African. Come on, guys, Bermuda is open for business. But Sir John Swan still tap dances as if it is 1967.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a positive here and let me tell you what it is. ZBM following that . . . I mean the story had legs, right? Let us be honest about it. ZBM went and did a men-and-women-in-the-street interview. They interviewed about seven or eight or nine people—a little lengthier than usual—and at least about half of those people were white. I assume most were white residents and/or Bermudians. To their credit . . . to their credit, each one of them repudiated what Sir John Swan said—every white person they interviewed. *No, I don't think that should be a litmus test*. In other words, like our Premier said,

we should welcome investment from wherever. They repudiated Sir John Swan, and kudos to them! It may show us that there is a growing number of white Bermudians who are starting to get it and are rejecting this whole white identity politics, which has been such a feature of Bermuda in the modern era.

And also does Sir John Swan not hear the words of people like Jonathan Reiss and others within Bermuda's international business sector over the last year and a half, two years, who have said, *We need more racial inclusion?* Jonathan Reiss, to his credit, I called him and praised him behind the scenes. He and I are having an ongoing conversation around these issues. I know his sister; I know the family going back years. But I am saying Jonathan Reiss said that white supremacy is a problem. And conscious and unconscious bias is a problem. And you know who enables that problem? John Swan is not the cause of it, do not get me wrong; but he has been a powerful enabler of that status quo throughout Bermuda.

But those are the positives. And if we can keep seeing what I call these racial justice warriors in Bermuda's community come out and be prepared to speak publicly and say, *No, we are not going to affirm that type of thinking*—whether it is coming from a front man like Sir John Swan or from those who he is trying to impress—Bermuda is going to continue to be better off and we can put this issue behind us, which is what they claim they want to do. But this is how you do it.

So let us today, in this House, unequivocally, unreservedly, reject what Sir John Swan says, condemn what Sir John Swan says, and let us make that a bipartisan effort on our part.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Mr. Premier, I recognise you.

Hon. E. David Burt: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be too long this afternoon—

The Speaker: Thank you very much.

BIASED MEDIA

Hon. E. David Burt: —as I think that a few of us are hungry. I know that you are, and you had a snickers bar Sylvan and that has been talked about?

[Inaudible interjections]

An Hon. Member: Diet soda.

Hon. E. David Burt: The diet soda? That is what you need? I had a diet Coke, so I am all right.

And Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of sound and fury today. A lot of sound and fury coming from Members who have no solutions, who have noth-

ing left but to try to attack and to try to tear down. And despite the fact that there is progress on so many fronts inside this country, they will constantly find a way and a need, aided and abetted by their friends in the media. And it is particularly interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition Leader himself who, I will say, has a history of making statements which are not necessarily aligned with fact—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER
[Misleading]

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes, the Honourable Member, the Premier, is misleading the House. He started off by essentially saying that I was misleading the House, [but] I have not said anything today other than facts that I have in front of me.

The Speaker: Let us try and keep all comments factual.

Hon. E. David Burt: Oh, Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker: Premier, if you got something you want to be factual about, be factual about it, but support it with the facts.

Hon. E. David Burt: I am absolutely happy to keep things factual, Mr. Speaker.

And here is what I will say, Mr. Speaker, because when I say . . . when I say . . . when I say “friends in the media,” Mr. Speaker, I am not making it up. I am not making it up at all, because today the *Royal Gazette* has given us the example of the home field advantage that they give to the One Bermuda Alliance.

And let me just make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, because on numerous occasions the Honourable Opposition Leader, who has a habit of making statements which may not exactly be in line with the facts, decided to do the same thing again today. Printed inside the *Royal Gazette* in an opinion piece called “What’s good for the goose . . .”—

Hon. L. Craig Cannonier: Yes.

Hon. E. David Burt: —and he went on with his opinion piece about what is good for the goose and spoke about the fact of payroll tax charges and credit cards . . . and then, of course, ended the statement with something which has already been disproven by the budget numbers, but somehow just must sound good inside of the polling which they do in their focus groups.

It says (and I quote): “One would [also] think that with an extra \$2.5 million having been allocated for its communication efforts, the Government would be able to implement a fail-safe process to approve a press release.”

Now we know, Mr. Speaker, that there is not \$2.5 million extra in communications. But that will not stop the Opposition Leader or his friends over there from saying it.

But here is where the story turns, Mr. Speaker (and Chris please bring up the website and screenshot it before they put it back, right quick—please, please, please). This is important, Mr. Speaker, when the Opposition Leader gets called out by someone who will never be called a friend of the Progressive Labour Party, Mr. Bryant Trew . . . I am going to read to exactly what Bryant Trew wrote in response to the Opposition Leader.

And the reason why I can read it for you, Mr. Speaker, is because you will not find it on the *Royal Gazette* website right now because they took it down. But I was lucky enough to still have the page on my phone to screenshot it so I can read, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what it says.

It says, from Bryant Trew: “[This opinion piece](#) is trying to mislead voters by taking the Minister of Finance’s statement out of context. It is extremely disappointing to see the OBA resort to the same disinformation attacks the PLP used on them. If you are going to resort to the same dishonest tactics, you will not gain any support from independent thinkers/voters. From the budget statement: ‘Tax Collection and Accounts Receivable’” and it goes on, Mr. Speaker, to basically say exactly what was in the Budget Statement.

But guess what? It is no longer on the website, Mr. Speaker. It has now been replaced with a comment attacking the PLP. So when I say “their friends in the media,” there it is for you in black and white . . . plain and simple, Mr. Speaker.

So, now I am going to go back to my comments because when we speak about bias from the daily newspaper, everyone who is listening now sees the bias from the daily newspaper, when someone who is no fan of the Government has the temerity to attack them, the comment gets deleted. And now there are comments attacking the Government. Shock and surprise—not for me, Mr. Speaker.

Because here we go again, and the one thing that I want to say, Mr. Speaker, as I have said on numerous occasions, is what we have here is the past versus the future. And it is important to recognise the difference between the past versus the future because people who speak about the past are stuck in the past. And not only are they stuck in the past, but they have old ideas. The old ideas, Mr. Speaker, play themselves out when we have individuals who will sit here and defend the status quo at all cost.

Now here is the thing, Mr. Speaker, I do not blame them! Because if I was defending my pockets, I would defend it too. If I was a shareholder of an insurance company that is pocketing money off of Government, I would defend it too. But guess what, Mr. Speaker? I am not. So I am standing up for the people of this country.

Now when we talk about the past versus . . . I hear the noise now, Mr. Speaker, because they are getting nervous. They are getting nervous, because when we talk about the future, Mr. Speaker, it is very, very, very important—very important—to put in context what is going on in the world. The world is changing. And this year I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, something which was an invitation which I certainly [accepted], and something without question that was beneficial.

But Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me, I want to read from the World Economic Forum's manifesto this year. And it says that governments have three basic options when confronted with the challenges of the world faced by the fourth industrial revolution—three options.

The first option which they have is to protect those who have been left behind from the transformative changes brought by the fourth industrial revolution [41R], thereby gaining short-term political advantage, but ultimately setting the stage for erosion of competitiveness.

Item number two, which I am going to call the One Bermuda Alliance approach, follow a *laissez-faire* policy which requires the business community to be ready and able to serve as a strong catalyst and mover. Mr. Speaker, the business community in this country will protect *their* interests, not the peoples' interests.

The third is mobilise all forces to fully embrace the fourth industrial revolution and achieve a leadership position, recognising that the principle of the future global economy will no longer reflect Adam Smith's division of comparative advantages, but rather a world characterised by a complex interplay between platforms and systems that cross national boundaries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is a mouthful. But let me make clear what it says, Mr. Speaker. The world is changing. Boundaries are falling. We have to think differently. This Government will make absolutely no apologies for measuring, for understanding, but acting with deliberate intention to change the status and structure of this economy.

When we talk about health care, Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognise that from the Government Health Insurance Programme (which is the administered standard hospital benefit) and the money which is going to insurance companies over the last five years, Mr. Speaker, \$80 million of that benefit has gone to administration, bonuses and profits and not

towards health care. Let me say that number again—\$80 million.

An Hon. Member: Wow!

Hon. E. David Burt: Eight-zero. I want to make sure you got that.

So Mr. Speaker, when we talk about making health insurance more fair, what do we get from the Opposition? Opposition—simple.

They talk about costs of living inside of the country. That is what they speak about, Mr. Speaker. They will not tell anyone that they raised energy taxes to the highest level ever, but yet they will then talk about it. They will not say anything when the Government proposes to put in place programmes that will cut peoples' mortgage rates. What do they do? What do we get from the Opposition? Opposition.

The question is, Mr. Speaker, who are they protecting? They, Mr. Speaker, are protecting the status quo. It is what they do. It is their *modus operandi* and, as everyone can see, they are easily aided and abetted by the media. And I have now today proven the fact that they are aided and abetted by the media.

So now, Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: What is number four?

Hon. E. David Burt: Now, Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: You said four.

Hon. E. David Burt: Three options, but thank you.

But here is the thing, Mr. Speaker, and this is what is important, because when we talk about transformational change, making sure that systems are fair, making sure that money is going to be put to work, I want to put the people of this country on notice, Mr. Speaker, that despite the sound and fury from the Opposition, we will not be deterred. The people of this country voted for a fairer and better Bermuda and this is going to require deliberate action on behalf of them tackling the status quo.

Understand, Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member from constituency 11 said, it is our responsibility to tell the people of the country the destination and it is our responsibility to tell the people of this country that this change will not be easy. When you are going after peoples' vested interests which they believe is their divine right to have, they will fight to the death to protect it.

But make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this Progressive Labour Party Government will not bow, we will not cower, and we will press on. Because there is something that I say in every single Cabinet meeting and every single caucus meeting, Mr. Speaker, and it is very simple—if we say we cannot change it, then there is no reason for us to be here. We have the power to make the fundamental changes. So when we

begin to take on the banks and when we begin to take on the insurers and when we begin to take on the grocers—the forces which are making prices high in this country, forcing persons to struggle—we are going to be on the side of the people, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. E. David Burt: There is potential inside of the community here and in the next few months—starting now with health insurance—moving on to banking and then touching other matters, Mr. Speaker, we are going to provide economic opportunity by doing what? And I am not going to say it in a fashion that might upset persons, I am going to say it right here. Inside of this country, Mr. Speaker, every single person, just like every single person who is working is forced to pay health insurance, which goes to health insurers, and they are able to take \$80 million over the next five years, every single person in this country is also forced to pay for other things and they are called pensions. And guess where all that pension money sits, Mr. Speaker, Colonial, BF&M, Argus, [and] other places. Well guess what, Mr. Speaker? When we said the Bermuda Fund we are going to create a fund in this country that is going to provide access to capital for people who did not have it.

And let me say this, Mr. Speaker, these are the types of things that will happen. And so I serve it as an advance notice that just like how we are hearing the squealing on insurance, we will hear the squealing on insurance then. Our job is not to have money that is forced to pad peoples' profits. Our job is to make sure that money is set to transform this economy, Mr. Speaker. We will make things more efficient, we will get rid of old rules, and we will continue to make things better. This is just the start.

And the final thing which I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that I encourage every single person in this country to continue to speak up. Continue to express your thoughts; continue to express your opinions. Take the opportunity to engage with myself when I have my monthly Lunch and Learn. Take the opportunity to meet with us on the doorstep and express your opinion. And we will go ahead and share the message as well, because there is one thing for sure, Mr. Speaker, if you are relying on the *Royal Gazette* to get the truth . . . just like today, they will cover up anything that gets in the way of their preferred Government being in a good light.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Members.

We stand and we will return next week Friday, the 17th of May at 10:00 am.

Have yourselves a good week. Remember some of the topics of how we should conduct our-

selves and I look forward to seeing that exercised here in these Chambers.

Have a good weekend, Members.

[Gavel]

The Speaker: One thing for all our female Members, I should be wishing you a Happy Mother's Day on behalf of the House. Happy Mother's Day! Enjoy your Mother's Day.

[At 3:19 pm, the House stood adjourned until 10:00 am, Friday, 17 May 2019.]

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