

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**  
**STATE OPENING AND BUDGET MEETING 2011/12 SESSION**  
**THURSDAY**  
**16 JUNE 2011**  
**11.20 AM**  
*Fourth Sitting*

**The Speaker:** I will call on the Honourable [Temporary] First Official Member to say Prayers at this time.

**PRAYERS**

**Hon. Franz Manderson:** Let us pray.

*Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.*

*Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Charles, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Cabinet and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.*

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together: *Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

*The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always. Amen.*

**The Speaker:** Good morning everyone. Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

**READING BY THE HONOURABLE  
SPEAKER OF MESSAGES  
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Speaker:** I have no messages or announcements this morning.

**STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE  
MEMBERS AND MINISTERS  
OF THE CABINET**

**The Speaker:** I have no notice of statements by Honourable Members and Ministers of the Cabinet.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS**

**SECOND READING**

**Appropriation (July 2011 to June 2012) Bill, 2011**

**Debate on the Budget Address and the Throne  
Speech**

*[Continuation of debate thereon]*

**The Speaker:** When we concluded the sitting yesterday evening, the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman had just completed his contribution to the debate.

Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[*pause*] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[*pause*] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[*pause*]

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be able to make a contribution in respect to the Budget and the Throne Speech at the same time, Madam Speaker.

I can say that I have had the privilege to be in this honourable House for just about two years. I think that in the early days in terms of contributions to the Budget and the Throne Speech, there were perhaps some limitations. I believe that a significant degree of time has passed, and I have been honoured and privileged to have been engaged in quite a significant degree of activities over the past two years. So, in that sense, I feel obliged to stand here, as well as honoured, to be able to make a contribution.

Madam Speaker, I note that there is a discussion in terms of the themes that we should be using, and I know that the Premier mentioned one. I heard the Member for North Side mention another. But, Madam Speaker, I suppose the theme that I would use

and that I continue to use since I entered this honourable House, is that it is a Government today that continues to do very much with very little. And I contrast that to what we had previously which, in my humble opinion, as evidential, I believe, in the minds of many people, was a situation of where we had those who did very little with very much.

Madam Speaker, without a doubt there is a lot of misinformation that is being propagated out there in the wider public. And I believe that all of us as elected officials should definitely take that responsibility on board, Madam Speaker, and that is to ensure that we try to get the facts out and try to give some clarity.

Madam Speaker, let me start by saying that I think it is natural, because I heard the Third Elected Member for George Town talking about the position that the people of this country are taking. I think he mentioned specifically some of the polls that would have been run by some of the media houses. It is natural that you are going to have members of the general public today, if you ask them, there are going to be doubts in their minds as to what the situation truly is on the ground. What is the Government doing? What are the true affairs of the country?

Madam Speaker, I am not surprised by that. I am not surprised because as I just previously stated, there is a lot of misinformation. Even some media houses, for some reason or another, seem unwilling to do what they can in terms of propagating the facts, Madam Speaker. They have taken one side or another. I suppose that is part of the democratic process now.

But, Madam Speaker, there is reasonableness. If there is anyone out there who is going to have doubts, I hope that we can offer some degree of evidence that allows the general public to be able to see that progress is being made. So, Madam Speaker, let me start again by highlighting in brief some of the circumstances as we found it on the ground when we took office.

I know that those on the other side, and some of the people who support them, do not like to hear the past. And that, Madam Speaker, is just one of the things we are going to have to deal with. You see, because the fact remains that here we are, for example in 2011, and let me give an example. [In the year] 2011 we are here. And any one of us today that was alive when we had that famous event of September 11<sup>th</sup> would understand why things have changed, for example, when we now travel in our airports.

Perhaps to someone just born or even some that were for some reason or another unaware, maybe they may not understand why some of those challenges exist in our airports today. But for those of us, for example, who saw the events of 9/11, there is utmost clarity as to why we face some of the challenges we face with flying.

I give you that as an example, Madam Speaker, because that is somewhat 10 years ago and

because that is the relevance of the past, and the relevance of history. You cannot truly understand the position you are in today and appreciate it, nor can you chart the course for the future if you do not have an understanding of where you are coming from, if you do not have grounding in terms of the history. So, irrespective of what those on the other side of the aisle may seek and prefer, the history is important.

Madam Speaker, when we took office . . . and for the benefit of clarity, primarily for the general public, there is no doubt that the United Democratic Party, in terms of the Government, understood that we were in some serious circumstances. But, Madam Speaker, as we took office, there had to become to an even further realisation that things were perhaps even worse than we had thought.

Madam Speaker, I believe it would be fair to say that pretty much when other governments would have engaged in a sort of single budgetary process for the year, that this Administration found itself going through three budgets. And, Madam Speaker, that is for, amongst other things, a very fundamental reason. And that is because what had changed between the previous Administration and this Administration is that the Government of the day was no longer the sole decider of whether they were going to bring a budget to the House to approve it or not. That decision now rests, Madam Speaker, in part in the global recession and in part, equally if not more importantly, Madam Speaker, in the way that the previous Administration managed the fiscal affairs of this country. And the seriousness cannot be understated.

For anyone out there managing their own budgets in their own homes, before they can decide what they are going to pay, whether it is their mortgage, whether it is a loan, whether they are going to spend \$300 on groceries, regardless of what it is, if they could picture for a second that before they can technically put pen to paper and make a decision on their behalf or on behalf of their family that they had to go to someone else to get approval it starts to give an inkling of what we have to deal with in this country.

When the Premier talks about in this modern history of the 187 years that we have never found ourselves in a position where we had to go cap-in-hand to the UK to deal with a desk clerk to be able to decide how we are going to spend our money . . . Madam Speaker, I stated before I entered this honourable House, and my position has not changed today. We can talk about it from a constitutional standpoint or we can talk about it from a financial standpoint, but my position is that the only true form of independence is financial independence.

And let it be clear, Madam Speaker, that insofar as what we inherited in terms of what was handed to us from the previous Administration, the financial independence of the country has been removed. It is significant, Madam Speaker, because even today there is the misinformation as to why is it taking so

long for this Government to come to this honourable House and to present a Budget.

But you see, Madam Speaker, in my opinion, any Member of this Parliament worth their salt in being honest, truthful and frank to the people of this country, is going to explain to them—including the Opposition—why we have challenges bringing a Budget. It is because the Government of the day cannot simply decide how it wants and where it wants to spend the money. They have to deal with a desk clerk in the United Kingdom before they can do so. That is what honest, candid, frank representation would do, Madam Speaker.

In my opinion, Madam Speaker, whether expressly misleading the members of the general public or whether misleading them by the default by not saying anything, Madam Speaker, whether it is the Members of the Opposition or anyone else failing to do so, Madam Speaker, they are not being good representatives. They are misleading the public. If the public does not receive accurate information, if they are not properly informed, then they cannot make accurate and informed decisions.

And so, Madam Speaker, to add insult to injury, not only those on the other side of the aisle have left this country robbed of its financial independence, having us crippled as individuals and as a Government and as a country and as a people, having to go to the United Kingdom to ask how we can spend our money, but they add insult to injury by not even getting out there and being candid and frank with the people as to why there are challenges in terms of the Government presenting a Budget.

So that's clarity; at least clarity number one, Madam Speaker, in terms of the situation.

Madam Speaker, with respect to the Government and the deficit, again, the misinformation and what you will not read, necessarily, on some of the blogs or hear from some of the media houses, Madam Speaker, is the true position in terms of the deficit. The misinformation now that is being spread is, *Well, are we really sure that's what the deficit was?*

And the masses out there are busy going about their daily lives, working, at the end of the day depending on the information to come from the sources, not having all the facts and figures for themselves, some of them even begin to doubt that.

Did the Government truly inherit an \$81 million deficit? Madam Speaker, I am here to tell not just the Members, not just the people in the district of George Town, but everyone in these three lovely Islands that we call home, let there be no doubt about it, what this Government inherited was an \$81 million deficit.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Operating deficit. And \$120 million in capital, Madam Speaker.

And, Madam Speaker, to bring it home about this \$81 million deficit, we are talking about a lot of money that you are coming up short. The individuals out there, again by analogy, are paying their bills. If they are making \$5,000 a month and their bills are coming up to \$6,000, \$7,000 or \$8,000, then we call that a deficit. They are not making enough revenue. Their salary of \$5,000 is insufficient to pay their bills of \$8,000. In that case, they have a \$3,000 deficit because their \$5,000 salary is \$3,000 short to meet the \$8,000 that is required. That household has a \$3,000 deficit.

What that previous Administration does not want to admit they handed to this Government, and what some media houses are trying to keep away from the general public, is that our deficit was not \$3,000 a month—it was \$81 million. That is a lot of money. Any way you want to paint it, Madam Speaker, that is a lot of money. Therefore, at the end of the day, Madam Speaker, this ship was carrying (if you want to put it this way) 81 million tons on its back. That is what we were doing.

I heard the Premier mention once about being up to the scuppers. Well, that's the little area that when you sweep the ship you can push all the water right through those holes. We call that the scupper.

Eighty one million dollars, Madam Speaker, of weight on this ship was the situation. Eighty one million dollars of weight on this particular ship, and you have to wonder why we didn't sink. So, when there are persons in the general public who are trying to find their way through the quagmire of misinformation by the Opposition and those who support them, this ship that we inherited had \$81 million tons of deficit on it. And the Government, in the activities just in that first round, Madam Speaker . . . did we remove all of the 81 tons? No! Down to 30 million plus.

But I can tell you what, Madam Speaker, that's 50 million tons less, and the ship started to rise a little bit. And we could float in the water a little better than we were floating when we had to carry 81 million tons on our backs. And that is the burden that the people of this country have to find.

When you hear the Opposition talking about all the taxes and where all of the taxes are coming from, and why the Government did not just give the people a break, Madam Speaker, what household finds itself in a position where when the breadwinners find that they make \$5,000 a month and their bills are \$3,000 more (therefore they are coming up \$3,000 short), who cries in the household, *You need to get more money and give it to us?* They are not going to cry that. Because everyone in that household is in full recognition that we are already in a shortfall; we already have a deficit. We are already \$3,000 short.

So why, Madam Speaker, do you supposedly have responsible Members of the Opposition knowing that they left the country with a financial situation of an \$81 million deficit, yet they are still out there crying

and asking, *Why the people have to pay more bills and why we are not giving out, why we are not spending more, why we are not giving more breaks—why?*

Misleading the general public, Madam Speaker. That is what it is. And you see it is convenient politics, because people are hurting and they do want relief. And sometimes in those challenging times when people want relief, Madam Speaker, they just want relief. And, what the Opposition right now, for political expedience, is saying to some is convenient.

I think it was Nathan Bailey who said in 1782 "Hungry belly don't have no ears." Because when someone is hungry, Madam Speaker, and they are having difficulties putting food on the table, they say a drowning man clings to anything. And there are a lot of people, let there be no doubt about that, that are hurting!

But I am going to say it today as I have said it before, when they are hurting, and we are talking about having to pay more for groceries, having to pay more for electricity, having to pay more for fuel, let's put that blame squarely where it belongs, Madam Speaker, and that is on the previous Administration that left this country in an \$81 million operational deficit. We all know that the monies have to be found somewhere, Madam Speaker, in order for us to make up for that shortfall, to try to balance the books. And why are we trying to balance the books?

So that this does not take on an abstract commentary, Madam Speaker, the Government does not just try to balance books so that we can see equal figures on both sides of the accounting sheet. No, Madam Speaker. We try to balance the books because there are persons out there in the general public who require services. In order to provide those services the general public calls for, whether it is the \$8,000 at social services, whether it is the person who is going to utilise our Health Services Authority to the tune of millions and millions dollars, the Government has to find the money somewhere.

So, in making up for the operational deficit, we find ourselves in the position . . . to provide the services for you, to provide the services for the people of this country we have to find the money somewhere.

Madam Speaker, I have said it before, and I have heard at least one Member of the Opposition try to taunt me about it, but I am going to say it again so that we can record it for the records and they can have something to say during the elections. When this Government got elected, the United Kingdom, let it be no doubt, wanted the Cayman Islands Government, the UDP Government, to institute taxes—payroll tax, income tax, property tax, you name it. So, everyone listening to me right now, Madam Speaker, that has a really nice house worth a quarter of a million dollars or four hundred thousand [dollars] . . . well, do the calculations if you were paying the 2 per cent on property tax right now.

And, Madam Speaker, if the owners of those households right now have challenges and difficulties to find the \$7000 a [year] required for home insurance, imagine the Government following the directives of the United Kingdom and tacking onto that a property tax for another \$7000 or \$8000.

Let me ask anyone in this honourable House or in the general public, your choice, your decision, you are in the driver's seat, you make the decisions today. What do you tell your people? Give them \$8000 in property tax or a few dollars extra on the gas? And, Madam Speaker, we had to choose the lesser of two evils. And the \$8000 in property tax is a lesser evil to drawing \$10 million that was taken from the fuel tax.

Let's talk about their income. Let's talk about the person out there who is now happy to be able to take home nominally real wages of \$5,000. And everybody, when it's convenient, wants to compare the Cayman Islands to the United States. Madam Speaker, if we as the Government follow the directives or dictates of the United Kingdom, or follow what the PPM had left for us, Madam Speaker, we would be drawing 20 per cent, 30 per cent, 40 per cent out of peoples' salary.

So, Madam Speaker, I can assure you that, just like the United States, if somebody here was willing to pay 10 per cent, 20 per cent, 35 per cent of their salary in an income tax as an example, I do not think the Government would have a reason to talk about tacking a tax on the fuel. But, Madam Speaker, that is not an option. It may have been an option for that Administration, [but it is] not an option for this one.

Madam Speaker, that is why I have stated publicly that I believe the good people of this country, when they are informed, understand about the true circumstances of the 81 million tons of weight put on their backs, and recognise that we are taking it to [\$]30 [million] and even beyond, almost to the point of balancing it so there is no additional weight from the deficit on the people of this country. The answer is crystal clear. We are making advances to coming out of this dark situation we inherited as a country.

And the good people of this country recognise that as difficult as it is, for example, to pay the tax on the fuel, yet, the other option of an additional \$7000 or \$8000 for every owner of a residence, or of a person losing 10 per cent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent, whatever that percentage is of their salary is worse. I believe that when they are faced with the true facts, Madam Speaker, just like this Government was in 2009, that we can all appreciate, we can all sit down, and we can all agree that those options taken by the Government, Madam Speaker, with the institution of those charges on the fuel—as painful as it is—is a better option than the other evils that we had.

Madam Speaker, I have said it before. I asked the people of this country to forgive me. If I could go without putting a single tax on, I can assure you this

Government would not have done it. But those were the options we were faced with. Those are the realities.

On the furtherance of progress, Madam Speaker, I am sure that there are other Members of the Government who may seek to discuss their areas, but I would like to discuss some of the areas for which I have some shared responsibility.

Again, I would like to give my thanks to the Cabinet, and obviously to the Premier who upon taking office, despite some Members on the other side of the hall seeking to tear down, degrade that particular thing . . . they can call it whatever they want, Madam Speaker. I refer to it now as a Ministerial Council, for which I share responsibilities in some areas. Whatever title the Opposition would like to call it, they can do whatever. I appreciate the Government of the day and the Premier giving me the opportunity to engage in some of those responsibilities so that I can better serve the people of these Islands.

Madam Speaker, I am a strong believer that everything we do as politicians, fundamentally, is to ensure that we can strengthen the family unit; that good old-fashioned, traditional family unit. That is what it is all about, making the Cayman Islands a good place to raise our children, make it a good place to live, make it a good place to be educated, make it a good place to retire and, yes, Madam Speaker, even a good place to be buried. That's what we work for.

And so, Madam Speaker, during the elections in 2009, one of the areas that I talked about was the issue of housing. I recognised then, and, again, by contrast if nothing else, to show the advances that we have made, I criticise the previous Administration (which now sits on the other side of this honourable House) because despite the fact that they stood here and talked about the fact that they were engaging in (and these are their words, Madam Speaker) "the largest capital expenditure that the country has ever seen" . . . not my words, Madam Speaker. Search the *Hansards*. That is what they said. "We are engaging in the largest capital expenditure that the country has ever seen."

And despite those words and their actions, because I can assure you and the Members of this House and the public that spend they said, and they spent indeed! And in all of the millions and millions and millions of dollars that were spent, that Administration, just on the issue of housing, did not build one single affordable home.

The Member for East End comes every day . . . and I don't know if he is coming on behalf of someone else, Madam Speaker, but nearly every day he has a question about housing. His questions on housing should have come while he was here for four years. They should have come when the Leader . . . well, not even the leader now. I'm not sure. But it should have come when he was in the Government.

That was the time to inquire as to what is taking place with respect to housing.

When they were making the statements that they were engaging the largest capital expenditure that the country had ever seen, that was the time for that Member to come down to this honourable House and talk about what they were doing for housing. But, Madam Speaker, he did not do that. He did not do that because it was not convenient at the time; but it is convenient now. And that is why I continue, and will continue to refer to them as domino politicians. They sat right here, played their hand and lost. And now they can sit on the other side of the aisle and tell everyone how they should play theirs.

But when we talk about making progress, Madam Speaker, I have shown that we made progress with that deficit when the Government took it from \$81 million to pretty much balancing the budget so that the ship is carrying no additional weight. Let there be no doubt that the quagmire through all of the misinformation that the Opposition wants to send out is progress. And remember, I said in terms of the theme, this is a Government that has done very much with very little. Contrasted to the previous Administration, Madam Speaker—let history be the judge—of those who did very little with very much.

When we are down into the deficit trying to figure out how we are even going to balance the books, Madam Speaker, we still have managed so far to put 40-plus houses in the ground. And what does that mean, Madam Speaker? Forty houses means that there were hundreds of Caymanians being employed because this Government—with the little resources that we had—was able to do what they said could not have been done in the country for years.

We did not bring in foreign labour, although we got approached. We did not create moulds and just have someone pour concrete and slap a metal roof on it. No, Madam Speaker! We did everything we could to make sure that materials were purchased locally and that we were employing local labour. Not like what the previous Administration did, Madam Speaker.

I am going to draw on that again—not like what they did! When they were going to build schools in excess of \$200 million, and you can't find one Caymanian on the jobsite, right down to the photocopying, which was sent overseas. And yet, I am now hearing the Third Elected Member for George Town, the previous Minister of Labour, complaining.

Photocopying sent overseas, Madam Speaker.

And yet, they have the audacity to come down to this honourable House with parliamentary questions on what is happening with housing, like they have to be the wonderful watchdogs to make sure that everything goes fine for housing. They did nothing, Madam Speaker!

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So with those actions . . . and the Member, the then Leader of Government Business who was responsible for housing—I draw in the full openness and transparency we love around here, Madam Speaker—is not even in the House to hear of those shortcomings.

So, Madam Speaker, we are talking about hundreds of Caymanians having an opportunity, all local contractors, Madam Speaker, being able to be employed in terms of the construction of those homes. And that means, Madam Speaker, that very soon the keys will be handed over and the doors will be opened to Caymanians who . . . not just one individual, but families. When I talk about families—the place to raise their children, the place to live, the place to retire, and the place to be buried. Those are the persons who are going to occupy those homes.

It was those numbers of families that when the previous Administration had 700-plus applications sitting on their desks—that the Member for East End should have come down here with housing . . . 700 applications, plus! As a matter of fact, I think, if my memory serves me right, which it normally does, it was 726. And, Madam Speaker, let me show you now . . . you don't get mother and father applying at the same time. No. You get one of them. That is 726 applications representing 726 families.

And how do I know that the people have confidence despite the polls that they may want to quote? Because the applications increased when this Government took office, Madam Speaker. Do you know why? They had a ray of hope. They finally realised that a Government had been elected that, despite the deficit, despite all of those shortcomings, would do very much with very little. And so we did, Madam Speaker. Forty-plus houses. And I would like to say it proudly, just for the sake of the Member for East End, we started in East End!

We started it in East End, so he can't even talk about it being all for political expedience that we started in George Town. We started in East End!

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** It wasn't in West Bay. So we can't come with that argument either. The first place we started, Madam Speaker, for those who may want to attack us on the politics when it's convenient, we started in the district where we did not even have a candidate.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** In fact, Madam Speaker, despite the fact that he seeks to throw wrenches, we started in a district that we do not even have a representative and we built beautiful homes up there, Ma-

dam Speaker. And then we moved from there to the district of West Bay and built approximately 29 homes.

And now, Madam Speaker, finally coming now to George Town to replace some of the homes that had been constructed before that need to be changed out, Madam Speaker. And I want to preface this too. I do not want for that to be misinterpreted.

I appreciate 100 per cent the efforts made many years ago by Dr. Frank McField in terms of the construction of those homes. Yes, Madam Speaker, I have my complaints; there is no doubt about that. I can gripe like everyone else. But there is one thing I can say about Dr. Frank McField: he did a lot more than the PPM did. He built something, Madam Speaker! And for that he deserves to be commended.

So, Madam Speaker, when the misinformation is being spread, when all of the questions on where we are with housing are coming down here by the Member for East End, so that there is no one in the public for a second that may be duped by the Member for East End that all of a sudden he cares about housing, he cares about the good people of this country and thus he asks his questions . . . let me rephrase it; let me paraphrase it; let me restate, Madam Speaker. That was a question he was supposed to ask four, five, six years ago—and he did not do it. And that is when they had all of the money in the world. And they did not do it.

Not all of them complained, Madam Speaker.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** *[addressing inaudible interjection].* Yes

And, Madam Speaker, just on housing, because I am going to exhaust it . . . I understand I have two hours to speak and I wouldn't want to lose a second of it. Madam Speaker, I do not want to leave my good friend from North Side out.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Yes, yes, I cannot miss North Side.

Madam Speaker, I wish to make it abundantly clear that the question is being raised even about North Side. If there is a reason right now, for example, that there is not a house constructed at the moment in North Side, it was because of some back and forth between him and the Minister with respect to land acquisition, he wanted to have another one. And the list goes on.

But I want to promise the good people of North Side as well, that if Ellio Solomon, or this Government, has anything to do with it they are going to get affordable homes as well.

And so, we are constructing now in George Town, and after we are finished with George Town we are going to Bodden Town. And for emphasis I will

restate: After George Town we are then going to Bodden Town, the fastest growing district, as the Census highlights.

I know that one of the questions the Member asked before (and he asked me this at a public meeting so I feel free to mention it today) was why the houses are unoccupied. You see? Again, it just amazes me the concern that he has now as to why the houses are unoccupied. But yet, did not even have the concern to wonder why not one single house under his Administration—after the largest capital expenditure—had been built.

Well, I will tell you another reason why, Madam Speaker, the houses have been constructed, yet no one is occupying them. Because not only had houses not been built, Madam Speaker, I can't even credit the previous Government for having done their homework in terms of the administrative work to make sure that covenants had been drawn up and that all of that legal work had been taken care of.

You see, nothing was done. Madam Speaker!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Nothing?

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Nothing!

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Nothing was done, Madam Speaker. So we could not even have the pleasure of getting up and saying, *Oh well, you know, they didn't build a house but they drew up some covenants, they came up with some agreements, some clean square contracts . . . nothing, Madam Speaker.*

So, the Minister responsible for Housing and me, on the Ministerial Council . . . who has to do it? We have to do it, because they did not do it. They had one drawing, and I understand that that the Member for East End did not even know that that drawing existed. So I have to credit Mr. Tristan Hydes for that, even though we had to make changes there to be able to work towards reducing costs and giving people a porch they could actually sit on.

Yet again, Madam Speaker . . . You see, I continue to show it, because this is the duplicity and the disingenuousness that you see in this honourable House when you have them coming here with parliamentary questions, going around perpetrating a fraud like somebody cares, when they had the largest expenditure that the country had ever seen and not one affordable house had been constructed.

So, yes, Madam Speaker, Caymanian contractors employed, people working, that was another fundamental reason why we built those houses even though there were no covenants drawn up. Because we recognised that we needed to get some employment going. Something!

And so I said to the Board, "Board, if you can start this construction now, let's do it. Let's get people

employed. Let's get them working so they can feed their families." No one wants to steal, borrow or beg. They are simply asking for an opportunity to be employed.

So I said, "We don't have to build a road, or we don't have to wait for the water mains to get in, let's get houses being built. And we can do the covenants afterwards. We need to get people employed."

So, Madam Speaker, tell the Member for East End, and anyone on the Opposition, if they want to blame why people are not in and the covenants not done, blame it on me. Because, Madam Speaker, I wanted to make sure we could get our Caymanian people employed, local contractors. And I can promise the good people of this county that the application process will be vetted and the people are going to get a chance to move into homes, unlike what they had with the previous Administration. And I hope that satisfies any parliamentary questions he may have for today.

Madam Speaker, one of the other motions that I was, again, privileged to bring to this House was the issue of Human Organ and Tissue Transplants. Madam Speaker, I am hearing the Minister of Health tell me it is a good motion.

Madam Speaker, again, I am sure that the mis-information which I heard from the Member for North Side and other Members over there on that side of the House is going to be propagated again by them, as if that is only being done for Dr. Shetty. And, Madam Speaker, I want to tell the Member for North Side that if he wants to spread information [he should] leave it until Tuesday.

Madam Speaker, let's keep clear on the fact. I have said it a million times and I will say it to him again. And I will say to all Members of this honourable House and to the public, I was on the talk show from September 4, 2006, until the good year of our Lord, when I decided to leave to run in the elections. Dr. Steve Tomlinson came on and made me aware, and I am sure it was the same horror and shock of awareness for the general public, that in this country which has been existing for decades, of which that Member for North Side was Minister of Health at some point in time in his career, did absolutely nothing for the recorded history of ensuring that people could have a chance, despite the fact that we have the highest per capita in terms of diabetes and other illnesses that require organ transplants. That Member for North Side, again, who perpetrates a fraud every Tuesday morning about how he loves Caymanians, did nothing when he was the Minister of Health.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Order!

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So he did nothing, Madam Speaker, with respect to that. But, again, typical do-

mino politicians; vultures, waiting over there, Madam Speaker. For what? For this Government to fail so they can have something to eat.

They are now going to stand and criticise that the Human Organ and Tissue Transplants motion (to which, Madam Speaker, has been relayed to me by Dr. Tomlinson, a concern that I brought into this honourable House because it is something that affects Caymanians) . . . [he] has the audacity to stand every tedious Tuesday and tell the general public, misleading them that what is the circumstance is simply being brought for Dr. Shetty.

Madam Speaker, I take it as a personal insult when he says it. So should Dr. Tomlinson and all of the other persons involved with the committee. So should their own Member over there, Mr. Eden, and, Madam Speaker, so should every person in the general public, particularly those who find themselves today or, God forbid, in the future, with debilitating diseases such as diabetes and need a human organ tissue transplant. Remember that that Member for North Side did nothing when he had a chance. Ask him to sit over there and watch how it has to be done and stop complaining about Dr. Shetty.

You don't know what he did.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, the other issue, jobs for Caymanians only. I am going to show you another tactic. What I learned in this honourable House too, Madam Speaker, that is amazing—is that nobody wants to tell you the truth. You go ask what colour something is and they give you something different. As soon as you turn your back they tell you a different thing and everybody drawing daggers. I have never seen anything like it. I can tell the public.

So, Madam Speaker, I am only glad that I am working with a Government now that I can rely on. Because jobs for Caymanians only . . . you see, the Opposition now, for example, does not want to come out, you know. And let me elucidate those who wish. They do not want to come out and say, *Oh, Ellio Solomon with that "Jobs for Caymanians" motion is horrible; a terrible motion.* No. They send all of their minions, Madam Speaker. And I won't call any of their names, right down to the very YPPM (Young People's Progressive Movement). I mean everyone. They send them to ask the questions and to make the accusations. But I want to let the public know that if the PPM Government supported the opportunity for jobs for Caymanians only, they would not have their minions going out there and attacking it. They are getting somebody else to do their dirty work. That is the kind of stuff you see in this honourable House. That is what you see in the country.

I can just say it like it is, Madam Speaker; that's who it is attacking it—the PPM! And that includes the Member for North Side because it is six of

one, half a dozen of the other. They are all attacking it, Madam Speaker. What they can't do overtly for a lack of audacity, they do it covertly.

So, let's talk about jobs for Caymanians only. I heard the Third Elected Member for George Town, the now Leader of the Opposition, get up here yesterday in this honourable House . . . he can't support jobs for Caymanians only. They are attacking that. He is attacking the opportunity for Caymanians to get their own pensions, but he came down here yesterday, and I heard him go on one spiel to woo foreigners, and how he can try to get some support. But I am going to deal with that too before I sit down.

So, Madam Speaker, what we have is that in this country we had a conversation this morning about we are getting transparent today. I had a conversation about the Bill of Rights. That same Administration on the other side, Madam Speaker, when they were here, when they put into the Constitution the Bill of Rights, I don't even think they knew what they were doing, Madam Speaker. I honestly don't. Because when I see the horror and the gasping on their faces, when you talk about all of the cost and the things that are going to come about, the ramifications of what they have done, it seems such shock, Madam Speaker, they could not have known consciously what they were entering into.

The Member is making his notes; I hope he addresses it when he gets up. And if he is making his notes, Madam Speaker, I want him to talk about the Bill of Rights, and I want him to tell us when he gets up (now that he's making his notes to speak) what his regulatory impact was on that one in terms of the cost, and that when he was spending and putting all of the money—the largest capital expenditure—what monies he set aside to deal with the cases that were going to be flooding the courts in this country.

What did he do about that? I want him to write that down and address that.

So, Madam Speaker, "Jobs for Caymanians Only." What is the history on that one, Madam Speaker? Amongst other things, I can assure this country that there will be perhaps nothing in this country, Madam Speaker, I can tell you because it is precedent. From hat to shoe size. From God, Madam Speaker, to the schools, every single thing in this country is going to be challenged as a result of the Bill of Rights. I can assure you that. I have history that the PPM hates to hear; I have history to back me up that that is what is going to happen.

One of the things that is going to be challenged as well, Madam Speaker, especially in our Civil Service is who even has a right to have what job. We have the Acting First Elected *[sic]* Member as an example, a bright Caymanian, a lawyer [who] was the Chief Immigration Officer. I see a look of surprise on the face of the Member for East End.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** “The First Official Member” is what I think he maybe wants me to say.

The good Mr. Franz Manderson—I don’t think he minds me calling his name, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** But I do. We refer to each other by title.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** The First Official Member, Madam Speaker, bright Caymanian; one of the brightest I know. Hardworking, was the Chief Immigration Officer, now today in this honourable House as the Acting Deputy Governor of the country. Is that not something that we can be proud about?

Is that not something that we can be proud about? Did we not put in our Constitution that our Deputy Governor should be Caymanian? Did we not stand here and say, well who can serve in this honourable House? Should it not be Caymanians who have to serve in the Parliament? But they, nevertheless, want to curse, as they say, and *blackgyaad* me because I am going to put in a motion that says not only the Deputy Governor’s position, not only Members of this honourable House, but there are other positions in this country, particularly the Civil Service, that deserves as much protection as we can give it. So that when the challenges come, Madam Speaker, even if it fails, let them know that at least Ellio Solomon did his part to try to put some defence in place.

I tried my best, Madam Speaker. It will not be like other Members who did very little with very much. No. In my lonely backbench position, Madam Speaker, I am going to do what I can to help them because I am a firm believer that not only Deputy Governor’s positions, not only honourable Members of this House have the need for the protection, but there are other areas. And whether it is our Chief Immigration Officer, whether it is the Deputy Governor or other key positions, particularly in our Government and even some in the private sector need that level of protection.

And, Madam Speaker, that is not something novel that we have to wonder this is all estrange and this will bring the country to collapse. The great United Kingdom does it. Not that we should have to go there for the validation, but the great UK does it. The United States does it, so why are they cursing me and my Government for doing it?

And, Madam Speaker, I have spoken to the Minister responsible for labour. And I have confidence in him, Madam Speaker. And we intend to bring a schedule, a change to the Labour Law that is going to create that schedule that allows Cabinet in the future to be able to designate specific jobs, be it public or private sector, as jobs for Caymanians only. So, whether it is the Third Elected Member for George Town who wants to curse and go on, or they want to send their minions, let them come. I am doing what I believe in my heart has to be done in this particular case, to house our people, and in this particular case

in terms of employment, protecting those particular jobs, Madam Speaker, those jobs that mean something to us that are important for the running of this country; especially those.

Madam Speaker, just on the issue about the pensions, again, nothing comes without a fight. It continues to amaze me the duplicity that you hear. The Third Elected Member [for George Town], the now Leader of the Opposition, was the Minister responsible for Pensions, Education, Labour. He dealt with pensions. The Mercer Report, written March 26, 2007 [has] all sorts of recommendations. And again, just so we do not lose our position, I seek to do it to highlight and to show amongst other things to the public that advances are being made. Eighty one million dollar deficit, reduce it to \$30 [million], almost perfectly balanced—advancement.

Housing, when we had no money, housing, Madam Speaker, advanced. Working for the jobs for Caymanians only, we will create a schedule to ensure certain jobs get the protection that they deserve. And now, Madam Speaker, moving to pensions.

The Third Elected Member for George Town, the now Leader of the Opposition, was once the Minister responsible for Education and Employment with the responsibility also for Pensions. March 26, 2007, Mercer Report, in the under half of their term, what was implemented from that report? Nothing! Zilch, zero, nil, nothing. That was what was implemented—nothing.

And yet, the same domino player lost his hand over here, is sitting over there and trying to tell the world how things should be operating on this end. Madam Speaker, I am a firm believer, and let the *Hansards* reflect it, that if we are going to build a strong, great country, Madam Speaker, we have to have confidence in our people. We have to be able to have what it takes to lift them up, just like we did yesterday with Charles the Killer Whittaker. We have to be able to lift them up and praise them. Let them set examples. And amongst those things with respect to the social aspects, we also have to do so financially.

I do not see . . . when I read the Census, I think it was the 1999 Census, I believe the numbers were somewhere in the region of \$775 million on salaries passing up and down at the time. Let’s just do rough math, so that nobody tries to beat me to death on that one. Seven hundred and seventy five million dollars in exchange passing hands in salaries: 10 per cent being paid to pensions is going to amount to \$77 million, something in that region, Madam Speaker. Do the math. So what we have right now is a hole in this ship that is \$75 million minimum (and that’s 1999 figures—over 10 years ago). One hole in this ship that is \$75 million leaving this country to go and be invested to build Asia, to build America, to build the UK, to build the European Union, and none of those Members on that side, Madam Speaker, saw one thing wrong with

it, at least for the last six years. Not one single thing wrong with it.

They complain now about Caymanians drawing their pensions. *Oh, we are going to sink the pension fund.* But yet, we have had, for example, foreign nationals in this country that come here, they work in the thousands and draw their money when they leave and I never heard one of those Members yet complain that that was going to sink the pension fund and how it was going to disadvantage Caymanians. And yet, from the Member for North Side come loop right up with all of them. They all have a problem now with the pensions. Why? Do you know why? Because a few disenfranchised, marginalised Caymanians can actually benefit now, Madam Speaker, not to go on a spending spree, but the ability to withdraw their pensions and, not to waste it, but to reinvest it into the country that they call home to build a home. They all have a problem with it now.

Actually, Madam Speaker, do you know what? Let me try to be specific, because I do not want to paint with a broad brush. I am going to say specifically that on that side of the aisle, some may have remained silent, but who I hear specifically having a problem with it, Madam Speaker, is the Member for North Side, the Member for East End and the Third Elected Member for George Town, the now Leader of the Opposition. So I am just going to make sure that I don't lump good people in with bad, Madam Speaker. That's the situation.

I would encourage the other Members, Madam Speaker, if they are not in that boat that they voice it. But those three particularly, Madam Speaker, I heard no complaint about the hole in that boat of \$75 million being spent overseas . . . Madam Speaker, where does our money go right now? What do you think that \$75 million is being spent on? All manner of things. There are all sorts of funds. I mentioned it before, AIG Stock. The Third Elected Member, who was in charge of pensions, talks about the risk of losing people's money. While he was the Minister we lost well over \$300 million on the pensions. He came down to this honourable House and said, "Don't worry about that. Think about the long term. We lose now, but we swing back later." That was the \$300 million in loss.

Yet the Member for George Town now wants to go on the talk show, debate with me, attack me, and beat me up, for doing what? Giving a few Caymanians access to withdraw up to \$35,000, Madam Speaker. He now has issues with it. Do you see the hypocrisy? And fight down Caymanians every route that they want. Don't help them one bit, but he came down again yesterday and again, as I am saying, wooing the foreigner. Because he said that's what helped the UDP to win the election. He's even admitting it now. Even admitting it! He wants to win the election so he can try to woo them but won't help a Caymanian; won't help them.

So, Madam Speaker, that is the issue with pensions. It is about giving Caymanians an opportunity to be able to reinvest in their country. Surely we have to move beyond the mindset that we do not have to build the infrastructure for the United States, Europe and Asia alone, but that we can make strong families here, make good strong homes and communities, and build a strong nation by giving our people an opportunity to engage in reinvesting some of their pensions into this economy. That is my position, Madam Speaker, and with the acceptance of what I am hoping will come very soon to this House by the Minister responsible for Labour, it is going to become a reality, Madam Speaker. That is my position and the Government's position.

Not just withdrawing and wasting. It is withdrawing and investing in your own country. I should not have to tell anyone that when you have individuals that have a home, a bit of ownership in their own country, that goes a long way.

So, in the advancement, again, I want to assure the general public that they cannot have a doubt for a second that there are advances being made and I wait patiently, Madam Speaker, for the Minister to bring the amendments so that we can make this a reality. He has stated it. I believe that he will, Madam Speaker, and this country very soon is going to embark on something that I believe is not only unique, but will bring about some real changes in this country when people have an opportunity to be able to reinvest some of their pension into this country.

Madam Speaker, one of the other things I was engaged with earlier on was the issue of the PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence) cleanup. It is, and was, if you like, a short, arguably medium-term measure in terms of just ensuring that we could work to provide some employment for our people. As I mentioned earlier on, I believe it was Nathan Bailey who said in 1782, "Hungry belly don't have any ears."

There are so many people out there who find themselves, for one reason or another, unable to get a job. Whether the job is not there, whether they perhaps need certain up-skilling, whatever the reason, Madam Speaker, and there is a myriad of those, there are persons out there, real individuals, tangible persons, flesh and blood, just like you and I, having real difficulties in getting a job. And I was proud to be a part of a Government that took the funds necessary to have 800 of them which represented their 800-plus families, being able to ensure that someone knew where food was coming from, and someone knew they could get kids gifts for Christmas. Someone had the pride of knowing that they did not have to borrow, beg or steal, but they could put something on the table with the hard work and sweat, as the Bible says, from their brow. Madam Speaker, I was proud to be part of a Government that did that.

I would take this opportunity to give full transparency that I continue as I believe the Third Elected Member for George Town suggested, knocking my hands on the table to ask my Government, despite the difficult challenges, because I understand the tough, fiscal challenges that we have; that as soon as available, there are still many of our persons out there who need those measures when it's raining, when times are difficult, until we can get through to a better day.

And so I ask the front bench, I ask the Cabinet, I ask the rest of my caucus to continue to support me, to continue to see if we can search to find the funds so that we can engage in at least a few more of those cleanup projects, Madam Speaker, because in my opinion we need it.

Madam Speaker, another area that I have the privilege of sharing responsibility for is that of e-government. And, Madam Speaker, just to make sure that I can draw clarity on the last issue that I talked about before I move on, on the PRIDE cleanup, I will show again the advancement there. That even with respect to the Government of the day, which has received very little, but continues to do much, I contrast that again to the previous Administration who, in my opinion, did very little with very much, because, Madam Speaker, even the Minister then responsible for labour, I never even saw those kinds of efforts. They admitted that they knew a recession was coming, they admitted that they knew we were in a recession. What did they do to reach out and help Caymanians? I did not see it.

But yet, Madam Speaker, I hear the same Third Elected Member for George Town trying to castigate me in terms of me working out there and working with people in saying, handing out cheques. Madam Speaker, I handed them shovels, I handed them rakes, and I handed them cheques. I carried them to the bank and I carried them home. Anywhere, Madam Speaker, I worked and I did what I could to help ensure that they had employment. And if that Member or any other Member in this honourable House wants to castigate me for that, then let them do so. More than many of them have done.

Madam Speaker, on e-Government: I want to say first of all that again I had the privilege of having shared responsibility for e-Government. And I know to some, that particular term may not necessarily mean very much, and I hope to get into a little bit of expounding on that as well. But first to go through the formalities, Madam Speaker, I mentioned earlier on the Acting First Official Member earlier in terms of his legal learning and the sort of *orgulloso* (as the Spanish would say) I have for him in terms of where he has reached; the pride that I have, Madam Speaker. I also have an opportunity with respect to e-Government to be able to sit and chair the committee that is comprised of persons like Mr. Manderson, Mr. Orrett Connor, and Ms. Suzette Ebanks.

And, Madam Speaker, I would say that just simply, as we talk about the issue of advancing, just simply the fact that we have an e-Government committee that has finally been formed and is up and operational, is advancement being made by this Government. Because when the UDP was in office before 2005, they had instituted the e-Business Advisory Board which, among other things, was responsible for bringing about the liberalisation in telecommunications, in which I had the pride at that point in time to actually serve on. We did something. I stress for the record between 2005 and 2009, the e-Business Advisory Board did nothing. The seats remained empty. That must be what "e" stands for then. The seats were empty, Madam Speaker. Nothing was done in e-Business; nothing done on e-Government.

So, I have today the pride to be able to serve on the committee with those members. And I think it is important, before launching into some of the details on the e-Government, to appreciate that particularly when you have what we have right there in terms of that e-Government committee is, 1) a representative of the political directorate, and you have the administrative arm of the Government as well. And you also have advisors to the Board with persons like Mr. Gilbert McLaughlin from Computer Services.

When you put all of that together, I think that is a wonderful cocktail, if you like, Madam Speaker, a wonderful formula, equation, combination, that can bring about something productive to this country. And it is my personal belief that when we talk about issues that face this country with respect to how we do business, how we spend our money, I think that e-Government is the future.

You see, Madam Speaker, "e" has typically meant "electronic." And if we do think about it, those of us who do have some understanding of it, that is our first thought "electronics." *How do I implement information/communication technology into our work lives, and how do I improve it with that?*

As I have stated to the committee, the "e" in our e-Government extends beyond electronics. It extends to "evolve" because it is a matter of evolving the way that Government works. It is about looking at our business processes and saying, *How can I improve those business processes?* And at the same time, *How can I now implement information/communication technology, along with those re-engineered business processes to make our lives better?*

Madam Speaker, there is no sense to implement technology only to find that your processes are bad and at the end of the day it is not better off for anyone.

To give some tangible examples, Madam Speaker, we talk about in saying, *How do I fix that process?* And, *How do I implement technology to improve?* So let me talk again about some of the advances made by the Government.

The Government right now, in terms of e-Government . . . standardly, you would hear that the bus leaves the prison and that that bus leaves the prison with one or two prisoners who, by law, have to come in to report to the courts. And that trek from Northward Prison to the courts, as seamless as it goes every day, just as the heart pumps blood through our veins every day, Madam Speaker, you take a risk. And the reality of the situation is that anything could happen. It is a fundamental security risk, just in terms of that bus leaving the prison and coming to the courts. And because something has not yet happened does not mean that it cannot happen. So, by finding a way to implement technology perhaps to remove that, Madam Speaker, you can see that immediately you work to remove that risk. If you are able to remove the fact that someone has to trek from the prison to the courts it means that a bus does not have to be used; fuel does not have to be used; security guards do not have to be used; and, Madam Speaker, that is talking about reducing costs.

So, in terms of e-technology or the Government information/communication technology, the system is to be able to utilise the technology to be able to have the necessary cameras and televisions in place so that someone sitting at the courts can have a television in front of them and actually be able to view those prisoners while they are still at the prison, at all of the angles necessary and with all of the details necessary for the courts to be satisfied as to their safety security and other concerns about that relevant prisoner.

So, Madam Speaker, just that in itself talks about saving money in the thousands and thousands of dollars; just that one implementation of technology. And again, I believe that that is the innovation that we need today and in the future if we are going to be a good, lean, fiscally prudent Government.

When the Third Elected Member for George Town talked about crime, you see, again, it's misinformation. Because, Madam Speaker, I think there are many different ways that an untruth can get out. Either you expressly said something that is not truthful, or you withhold information knowing, for example, that it is not true.

And, Madam Speaker, that Member has an obligation, for example, when he talks about crime. Give credit where credit is due. I never heard him labour on about the CCTVs (Closed Circuit TV Cameras) that are being put in place and talk about the fact that with respect from an e-Government perspective that this country has the position where eventually we are going to have 300 cameras spread throughout five districts. And what that means in terms of technology, 1) with respect to the reduction of costs of saying you do not have to hire perhaps a couple of other police officers; and what it means as a deterrent to crime. I heard no mention of that. But that's just one area, for example, where e-Government, where tech-

nology and re-engineering, looking at things in an innovative way, works towards the reduction of crime, and works towards the reduction of costs.

And the people of this country can be comforted that soon in the sky on those poles, 300 cameras—police officers, if you like, that never sleep, do not ever wink and will never tell a lie. That is what we are going to have. Ask me what price that's worth paying.

And when we are talking about just spending \$2 million, just a little over \$2 million, never sleeping; never winking; never missing a beat; never lies; always there to tell you exactly what he or she saw. That is what we are getting for capital expenditure of \$2 million. And let it be a deterrent to anyone . . . and it's not that it is going to be the silver bullet, Madam Speaker, because I do not believe in silver bullets. But it is one step in the right direction towards deterring crime on our streets.

And I want them to know that the visualness on that camera means that it is going to be there and you can enlarge it until you can see. I am pretty sure you can probably see your breath in it! They are going to see, Madam Speaker; it is going to be there in the sky.

**The Speaker:** Member for George Town, are you going to be much longer? We need to take a suspension. If you are just going to be a few minutes more, continue; if not, we will suspend now.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, I am comfortable to just suspend. I pause at this point in time in terms of discussion of e-Government, and we can resume after the lunch break. That's fine with me.

**The Speaker:** We will suspend at this time until 2.30. I think that will give us all time to take care of the business we all have on hand.

**Proceedings suspended at 12.36 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 3.08 pm**

*[inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Order please. The sitting has been resumed.

When we took the break, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town was on his feet making his contribution. I think he expects to continue at this time.

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

So that we are in sync with the time, I believe that we would have taken that recess just at about an hour's time. And if you are in accord then I think that affords me approximately one more hour, if necessary.

**The Speaker:** The Clerk is recording. I am sure she has your correct time.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Then I await the ruling of the Clerk.

**The Speaker:** But meanwhile, you can begin speaking and she will let you know.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I think I got a nod, Madam Speaker.

Before we took the break I was just covering the issue of e-Government. Again, Madam Speaker, with the intention of highlighting the fact that I believe that the UDP Government has done very much with very little, as well as to be able to elucidate matters because I confirm and I believe in so much of my statements, the much misinformation that continues to be out there. But on the e-Government side, I believe sincerely that e-Government is the future. I think that when we actually look at Government and in terms of dealing with the issue that we have services to be able to deliver to our people, need to do so efficiently and effectively. But, at the same time, being able to be fiscally prudent, work on reducing costs or at least cost containment, I believe the e-Government plays a fundamental role, Madam Speaker, in that process.

I spoke earlier on about the CCTVs and the fact that just with CCTVs as an example, means that in our sky on the poles will be 300 officers, if you like; 300 spotlights of deterrent for crime in this country. And that e-Government initiative says that when it's complete, those CCTVs put us in a position of at least 300 of them that do not sleep, do not wink, and never tell a lie.

Madam Speaker, I believe that that is just one example in terms of utilising e-Government both in terms of looking at the innovative ways that we can change our business processes, in this particular case to deal with the issue of crime, and at the same time reducing our costs. I know that anyone who has been paying attention to the whole issue of the Budget hears about the issue of personnel costs, of which I will touch on a little bit later on. But, clearly, I believe that that is again further evidence of the actions being taken by this Government with very little to do very much in terms of dealing with the issue of crime.

Madam Speaker, also on e-Government I would like to say that the Acting Deputy Governor, Temporary First Official Member of the House, and I have been in some recent discussions. I mentioned earlier on that he also sits on that particular e-Government committee with me. Perhaps this will even come as somewhat new news even to some of the police officers, but one of the other initiatives in dealing with the issue of crime from an e-Government perspective, is that we just sat and approved the ability for us to actually move forward now in terms of pur-

chasing the technology necessary for police officers who are driving their vehicles on a daily basis. And whether they are dealing with something as perhaps, arguably, menial as traffic and tickets, or if it is something a bit more escalated, they would actually be able to be connected with the relevant database via a laptop computer to be able to gain access to what now, Madam Speaker, requires someone picking up a walkie-talkie, having one or two bodies sitting in a room just waiting for a police officer to call and to get that information.

I think it is significant because that in itself means, rather than having two or three bodies sitting in a room waiting for calls to come in (and that is not to say that they do not have other things they can do), surely you can see that perhaps one or two of those officers can be better utilised in other areas because of the fact that other [officers] in the field will have a wireless connection to the police station and the relevant database to capture the information they need in terms of searching or in the apprehension of any individual who may be involved in a crime.

So, Madam Speaker, again, another example of doing very much with very little. I believe I have mentioned before in this honourable House that the circumstances this Government inherited has led to a position where we, the Government, can, and are willing to look at innovative solutions to be able to address the problems that face our country. And I am proud to be at the forefront and working with such a good group insofar as e-Government to bring about those solutions.

Madam Speaker, just for explanation as well, I would take the opportunity to speak on one or two other e-Government initiatives that we are working on. One of those is the issue, for example, of police records. And I want to also tie the issue of police records in with someone who goes and applies for, say, a new passport or in terms of filling out applications for a waiver. Typically what happens today in that particular process between police records and the Passport Office is a three-day processing. It means that in the traditional format a person must either walk or drive all the way somewhere on Walker's Road, and actually stand in a line for 15 or 20 minutes and fill out an application to get a police record. And, if they pay the right amount of money, that means they come back the following day and they get themselves a police record and then they zip from there on to the Passport Office, fill out the relevant applications there, run through the process and, as I have said before, within three days hopefully that means that they are complete, in terms of getting the waiver, or at least in terms of the application process with the passport.

Madam Speaker, e-Government again works with this Government in terms of our initiative to solve some of those problems. The RFP (Request for Proposal) was sent out. I understand now the position is that finally there has been a recommendation from the

technical review committee and a final decision is yet to be made in terms of the awarding. But it means that very soon, just on that issue alone, we are going to find ourselves in a position where you will technically no longer have to stand in a line to get your police record.

It means that either one, you could do so remotely, wirelessly in terms of the Internet, or technology otherwise; or, it could be a position where you simply, in a traditional format, rather than going to the police records and then on to the Passport Office, you could just go to the Passport Office. And that when you stand there and if a police record is required, the communication would take place between the Passport Office and the police records department, and that would be something utilising the technology to avoid the individual from having to travel. Therefore, for example, reducing the three-day process to perhaps one day, or two days. And hopefully, more one day than two.

And, Madam Speaker, think about the savings, not just in terms of Government, and not only savings in terms of the amount of time that is actually being spent, but the additional revenues that can be made. Because right now, if you are spending \$10 for a police record, I dare say, Madam Speaker, that the Passport Office, if it is a one-stop-shop, could easily turn around and say to a customer, *We can do that for you for an extra dollar, or two dollars.* Who would not forego \$2.00 simply to avoid having to do all that running up and down, Madam Speaker? I think there are persons out there that will do it.

That immediately means an increase in revenues for Government. It also means less bodies having to be involved in that particular function, thereby reducing the cost. And not just for the government directly, although I want to translate that government savings mean savings for the people in terms of less taxes. But the people get a double whammy, Madam Speaker, because it also means that employers out there who are depending on their employees to come back from lunch on time or not having to take a break for half an hour to go stand in line. All of those things are reduced. And that means savings for the company. It means savings for the individual.

Sure, the person who spends a half hour in the line is being paid some form of salary. That's half an hour, thirty minutes, one day, two days or potentially even three days of un-productivity. And that means from a global perspective, that Gross Domestic Product, we are increasing our production in terms of products and services and reducing our costs. Those are the sorts of things that we will be able to do, and we are doing already, when it comes to e-Government.

And even though it is one of those wireless and somewhat transparent intangible infrastructures that exists, I wish to inform this honourable House and members of the general public that that is what this

Government has been working on, whether it is the CCTVs, the wireless transactions between the police cars and the police station's database or whether it is going to be issues like the police records transitions and the Passport Office, those are but some of the initiatives.

Another one of those things that comes out of the RFP, Madam Speaker, is the issue of vehicle licensing and the fact that it means that very soon police officers will not have to stop persons in their cars at 1.00, 2.00, or 3.00 in the morning and have traffic jams because they are checking to see if cars are unlicensed. Just as an officer right now can point the radar at you and determine if you are speeding, based on some piece of device calculating the speed distance and time, the same way, Madam Speaker, it is going to be able to determine immediately, electronically if that car is licenced or not; if the car is insured or not. And that is technology that is going to be, God willing, implemented very soon.

All of those things work to clean up our streets at the same time it also works in terms of providing a more efficient and effective service to the public and reduces cost. It also means that when we actually electronically convert a lot of those things, the pieces of paper that you now have to receive when you go to the Vehicle Licensing Department will be reduced. And where it may only seem like four or five pieces of paper to you and I, multiply four or five pieces of paper by 30,000 or 40,000 people every year for the rest of our lives, as it has been existing for so many years, we are talking about millions and millions of dollars in savings just with that technology.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say, if I could do so preemptively, that even all of those things that I have mentioned so far will probably be done for less than \$250,000. And I believe I can say confidently that when you can talk about implementing the wireless communication between police officers and the police station in terms of the database, when you can talk about the changes I have just talked about with respect to police records and the Passport Office, just those changes, Madam Speaker, and you are getting it for less than \$250,000.

And further, even more than that, Madam Speaker, working towards what we referred to as a unique identifier. And that unique identifier, insofar as government is concerned, is that everyone is uniquely identified in government right now depending on what department they go to. There is some specific ID that each one of us has in terms of the police records. There is a specific ID we have when we go to the Health Services Authority. There is a medical record number that belongs to the Speaker of this House and to me. So, what we have in that, Madam Speaker, and I have spoken about this before, when we speak about the Public Management and Finance Law (PMFL), irrespective of the great intentions that were envisioned when that law was passed, Madam

Speaker, it has created situations where, as I have stated, we technically have 13 governments in one. And it is significantly increasing the costs to run government. And I have a problem with constantly increasing the cost of running government because that means that you are constantly increasing the taxes that have to be put on the hardworking people of this country to operate the machine we call government.

So, when we fix those things, Madam Speaker, we are fixing a lot of problems. And from an e-Government perspective, as I have stated to the committee, and to many persons in different departments, I do not want the government to be 54 separate businesses, or 54 separate governments. It is my vision, Madam Speaker, and the vision of this Government, to make it that no, we have one Government, one business with 54 separate outlets. And things like a unique identifier going to mean that at the end of the day you are the same person in the Health Service Authority that you are at the Pensions Office and the same persons in the Pensions Office that you are at Immigration. And when we get that completed, Madam Speaker, that puts us on the conveyor belt to be able to provide a lot more efficient and effective services to our customers.

It means that the individual, even if he wanted to go to Immigration to pay his garbage bill, he could do so, because he is not two separate people, he is one person. And that is going to bring about efficiencies and changes in the way that we do things.

Madam Speaker, as we talk about the Public Management and Finance Law, I would like to say that I had a meeting the other day, a very encouraging one, with at least 15 separate departments. One of the things that happened under the Public Management and Finance Law was a lot of services that were centralised in terms of human resources and the way we did our accounting. It was spread out into separate departments, separate portfolios. And I believe that hopefully the majority, if not all, of the persons in this honourable House [will] agree that that significantly increased the cost of doing business.

It is my personal position that on things such as human resources and with respect to our accounts, we need to re-centralise that, at least in terms of some of those functions. And I believe it is no different when it comes to things like ICT or information/communication technology. We need to re-centralise that to some degree so that we are all sitting around the table and making some decisions in terms of a common direction and where we want to carry government in terms of e-Government and other ICT implementation, have a common communication and the same thing in terms of finances.

And the 15 departments that I met with a few days ago, all of them were in favour of being able to see that sort of re-centralisation and that common vision in terms of the way we move forward. And it is my hope that later on this year an RFP will go out so that

by next year at the latest, what we will have for this country is what I have termed for now "e-vision 20/20." And that will hopefully set a direction for this Government, or any Government, at least for those period of years as to where we will be taking Government, where we can go, some of those milestones that we want to reach, and hopefully that will be viewed as something positive and productive.

Madam Speaker, during my discussion earlier on, as I got into some of the political back-and-forth, I spoke about some of the failings of the previous Government. I know one of the things that they like to say is that these are personal attacks. Madam Speaker, I wish to draw to the public's attention that it is not personal attacks. That is mis-information if they say that. It is not personal attacks to talk about something, especially, that their elected representatives have done or failed to do. No.

Personal attacks are when you attack something about someone potentially, especially something they cannot change. And no one is up in here attacking anyone on the colour of their skin. No. That is a personal attack. Or what size they are, or what size they should be. That's a personal attack.

What I have engaged in, Madam Speaker, and have no qualms in doing, is the previous administration or anyone in this honourable House in terms of what they are doing or what they have failed to do. That is something that we have to have responsibility and full accountability for. So, all of my floggings, Madam Speaker (for want of a better terms), is in that direction.

So, Madam Speaker, when I spoke about things like housing and the human organ and tissue transplant, I believe that so far, for those who were engaged in that particular conversation, we can see that this Government has accomplished a tremendous amount—very much, Madam Speaker, with very little. And again I say, to contrast it, to the previous Administration which did very little with very much, Madam Speaker. When you can spend hundreds of millions of dollars, as I said before, and not even a single affordable home, that is a failing, Madam Speaker, to the people of this country.

Madam Speaker, I touched on this issue of a Bill of Rights. I heard the now Leader of the Opposition during the break making a comment about repealing. Madam Speaker, I wish to make it fundamentally clear. When the Government is going to talk about putting in the legislation, we need to do our best to consider the ramifications of that legislation, even with respect to some of the things that I am bringing; whether it is jobs for Caymanians or pension withdrawal/investment, there are going to be criticisms. But, Madam Speaker, I can assure you, I went out on those issues such as, for example, pensions, and have spoken to pension providers, spoken to the financial institutions, spoken to all of the various stakeholders so that the Government can make an in-

formed decision. Does that mean that you are going to cover every single base? Anticipate every possible ramification? No. Impossible. And anyone who tries to sell otherwise is selling snake oil.

But what we can do as responsible representatives is do our best to make sure that we can look at the issues carefully and do our best to mitigate the risks and the negative ramifications of it. So, when it comes to the issue of the Bill of Rights, the fundamental and simple point that I am making is that when you have to have the now Opposition (the then Government), in terms of the implementation of the Bill of Rights, with their mouths gaping open, jaws on the floor, alarmed at what it is costing the country, Madam Speaker, there seems to have been, at best (to put it kindly), some ill consideration in terms of the implementation.

I wish to assure the country, as I have done previously (for the benefit of those who did not hear my previous discourse, Madam Speaker) is that it is going to cost this country money, let there be no doubt about it. And let there be no doubt there is not just a financial cost, but a social cost as well. Everything, I can assure you, just about everything will in one way shape or another be legally challenged.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the position of the Government having to deal with the issue in terms of the finances as we found them, it naturally led to a position that the Government had to engage in what we call these PFIs—Private Finance Initiatives. Again, I will give the example of any household. If you do not have the money, where are you going to get it from? Tell me what person out there right now, who finds himself in a financial difficulty, and needs \$1,500 to benefit their household, and they have a friend who is willing to put the money up front and make an arrangement in terms of when they are out of that difficult position, pay them back the \$1,500, that is not going to do it.

Madam Speaker, I am not going to fool anyone in this honourable House. I have had my challenges in life. I am glad I can say today that when those times were even here for me, wife sick, baby sick, that I still even had a mother and a father who were still alive that I could go and talk to and get some assistance from. So I do not know what other dreamland we are living in, but that is the same situation happening in homes today. And maybe that is why, perhaps, I have no problems with it and I can understand the challenges that our people are facing, because I too have been there. I know what it is in terms of the humble beginnings (as they say), open the fridge and see guava juice and Carnation milk staring you in the face. I understand that.

That is why I talked about the cleanup earlier on. I understand the individual out there who is saying to me he has been to prison for seven years and he cannot get a job. So we have to find something for him to do.

Madam Speaker, I want to say on the issue of the finances, and again I stress for clarity, for those who will attempt for political expedience to spread some mis-information, I understand the financial situation that exists. The Government has made tremendous strides, Madam Speaker, when it comes to balancing the budget. I understand that there are, perhaps, those who are doubtful in terms of what advances have been made. But, Madam Speaker, when you can have a Government that works even in terms of personnel costs and reducing it from somewhere in the region of \$250-something-million, and carrying it down to \$228 [million], those are significant advances. That is serious reduction in millions of dollars which means that is less money you are going to have to be taxing and depending on the taxpayer for. Those are strides.

So, I contrast that, Madam Speaker, again, to the previous Administration, which, during their four years, increased the size of the Civil Service by nothing less than 680 employees. And any number you want to multiply it by, for the general public, grab a calculator. Six hundred and eighty employees, multiply it by \$10,000 per year each; \$30,000 per year each; \$50,000—whatever number suits your fancy—and tell me how many millions of dollars we are actually talking about.

So you see, Madam Speaker, any fool can spend money, you know. Any fool can spend money. But it takes someone wise to save it and someone even wiser, if you like, to make it. That's the difference. This Government is not just about spending money; it is about saving money and it is about making money.

In the last two years, by natural attrition (and by that I mean, by persons whose contracts have reached the natural position of termination in June) we say, *Fine. We have to find a way to survive without this body.* By natural attrition this Government has reduced the Civil Service by nothing less than 297—almost completely reversing in two years what the PPM Administration did to this country in four. That, Madam Speaker, is advancement. That means less money that the Government has to go out and tax the people for.

So, when that group on the other side of the hall talks about a tax on the gasoline, again I am going to state what they need to do is tell the people of the country the facts. And the facts are that any tax that a Caymanian or any transient person in this country is facing is because of that Administration! That is why they are facing it. You don't have to tell elected officials, Madam Speaker, how to spend money; and you don't have to tell a politician the basic 101 that taxes do not help you in terms of your political career. No! We are putting it on because that Opposition, the then Government, forced it on this country.

So, when I hear the now Leader of the Opposition talking about, *Well, what does it mean when Mr.*

*Bush says he can put us on our feet it means because we have to pay high gas—that's why we have to walk.* Madam Speaker, he put us here with the building of the schools! They should have a picture of him on every gasoline tank! He put us here. Because you don't go Friday night, drink all night, have a hangover, and don't think you have to pay for it Saturday morning. You are going to have to deal with that Saturday morning—the bill and the hangover. And that is exactly what they did to this country. A drunken spending, Madam Speaker, for four years, and now the country has to pay for it. I said it when I was on the radio, and I say it again today. That is what we are paying for.

The past Leader of the Opposition, just to give you an example again (I mentioned this on the radio about the Government Administration Building). There was anticipation there in terms of how much it was going to cost, or how much it was not going to cost. Madam Speaker, I am sure he is going to seek to rise to his feet earlier on to clarify it in his own way, but, Madam Speaker, let's understand . . . and I got criticism for referring to it as a "monster."

Madam Speaker, by "monster" I mean size. That building right now that we call the Government Administration Building, as an example, that they would like to brag about . . . and that's not to say it's not a good building, Madam Speaker. One floor in the new Government Administration Building eats up the entire Glass House. In other words, I could take the entire Glass House, disassemble it and put it onto one floor in the new Government building. So, one floor eats the entire Glass House. And the building has five floors.

My simple commentary, as it was a few days ago, as it is today, Madam Speaker, that "monster" takes a lot to run it. And they want to contest it. But they have not come with the facts and the figures. It is costing the people of this country, that building, the 235,000 square foot building, is costing the country \$25.00 per square foot to run. That is almost \$6 million to run the building.

So we need to ask ourselves where the savings are. The same past Leader of the Opposition, for example, said that they were going to be bringing in pretty much every civil servant that was renting in the private sector into the building. Madam Speaker, we now have approximately 1,082 persons in the new Government Building, and it is technically at 85 per cent capacity. It cannot hold all of the civil servants. Yet, the rent that was being paid out there was in excess of \$6 million and it is taking \$6 million to run the building. Do the math. Six million dollars to run the building, and you still do not have all the civil servants . . . so, let me slow that down.

If you are out there in the private sector (keeping things simple) spending \$6 million on rent every year, if you were able to transfer every one of those government rental premises that you are spending \$6 million for and transferring them into a new govern-

ment building that's costing you \$6 million to run, Madam Speaker, you would be breaking even. Because rather than putting the \$6 million out onto the street, you are now putting the \$6 million into operational costs for the building. You see, under that scenario you would have broken even.

Needless to say, core government, excess of 3,000 employees altogether, including statutory authorities, somewhere over 6,000, and there are only 1,080-something people in the building. That means we have to be short at least 2,000 or, in the worst case scenario, short of 4,000-something employees. Yet, Madam Speaker, you are spending \$6 million for the operation of the building and there are still thousands of them out there renting.

So, Madam Speaker, the simple point I am making is that it takes a lot to run that monster, Madam Speaker. And let's not sell the public that we are getting any savings, at least at this point in time. There is no savings, Madam Speaker, coming from that building, and none in the foreseeable future—at least for the next 30-something years. And that is a reality on the ground. Those are the facts and those are the figures.

One of the things I also challenge the past Leader of the Opposition was when he was the Minister responsible for that building and while it was the case that he was responsible for Lands and Survey in terms of organising those persons out there who are renting, organising themselves to move into the new Government Building, why is it that Maritime Authority was allowed to be able to engage in rent for another five years, up until 2013?

Maritime Authority . . . imagine, we are getting ready because the new Government Administration Building is going to open in 2011, and what did the past Leader of the Opposition do? He does nothing, as far as I am concerned, to prevent Maritime Authority from going and renting over 11,000, almost 12,000 square feet for \$50.00 per square foot, which is a contract of \$2.8-plus million. At \$50.00, 11,000-plus square feet, and you have a five year contract.

So, Madam Speaker, just that one department is costing the people of this country \$2.8 [million] and the Opposition needs to elucidate, enlighten and elevate the public as to why they are having to spend \$10 million at the pump? Two point eight [million dollars] just for that department! But you are not going to hear that. No, because those are the facts, those are the figures. Have him rise to his honourable feet and contest the facts. Those are the realities on the ground.

So, my simple point there, Madam Speaker, when they go out and propagate that we are saving and why the Government is taxing, these are the reasons, at the end of the day, Madam Speaker, that you have to deal with. Contracts that have been signed up to God-knows-who and for another five years for \$2.8 million that the Government cannot get out of without

getting into a legal problem. These are just some of the reasons that scratch the surface as to why we find ourselves in the sad, pathetic position that we are in, and they have the audacity to come down here and complain and make noise.

So, Madam Speaker, with the PFIs it is a situation that the Government reaches out to private investors to say how can we partnership to be able to provide the products and services that we need for the people of this country without having to incur additional debt. And I am sure that those discussions will continue to take place quite soon.

So, Madam Speaker, as I gave the position I understand, the financial position, I want to mention this in no particular order. Madam Speaker, I am going to voice a concern for at least some of the civil servants. I know that there was a salary reduction that was given, and I think we know the reasons behind that. Our arms were twisted, both in terms of what the previous Administration did, as well as what the UK is calling on us to do.

But, Madam Speaker, I do want to recognise in terms of my commitment that I understand, for example, that even persons (and there are other departments, but just to mention one) at the fire station who I know where reviews were conducted a long time ago of where some of those persons should have actually received raises, increases from years ago. I mention that because at the end of the day . . . and I do not believe I have to stand in this honourable House to stress what our civil servants do for us, and that includes those persons at the fire station, even during Hurricane Ivan, again, proved not just the value of Cayman Airways, but also our police services and also our fire service.

I mention that today, Madam Speaker, because I am sure that we, myself and my colleagues, have discussed it. And I hope and pray that one day, Madam Speaker, when we are able to get the country out of this mess that we are in, that we can visit things like that in terms of working to ensure that equity in terms of the salaries, and stuff, can be done for those persons, as an example, just to use fire services as one of them.

Madam Speaker, just to touch very quickly on this issue of the Dart project: Again, Madam Speaker, I believe that this honourable House was subjected to nothing short of, arguably, defamatory statements the other day by some Members of this honourable House. You know, Madam Speaker, it never ceases to amaze me. I am going to speak about it in generalities too.

Even before I was here in this honourable House, as I mentioned in one of our discussions this morning, too often you have Members in the House that are simply going to say something with reckless disregard for the private citizens to which they throw their names around. I remember standing here one day and hearing a Member of the Opposition talk

about a lady that I know. Okay? I know the lady. And the way they spoke about her is unbelievable. I wouldn't even go near repeating it, Madam Speaker. The person does not even have the right to go through this door and defend herself. And again, those are the realities.

Go to the *Hansard*. If someone wants to challenge me, I will go to the *Hansards* and find it. Blatant disregard, sometimes, Madam Speaker, for those persons. And nothing different took place again yesterday.

But on the Dart project, I am not going to delve into the details. I believe a lot of it has to continue to be discussed. But, Madam Speaker, again, when we talk about Private Finance Initiatives, when we talk about right now the position that the Government found itself in, crippled with no ability to spend . . . Madam Speaker, you can't borrow! And why can't you borrow? Because of the previous Administration. Madam Speaker, when you find yourself in that position you need to have partnerships from the moment this Government was elected in 2009, we convened a meeting trying to bring as many persons, financial services or otherwise, to the table to say, *This country that has taken care of you for years is asking for your help*.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you that it was not the greatest meeting. I was personally disappointed. I did not see a roaring or a big show of hands. No, I did not. So, with persons to form an alliance, such as the Dart Group . . . Madam Speaker, welcome the alliance. And for persons who think that simply because you throw that name out that that means something bad, Madam Speaker . . . no, that is not the case.

Again, Madam Speaker, the facts are simple. And I will give this in summary. Going to spend \$108 million and they have to spend, clearly now . . . listen, they have to spend \$1.2 billion if they expect to be able to gain the concessions the Government is offering of \$45 million. They have to spend the money. Madam Speaker, if we need to have people (so we can understand why we are talking about the Agreement), it is because there are persons out there who are unemployed. There are people right now that need work, cannot feed their families, they are asking for projects to take place. And if the previous Administration had not strapped or hand-tied so that we cannot borrow money, that we have no money to spend, where do we get it from? From partnerships. From individuals within the private sector.

And, Madam Speaker, just so that they do not go and bandy about that it is just Dart, I am not going to call the Caymanians' name. I have respect for people. I am not going to call their names, Madam Speaker. But I can tell you myself personally I have gone and gotten duty concessions for at least two Caymanians in terms of their businesses too.

So, they cannot make it sound like it's a new Caymanian we are looking out for, or it's only foreigners we are looking out for. No, Madam Speaker! We are not going to bandy about every single name that we help in terms of Caymanians with their businesses on duty concessions to try to encourage them in the same way to spend. And I know the Premier will nod his agreement.

If there are other Caymanians out there right now, Madam Speaker, that can get some work going building a business or . . . come forward to the Government. Bring it! Bring it and say, *Listen, I am willing to spend \$2 million or \$3 million and give me some concessions; work with me so that I can . . .* Madam Speaker, we are willing to do it. Always willing to look at it.

And, Madam Speaker, as I said, I know of at least two of those persons myself. So, we continue to do that. So, again, the mis-information for a select few is nothing other than that—mis-information.

Madam Speaker, if you listen to the tedious Tuesdays and the wacky whiny Wednesdays on the talk shows and to the blogs, you would get the impression that there is not one single thing in this country that is working; there is not one single thing in this country that is right.

I will give you an example. The host of the talk show asked the Member for North Side—he said, “Mr. Solomon’s bringing three motions. How are you going to vote?” He said, “Jobs for Caymanians.” The Member for North Side said, “I am not voting for that.”

“He’s bringing pensions. ‘I’m not voting for that.’”

He said, “He’s bringing human organ and tissue transplant. ‘I’m not voting for that.’”

Madam Speaker, three strikes and I was out. Not one single motion the man thought could he support. And he does not care. They never support anything. You never hear them say the Government is doing anything right. Madam Speaker, even a stopped watch, a watch that does not function, is right at least two times of the day. Even a stopped watch is right two times for the day.

With the Opposition—and that includes the Member for North Side—we’re not even getting that, Madam Speaker. [They] are never right two times for the year; or two times for two years. But I am not worried about that, Madam Speaker.

When the Third Elected Member for George Town talks about thanks and who does not thank, Madam Speaker, do you know what it reminded me of? And he was talking about the fact that there are certain polls and what they are saying . . . Madam Speaker, I am going to give this little Bible story. I am sure that you and many other persons have heard it.

Jesus was coming all the way from Galilee/Samaria on his way to Jerusalem. The amazing thing is that right between Galilee, which is in the north, and Samaria, which is a little bit further south,

right in between the two of them is where Jesus was born. And that’s Nazareth.

But on his way, he bucks up on 10 lepers; they are coming from a distance. And, of course, in those days you had to give a warning that you were a leper so that somebody else didn’t catch it. So they shouted “Lepers.” They shouted and Jesus’ response to them, in their plea and their call for help, was that they were healed, and they should go to see the priest. The reason they had to go see the priest, as you read in Leviticus 14, was because in those days for you to be officially cured of leprosy the priest had to go through the ritual.

So he sent them on to the priest. And, Madam Speaker, on their way when they recognised they were healed, one came back. One Samaritan came back and got on his knees and thanked Jesus Christ for that. He thanked him. And, paraphrasing, Madam Speaker, he said, ‘I thought there were 10 of you.’

And, Madam Speaker, one can turn that however one wants. There will always be those who either do not appreciate it, or even if they do appreciate it, they do not take the time for one reason or another to say “thank you.” But it does not matter. What really matters is that you take the time out to do what you have a responsibility to do—do good for the people! Give them the facts! Inform them! Educate, enlighten, elevate, because this country, as far as I am concerned, is still a great country regardless of how negative the Opposition—inclusive of the Member for North Side—wishes to paint it.

Madam Speaker, right now there are some rough seas in this ocean we call the “global economy.” Bigger fish than us are drowning in it. Greece, with the European Union’s hands outstretched trying to help it, and name other ones. Ireland. You have a big United States of America that has all of the mechanisms at its disposal. They can print their own currency. They have income tax and every tax you can imagine. They can control their own interest rates. And, Madam Speaker, right now, Moody (the same Moody that is dealing with us) is saying “You can’t borrow, you’re capped!”

They are drowning, Madam Speaker. That is the United States of America that just even in terms of defence alone spends \$700 billion. That is where they are in this global economy, that ocean that is rough right now, called the “global economy.” And while that is the case, we have an innovative Government and good leadership at the helm. And what is the situation? We are still afloat. You can’t keep us down! Still finding a way; still balancing the budget. And we are doing it with every Opposition Member and everyone they can muster riding our backs. But it doesn’t matter. We’re still not drowning.

And we’ve done so, Madam Speaker, without cutting jobs for Caymanians, and without any further salary cuts. At the first opportunity, I can assure you, it

will not be just me lining up to try to make sure that the Civil Service can get it back.

Madam Speaker, again, they would paint the most negative picture. But I wish to give the message of hope. And that is that there have been advances in this country. I have talked about it with housing. I have talked about it with e-Government. I have talked about it with human organ and tissue transplants, the withdrawal/investment of pensions, and I could go on in terms of labour. I can contrast it to the do-nothings on the other side of the aisle versus what we have done, Madam Speaker, when there was no money! No money! Imagine that.

Building 60-something houses with no money versus having all the money in the world engaging in what they said was the largest capital expenditure in the world and couldn't build one house. And that ferrets through, Madam Speaker. That thing is pervasive throughout everything of that Administration. Like a cancer.

So, Madam Speaker, again, those are the facts. And just to touch very quickly, because I note, and I am not going to get into it because again I hear the Member from the Opposition, the Member for East End, and I also hear the Member for North Side, every morning that you can get it, it's like a broken record. They are eating up about the Seaport in East End. Madam Speaker, I haven't even heard the Government take a position on that yet. They are just flogging that horse. I never heard anything like it. I am starting to feel sorry for the horse.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, they beat it, they beat it, they beat it, they beat it every day.

But do you know why they bring it up? In all of that attacking, whether it is the Third Elected Member for George Town, whether it is the Member for East End, or whether it is the Member for North Side, I cannot get one single solution from them.

The Member for East End needs to get on his feet. I [saw] him making notes earlier. Now he pretends like he's sleeping. He needs to get up on his feet and tell me, tell my other Members and tell the good people of this country what it is he wants for East End. That's what he needs to tell. What is his solution?

The Member for George Town only brought one motion. That's about green iguanas!

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** That's the solution for the country? That's the solvent?

What are we doing? Meat products?

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I think I heard one individual planned on selling cotton.

The Member for East End, Madam Speaker, needs to rise to his honourable feet and stop telling the people of East End what he does not want! And the Member for North Side—who is now strolling in—needs to stop telling the people of North Side and East End what they don't want. [The Members need] to tell them what it is that they want. Tell them what it is they are going to do for them, tell them what they are going to deliver. I think that's what the good people of East End want.

And I can hear him flogging the Seaport, Madam Speaker. I don't know about them, but as far as I know, the Government has not taken any position on that yet. As soon as the Government has taken a position we'll let them know. But in the meantime, if it keeps them occupied and happy, they can flog that.

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker, a point of order.

**The Speaker:** Yes, honourable Leader of the Opposition.

#### POINT OF ORDER

*[Misleading]*

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town is deliberately misleading this House. He knows full well that I have filed six motions since I have been here this term. He knows full well that his Government has kept most of them from coming to the floor of this House. He knows full well that there are three pending in this Meeting of the House.

So he needs to apologise to the House for misleading it. He cannot say categorically that I have only brought one motion when he knows full well that that is not the truth.

**The Speaker:** [sighs]

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Ma[dam]—oh.

**The Speaker:** Where did you place the point of order?

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Misleading the House. [Microphone not turned on—INAUDIBLE]

**The Speaker:** I have not heard the point of order, where the point of order is coming from. But, the Member, the Leader of the Opposition says that he has filed more than one motion, so, please do not repeat that that was the only motion. It is one of more than . . . he says six?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, I hear the Third Elected Member for George Town accusing me of misleading the House. Madam Speaker, what he needs to do is stand on his feet and tell the facts, which is that he is on the Business Committee—not me! So, I do not know what he is doing on the Business Committee. I don't go to those meetings.

Do you know what I know? The same thing the public knows; what comes to this honourable House to be discussed. And what the Member has brought to this honourable House to discuss is green iguanas.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Okay?

And, Madam Speaker, he is standing now to his feet about a point of order. Madam Speaker, if he wants to raise a point of clarity, he should do it on Wednesday. I want to continue with my speech.

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker—

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** He doesn't have a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker, with respect. The Member should sit down when I rise on a point of order.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** [INAUDIBLE]

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** No. This is a point of order, Madam Speaker. This is not a point of clarification.

No one is entitled in this House, Madam Speaker, to deliberately tell untruths.

The Fourth Elected Member for George Town is a Member of this House. He gets copies of the Business Papers; he knows full well what motions are filed and what is not filed.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** And he is not entitled to come to this House and stand up here and tell the country—because that is what he is doing—that I am not doing my job, when he knows full well what I have done.

He can beat me up as much as he wants. But he must not tell untruths.

**The Speaker:** Let's get off the question of the green iguanas and move on with the rest of your speech please.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

When you hear lawyers telling people about untruths you know things got to be bad!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Ha!

**The Speaker:** Please continue.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, it is green iguanas being discussed, but I am moving on from that subject now.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** The public knows.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So, Madam Speaker, before I was interrupted, what I was saying was that the Member for North Side and the Member for East End . . . at least the Member for East End still has a chance when he rises to his feet, as I am sure he will, to tell the good, honourable people of this country what solutions he has for East End, what it is that he wants for East End, and stop telling them all the things he does not want. That's what we need.

Madam Speaker, we are at another crossroads politically, because the voters—and that includes all of us in this House too, because we vote—are going to have to vote and decide at the end of the day what we are voting for. Just attacking for the sake of attacking, or somebody who is offering a solution?

I would draw this inference: If I wanted to be the next Government . . . maybe the Third Elected Member for George Town can interrupt me on this one. If I wanted to show that I was the leader, and I wanted to show that I wanted to be the next Government, I would come to this House with solutions. Because when you present the solutions and it is properly ventilated in this honourable House and the public hears it, Madam Speaker, the Government is wise to implement it. The public knows what's good. That's why they only have their minions attack certain things that I brought, whether it is jobs for Caymanians or pension, because they are not doing it themselves because they know they don't run up on that because the public supports it.

And, Madam Speaker, I have about seven minutes left.

**The Speaker:** How much time does he have left, Madam Clerk?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Four minutes.

**Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition:** Too long!

**The Speaker:** You have four minutes left, the Clerk says.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, as I mentioned before, I hear the Third Elected Member [for George Town] saying "too long."

Well, you know when you are being punished it seems that way. But it will be over very quickly.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Because if I have four minutes left I intend to use four minutes.

**The Speaker:** You are wasting them right now.

**An Hon. Member:** Exactly!

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I am dealing with him right now.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So, Madam Speaker, I am going to end my message on two notes: One is a quick injection of the proper flogging that I believe they need, and it is to end on the note that they failed as wannabe leaders to bring to the country a little bit of hope that this country does have a good day-to-day, and even better days ahead.

So, in summary, Madam Speaker, just from my position—not a Minister, not with the 10 or 12 decades of experience that I hear them bragging about on the other side, Madam Speaker, no—as a lonely backbencher, two years in the House, thank God and the people for the opportunity, whether it is about housing, whether it is about e-Government, whether it is about pensions, whether it is about jobs for Caymanians only, whether it is human organ and tissue transplants, or dealing with rude interruptions, Madam Speaker, I have already brought about some successes, Madam Speaker.

And, taking the 81 million tons of bricks that they put on the peoples' backs, carrying it to 31[million] and now, Madam Speaker, having lifted it completely. And they are saying it's too good to be true. Of course! They are shooting from the hip. They are saying that I could never have done it, so they are shooting from the hip.

Madam Speaker, what they have to see . . . look on and see that the Government has done it. We have balanced the budget, Madam Speaker. We have brought a good budget. It is going to be passed in this honourable House, Madam Speaker, and we have done all of that and more, and provided services that the Third Elected Member for George Town did not

provide—as he walks out of the House now. [He] did not provide it when he was there, and they had all sorts of money.

What he does not want to tell the people is that he failed! He failed them. Because when he was spending the hundreds [of] millions of dollars, again, even down to the contracting for the printing of the paper for the schools, he sent it overseas. And he wants to curse me. For what? Handing shovels and cheques and stuff for people to clean up? I gave them something to do, Madam Speaker! I kept them productive!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** And gave them opportunities to feed their families. He did not do it!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** He failed the country.

Pensions? He did nothing with the Mercer Report from March 26, 2007. He did nothing! Yet he wants to stop them from getting access to their pensions now. But he did not have a problem, as I said before, when every foreign national came here and withdrew their money. And he is going to stand in this House and talk about what he did and what he did not do? Nothing!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Nothing he did!

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Nothing but green iguanas.

**The Speaker:** You are repeating yourself. Please.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So the hope, Madam Speaker, is that despite the rough seas that we have to traverse in this global economy, and I say that even the giant that we all look at to the north, that even on its defence budget alone spends \$700 billion with all the mechanisms it has at its disposal, is technically drowning, Madam Speaker. The leadership that this country has at this point in time, as difficult as it may seem, and as hard as it is, is still better off. We are still afloat. We are finally balancing the Budget. We have stabilised the patient, Madam Speaker, and now it is time to move forward.

And the projects have finally started now. It is about to start. So they finally have something else on the other side of the aisle to complain about.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and this honourable House again for the opportunity to make some contribution with respect to the Budget and to the Throne Speech. And I thank the people of this country. God bless them and God bless the Cayman Islands.

**Some Hon. Members:** [Applause]

**The Speaker:** Thank you Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause]

**An Hon. Member:** Get up Arden!

**The Speaker:** I have called three times. And I am calling for the conclusion of the debate otherwise.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Are you going to speak, sir?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** I make the decisions here.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, are you going to recognise me, since I am on my feet?

**The Speaker:** I asked you if you were ready to speak, or were you just getting up.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, I am on my feet. So I was asking if you are recognising me.

**The Speaker:** Yes, of course, I recognise you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** But you asked me if I wanted to speak.

*[Laughter]*

**The Speaker:** I called three times! And you did not rise. When you did rise, I asked you if you were going to speak.

Are you going to speak? If you are going to speak, I need to know. That's all.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, Madam Speaker, when I rose, I thought that was an indication that I was going to speak. Any time I rise on my feet . . . I can't rise unless I am indicating I want to speak and say something.

**The Speaker:** Well, are you speaking on the debate now? Or are you just going to say something? I am trying to find out. Are you going to debate the Bill? Please do so.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** And the rest of you, please be quiet.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, it is my intention to speak on the Budget and the Throne Speech—

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —that was delivered here quite recently.

Madam Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to the Budget and the Throne Speech as delivered by His Excellency the Governor and the First Elected Member for West Bay.

The First Elected Member for West Bay delivered the Budget Address on Friday, 10 June [2011], and His Excellency the Governor delivered the Throne Speech on Monday, 23 [May] 2011. So, one was for 2010, the other one was for 2011, if most of us will take note of that.

Before I go into what I want to discuss on those two documents, Madam Speaker, there are a couple of things that I think need to be corrected by the Fourth Elected Member for George Town which he said during his debate, and directed at me. But I really thought that at long last we would have heard the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town utilising some of his time in this honourable House at long last. I heard him encouraging the Fourth Elected Member for George Town to put it to us and take some of his time too. So, at least it was going to be utilised in that way. Anyway, that is not to be, I guess. So I have to do mine.

Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town kept saying that (and I am not going to touch so much on the rubbish that he was saying out there) I need to tell the people of East End what I want for them. Well, Madam Speaker, I would draw the attention of the Fourth Elected Member [of George Town] to the numerous requests that I have made of this Government on behalf of the people of East End. What he needs to tell the people is why they are not getting it.

He purports to be a part of that Government. But he is what Connor was in Mobile. I have no dealing with him. I have with the Ministers. But they must update him, and stop sitting down there and encouraging him in his rubbish.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That's what it was!

**The Speaker:** I have allowed everybody latitude in this debate.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, and I hope no one starts stopping me in here now!

**The Speaker:** I will, if necessary.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *Well, we ga see!*

**The Speaker:** But you can continue right now.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, Madam Speaker. Yes, Madam Speaker.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, Madam Speaker. We can all stay here today because I have a right to respond to things that were said concerning me on this honourable floor.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Turn the other speakers off please.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town spoke about houses and how his Government went to East End first.

What this Government or he needs to say also is that that was the only place that was prepared—on my own initiative! But he should also remind the public that in that largest capital expenditure that he said we said we were doing . . . I recall my saying that we, the PPM, were embarking on the largest capital *road* expenditure, that after the 24 years that the First Elected Member [for West Bay] had been in here he had not done for West Bay!

The First Elected Member for West Bay, who had been here for 24 years and had told the developers along that bay that it would be another 10 to 15 [years] before they would have to do it! While his people suffered, I went down there to deal with it!

*[Inaudible interjections and general uproar]*

**The Speaker:** Turn off the microphones please. We do not need any extra voices.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** So!

But, I wasn't doing it . . . they were doing it and they didn't have any candidate for East End. They had a candidate against me. They didn't have a Member in the Legislative Assembly in East End, nor do they have now. And long may that reign. If it's not me, I hope it's someone else and not one of them.

If he or anyone else will recall 2005 to 2009, I had four of them right there from West Bay too. But I went West Bay too. It is not about self; it is about the people of West Bay and taking them out of their problems and the distribution of the resources of this country.

**An Hon. Member:** You're wasting time.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I ain't wasting time! You just stay out of this. You know I can deliver myself, eh?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Just leave you out of it—

**The Speaker:** Ah—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —you are the first one who's going to get it.

**The Speaker:** Not across the floor please. And turn off the extra microphones.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *Now unnah know I ain't afraid of unnah!*

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *Now unnah know that! So, don't come on me!*

*[inaudible interjection]*

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Stop wasting time.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, what the Fourth Elected Member for George Town needs to do, since he is talking about his good stewardship over the housing in this country, is really tell us what is causing the people of East End not to get in after six months they have been built! And further, Madam Speaker, he needs to investigate who on that board is using their position to kill the same poor Caymanians and lower-income Caymanians that he and I are trying to help by trying to solicit them to their own business.

That's what they need to try and find out. That's what they need to investigate.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Why did you not talk about it? You know about it!

**An Hon. Member:** Who?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** You!

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** I said no shouting across the floor. Everything needs to be directed through this Chair. You have two hours to speak. And please turn off the microphones, I am going to ask again, on that side of the House.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the friends that they have on the boards, those are the ones they must investigate and stop talking about Arden McLean

don't want this and don't want that for East Enders. Investigate the chairman and the deputy chairman! That's what you must do! And all the board members.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** So, Madam Speaker, I am raising a point of order too, Madam Speaker.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, the Member for East End seems to be pointing now about friends and he seems to be drawing some causal link.

Madam Speaker, I want to stress for his benefit and the benefit of the public, the Member raised that same issue when I was on the talk show. And I told the Member, and I asked him if he reported it. And, Madam Speaker, anything at the end of the day that is happening on any board, if he believes that there is something taking place on a board, Madam Speaker, he has an obligation to report it.

The Attorney General has made that abundantly clear. So, to stand here in this honourable House and try to drag somebody into ill repute, Madam Speaker, in my opinion is wrong. It is defamatory, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Um—

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I never stood on my feet just now and suggested that the past Leader of the Opposition had something with the Maritime Authority. I didn't do those sorts of things!

#### SPEAKER'S RULING

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. Please sit down.

I am going to remind Members again that the conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor, the Presiding Officer, Members, judges and other persons engaged in the administration of justice or officers of the Crown, may not be raised or impugned, except upon a substantive motion. And in any amendment, question to a Member of the Government or debate on a motion dealing with any other subject any reference to the conduct of any such person is out of order.

Now, please proceed with your debate and do so in a civil manner. Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I said what I had to say. They need to investigate the board.

Now, Madam Speaker, this is where I advocate on behalf of the people of East End. This is the only place. I am calling on this Government—

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I am calling on this Government—

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I am calling on this Government to investigate—

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

In fact, with due respect, Madam Speaker, you even made a ruling on the point of order that what he was doing was calling into repute this Government by suggesting that we had friends on the board. Madam Speaker, on your ruling, I ask that that Member apologise for what he has done to this honourable House because that is what he is trying to call into question.

And I hope he has reported it to the police.

**The Speaker:** Member for East End, please try and be civil in your debate. Please leave the accusations out of your debate, and please continue your debate. You have two hours. You have a lot of time to say what you have to say, and there are a lot of issues facing this country that need to be debated. Please continue.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I know I only have two hours. I know there is a lot to be done. And I am being civil, Madam Speaker, with all due respect. Because it is here that I must request on behalf of the people of the district of East End. And I am calling on the Government to look into it.

**The Speaker:** You have made the request three times. I hope the Attorney General has heard it, since that is what you are doing. Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town wants to know if I reported it. He doesn't have to worry about that.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I have pages of stuff that I sent and delivered to Government from last year.

The Minister for Education, I must thank him for fulfilling his part of this. The rest has not been done. I wait to see what happens.

I also have written the Ministers concerning other matters in East End. I have heard nothing. So, when the First Elected Member for West Bay in his Budget Debate talked about the fairness and distribution of benefits from resources that this country has, I

want him to know that it does not feel like the people from East End are part of that.

I have asked for street lights, I have asked for speed bumps. And, Madam Speaker, so that this country will know that I am reasonable, I am going to read the second paragraph of my request to Cabinet in May of 2010. It says, "I am painfully aware of the financial challenges that the Government is currently experiencing. And I have, therefore, limited my requests to priority needs of the people of East End. I am nevertheless grateful for the opportunity to have audience with Cabinet." And then I went on. That's how reasonable I am, Madam Speaker.

So when the First Elected Member for West Bay and the Fourth Elected Member for George Town start, they must remember that I have my stuff to back me up. Okay?

Madam Speaker, the First Elected Member for West Bay, in his delivery of this Budget Address, and the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, spoke at length about the PPM and the financial woes we put this country through. This \$81 million is high on the minds and the lips of everyone in this country. And mine too, Madam Speaker. Mine too.

But, Madam Speaker, I have doubted that number for quite some time—from the very beginning. Because, Madam Speaker, either we got bad information or we were deliberately given it, or something radical happened in this country when, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009, we were told that up to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2009, the Actuals were something like \$18 million deficit, and we were projecting \$29 [million], and within two weeks of the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009 . . . no, it would be two and a half, three weeks; it went to \$74 [million]. Madam Speaker, something was radically wrong with that.

Now, Madam Speaker, whatever went wrong, it is not for me to say. But it must be for this country to know. We cannot have it as a political football and kick it whenever we feel pleased to do so. It is not fair to my stewardship, nor is it fair to the people that I represented in Cabinet for four years. That is wholly unfair, unreasonable, and unacceptable.

Therefore, it is necessary that those accounts be audited so that we will find the truth. And if it is \$81 [million], so be it. If it is not, then there is need for an apology from the political perspective.

Madam Speaker, if it is not, it is not. If it is, then so shall it be. But we have kicked this around politically for the last two years. And we cannot expect to forever kick this around and then bring an amendment to the Public Management and Finance Law to postpone the principles of accounting for that year and for the First Elected Member of West Bay to say that we are not auditing the year of 2008/9.

#### **Moment of interruption—4.30 pm**

**The Speaker:** Member for East End, I need to interrupt you for just a minute.

If we are going to continue the business beyond the hour of 4.30, I need a motion for suspension.

#### **Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)**

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, we propose to go beyond the hour of 4.30. So at this time, I move the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) in order for business to go beyond that hour.

**The Speaker:** The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended in order for business to go beyond the hour of 4.30.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.**

**The Speaker:** Elected Member for East End, please continue your debate.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My request of the Government is to audit those books, audit those years. Let's get it out on the table once and for all and stop talking about it, independently audit those books through the Auditor General.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** We are not going to stop talking about it but we are going to audit it. It would be strange to know that it was more than \$81 [million].

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, they talked about we should be tarred and feathered. Do you know who should be tarred and feathered? The one who is writing their speeches for them.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** [laughter]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That's who should be tarred and feathered. The mistakes that are in there and can't coordinate the budget with it. That's who should be tarred and feathered.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Mistakes, huh?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I want to leave the Fourth Elected Member for George Town

with his rhetoric now. I'm going to leave that alone. Oh, how quickly we forget.

Madam Speaker, let me turn to something that I do not want, and the people of East End, as far as I can see, do not want. That just happens to be the dock in East End, the proposed Mega Quarry.

Madam Speaker, there is no secret that I opposed this in 2003 when the First Elected Member for West Bay proposed it. There is no secret to that. There is no secret that I opposed it immediately following this Government's promotion to the Cabinet. There is no secret to that.

Madam Speaker, I said that I was going to do a petition in East End to see what the people of East End wanted. And my political position would be dictated by the wishes of the people in East End. It is my view that the majority of East Enders are opposed to it. I know many are saying it's just fly-by-night people who oppose it. Well, there is truth that East Enders oppose it. And I am speaking just about East Enders at this time. But, certainly, Madam Speaker, there are many in this country who oppose it as well. North Siders also. And shortly I will be presenting that petition to the Governor and the Cabinet of this country for their consideration. But in the meantime, Madam Speaker, please allow me to say that there is much to be desired with what this developer is proposing.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Alden, you going again?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I know that I am not . . . I don't know everything, but I do know that the people of East End and I are not that stupid to not be able to understand a document and understand what they have experienced. And the EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment] that these people have done is really not worth the paper it is written on.

Madam Speaker, a lot of it is that they are trying to fool the people. So much so that I am in possession of a 10 page report made by the Environmental Advisory Board on this EIA. And, Madam Speaker, if you want me to [table] it, I will. It was written on 15 June 2011. It was written to Mr. Derek Serpell and it is on the [East End Seaport Draft Environmental Impact Report](#). The second paragraph says—

**The Speaker:** Do you have another copy of it?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** No, Madam Speaker, but if we can take some time we can get it copied. It's on their website, DoE (Department of Environment). But in the meantime—

**The Speaker:** It's a public document, go ahead and quote.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, it's on the DoE website. I downloaded it this morning.

**The Speaker:** Okay.

Are you going to quote extensively from it?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** A couple of things. So maybe, Madam Speaker, we need to do that.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** It shouldn't take very long; it doesn't look like a very long report. It won't take long.

*[pause]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, just let me say—

**The Speaker:** You want to continue and—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —and then I can read some of it.

**The Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, in essence, what it is saying is that the methodology used by these people is not a proven one and they have not used the methodology that the DoE, that Board, asked them to do. And it is "kindergarten" stuff they have put back. They cannot determine, from what was provided in that, whether they can rely on it; it is not a thorough study.

Madam Speaker, I know something is wrong with it because one of the things, a simple thing . . . Madam Speaker, I rode into East End on the Monday morning after the storm. I commandeered a loader in Bodden Town by the old drive-in theatre.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes.

**The Speaker:** Bodden Town was helping everybody that day.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Member for East End, please continue—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** You see, you see—

**The Speaker:** —this is getting very childish.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —the Minister for Education likes to talk about our friendship. But he does not trust my ability to operate. You see?

I really have to question our friendship soon, you hear?

**The Speaker:** I'm glad you are friends.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Anyway . . . Madam Speaker, I rode in there, right where they are proposing this thing. We had four or five feet of sand, rock, debris in the road, which we drove over for days. I made a road over the top of it. By the time I reached there some of the guys from East End had come down to help with it as well with some machines that were up on the high.

So, I said to these people . . . In the report the only thing they reported was that the astronomical tides had risen four to six feet in East End. Madam Speaker, when I saw that I got a little angry—concerned—to think that these people would report such rubbish!

Anyway, I consulted people, because I don't know too much about that. I consulted those who I thought would know, the people at the Hurricane Preparedness thing here, and they said that, yes, it was possible that it was only four to six feet. They said it rose eight to ten in the North Sound, so they said that was reasonable. But that is not the damage factor. It is a wave factor on top of that. And that was what my concern was. I was saying how can they say the sea only rose four to six feet?

Now, what they are telling me in that is that they are going to take out a 30 foot ridge . . . remember when I said I rode into East End there were rocks on the road and we made a road on top of that because it was destroyed? And those rocks and debris were straight up to that 30 foot bluff.

So, Madam Speaker, these people are saying in there that four to six feet . . . they are taking out the 30 foot ridge and replacing it with a 12 foot berm and that will stop the water from going in the back. I questioned them. Madam Speaker, long before this came out I questioned the engineer at the meeting in East End [by asking] if they had conducted a physical hydrodynamic model of that area with different scenarios of hurricanes, such as 2, 3, 4, 5 [INAUDIBLE] to determine what they had to replace it. They had not!

Madam Speaker, even this advisory board has now seen that they have not done it either, and they are asking them to do it.

Madam Speaker, they said in there that, yes, the water lens is going to get damaged in 50 years, recede by 12 feet, and 3 feet take, or something like that, it will lose. Madam Speaker, we know that not even the DoE, or anyone, knows the extent of that water lens. There were extrapolations done many, many years ago when we tested for the water lens, but we only tested where vehicular traffic could get to. So they did some extrapolations.

These scientists or engineers, whatever, have now gone and done a few holes. This document is saying that they asked for six. They only did three! And they are making all kinds of assumptions. Even the Government technocrats, whom the First Elected

Member for West Bay needs to rely on to make his decisions, are saying "no."

They said in there, Madam Speaker, at least three times they mentioned the east/west bypass, that it has to be built. Government has promised to build it in 14 years. I don't know where that came from . . . in 5 years.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** No, they said that was the plan . . . phase for it, 5 years. They are going to use it to carry fuel back into George Town because they need it to do the pipeline.

They said it has to be 8,000 to 9,000 more trips per day into East End. I asked the developer if he was going to build a road. He said, "No. Government is going to do that." In the public domain he said that. This thing is now saying that they used the wrong calculations. But they are supposed to be big time scientists now, you know, Madam Speaker. And it's more like over 10,000 per day! This is saying they will not be building any roads.

Madam Speaker, the Minister for Health will understand some of the terminology in here. And one of the things it says is: **"The scope of assessment for the traffic demands generated by the proposed East End Seaport development should include both the near-term ( Year 1 to 7 ) and overall long-term Master Plan of the PDZ"** (that's the "Port Development Zone") **"in order to properly determine the resulting transportation impacts on the traffic operations of 1) the immediate surrounding road network (i.e. East End) and 2) the downstream road corridors of Bodden Town and George Town, particularly during the morning and afternoon peak hour conditions."**

I said that as well, Madam Speaker, long before this came out. What is going to happen on Crewe Road where we know we have the bottleneck? We are taking the traffic and putting it up that way. What is going to happen in the morning?

Reading on: **"The EIR rightfully indicates that the NRA already has functional plans for the eastward extension of the East-West Arterial (EWA) to the immediate vicinity of the EES [East End Seaport] (i.e. Section 26 Gazette of May 2005). However, the assumption that this planned roadway, which consists of 10.4 miles of new construction, "shall be in place" in five years (p.92 [of the report]) to accommodate traffic from the EES is highly speculative and optimistic at this point since the NRA has not been able to secure funding for this road project under either the Phase 1 (which is one service lane in each direction) or Phase 2 (three traffic lanes in each direction) geometric configuration. Furthermore, this significant piece of infrastructure may be the subject of an Environmental Impact Assessment in its own**

**right and to assume that it will definitely be constructed prejudices the approval process. On that basis, the EIR should carry out the traffic impact assessment of the proposed development with and without (underlined) “the extension of the EWA.”**

Madam Speaker, some of the Members of Government may be hardheaded, but plenty out there understand. Plenty of them on that side understand. “Hardheaded” does not mean they are dumb; nor stupid. “Hardheaded” means sometimes they won’t change direction. But I know they understand. And they understand the emotional part of this thing too. I know the same way they understand the emotional part of dredging the North Sound with regard to their constituents in West Bay. The four big men from West Bay understand what the people of East End are saying too. And I would encourage them to take note.

Madam Speaker, the evening the developer came up there . . . I should say first, Madam Speaker, that I would encourage the Government to read this. But I will also be bringing that petition soon. I would encourage them to interact with some of the constituents in East End—not the ones who support it, but others as well. People’s livelihood and their way of life will be threatened for the good of a few dollars, when the developer says he’s not even going to build a dock for Government; that Government is going to have to build it. And you hear us giving everything away to Dart. Now where are we going to get money from to build anything up there? And I am going to deal with that later too.

But I would encourage them, Madam Speaker, to look at it. The developer on that evening in his introductory remarks said that he hoped no one was going to march and destroy the country and put machinery in the middle of George Town. Well, I have a message for him, Madam Speaker. It is unfortunate that he has not been here more than 30 years. He says he has been here 30 years or 32-something. But, Madam Speaker, you will recall that when I was a kid my father had me out in the middle of the street too, making up numbers. You were there too. Why? Because my father’s generation had to stand up for what you all believed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the First Elected Member for West Bay created at least three marches in this country! Three demonstrations! Him so! The same one who sits right over there—the First Elected Member for West Bay.

**The Speaker:** I assume you mean the Minister for Finance and Tourism, the Premier. Is that who you are speaking about?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I will call him that when the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay starts calling the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition!

I knew you were going to stop me on it, Madam Speaker, but I am ready for you.

**The Speaker:** You are not ready for me, because I refer to both persons by their correct title, and I do expect the Members of the House to do the same. Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, Madam Speaker, then we need to ensure the next time . . . I will refer to him as that, because I understand that, Madam Speaker. But I deliberately have been referring to the Premier as the First Elected Member for West Bay because of the lack of respect that the Fourth Elected Member for George Town has for the Leader of the Opposition.

I did not stop him on a point of order. I expected you to do so. Now he must learn to have respect! That is why I did it!

*[inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** It is wrong, Madam Speaker. That Minister of Education, the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Health, the Deputy Governor, the Attorney General, they must all be afforded the respect that is called for. And he is not doing it, and it is wrong!

Now, I will say “the Premier,” Madam Speaker, now that you stopped me, and we clarified that one.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the Premier, in his heyday—I don’t know how many of them out there remember it—so much so, that he got sued by the then reigning Government. By my predecessor! The money he got from him, he bought a dog and named him after the Premier! That’s the kind of political stuff that went on in this country. Ask the Premier if he didn’t do it.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** [Inaudible]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, that’s true. I hope so.

But, Madam Speaker, the Premier stood up against a Commissioner of Police that he thought was doing this country ill. And he stood in the streets—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Oh yeah!

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —and he was right then about it. He was on the side of right then. And I am on the side of right now. He stood up for what he believed in, he stood up out there with Miss Annie . . . Miss Annie dodging him and stuff like that, but that’s all right.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, God bless her soul.

Madam Speaker, you did it too when you believed you were right.

When the Government wanted to take the swampland, my father took me out there by the courthouse, where the Legislative Assembly used to be held then, the museum now, the 13 steps up to the courthouse out on the waterfront. That is what made this country a good country for people like that developer to come here and enjoy.

Now, his attitude and his arrogance is what pushed us into the streets before. And that is what will push us again. And the Premier has called more than one time about we must stop this thing of threatening civil disobedience. The Premier has done it! Now, I am here to tell the Premier to tell his developer to stop his dirty arrogance because—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** —we wouldn't do it!

**POINT OF ORDER**  
*[Misleading]*

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

Madam Speaker, on more than one occasion I have heard the call for civil disobedience. A march or a demonstration against a good thing is a different thing than civil disobedience, if you take the two. It is two complete different things.

I have had the occasion to lead one. That was many years ago. He just said . . . he agreed. I don't know if he was there or not. But he said he agreed.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** [Inaudible]

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** I don't know. Not the Commissioner of Police.

Madam Speaker, I do not know about the Speaker [at] anytime being in any demonstration.

I would encourage that Member, Madam Speaker, not to mislead the House in that way. There are times when perhaps it gets to that point. It is not to that point at this time. And there are times in the life of a country, Madam Speaker, when that sort of thing does nothing but complete disruption and the international world then kicks back on you. Perhaps at that point in time was not the same as what we are facing today.

**The Speaker:** Member for East End, please continue.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I do apologise to the Premier if he understood me to say civil disobedience was the order of the day. That is not what I intended. That is not what I said. I said he has

called on many occasions—in recent time, on the radio and whatever, whatever, whatever, and in here—to say that we should not go to the order of civil disobedience. I am not saying that is where it is going to go.

But I am telling him this: If his developer does not stop his attitude—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker, I must rise again.

It is time for the Member now to stop this political machination in this House! I do not have any developer. The developer for the East End dock is a private individual whom he worked with, not me. So he might know him. I know him as an individual who has made contributions to this country in business. But he is not my developer. We have not given the go-ahead to any dock in East End, and we have yet to go through the proposals.

In fact, the proposal that the Member gave us today is another reason for us to study it even more!

So please . . . don't think, Madam Speaker, [DIGITAL SKIP] it is going to be a whipping horse in here for the disrespect of the Member for what he wants. That is not going to happen either, okay? I know the rules.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Member for East End, please continue, and please do not make those statements again.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, this developer says that he has met with the Government many times!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Yes, he has met with us—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *So, it's unnah developer!*

**The Speaker:** No, that does not—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker!

**The Speaker:** Um—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** —he is no more our developer than he is a friend of his!

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I know he ain't mine!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** You worked with him long enough.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Oooh!

**The Speaker:** Mr. Premier, and Mr. Member for East End, he is not anybody's developer; he is his own

person. Please do not call him anybody's developer. He is a developer in the Cayman Islands, or an investor in the Cayman Islands. Please refer to him as such. Please do not give him to anyone, not even yourself. Thank you.

[Laughter]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, I know he's not mine! Now, Madam Speaker, I can assure you of that!

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I worked at CUC, but they were some rocky days. So he wasn't mine! Understand that!

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** But, Madam Speaker, I say that in the context that the Premier continues to say that PPM is running away all the investors he gets to come here.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, please, the Member cannot tie any of that . . . that's not tying two things together. The Member cannot confuse it, and I object to it!

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, yes.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** And if he continues, Madam Speaker, then I am going to the rule book, Erskine May's as well.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, well you go ahead and read!

**The Speaker:** Member for East End, please move on. Get off of this thing about who the developer belongs to and who is going to do what. Please get on with your debate; get past that point. Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, this same developer had a thing with the *iNews* and said that I must stop my radio ranting and go deal with the people of my constituency. The last person to spank me was my dearly departed father. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2002 he passed away from this life after disciplining me much.

Whoever developer he is, he is not going to spank me! He must learn that. I [am an] advocate [of] and I represent the people of East End, and he cannot shut me up! Neither can the Premier!

[Inaudible interjection]

**The Speaker:** Member for East End—

[Inaudible interjection]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *Unnah ga have unnah hand-full!*

Madam Speaker, the Government is going to have their hands full on this subject of the East End Seaport, and I encourage them now to make an announcement that they are not supporting it. They are going to have their hands full!

It is my last stand for the people of the district of East End. I am angry about it, yes, Madam Speaker. This is the only place that I can talk and advocate on behalf of the people of East End, and I will!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** [inaudible] Oh boy.

**The Speaker:** Um—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Heart attack? I don't get them I give them!

[Laughter]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, no!

**The Speaker:** You know, I think what we need to do right now is to have a little suspension and get some refreshments so you all can cool down.

[Inaudible interjections]

**The Speaker:** We will suspend for 15 minutes.

**Proceedings suspended at 5.02 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 5.43 pm**

**The Speaker:** Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

The Member for East End was presenting his contribution on the Budget and the Throne Speech. Would you please continue, sir?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, when we took the suspension, I was on the East End Port. I am going to spend a little more time on it. I know I had reached an emotional pitch that you were not very pleased with. So, I will try to calm down. But there are a couple of things I still want to do on that.

Madam Speaker, as a result . . . But before I get to that, just let me say that there are many people . . . The developer is now using Caymanians with their businesses to advertise for him and to help him in selling the project, so to speak. And the consultancy obviously wrote them, and they said part of it is, "Know the facts."

I know the facts now, and these are the facts. Well, Madam Speaker, I can tell you what: They had better pull them off because the facts certainly are not in that EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment], the EIR [Environmental Impact Report], the report, not based on what that advisory board is saying. There cannot be any facts in that. If these people, based on what they have said in that 10-page letter to them . . . it seems like we have got to do the whole thing over.

So, I would tell those Caymanians who are doing that to try and get the real facts about it now before they go back on there. They should pull those ads themselves.

Madam Speaker, moving on: As a result of my opposition to this I have had a lot of opposition to my opposition, which is fine. We are all Caymanians. Everybody has an opinion. I have mine, too. Madam Speaker, there is a letter in today's *Caymanian Compass*, signed by Frank McField. Among saying other things, he said, or the letter says, and I quote: **"The present government should accept that traditionally many of the Eastern district politicians have behaved much like African chiefs who desired Western goods and education for themselves and their children but not for other members of their tribe since this would lead to the weakening of their hegemony."**

Madam Speaker, to that author I say this: It is unfortunate that he has never started that behaviour on me. Because many of us in here will recall how he started that on the merchants of George Town many years ago. And many of them responded disparagingly towards him.

Madam Speaker, long before I became a politician I was an activist in the district that I grew up in. One of the things I did was pay close attention to the education of children in that district. So much so, Madam Speaker, that the last UDP Administration was concerned about me disturbing the school during schooldays. The then Education Minister asked that I try to control my visits to the school during the day because I was so close to the staff and students there.

Madam Speaker, I continue to do all within my power for that school. So when Frank McField talks about me wanting to educate my children only, he must understand that if he had done as much for the people of George Town—other than building them tin homes that you can open with a can opener—he would have still been on the floor of this Legislative Assembly representing them.

Madam Speaker, it was I, who, after Hurricane Ivan, when Mr. Reid called me and asked me what he could help me with (Andrew Reid), and I called his name. I said, "All I need right now is a generator so I can get my school back up," so I could keep the children out of the way and get them back into class, because school had just started, as we recall. It was I who physically, with the help of a young

man from Public Works, installed that at the library and got the teachers and our children back in school.

It was I who called Mrs. Olde and said, "Send me a three-phase generator out of the States so that I can get the school back and going." Within days, it was flown into this country. It was I who went on the dock out at the airport and brought it to East End and hooked it up on the school to ensure that my kids were in school.

It was I who built a greenhouse for the school. It was I who, after [Hurricane] Ivan, put sidewalks around that school. It was I who painted that school. It was I who repaired that school. It has been I who, since Roy Bodden commissioned the history of the Cayman Islands (or the current Premier during his time, whomever it was), [who has made sure] that every graduating class from that East End school who is going on to high school gets a history book from me. Nothing else; [just] a history book.

It is I, who, tomorrow has to get someone to go to the museum to get 14 books to do that. Over the weekend I will write in every one, and the ladies will wrap them, and we will present them to them Monday morning at 10.30. So do not expect me to be here at 10.30 Monday morning. It is me. It is I who did all that.

Maybe, just maybe, Frank McField should try to make a contribution to the furtherance of the education of the people of his community in that manner.

I recall when he came back to this country [how] he was going all over this country preaching socialism and the likes and what-have-you. If he can call me an Indian chief, Madam Speaker, it is a sorry state of affairs. Maybe, Madam Speaker, maybe I have a name for him too.

Because, Madam Speaker, when I opposed this dock initially, Frank McField called up the radio one morning and said that I should be more receptive to things as a politician and try to lead because George Town had carried the weight for hundreds of years on commercial stuff, and maybe we needed to look at it, see how we can do it in the East End. And I agreed with him! I said, "I will." But, however, at that time I had had more information than he. I had already seen it.

Months later, Madam Speaker, about six-eight months ago, unsolicited, Frank McField came to me and said that he needed to talk to me (in the supermarket, I think it was). And he said to me, "Listen. I have seen a presentation, and that is not good for the people of East End." He said, "I'm on your side now."

I said, "Fine."

Last Wednesday . . . time moved on. Last Wednesday, he called up and he nearly beat me. He said that this is the best thing that could happen to . . . But I understand that he is on the payroll of the developer to help him do his advertisement.

Madam Speaker, maybe the name that suits him is "Uncle Tom Boy." He has sold out his people.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I will never do that, Madam Speaker. Okay? I will go on to my eternal rest before I sell my people out for a fistful of dollars. I will not do that.

Maybe he needs to consider what he has done. Just maybe . . . if he has a conscience and he . . . Remember, Madam Speaker, he has more family, or as much family, in East End as he has in George Town. His mother comes from the Dixons in East End. She is full Dixon out of East End. And that is one of the largest family units in the district of East End. His mother [is] my mother's first cousin. So, you understand how embarrassed I am about this letter. You understand how I feel about that. That is why families will turn against families—for money. That is unfortunate. That is very unfortunate.

But, Madam Speaker, that is what these developers do. Remember the TV show “The Weakest Link”? They get to the weakest link.

But, Madam Speaker, I can tell Frank McField and the rest of the country this: There are many strong links left. The chain has been broken, but we can mend it back together without this link. We are now welding up this link. He cannot come back in the chain. If that is what he will do to his family, he is not deserving of being called family. That is how this works.

Madam Speaker, he has a right to oppose it. He has no right to make such disparaging remarks about me. None! He has no right, Madam Speaker. And anyone who advocates this is wrong. For greed? I do not have much, but what I have I would have shared with him, if that is what it was. Greed? And this is the man who has taught—or tried to teach—a generation about the merchant mentality in this country? And turned against half of his family because of the merchant mentality and been bought? Lord, have mercy on his soul.

Madam Speaker, I am moving on. I have said enough on that one.

Madam Speaker, I was a little surprised to see that the Premier did not say too much about this new facility, this new dock in East End, in this Budget Address. I should point out that it says “2010.” It is supposed to be “2011.” So I would advise it to be changed prior to it becoming a document in this Honourable House.

On page 32, he says, “**Additional development initiatives will include: improvement of the efficiency of both cruise and cargo port operations by separating and establishing new facilities.**”

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *[addressing the interjector]* On the front. Somebody will pick it up 20 years from now; they will say “2010.” Yes.

Madam Speaker, the Governor in his address on page 18, I think it is, says, “**In the area of development, ongoing plans include a new cargo facility in East End.**”

Madam Speaker, I would advise the Government to coordinate these speeches because the Premier is saying that the Government has not made any commitment, but the Governor is saying that they are building a new dock cargo facility in East End. Madam Speaker, now I know the Premier's Press Secretary came out and said, *That is not what it said.* But that is the only thing you can decipher from that: “**In the area of development, ongoing plans include a new cargo facility in East End.**”

Now, Madam Speaker, if the Premier wants to get up and explain which other one that is that they are planning on doing in East End, I will gladly give way.

“**The developer has completed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment which has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment and is now posted online. This is in keeping with the commitment to follow due process in the necessary approvals and public consultation, which the Government welcomes.**” I hope he will unwelcome it now.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** No. We welcome the public's discussion.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I'm talking about the EIA!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** We welcome the public's discussion.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, that says to me that the Government has made a commitment to this cargo facility in East End.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** *[inaudible]* We nah done yet!

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the Press Secretary said that there is no such thing. He better be careful, too, how he writes.

*[inaudible interjections and laughter]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I do not know how we can twist it, but I know that is what I read.

Madam Speaker, the [EIA](#) . . . And I know many of us in this country have not even read this. Starting on page 44, Madam Speaker, [section] 3.2, it says: “**The proposed East End Seaport is a master planned development which will create a multi-**

use, multi-owner international seaport. Given the nature and type of development, and the nature and type of future commercial maritime operations; the developer recognized the challenges of efficiently permitting, and then managing, such a project across the various Government Ministries, Departments, Authorities and Agencies over the life of the project. Because of these challenges, a practical framework was sought through the use of enabling legislation. Therefore, in recognition of the efficiency of this approach and the Government's constrained resources, the East End Development Corporation Law (2011) was drafted and several versions shared with Government for its review, feedback and revisions. There is precedence for this approach and use of a legal framework in the United Kingdom during the redevelopment of the London Docklands."

Madam Speaker, what that says to me is that Government has been involved. And if Government has not been involved in it, they need to say so now. That is fair. That is reasonable, because the Premier continues to deny it. His Press Secretary denies it. The Governor says that it is so. The EIA says that it is so. The Marl Road says that it is so. Now, the Premier continues on many occasions to say . . . He stood on this floor and told me that's where it is going!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Where it is supposed to go

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That is where he has supported it.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Yep.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** If it was put there when he first supported it, then we would not be talking about it now. That is what he has said.

Now they are denying it. Can they be trusted, this Government, to tell the country the truth? Highly unlikely. Somebody is not telling the people the full truth and nothing but the truth.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *[addressing the interjector]* Get up on point of elucidation. I do not have a problem with that.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *[addressing the interjector]* Plenty of it, because you disturb me a lot.

Madam Speaker, this Government needs to do that. They need to make the people of this country know what their position is. If it is opposite to mine, then that is fine. If it is in support of me and those who oppose it, then we welcome that. I should note here,

Madam Speaker, through all this controversy I told Mr. Imperato, the developer, that his project is not welcome in the District of East End.

One moment, please.

*[Pause and inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, at the meeting at the Civic Centre . . . and I am going to read it here so that it can go into the annals of history. Okay?

I said, "Good evening, all. Thank you for the opportunity to address you in this public forum. My opposition to this project is well known. While I have many questions, I will first address you as a representative of the people of East End.

"Sir, it is my view that the majority of the people of this district do not support your project. This is borne out by the overwhelming amount that signed the petition against it. Indeed, there are many in the country who, for one reason or the other, view this project as detrimental to the country and the district of East End in particular.

"The people of East End view your project as an invasion of their way of life, and the damage that it will cause far outweighs the benefits they will derive. Some may say that something has to be lost in the name of progress. Well, my response is, if the people of East End wish to remain a relatively quiet community, then no one has the right to decide their future—not me, not you, and more importantly, not the Government.

"In the same manner that the people of West Bay have the right to oppose the dredging of the North Sound, so too do the people of East End have a right to make a choice on how and what they will leave behind for their successors. In other words, Mr. Imperato (and I say this with the utmost respect), your project is not welcome in this community. Even you understand that whenever one is not welcome, one should not try to impose themselves.

"Having said that, this community nor I is opposed to development. Many have expressed their support for you to do something on your property—just not a hole in the ground, and the removal of the coastline that has been there for generations.

"If there is one piece of advice I can give you, it is that the lack of respect you have shown these people during this entire process. It does not augur well for future relationships you need to develop coming into this district. They are real human beings, with feelings, opinions, wishes, and visions of a future that includes their children and grandchildren. They should not be treated as just another obstacle to overcome.

"A case in point is, this is the first meeting that they have had to express their feelings and opinions to you as the developer, and your measly attempt at notifying them of this opportunity was downright disrespectful. It is deserving of an apology.

"I am also reliably informed that police presence was requested here this evening. Why? Is this your way of integrating into this community?" [UNVERIFIED QUOTE]

I think I have made myself very clear, Madam Speaker, on this project. I think the people of East End have spoken. I have spent a lot of time on it in order for the Government understands where I am coming from and what I believe the people have sent me here to do. And I am talking about, in particular, this instance. Madam Speaker, the people of East End are not pleased with that project.

Madam Speaker, I can tell the country now, and I can tell the Government, the property along that wall happens to be public property. I understand that Cabinet has the authority over it. The Member from North Side and I erected signs there in opposition to this project.

Madam Speaker, I must tell you, the young man at Planning, Director Pandohie, is one of the best young professionals this country has produced. He called me today, and he was so professional in his approach. He told me that it needed planning permission. And I said to him, "I understand you, son. But understand, I would like to see you and the Government send out a task force to move all of those illegal signs in this country that were put up long before these. And then, when you reach me, I figure it will be two years before you reach me."

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *[addressing the interjector]* No, before mine. They won't start on that end.

Madam Speaker, I put those signs up there. I stand responsible for them. I put those signs up on the country's land. I understand one is on this developer's land, and I am going to move it. I put it up on the people's land in defence of the people. And if the Government is mindful to take them down, then they will be expressing their might. They will be expressing their might over the people. And I would not advise them to do that without consideration.

It is the people's land. It is the people's land, it is not mine. I share in it, but it is on behalf of the people. Do not exercise might over right. Do not. Because the same way that may be unlawful, it is certainly unlawful for the Government to make legislation to create a country within a country. The only other time that has ever happened is the Vatican. That is unlawful against the people of East End, too, and against the people of this country.

Madam Speaker, the other Members here will deal with some of the issues in the Budget. There are a couple that I want to talk about.

The Government continues to talk about the disastrous fiscal position that this country is in as a result of PPM. I wonder if we have forgotten the decisions that the Premier, in a former ExCo Cabinet

made, such as the Turtle Farm, which we are subsidising to the tune of \$10 million per year. I wonder if we forget that, that the PPM Government had to pay throughout. So there is some \$40-odd million we paid during that time, too, to support a failed project.

I said then that we should have sold it then. I did not get any listening ears. And I say now again, we should give it away. Retain ownership, but give the facilities to someone to operate so we do not have to put \$10 million in it each year. But PPM got blamed for that, too. We got blamed for that, too.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** *[addressing the interjector]* Well why you do not correct it in the two years since you have been back?

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** You could not do it then when it was being built, but now we messed it up in four?

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Let's not talk across the floor.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** You could not do it then.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** You don't know what you are talking about—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** The Premier could not do it then.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** No.

**The Speaker:** We are going to prepare—

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** When we built it, it was a failed project from its inception! Wrong business plan—just because it was in the constituency.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Oh no. Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Who was the Chief Officer?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I do not care who the Chief Officer was; it was you who was the politician and the Minister.

Madam Speaker, moving on to another subject, I am going to concentrate on those policies by this Government that will damage this country. The Premier announced here this week that he had signed a Ministerial MOU—I am still trying to figure out what that one is—with a company called China Harbour Engineering Company.

Madam Speaker, I asked him a question, if it was a private company or if it was a state-owned company. And he said it was a state-owned company. Now, Madam Speaker, that state-owned company is owned by the Chinese Government. According to a search of the Internet, it is one of China's largest state-owned enterprises with foreign operations. Madam Speaker, I asked him on what authority he negotiated with a foreign government—

**An Hon. Member:** A Communist government.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** A Communist government.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Communist government, or for that matter any government? It does not matter. In this case it is a Communist one.

Madam Speaker, the Constitution is very specific. Under Special Responsibilities of the Governor, 55(4), [it] says, “**(4) The Governor shall, acting after consultation with the Premier, assign or delegate to the Premier or another Minister, by instrument in writing and on the terms and conditions set out in subsection (5), responsibility for the conduct of external affairs insofar as they relate to any matters falling within the portfolios of Ministers, including— (a) the Caribbean Community, the Association of Caribbean States, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, or any other Caribbean regional organisation or institution; (b) other Caribbean regional affairs relating specifically to issues that are of interest to or affect the Cayman Islands; (c) tourism and tourism-related matters; (d) taxation and the regulation of finance and financial services; and (e) European Union matters directly affecting the Cayman Islands.**”

Subsection (5) says “**The terms and conditions referred to in subsection (4) are [the following]—(a) separate authority shall be required from or on behalf of a Secretary of State for the commencement of formal negotiation and the conclusion of any treaty or other international agreement by the Government.**”

Now, I would like to know [if] the Government that governs this country has an instrument of authority from the Secretary of State saying that they can negotiate with a company owned by China, by the country.

**“(b) no political declaration, understanding or arrangement in the field of foreign policy shall be signed or supported in the name of the Government without the prior approval of a Secretary of State;**

**“(c) a formal invitation to a member of government or Head of State of another country to visit the Cayman Islands shall not be issued without prior consultation with the Governor;**

**“(d) the costs of any activities in pursuance of subsection (4) shall be borne by the Government;**

**“(e) the Premier or other Minister shall keep the Governor fully informed of any activities in pursuance of subsection (4);”** (that is the Caribbean stuff.)

**“(f) the Premier or other Minister shall provide the Governor on request all papers and information, including the text of any instrument under negotiation, available to the Premier or other Minister with respect to any activities in pursuance of subsection (4); and**

**“(g) any directions given by the Governor on any matter which in his or her judgement might affect defence or security shall be complied with.**

**“[55] (6) In the event of any disagreement regarding the exercise of any authority delegated or assigned under subsection (4), the matter shall be referred to a Secretary of State whose decision on the matter shall be final and whose directions shall be complied with.**

**“[55] (7) The Governor may, by directions in writing and with the prior approval of a Secretary of State, delegate or assign such other matters relating to external affairs to the Premier or another Minister designated by the Premier as the Governor thinks fit on such conditions as he or she may impose.”**

Now I would like to know if the Governor, through the Secretary of State, has given the Premier authority to negotiate with a foreign country. Madam Speaker, we need to ensure that we are right.

Madam Speaker, one of the things we were blamed about—particularly me—on Matrix, was that it was a foreign company! The [Fourth] Elected Member jumped up here about the schools, that even the copying was done overseas and how the pension of the foreign worker is going overseas.

We are not supporting . . . And Madam Speaker, I forgot to tell him that I was not here during the debate on [his] motion. I have always said that I believed it was with [DIGITAL SKIP] good intent, and I thought it was a good thing. However, I would like to see, somehow, getting it back in there over time, maybe \$10 a month or whatever the case may be, so people can continue with their pension. Because in the old age is when they will really need it. If you take it out now, then it is not going to have the earning power. So you keep putting it back.

That is all I have ever said about it. But he got up there, Madam Speaker, saying that I opposed it. I was not here. That was when my sister was sick. As a matter of fact, he was the one who said to me in Oc-

tober, with the lawyers, that he wished I had been here for his debate for that motion.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That we had a . . . I do not know, reliable or something . . .

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, the Legal Practitioners Law. When I told him about how Caymanians have to be made good, I think I said something like, "We know how many of your partners we made Caymanian, but you need to now tell us how much of our Caymanians you have made partners." And that is what the Fourth Elected Member [for George Town] said to me, that (if I had been here) he would have liked to have heard me debate his motion because it was in the interest of Caymanians like that.

Anyway, Madam Speaker, I also asked the Premier yesterday if this was the same company that was currently being investigated in Jamaica. Madam Speaker, I know that the Office of the Contractor General wrote to Mr. Patrick Wong, and this is public on the Internet as well, in the newspapers up there in Jamaica. ". . . **the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Works Agency (NWA), requiring him to provide to the OCG (that is the Office of the Contractor General) by noon on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, detailed project particulars regarding the reported construction of an \$800 Million (1) kilometre or 0.625 mile roadway in Christiana.**

"**The roadway, which is reportedly situated in the North-East Manchester constituency of Finance Minister, Mr. Audley Shaw, is allegedly being constructed under the US \$400 Million Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP).**

"**The JDIP project is being administered pursuant to Government contract which has been entered into between the Government of Jamaica and the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC).**

"**Among the preliminary information which Mr. Wong has been [requisitioned] to provide to the OCG is the following:**

- (a) the original contract sum for the project;**
- (b) a list of any project variations and requisite approvals;**
- (c) the name(s) of the subcontractor(s) that were selected to work on the project;**
- (d) a copy of the signed and dated Contract document;**
- (e) a copy of the Work Order highlighting the start-up and completion date for the project;**
- (f) a copy of the Site Meeting Schedule and copies of all Site Meeting Minutes;**

- (g) copies of all Payment Certificates;**
- (h) copies of all project Progress Reports; and**
- (i) copies of all and any other correspondence which is related to the project.**

"**Additionally, Mr. Wong has been required to submit to OCG an Executive Summary outlining, among other things, the reasons for the seemingly high construction cost for the project, and the rationale for selecting the project under the JDIP, if there was sufficient evidence that the overall cost of the project would have been abnormally high.**

"**It is important that the public recognises that while the circumstances of the award of sub-contracts are neither regulated by the Contractor General Act nor by the Government's Procurement Guidelines, the Contractor General, nonetheless, has the statutory authority and power, under the Contractor General Act to lawfully demand information regarding any and all matters that are associated with any sub-contract which may have been issued under the umbrella of parent Government contract, such as the Government of Jamaica/CHEC contract."**

Madam Speaker, there is nothing indicating that there is anything untoward. All I know is that the Contractor General has requested information on these people. Now, I do not know if that is the same company. But I know the Premier went to Jamaica and never even signed it. So, we should at least put two and two together and get four out of it. That would be the same company. I would like to think maybe it is.

Madam Speaker, I ask the Government to be extremely careful and hasten slowly on this.

*[Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, sorry. Mr. Speaker, one of the things the Government has said is that we continue to oppose everything they do, or they try to do. Mr. Speaker, that is not true. And the Premier needs to stop saying that. He really needs to stop saying that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let us go through it. We support the dock out in town, the passenger-liner dock. We support the completion of the schools. We support the Shetty Hospital. We support still, with a few concerns that we want addressed, Cayman Enterprise City.

Now, Mr. Speaker, because I do not support the dock, or the Mega Quarry in East End, that is five. But we support four! And the Government still cannot get any one of them off the ground.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** No, we are supporting them. And nothing is happening.

But as soon as we say something about the Mega Quarry, we oppose everything. We have supported the airport expansion because, if you remember. It has been going on for quite awhile, and over four years we were in support of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to stop saying that. He needs to work on at least what we support and get it done. Let us get it done! I understand the need for us to get the economy going. We have allowed . . . We have given the Government much latitude to stimulate this economy.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Oh my God!

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** But he cannot get it done, Mr. Speaker!

Mr. Speaker, the Premier continues to ridicule everybody. And at least four projects, major projects that could stimulate this economy, put thousands of people back to work—he is not getting done! And there is ample proof. There is ample proof about the place.

This is the fourth contractor for the passenger liner dock—third or fourth. I do not know what it is. I do not remember. But I know it is more than the one that it started with. Why? Did we stop that, too? We did not.

Mr. Speaker, you are aware, sir, that I was the one who proposed, let us do the Mega Yacht out in the middle of George Town as part of that project. Let us do it out there! I suggested that. I said [that] George Town is already destroyed, let us do it out there and get something out of it.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I am talking about the marine environment out there against the iron shore, because of all the use of the ships and the likes and the emulsion in the water and the likes.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to stop that now. He has been in office two years, and he needs to respect that the time has come and gone for the blame. Are we going to go through his entire tenure blaming someone else, when we are here trying to help and support him by giving him—

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** [inaudible] and carrying on. Not telling the truth about what happened. Talking foolishness about . . . [inaudible]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I have got to try to stop. I am not going to answer him because he just . . . He is the most mischievous . . . What he was like in West Bay when he was young anyhow? I would like to know.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** He must have taken some shellacking now from them old people, you know.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to stop that. We need to stop the blame now. We need to move on. He is at the helm of this country. These are the things that we have supported, and the Premier continues to blame, blame, blame, blame, blame, and talk about us not supporting him and not supporting . . .

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn now to the editorial today. It says: **“The big deal for Cayman”** (i.e., this Premier’s Statement of yesterday) announcing the investment alliance with Dart Cayman Islands. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier if the Government had signed any agreements, or anything, with Dart Cayman Islands. And he was very emphatic about it, and he said, “No!” He was very emphatic with his “no.”

It says in the [paper today](#), on the front page, by a reporter by the name of Alan Markoff, **“The Government and the Dart Group,”** which is a completely different company now, **“have signed a Heads of Terms agreement they say will stimulate the economy, provide needed infrastructure and resolve the George Town Landfill problem.”**

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is not right. Someone needs to correct one of these situations. The Premier stood on the floor of this honourable House and said to Members and this country that he has not committed this country to any agreement with Dart Cayman Islands. And the newspaper prints—the following day—that he has signed the same thing (that is, the same kind of exchange) with “Dart Group”! It needs to be corrected, because the newspapers should not be . . .

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** *[inaudible]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Member, I just want to remind you, you have three minutes remaining.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Mr. Speaker, one of the things that needs to be practised in here is the need to notify Members like it was done many years ago. And you are aware of that, Mr. Speaker. When you get 15 minutes, or thereabouts, you are reminded of that. Because you know how long, Mr. Speaker, you and I have advocated for a clock with our time on it. You know that, sir. And it is wrong!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** *[inaudible]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Mr. Speaker, just let me say, I have a right to ask for extra time to finish off a particu-

lar thing. The Standing Orders make provisions for that.

The Premier needs keep quiet now, too. He is really out of hand now.

Mr. Speaker, it is my position that not only did the Premier not . . . it is either the Premier did not tell the country the full truth, or the papers are reporting it incorrectly. Now, the papers need to come out with the apology then, or the Premier needs to bring an apology to the people of this country for saying that he has signed nothing. It is wrong!

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I wanted to point out here . . . and don't worry, the former Leader, First elected Member for George Town, will deal with that. But "**Government to give Dart about 2,500 feet of West Bay Road starting around Raleigh Quay Road and going north, leading to the closure of the section of road. Dart to give government 26 acres of land for usage on the Esterley Tibbetts Highway.**"

How? How can the Government stand in here, Mr. Speaker, and say that, when that is a *Gazetted* road, and under the Roads Law you first have to determine whether it brings value to that landowner, and then you can determine how much it is valued and whether he or she gets money or not. That is wrong! You cannot mislead the country like this.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town does not understand. Tell him to look in the Standing Orders.

**The Deputy Speaker:** *[inaudible]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** About Berm!

*[laughter]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That is exactly what you are; Berm!

*[laughter]*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Member, I ask you to bring it to a conclusion.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Okay, I will. I will, sir.

Mr. Speaker, we are reliably informed that the Premier has signed this agreement. But, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about this road. I am concerned about this road that they are saying Dart is giving this country. He is not giving us anything. And, Mr. Speaker, I implore the country—the Government—not to sell our country to one individual and let him hold us at ransom. I implore them, do not do it! It is wrong for this country. And I will oppose it forever and a day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you for your indulgence, sir. And again, my request is for the Government to tell the developer of that East End Seaport

to throw his EIA in the garbage. Burn it up, and come back. I am man enough to support anything else he wants to do there, like golf course or the likes.

And the Premier asks if I have ever given him my support for anything. Yes, I have. He asked me about a golf course, and I supported it. I went to East End and talked to the people around there about it.

Mr. Speaker, I went so far as to advocate for the rezoning of it for him! And I did not get anything for it about rezoning. It is not my place to get anything for it. It did not get all the way through, but he pulled back because he knew he had a friend and there was a possibility they would get in Government, and then he could do what he wanted to do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you. I know I did not get to all, but I did what I wanted to do on behalf of the people of East End here today. And that was to send a clear message—there will be no Seaport in East End! Done!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*[Hon. Mary J. Lawrence, Speaker, in the Chair]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, is this a convenient time for a break? Have we had a break already? We will take a 15 minute suspension.

**Proceedings suspended at 6.52 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 7.35 pm**

**The Speaker:** Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

I think at the suspension the Member for East End had concluded his speech. Am I correct?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Okay.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** They didn't give you two hours?

**An Hon. Member:** No.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** The [Second Elected] Member for Boddan Town is on his feet.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will try not to have difficulty with the timing. There are a number of things I would like to speak on. And one is the economic situation that has led us to where we are.

**The Speaker:** Order please. The Member is on his feet, and I would like to hear him. Thank you.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** I will ask that—

**The Speaker:** My Member!

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** —you will allow me, Madam Speaker, to expand also a bit on the East End Port.

His Excellency the Governor in his Throne Speech mentioned, and I will just quote a short paragraph, “**The past year has been a challenging one for the Cayman Islands, not least because of the continuing recession and the impact of this on our public finances. . . . Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are still feeling the impact of the global financial crisis and the recession . . .**”

Madam Speaker, I would go on to add, the immediate cause of the problems in the Islands' economy and in Government's finances is the global crisis, and it continues. And its fallout, which the Government has said on a number of occasions when needed, the PPM gets the blame, which I will admit that we did have an ambitious capital undertaking in building the new Government Administration Building, the schools . . . and then what happened? The bottom dropped out of the bucket. But at the time we were undertaking these capital projects, Madam Speaker, it was indicated that we would have sufficient funds and the funding had been lined up for these projects.

As I said earlier, similar effects were felt in all countries that make up the global economy. Then Cayman had the extra problem in that offshore centres were made a scapegoat unfairly, blamed by powerful nations and bodies for contributing to the global crisis. This gave new strength to our enemies.

We suffered a drop in the business coming to our financial industry and the tourism industry, and an ensuing chill on construction and development which we are still fighting. Of course, some workers left the Island reducing the local market for supplies, services and accommodations, as we now see the glut of rental properties.

I keep wondering, Madam Speaker, why people in this situation have so many rental spaces available. Everywhere you look in the paper, as you cross the premises, they are all for rent. All businesses and investments were affected and the economy, that is, the GDP, shrank.

Madam Speaker, this was not necessarily just for Cayman. As we look around the world, and up until this morning they were indicating the difficulties that Greece is now experiencing and having to go back to try and secure more funding from the European Union. They are having riots there, Madam Speaker, because what will eventually happen is, their way of life as they knew it will no longer exist.

I do not have to tell you, Madam Speaker, about the colossal collapse of the great United States.

Once the largest lender in the world is now becoming and will become the largest borrower in the world. They are indicating that by the second of August, if they do not get their act together, they will have to stop printing money. They are going to have to go to China to borrow money to pay their bills—the great United States.

**An. Hon. Member:** That's a Communist country!

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Well, it might as well be. As wicked as they have become, Madam Speaker, they are better off if they become Communist! Sometimes I wonder!

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Honest to goodness, what is happening there is unbelievable. Fourteen trillion dollars in debt!

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Absolutely. I have indicated, Madam Speaker, they are trying to raise that. Every man, woman and child, if they had to pay back it is something like half a million dollars. If we can comprehend that, Madam Speaker, this is what we are facing. And that is the great United States.

Madam Speaker, as I am on the economic situation, and I may—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Nobody needs to put me up to anything, Madam Speaker.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** No, no, no, no [inaudible]

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Oh.

Madam Speaker, I will now touch on an area that will rub some people. We wonder why here, in the Cayman Islands, we are to a certain degree in the difficulties financially. The Member for North Side and I moved a motion some time ago in regard to amendments to the Public Management and Finance Law. I look forward to when these amendments come. And I am not blowing my trumpet, Madam Speaker, but for over 10 years, at least 10 years, I have been preaching about what would happen because of the Public Management and Finance Law.

There are certain components of that, Madam Speaker, that have brought severe pain to these Islands. The two components I am referring to are the HR and the accounting sections.

It is my belief, Madam Speaker, that we must put them back into centralised office. I say this from experience when in the Ministry. When I left there . . .

I think it was 2000, we ran that Ministry with seven people doing everything. When I went back there four or six years later, the Ministry was then being run by 30-something people.

Madam Speaker, there are people in this Chamber, my colleagues in the Cabinet and three Governors . . . I told them the day was coming when we would curse the day and damn the hour when we used some of these facilities. And my good friend, the Honourable Financial Secretary and his deputy, and his predecessor . . . I said we had to watch out what is happening with the component of adding an accountant, a deputy accountant, sometimes it seemed like an assistant accountant, and all kinds of support staff. We do not need to be a nuclear physicist to figure out that when you add hundreds of people to an organisation what that bill is going to come to eventually.

And yes, we have had some difficult times, Madam Speaker. But this has been one of the big contributors to the amount of money we have had to pay out.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Whoever introduced it, Madam Speaker, it is time that we, as legislators, know where the difficulties are. And I think the Premier has identified and shared some of my views on this, that we make the changes. It is okay for a country that has unlimited resources to have to pay some of these salaries; but we are limited and we need to spend our money very carefully.

Madam Speaker, I have always been (and still am) a supporter of the police. It is important that we get—

**The Speaker:** Order in that corner please.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** —the crime situation under control.

His Excellency said that providing security to our people remains a priority. He said he believed we made good progress in this area and we are as a result seeing a welcomed reduction in most crime figures at a time when most jurisdictions are seeing crime figures rise.

Madam Speaker, if we look at what has happened in the last few weeks, it causes me much concern. About two months ago one of the senior police officers said that for two weeks there had been no robberies. And I questioned that, Madam Speaker, because one of my family members had their home broken into the weekend before. So, I question the veracity of some of these things when they come out in the papers.

We must support whatever we need to do because it is like the drugs. If not handled properly the cancer there will eat away the very base of our soci-

ty. No investor is going to come where crime is rampant.

One of the things, as I note, Madam Speaker, are the speeders. And I wonder about the motorcyclists in the area of Lower Valley, whether they live under a different traffic law than the motor vehicles. You can hear those miles away going through those open straights. But for the grace of God . . . and we see what happens when some of them crash.

Madam Speaker, I will ask you to bear with me on this next area as it was touched on by several people, and also the last speaker. And this is the new cargo facility in East End (as His Excellency referred to it). Madam Speaker, I went to a public meeting held by the developer, Mr. Imparato. I think it was a week ago. It was probably the biggest public meeting that I remember seeing in East End.

Madam Speaker, I was so disappointed. I was so very disappointed in the presentation that these so-called experts made to that crowd of people. It has subsequently been borne out, and I ask that you allow me, just because of this being so very, very important, Madam Speaker, to these Islands. You were here, just about all of us were here during Hurricane Ivan. We know what the sea can do.

I noted in the Premier's delivery, he said, "**Our motto 'He Hath Founded it Upon the Seas' speaks to a foundation that knows what pounding waves feel like . . .**" I wonder if those people who prepared the EIA Report . . . and this, Madam Speaker, was in the *Caymanian Compass* on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, "East End Seaport—Take a closer look!" I have never heard more "possible," "may be," "would be," "could be," "whatever," . . . someone that wants to do a project that would accept something at this level? "A possible minor shift in the water lens." "Technologies can be used." "Possible impact suggests minor and mitigatable," "early indicators . . . potential impacts on likely unacceptable saltwater intrusion either would be done after the basin was excavated."

I was pleased to see that in this report it says that these (and I am talking about the freshwater lens) . . . the East End . . . Madam Speaker, just for the information of the Parliament and the public, it is the [East End Seaport Draft Environmental Impact Report](#), and this is a response done by the Department of Environment under the Environmental Advisory Board, which is made up of the Director of Planning, Managing Director NRA, and the Director of Water Authority.

Madam Speaker, on page 9, [it reads], "**The EIR does not detail where the responsibility lies for the implementation of mitigation measures nor does it outline the cost of proposed mitigation measures, equipment and resources required to implement those measures.**"

I wonder if the Government is going to be saddled with that.

They say at the top of page 2, "**This internationally recognised methodology for assessing**

**the impacts of the proposed works has not been implemented in the EIR and therefore makes it impossible for the reader to decipher the impact analysis as presented, which should be objective wherever possible."**

Description, on page 3, Madam Speaker—"Description of the Affected Environment" **"a) Socio-economic and cultural resource - This section does not include an evaluation of the following aspects: . . ."** And many of us have been talking about the aspects that the developer should be telling us what is going to happen. What is going to happen to existing quarry operations; community perception of the development; vulnerable occupants; planned development activities?

He indicated to us that he was going to try and get contracts to do these things. I hope that the Government looks at this and holds him accountable for bringing this kind of rubbish to sensible people here. He must think we are from the backwaters of . . . I don't know where!

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Visual impact analysis. **"The analysis undertaken (section 4.1.2 01 of the EIR) is deficient in a number of respects,"** . . . and I won't read them all, Madam Speaker.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:**—"determine the potential impact of the proposed project."

Madam Speaker, he says there are no clear and objective criteria in relation to the determination of the significance of the impacts and no coherent distinction between significant impacts that are positive or negative, direct and indirect, short- and long-term, cumulative, unavoidable, or irreversible.

It is clear from public commentary that there is significant confusion surrounding these issues. The Impact Assessment in this particular area needs to clearly differentiate between the technical terms "storm surge," "maximum wave heights," "and wave inundation in relation to flooding."

Madam Speaker, as I address this part of my comments, all of us went through Hurricane Ivan. Now, I will take us a little further back, before many of my colleagues in here. In 1955, Madam Speaker—

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Beautiful year!

We had a bad hurricane that year. I stood in Lower Valley, about a mile and a half from Pedro Castle. You could stand on my father's front porch and see the 30 foot waves breaking behind Pedro Castle. And these jokers who put this thing together are going

to come here and tell us that if you take 600 feet out of the shoreline it is not going to affect us?

These people have to have some loose screws somewhere! There is no way in this world!

Many of us who live in Savannah, and my two colleagues, the Honourable Minister of Health and The Third Elected Member [for Bodden Town], we saw what happened with the quarry. And the Premier came up there with us. Not the quarry, Madam Speaker—the gully in Savannah. They do not know what salt water does when that comes in there, Madam Speaker, and it does not have to be a lot of breeze. It rolls and it rolls and it rolls. It goes up behind Lower Valley. That new place that Frank Hall is putting in, [it goes] behind there.

My father told me that in 1932 they had to climb up into the top of the logwood trees to get there. And these so-called experts are going to come here in Cayman and . . . they should have been here for Hurricane Ivan! When the Minister for East End was crawling on a bulldozer or backhoe, whatever it was, to get to his people. That's when they should have done this report!

Give me a break.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Geology. I found this one quite interesting, Madam Speaker. **"This section provides general geological . . . The description of the geology of the eastern districts and specifically the study area is superficial; there is a concern that there is no evidence that detailed geological work has been undertaken."**

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Superficial!

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** ". . . several references in the text are not provided in the literature reference list."

And note well on this one, Madam Speaker, **"The geological information that is included reflects a poor understanding of the complex sub-surface geology that exists on the eastern part of the Island."** We know, Madam Speaker, what it is like up in that East End cliff where the people are farming. It is a total different terrain from most parts of the Island. But come hell or high water we must preserve that freshwater lens.

When I was a trucker, Madam Speaker, I was blessed with the opportunity in the dry weather to go down in there and take water out of there. And these jokers are going to come and say when you allow this amount of saltwater to penetrate in there that it is not going to affect it?

But the great joke is how they were going to mitigate the saltwater from penetrating into the freshwater lens.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Madam Speaker, they were going to dig some, I guess, little holes and pour—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** —grout; that thing that you put in between tiles. Can you imagine that standing up to the pressure of nature and salt water?

What is going to happen, Madam Speaker—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** —down into the ground to keep the salt water from going into the freshwater lens.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Can you believe it? Grout and a couple of other different things. It is just incomprehensible, Madam Speaker. I don't know . . . my poor old . . . good thing I don't have any more hair, or I'd be pulling it out!

*[Laughter and inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** “As recommended in the groundwater report, a 3 dimensional areal groundwater model flow model is needed to fully understand the potential impacts to the entire lens.”

And this is what I was referring to (and this is the last part I will read from this, Madam Speaker), but because of the great importance of this . . . and I am sure that you and my colleagues here have never seen me this emotional. I had to squirm in my seat while the Member for North Side and the Member for East End kept on them under heavy manners there that night. And I can pledge my support, whatever you need me to do . . . because you see, Madam Speaker, they do not understand that that area of the Island is the highest.

And once those waves start coming in, it is going to North Side, it is going up to East End, it is coming to Bodden Town, it is coming to Lower Valley. And, God forbid if we get another Ivan, with 600 feet cut through that iron-shore and seas like I saw during Ivan, tumbling down in those backlands of East End . . . she is coming way down, way down.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** “Mitigation measures (and this is the final one I wanted to read, Madam Speaker) “**must be identified and implemented as preventative measures before excavation starts, rather**

**than as a curative measure when negative impacts have been determined.”**

Madam Speaker, imagine in a hurricane having to dig down in that hard rock up in East End that they have to blast and all that. I do not know how they will even get the equipment there to drill these holes. It is pure madness.

But I do have confidence that this Government will look at this and do the right thing, just as they did with the situation in the North Sound. That is one good thing about us Caymanians; commonsense always seems to prevail! And it's about the people.

Many of you will remember in Ivan when the Island was actually cut in two up in Savannah.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Like West Bay Road, as you talked about earlier.

Madam Speaker, we don't need a third island, cut in two, taking East End away from the rest of us. There is too much good stuff up there. I have some of the best plantains in the world and I want to make sure that that is preserved!

*[Laughter]*

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Yeah, some good people are up there.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** McKeeva gets cake from up there too!

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Not from you.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Madam Speaker, I just want to talk about the two primary schools in my district. I know that there has been some concern expressed about the capital works being done down there. I want to thank the Minister of Education for inviting me to the groundbreaking of both Savannah and Bodden Town.

We know, especially the Savannah Primary School where the Minister of Health has been working very closely with them. Over the past 10 years, Madam Speaker, the population in that school has doubled. Not to mention the amount of new homes now being built when Mr. Frank Hall finishes up there right across from my road, the Lottery Road. I think it is well over a hundred-and-something homes.

I do not know where we were going to put these children. So, it is a sacrifice in these difficult times, but I think, Madam Speaker, it was something greatly needed.

Madam Speaker, this was a paper I was saving from last year, December. We have been talking about minimum wage. I just want to read this advertisement that was in the 5 December [2010] *Cayma-*

*nian Compass* . . . no, it was the *NetNews*, I beg your pardon.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Oh-oh! [Inaudible]

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** But you would find this quite interesting, and it will certainly bear out Mr. Miller's desire, and I think that of this entire Parliament, to do something about the wages for our people in the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, it says, "Domestic helper needed. For a small family of three we are seeking a domestic helper. The successful applicant must be prompt, have no less than 15 years' experience in child rearing and domestic duties including cooking and cleaning, must be willing to work a flexible schedule, and some weekends may be needed. The successful applicant must speak fluent English. Only suitable applications will be contacted and salary is commensurate with experience, but starts at \$400 per month."

Madam Speaker, I broke that down to \$20 per day, or \$2.50 per hour, Mr. Elected Member for North Side. And as has been said, if this isn't a crying shame, Madam Speaker, then I hope whoever is dealing with the labour situation looks at things like that and that we try to do something for them.

There is no way in this world, Madam Speaker, that you can live on \$20 per day here in Cayman when we see around us and they keep talking about in the United States where the cost of food has gone up by 30 per cent.

Madam Speaker, I will close on the Premier's statement yesterday "ForCayman Investment Alliance" and just a couple of questions. I am wondering how this would work with the PFI that is being talked about. Is this going to be a component of it? And I have to say, Madam Speaker, through you to the Premier, that until I heard some of the scary things shared by the Member for North Side, I felt quite pleased about this. But I hope to hear more about this, more details. You have heard other people express the concern of one person, or one entity, not one person, Madam Speaker, having this amount of control. But I am sure that we will hear more details about this and what will happen. I leave it to my other colleagues how things will go on this.

Madam Speaker, these are challenging times for us. We have to work together on this and whatever happens to Cayman we all, in the long run, will feel. There are many good things here and I think we must continue to work together to make these Islands a better place in which to live.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Member for Bodden Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause]

Minister for Community Affairs.

**Hon. Michael T. Adam:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Fellow Members of the Government Bench, other Members of the Legislative Assembly, and members of the public listening on air this evening, I rise to offer my contribution to the debate on the Throne Speech and Budget Address for the 2011/12 financial year.

Madam Speaker, it has been just two years since I was given the awesome opportunity by the people of George Town in particular, and the country on a whole, to serve. And I am confident that in my role as Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing, that I have tried to do more than just implement the promises made in the UDP Manifesto during the 2009 campaign. I have also sought every opportunity along the way to ensure, as we continue to work our way out of these turbulent economic times, and I believe we are doing so. Furthermore, we must ensure that we maintain stability within our society by addressing social issues that have been worsened by this economic crisis.

Madam Speaker, turning in particular to the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing, my Ministry remains committed to meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society. Furthermore, my Ministry will continue to dedicate its efforts to developing policies and programmes aimed at supporting, empowering and enhancing the lives of our children, men and women, families and our communities.

The key focus of the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing for the 2011/12 fiscal year will be to continue to focus on achieving the broad outcome goals of strengthening families, improving the lives of the elderly and disabled, reducing substance abuse, strengthening our infrastructure (that includes the continued development of affordable housing), empowering women and promoting gender equality, and developing our youth.

Working towards these broad outcomes will assist in addressing many of the challenges that our country continues to face and enable those most in need to access services for their own betterment.

Madam Speaker, during the 2011/12 Budget year, the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing will take the following key legislative measures:

- enhancement of the Children Law and its Regulations;
- approval of amendments to the Adoption of Children Law and Regulations to modernize current legal provisions and ensure best practices;

- development of Poor Persons' Relief Regulations to improve the distribution of poor relief;
- amend the Youth Justice Law which will permit alternative sentencing for our young offenders; and
- approval of the Gender Equality Bill, 2011, which will allow for the Convention of Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, otherwise known as CEDAW, to be extended to the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, turning to the departments for which I have responsibility: Under the Department of Counseling Services, in the coming Budget year the Department of Counseling Services will continue to provide family programming to assist in building healthy relationships and substance abuse treatment services for residences of the Cayman Islands who require that assistance. We will achieve this through community based counseling services to residents of Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands who may require assistance with a variety of life challenges, including drug and alcohol issues, family and relationship difficulties, or issues related to personal growth and development.

These community based services include:

- individual, family, couples, and group therapy utilising a client-directed outcome informed approach to treatment;
- a residential programme incorporating the therapeutic community approach, the treatment to address inherent attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of those who present for treatment for substance misuse or abuse;
- assisting families within the community, including young parents to develop appropriate parenting practices as well as continued workshops, presentations and training sessions designed to increase skills in dealing with drug and alcohol issues, family and relationship issues, including family violence and establishing healthy relationships;
- broad-based public awareness campaigns to promote awareness of relevant issues on a national level.

Under the Department of Children and Family Service, it is critical to the broad objectives of this Government and my Ministry as they are responsible for addressing the needs of those most vulnerable in the Cayman Islands. Madam Speaker, it is clear from recent statistics compiled by the Department that the economic slowdown continues to have an impact on the demand for their services.

The Department is seeing more families who are struggling to make ends meet and a greater demand for financial assistance. The Department therefore continues to assist with the mobilisation and empowerment of families and communities so that they may function productively, contribute as members of a caring society and realise their full potential. As part of

these efforts, our staff work diligently to promote personal responsibility, especially when it comes to families in crisis.

Madam Speaker, I am also happy to report that my Ministry, in collaboration with the Cabinet Office and temporary housing, closed the mobile home park in Bodden Town some months ago. We are also taking steps to assist those families in the Fairbanks trailer homes to re-locate. And we plan to have this accomplished by month's end. Some of these families have been relocated to the recently renovated Lyndhurst Apartments which were boarded up since Hurricane Ivan.

Madam Speaker, another serious issue of which we are all aware is the increasing scope and complexity of the challenges that face our young people as they seek to cope with rapid change and growth in our society and economy. My Ministry has re-evaluated current practice and programmes with a focus on holistically developing our young persons' social and resilience skills.

One such area that required re-evaluation was the Foster Care Programme. I am pleased to report that the Department is currently in the process of revitalising the Foster Care Programme. Both the Ministry and the Department are anxious to enhance this programme as it is often a better alternative to long-stay residential care for your young people.

When parents are unable, unwilling or unfit to care for a child, the Department of Children and Family Services must find the child a new home. In some cases, there is little or no chance a child can return to their parents' custody, so they need a new permanent home. In other situations, children only need a temporary home until their parents' situation changes.

In any case, the children need somewhere to stay until a permanent, stable and nurturing home is possible. Therefore, the Foster Care Programme serves that purpose.

There are currently 14 foster parents who are caring for 25 children ranging in age from 1- to 15-years old. And there are an additional six foster parent assessments being undertaken currently. There are a total of nine foster children at the NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) facility. And the total number of children currently in foster care is 34.

With the Children Law and Regulations coming into effect there will be a greater demand for foster parents and, unfortunately, as society changes, the trend is for the need for foster homes to continue to increase to provide this much-needed care for our young children. There is always a constant demand for foster care placements and, in order to have these placements we need parents who are willing and able to take on this responsibility. Often there are situations where an individual is willing to step forward and take on this responsibility, but is not always in a strong financial position to do so. The foster families that have

come forth and selflessly rendered their services often do so at a personal expense.

The recent Public Service Review of the Department has also [DIGITAL SKIP] and once recommendations have been approved by Cabinet an implementation plan will be developed to ensure improvement and efficiency in the delivery of services by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Turning to Government-owned Companies, the Children and Youth Services, or CAYS (Children and Youth Services) Foundation: Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the chairman, board and staff of the Children Youth Services Foundation for their continued efforts in providing care and protection services to the youth of the Cayman Islands, and I am equally happy to also announce that we recently re-opened the Francis Bodden Home in Lower Valley.

The Therapeutic Community Programme: We are all well aware that for too long, and as I stand here this evening, there are shortfalls in our ability to provide for the proper detention, clinical diagnosis, appropriate treatment and rehabilitation of children and youth due to the lack of available resources. When reviewing the most recent crime statistics that relate to our youth, we find an acceleration of offences against the person, such as assault and threatening violence, as well as drug related offences. Furthermore, female youth are now committing more violent acts than ever.

Unless significant efforts are made to ensure the appropriate facilities, therapeutic and community based programmes that include working with the families to enhance parenting skills, we will continue to see escalation in crime, drug abuse, unemployment, teen pregnancy and the loss of young lives.

In an attempt to address the issues impacting our youth and community, the Ministry for which I am responsible has developed a pilot programme based on the award winning Missouri philosophy, which is achieving remarkable results in successfully rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

Madam Speaker, as of October this year, the Therapeutic Community pilot programme will be introduced and based at the CAYS Foundation Boneventure Boy's Home. The proposed programme will focus on boys who exhibit behaviour problems or commit offences with or without substance abuse as this has been identified as a population most in need of intervention.

To operate the programme effectively, the CAYS Foundation will be acquiring specialist staff and receiving additional training in positive youth development. It must be noted, however, that the Ministry is also committed to ensuring that youth who require treatment and services receive the help they need within the community first and foremost, and are not confined in a facility because there is a lack of alternative interventions.

As I have alluded to previously, my Ministry is requesting funding for the juvenile facilities so that we may upgrade the existing youth residential homes in order to facilitate the plans for the Therapeutic Community pilot programme, in particular, to the Boneventure Boy's Home, and this additional funding will also be used to commence the building of a purpose built secure youth rehabilitation facility.

Madam Speaker, we know that the behaviour of juvenile offenders is often a symptom of other issues, such as poor parenting, drug abuse, poor educational attainment, psychiatric disorders and sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse. Prior to now we have attempted to address these very complex issues without sufficient resources, therefore we cannot effectively reach, or successfully rehabilitate these children and, ultimately, we have continued to see rising crime levels, higher levels of unemployment, a breakdown in families and communities, and a greater strain being placed on the healthcare and welfare systems.

Madam Speaker, there is currently a demand for the secure placement of three distinct groups of juveniles:

1. Those juveniles awaiting adjudication in the Youth Court or Grand Court who have been refused bail. These juveniles may have been refused bail and are incarcerated because of the seriousness of the offence allegedly committed to prevent further offending, or because the alleged offences were committed whilst the juveniles were on bail.
2. Those juveniles placed on Juvenile Treatment Orders or Fit Person Orders to non-secure establishments in the Cayman Islands, but are proving to be too difficult to manage. An example, are frequent absconders and those behaving in an aggressive and dangerous manner.
3. Those children who are serving a sentence.

Madam Speaker, the usual places of safety currently used in juvenile criminal proceedings are the West Bay Lockup, the Central Police Station Lockup in George Town, the Fairbanks Prison and Eagle House at Northward Prison. The police station cells are only designed for the short-term holding of adults pending bail hearings and are wholly unsuitable for the detention of our juveniles.

Our male juvenile offenders sentenced to imprisonment or remand serve their time currently at Eagle House where they come into daily contact with adult prisoners, as do the female juvenile offenders sentenced to imprisonment or remand at Fairbanks Prison. Madam Speaker, both prisons lack specialist facilities, the properly trained staff and rehabilitative programming for the appropriate detention and care of our juveniles.

The findings of the 2007 report conducted by the Cayman Islands Human Rights Committee indicate that this current situation breaches several internationally accepted Human Rights instruments, namely the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Ministry team is working diligently to ensure the long-term plans for an all-island secure therapeutic treatment facility for youth who exhibit deviant and offending behaviours [that] become a reality and offers the appropriate setting and strength-based rehabilitative programming.

Madam Speaker, the need to finalise our plans to provide the proper rehabilitative programming and facilities for troubled children and youth is more urgent than ever. The Cayman Islands Constitution Order (2009) requires that juvenile prisoners shall be segregated from adult prisoners and shall have effect from the day, four years after the appointed day, which was November 6, 2009, indicates that by the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 the Cayman Islands must have suitable facilities in place in order to uphold the Constitution.

Therefore, we must be able to offer a continuum of care services in order to effectively meet the needs of at risk children. The time to act is now. Our plans are indicating and projecting a completion of the facility by year end 2012.

Turning to the National Housing Development Trust: Madam Speaker, the Government will continue its commitment to the National Housing Development Trust through the grant of funds for its operational expenses. In addition, an equity injection will be used to cover the two bonds for affordable housing and to assist with the Windsor Park Affordable Housing site development of some 26 houses in George Town.

The development of affordable housing in Bodden Town will be next on the National Housing Development Trust's agenda. Madam Speaker, I would ask if you would allow me at this point to clarify a few issues that were raised earlier this evening regarding housing, in particular.

At this juncture I would like to clarify the North Side affordable housing matter, just to mention briefly that the property was initially purchased by the Government with plans to accommodate affordable homes and a senior citizens' home on the site. The North Side Representative recently met with my Ministry and indicated that following meetings with the community they have elected and proposed to use the property solely for the development of a senior citizens' daycare centre, rather than a senior citizens' residential care home. And that they would rather have the affordable housing relocated to an entirely different site.

The North Side Representative also proposed architectural drawings for the facility that was estimated to cost some \$350,000, together with the block and parcel of an alternative property in North Side that

would have to be purchased for the development of affordable housing in North Side.

Madam Speaker, the Government and my Ministry remain steadfast to deliver on achieving the broad outcome goals and, in particular in this instance, of improving the lives of the elderly and disabled and we respect the needs of the community to develop the senior citizens' daycare centre and affordable homes as soon as practical.

Madam Speaker, as Minister responsible for housing, I wish to also respond briefly to the allegation raised by the Member for East End in relation to the Board of the National Housing Development Trust. Madam Speaker, whereas my Ministry has received no written complaints with the specifics of the allegations, I nevertheless undertake to ensure that the matter is properly looked into. And I thank the Member for raising the matter.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Don't worry old boy, I did what I had to do for you too.

**Hon. Michael T. Adam:** In closing, Madam Speaker, and fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly, I have presented an overview of the plans for the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing 2011/12 fiscal year. I urge you all to show your support for my Ministry's plans by granting your approval of this Budget. In this day of burgeoning financial woes, increasing numbers of people in need, rising levels of crime and the growing challenges facing our youth, it is absolutely critical that we continue to place human development at the very top of our country's agenda.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my friend and colleague, the Minister of Education, for his determination in re-introducing the reception year in our Government's primary schools and I fully support his vision and immediate plans in properly addressing the facility needs of our primary schools. We recently witnessed the groundbreaking and expansion programme for the George Town Primary, Bodden Town Primary, and Savannah Primary Schools.

If we fail to do this, there will be nothing good or decent left in our country for future generations to inherit. They will not know the joy of living in the peaceful, nurturing and friendly Cayman Islands we have all had the privilege of experiencing. For what is a country without people who genuinely care for and respect each other, who are empowered to improve their lives and take care of others in their community?

Madam Speaker, that is precisely what community development is centered around. What is a country without a well and stable population?

The Budget proposed by my Ministry will assist in strengthening families, communities and the country as a whole.

Madam Speaker, thank you and this honourable House for your indulgence.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Minister Community Affairs.

Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?  
[pause]

Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as you know, it is getting late. I rise to give my contribution on this Budget. I would like to share my personal hopes and desires of what we can achieve even on the tightest shoestring budget. Before I do, I would like to read some comments from the Throne Speech to remind us that we are not in the clear.

**“The past year has been a challenging one for the Cayman Islands, not least because of the continuing recession and the impact of this on our public finances. . . . Like most countries around the world, we are having to take difficult decisions to cut costs, in order to bring government finances back onto a sustainable track. It is a painful process.**

**“I have been impressed by what we have achieved in this regard since I arrived early last year. But much more still remains to be done. We hope to deliver a small surplus in the current fiscal year with regard to recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure. This in itself will be a welcome achievement and represents significant progress over the past two years.**

**“But . . . when our capital expenditure, including paying back capital on some older loans and capital investments in projects like the Government Administration Building and the new High Schools, is included, we are still spending significantly more than we are earning . . .”**

Madam Speaker, since we got in office we have constantly . . . it seems like from the day we got elected in May 2009, from that day we have been concerned about budget. No break. It has always been a concern because of the fears this Government has about what the UK Government can do with the powers that they have in terms of stepping in. We have taken a very prudent approach. Some have complained that we are moving quite slow in trying to achieve a stimulus for this economy. But when you know what we know, when you sit down around the table and enter these conference calls with the FCO, and when you hear them start the conversation in terms of “why are you calling me?” it makes you realise that we are a lot on our own, just like we were when we had to fork up a million dollars for the Falkland War.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Yes, I was a little boy.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, one of the reasons I joined the UDP . . . after sitting down with them many years ago I realised that the leadership of this party always believed in a balanced budget. And, Madam Speaker, let me tell you, as the Fourth Elected Member for George Town so eloquently says, when you are there sitting down at the family table and your expenses are \$5,000 and you only make between the two, husband and wife, \$4,000, you know you have a problem. You cannot continue like that.

Madam Speaker, the last Government went on a spending spree. I was one of the regular citizens at the time when they were going on this spree, and one of the things I said while we sat down in our political chats (my friends and I) was that it seemed like the PPM Government was operating five different governments. Each Minister was doing his own thing. And it wasn't far from true because we suddenly realised that the country ended up in such a deficit. And it seems like no one knew what the other one was doing. That's how it seemed.

Why did this country see it fit to change the leadership of this country? It is a very good question. I am sure if a lot of people knew the answer they would win the next election. The people of this country were experiencing difficult times. There were warnings about the economy worsening. No heed was taken. “Not on the kindest of mornings will we take advice from you” when the UDP Government tried to give advice from the backbench.

Sometimes, as I think about that, I hear the comments from across the floor about [how] we never take their advice. It seems that no one takes anyone's advice. As a country I think we all need to listen to each other. We are all good, hardworking Caymanians and I do not think that any of us wake up on any given day and say “I want to ruin Cayman.” We all have good intentions for Cayman. Some want to do it and do not know where the finances are coming from, or how they are going to pay for it. That is not the action of our UDP Government.

Like a tailor or a carpenter, we measure twice and cut once. The people of this country were not happy with the direction this country was going in. That is usually why voters change the political leadership. They knew that the UDP had good fiscal prudence practices and they were very concerned about many things that they saw happening, such as the massive spending spree on roads, the GOAP building, two schools at one time, no Caymanians being hired, no representation overseas in the financial industry, no investor confidence, scare tactics, sending everyone home, no hope for Caymanians. That is why they

changed the leadership of this country.

Madam Speaker, this Government is a good Government. When we look at the makeup of this party that we have here, the UDP, [it's] very balanced. When an investor walks in the room to meet with us in caucus they fear coming in the room with us because the questions that we put and we ensure that the very first question [asked] is answered, "What is in it for our people?"

This Government at this time acknowledges that we are in very hard times. And we will talk about that a little bit later. But we acknowledge that the high fuel prices, high diesel prices, high electricity costs, [are] a strain on many households.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Who put it there? That's a good question. Why are we here, Madam Speaker?

The Government will use \$4.5 million of the revenue expected from the introduction of the \$1500 fee on certain master funds to rebate CUC in respect of the company's payment of duty on the importation of diesel to produce electricity. Madam Speaker, this was something that was done previously. But, as you know, when we started in 2009 there were great troubles with the Budget. We had to move things around, wiggle things and make things work. But we understand that times are worse now. The economy has not corrected itself as many predicted.

Madam Speaker, when you look at the way our Government tries to operate a Budget, we know that the Public Management and Finance Law states that we should have 90 days cash requirement on hand. We have managed to get it up to an equivalent of 84 days, and have forecasted in reserves \$109.4 million. That is a Government that is making progress, Madam Speaker. That is a better way forward.

Madam Speaker, you know that this Government is known for its fiscal discipline. In its first full year of office our Government was able to reduce the unaudited deficit for the entire public sector to \$15 million for the year ended 30 June 2010. For the year ended 30 June 2009, there was a deficit of \$81 million; our achievement to reduce the deficit by a whopping \$66 million. Good Government!

They try to blame everyone in the world. They try to blame the Financial Secretary (FS), although he warned them. But the numbers do not lie, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I grew up very humble in a community in the district of Bodden Town, Gun Square, and I must say, the First Elected Member [is] from Gun Square. Although Gun Square was where it was all at when you talked about politics—Mr. Eden can attest to that. Back in the day anyone that wanted to know who to vote for would come to Gun Square where Mr. Elsberth Terry and all those (bless his soul) lived, Louis and all those guys in that era, the Mecca!

I am not one of those politicians who is going to try to *blackgyaad* and name-call . . . life is much too serious. I have picked up too many blows over the last year to want to mess with that! They are giving out more blows!

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I want to get things done.

One of the reasons I decided to join my colleague, Minister Mark Scotland, in running for office was to try and achieve certain things, reach certain people that were not being reached and be there for the young people who, under our political will, [would] encourage young people to come back out and get interested in politics. And to try to build stronger communities and be the ear that was not here with former politicians, while trying to continue some of the good traits of some politicians who have gone on and [some] who are still here.

Madam Speaker, as a Representative of Bodden Town, I want to ensure that Bodden Town gets its fair share. Bodden Town is the fastest-growing district. And for over 30 years we have grown over 79 per cent. I do not want to scare anyone, but Bodden Town is going to get its share. We are getting some and we will get more!

As we organise ourselves . . . as many people know, as we took office it was a lot of work for Minister Scotland and I to roam this big district—one of the largest districts in the Cayman Islands. We are doing our best to communicate and make vehicles available to ensure that we get all the comments and hear all of the concerns of our people from Spotts-Newlands to Breakers.

And, Madam Speaker, may I say that one of the things that we strongly believe in the district of Bodden Town . . . because Bodden Town is a different type district. From what Minister Scotland and I have seen in terms of having our area meetings in 14 or 15 different areas [is that] some of the comments we get, people really want to enhance the social aspects of their communities and bring back pride in living in their districts and areas, and to assist them [DIGITAL SKIP] and community programmes. These are some of the things that we are striving to achieve in Bodden Town.

Some of the ways we hope to achieve this is by trying to create as many community parks as possible. In Savannah through the help of Dart, programmes in Northward, we hope to create; Savannah Meadows; in different areas, Breakers, Midland; up to five additional parks.

We are aggressively, on a shoestring budget, trying to ensure that requests for road repairs are addressed as quickly as we can find monies in our budget. We have finished a few of these roads already, Berry Drive and Kingschase Drive, Breadfruit Lane, Tuckerman's Drive, Bougainvillea, Lancelot

Drive, Butterfly Circle, Adventist Church off Hirst Road, Milton Drive, just to name a few. And more are coming.

We are doing very much with very little. That is nothing strange to me, because it is the opposite of what the previous administration did—very little with very much.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** In our aggressive approach in terms of trying to ensure that our communities are well rounded with good social spaces and parks, we are trying to continue the development of the Coe-Wood Beach. And I can tell you, Madam Speaker, I have been living in that area all my life. I grew up there. And for over some 35 years now, as I can remember it, people have died, unfortunately, waiting for this boat ramp. Waiting!

And we said to the citizens when we met with them as we go through the byways and highways and to the homes and visit, I said to them, "I commit to you that we will finish this ramp before our first term. We have listened and we believe that you are right, you are correct that this is necessary for this area to thrive."

We are going to commence the boat ramp in another few weeks we should start. We are going to create parking on this same site. We are going to create market stalls, and one of the things, my dream . . . you know, Madam Speaker, I am a cultural man. My dream is for one weekend out of every month we come together and have good Caymanian cultural fun with good music and good food and good art. That is what I am pushing for. And people will be able to rent these market stalls and sell food and arts and crafts and other stuff out of them. This is something that is definitely needed. As we said, we would try to help create new entrepreneurs in the district of Bodden Town. It is something that has not been done.

Madam Speaker, with the shoestring budget that we have we are doing a lot with very little and we are trying to do a lot of the things that have been pending over 30 years, over 20 years. We are trying to achieve that, Madam Speaker. And when people judge us, I want them to judge us on that fact.

Madam Speaker, as a commitment to the people of Bodden Town, throughout the whole district we had historical areas that have flooded. Thank God for the Ministry of Works and the aggressive nature of my engineer colleague, Minister Scotland. We met, with my persistence, to ensure that at least one got started. As our local neighbours across the water say, *One coco, full basket.*

We will invest over some \$700,000 in the Belford area alone, for the Belford drainage. Some of the Belford residents said to us at the last meeting, "Well, how Mr. So-and-So told me that it wasn't possible to even fix it? And how did you all come up with a plan

so quick?"

Where there is a will there is a way, Madam Speaker.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** They never got it done in the four years they were there. And in a year and change we were able to figure a way out and to inch and pinch on some funds to ensure that this project is actually now on the way.

Madam Speaker, we have other areas of concern in terms of the Cumber Avenue drainage problem. We have mitigated that problem and Public Works and the NRA have found a way to help calm that situation by creating holding ponds and ensuring that it is continuously cleaned out. There will be some additional measures as we move along and as the Budget allows us to, but I have been communicating with those people in the Cumber Avenue area, and you know Cumber Avenue is the road I grew up on and is a very great interest of mine to ensure that this problem is addressed and that those people know that they have a listening ear here.

Madam Speaker, during the 2004 Hurricane—that guy called "Ivan"—the cemetery wall was destroyed totally. Four years during the previous Administration and no one saw fit. The citizens of that district in Bodden Town who have their dear ones there lying in their graves continuously asked us to please, please, please see if we could get a wall up; we saw what happened in the last hurricane. What we determined was that the wall that was there previously was not a very strong wall.

Madam Speaker, I can report that we have found a way and we have inched and pinched and that wall will be erected this year. Kudos to the UDP Government. Thanks to the Public Works and NRA team for helping us put this together.

Madam Speaker, there are many other initiatives, whether it be private, that are deemed to happen in the district of Bodden Town. I remember when we were campaigning. A lady came to me (I won't call her name) and said to me, "What we need in this Bodden Town stretch area between so-and-so is a boutique hotel to bring some investment and create job opportunities for Caymanians in Bodden Town."

Madam Speaker, I can report that we are getting very near. I can tell you that the Environmental Department has looked at the environmental aspect of this and has given thumbs up. I think the plans are into Planning at this time. Again, the owners of this project, the project manager, met with us some year ago and we gave him our blessings. We are thankful that they decided to invest in the district of Bodden Town.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about the Savannah Primary and the Bodden Town [Primary] schools, kudos to Minister Anglin, the Minister of Edu-

cation, who is a Member of the UDP Government, for carrying through on his promise.

*[Laughter and inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** I just wanted to get it right. I heard some cackling on the other side.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Minister Anglin—

**The Speaker:** The Minister of Education.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** The Minister of Education . . . oh, he's a very bright guy.

The Minister of Education carried through on his promise in terms of early childhood care. Where the money should have been spent years ago was to expand these primary schools and I want to say a big thank you to the Minister of Education for carrying through on that promise and to ensure that Bodden Town Primary and Savannah Primary were included in the budget that he had to ensure that the fastest-growing district will be well equipped to accommodate the students who are moving into this district.

But not only that, Madam Speaker, and as many people say, I do not want to pat myself on the back, but sometimes if you do not highlight things, your aspirations and stuff, nobody is going to do it for you. But when the new plans came out for the Savannah Primary School, the Public Works Department came so eloquently to us and presented all the plans and asked us if we wanted any changes, any suggestions, et cetera. Madam Speaker, I was so happy that they did that, because I identified an area where the district of Bodden Town could be further enhanced by having more facilities for this fastest-growing district.

When they showed me the map where the football field was being moved from where it currently was and being relocated to extra land that they had in the back, my [thought] right away was, whoa! I think we can get some additional stuff into this new football field area. And I asked the project manager to do the measurements and get back to me and see if we can get a semi-track, a small track on there. And I believe in doing things modularly—one step at a time—half and then the other half. At least you are on your way forward. And they took on my suggestions and now the Savannah Primary School will have a track. And we will further talk about that when we open this [with the] Minister of Education and the Bodden Town Members further on in the year.

Again, never before . . . but through the vision of two young politicians—one from Northward and one from Gun Square. And, Madam Speaker, I must say—

*[inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** —probably Mr. Eden. He has been a great supporter of everything we have done. And I don't think he can say that we left him out of anything.

**Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** *[inaudible]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Sorry, three young politicians, Mr. Eden also!

*[Laughter]*

**The Speaker:** Member for Bodden Town, please [refer to] their titles.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** The Second Elected Member.

*[inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I must say the reason I was so adamant about getting a track in there . . . I knew, for one, that Bodden Town has always had good athletes. And Savannah school has always done very well in terms of inter-primary sports, et cetera.

Madam Speaker, this athletic nature has roamed about my family for many years, starting from my mother and my sister, all the way up, and also came into my veins. My sister was the fastest person on the Island at one point. She had to train with the boys. The year that she was supposed to go to CA-RIFTA, it was postponed in 1979. I can still remember it. She was so quick as a lady that they called her "Bullet." People in those days used to take great interest in sports. They would take their day off just to come and watch.

There is so much pressure now from workplaces that we can't even get a half-hour off to go and watch the kids or pick them up from school.

**An Hon. Member:** Lack of family values.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Lack of family values. As a former lawyer said, "They do not have the same culture as us." But anyhow, we will leave that there.

Madam Speaker, there are many projects that we are working on, or that I am working on, through the schools and churches in terms of afterschool programmes. We realise that the Government is financially strapped. We are aggressively trying to work with private partners trying to get them to take on the afterschool programmes and to do it on a continuous basis. And even as far as trying to order new books and other necessary stuff for the schools that we won't get into right now. We will do other press releases on that.

But we take great pride in trying to ensure that our primary schools have the necessary equipment.

We go as far as through the Bodden Town District Council in ensuring that no child is left without a lunch. We have told the PTAs to send in the names and we will do whatever we can to assist. And we have had a lot of donations from private businesses. We are very thankful for that. Likewise, Minister Scotland, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, and I have contributed to this fund.

Madam Speaker, every year since we have been elected, and even before that, we ensure that no child leaves Bodden Town Primary or Savannah Primary schools without an encouraging gift. Madam Speaker, the students are so happy to receive and know that we care about them even throughout their future. Madam Speaker, we are trying to do a lot with very little.

Madam Speaker, if we can touch on the Dart project. We have had many meetings, and at the end of all of those meetings we realised that this was a good thing for the Cayman Islands that could bring stimulus immediately to our citizens, bring people back, put people back to work, and help our economy at this time of need. And we are grateful for a partner like the Dart family, who have called Cayman their home and have invested. At one point, if it were not for them, there would have been nothing going on in the Island.

We talk about the Shetty hospital. We learn the stories of the young Caymanian girl who had to have surgery, the young local girl, who Dr. Shetty and his team shipped off to India to get an operation, from which she is recovering nicely; and for a fraction of the cost. Something that cost \$10,000, to go all the way to India, would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in the US. Imagine the savings that we are going to get when this comes to fruition.

Madam Speaker, I turn your attention to housing. I am so proud of the Second Elected Member for George Town and the Fourth Elected Member for George Town in terms of pushing and ensuring, prodding that housing could become a reality. So many applications [are] on file waiting, waiting for a house. And we all know that crime goes down when families can feel like families, when they have a place to call home.

We are such a good Government. Look at where we started the housing—unselfishly in the district of East End.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, in Bodden Town, the land had already been identified. We have some 10 acres in the Bodden Town district. And I have been promised that we will see activities at the end of this year in the Bodden Town district as they move through the cycle that they already have planned. I am very encouraged. I know the people of Bodden Town can't wait to get an opportunity to bid

on one of these homes.

I have been involved in a lot of motions brought to the House in terms of pension used for housing, attempts to privatise the legal aid department to save money since it would be more efficient, supporting jobs for Caymanians only. Some of the things I would like to rehash in terms of affording Caymanians the availability to use their spearguns and buy parts, and I will ask the support of my colleagues. They are robbing us of our culture.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, sometimes I listen to the radio shows and I see the blogs and I hear the comments in the House. And sometimes I have to wonder. I mean, our young people in this country must be so confused about politics. The reason why they dislike it so much, as we've seen when we had the Youth Parliament, of how they spoke of politics the first day and what they thought about it.

We want people to be employed, but we don't want investment. Madam Speaker, we have to be more careful about what we say, and not be so mischievous on these radio shows and in the House and stop running investors away. Everybody knows that volume is king. That's 101, eh? For all these Caymanians who took out loans for apartments and to open restaurants and to open other businesses and invested in so much money and now all of the people have disappeared. They're crying!

I have not met one business person on this Island, Madam Speaker, who does not understand that we need people on this Island. Yes! I want to ensure that my people are employed, Madam Speaker, first and foremost. But we understand the economy and we understand that we have to give to get.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, it was in a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting when I got that disturbing news that there were many local contractors that were not paid after the Matrix fiasco, and that the Government . . . imagine, Madam Speaker, the Government got money. They got a cheque! The Government got a cheque! But our local contractors were left with unpaid bills.

I said to the Chairman in the PAC meeting, "Let's take that money that we got and pay the people!" And under our administration, through the leadership of the Premier, the First Elected Member for West Bay, those people are now happy—they got paid.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** That same Attorney General, I hope he didn't advise *unnah* on it.

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Sure he did.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** The Third Elected Member for Bodden Town is on his feet.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was being interrupted a bit from the other side.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I have heard the stories, Madam Speaker. Some people, when they look at the UDP Government, they say, *Boy, some of the scare tactics they use . . . boy them guys are going to give status. Or they are going to shorten rollover, or they are going to do this or that.* Anything to do with Immigration—fear!

Madam Speaker, one thing I know. I used to work on the Immigration Board many years ago. I was put there by the PPM.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Very good Member.

It opened my eyes, Madam Speaker. I didn't say those guys are bad guys you know. I said they made bad decisions.

*[Laughter and inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, look at the situation. You heard the story of the old lady, right, who had to go to Jamaica with her maid, with her caregiver. Madam Speaker, imagine. We have many of these stories because her maid or her caregiver, or her helper, got rolled over and rolled out.

These elderly people fall in love and are so attached. I know, because I have a grandmother who is 94 years old. And she is so attached to this helper. She does not even want her to go on vacation. She is upset when this lady goes on vacation. So I know how attached they are. And we raised questions about giving caregivers certain certificates to be able to stay on and help our Caymanians. There are no Caymanians doing these things, you know. There are no Caymanians working, cleaning up our people and changing pampers and doing everything. We have to be cognizant of that.

We Caymanians are proud people. I mean, I am proud of that. But there are some jobs that we are not interested in, Madam Speaker. And I am so glad that this Government saw it fit, and the Cabinet saw it fit, and the Immigration Review Team which did a comprehensive review of the Immigration Law and its regulations, and has offered a Specialist Caregiver's Certificate, which was created to improve the lives of the sick, elderly, or handicapped.

Madam Speaker, who could have a problem with that? Don't ask.

Madam Speaker, I am going to move very gingerly as I talk about crime. Very ginger, because I could get accused. I get accused quite often, but when you have a whole nation praying for you, a whole nation fasting, when you get the texts saying, "I can come off fasting now, thank God we won that one. When is your next challenge so that we can go on our knees again?"

Madam Speaker, if I don't go to church for the month, I feel like a fish out of water. I love church. I grew up as a good boy. I believe in defending family, though. They are not going to mark me absent on that. But if we take the concept and we talk about crime, how crime is solved in most countries, Madam Speaker, I have a background in this principle. I was trained by the CIA, US Customs, US Immigration. There are a lot of things I know, Madam Speaker.

If you do not have intelligence, you do not have anything, Madam Speaker. Where do we get our intelligence from? It has to be from the citizens of this country. But if you want intelligence from somebody, you have to treat them like somebody. You have to show some respect to them. You cannot expect to beat them up and say things like some people deserve harassment and we are going to target all Caymanians who drink from the night before eight o'clock in the morning and we are going to . . . Madam Speaker, and we are going to take their guns from them that they had for 100 years, pass through their families . . . Madam Speaker, how are we going to expect to get any intelligence?

We need to take a different course and be friendlier and more receptive to ideas, rather than being so defensive in those meetings that we have district by district. I am sure my colleagues have been to these meetings. I have been to some very good ones and I support upholding the law. Take for instance, a family concept, if you continuously tell your wife, or your husband, bad things, keep him or her out of the loop, but when the time comes for [his or] her support, when all gets out of control, you are going to want his or her support then. It will not go down so well, Madam Speaker.

So, that is one of the keys to trying to solve some of these crimes on this Island. And, Madam Speaker, some of these crimes are happening. I heard one young man say the other day in a speech somewhere. He said, "Everybody watching our clothes, watching how we dress. It's our hearts they need to be worrying about and that we are willing to work."

Madam Speaker, I can tell you that I was not really a fan of this baggy pants thing and saggy pants and stuff down. I mean, some of them can't run when you see them. They have to run with bow-legs because they have to hold their pants up. Madam Speaker, that is their style. We need to be more re-

ceptive to what our culture has become and we need to accept that that is what it has become and we still need to try to make something out of them. We can't turn our backs on them and expect them to change.

Madam Speaker, if you go and sit down and talk to any one of these baggy pants, high hair, plait hair guys, they are the best guys you'll ever want to speak to. Intelligent too! Deep thoughts! We just need to give them an opportunity.

If I were working in a big corporation and I was making half a million dollars worth of bonus every year, and I never tried to say, *You know what, I'll give up \$75,000 worth of this and hire three Caymanians to try to help with crime*, and if every one of those corporations did something like that to show these kids, show these children, show the nation that they are trying to do something until times get better . . . when crime is happening and it is knocking on your front door, it's your fault too, you know.

Madam Speaker, I do not even know how long I was going. I would like someone to remind me. Can I get a time check?

**The Speaker:** Madam Clerk?

He has 53 minutes left?

Oh well . . .

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I hear the Opposition rambling. They're tired. We're tired too on this side.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** There are not many of them left.

So, Madam Speaker, if you want we can break now and come back tomorrow morning. I mean, this is a good time to break. I know it's late. It's Thursday night, and those guys have to go do something, so . . .

*[Inaudible interjections and laughter]*

**The Speaker:** Can I have a motion for the adjournment, please?

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, we move the adjournment of this honourable House until 10.00 am tomorrow. And, Madam Speaker, perhaps we might have to go a bit later than I expected because I would like to move quickly to complete debate. There are not many of us left, but there are still several left to speak.

**The Speaker:** The question is that the House do stand adjourned until 10.00 am tomorrow morning.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**At 9.47 pm the House stood adjourned until 10.00 am, Friday, 17 June 2011.**