

(1/RP)

1550 hours (Hon. Speaker, Shri Raju Bista, *in the Chair*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I welcome you all to the First Session of the newly-elected Commonwealthland Parliament. I wish you all success in your endurance and a productive session.

Hon. Members are informed that they may now make the subscribe to the oath in unison as required under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Commonwealthland Parliament in the format of the oath as supplied to you.

1551 hours (*Members took oath*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for hon. President's Address. However, the hon. Members are requested to remain seated, maintain decorum and not to leave the House during the President's Address. Hon. Members are also requested to stand in their seats when the hon. President arrive to deliver his Address.

1552 hours

The House then adjourned.

1559 hours

The House re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

HON. PRESIDENT OF COMMONWEALTHLAND: Hon. Speaker and Members, I welcome you all to the First Session of the Commonwealthland Parliament. I am greatly honoured to have been bestowed with the privilege of addressing the Commonwealthland Parliament. I congratulate all the Members who have been democratically elected by the people of Commonwealthland. It is our duty and responsibility to uphold the tenets of the Constitution and work towards the advancement of the people of our sovereign nation.

My Government is committed to ensuring the inclusive welfare and all-round development of the people of Commonwealthland and assures it will bring legislation and initiate debates in the Parliament in this regard. Equality and inclusivity will be the cornerstone of my Government.

(2/KMR)

Hon'ble Members, my Government is dedicated in its efforts to improve the economic development of

Commonwealthland. While continuing to support the global development efforts through the United Nations and other agencies, it would be ensured that the domestic concerns of the Commonwealthland would be given adequate priority. We intend to closely engage with the Asian Development Bank for this purpose.

My Government proposes to transform Commonwealthland into a globally competitive manufacturing hub driven by latest technologies and updated infrastructure. My Government will set up world-class investment and industrial regions across the country equipped with all necessary fundamental and support services. Steps have already been taken to execute projects for dedicated freight corridors and industrial corridors across Commonwealthland. Single-window clearances, tax holidays are some of the initiatives which would be offered to these industrial units. My Government wishes to make all efforts to encourage domestic industry to collaborate internationally. My Government will focus on the private industries and investments as it is one of the most important drivers of growth in any economy. My

Government intends to encourage investments, including through Foreign Direct Investment. These substantial investments will help in generating jobs and creating increased opportunities for development.

Hon'ble Members, housing is one of the major concerns for my Government with steps being undertaken to provide adequate, accessible, and affordable housing to the residents of the urban centres of the Commonwealthland. An increased part of the budget is committed to the housing projects in the urban centres, especially the five major cities of the Commonwealth land. The private housing projects will also be directed to mandatorily earmark 10 per cent of their total housing schemes for the economically weaker sections.

My Government is committed to the relocation and rehabilitation of the population in proper housing facilities within urban areas. The new schemes will curtail the movement of the migrant population into unregulated housing projects and provide affordable and comfortable housing to all.

Hon'ble Members, a challenge for the increasing population of our nation is the accessibility of proper and prompt healthcare facilities. As the population increases, it creates a tremendous pressure on the existing healthcare infrastructure. My Government in an attempt to increase the accessibility and efficiency of the healthcare, will act as regulators for the private healthcare facilities. As regulator, it will ensure quality, approachability and overall effectiveness of the healthcare facilities. My Government shall also promote private investment into Research and Development and encourage innovation in the field of healthcare.

My Government is committed to an inclusive and equitable welfare of its citizens. We intend to gradually phase out subsidies from all schemes and substitute them with self-sustaining models with no additional financial burden on the tax payers. My Government is willing to mobilize investment in social welfare and enhance the participation of the private sector in social welfare. The contribution of the private sector in social welfare provides ample opportunities that take advantage of the resources and infrastructure available to the

private investors. My Government endorses private investment in the social sector for their efficiency and inexpensive means of providing services for social welfare. My Government will continue monitoring the competence of the private agencies in their endeavours as a regulatory body.

Hon'ble Members, environmental degradation poses a major threat to the sustainable growth of a nation and even challenges the sustainable development of a nation. Therefore, it has become a major goal for my Government to reduce carbon emissions and encourage green growth. Inclusion of the private sector in such efforts is imperative for ensuring environmental efficiency by adopting cleaner, greener technologies and the adopting, as well as sharing of better practices for producing green energy. The private sector's use of new technologies in sustainable production, whilst coming at a cost, promotes sustainability, competency and better use of resources.

Promotion of the private sector would provide the investment required for green growth and corrective actions to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. It would enable more innovation and mobilization of resources, for example, the

funds, budgets, communication systems and necessary foundation, which are essential for ecological stability and economic sustainability. The challenges of pollution and climate change can only be faced through sharing responsibility with the private sector.

Hon'ble Members, my Government encourages the empowerment and development of women. My Government is dedicated towards safeguarding the rights and privileges of women. It realises the impact of climate change on them and endorses the need to help them to assimilate and adjust to the adverse effects of climate change which impacts their livelihood, especially in the agricultural society. The Government promotes the mechanization of agriculture, which will also have a direct impact on agricultural practices of the women in Commonwealthland. My Government is also safeguarding the interests of women through financial assistance in climate change induced disasters.

My Government recognizes the important role of women in the growth and development of a nation and is committed to empowering them through its policies.

Hon'ble Members, the citizens of Commonwealthland have shown tremendous faith in their elected Members. The Members must always keep in mind that they represent not just themselves, but each citizen of Commonwealthland. It is the responsibility of each and every Member of this House to protect the interest of the nation and their people. I believe that each member will discharge their duty with utmost probity, diligence and sincerity. I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all of you and wish you all the success in your future endeavours.

Thank You.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may stand up as the President is departing, and take their seats after he leaves.

(Hon. President departed)

1609 hours

HON. SPEAKER: Secretary to lay a copy of President's Address on the Table of the House.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to the House of Commonwealth Youth Parliament assembled on 25th November, 2019.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1100 am tomorrow.

1610 hours

The House then adjourned

till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

(3/NKL)

1119 hours

(Hon. Speaker, Ms. Fasiha Hassan, *in the Chair*)

HON. SPEAKER: Good Morning, hon. Members!

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Hon. Members, it gives me great pleasure to inform you all that our hon. Speaker, Ms. Fasiha Hassan, is celebrating her birthday today. On behalf of the House, I extend her warm birthday greetings and wish her a happy, prosperous and successful future ahead. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon. Prime Minister. In fact, today is a special day, not just for me but also India is celebrating its Constitution Day today. On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution and it came into effect on 26th January, 1950. As mentioned in the

preamble of the Constitution of India, India stands with justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. These are all laudable objectives for any country. To commemorate this occasion, the national Parliament of India is holding a Joint Sitting today in the Central Hall of the Parliament. On behalf of the Parliament of Commonwealthland, I extend my heartiest greetings to all the citizens of India. Thank you.

Hon. Members, before we start today's business, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to start by introducing his Council of Ministers.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you very much, hon. Speaker. It gives me a great joy as the Prime Minister of the Empowering Commonwealth Party (ECP) to introduce the Members of the newly elected Cabinet.

(Council of Ministers introduced)

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Prime Minister.

Hon. Members, now is the time for Questions. Hon. Members are informed that no discussion shall be permitted during the actual Question Time. Only the Member, in whose name the Questions stands, will be able to pose the Question.

Thereafter, the Ministers will reply to the said Question. However, that Member or any other Member of the House may, with the permission of the Speaker, put forth a supplementary Question. We will be accepting maximum of two supplementary questions – one question from the Member who has originally posed the question, and potentially the other question from the hon. Members in general.

Now, I would request the hon. Member Ms. Nephilian Kasuka from Namibia, representing the Opposition, to pose the question to the Minister of Social Welfare.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, we were told that there would be a speech in reply to the President's Address before the Question Time. It would be better if you clarify on that. I believe, the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition would reply to the President's Address.

HON. SPEAKER: The Presiding Officer has informed me that we will start with the Question Time. Thereafter, we will be taking up the Motion of thanks on President's Address.

Now, I would request the hon. Member, Ms. Kasuka to put forth the first question.

(Question 1)

MS. NEPHILIAN KASUKA (NAMIBIA): Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state: (a) the challenges identified by the Government for upliftment of unprivileged women, men and community, and (b) the manner in which the Government proposes to make sure that unprivileged women, men and community are appropriately considered and supported?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MS. TALULAH THOMAS): Thank you very much for your question. We, as a Government, have been left with many challenges from the past fifteen years. One of the biggest challenges we are facing, in terms of vulnerable groups within our society, is the female literacy rate. It is only 65 per cent. This is awful in terms of equality. This is something I would like to highlight as one of the challenges we are facing, as a Government.

The other challenge is regarding the underprivileged groups and sections in rural areas. Every minute, 25 to 30 people migrate from rural areas to urban cities in Commonwealthland. The rate of urbanisation is increasing rapidly. This is something we need to work on as a Government.

It has increased from 21.81 per cent in 2001 to 36.16 per cent in 2011. This is a major challenge we aim to combat as a Government.

Apart from it, youth unemployment and rapid under-employment for youth in our society is also a major challenge for our Government.

With regard to your second question, which talks about the manner in which the Government proposes to make sure that unprivileged groups are represented and treated equally in our society, I would like to tell you that we have established the National Women Climate Fund Authority in relation to Climate Fund for Women Bill. We have also established Self-Help Groups Federations which will ensure equality, especially in rural areas. We have to stress on those people who are suffering economically and socially. We need to aim to combat this, especially in rural areas. We also have the resolution on increased urbanisation. We have established Affordable Housing Committee to ensure that all urban housing projects are affordable for each individual. I believe, the way we are going about it, we are on the right track to determine equality in our

society. People are being excluded from our society and they are suffering socially. We have to combat this situation. We have to face the reality. For the last 15 years, in our Government, we do not stand for it. We stand for equality for all the sections and groups in our society. Empowerment is fundamental to our Party policies. We are empowering those for the last fifteen years who perhaps have not had a voice. Thank you.

(Question 2)

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government proposes to support an amendment to National Law be implemented within three months forbidding the Government officials from holding business which is supported by the majority of the public, and (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

(4/SRG)

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you hon. Chair. On behalf of the Government, in relation to national law, it is important that first we understand the context under which we operate. It is important that we operate within the

parameters of our Constitution, our guiding lights, our guiding documents and that which the people of Commonwealthland aspire to respect. With the given notice of the three-month window, we have to consider the fact that the legislative process is often a laborious and long one. To do right by the people of Commonwealthland, it is important that we do not rush into any kind of decision because all of this is not about I as the Prime Minister, it is more than the Government, it is more than the Opposition, it is about the people.

The second question was in relation to the details thereof. Earlier, you spoke about the context. Now the context of Commonwealthland is that we are still a developing nation. As a developing nation, in order to adequately empower our people, it is important to ensure that we create sustainable mechanisms. Now, simply moving away from the private sector, does not create sustainability because all that does is put weight completely on the Government, thereby handicapping us from being able to adequately address the issues expressed by our people. Therefore, for this reason, these are the details as to why for the time being the Government of

Commonwealthland shall not prohibit Government officials from holding business. Our intention is to work with all in the nation, those who are in the private sector, those who are in the public sector to ensure that we do right by our people.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you hon. Prime Minister. I did say that I would allow supplementary questions. So, if there are supplementary questions, particularly by the person who sponsored the question, now would be the time to raise it. If not, I will take supplementary question from any other Member of the House.

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): I want to ask the supplementary question to the hon. Prime Minister. Disregarding the timeline, does the Government support the idea of implementing a ban on Government officials from holding business interest?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): As I had stated in my earlier response, the Government of Commonwealthland very much is interested in building better relations within the private sector. This is the position that remains unchanged. Any other response that would be given in relation to this

particular point can be regarded as a redundant response. The reason being, we do not reject the notion, but at the time that we find ourselves in with us as a ruling party and us within the seat of Government, we intend to strengthen, to build, to continue the relations within the private sector. And forbidding any Government officials from engaging in such business, this would be closing of many doors that could assist our people, closing of many doors and burning bridges. And we are all here to build bridges so that the people of Commonwealthland may walk across them in a beautiful unity.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Mr. Ram Niwas Goel, who is the hon. Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly, His Excellency, is with us in the distinguished Visitors' Gallery. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Speaker.

Hon. Members, just a reminder. First, in supplementary questions which might have a follow up question, you cannot introduce a new topic, they must be a follow ups to the questions that have been posed. The other thing is, I really do urge the Government, for the sake of time, to restrict itself to the

answer. That may be useful for all of us if we would like to have lunch today.

(Question 3)

MR. FLORIAN ALEXANDRE HICHAM KHAMLICH (MAURITIUS)

: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government is aware that the business in the country is moving towards the richest of political elites, (b) If so, the details thereof, and (c) the details of the concrete guarantees the Government gives/proposes to give to alarming conflicts of interests between this Government and the business in relation to business and industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Madam Speaker, through you, to the hon. Member, thank you so much for your question. It is greatly appreciated and to be frank with you, the Government is primarily taking stock of all the assets inside the country and that is very interesting question though, I would like to ask the Opposition, who has been in office for about three terms, i.e. 15 years, that's 5475 days, were you aware of any situation regarding the assets/ the moneys of our country being distributed amongst the rich leaders? I mean if

you were, what did you do in 15 years that you were in office to mitigate this?

HON. SPEAKER: Are there any supplementary questions?

MR. FLORIAN ALEXANDRE HICHAM KHAMLIHI (MAURITIUS):

Madam Speaker, there was a swift avoiding of the question.

There is conflict of interest between the Government and the industries are rising. Instead of talking about the future and the present, he is referring to the past. This Parliament is no

tribunal of the past. If you refer to the future, we are here to address the issues right now as they arise. Talking about the past is not a concrete guarantee of anything, you do not give

guarantees about the past. I would like the hon. Minister to specify what are the guarantees that the Government is giving

to reduce those conflicts of interests that have been making headlines and are increasing.

HON. SPEAKER: If there are no other supplementary questions, I hand over to the hon. Minister of Finance for response.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Thank you for indulging me again Madam Speaker. As I previously stated, the Government is currently taking stock of all of its

assets and all of the interests inside our country and I did not avoid your question, but I neglected the answer because there has been an increase into these claims and they were found to be unfounded. There has been no misconduct. So, I did not see any relevance of answering and I found it redundant. I am sorry to Members of the House for wasting their time.

(Question 4)

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government expects that the majority of people will be able to afford private healthcare insurance with an average GDP per capita of \$204, (b) if so, the details thereof; and (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure affordable health insurance for all?

(5/RP)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS. KAELEE ABOUD): I would like to thank the hon. Member for this question. The people on the other side just made a statement and realised to correct our health care system. Unfortunately, there are people who are only talking but not doing anything to fix that problem. That is

why, we are the one who are in the Government now. Now, to answer the question that you have asked specifically, we are tacking health care at the moment and specifically for our vulnerable members through concessional health insurance. We are providing world class health care. We are ensuring accessibility. We are ensuring consistency for our people. We cannot neglect the private health care system because it turned astronomical. We are empowering the people in our communities because we want them to access the best health care possible. The Commonwealthland is our priority. Again, this is a challenge and we are here to acknowledge that our health care is at the best at the moment.

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): There have been reports that the private health care lobby is sponsoring the Government move. If the public health care system is so bad, why are you improving the private health care system and not the public one?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS. KAELEE ABOUD): The private health care, as you know, has its bad moments. But we are here to regulate this. We are here to provide consistency for our

private health care because that is what it needs. If you members are coming forward asking about our vulnerable people, you, really, need to take a step back and look and think: “What do we do for our vulnerable people? Who could not never look at the private health care and realise that it was skyrocketing?” There was absolutely no consistency amongst them. We do need to be consistent. We need to know what exactly they are going to work out with on their bills.

(Question 5)

MS. RHIAN SHILLABEER (WALES): Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state: whether the Government is aware that women are not able to afford private schooling in order to better their literacy rate of 65 per cent, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in order to raise the women literacy rate to meet men’s?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): Thank you very much for the question. We are the Government who believes in action rather than words. Perhaps, if the Opposition paid a little more attention to our actions, they will realise that we are a Government who have

created community centres in out-of-reach communities to be able to train women and have afternoon schools, so that they can have a balance between their personal lives and their educational lives. So, they have access to education.

Secondly, we are also creating an organisation to specifically train teachers that are well-equipped to train and educate the women, so, they are aware of the challenges that they have and they can better understand and have empathy for the women who are less privileged.

Thirdly, we are committed to provide capacity building and training for women so that they can have skills like entrepreneurship and leadership so that they are be able to contribute to the community and the economy as a whole. I do understand that the literacy rate of women is 65 per cent. We understand that we have a long way to go but this Government is committed to making sure that no-one is left behind.

MS. RHIAN SHILLABEER (WALES): If you are so connected to making sure that everyone is included and no-one is left behind, would you be able to answer why do you not include a women's

wing in the Party at the moment? Is that representing your policy views?

MS. MARY NAMAYA (MALAWI): I want to know from the hon. Minister to be specific as to when they will start these community centres in helping the women and involve them in capacity building. It is because you can promise something, people can hear you but they need to know the timeline by which they will start receiving those services.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): First of all, I would like to answer the first question in terms of creating a women's wing. We are the Government that believes in meritocracy and if we are able to provide education to everyone, then everyone is qualified, young people and women, to be a part of the Government. So, there is no need to have a women's wing *per se*. But I also understand that we cannot expect man to understand woman's issue and that is why, we believe in equal representation through meritocracy. I hope, that answers the hon. Member's question.

In terms of the second question about the time frame, unfortunately, this is something that we have to work together as a Government. As you said, I can go on and make promises but I want to assure everyone that when I do say that we are committed to creating community centres, we have a well-informed timeframe because we do not want to make anti-promises and we all know that change does not happen overnight. So, in order to fulfil our commitment, I, with my Ministers, am making sure that within the next two years, we have, at least, seven community centres that have been implemented in out-of-reach communities and that is the first promise that I can make you. However, if you want us to update you, you are all welcomed to get more updates that you might need in due course of time.

(Question 6)

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to entice women to get involved in politics?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MS. TALULAH THOMAS): Thank you very much for your question. I will get

straight to the point. We have already touched this point. The hon. Minister of Education has touched it earlier also. In fact, we are going to implement the community centres, especially, for vulnerable communities. We are also facilitating, as a Government, and implementing SDGs within these vulnerable communities so that women in particular can learn about their rights within Commonwealthland and learn more about political education.

Moving on to leadership workshops, we want to see this implemented, especially, in vulnerable communities. We believe that through education, this is the way by which the women will be able to get employment in the private sector. This will lead to further empower the women by encouraging them to come to the politics and become active. We believe that through sustainable development goals, we can implement this in Commonwealthland to include youth participation and, particularly, young women. Through this, we are encouraging young women to provide perspectives on education, health and gender equality. We can empower and facilitate them through community centres. It will take time but we are recognising that

this is an issue and we would like to have women involved in politics.

(6/KMR)

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): I welcome the Minister's reply, in particular the fact that she has announced that there will be community centres implementing SDGs and campaigning for women's rights. Does she not, however, agree with me that having a Leader who is a male, a Chief Whip who is a man, and a Finance Minister who is a man does not encourage women to join politics? If the hon. lady were to look at our benches, we are equally represented and we do have a female Leader of Opposition. Does the Minister agree that having a female as its leader will encourage women to get involved in politics?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MS. TALULAH THOMAS): As you can see, we have a male Chief Whip and Prime Minister. But that does not take away the fact that I am standing here right now, a woman in politics.

I do not think that we should see this as an unequal representation. The way in which politics works, it can be

intimidating for lots of women in this country. And I believe that through working with women, your friends, your families, opening these community centres, politics does not have to be this intimidating world that I am standing in right now. I believe that local politics is key to actually getting women involved. It does not have to be on a large scale like we are right now. I believe that local politics will combat this lack of political participation from women in politics. We are doing this through education. I do understand your point but many women here are fighting for this change and I believe that through local politics this could be achieved.

(Question 7)

HON. SPEAKER: We are now moving to Question 7 relating to basic healthcare in a privatised system.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by the Government to ensure that the most vulnerable people in Commonwealthland can afford basic healthcare in a privatised healthcare system?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS. KAELEE ABOUD): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question.

I just want to start this question first of all to just express my disappointment today in the Chamber by the questions that are being posed. I think we do need to acknowledge that the questions that are being asked are actually issues that were developed over the past 15 years that we as the new Government are coming into it and trying to fix. They must be aware of this. But we may as well answer the question because I find that people of Commonwealthland, and I can easily speak on behalf of the Government, are our priority. So, we would not get into the nitty-gritty of the questions being posed. However, I do need to put on the record as well that I do rephrase my previous answer but I would just like to slightly develop from that because I did mention previously about a private healthcare, a subsidised card for our vulnerable members of the community. Based on their earnings, they will be receiving a card just to ease the burden of any formal healthcare. I also do need to put on the record that public healthcare still exists. We

are not running under an entirely privatised system. People can access public healthcare. But if they do want something else that private healthcare can offer, it is up to their choosing and we will make it easier for them. This will ensure we are tackling the issues we have come into over the past 15 years of the Opposition leading us into some pretty heavy issues. So, I would just like to thank again the Leader of the Opposition for her question.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you very much, Minister, for your answer. I think it is going to get a bit tired if you keep referring to the fact that we were in Government for 15 years. You are in Government now. So, you need to take responsibility, I am afraid, of that.

With regard to the subsidised cards that you mentioned, you said it will be based on their earnings, I will be very interested to find out how you would measure this and make sure that there are not vulnerable people who do not come under that subsidised card who end up being falling through the gaps and can neither afford private healthcare in full nor get the subsidy either.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS. KAELEE ABOUD): Thank you again to the Leader of Opposition for her supplementary question. I do not want to get into it too much but I do believe that this does come as a welcome sign that they do acknowledge that there has been a lot of issues brought to us. However, we are moving on, we are moving up, and we are in Government. So, I will let it go for now. However, we are here to look after all of our people. No one will get left behind. Our vulnerable members at the moment are running into some challenges. However, if we work on these cards, I do not see how anyone will get left behind as a vulnerable member of the community.

(Question 8)

HON. SPEAKER: I now move on to Question 8 regarding environmental efficiency.

MR. KESHAWN DAMION TAVIANO THORNHILL (MONTSEERRAT): Madam Speaker, will the Minister of Environment be pleased to state: (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure environmental efficiency, and (b) the

time by which the Government proposes to ensure environmental efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Hon. Speaker, from the President's Speech yesterday the hon. Members would already know that a major goal for this Government is to reduce carbon emissions and encourage green growth. We believe that the inclusion of the private sector in such effort is imperative for ensuring environmental efficiency by adopting cleaner and greener technologies and the adoption as well as sharing of better practices producing green energy.

On your second point, Commonwealthland has a target of reducing greenhouse emissions by 35 per cent by 2030. We do recognise that we are not on track to meet this target. But, as you all know, this is because during the last 15 years the Socialist People's Party has led to very poor air quality, poor management of waste, growing water scarcity, water pollution, biodiversity loss, and soil, land degradation.

MR. KESHAWN DAMION TAVIANO THORNHILL (MONTSEERRAT): Madam Speaker, while the Minister attempted

to answer my question, I would just like the hon. Members and the hon. House to come to grips that, yes, we are in the Opposition now and please stop making a mention of it.

Hon. Minister, I would just like to know exactly what is your timeline. You said, by the year 2025. What is the month? What is the detailed timeline of the process?

MR AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Can I just ask the hon. Minister to stop looking back to our time in office? People's lives are at risk. We are in a climate emergency. The Government should try and get us on track to meet that 2035 target with more radical changes. What radical changes can she promise us here and now and can she assure us will be delivered by her Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Madam Speaker, I would just like to address both hon. Members. If you would have read the Constitution properly, actually the target is for 2030 and not 2025, and we are looking to reduce the carbon emissions by 35 per cent by 2030.

On your point, hon. Member, we do recognise that we are a developing country. So, we do have to look at our funds

closely to see how we are going to set out this timeline. We do not have an exact timeline because obviously we are dealing with issues of climate. We cannot simply predict how the climate is going to change. What we can do is put in place operations that will at least reduce the risk of the climate emergency.

(7/NKL)

(Question 9)

MS. ADRIANA THOM (BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA): Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government proposes to implement any programme in order to expand health care infrastructure and health care professionals in rural areas to help the growing population out there?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS. KAELEE ABOUD): Thank you, hon. Speaker. I would also like to thank the hon. Member from the Government for her question. I am pleased to announce today that we actually will be rolling out mobile health facilities across the regional areas. Other regional communities are actually coming down in population as they are moving to urban areas. We do not neglect them. We do understand the issue of

health care. However, we are bringing in some mobile health facilities to offer some basic healthcare facilities throughout the regions. Thank you.

(Question 10)

MR. TIMOTHY KADGA (UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA): Will the Minister of Urban Development be pleased to state: (a) Whether the Government proposes to launch housing projects to help economically weaker sections, and (b) If so, the details thereof and the manner in which the housing projects are likely to help economically weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (MS. HIMANSHI KUNDU): Thank you for the question, hon. Member.

Madam Speaker, as our Party's name is Empowering Commonwealth Party, I would like to say that we are going to stick to our objective of empowering the people. Under the guiding light of our hon. Prime Minister, our main focus will always be to empower the people of weaker sections of our society. We will be proposing various schemes like Voluntary Land Pooling, increasing the Private Sector in affordable housing projects, and also Interest Subsidy Scheme for

housing the urban poor. This will provide interest subsidy on housing loans to the Economically Weaker Sections and Low-Income Groups as part of credit-enablement measures, and will encourage these households to avail loan facilities through commercial banks and to avail the subsidy in interest payment for loans.

MR. TIMOTHY KADGA (UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA): I would like to know the time frame of this Scheme.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (MS. HIMANSHI KUNDU): We will be setting up Affordable Housing Commission in the next six months which will look into this matter. Under the Interest Subsidy Scheme for housing the urban poor, we will be providing these households to avail 5 per cent subsidy in interest payment for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Members. In terms of Rule 22, there is a limitation on questions. We have now exceeded the limit of 10 questions. We will now take up Special Mentions.

The House will take up the Special Mentions, as per Rules 26 to 29, which have been selected for today's business. Members concerned may now read the text already supplied to

them as per the order. Any Member who proposes to associate himself or herself, as per Rule 29, with a particular Special Mention, may do so with the permission of the Chair and give a slip at my Table.

Hon. Member, Mr. Tyrell B. Giles, who is representing Barbados and particularly the Opposition, your name stands first in the order to make the Special Mention.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. TYRELL B. GILES (BARBADOS): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

In my constituency, St. Thompso, the biggest economic driver is agriculture. However, due to urban migration, there has been exodus of young people leaving our constituency. This has left behind the elderly and indigent. According to Erik Erickson, a member of my constituency, who has lived there for his whole life, they are at the stage of integrity vs. despair. It is basically a developmental stage, that is, 65 years and onwards.

Due to the extent of climate change, our area has been a victim of drought and as a result, Mr Erickson has not just lost his crops for the season but he has also lost his only source of income. He has further highlighted that when he approached Government for relief, he was turned away because the current policy only focuses on a certain group of people. I believe, this deserves a special mention because the impact of climate change is a social problem, far reaching and will affect every single person of the human race, regardless of income group, race, gender.

Ultimately, we need to prepare all marginalized groups for the impact of climate change, not only women. This special mention is for us to be reminded of all marginalized groups who are severely underprepared for the devastating effects of climate change. Climate justice must be our focus. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon. Member. As per Rule 29, if there are any other Members to associate, they can do so with my permission.

We would now have a short tea break, after which we will assemble at the Assembly Hall to take up the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

(TEA BREAK)

(8/SRG)

(AFTER TEA BREAK)

1243 hours

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

HON. SPEAKER: Welcome back. I hope that we had a very successful tea break.

Hon. Members, we are now going to take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Since we have very limited time, I request you to be very brief and focus on important matters only.

I am now going to call upon Mr. David Kabwe, hon. Prime Minister to move the Motion. Thereafter, Ms. Banseka Kayembe, Leader of Opposition and Mr. Joseph Barker Willis from the Independents will speak. At the end, Prime Minister will reply to the debate.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): I would like to raise a point in relation to Rule 10 that this House expresses its gratitude to the hon. President for his Address to Parliament on 25th November, 2019.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That this House expresses its gratitude to the hon. President for his Address to Parliament on 25th November, 2019.”

I want everybody to know that the time that has been allocated for each political party. Empowering Commonwealth Party has a total of seven minutes, the Socialist People’s party has a total of six minutes and the Independents have a total of two minutes. I am going to be very strict on the time. Now, I open up to the Leader of Opposition. Ms. Banseka Kayembe.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you Madam Speaker. Seeing the constraint of time, I will do my best to keep the response to President’s Address in brief. Firstly, I would like to thank the President for his address to the house yesterday, in what was an informative, comprehensive overview of this Government’s policy commitments. It is an honour to be serving this house as Leader of Opposition. I would like to thank my party for choosing to put its confidence in me. I am very privileged to lead the Socialist People’s Party. I would also like to bestow a warm welcome to every single Member of this house. Whether you are in Government, Opposition, a back

bencher or an Independent, it is an absolute honour to represent the people of Commonwealthland and a role that regardless of our differences we all take extremely seriously.

Madam Speaker, this legislative programme put forward by the Government is one that overall makes some very clear choices about who in Commonwealth land this government is more concerned with. The Party opposite has had a long history of favouring the more well off, urbanized community at the expense of rural lower income communities. I am afraid to say that this Government is no different. You claim to be empowering every single citizen, but it is clear that this Government is only interested in empowering those who are already doing well. Rampant privatization, with minimal state support, lower taxes for some of the wealthiest companies in Commonwealthland, Foreign Direct Investment, an unambitious legislative programme offering a simplistic small state solution to solve some of the most challenging issues of our time. We do not believe that the State choosing to take a much smaller role can truly solve the issues of social inequality, gender inequality and the impact of climate change. So, Madam

Speaker, I would like to explore very quickly and in more detail this Government's proposed policies from the President's Address.

Firstly, I would like to make reference to healthcare. This Government rightly recognizes that there is lack of proper and prompt healthcare facilities available to the people of Commonwealthland. However, the solutions it proposes for private healthcare to be regulated by Government is a poor attempt at providing high quality healthcare. This is simply not enough. Private healthcare can never truly provide all the citizens of the Commonwealth the healthcare that they deserve, which the Socialist People's Party believes should be a universal system, free at the point of use. No one should have to bear the stress of healthcare or social care bills, bills that often the majority of people in this country cannot afford to pay. Universal healthcare means that our doctors and nurses can focus on patient care, what they are trained for without wasting work time dealing with insurance companies who would be callously making profits from our citizen's healthcare issues. On this issue, the government I am afraid is wildly out of touch.

In terms of gender equality and environment, this Government has claimed through the President's Address that it realizes the impact of climate change on women and as much as the Opposition does agree with the Government that women do suffer the more adverse effects of climate change, we would also argue that this Government does not go far enough in tackling climate change. The Government assistance provided in terms of training and development would be absolutely pitiful, a tiny amount of 1 million USD for millions of women in the Commonwealthland. We would also argue that it seems somewhat tokenistic for this Government to claim that it encourages the empowerment of women, when within even your own party, you do not have a women's wing, nor have you chosen to elect a female leader either. Even within your party, you are not properly representing women either. Climate change is a threat to our very existence on this earth and it will require innovative policy ideas to challenge this threat. Again, the Government can only offer solutions through the private sector as a means to solving climate change.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the President's Address I am afraid to say has given little for the people of the Commonwealthland to hope for. This Government's obsession with privatization and a lack of awareness of gender and climate change issues is extremely disappointing. The Government's policy plans confirm that they are most concerned with those who are already doing well in Commonwealthland, much like some of the Members of your party who have business interests in direct conflict with many of these policy areas. The Socialist People's Party wants to work with the Members opposite, across the whole House, Independents to ensure that we limit the most harmful aspects of this Government's agenda and ensure that we put the ordinary people of Commonwealthland first. We cannot risk letting those people to feel left behind.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you hon. Member for keeping to time. That is very much appreciated from our side. I now, open up for the hon. Member, Mr. Joseph Barker- Willis, who is representing Jersey and the Independent in this House.

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): Thank you Madam Speaker. As Independents, we enjoy the unique privilege of transcending the party divide, but also carry the responsibility of holding the balance of power in this House. We take this responsibility very seriously and are mindful of our commitment to act in the best interest of all our citizens, irrespective of narrow party interests. It is in this spirit that we cautiously welcome yesterday's President's Address. As the President mentioned yesterday, "it is our duty and responsibility to uphold the tenets of the Constitution and work towards advancement of our people as a sovereign nation. We welcome the Government's noble idea of tackling the challenges of pollution and climate change. We also support the Government's goal of encouraging the empowerment and development of women and we recognize the Government is committed to the inclusive and equitable welfare of all of its citizens. However, deeds speak louder than words. We call upon the Government, as Independents, to match its lofty rhetoric with real policies and real results for our people. As independents, we call upon the Government, to increase the

amount of money committed to the Climate Fund for women and also to amend the allocation of this fund to ensure that we not only tackle the causes of climate change but also its effects before it is too late.

We look forward afford to working with hon. Members from across this House of either party, Government or Opposition, to work towards our shared aim of tackling climate change and improving the lives of all of our citizens, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi who visited this House on several occasions, “the future depends on what you do today.”

We call upon all Members across this House, Government and Opposition to work with us today in making better our shared future tomorrow.

HON. SPEAKER: I now open up to hon. Prime Minister to reply to the debate.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you very much hon. Speaker of the House, all of the Members present in the House, Members of the Opposition, all the backbenchers who are present, the Members who are Independents, present in the House. It is my great privilege to be able to address you

in my capacity as Prime Minister. I am going to begin by addressing the point in the President's Address pertaining to women.

(9/RP)

Now, you will notice that within our Ministerial team, our Minister for Environment is a woman, our Minister for Social Welfare is a woman, our Minister for Urbanisation is a woman, our Minister for Health is a woman, our Minister for Education is also a woman. What it shows you is that instead of dooming the powerful woman of our country, it is a stagnation by forcing them into a women's wing that leads no way, we are actively taking action by ensuring that our women have a dominating role in our Government. We live by examples.

In relation to the notion of foreign direct investment, it is important to understand the context in which we find ourselves as a developing country. Now, the United Nations has introduced structural adjustment programmes for many developing countries. What the President has proposed is that ours as a nation, partner up with the development bank to ensure that we do not fall into the same cycle of dependency

that has doomed so many developing countries. This is a sustainable solution that would benefit our people beyond the now. It is for this purpose that I encourage all Members in the House to consider the generations that will come after we have left Office. It is unfortunate that the hon. Members of the Opposition are only thinking in terms of the present but it is important to reconsider the past, to reconsider the present and the future.

Now, in relation to social inequality, we, as the Governing Party, are taking the actionable steps to ensure adequate motion in terms of development. The Climate Bill that will be introduced later seeks to address the largest sector of the working class within our State and that is the woman within the agriculture sector. We take in mind the fact that the intersectionality of issues is important to be considered. Do not look the issues in isolation but consider them because they link up together? Much like these issues link up, let us all as a House link up together to ensure that we put our differences aside, we put our people first and that we ensure that we do right by the people of the Commonwealthland. Hon. Speaker, it is with

that being said, I would like to thank the House once again and express our sincerest gratitude to the President of our great nation for his amazing address in outlining the role of the empowerment of Commonwealth Party. Thank you, hon. Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House expresses its gratitude to the hon. President for his Address delivered to the Parliament on 25th November, 2019.”

The motion was adopted.

CLIMATE FUND FOR WOMEN BILL, 2019

1301 hours

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to set up Climate Fund for Women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and adapt to climate change in order to empower them for resilience and adjustment against unfavourable and hostile impacts of climate change on agriculture.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to set up Climate Fund for Women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and adapt to climate change in order to empower them for resilience and adjustment against unfavourable and hostile impacts of climate change on agriculture.”

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): I introduce the Bill.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): I want to seek a clarification.

HON. SPEAKER: According to which rule, you have raised your Point of Order?

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): In accordance with the Rule 54, my understanding is that the Minister begins by presenting an explanation of the general principles of the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: I understand the point that the hon. Member has made but due to the time constraint in front of us and because we start a bit late, we have to alter the programme to benefit everything that needs to be done, which is why, we went for a very short and abridged version of the introduction of the Bill. We are also having assumed that everybody has read the document and get themselves prepared. That is why, we are going straight to the amendments. Therefore, I would like to move because I have noted on the order which is not to uphold it.

Now, hon. Member, Jasper James.

MR. JASPER JAMES (NEW ZEALAND): Hon. Speaker, for the last 15 years, we have seen, women strangled by the previous Government. The policies and the systems which have focused on women empowerments and rights, have failed. We see a

literacy rate of 65 per cent in females whereas it is 80 per cent in males. Around 80 per cent of all economically actives females work within the agriculture sector.

Madam Speaker, I support the hon. Minister of Environment's Bill on climate change, the Climate Fund for Women, Bill. As a developing country, we must take a holistic approach to tackle multiple issues in this Bill. As we integrate women as change agents in climate medication, in agriculture and in allied sectors, we are giving the torch to females in our communities to ignite the change required for the climate medication. I would like to draw all hon. Members' attention to Clause 5 of the proposed Bill. We will be allocating funding to skills and training and women lead focus on sustainable agricultural practices. This is a multilateral Bill that has focused on not only empowering our women from the grassroots up but to improve literacy and the systemic failures that have been caused by the previous Government. The climate change is a massive issue that has not only affect our women but all our people.

(10/RP)

In my constituency, in world Commonwealthland, the women if priests, that they need more support to be able to lead future for the area, an area which the previous Government has failed on systemically.

So, I would like to give my thanks to the Minister of Environment. I welcome this Bill and support this Bill. Thank you.

MS. ADRIANA THOM (BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA): I am super excited for this Bill because we all know that climate change is not just Bill introducing technological solutions, we are, really, in this mess because of a culture and in order to fight climate change we need to make a paradigm shift. It is that exactly that this Bill is doing because it is about advocating for climate justice which just as critical. In doing so, we are seeking to involve women in that process because we all know that when we involve and when we empower marginalised groups whether it is women and anyone, it is better for everyone in the long ride. When we see that in so many areas when we educate women, when we empower women who are in poverty or in

distress, all of that leads to better changes for the community as a whole.

So, this Bill is not just about top-down Government solution, it is not just about all of us coming in and making changes. This Bill, really, is empowering women from bottom up. It is, really, about making grassroots changes that women are sponsoring and women are implementing in making them the climate activists. This Bill is also in line with the Paris climate accord, the UN agreement and it is in line with our SDGs that we are implementing as well. This is just like a version actually of the Green Climate Bank which came out of Paris and, really, is a way in order to redirect funds in order to help implement adaptation and mitigation provisions. So, we know this is not just one-off thing. We have seen it in so many other countries. So, we know that this strategy is working. It is about redirecting funds. It is about changing our economic pattern and in doing so, we are also being able to implement real measurable goals, we can actually see what is being directed where. So, this is not just like some lofty like high-in-the-sky kind of a Bill. We can, actually, measure and see the changes

as well. So, I am just super excited for this Bill because it is about bringing structural change and not empowering just women but society as a whole.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the two hon. Members for the justification and backing of the Bill. Let us now take up the consideration of such Bill. Members, who have already given notices to speak may participate in this discussion with the permission of the Chair. Members, who have given notices for amendments, may move the same during this particular part of their speech. The discussion shall be confined to the subject matter of the Bill and arguments either in support of the Bill or rejection thereof. However, hon. Members may also seek clarifications from the Minister with the permission of the Chair later.

Let me now open up for any proposed amendments or any other point of clarity or discussion on the proposed Bill on the Climate Fund for Women. This can be from any Member.

Let us begin with hon. Banseka from the Opposition.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. This Bill is an interesting one. That is

obviously trying to show some other biggest issues cannot need to have at the time and it is interesting that it focuses on women. I would be saying in general about the Bill. That Bill does not go far enough. Its concentration on small areas, on single demographic, it is not one, particularly, that this party is looking to support.

On the specific amendments, which I would like to propose, specifically, Clause 1, point c where it says “it shall come into force on such date as the Government may by notification in the official gazette appoint”, we, the Opposition Party, think that this gives too much power to the Government in terms of deciding when this is set, instead, we would like that it should come into force within a year. So, the Government has a specific time-frame when to put this Bill into motion.

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a few amendments to the Bill because, we are a Party, are always trying to do best for the women. That is why, I believe, that these amendments that I will raised are going to be all for women and will be all for the climate because that is what we strongly want to push.

Now, I will refer to Clause 4(c) of the Climate Fund for Women Bill and suggest an amendment to the amount. \$1 million is surely not enough. We would like to propose a more reasonable amount and something that is more sustainable for the women of Commonwealthland. We would like to propose to increase the funding amount to \$10 million to ensure the success of the Fund. We want to ensure that with this amount the Fund may create a real and impactful change to the women of Commonwealthland. Our nation has 25 million people. I do not know how \$ 300 thousand is going to train a population of women in a nation of 25 million people. By increasing the fund to \$10 million, it will be more sustainable and it will be more appropriate and we can ensure that the women of Commonwealthland are trained properly. We can also increase that 65 per cent literacy rate by doing so.

As per of Clause 5(c) and (d), they also raised two important points. That just need much attention. We would like this Clause to explicitly suggest a percentage of amount. So, we would like to suggest that 20 per cent of the funding goes to Clause 5(c) and 20 per cent of the funding goes to Clause 5(d).

Thank you.

MS. NEPHILIAN KASUKA (NAMIBIA): I, as part of the Opposition group, propose to amend Clause 3 where the Government states that Carbon emitting industries means, the industries emitting carbon and carbon footprints through their production process, this may include industries related to fossil fuel plus the automobiles, textile and others. So, we amend it to point 'h' – we are talking about point 'h', I hope, all of you are agree – the definition of carbon emitting industries should also include 'agriculture explicitly' as well. It is because agriculture also helps women it can get women to be advantaged. So, let me start by saying, women are of vital importance in rural economy. We have to engage them in agriculture.

(11/KMR)

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the life of our economy. It is the backbone of our economic system. Agriculture is not all about providing food but it also provides jobs especially for ladies if we engage agriculture in industry.

Secondly, let me say agriculture plays a pivotal role in the growth of any state. If you build agriculture in our country for

the ladies to participate, it would increase the economy of the country, it would not let it down, because a lot of them are talented in agriculture let me say processes or a lot of them know how to participate in agricultural activities. I thank you.

MR. KESHAWN DAMION TRAVIANO THORNHILL

(MONTSEERRAT): Madam Speaker, this is with regard to Clause 6b(i) of the Bill. We acknowledge that the Minister, being a female, is trying to ensure empowerment of females. When we are saying we empower women, it is imperative that we do so without the shadow of a doubt. I am sure that all my colleagues in this hon. House would agree with me when I say that the Chairperson of this critical instrument must be someone who can deal with all these issues. Putting a woman at the helm of this initiative would encourage women to participate in this process. Just the image of a woman at the helm of this critical instrument gives a sense of assurance and security to our women. But, hon. Speaker, I would like to draw everyone's attention to Clause 6c. In respect of this section, we the Opposition find that rather than the body of the authority setting

the terms of office and conditions, it is set by an independent regulator for the purposes of transparency.

Madam Speaker, I draw your attention to Clause 6d. We the Opposition are fully aware of how hectic planning and implementation can be when embarking on a new initiative such as this one. To ensure that people's business gets done, we do like to amend the time period of the meeting gaps to 'two' months instead of 'three'. I think everyone would agree that two months is a reasonable time to conduct meetings and get the task done in order to achieve the goals.

Lastly, I draw your attention to Clause 7g(iii). While the monitoring is done by the state body, in the interest of being transparent again and the people being aware of how their business is being conducted, we the Opposition propose that an annual report be submitted to the House and be made public so that the people can check and see how their money is being spent, how the processes are going, and if we are really achieving a realistic goal.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ISHARA UDESHANI KALU THANTHRIGE (SRI LANKA):

Madam Speaker, I am going to present amendments to Clause 9 and 10. Generally, strategies are used to achieve higher results. When making decisions as the Government, one must be very careful in planning the strategies. Otherwise, it is the public who will have to bear the loss. So, such a thing should never happen to our Government. Therefore, Clause 9a of the Bill should be amended. The Government has stated that “Government may use national and international assessment reports on climate change, women and agriculture for setting up targets and devising strategies to utilise funds”. It should be amended to, “Government may use national and international assessment reports that are from credible sources” as opposed to any national or international reports. Then we can mention the credible resources as experts in particular subjects and the research organisations. Then we can get right information and we will be able to implement the right strategies.

Under Clause 10a, the Government has stated said that the Government may make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. However, as the Government we cannot make or

implement rules without having the approval from the Parliament. It means that a majority of Parliament Members should agree with the particular rule. So, it should be amended to, “rules mentioned should be approved by the Parliament”.

Finally, Clause 10b. This is the Act meant for the Commonwealth. Actually, Commonwealth Parliamentary Associations focus on this advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governments, youth engagement in democracy. The Commonwealth comprising 53 countries has much in common, therefore, we believe that is not eligible for mentioning a single name. The Government has stated every rule made by the Government and every notification issued by the Government under this Act shall be laid as soon maybe after it is made or issued before the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. We suggest that “the legislative assembly of Delhi” should be amended to “the legislature of Commonwealth”. Thank you.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): In light of the corrigendum that was laid before the House this morning which has replaced the ‘Delhi Legislative Assembly’ with ‘the

Commonwealth Parliament’, I want to seek your views on whether the amendment to Clause 10 might be within the scope of the Bill given that the Bill has already been amended by corrigendum. Clause 10, subsection ‘b’ has already been amended in accordance with what the Opposition is suggesting.

HON. SPEAKER: I will just confirm that. In the meanwhile, I will allow the Independents Group to continue making their submissions while we consult and I will make a ruling on the order thereafter, even though that is not the orthodox way or traditional way of dealing with the matter. I think we need some time.

Hon. Members, I have two speakers from the Independents regarding amendments to the Bill.

(12/NKL)

MS. MOSA MATHUBANYANE (SOUTH AFRICA): Madam Speaker, we, the Independents, would like to amend Clause 4c of the Bill. My amendment is:

“A corpus amount of 2 million USD will be drawn from the Consolidated Fund of Commonwealthland after due appropriation made by the Commonwealthland Parliament by law.”

We believe, one million USD is not enough to mitigate the effect of climate change. We propose two million USD for it, that is, double the amount. It makes more sense when you look in the context of the GDP of Commonwealthland.

MS. ELYSSE DIMITRIADIS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA): Madam Speaker, I would like to propose the amendments to the Climate Fund for Women Bill, 2019.

We, the independents would like to substitute Clause 4c of the Bill. My amendment is:

“Climate smart agriculture to provide greater access to renewable sources of energy, new technological innovations and farming equipment for women through subsidies, tax exemptions and cheaper loans.”

The Government shall ensure 50 per cent instead of 30 per cent of the funds be earmarked for this. Climate change is irreversible, and the Bill looks as though it is focussing on a reactive result instead of a proactive result. Only allocating 30 per cent of the one million USD to renewable energy sources, innovations, subsidies, tax exemptions and cheaper loans is not

enough to try and mitigate the effects of climate change, as proposed in the objectives of the Bill.

As we know, during the Question Time, the hon. Minister of Environment stated that the Commonwealthland is not on track to meet the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35 per cent by 2030. Furthermore, as it was stated under the current issues of Commonwealthland on page 15, the agriculture sector is particularly at risk from climate change because of its dependence on several climate-sensitive factors for its production. Is not it better to act now instead of putting more money into the reactive approach when our agriculture industry is suffering?

Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or nuclear power will reduce Co2 emissions which will slow down the global warming, improve public health and benefit our economy. We need to implement these changes now before its irreversible.

This Bill should allocate more than 3,00,000 USD especially since renewable energy sources will help to reduce Co2

emissions and this is why I propose the amendment to increase the 30 per cent of funds allocated to 50 per cent.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon. Member. There are two things.

The first is, the Point of Order that was raised by the Government, technically, is correct. It should be upheld. There was some confusion in terms of the clauses. An hon. Member from the Government is quite correct that it is already reflected in the Bill. Therefore, that order is upheld.

Secondly, just before we are about to break for lunch, an hon. Member, Mr. Timothy Kadga would like to make a very quick submission on the Bill.

MR. TIMOTHY KADGA (UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. We need to appreciate that this Bill is for this House. Once we pass it, the entire Commonwealthland will appreciate this.

I would like to propose an amendment to Clause 6c which states:

“The term of office and conditions of service of members of the Authority shall be such as may be prescribed.”

Hon. Members, one of the challenges that we face as Leaders is that we attempt to be too much in power and we do not want to leave. So, I am asking this hon. House to make a slight addition in this Clause. We need to prescribe this term of office now. We need to state it. It should be clear as to how long should these people be in office and when would we usher in new members. Thank you so much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Member.

Hon. Members, I would just like to inform you that we are now going to adjourn for lunch. After lunch, we will assemble back here where we will have a voting on this Bill, and then continue with the Business of the day. Thank you very much.

1327 hours

The House then adjourned for Lunch.

1452 hours

The House re-assembled after Lunch at fifty-two minutes

past

Fourteen of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now we are going to take up the consideration of the voting on the Climate Fund for Women Bill, 2019. Before we move into any voting, I would like the Minister of Environment to respond first, and then we will move to the next Session.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate everyone's concern. This Bill is a step in the right direction which will allow women's economic contribution to be recognised and appreciated.

Talking about Clause 1c, the Government projects Clause 1c. We do not believe that the most effective way of making decisions is setting deadlines as we have already learned from the Brexit situation. However, we are committed, and our

intention is to introduce the Bill within the first year. Our main concern is that it may take some time to set up the Regulatory System Committee, if this Bill does come into effect. If no Committee has been set up in a year's time, we will have a pot of money and no regulator, which, we believe, is a dangerous move.

Regarding Clause 3h, the Bill already covers enough, we believe, on the agricultural terms, and we do not believe that it is necessary to amend this Clause.

Coming to Clause 4c, this Government does not think that it is necessary or possible, as a developing country, to dedicate 10 million Dollars to this Bill. However, this Government accepts the amendment of the hon. Independent Members that the Budget should be increased to 2 million Dollars. I would also like to add that the Government accepts 50 per cent increase from 30 per cent, as suggested by the Independents, be earmarked for renewable sources of energy.

On Clause 5a, my Ministry believes that capacity and skills training refer to more practical and hands-on work approach for people already working on the ground. My Ministry understands

that literacy training is more theoretical and not directly linked to this Clause. We already tackle literacy training in other portfolios like education. In answer to point c and d, I would like to state that 30 percent of the fund has already been allocated to response and recovery activities and contingency plans.

Coming to Clause 7, we agree that there should be an Annual Report. So, we will be accepting this amendment.

Finally, coming to Clause 9, we recognise the Opposition's aims. The Government is happy to give a commitment that the Report that is used will be taken from credible sources and will reflect the majority opinion of the scientific community. However, the Government is concerned that including the phrase 'credible sources' will enable climate change deniers to constantly challenge valid reports as not being credible.

(13/SRG)

On the basis of this commitment, I would invite the Leader of Opposition to withdraw this amendment.

I ask this House to support this Bill not on political loyalties, but as an obligation to do the right things. We recognize that there is still a long way to go in tackling the

climate emergency and the inequities faced by women in Commonwealthland. This Bill marks a first step in what will be a pinnacle movement for our country. A vote against this Bill is a vote against women and a vote against the environment. It is a vote against our 25 million strong population of which most of young will be badly affected by the climate crisis. I urge all hon Members, no matter what side of the House you are on, to consider this Bill. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to set up Climate Fund for Women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and adapt to climate change in order to empower them for resilience and adjustment against unfavourable and hostile impacts of climate change on agriculture be taken into consideration.”

HON. SPEAKER: Initially, we were going to move for adoption as a whole, but there has been a request, so, we can move clause-by-clause.

The question is:

“That the Bill to set up Climate Fund for Women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and adapt to climate change in order to empower them for resilience and adjustment against unfavourable and hostile impacts of climate change on agriculture be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Under Rule 45, the withdrawal of an amendment, so the Opposition is happy to withdraw Clause 9 which has requested Government using national or international reports from a credible source and under the assurance from the Government that there will be a commitment to ensure that it is enshrined in the law.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendments moved which includes clause 9 by the hon. Member Kayembe, Ms. Elysssec Dimitriadis and Mr. Joseph Barker- Willis to the vote of the House except for the amendments to Clause 6 to 9 and 10. For the sake of process, we are going to put various amendments together, if anyone has any objections to it, now is the time to say so.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, understanding Rule 53, we request for division on Clause 1.

HON. SPEAKER: Let us look at Clauses 3,4,5 and 7. Can we group them together and vote on those clauses before we do the division or is there a need to separate it further?

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): We could do each vote separately, but there is no need to do a division on any of them other than Clause 1.

Clause 3

HON. SPEAKER: Are you moving your amendment?

MS. NEPHILIAN KASUKA (NAMIBIA): Yes, I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move:

“the definition of carbon emitting industries should also include agriculture explicitly as well.”

HON. SPEAKER: I shall put the amendment moved by Ms. Nephilian Kasuka to the vote of the House:

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

(14/RP)

Clause 4

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Since we are going clause-by-clause, in which case, we would have a chance to vote on the amendment of the Independent Party Clause 4(b) and 5(c).

HON. SPEAKER: If I am correct, there amendment is in 5b.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): There is one amendment to 4(c) and there is one amendment to 5(b) but they were both labelled for 4(c).

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put clause 4(c) moved by the Independent Members to the vote of the House.

The amendment was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 4(c), as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4(c), as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we are going to move to Clause 5. But because there are amendments to (a), (b) and (c) and they are different amendments, can I put them together?

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): I think, we can put together. But the key point is that there are some amendments from the Opposition as well as from the Independent Party.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. We will do 5(a) and 5(c) first and then we will move to another one.

I shall now put the amending Clauses 5(a) and 5(c) as per the amendments from the Opposition to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amending Clause 5(b) as put forward by the Independents to the vote of the House.

The amendment was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5(b), as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put clause 7 as per the proposition from the Opposition to the vote of the House.

The amendment was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

HON. SPEAKER: In Clause 1, the division has been called for as per Rule 53. I am just going to read out how that process works, just before we move on. Hon. Members, please note the process of electronic voting.

- 1. All Members should sit on the seas allocated to them. That is very important. Otherwise, we would not be able to note you.**
- 2. Members have to exercise their option in 30 seconds. The present pattern will then start to blink once we opened up that window of 30 seconds. Members, then, to first press the 'present' button. If you look in front of you, there is a line of buttons. The first button you are going to press is 'present' once it starts flashing. After you press 'present' button, three option buttons are available to you - No, abstain or yes. So, you could also choose to abstain from that particular vote. After that, you can choose, obviously, what your vote would be – yes, no or abstain. Your options that you have chosen, the light will then come up. Please do not select more than one option.**

(15/KMR)

HON. SPEAKER: We are going to run the mock round so that we can also just work out if there are any technical difficulties.

The question is:

“That Amendment to Clause 1 be adopted.”

HON. SPEAKER: The team is suggesting that we do a show of hands because we are having technical difficulties and it is really taking up our time. No one would say we did not try to do electronic voting.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, could we complete the rest of the matter and then come back to this? The reason for this is that the anonymity is crucial because basically we may win by one vote and obviously some within the Government may have to defend. Therefore, it would be an honour if it is done by electronic voting.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): The Chief Whip for the Opposition should be well aware that the votes are always public in a democracy and I do not know why he would wish those to be anonymous.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): I was informed that the vote would be anonymous.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. In a different world we would have done electronic voting. We did try. We really did try but I think it is proving to be a bit of a challenge. So, as the leadership of CYP, we then choose to conduct this vote by a show of hands.

The question is:

“That amendment to Clause 1c be adopted”.

Let me see the hands of all those in favour of this amendment.

In favour, 22.

Those against may now raise their hands.

Against, 23.

Those in favour amounted to 22 and those against amounted to 23. Therefore, the amendment to Clause 1c is rejected. So, clause 1 stands part of the Bill. What was initially there would continue through.

Now, the question is:

“The Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill with the relevant amendments.”

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: INCLUSIVE URBANISATION:
ADEQUATE, ACCESSIBLE, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

1525 hours

HON. SPEAKER: We will now take up Resolution 1. Hon. Minister for Urban Development will move the Resolution on Inclusive Urbanisation: Adequate, Accessible, Secure and Affordable Housing. After the Minister moves the Resolution, the Members who have given us notices of amendment may simply stand up and say, 'I move the amendment'.

(16/NKL)

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, can we confirm that Members of the Opposition would have a chance to speak on the amendments? **HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, the Opposition Members will have an opportunity to speak on that, and rather, we have also got a list of Speakers. But before that, the hon. Minister has to basically open a move for that Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (MS. HIMANSHI KUNDU): Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

**“That this House resolves of Inclusive Urbanisation:
Adequate, Accessible, Secure and Affordable
Housing”**

Keeping in view the fact that around 50 years ago, hardly 03% of population of Commonwealthland was living in cities and various factors since then like political unrest, employment and increase in population has compelled the people to leave their rural farming villages. As a result now, every minute, 25 to 30 people migrate from rural areas to urban cities in hopes of better livelihood and a brighter future; Taking note of the fact that the Commonwealthland National Statistical Organisation (CNSO) has stated that the rate of urbanisation in Commonwealthland has increased from 27.81% in 2001 to 31.16% in 2011; Also taking note of the fact that this rapid urbanization was ignored by the previous Governments, giving rise to varying degrees of exclusion and creating a clear divide between migrants and natives, especially within the lower income groups as a result of

which today, 40% of Commonwealthland's population dwells in urban areas and an alarming 22% of this population lives in slums; Also that on account of land use changes, intense building activities, soil and air pollution, the urbanization has produced a destructive and irreversible effect on the natural environment;

The House is of the firm belief that our vision of development must go beyond sustainable cities to encompass inclusive cities as well and the first step towards inclusive cities is affordable housing;

This House resolves that the Government will initiate immediate action on the following issues:

- Introduction of a dedicated scheme for converting underutilized land for Affordable Housing, wherein the new housing units will also provide basic services like potable water, sewerage network, sanitation facilities and appropriate solid waste disposal.**
- Promote and facilitate voluntary land pooling through land acquisition to increase economic viability of projects.**

- **Increase Private Sector participation in housing projects to promote competition and provide quality housing.**
- **Demand and supply side interventions by Government to ensure no project remain incomplete due to cost escalation and that the completed projects do not remain unoccupied due to non-identification of beneficiaries.**
- **Focus on community-driven *in-situ* development of slums. Providing low-interest loans and long-term leases to encourage the stakeholders to form community planning organizations and chart with their own sustainable plans for redevelopment.**

This House also resolves that the Government shall establish 'Affordable Housing Committees' to ensure all urban housing projects are affordable, accessible and inclusive for all sections of the society. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon. Minister. We are now going to allow for the amendments to the said Resolution. We will start with the hon. Member, Mr. Khamlichi.

MR. FLORIAN ALEXANDRE HICHAM KHAMLIHI (MAURITIUS):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

The first amendment proposed by the Socialist People's Party concerns the first page whereby it is mentioned:

“Also taking note of the fact that this rapid urbanization was ignored by previous Governments ... 22% of this population lives in slums.”

Our amendment is:

“Also taking note of the fact that this rapid urbanization is an ongoing apolitical challenge for future generations, especially those within the Lower income groups.”

The aim of this Resolution, which I could only imagine is proposed with the best of passionate intentions from the Government, should be free from politics and demagoguery; it should stay free from individuals whose lives are widely different from the luxury of certain politicians.

If the Government's job is solely to talk about the Opposition's failures, as was mentioned in this Resolution and has been repeatedly done by the other side, then this is not

progress for our country but the fulfillment of the personal ego and fantasies of some things which are contrary to the values of our Parliament and that of a Resolution.

The Socialist People's Party has firmly established itself, not as the scandal-ridden Party of the elite, but as the Party and mouthpiece of those in disadvantaged positions, those caught in the vicious capitalistic system that cannot even dream to compete, and which is supported by this Government. This is the party of those that cannot afford to easily run for office with millions in campaign finance or with influential ties.

I am aware that the Government has excellent singers. I have heard some of them personally. They are very good but the overused 'Opposition is bad Government is good' song is definitely not the best one in the album.

This Party's contribution has been immense in the making of this Commonwealthland's history. The founder of the Socialist People's Party and Founder of the Nation, Elizabeth Cornwell has granted us the independence and laid down the foundation of the country's industrial development. 78 per cent of the highway infrastructure has been enacted under the

mandates of the SPP, bringing swift inter-connection between the principal agglomerations.

One of the largest international airports of Asia, The Elizabeth Cornwell International Airport has been inaugurated under this Party's leadership and boosted and modernized the economy of Centenary city, a city modelled under the leadership of this Party.

The SPP has had a praiseworthy history of allocation of building and urban planning contracts to construction companies following a fair and apolitical process. The other Parties have moved to repeal the law, paving the way for a series of suspicious contracts allocated to family members, close friends and political donors instead of the most qualified individuals. Here, in the Opposition, we believe in fairness, humility, transparency and good governance.

Our values are not to be bought. The Prime Minister speaks of a bridge to success, but that bridge might as well collapse under the rich weight of their pockets. Those are our values, Madam Speaker, we shall not change.

In the second page, after the paragraph starting with “Focus on”, the following may be added:

“Encourage the development of Perry-urban transportation and quality of life in view of reducing population density in cities”

Madam Speaker, allow me to make relevant comments on the reasons behind this amendment. At the core of this issue, is a profound inequality. We recognize it. The global economy has changed. The needs of this country have changed.

(17/SRG)

In the second page, after the paragraph starting with “focus on”, the following may be added and I quote:

“encourage the development of Perry-urban transportation and quality of life in view of reducing population density in cities.”

Madam Speaker, allow me to make relevant comments on the reasons behind this amendment. At the core of this issue, is a profound inequality. We recognize it, the global economy has changed. The needs of this country have changed. But this inequality is not only economic, it is also the inequality between

politics and reality. Politicians ought to be grounded in the reality of Commonwealthland. This is why the newly elected leader of the SSP is a young dynamic Commonwealth lander that comes from a modest background shared by many of my colleagues, and millions of citizens of this country. This Resolution is certainly grounded in good faith, there is no doubt about it, but just like a private sector ambulance, this resolution indeed solves the injuries of the issue, but not the reasons for it, and we might just pay the price. There is a clear correlation between conditions beyond the cities and the conditions within the cities. If we do not improve the lives of those living on the outskirts of the cities or rural areas, we will simply blind ourselves from the truth that development concerns everyone and benefits everyone.

In fact, we suggest the definition of urban areas should also be extended to peri-urban regions and less densely populated outskirts of the cities with real benefits. A wider and green urban transport system would extend the attractiveness of living beyond downtown. A larger transport system makes a city grow. A city that grows as much as it can take in people, if

not more, reduces prices of housing. In simple terms, as related by my constituents, the problem has to be ended. The essence of this opposition's proposal and amendment is fair: rural areas are coming to the city, but now it is time for the city to reach out to rural areas.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do remember the time allocated. Our next speaker is Ms. Prakamya Archana.

MS. PRAKAMYA ARCHANA (CHATTISGARH): Madam Speaker, I would like to propose the following amendment:

In the second page -

“Increase private and public sector participation”, with “an increase focused on welfare maximization in housing projects to quality housing.”

Housing for the poor and low-income households in urban India has failed to keep up with our rapid urbanization. The Government estimates a shortage of more than 18 million houses, primarily among the EWS and the LIG (economically weaker sections and low-income groups). We estimate that even among urban low-income families, with a monthly household income of between Rs 10,000 and Rs 25,000, a large

proportion are living in cramped, substandard housing with limited access to civic amenities; often it is rented accommodation. We estimate there is a need to create 15 million houses for this group. The government has been using multiple approaches to bridge the housing gap- constructing houses, upgrading slums, rehabilitating slums, mandating private sector projects to have reservations for EWS/LIG housing, etc. Unfortunately, the housing created through these approaches has not been able to meet the need and there is a growing interest and need to involve the private sector to help bridge the gap and the part of the national economy that is not under direct state control. The Government had hoped to make the private sector take over nuclear power stations.

MS. MARY NAMAYA (MALAWI): Madam Speaker, according to the Resolution on Urbanization, I stand here to propose that the slums be recommended to low income groups. The reason being that it feels like we are discriminating them. It is like we are excluding them in a world. These people do not wish to live in slums. According to the report by the National Institute of Urban Affairs, about 95 per cent of people in Mumbai are not

able to afford houses and it is because of the privatization which the Government proposes. The houses are very expensive and these people choose to stay in slums. For example, I will give you a case study. A worker is receiving a salary, he is able to sustain himself for food and various things which he might like but is not able to buy a house. So, he chose to start his own business to be able to afford buying a house. So, as Government, it is your responsibility to make sure that the people should have access to good houses. How do these people live in slums? I did some research and according to Primary Census Abstract for Slum, under Section 3 of the Slum Area Improvement and Clearance Act 1956, slums have been defined as mainly those residential areas where dwellings are in any respect unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement and designs of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities of any combination of these factors which are detrimental to safety, health and morals. So, if you want to involve these people, if you want everyone to be considered equal, I feel it is better to be changing

which the Government is proposing. So, as a party, we discussed that we should change this statement from 'focusing on community-driven development of slums' to focus on 'community-driven development of low income groups'.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, I would like to move amendment to the resolution which reads as follows:

In the second page, substitute "affordable housing committees" with "a non-partisan affordable housing commission free from political conflicts of interest within 6 months."

In the second page, after "providing low interest loans" with "state backed financial institutions."

Madam Speaker, I shall explain the reasons for both amendments in turn. Starting with the first amendment, my party strongly believes that affordable housing should be at the top of the Government's agenda as there are many great citizens of Commonwealthland who cannot afford to purchase a home on the open market. We welcome the Government's intention to create an affordable housing committee but

propose that this should instead be a non-partisan affordable housing commission which should be created within 6 months of this Resolution being passed by the House. This would give this issue the urgency it requires and leave party politics out of the peoples' real problems.

Secondly, it is no secret that my Government is a Socialist Government and as such we believe in the welfare state.

(18/RP)

We would, therefore, like to ensure that the low interest loans, the Government is seeking, come from state backed finance institutions to ensure that the lender never goes into administration which could consequently affect the borrower.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I hope hon. Members do the right thing and vote in favour of this and the other amendments.

MR. SARATH PRASAD V.P. (KERALA, INDIA): Madam Speaker, when we use private sector for housing project, it may not be more effective because we can see worldwide that private sector is concentrating only on their profits. Therefore, the successful urbanisation can only be done when there is support

from the Government. As has happened in private sector, we should also ensure the participation of public sector in urbanisation. We must need the Government support for successful urbanisation. We cannot leave our housing programme on the mercy of the private sector, our Commonwealth Government should take interest in this. Our Commonwealth Government has given much importance to the housing programme in the public sector. We should increase the participation of the public sector as well. It is my resolution. Thank you.

MR. JASPER JAMES (NEW ZEALAND): I am just speaking to support the Resolution on Inclusive Urbanisation. Now, this Resolution is something that as a Government we are supporting. The problems that they face and other areas are highly substantial and the fact is that the Opposition failed to meet the targets and support the local people. This Resolution is something that needs to be put through. Therefore, I put my support behind this Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (MS. HIMANSHI KUNDU): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank

the hon. Members for their amendments. I have already told that we have schemes for reconstitution and rehabilitation of slumps. We are financing a land pool that will be available for creation of affordable housing. There are various types of lands which are poorly utilised and illegally encroached. We will bring back that land under the affordable housing and that will be made available to the private sector at a low cost so that they can develop and build the affordable housing projects using private capital and efficiency. I would like to assure all the hon. Members that all their queries will be answered when we start working on this Resolution. I urge everyone to pass this Resolution.

Thank you.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, Amendment No. 5 has been withdrawn. But there is an issue with Amendment No. 6 and No.2 because they clash. If the Amendment No. 2 is passed then Amendment No .6 must fall and if Amendment No. 2 is rejected then Amendment No. 6 could still stand because they amend the same clause and same thing.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall put the Amendments moved by hon. Members with the exception of Amendment Nos. 2 and 6.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Amendment No. 2 must be excluded because if Amendment No. 2 passes, Amendment No. 6 falls. So, we have to take Amendment Nos. 2 and 6 separately.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. I am going to put Amendment Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 first to be moved by the hon. Members to the vote of the House. Thereafter, we will deal with others.

The Amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will have to take separately Amendment No. 2 moved by the hon. Member to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I shall now put Amendment No.6 moved by the hon. Member to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negatived

(19/KMR)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Resolution on inclusive urbanisation, adequate, accessible, secure and affordable housing as moved by the Hon. Minister for Urban Development, be adopted.”

Those in favour may say “Aye’ and those against may say ‘Noe’. I think the Ayes have it.

The motion was adopted.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, if I can assist the House, the Independents have voted against their own amendments. Perhaps you would like to clarify the position.

HON. SPEAKER: Luckily, this is not real life.

The vote has been taken. But I think in future, you just be sure on your voting because that was your amendment, a nice amendment.

So, the motion on the Resolution is adopted as the ‘Ayes’ have it.

RESOLUTION RE: YOUTH AS KEY DRIVERS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG'S

1556 hours

HON. SPEAKER: We are now going to move to the Second Resolution. Hon. Member Ms. Evangeline Maffey will move the Resolution on Youth as Key driver of implementation of the SDGs. After the Member moves the Resolution, Members who have given notice of amendments may then simply stand up and move those amendments.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Madam Speaker, I just want to say that the Government submitted a number of amendments to the forthcoming Resolution on SDGs. They were submitted this morning after a wi-fi failure last night and there was agreement from the Secretariat that they were going to be accepted. But it appears they had not been printed and we are just trying to get some clarification as to how it can possible be ensured momentarily while we will try and get those amendments printed.

HON. SPEAKER: Alright, that's fine. We will make sure that they find their way to my table. In the meanwhile, let us allow hon. Member Maffey to speak and then I am sure by that time the amendments you speak of will be in front of me.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Madam Speaker, the hon. Lady will be delivering a speech on the Resolution. But we will have a few other Members who would like to speak on it.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, that has been noted. Just after the introduction, we will be going to go to the other contributions.

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): I move:

“That this House resolves ‘Youth’ as key drivers of implementation of SDGs at the 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament”.

Madam Speaker, my party is proud to introduce this resolution on youth as key drivers of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our ideology as a party encompasses the soul of these development targets which

is to leave no one behind. It is with shame and regret that this Parliament should recognise that the Government has left our young people, 30 per cent of our society, behind and now it has to achieve the SDGs.

I was struck by the President's Address which made no mention of youth. To our young people of Commonwealthland, we apologise and promise to do better. This Resolution is just that.

Commonwealthland is a proud member of international community and we wish to do our part to go above and beyond in our international commitments. The United Nations has done incredible groundwork in establishing the SDGs which encompass life experience and the realities that our people grapple with every day. We must be united and contribute to their success as youth are more than victims of poverty and economic downturn. They must be agents of change. We must empower our youths to be agents of change and a driving force of development, not be left behind especially in the face of the enormous course of climate change.

And our Resolution should not just remain in words. Real action, tangible outcomes will be had. We do not see this Resolution as controversial. Our young people are precious. Let us not make their wellbeing and prosperity an insignificant issue.

Thank you for your consideration hon. Delegates. We hope for your support.

HON. SPEAKER: I am waiting for the list from you guys. That is not a problem. We can start anyway. Because it is being proposed by the Opposition, we should decide anyway.

Hon. Member Shillabeer, you have the platform. Just so that we are all aware, 25 minutes have been allocated in total to your Party and I will be keeping an eye on the clock.

MS. RHIAN SHILLABEER (WALES): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Over the last two years, Commonwealthland has been experiencing economic downturn, recent slowdown in investment and low consumer demand. Its muted economic growth may be attributed to weak global

economy and prolonged trade tensions. With a large youth population under such conditions, the State is also faced with higher unemployment, inclusive and a viable economic growth can generate the means to implement all other Sustainable Development Goals. More progress is needed to increase employment opportunities particularly for young people by providing the population with reliable, fair and safe jobs that will ensure that the future of our country is secured.

Without employment, no other SDG can be achieved. Focusing on young people into employment and decent work, I wholeheartedly believe that this Government should facilitate internships, educational avenues and employability opportunities to actively engage the younger generation in building the commonwealth national interest and thereby achieving the objectives of employability and decent jobs for all.

In 2018, one fifth of the world's youth will have no education, employment or training, means they were neither gaining professional experience or acquiring new

skills. There is a stark difference in employment in women compared to men. Men aged from 18 to 25 are twice as likely to be in work than women. When you think back to relevancy of the SDG in the Commonwealthland, the current unemployment rate is of seven per cent. That is roughly one million and seven hundred thousand. That is one out of 25 people not having a job or being unable to pay tax. In addition to already high levels of unemployment in our country, more than 90 per cent of our workforce is employed in the informal sector without any social security, which includes agriculture, allied sectors like forestry, and fishing. This is a massive negative for the younger generation as the lack of security means it is difficult to establish any sort of standard lifestyle. Starting a family and a career is nearly impossible. If you do not have a solid foundation of wealth and reassurance, there is no way you can get established anywhere. By not providing the younger generation with a platform to build from, there can be no future for them and no security to the future of Commonwealthland.

There are many opportunities for the Government to improve upon the youth employment situation. The service industry is now one of the largest and fastest growing sectors in our economy. Some of the main service industries include accommodation, finance. And the Government aims to meet the SDG targets through encouragement and support of young people into the industries.

The SDG 8 has a number of clear and comprehensive goals and targets that Commonwealthland can be working towards. Firstly, target 8.1 says that we should be getting at least seven per cent domestic growth per annum. But we are currently at four. Also, 8.6 states that by 2020 we should be working towards sustainability and reducing the levels of youth non-employment and training. Furthermore, Section 8.8 states that we should be aiming to protect the rights and promote safe and secure rights for our young people in their working conditions.

There are many clear and achievable aims of SDG-8 whereby if we manage to achieve these aims, the youth of

Commonwealthland will benefit wholeheartedly and also create positive ways of change at the economic ladder.

To conclude, the involvement of the Government and young people in the Commonwealthland in the commitment to SDG 8 is paramount to the development and betterment of our society. Safe work spaces and reliable employment for the youth of Commonwealthland will have a positive effect for the future of our country and also in terms of betterment for the whole population.

While following the comprehensive and achievable guidance of the SDG documents, there should be no excuse to avoid the advancement of young people. Thank you.

(20/NKL)

MR. TYRELL B. GILES (BARBADOS): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. As an aspiring professional social worker, I am proud to be here speaking on how I support this Resolution on SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

There is something I always say, Madam Speaker. I always say that there should be no policies created for the youth

without involving the youth. Therefore, we, the youth, play a major role in helping the youth to bring about gender equality and curtail gender-based violence. When we hear about gender-based violence, we think it to be physical. But this can also take other forms such as emotional and verbal, and these are the two types of gender-based violence which can be more dangerous than physical. It affects the victim's mental health. It is not as simple as putting a bandage on a boo-boo.

The youth of today is heavily influenced by socialisation. Therefore, we the youth, who socialise with the youth have to set an example for them to follow. We need to set an example for them and help them to realize that it is okay to say good morning, good afternoon, good evening, to the persons of the LGBTQ community. We need to help them to understand that there is nothing wrong with sharing chores in the household instead of putting gender labels on chores. I think, I can go on and on with these examples. The point is that we have to make these acts socially acceptable to make our youth engage in them and help curtail gender inequality.

But, if we, the youth Leaders, do not set an example, if we, the youth Leaders, are afraid to let the public see us setting these examples, and if we, the youth leaders are not living by ethics and are advocating for these things but not practicing them, we have failed the youth. It would be quite unethical of myself as an aspiring social worker to tell you anything different. This is why we support this Resolution on evolving youth on SDG 5, in particular. Thank you.

MS. PRAGYA SAGAR (INDIA UNION): Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would be speaking about the importance of sustainable education and the role of youth in it. I would like to begin my address by quoting Shri Nelson Mandela's view of education. Regarding the importance of education, Shri Nelson Mandela has said:

“Education is the most important weapon that one can see to change the world.”

The United Nations, recognising the importance of education, has incorporated sustainable education as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. As we all might be aware, the

decade 2005 to 2014 was dedicated to this goal. This goal aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It means, adopting a more holistic approach to education with the aim of creating a better world for this generation and future generations of all living things on planet Earth.

Given the over-exploitation and scarcity of resources in the current scenario, it is important to work out ways to cultivate an attitude and approach that recognises the need for sustainable development and planning. Education, as a key agent for change, has the power to transform the attitude of people by not only making them aware of why we need sustainable development but also through capacity building, it helps in working out strategies to achieve this goal.

Sustainable education should be one that promotes development of knowledge, skills, understanding values and attitude, required to create a sustainable world which ensures environment protection and conservation, promotes social equity and encourages economic sustainability. It should incorporate key environmental challenges like climate change

into core subjects like Mathematics, Science and Art into School curriculum. This will allow the students to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, necessary to shape a sustainable future.

Education, as we know, is also an effective medium to bring about change and to bring about that change, we need driven and passionate people. I believe, we as youth, are the most efficient to bring about this change. Thus, recognising the importance of education and the role of youth in the development of a nation, here, I would like to quote the Dutch Philosopher Erasmus who has rightly said:

“The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.”

Education for sustainable development is not only about being environment-friendly. It is also about involving and developing skills, including leadership, communication and management, all of which are extremely important for personality development. It also involves equipping young people with these relevant capabilities. In addition to their environmental knowledge, they can also excel in living lives

which are not only useful for the humanity but it makes them care and respect our planet's resources.

I, thus, wholeheartedly request the Government to take necessary steps to realise these Sustainable Development Goal, that is, sustainable education, and empower the youth to be the carrier of this change. The Government should also take necessary steps to ensure that this education is inclusive and accessible to everybody, and it reaches the most vulnerable and underprivileged people of the society. I strongly believe that education should not be a luxury on which only the privileged can have a claim. Thus, I request the Government to extend its policy of providing universal education, not only in the Primary Sector but also in the Higher-Education Sector. Thank you.

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

The Sustainable Development Goal 13 focuses on climate change. Climate change is now affecting every country in every Continent. It is just disrupting national economy and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more so tomorrow. Weather patterns are changing and

sea levels are rising. Weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are now at the highest levels in history. Without action, the world's average surface temperature is likely to surpass three degrees this century. 16-year-old, Greta Thunberg from Sweden has started a revolution. She has started a movement that reaches all corners of our world. Greta has inspired over seven million people with the majority of participants under the age of 21 take action in the face of this climate crisis. Climate strikes across the world included 4 million plus people on September 20th alone, bringing businesses, schools and towns to a standstill. The point of a climate strike is to force people to listen to the science and make politicians aware of their actions or lack thereof. Commonwealthland has made an obligation to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030. But we are not on track to meet this target. Not meeting this target will have a detrimental impact on our local environment with repercussions on a global scale. Commonwealthland is already facing issues relating to our air and water pollution. Science has proven that air and water pollution contribute to ill health and

premature death. This point alone should be enough to make reducing these levels at priority to protect our people. Changing weather patterns caused by the climate crisis will impact on our agricultural industry. The growing unpredictability of rainfall will cause the growth of vital crops to decrease. This will have a domino effect causing the economy to suffer, unemployment rates to rise, and the standard of living to decrease. In layman's terms we call it the spiral of decline. Sustainable Development Goal 13 is essential to prevent this from happening. It sets goals in accordance with the Paris agreement to help countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. There should be no excuse for Commonwealthland not to follow the guidelines set out by SDGs as they are only there to benefit our nation and our people. Thank you.

(21/SRG)

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Can I interrupt? Will we have any time to consult on some of these amendments, some of which are not being cleared? The Government did have the chance to kill our amendments.

HON. SPEAKER: You are saying that this is the first time you are seeing the amendments.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Yes, this is the first time.

HON. SPEAKER: Just get some consultation between CYP and Delhi Assembly branch and they will tell us. In the meanwhile, before we make a decision on that, let's hear the speakers and we will let you know the feedback is on that question. Now I open up to Ms. Sonam Gupta.

MS. SONAM GUPTA (HARYANA): Thank you Madam Speaker. Multi-stakeholder consultations ensuring compulsory participation of youth are not feasible as it would require the Government to specifically favour on stakeholder group over the other. Instead, we propose going with the multi-stakeholders in general to be fair enough and then see the majority decision of the people.

As a party, we decided that the statement should be changed in which it is asking a compulsory participation of youth which is just making it more specific to one stakeholder leaving behind the rest.

MS. RASHANA JONES (BARBADOS): Madam Speaker, I move the amendment of point 2 of the Resolution which states this Government must support youth organizations and associations, young wings within all establishments and institutions to channelize their strength, innovative ideas, enthusiasm and creativity towards implementation of SDGS. As a Government, we do recognize that the creation of youth wings promotes stagnation, mediocracy and allows for our young people to be continuously used as mere political gimmicks as done by the previous administration. We therefore propose the resolution be amended to "The government should strengthen public-private sector partnerships and work collectively with civil society organizations to adequately channelize the strength, innovation, ideas, enthusiasm and creativity towards implementation of SDGs in Commonwealthland."

MR. TIMOTHY KADGA (UGANDA): Madam Speaker, I move to amend Resolution 3 which is focusing on only equality and we as the Government looking at the major theme of SDGs that states, "Leaving no one behind, we want to focus more on

equity". where equity we go down because we all know that in Commonwealthland there is what they call the social class division. There is the upper class, the middle and the lower class. If we look at only equality, we are going to let down people. With equity, we are going to balance and try to narrow down the gap between those in the upper class, those in the middle class and those who are below, because we in the Government are looking at empowering the people. With equity, we believe that we shall be able to handle and build the equitable class. I pray that this House surely amends, not only on record but in hearts and minds, that we need to focus on equity instead of only focusing on equality so as to empower our people. Just like our Government says, we need to empower the people and it can be done through equity. I beg that this Amendment be adopted that Resolution 3 should focus on equity instead of focusing only on equality. Thank you.

EZEGIEL KUHANGA (NAMIBIA): Madam Speaker, if we create a separate wing, it will be like we are giving them an artificial participative status rather than giving them full-fledged autonomy. Actively taking initiative, do not restrict youth to

organizations that lead nowhere. Rather, introduce them to branches of Government where they can make real change with their cross-cutting perspective.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA):

Madam Speaker, it is interesting that hon. Maffey did a mention that the Resolution that they are proposing is not tokenistic because it is purely co-incidental that the amendment that we are deciding to move is the amendment because of the possibility of a tokenistic approach to this Resolution. I, on behalf of the Independents, would like to move that an amendment should be made to point No. 1, page 1 which reads as follows:

“This House resolves that this Government urgently start a multi-stakeholder consultation on the implementation of the SDGs ensuring compulsory participation of youth from various sections of society. We would like to move to replace “ensuring compulsory participation” with “encouraging voluntary participation of youth”. We feel that the point of opening for a tokenistic consultation approach, it is quite unrealistic to hold a consultation which calls for compulsory participation. By

default, a consultation should be open and free to anyone and everyone who is willing to be part of that consultation. Also, ensuring compulsory participation implies there must be a youth member in these consultations which puts pressure on the young people to show face thus tokenism for the sake of fulfilling this compulsory element. We propose to change “ensuring compulsory participation” to “encouraging voluntary participation” which leaves room for more passionate and empowered youth to be much more of an effective and efficient representative of the youth cohort in these consultations.

HON. SPEAKER: Before the Minister’s response to the Resolution, we adjourn for about 10 minutes just for those clarifications. Thereafter, the Minister can respond and we can move later on for the adoption of the Resolution.

1626 hours

The House then adjourned for internal discussion.

(22/RP)

1650 hours

*The House re-assembled at
fifty minutes past Sixteen of the Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Members. Welcome back. Just in terms of what needs to happen now, the hon. Minister of Finance will be providing his inputs and then we will hand it over to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who will then take us through the response regarding the Resolution in front of us.

Now, the hon. Minister of Finance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Madam Speaker, thank you for indulging me. To my fellow party members, thank you for your contributions moreover the Government is grateful to the Opposition for tabling a Resolution of such a paramount and dire importance. Often, we tend and become so ensnared with the issues whose effects are present that we sometimes neglect the issues whose effects are cumulative and distant namely issues surrounding our youth. Moreover, Madam Speaker, the Government wholeheartedly supports the principles of the Resolution proposed by the Opposition. However, Madam Speaker, I myself cannot support this honourable endeavor. This Resolution, in principle, seeks

to talk about the immense potential of the unbounded youth of the Commonwealthland. This idea is extraordinarily powerful. However, Madam, this Resolution is malnourished and it leaves me with a bitter taste in my mouth as it vaguely attempts to describe what the Government must do and then it moves on to dictate what they must do. The Opposition must remember that the Government does what the people dictates and what the Opposition dictates. Since their most recent retirement, they come up with a selective and unfortunate case of amnesia.

Madam Speaker, this Resolution fails to suggest how the Government must support, facilitate, promote and generate awareness. We are matured and learned enough to distinguish the expansive benefits of the principles of this Resolution and be bipartisan while concurrently not compromising the policies of our Party. The principles of this Resolution are uniquely grand and it would be a grave injustice not to see as properly address them. In this regard, it is unnegotiably preferable that the amendments to the Resolution proposed by my fellow party member be put forth. However, Madam Speaker, it is noteworthy and honestly a kind of baffling that the Opposition

would attempt to Table such a half-baked Resolution after being in Office when these Resolutions were brought forth by the United Nations. I do not question the integrity of the Resolution but I question the integrity of the Opposition who brings them forth. What would you be doing for those five years? I know, you are tired of hearing about time and if you do not want me to say 15 years, like I said, I can give you another number, I can tell you 5475 days or I can tell you 1,31,000 hours. At this stage, five years later, it should not be about generating awareness or consultation, it should be about implementation. We have already lost five years. What are we waiting for? We understand the importance of this and bring it forth with specifics. I am a man of detail. I am not a man of flaws. I am open to good ideas but please, let the ideas be fully cooked. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and consequently the Government fully supports the United Nations. In that regard, as a people, as a Commonwealthlandians, we want to see this Resolution flourish. However, upon the fulfilment of the amendments and that is the only way that this Government will consider. Thank you.

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): I and to thank all of my colleagues, both, in Opposition and across the House for a healthy debate that is going on today on the Resolution. Earlier today, we saw a Bill that was focused on woman. Yet she said about this Resolution: “You do not like it. Better, you focused on a particular group namely youth.” I think, that is a little bit hypothetical and I would like you to ponder on that. I think, also the Minister of Finance’s point about this Resolution prescribing actions for the Government to take and that is not the Opposition’s role, well, the Parliament is supreme and can make directions. So, I would ask him to reflect on that as well. I do think, that the Government have lift down the United Nations today by, really, reflecting no real action or commitments to the SDGs.

I want to reiterate some of the amendments that were put forward and thank you for your involvement with this Resolution. On the first amendment, which is sought to change the compulsory participation to voluntary participation, we, really, believe that this goes against the whole idea of tokenism. This idea will bring young people to the table. They want to be

involved in decision making. This is not to force young people to come to the table because they will. It is to ensure that they have a space at the table. The adults in places of power do not use their power to exclude those young people.

On the second amendment by the hon. Member Jones, they wanted to change ‘multi-stakeholder consultations’ to ‘going with the majority decision of the people’. We again believe that this leaves a lot of room to exclude people. The idea of having multi-stakeholder consultations is to include people from diverse backgrounds and that they are all having a voice in these decisions. The majority decision often does exclude the voices of minorities. So, we do believe that is important to keep in the Resolution the way it is.

As far as the next two amendments are concerned, we also do not believe add anything to the Resolution. We do believe that stakeholder is the great term to use here. We also think that, although, equity is very important ideal and it is something that we very firmly believe in our Party thus we believe that their Resolution is not just focused on Government, it is focused on many things including education, gender equality, employment,

decent work and climate change. It comprises all those areas of life. So, we were confused that the Members, who put that forward, what issue they had with that.

The final amendment, which thought to change “promote leadership among the youth” to “promote the youth in Government”, we feel like we have reflected in the Resolution namely that this Government must promote leadership among the youth and increase their political representation at all levels of governance. We have included that. We do believe that having leadership among the youth, leadership can be born within the Government and I think, we should be encouraging leadership outside the Government. So, thank you again for the amendments and for grappling with the issues in this Resolution. We, really, hope even though the Minister of Finance has said that there will be no way that they vote for us as the amendments did not pass. Yes, you still support the Resolution as it is. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall put the Amendments moved by the hon. Members to the vote of this House.

The Amendments were adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House resolves to express the view to accept Resolution on ‘Youth as key drivers of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’.”

The Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

**RESOLUTION RE: INCLUSIVE URBANISATION: ADEQUATE,
ACCESSIBLE, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Contd.**

1700 hours

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendments made by the hon. Members to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House resolves to express the view to accept the Resolution on Inclusive Urbanisation: Adequate, Accessible, Secure and Affordable Housing’.”

The Resolution was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I have three announcements for us. First, I request all the hon. Members to assemble in MLA Lounge-II, as the Delhi Assembly Speaker would like to meet you all for the tea break. Thereafter, there is also an announcement on the notices for Questions and Special Mention to be taken up tomorrow, that is, the 7th of November, 2019. Hon. Members, who are desired to submit such Question or Special Mention for tomorrow's discussion may submit their notices by 1815 hours today at the cypdelhi@gmail.com and notices submitted thereafter would not be admitted.

The third announcement is this. Hon. Members, I have to inform you that there is an art fair and cultural event that will take place at the Delhi Assembly lawns from 1830 hours to 1930 hours. All are invited to attend the cultural events and for the dinner being hosted by the hon. Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

The House stands adjourned. We will meet tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

1702 hours

The House then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

(23/KMR)

1115 hours

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

HON. SPEAKER: Good morning, hon. Members. I want to welcome everybody to our first session of the third day of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament. This is the tenth of this nature. We are in fact on the final day of our programme.

In front of us today is the agenda. Firstly, we will be covering questions. Hon. Members are reminded and informed that no discussion shall be permitted during the Question time. Only the Member in whose name the Question stands would put forward the question. Thereafter the relevant Ministers will reply to the questions. However, Member may, with the permission of the Speaker, put forth a supplementary question.

I will now take up Question 1 on free universal education.

MS. STEPHANEE HORTON (NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA):

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state: (a) the rationale for providing free universal education for the less

privileged only up to the age of 18 years in your Government policy, and (b) whether the Government proposes to extend the same to the young people to receive tertiary education, and (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you to the hon. Member of the Opposition for asking this very important question. As the Government, we definitely believe that education is not a privilege, it is a right of everybody irrespective of their gender and social status. So, this Government is following a phased process with the education system. In the first phase, which we are still testing and working out, we will be providing free universal education to students below the age of 18. That is because when we are making an investment whether it is in our youth or our education system we want to make a thought-through and an intentional investment so as to be sure that the investment that we are putting into our young people is not going to waste. So, we want to make sure that this system that we are putting in place is very well crafted with trials and errors of course. Yes, we do propose

to extend free education to less privileged students in the tertiary sector, and the way the Government is trying to do that is with the paying-forward system where for example the Government proposes to subsidise education system to less privileged students. And the way this system works is that we are going to work together with the Ministry of Social Welfare where every family in need will register so that we have in a record the numbers of families who are in need of subsidised education. Using that number, we will provide subsidised education at the tertiary level. And the paying-forward system is very simple. It is basically when the students are going to a tertiary university at a subsidised fee, then the way it is going to work is once they have done with their studies, they are going to work in Commonwealthland as a way to pay forward within the economy and the country in general and that can also tackle the problem of brain drain because we know that the more educated a person becomes they tend to look outside of their country. So, we are trying to tackle two different issues at the same time taking into consideration that we want to make sure that everybody has access to education whether they are 18 to

19 to 20, whether it is primary, secondary or tertiary level. But we are on the phased-in levels. So, we want to take it one step at a time to make sure that it is a programme that is well thought through and well executed. Thank you.

(Question 2)

HON. SPEAKER: We now move to Question 2 which is regarding private investment in the agriculture sector.

MS. EMILY MILLER (JERSEY): Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage private investments in the agricultural sector as well as in GM crops, and (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR. TOM SHORT): Madam Speaker, the Government does plan to encourage investment into GM crops and in the agricultural sector as whole. As we know, climate change has a great effect on crops and vegetation. So private industries have a vested interest in this. Rice and cotton are our country's main exports and so GM crops which are resistant to monsoon and drought and also increases food security is important for our country's future.

The Government of Commonwealthland will work for more investment in agriculture.

(Question 3)

HON. SPEAKER: We now move to Question 3 regarding the dependence on government subsidy.

MR. NAQUIDDIN NAZRIN (MALAYSIA): Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state: (a) the challenges identified by the Government to encourage less dependence on Government subsidies, and (b) the manner in which the Government proposes to tackle these issues?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MS. TALULAH THOMAS): To answer the first part of the question on the challenges identified by our Government, obviously the challenge would be to support low-income groups that will be targeted by less dependence on Government subsidies and also vulnerable groups and sections within the society. But I would like everybody to know that perhaps there will be less dependence because this does not necessarily mean less focus. In fact, there will be much more focus by our Government because we believe in equality for social welfare of all groups.

And the manner in which we will be going about it is pretty much through private investments and self-help groups. We believe that with business funding, encouraging businesses to see the potential of investing in grassroots self-help will ultimately create quality for all, for all members of the society. And we believe that consulting the businesses is incredibly beneficial for our people, for our economy, for our society on a whole. We have to think about the economy. Also, we believe in cooperation. This is fundamental to the essence of our party, cooperation, collective action. We believe that we are not marginalising any groups within society, we are simply cooperating and allowing people this freedom. We believe in freedom and empowerment to be able to cooperate with people. This does not mean less dependence, it simply means more focus on freedom for each individual in society. Thank you.

MS. MANISHA RAM MISHRA (HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA): Are the remote people or tribal people covered by the social welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MS. TALULAH THOMAS): We cannot impose anything on tribal groups and

communities. But we are more than happy to cooperate. We are there for our people. We are not ignoring anyone. Ignorance has nothing to do our Government. We are there to cooperate. If that is what they would like, then that is great. We are not going to marginalise any group. In our society, social welfare is for everyone. Thank you.

(24/NKL)

(Question 4)

MR. SARATH PRASAD V.P. (KERALA, INDIA): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

For the development of Commonwealth Nations, universalisation of education should be considered as the main thing to focus on. In the case of India, as a developing nation, there are so many children who are not able to go to school, and are not getting proper education. On this occasion, in which children cannot get the basic education, we must give importance to the education sector.

Therefore, will the Minister of Education be pleased to state: (a) the details of the programmes being implemented or

proposed to be implanted by the Government for universalisation of education?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank the hon. Member for the question.

As a Government, we believe that there should be no barrier to education, which is why the Ministry of Education, together with the Government, propose to provide free transportation to and from schools, especially within the out of reach area, so that everybody can get to school in the first place.

Secondly, we also intend to provide school materials such as books and stationery so that everyone, when they come to school, they have access to it and can use their books to write and study and follow along. So, no one gets left behind.

We also believe that if someone cannot thrive academically does not mean that they cannot thrive any other way, which is why we believe that there is a place for everyone. So, we have set up Vocational Technical Schools for dropout

students so that they can develop the skills that they are good into, whether it is for electrician, plumbing or anything else. Even if they intend to set up a business, we tend to work together with the other Ministers to ease the process of setting up of business so that everyone can have a place.

I think, really, the point is that we need to reinvent and redefine what it means to be educated. Being educated does not only mean that you have a school certificate and you go to school but being educated means different other ways where you use your skills, be it, helping the economy or thriving any other way. So, really, the Government is an inclusive Government that welcomes any type of education at all. Thank you very much.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Madam Speaker, in accordance with the interpretation of Rule 23, I have a Point of Order.

The hon. Minister of Education is incredibly adept at answering questions on her feet. But the question asked contains a significant amount of information that was not based on the questions that were provided. The questions should be

based on the text provided, without any additional information because my Ministers should not be expected to answer the questions, they have not the time to prepare for.

HON. SPEAKER: You are quite correct in highlighting Rule 23 which does stipulate that the questions in writing must be sent at that particular time, and yes, it must be asked as per the form. The only time you can deviate from the said form would be while asking the supplementary question which relates to the content of the initial question. Thank you for that Point of Order.

If there are no supplementary questions from the hon. Members regarding universalisation of education, we can then take up Question No. 5.

(Question 5)

MS. ELYSSE DIMITRIADIS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state: (a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural productivity in addition to the Climate Fund for Women Bill?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR. TOM SHORT): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for her question. However, this is a question that is best directed to the Ministry of Environment, and as we all are aware, the Bill we passed yesterday deals with climate change and agriculture. Thank you.

MS. ELYSSE DIMITRIADIS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA): I thank the Minister for his kind words.

Are there any other steps that are being taken to mitigate it? It was proposed in the information about the Commonwealthland. It was saying that because of the effects of climate change, productivity on agriculture will actually be affected. So, I was wondering if there is anything the Government has done to propose the legislation or other Bills that will help to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR. TOM SHORT): I thank the hon. Member for her question. I am currently in discussions with my fellow Minister, and we will get back to your initiative shortly.

HON. SPEAKER: When responding to the questions, it is just an important practise to respond through the Speaker or the Chair. That is why, you say “Madam Speaker” or “Madam Chair”. It is just for procedural purpose. There is nothing wrong in it.

We would now take up Question No. 6 which relates to unemployment amongst the youth. I would like to invite hon. Member Ms. Mosa Mathubanyane from South Africa, to pose the question.

(Question 6)

MS. MOSA MATHUBANYANE (SOUTH AFRICA): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: (a) the reasons identified by the Government for the prevailing large-scale youth unemployment in the country, and (b) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you very much, hon. Speaker. I also convey my most sincere gratitude to the hon. Member across the aisle for her question, which I believe is a very pertinent one.

I am grateful that you have raised this question. The reason why I am grateful, in particular, is because I fully recognize that our great nation, that of Commonwealthland, is a nation with potential, a nation that is still growing and a nation with a lot of development that is to take place, much like the youth of this nation. Now, if you look at our nation, the reason why I touched upon the aspect of development is because we are reaching a very critical point that all of us are discussing, being the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

You can imagine how many more jobs will be created that do not even exist at this moment. That is why, our hon. Minister of Education has touched upon the fact that our Government is putting an emphasis on empowering the youth through education. We cannot speak about the Fourth Industrial Revolution when so many of our people have not even completely undergone the second or the third industrial revolution. If we are creating apps, we will need cables in the ground to ensure that there is proper internet. If we are developing our nation, we have to develop it holistically and as you know, you cannot rush development, you cannot rush

growth. I cannot be born today and walk out of my hospital as an adult tomorrow. It is called growing pains. That is what we are committed to going through, along with our youth, by focusing on development at every stage, in relation to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, to ensure that we create jobs for the great youth of Commonwealthland. Thank you.

(25/SRG)

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA):

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister that it is quite contradictory that you talked about a holistic approach when you have not holistically answered my fellow Independent's question. My fellow colleague here did ask the reasons identified by the Government. We are looking for the facts as to why large-scale youth unemployment is prevalent in the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I am going to allow Leader of Opposition.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Madam

Speaker, it is all very well saying that you cannot rush growth.

That is an awful lot young people's speeches that you are dismissing. Specifically, on the statement made by the hon.

Member, what are you doing in terms of empowering young people through education. Through you, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask, is he able to give some more specifics about what that education actually entails?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you very much for the question from the hon. Member representing the Independents and the hon. Leader of Opposition. I would echo the same sentiment shared by the hon. Minister for Agriculture as to whether or not you have given adequate attention to the statements that have been made on behalf of our party. In my earlier address, I spoke about development. That is the underlying issue. We are still a growing nation. All of our industries have not yet been holistically developed. I use that word again intentionally, we are seeking a holistic development. You can imagine, for all of the industries that growing nations have, that our nation is still building, in the absence of such industries there is a massive hope within our State which is a massive reason for unemployment amongst the youth.

Now, when I spoke about the fourth industrial revolution, I gave many examples from internet, to apps, to access, to

education. These were the corrective measures taken. I am literally stating a statement that I have made about two minutes ago word for word. Redundancy? Yes. Was attention paid? I think not, hon. Member.

In relation to the hon. Leader of Opposition speaking about education. Again, there seems to be a recurrence of theme. Our hon. Minister of Education has spoken about creating better access, transportation that we provide towards our students, towards our learners. Now, the biggest issue in terms of education has always been access to education. How can we begin to speak about quality of education, when many of our young people do not have even have their foot in the door? I said we must speak holistically and that involves getting those feet in the door and once their foot is in the door, that is when we can speak about the quality and the growth and every other facets. When we develop, and I am using that word very intentionally, when we develop, development comes in stages. Hon. Members of the House, we cannot exclude any stage. Now, what will be involved in that education has to do with empowerment once again. It will focus on STEM industries, on

industrialization on the fourth industrial revolution. This is what we want to teach our great youth.

(Question 7)

HON. SPEAKER: We will now move to Question No. 7 regarding health contradictions in the health and business policy.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA):

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government is aware that country's health policy supports intellectual property rights and innovation while the economy and business policy encourages transfer of technology; (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and (c) the corrective measure being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): For the hon. Member, I am going to break it down very, very concisely to ensure that you feel adequately responded to and this will avoid the redundancy to the entire House and it will save us all a lot of time. So, I shall ensure redundancy is avoided in this particular response. In relation to the question that has been raised, part (a), part (b), part (c), the first issue with this question

is that something is wrong and this is evident in part (c) of the question, “what corrective measures are being taken” and corrective measures can be taken when something is to be corrected. In this instance, that is not the case and the reason why this is not the case is because the Government is aware that health policy supports intellectual property rights and innovation and our economic and business policy does encourage transfer of technology and this is because we support our private investment industries. When you look at a developing country what happens in that country is a lot of innovations. I have given example in Democratic Republic of Congo. We have recently had a breakthrough in terms of dealing with the Ebola prices. Now, such breakthroughs that are developed by a country can benefit many other countries. If we are benefitting our country, should it not first benefit our own people and if we benefit our own people, the best way to do that is to assist in terms of monetizing the skills that go into these kinds of development and that is why the intellectual property rights are protected on behalf of the people, on behalf of the Government, so that they may be used instead to assist in terms

of the private sector by ensuring that we simultaneously assist our people vast growing our economy and building relationships within the private sector.

HON. SPEAKER: Is there any supplementary question?

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA):

I am just trying to understand what the Prime Minister is saying.

To my understanding, transfer of technology does give freedom for our people, the technology that our people created, that our people have thought up with their own skills, and to have the health policy, we support intellectual property rights and then further better off the economy disregarding the health policy, we just get a leeway just to give away our technology that our people have worked so hard to come up with.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Now, it is unfortunate that in my opening statement in relation to this question, I had mentioned that I will do my best to avoid redundancy and I do apologize to this House at large that redundancy has again been enacted in the statement of our hon. Member. When I spoke about specifically what the skills are, I spoke about the people. The intellectual property has to do with

the thoughts, the thoughts that go into creation. If I am creating a machine, I can give away that machine, but it does not mean that I am giving away the thought process that went into that machine. That is why, I spoke about us empowering our people, that is why I spoke about monetizing the skills; that is why I spoke about investing in private sector to the people who create all of the intellectual property that benefits the health sector while simultaneously benefitting the business sector growing our economy.

(26/RP)

There is a difference between giving an object and giving away the thought-process that has created that object. I hope, this answers your question hon. Member.

(Question 8)

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government proposed to incentivize private sector through tax incentives in the country, and (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Madam Speaker, thank you for indulging me. An integral part of being a leader is knowing when to take a back seat and to give it to someone who is much more experience and well-versed to answer this question. So, in this regard, I humbly pass this question to my well-versed and very very qualified colleague and party member Nazrin.

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow it.

MR. NAQUIDDIN NAZRIN (MALAYSIA): Madam Speaker, I think, we have a bit confusion here.

HON. SPEAKER: At this stage, I should ask the Whip of the Government just to give them some direction because somebody must answer this question preferably the Minister of Finance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I made a big blunder. So, in regards to the questions whether the Government proposes to incentivize the private sector through tax incentives in the country, absolutely, the Government entirely intends to incentivise the private sector for tax incentives. I mean, it is a simple business.

As a business owner, if I understand that I get a tax incentive for hiring employees of if I know I can cut my taxes by about 60 per cent if I hire 500 employees, I am definitely going to hire 500 employees. Definitely, we are going to incentivise the private sector all the way.

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): Hon. Member, I have studied economics, I do not need you to explain to me the logic behind incentivising the private sector. I would like to ask whether the Government proposes to incentivise the private sector and through which incentives the Government will do so and the date by which the Government will implement these policies.

MR. NAQUIDDIN NAZRIN (MALAYSIA): First of all, I would like to apologise for the technical issues by the Government but I believe our economy would be in good hands with the man of calibre of our hon. Finance Minister. I am sure, the Commonwealthland people would like to hear the answer by the Government to show up our commitment to restore the economy utterly unsettled by the former Government which is in Opposition currently.

So, I would like to ask as to what are the steps taken by this Government in boosting private investment that could contribute to our economy.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do wish the Point of Order, a particular point I noticed that the Member of the other party stated that he studied in Economics but I do not see how that is relevant. I did not notice he studied economics. In regards, to the incentives that you asked for, you asked for incentives that the Government intends to use, tax incentives is what the Government is intending on using. To the hon. Member, I would not understand your question. Are you asking the about the steps the Government will take?

Well, to the hon. Member, who is also a part of my Committee, these results will be released in short order. Thank you.

(Question 9)

MS. PRAKAMYA ARCHANA (CHHATTISGARH, INDIA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the reasons identified by the Government for high level

of illiteracy in the country; the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and; the steps being taken by the Government to put in place job oriented quality education system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): Madam Speake, perhaps, I should give you the first reason why there is such a high level of illiteracy. Perhaps, it was the Government that was seated on this side before we came. In fact, I should be asking this question a Member sitting on the other side but I am not going to waste time on problems. I am just going to talk about the solutions. So, in order to tackle the high level of illiteracy in the country, we have decided to set up summer camps and after school sessions so that we are able to have every student who had troubles during their school years to assimilate what was being taught. So, they can catch up to the rest of their school years.

Secondly, we believe in community empowerment. By that, I mean, creating a foundation that will allow to empower parents and guardians so that they can themselves be empowered to send their children to schools so that they

themselves can see what it is like to be educated and how it will benefit the country and themselves. So, having an empowerment foundation will, definitely, help to tackle one side of the issue. Frankly, this question is really wasting time of the House because I, actually, answered that yesterday. So, if the Member would like, I can give them my copy of my answer from yesterday with additional information, of course. But here, I want to say one thing that we are committing in setting the counselling and coaching sessions in schools so that the students would be aware of the economy. So that once they leave the education sector and they will become fully employed, they will be able to meet their demand and contribute to the economy. Thank you.

(27/KMR)

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (MS. DEEPSHIKHA PARMESSUR): Yes, we acknowledge that because we want to stand in our own truth and not hide from saying the truth. But I think I have just answered the question with some of the steps that were taken, unless we want to waste the time of the House and want me to explain more in detail. I have all the documents

here, if the Member wants. But I do not think I should just waste everyone's time and answer your question again. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Ordinarily in these processes, you cannot pose the same question within say a three-month or six-month period. So, usually, those things are sort of voted out unless the Opposition is smart in how they craft it in a different way.

(Question 10)

HON. SPEAKER: We are now moving on to Question 10 regarding the partnership with the Asia Development Bank and the United Nations Organisation.

MS TYRELL B. GILES (BARBADOS): Will the Prime Minister be please to state: (a) the details of the partnerships the Government has entered into with the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Organisation (UNO), and (b) the benefits accrued from the partnerships with ADB and UNO?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, thank you to the hon. Member Giles for the question.

In relation to the details of the partnerships that the Government has entered into, it is first important once again to

understand the context in which we find ourselves. Now the United Nations has been assisting developing countries for a number of years. In terms of financial assistance this has been done by bodies associated with the UN or member states within the UN such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank. Now you remember that our great nation of Commonwealthland is a developing nation, something that I have stated repeatedly. Most developing nations that have entered into agreement with these bodies have done so under a programme known as structural adjustment. What that means is, loans are given, money is paid, but those come with conditions. You restructure the land in order for it to fall in line with what has been dictated by these particular bodies.

To answer the first question in relation to the details of the partnership, the reason why we have entered in partnership with the Asia Development Bank is because most Asian countries within their foreign policy have a policy of non-interference in relation to politics. Because of this, it will allow us as a state the agency to conduct our own business while still gaining financial

support. The reason why we are still working with the United Nations Organisation is because we recognise as a Government that we cannot operate in a bubble and we cannot operate in isolation. It is, therefore, important and pertinent that we keep close communication with all of the international actors in this global stage.

The second question is in relation to the benefits. Benefits are very simple. We gain financial assistance which is very much needed. In addition to that, the terms and conditions are far less. In addition to that, we are tapping into one of the fastest developing economy on the world stage which is the economy that is growing within Asia. And we are doing this showing a great amount of foresight in terms of ensuring that even after we leave Government, unlike our Members across the aisle, we ensure sustainability.

I find it very interesting that yesterday it was raised that, oh! it was under the Government of the Opposition that Commonwealthland had so many great things about it. Is it not funny that you speak about the history when it is relevant;

however, when it has anything to do with governance you turn a blind eye? Thank you so much.

(Question 11)

HON. SPEAKER: We will now move to Question 11 that deals with investment in green energy.

MR. OSCAR RICARDO GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT, AUSTRALIA):

Will the Minister of Environment be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to invest in green energy?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE

LOPEZ): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you hon.

Member and friend. This Government will be incentivising

industries to reduce carbon emissions and there will be a

number of ways in which we are going to do this. We will be

providing tax cuts for companies which invest in green efforts,

in new forms of greener energy. This will be subsidised by the

revenue that we make from the carbon credits. We will also be

investing in green energy like solar panels and make the most

of other natural forms of energy like wind and the collection of

rain water. We are also looking to increase the efficiency of

production. On this point we will be engaging with those closely on the ground to see what we need, and decide how we can invest and be productive.

MR. SARATH PRASAD V.P. (KERALA, INDIA): Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Government as to what special policies the Government is formulating for the protection of our forests and other sustainable environmental development?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Madam Speaker, as of yet we still have not drafted the policy. We are still in the beginning stages of consulting the experts. But as soon as I do have the information, which should be in the next three months, I will forward that to the hon. Member.

(Question 12)

HON. SPEAKER: We now move to Question 12 which deals with Foreign Direct Investment in defence procurement.

MS. KEYOLA TIFFANY GREENE (MONTserrat): Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government proposes to allow 74 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in defence procurement and production, (b) if so, the details

thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, and (c) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the defence of the country?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Hon. Speaker, I am very grateful to hear a question of this nature. I think it demonstrates a great appreciation for the safety of the people of Commonwealthland.

In response to the first question, in this instance it is important to recognise the realm in which we find ourselves and that is the realm of international relations. In international relations, we do have what is known as transnational border movement. Transnational border movement, this is where we see the most prevalent threat to the sovereignty and security of our state. The sovereignty of our state is what comes into question when we speak about Foreign Direct Investment. To a large extent it is trading aspect of our sovereignty for the purpose of ensuring that we can build and grow in terms of our interest within the financial sector. It is for this reason that we will not be considering Foreign Direct Investment increases in terms of a percentage for the time being up until we have had

an adequate amount of research as to what the fallout of the benefits as well as the negatives would be.

(28/NKL)

We cannot pledge an amount for percentage rather of 74 per cent until very proper and adequate research has been done. The reason for this, as I have stated, has to do with the notion of ensuring that when we make a decision that will affect the safety of our nation, it is an informed decision. More research will be conducted in this regard. Steps taken by the Government to strengthen the defence of the country has to do with protecting the sovereignty of our nation. Now, Commonwealthland, as a developing nation, has been a beacon of light. It is, however, a landlocked land and due to that particular fact, it is important that our defence is in relation to our relationship with the international community. You will notice, this is a theme that we have been reiterating continuously. Now, if we can maintain good relationships with our neighbours to the left and to the right, we will be able to ensure that our sovereignty is protected and that our borders are secure, while simultaneously building our own internal

defence structures. So, that is the short-term measure that we will build relationships to strengthen our defence. As far as long term measures are concerned, we will build our defence internally. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

(Question 13)

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Will the Minister of Environment be pleased to state: (a) the action plan of the Government to reach its target of 35 percent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank the hon. Member for the question.

This is a phased approach where we would be setting yearly targets to attempt to hit the 35 per cent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030. At this point, the Government is in the early stages of consulting climate experts, businesses and our communities. We also look forward to hearing the proposals by the Opposition. I would like to take this opportunity to remind the House, Madam Speaker, that we must work together on the issue of climate as this crisis transcends the walls of this

House, the roads of this city and the borders of this country.

Thank you.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): I thank the hon. Minister for her answer. However, in her prepared answer, she has again dodged the question about the details of the action plan. She has done so, Madam Speaker, to me and also the Independent Member from Kerala. She stated that she will reply within three months because she is consulting the experts. But, as a Minister, surely, she is a part of this consultation and they are briefing her on a monthly basis or on a weekly basis. Can she give us details of her briefings?

MR. JASPER JAMES (NEW ZEALAND): Thank you, hon. Speaker. Before I pose a question might I add that we are the first People's Party within the House to address these issues. The previous Government had a very long time. So, the fact that we even tabled these issues is something that the previous Government failed to do.

May I pose the question that whether the Minister goes through the bilateral talks that we are having with all the countries surrounding us as well.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT (MS. ADRIANA JANE LOPEZ): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to start with the second question first and I hope that my hon. friend will understand that I am not able to tell about too much into the little things that we were discussing with the surrounding countries. That is still a process that we are working on.

Then, in response to another hon. Member, I would like to say that I have some ear buds in my bag, if he would like to clean his ears. I would again say that this is a phased approach where we would be setting yearly targets, and right now, the Government is in the early stages of consulting the climate experts. You will understand that we have only been in the Government for a short time. I am not single handedly responsible for the whole climate crisis as this is a global issue. Thank you very much.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a Point of Order.

HON. SPEAKER: Under which Rule are you raising it?

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): I think it is in reference to misleading the House. It is in terms of Rule 54.

HON. SPEAKER: I will accept it in terms of Rule 54.

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): In terms of Rule 54, I would like to raise a Point of Order regarding the possible misleading to the House by the hon. gentleman representing New Zealand. I believe, he stated that the Government ignored the issue of climate change throughout its time in office. That is factually incorrect. During our time in office, climate change was a major issue we focussed upon.

HON. SPEAKER: What exactly is your Point of Order?

MR. AARON SANTOS (GIBRALTAR): Madam Speaker, the hon. gentleman from New Zealand misled the House by saying that the Opposition ignored the issue of climate change during its time in office. That is factually incorrect.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon. Members. I am going to bring your attention to Rule 54, sub point 6, which says that a Member shall not raise a Point of Order to ask for any information, to explain his or her position or while a question on any motion is being put to House or something which is

hypothetical. Unfortunately, the hon. Member is using Rule 54 to continue a follow up question. Therefore, I have to overrule the Order, and we are going to move forward.

We will now move to Question 14 regarding the protection of agricultural industries. This question is going to be dealt with by the hon. Member Emma Leigh Middleton, representing the Falklands Islands.

(Question 14)

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state: (a) the manner in which the Government proposes to protect the agricultural industries with changing weather patterns?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR. TOM SHORT): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for her question. The agricultural industry is very important to our country. We are investing in GM crops which have increased yield, increased nutritional value and also provided greater food security.

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): A further question relating to the protection of agriculture

industries is this. Considering the very close ties between the Government and the farming machinery industries, how does the Government ensure that farmers can fairly and transparently acquire those tools that are central pieces of their noble work?

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a Point of Order under Rule 54 and in accordance with Rule 21 on the admissibility of questions. Question should not contain any influences against misconduct by Ministers. There was a clear inference within the scope of that question that there was some undue and inappropriate connection between my Minister and the Industry, which has been very well addressed by the Ministry of Standards and the Standards Authority. I would suggest that the hon. Member should withdraw that insinuation.

HON. SPEAKER: Let me hear the question one more time.

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): Considering the very close ties between the Government and the farming machinery industries, how does the Government

ensure that farmers can fairly and transparently acquire those tools that are central pieces of their noble work?

(29/SRG)

HON. SPEAKER: My inclination is actually that according to Rule 20, the hon. Members can raise supplementary questions relating to the subject matter of the initial question. The initial question in front of me is about protecting agricultural industries in reference to changing weather patterns and the follow up question does not seem to deal with the subject matter of the initial one. The Presiding officer and I are in agreement about the follow up question and unfortunately, in that sense it has to be rejected. What I will, however, do is to allow you to re-phrase your follow up question so that it relates to the subject matter of the initial question. So, you can re-phrase it so that it is relevant to your first one.

MS. EMMA LEIGH MIDDLETON (FALKLANDS ISLANDS): How are these farmers supposed to get these tools that they need? How they are supposed to get them in order to protect their agricultural industries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR. TOM SHORT): I thank my hon. Member for the question. I am currently in discussion with my fellow member and we will get back to you on this one in the next session.

HON. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, no parliamentary system allows for that kind of answer. So, we have to accept it.

(Question 15)

HON. SPEAKER: We now move to Question No. 15 which relates to unemployment rate. Ms. Rhian Shillabeer will be presenting it to the Minister of Finance.

MS. RHIAN SHILLABEER (WALES): Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government is aware that the unemployment rate is high at 7 per cent in the country; (b) if so, the details thereof, and (c) the action plan of the Government to reduce the unemployment rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Madam Speaker, thank you for indulging me again. First of all, I would like to apologize for my previous grievance. I respect you as Speaker of the House. The Government is quite aware that the unemployment rate is at 7 per cent, however, I feel like high is a

very subjective word and I would like to revert through you to the Member of the Opposition who is very well acquainted with social welfare. I would like to ask during their 15 years in the Government, was she aware that the unemployment rate was high? I will not disclose figures for that, but this is something that has not happened overnight. However, to get back to the original question, in regard to what the Government is going to do to reduce the unemployment rate, if you would refer to the previous question I was asked about the tax incentives, that ties into this because if businesses have tax incentives, they hire more employees. Those employees then take the money that they pay from their businesses and that is injected into our society.

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any follow up question?

MS. RHIAN SHILLABEER (WALES): Will the Minister let me know if there is anything new that this Government is planning? Everybody heard about the taxation. Is there anything we can hear from him about any other incentives or any other employment strategies that can bring the country out of the unemployment rate?

HON. SPEAKER: Is there any other supplementary question?

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): With regards to tax incentives, what evidence does the Minister have that tax incentives do actually filter down in terms of increased unemployment? As far as I am aware, if he gives extra money to businesses they can choose how to spend that money? So, what credible evidence does the Finance Minister have that this money is likely to go to the people of the Commonwealth?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): I am so excited and I admire the vigour of the other party. This reminds of me of someone going to a bakery shop while the bread is baking and asking the baker, “can I have my bread?” and the baker is saying that the bread is baking and he keeps on asking. “may I have the bread”? At this point, I want to know if the Opposition wants uncooked bread? If they would like to eat that, I am fine with that. So, I will answer the question in a different order. I would like to say that the burden of proof falls upon the accuser. So, I would like to ask the Leader of the retired party, do you have any credible evidence to the contrary?

To answer your question in regard to this, the Government is actively seeking more tax incentives and we will get back to you at a later date.

(Question 16)

HON. SPEAKER: Now move on to our last question which relates to the unspent budgetary allocation. Ms. Evangeline Maffey.

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state: (a) the reasons for 0.7 per cent of unspent budgetary allocation, and (b) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the unspent budgetary allocation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): I have passed on a note to the hon. Member that answers the second part of the question regarding the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the unspent budgetary allocation and it is not foreign investment aid, it is not going to do with it. In regards to the reasons for 0.7 per cent of unspent budgetary allocation, we have other more productive intentions to boost the economy.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Finance, Rule 24 speaks about answering the question. I shall read it to you because I think the second part is important. It says: “Copy of the question shall be sent. The Minister shall rise and answer the question when called upon by the Speaker during the Question Hour.” The answer should be brief and relevant but you must answer question 16 (b) verbally and orally in front of the House. So, a note does not suffice. It must be oral to all of us. We would like to hear the answer about the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the unspent budgetary allocation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Madam, my apologies again. I will say this verbally. Regarding the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the unspent budgetary allocation, the Government will not utilize the budgetary allocation for foreign aid.

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any supplementary question?

MS. EVANGELINE MAFFEY (NEW ZEALAND): Who amongst the Government no longer wants 0.7 per cent of the budget going to foreign aid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Hon. Member, that is a very pertinent question and one that needs an answer upon consultation with Prime Minister, the groups caucus and we will see if anybody actually shares that opinion.

(QUESTION HOUR OVER)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1223 hours

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the special mentions which have been selected for today's business. Those Members concerned may now read the text that have been supplied to them as per the order. Any Member, who proposes to associate himself/herself with that particular special mention may do so with the permission of the Chair and will give a slip at the Table. We are now going to open up for Ms. Banseka Kayembe to make her special mention.

(30/RP)

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Young people's participation in politics in Commonwealthland is at an all-time low. Those young people who are less educated or from an ethnic minority background within Commonwealthland are even less likely to believe that they can have any influence in politics. Opportunities to understand how politics works; how it functions; what the democracy is, what our places in our democracy or the ability to simply speak and be heard; are few and far between for many young people. The Media and much

of the political establishment including us have failed to properly engage with young people, to all the young people of Commonwealthland.

I would like to say that your opinion does matter. It is the failure of this House if they feel so alienated from the political system. So, I am advocating that citizenship and politics should be made a core part of the curriculum of the State Education. We have to give young people the tools they need to be able to contribute to our democracy because their opinion is just as valuable as anybody else's.

If this House can work together, across party lines, to get behind an issue, I am sure, we, on all sides of the House, care about, I am extremely hopeful that things can change for the better for our young people.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: If there are any members who wish to associate themselves with this particular special mention as per Rule 29, they can do so now.

MS. VAISHNAVI KAUSHIK (INDIA UNION): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for providing me an opportunity to raise a matter of

urgent public importance in the House. I would like to speak about the state of female literacy in our nation, the Commonwealthland.

The women have a mere 60 per cent literacy rate in comparison to the other gender with a whopping 80 per cent. Female literacy does not only have an intrinsic value but also instrumental value attached to it. Quoting a recent interaction with a woman in one of the constituencies of Commonwealthland, how being illiterate and belonging to a poor household, she was forcibly married to a groom much elder than her, and how she barely manages to support her family after his demise. It reflects how being illiterate, she is unable to come out of the darkness which surrounds her. Being educated, makes a female self-dependent, gives her the freedom to protect herself from any kind of oppression or injustice against her.

Talking about the instrumental value attached to it, more educated female population implies more female working force; leading to a rise in GDP as well. Also, it has a multi-dimensional impact which I want the House to focus on that is being a

mother, if a female is more educated, she can better take care of her child, apply the medical procedure properly. A working woman implies more financial resources in the family so the household can devote more resources to the child care as well.

Hence, it simultaneously fights with the widespread problems of child-mortality and poverty as well. Female literacy implies more informed women, hence, there is a better society which is more tolerable for both genders. It would open the new corridors of employment opportunities for them.

I request the House to assign urgent importance to this, in the woman and child development bill, proper initiative backed by appropriate funds will surely do the needful. One of the major steps could be to provide education to females at a subsidized rate so that it is affordable to all. Additionally, I believe, equal workforce behaviour and treatment should be ensured for both the gender.

MR. TYRELL B. GILES (BARBADOS): Thank you, Madam Speaker, it is important to note that a member of my constituency brought this issue to me which brought tears to my eyes. A member of my constituency has come to me and

highlighted that they are very passionate about policy making and being in the driver seat as it relates to youth development and participation in politics along with positive things.

However, when consulted the Government, he was told that youth investment in politics is a mockery of the system and mediocre. This was also mentioned in the said session yesterday by Minister Jones. I for one, who was not sleeping yesterday.

The Opposition strongly believes in development, entrepreneurship and leadership of the youth. We, hereby, are concerned that if this Government does not allow for youth participation now, there will be chaos. This Government is living under the delusions of grandeur and quite frankly I can say that there is deficiency of commonsense on the other side of the House. They said yesterday that they are open to good ideas. They said: "We are here to empower the people." They call a mockery to the strength of this Youth Parliament. They call it mediocre. The point is that whether the youth are participating to our expectations or not, the fact is that they are in a learning environment and there is room growth. The

Government create things that they are model and they have been here forever. Thank you.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): There is a point of order, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. DANIEL FERGUSON (UNITED KINGDOM): I would like to draw your attention to Rule 27. There are so many fake statements. He said: "The Minister of Finance said that the youth engagement is a mockery." The member of the Opposition said that this Government called youth engagement in politics a mockery. That is incorrect. That is defamatory. We call the Opposition's Resolution a mockery. If someone thinks his brilliant ideas reflect the entire youth engagement, perhaps, he should think again.

HON. SPEAKER: I am going rule on this order. It is very easy one to rule on because of the Rule 27 which really deals on the conditions of admissibility of special mention and I am just going to mention the one that is important, which is point 4 that it shall not contain arguments, ironical expressions and defamatory statements. So, on that level, the order would be

upheld. But also on the second one of not exceeding 250 words in that which is written, so the Special Mention that will be recorded for purposes of the sittings as to what was sent and what was e-mailed as per the time limit of yesterday. So, in that sense thank you hon. Member Giles. We are, now, going to move to the last Special Mention.

Hon. Minister of Finance, what are you rising on?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. LORENZO CAREY): Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am rising on Rule 27.4 about defamatory statements. The other party directly said that the Government lacks sense. That hurts my feelings.

(31/KMR)

HON. SPEAKER: Your feelings are noted. That is exactly why I had to uphold the Point of Order raised regarding the defence statement and that will not be what is included in the record of today's sitting. We are very confident that you will recover from such attack.

Hon. Member Giles, I am not sure why you are standing now.

MR. TYRELL B. GILES (BARBADOS): Madam Speaker, I thought we will read until the end of Special Mentions.

HON. SPEAKER: You have exceeded your 250 words. How you chose to use it was how you chose to use it. I thank you.

The last Special Mention that I acknowledge will be presented by the hon. Member Ms. Sonam Gupta from Haryana, India.

MS. SONAM GUPTA (HARYANA, INDIA): Thank you, Madam Speaker, during past three years I had an opportunity to present many social issues in the House, the most important were concerning women and child abuse. Today I am presenting an issue which is related to mental health. As C.S. Lewis quoted, "Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also harder to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden. It is easier to say, 'My tooth is aching' than to say 'My heart is broken.'

In today's time, 2,443 people are affected by mental health on daily basis in one lakh population. I want to tell you, Madam, this section is the most marginalised and neglected in our society. They include mental issues like depression and even

those who have challenges from birth. I would like to request our hon. Health Minister to formulate some policies which will increase financial assistance in the form of healthcare centres which are specialised in mental health and even some regular health check-ups in every area possible so that all get the benefit of it leaving no one behind. The people who get affected by mental issues constitute about five crore of our population and they deserve special care and protection. I request the Government to immediately take steps in this regard. I am thankful to you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise this issue on the floor of the House.

HON. SPEAKER: I would now conclude the Special Mentions part.

**RESOLUTION RE: RECONSIDERATION OF DISCONTINUATION
OF COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

1235 hours

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Madam Speaker, I rise on Rule 30, if I may.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): I would like to submit a Resolution that is an urgent Resolution. And I sincerely hope that all the Members who are present here today consider the Resolution necessarily, the Resolution that unites us as a House. This Resolution reads as follows:

HON. SPEAKER: Let me just approve the Resolution. I am permitting a State Resolution. You can go ahead now.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): As I was saying,

“That this House expresses its disappointment that this Commonwealth Youth Parliament is due to be the last. As such, this House recommends to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to reconsider its decision to end the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in its 10th sitting, and agrees to continue in perpetuity the Commonwealth Youth Parliament as an annual activity. Members of this

House believe passionately that engaging and encouraging young people in the political and parliamentary processes is vital to ensuring a sustainable, equitable and vibrant democracy throughout the Commonwealth.”

That is why my fellow compatriots let us move to adopt this Resolution that it may be known that the Commonwealth Youth Parliament is necessary, it is a necessity, it is required to develop, to build, to grow and to incubate the young minds of the Commonwealth who will occupy the benches after us, now spoke in unison and in unison say with a loud voice that ‘United we Stand’ and what we stand for is the continuation of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, thank you for that very very important Resolution. I agree. I would like to now put this Resolution that has been moved by the hon. Prime Minister to the vote of the House. Those in favour may say ‘Aye’ and those against may say ‘Noe’.

The Ayes definitely have it and the Resolution is duly adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: With that, the list of our formal business is over.

CONCLUDING SESSION

1240 hours

HON SPEAKER: We are going to be moving to our concluding session.

Hon. Members, I have been informed that one representative of the Independents will deliver the concluding address. After that we will have the Leader of the Opposition and thereafter the Prime Minister will deliver his address.

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to address the House on behalf of the Independents group.

It has been a great and distinct privilege to work with Members across the House in improving the quality and substance of yesterday's Bill. And we are grateful to Members for their cooperation and openness in yesterday's session amply demonstrating that indeed a new kind of politics is possible even if that does mean voting against one's own amendments inside this House.

We have heard a great deal this week not only regarding parliamentary procedure and the politics of our Commonwealth but also how to dance in Hindi, how to rap on a coach, and how not to indeed hand over a mace. I am afraid my skills in this regard leave a great deal to be desired.

In all seriousness, thank you to the staff of the Delhi Assembly, to the members of the CPA for their tireless efforts in making this CYP a huge success; to His Excellency the Speaker of this Assembly for kindly hosting us and showing us just how incredible India really is; and of course to all the other hon. Members for turning up and making this the success that it is.

Finally, they say there are no true friends in politics. Well, I am afraid that this Session has shown that this is not the case. We look forward very much as an Independent Group, and I think I speak about the whole House when I say that, to keeping in touch with all of our new found friends from across the Commonwealth

nations, and to living and reaffirming our shared ideals of democracy, inclusiveness, mutual respect and friendship.

Thank you.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The previous hon. gentleman's statement is slightly much kinder than mine. There are some nice bits.

Madam Speaker, I began this parliamentary session with high hopes that the Government opposite would not live up to its historical reputation of not being concerned about the problems of the common man. But I am afraid from what we faced yesterday it is obvious that this Government is adamant on pursuing quite extreme right wing agenda of privatisation, minimal state support, low taxes, Commonwealth land, Foreign Direct Investment. These are the seemingly simplistic solutions to solve some of the challenging issues that we face.

The Government with backing of the so-called Independents, has repeatedly slapped out I am afraid any opportunity to deliver real meaningful change to the

people of Commonwealthland, specifically some of those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

(32/NKL)

However, I am very proud of the Opposition's hard work and our success at securing some key amendments to the Bill, particularly with regard to ensuring reliable expert Reports on how funds will be used, with the help from the Independents as well. I am also very proud of our Resolution as key drivers of implementation for Sustainable Development Goals as well. We are certainly in the chamber. The young people are the future, and our Resolution can still be a step forward in empowering young people to be involved in the society which they are such an important part of.

As Leader of the Opposition, I greatly look forward to continue to hold this Government to account and remaining a crucial part of a check and balance on Government power. I hope, we can continue to allow friends in the Independents in order to be able to do this. Then, I am confident that whatever our differences across this whole House are, we will continue to deliver for the people of the Commonwealth.

In terms of this House as a democracy, I think it's important for us to highlight that however confident we may be in democracies, democracies are inherently fragile. They need support from people in order to exist. Most of the people have to believe in them. Therefore, it is incredibly important, particularly for the young people, that we are all here because we are hoping to learn, understand and really valuing, being a part of that democratic process as well. I do mean that to every single Member across this chamber including the Opposition benches, and certainly for us to continue with the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

I, if I am able to play character of being Leader of the Opposition for just one second, would also like to say that it has been an absolute honour for me to be the Leader of the Opposition and part of Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Delhi, India, being half Indian myself. My mother is an Indian. To be received so warmly and so welcoming in a place that feels almost oddly like a second home now, is an absolute honour for me and a real pleasure and a completely unforgettable experience. I am extremely lucky to share it all with you, all such

talented and amazing individuals from all across the globe. You are all wonderful advocates for the Commonwealthland. Thank you so much.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): My fellow compatriots in Parliamentary pursuit, today, we stand on the precipice of a beautiful horizon. We have gathered here today with a common interest. That interest is the empowerment of people within the Commonwealth, empowerment of all of those who would benefit from our efforts in moving forward.

It is with a great pleasure that I stand here today to address you as the Prime Minister within this Parliament. You see, the winds have changed, they blow over the field of life, and they blow with the air of the unknown. You see the thing that is beautiful about the democracy. It is that so many of us, we often come to a time when it is unknown but when it is unknown, it is in these moments that it is time to make a decision. The people have made a decision and it has brought us to this point. Every single one of us who has gathered here today is because of the decision that has been made by so many others who are standing outside. I maintain the firm belief that together, we can

passionately and perspicaciously push the thing of paranoia and choose positivity. I stand here with firm belief that together we can loosen the shackles of mediocrity that have bound so many to complacency.

My fellow compatriots in Parliamentary pursuit, I stand before you with the feeling that I have and the feeling that is beautiful. It is a feeling that I cannot describe. It is a feeling that makes me feel great, whether you love it or hate it, you know you cannot debate it. So, you may as well appreciate it because, hon. Members, today, in this House, the feeling that I have is one of humility. You see the reason why I feel humbled is because I recognise wholeheartedly that in this room today, I am surrounded by one thing. That thing is greatness. You see, it is the greatness that is within us, that has allowed us to sit here today. It is the greatness that is within us, and that has pushed us to consider others before ourselves. It is the greatness to sit up until midnight working, while others are asleep. It is the greatness to push when you realise that you are making a sacrifice. It is the greatness to leave your home and

travel here every single day, knowing and acknowledging that you are making an investment in the future.

Hon. Members, Members of the Government, Members of the Opposition, the Independents in the House, our great and gracious Speaker, as we are about to depart from this Session, this is what I would leave you with. Our ambition, be like an ocean, the depth of which cannot be measured. It is time when we take this change, that we apply that change, and we show that the change that we have made is the change that will reflect in our communities, our countries and all across the Commonwealth that will continue. It is important, hon. Members, as we have shown a sign of unity, I am about to agree in one resolution. That resolution is that we need to process, we need to continue and we need to move forward. Our step is a step in a right direction so long as it is a step forward.

My fellow compatriots in the Commonwealth Parliamentary pursuit, when I was elected, I made a statement. That statement was that 'I believe'. I am going to make the same statement as we are about to wrap up.

I believe, the way we unite hands, there is nothing that can stand in our way. I hold a firm belief that when we continue to work together as Independent Members of the Opposition in collaboration, under the leadership of our hon. Speaker, we can truly do more. I believe in every single individual who is seated here today.

My fellow compatriots in the Parliamentary pursuit, I believe in the Commonwealth Parliament; I believe in youth. I believe that our future is great. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the curtains are down for the present Session of the Commonwealthland Parliament which commenced on 24th November, 2019.

We had 47 representatives from as many as 14 countries and Members who had participated in this Youth Parliament.

During this Session, we had three sittings that were spread over 6 hours and 26 minutes. The Session saw the disposal of important legislative and other business.

During the Session, we had a lively discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address which was later adopted. One Bill, particularly, the Bill on "The Climatic Fund

for Women Bill, 2019” was passed. Further, we also had as many as 26 questions that were answered orally. In addition, we adopted two Resolutions on “Inclusive Urbanization: Adequate, Accessible, Secure and Affordable Housing” and “Youth as Key Drivers of Implementation of SDGs”. During the Session, five matters were raised by way of Special Mentions.

(33/SRG)

I want to place on record that the way this House functioned over the last 3 days, I am really amazed at the way in which the Hon’ble Members participated with enthusiasm and with interest. Our Members were fully committed to the task assigned to them and upheld all democratic norms and ethos which would be expected of a regular Parliamentarian of a democratic country. Hon. Ministers answered the questions and discussion in an excellent manner and the Opposition Members were at the forefront in putting proper questions and were able to grill the executive as well. I find that many of the Hon’ble Members being students, research scholars and budding politicians, very much like myself. I am sure that with the talent and the commitment that I have seen over the last few

days, we have future leaders of our respective countries sitting in this room. I wish you all success in every single endeavour and I wish for a very bright future. I am confident that you contribute utmost to the development of our respective countries.

I want to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon. Members and each and every one of you in this House for the kind cooperation which you have extended not just to me but to the team as well.

I want to take this occasion to express our gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly and the Secretary for their grand hospitality and for the way in which they ensured our comfortable stay in Delhi. I thank Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha who took his precious time to inaugurate the Youth Parliament and to interact with us all. I would also like to thank Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi who delivered the key Address on this occasion. I would also like to thank Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, Chairperson CPA Executive Committee who graced the inaugural function and guided us.

I want to record our special thanks to Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal who is a hon. Member of Lok Sabha as well as a mentor of the Youth Parliament and also for delivering his Presidential Address. I also want to thank Shri Raju Bista, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha who participated and chaired on the first day of this parliamentary Session.

I want to record special thanks to Shri P.D.T. Achary, Advisor to Hon'ble Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly for his excellent interaction with the participants and the way in which he guided us to be better Parliamentarians. I also want to thank Shri Prabhu, who has gone out of his way to make this session work and be as professional as possible. I would like to thank the Lok Sabha Secretariat also in particular for arranging this Youth Parliament in India and for coordinating this event in such a manner to make this event a great success.

I would also like to place on record my deep appreciation and gratitude to the CPA Headquarters team headed by Mr. Mathew Salik for organizing this wonderful event and taking care of the needs of the delegates assembled from all over the world.

I would also like to thank our friends and team members in Media for their excellent coverage and I am sure we all will take sweet memories of the Media coverage when we go back home. I would like to thank the Table for the efficient service rendered by the presiding officers.

I also take this occasion to thank the officers and staff of Delhi Legislative Secretariat for their excellent arrangements and great services. I also want to thank all of those agencies and service providers for their arrangements for this successful event.

Lastly, before coming here I did not know what to expect but I am walking away as a young person of course but also as having taken away from this experience. I have learnt a great deal from the young people and from all those around me. I have learnt about the power, which I knew but, of young people and really about how all we really need is an opportunity to prove ourselves. Going back home, I think that is something we can take with us. I am really appreciative also of the CPA team for allowing me to be a Speaker of this Session. I think I have learnt great deal in terms of skillset from that.

Lastly, I have to concur with what everyone has said that despite only being in India for a few days, I think we have created somewhat of a family. I want to thank everybody for making me feel very much at home and not lonely on my birthday.

My concluding remark, after thanking everyone for opening up their hearts to us, it is to remind us that young people have always been at the forefront of change. That has been the case of our history and will continue to be the case in the future. The idea that we are leaders of tomorrow is fundamentally incorrect. We are the leaders of today, of now. And it is not going to be, if we do not fight back and if we do not ensure that young people have a seat at the Table. So, the question is not whether we should have a seat at the Table, the question is how we are going to get that seat. Going back from this, I really hope that we can create a unit in which we support each other and which will ensure that in our respective countries young people have a seat at that table and young people are taken seriously. I just want to share that the power of a mobilized youth can shake the core of any unjust system.

We can bring down any system or create any system that we believe is important. We come from countries that are predominantly youth populations and I do think that coming from this particular conference and from this particular Parliamentary grouping that we can hopefully institute change in the places that we come from.

Thank you very much.

The House adjourned sine die.

(34/RP)

MOCK PRESS CONFERENCE

1315 hours

QUESTION: I would like to know the steps taken by the Government to prevent movement of population from smaller villages and towns to the cities. How do you prevent the stress on infrastructure problems in the cities because of this?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much for that question. I very much appreciate it. We did speak about the movement of lot of our people from more rural areas of Commonwealthland to the very urban areas. Now, the reason why this has been a particular focus within our Government because we recognise that all people in Commonwealthland can contribute towards building us as a nation. Obviously, the more urban areas have a great level of development which is why we are working on the problem across two spheres. This first sphere is encouraging movement towards urban areas so that people living without those urban areas can benefit from the infrastructure already in place. This will allow us to get more manpower within urban areas that can then be reallocated

towards the more rural areas of our land. Thus, ensuring that more people get a better standard of living, while simultaneously ensuring that those who remain in urban areas are benefitted for as well as we focus on developing infrastructure while assisting in the living standard.

QUESTION: My question is to the Government. In continuation to her question, due to rapid urbanisation there is a divide created between the migrants and natives. So, how does the Government propose to bridge that gap which is creating law and order problem on a daily basis?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much. It is really a good question and I am very grateful that you have asked on a platform such as this.

These engagements are where we break that divide, you can imagine all of the people that are watching this particular press conference, the reach which it has, all we need to do is to assist one another and sensitise one another. To everyone, who is watching that particular press conference, I would like to remind you that in Commonwealthland we are a united people and a united front and carrying across this message of unity

amongst those that are migrant and amongst those that are not considered to be migrant. That is the first step.

The second step is breaking a partly classification. We cannot operate under a system of binary. It is not this or that, it is one. You are a member of a Commonwealthland, if you reside in this city, if you reside in the rural areas, if you reside anywhere within our borders and emphasising that point is necessary. So, to break that right now, let it be known from this date that the Government would no longer use those kinds of classifications. Instead, we shall say citizens from urban areas rural areas but the major point is that we are all citizens.

QUESTION: As the House has adopted the Resolution on Inclusive Urbanisation, can you please talk about the steps the Government plants to take for the development or slum areas?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much again for that question. The question on urbanisation was very nicely raised by the earlier reporter and I am very grateful to see the level of fluidity that is being displayed here.

In terms of ensuring that we provide adequate support for those who are remaining in slum areas, that ties into the earlier

point that I had made in terms of supporting those who are looking to make the move from more rural areas to more developed urban areas. Now, what will be required within those slum areas is first of all ensuring that we can increase the standard of living for those who remain in those areas and the best way to increase their standard of living is through job creation which was something that we had already debated in the House. The standard urban area has to do with the proposed or perceived wealth in that area. The less wealth an area seems the more under-developed it becomes, hence, why we get slums? The wealthier it is perceived to be, the more investments go into it. That is why, it is able to build up. This falls in line with our Foreign Policy directive of ensuring we get foreign direct investments. Now, we can get more businesses both, within and outside of Commonwealthland to invest in areas that are considered to be slums, that will thereby increase the property value within those areas. What will happen is urbanisation will begin to take place there. When urbanisation takes place, there growth, there is expansion, buildings are built, hospitals, schools and shops and so on and so forth.

Which is why, in order to ensure this process takes place, it will require that we have place to build. Hence, our emphasis on ensuring that we can assist our people in the process of moving to urban areas while simultaneously improving the infrastructure in rural areas and those include the slums.

QUESTION: In continuation to the previous question, does the Government plan to relax the floor area ratio or if the slums are located on the Government land, do you have any plans to give the ownership rights to the dwellers, may be, free of cost or at a lesser price? Are there any plants for that?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much again for that question. Now, in relation to the land issue, land is a very very emotional topic and the reason is, there is always some level of dispute. If you were to go and trace back the lineage in terms of who was on which land and at what time, it is very difficult to specify exactly according to whom the land, actually, belongs to. There are instances where one piece of land has two owners and two of them have title deeds. You get that kind of contention. You can imagine this kind of contention would result in the land itself not being used because those who

have a claim to the land and in direct opposition. It is in this instance that the Government comes forward to assist in the process and for this particular reason that the Government will maintain the ownership rights on those lands to ensure better development and better growth. It is in the best interest of our people that we ensure that all who reside on any such land that is in a place of dispute or disrepute, actually, have the opportunity to grow and develop. So long as there is conflict amongst land owners, that is not possible. For this reason, the Government will maintain ownership rights over such lands.

QUESTION: I have a question for the Opposition. What policies and notifications you can suggest to the Government related to participation of youth in the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs)?

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Thank you very much. In terms of youth participation, this is something, with which the Opposition is extremely concerned about. We want the youth to be involved at all levels of society. Our youth, at the moment, thinking that they are stupid and they do not have stake in this society which is so impactful on them. We pushed

them to have become a stakeholder in terms of our SDG goals, which were referred to yesterday, which is why, young people are continuously being consulted in terms of these goals.

We also want to still push them further and to make sure that this is compulsory. The Government do push back in terms of compulsory involvement of young people. We think that it will still be a very good policy to make it compulsory. There is a will. There is a kind of love and affection towards young people which is something important that they are wanted. As we pointed out yesterday, it is on the speeches that we made on this topic that young people do want to be engaged and they do care that they often do not engage because they feel like nobody wants them. By making it compulsory, we can open up the avenue, and make them feel like they are cared about and they feel that their opinion does matter.

(35/KMR)

QUESTION: Do you think the Government is ignoring the youth?

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Yes, absolutely.

This Government does not have enough regard for young people at all. Many of their policies I am afraid actually go

against what our young people think. If they had actually consulted young people more for example when they have been designing their overall policy portfolio, they might have come out with a dramatically different result. They might have decided that increasing privatisation, lowering taxes of some of the wealthiest in this country might not actually be a good idea which is for example something many young people in this country are not behind. Many young people want to see more investment by the state, want to see more investment in social housing, want to see more investment in our schools, in education, in healthcare, proper healthcare that is funded by the Government and not just the kind of privatised healthcare that is subsidised. So, I think this Government has a long way to go in terms of making sure that young people are properly consulted and are regarded as legitimate systems and are proper part of their policy portfolio.

QUESTION: As regards the resolution, would you like to suggest any reservation for youth from under privileged community considering the unemployment rate in Commonwealthland?

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): Could you just repeat the question?

QUESTION: Considering the unemployment rate in the Commonwealthland, would you like to suggest any reservation criteria for youth, especially those coming from the under-privileged background or the community that they belong to?

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): We are always looking to see how we can empower young people. There is a lot of space we can improve in and there is a lot of stuff we can do to empower young people and especially when it comes to employment, ensuring that they have a future, and ensuring that they have jobs, that they can set themselves up for the future. So, we will definitely like to work with the Government in making sure that the policies we do propose and suggest actually go through. We would like a little bit more cooperation from the Government. As we saw over the past couple of days, a lot of our amendments just get rejected. So, if we had a little bit more cooperation, I am sure we could bring on a lot more policies that could really empower our youth because that is what we are all about and that is what we are all

for. And we have a lot of great ideas that we will be bringing on board over the next term. So, I would like to specifically call at the Government here and say, 'I think we can do a lot for our youth, and I think we can do a lot to ensure that they have a great future and that we do decrease that unemployment rate if we just get a little bit of a cooperation from them'. Thank you.

MS. RASHANA JONES (BARBADOS): If I may, I would like to reiterate our belief as a Government that your people are very much important to our social stability and in doing so we are very open to working with multi-stakeholders to ensure that our young people are not hampered and they very much have a seat at the table to ensure that their issues are adequately addressed at all levels, at the national level, at the regional level and at the international level. In doing so, we are very much on board with you in the Opposition. We are not opposing you because we do recognise that when it comes to our young people it is not about the divide, it is for the benefit overall of our young people in the Commonwealthland.

QUESTION: My question is for the Independents and it is about the Climate Fund for Women Bill 2019 introduced by the Ruling

Party. Do you agree with all the provisions in the Climate Bill? If not, what additional provisions would you like to add in this Bill?

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): As the Independent Group we are of course uniquely positioned to understand the narrow party divide that the Opposition and Government are subject to. Obviously, the Bill was not proposed by us but we welcomed the parts that work and we sought to work with the Opposition on those that we thought did not. I think in the end we reached quite a satisfactory outcome in bulk of the caucus. We sought to pass two amendments: (1) to improve the size of the fund from USD 1 million that was proposed to USD 2 million. That was a kind of a middle way between the Opposition's extreme spending approach which they had suggested and the more fiscally conservative approach of the Government. And I am quite happy that we have managed to raise a Resolution on that front. And the second amendment which was passed working with Opposition on this was the allocation of that money. It is not just the amount you raise, it is also how you spend it. And we are very happy as the Independent Group to

make sure that that was recognised too. My colleague may have something to add.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA):

We had also discussed in our caucus as an Independent Group, we were discussing also the possibility of expanding beyond the Women's Group. We wanted to include also children. We did not see the point of why we would limit it to only women. But unfortunately, we had to decide on only these two amendments. But maybe perhaps in the future if there are any other Bills or any other Resolutions with regard to that that would be only limited to women, we would like to open that up for the Opposition and the Government as a whole discuss also. Youth group and children as well.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): That is definitely one of our concerns, the narrowness of this Bill in terms of only targeting women. We definitely recognise that women will be facing more adverse effects in terms of climate change but there are many other groups as well that we should be looking to be able to support as well. I think we do still reiterate that even increasing that USD one million to USD two

million for a population, if the half of the people in Commonwealthland are female, that is about half of 25 million, USD 2 million probably still is not going to cut it. Yes, we are actually going to see further legislation that we can have.

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): But obviously it is a significant improvement upon what was proposed by the Government. I am very happy that we have achieved that aim.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Yes, I agree with that.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): If I can add on to what has been said by our hon. Members within the Parliament, it is also important to realise the fact that we are dealing with the reality, the reality of our people, the reality of Commonwealthland, the reality of our situation. Now, our system is largely agrarian. In terms of our income, our income as a nation has to do with the agricultural sector. If you look at the agricultural sector, the biggest stakeholder group are women. This Bill was not meant to be an exclusionary Bill. It covers climate change pertaining to women as the largest stakeholder group in our largest economical income generating

mechanism. I fail to see how the inclusion of children or other stakeholder groups within a Bill meant specifically to look at the effects of climate change pertaining to women for the purpose of agricultural development, for economic gain would be of benefit. I do welcome the idea of ensuring that we do put an emphasis on all stakeholder groups. But that was not the intention of this particular Bill. If we are to address issues, we need to address an issue, make sure it is dealt with and move on to the next issue. If we power everything up, it will result in a situation where we are unable to do anything because of the sheer mix of the issues conflating one another.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM) Thank you for clarifying that. Just to be clear, as Leader of the Opposition we are more than happy to not conflate everything into one Bill. It does not have to be some omnibus of legislation. But going forward, it would definitely be great to have a look at these different groups and legislate on them separately as well.

QUESTION: This question is for both Opposition and Independents.

Do you think the present infrastructure of Commonwealthland is adequate and proper law and order is being maintained in the metropolitan cities?

(36/NKL)

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): Thank you for the question.

I just want to say that the Prime Minister should come into the real world and look at the infrastructure of the Commonwealthland. I do not think, the infrastructure is adequate and I do not think it is good enough for the people of Commonwealthland. I think, if we take a look at the real world that these people are living in, if we take a look at the literacy rate, if we take a look at the level of unemployment, and all of that we would say, in the real world, as our Prime Minister refers to, it is not enough and it is not good enough. So, we as the Opposition, will be looking at the infrastructure and will be looking at all these things and see what we can do and what we can implement to ensure that the infrastructure does get improved and to make sure it is adequate enough for the people of Commonwealthland.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): Just to add to my fellow members point, good infrastructure requires real investment which this Government has already made clear that it is not necessarily that interested in doing. It is heavily reliant on the private sector. We want the public sector to be invested, and we, as future Government, would want to make sure that we are investing properly in these services. You do not magically get great infrastructure without the State getting involved.

QUESTION: I really would be interested to listen to your views regarding the infrastructure, especially, in the Commonwealth metropolitan cities.

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): I think, the infrastructure is adequate. There is obviously always more to do and we are supportive of all Parties in improving the infrastructure but I must just say that the Opposition's solution always seems to spend more to have a bigger State. Often, I think the problem is sometimes the State. It is not just about how much you spend but it is also about how and where you spend it, and I think, perhaps, if the Government and the

Opposition would focus their minds on that, we could achieve much together.

I just probably also just mentioned the problem with socialism is that sometimes you are going to have other people's money and that is something that the Opposition might like to bear in mind.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI HAVILA FONUA (TONGA): I would like to just chip in there. I am I am assuming that you are referring to physical infrastructure but I think I would like to answer like quality infrastructure which also includes laws and legislations.

QUESTION: I am referring to both - the physical as well as the law and order.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI I HAVILA FONUA (TONGA): Yes, I know quality infrastructure is not just limited to physical infrastructure. It also means the laws and standards and calibration and laboratories, all these things that measure the standards and the quality of the physical infrastructure which is what I am trying to comment on, which I believe I am going to speak with my colleague here. Yes, I think the infrastructure is

adequate and with all the debates that we have had in the House today and yesterday, I am sure the Government has promised that they will improve it with all the policies that they are putting in place, that they refused to give us more information on, like making it into a legislation or introducing it as a Bill. Right now, all they are telling us is just that they have got policies which we they working on. So would the hon. Prime Minister like to comment on that? Thank you.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much. I appreciate all these inputs. I very much enjoyed this back and forth. Let us have a conversation about the real world now. How can you speak about the real world when the only pieces of legislation set before the House from the Opposition was that of the SDGs? Now, when we submitted amendments towards this particular Resolution, it was because we found that this Resolution did not have a basis in the real world. It was very high-level. It was not specific. It spoke about you should do this and you should do that. But where was the basis in the real world? On the other hand, the pieces of legislation that we have submitted before the House dealt with the issue of urbanisation.

They dealt with the Climate Bill which is specifically meant to ensure that we simultaneously empower the stakeholder group, deal with the future, creating sustainability by looking at climate, and cover the economic aspect.

In addition to that, I struggle to understand how can you speak about a real world approach when you have had the opportunity to deal with the real world. I believe, the reason why we may be in the seats of Government as opposed to the Opposition. It is because people actually wanted to see the real world and that is what we intend to give to them. But even so, we continue to remain committed to work with the Opposition because in the law of the amendments that have been submitted, we found them to be of great benefit.

The proposal for an Annual Report for the sake of accountability was an absolute masterstroke, and I tip my hat off to the Opposition. In relation to the point that has been made by the Independents, it is important to note once again that our Government is not in the business of selling dreams. Our intention is to empower our people. Now, if I were to get up and want to speak, and I started to give so many dates and deadlines

knowing that they are not feasible, knowing that they are not possible, I would be lying to our people in the face. I cannot give facts that do not yet exist, which is why our intention is to respond when we have all of the relevant facts in order because we owe that to the people who have placed us here.

QUESTION: Continuing talking about the real world, Mr. Prime Minister, can you please tell all of us as to what are the steps taken by the Government to improve the female literacy rate. It has been constantly low at 65 per cent as compared to male being 80 percent. Can you please share something about that?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DAVID KABWE): Thank you again for the question. In relation to the female literacy rate within Commonwealthland, you may have heard in the earlier statement made by our Minister of Education. In an earlier statement I made in relation to that, covered the notion of access. Now in Commonwealthland, being a developing country, the intention or rather the notion has always been to ensure that you create breadwinners. This is very much a common occurrence amongst many developing nations. What has happened in the past is that for most households, the

emphasis on breadwinners has been within the males in the household. If I have a particular amount of money and it is only enough to transport one of my children back and forth from school every day, then the notion up until this point has always been across the gender divide and that is another issue that exists in terms of binary. But in terms of how we are going to ensure that women are empowered, it is what the Minister of Education has stated in terms of creating better access. We want to assist with better transportation facilities to ensure that more of our people, more of our women have access to transportation. Once again, I encourage all Members of Commonwealthland to not look in terms of the binary, to not look in terms of the gender, to not look in terms of your entire understanding of identity pertaining to a particular topic when you are dealing with matters of meritocracy. Look at the merit of the individual at hand. That is why, I appreciate your question because women within our country have not been given the same amount of equality, historically speaking. Our intention is to empower them much like we seek to empower the rest of the land.

QUESTION: Do you think just providing better access would help? Right to Education should be something which should be provided free of cost, be it the transportation or be it the fees of the schools. Why do we not see any such policies coming up in the Commonwealthland?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Now, you spoke about the Right to Education. That is a very key word that you used. All the people in Commonwealthland Have the Right to Education. The difficulty that exists is the affordability of education and those are two different things. There is not a single person who is not permitted to go and get education. What we are proposing is a step in the right direction towards making education more accessible. The reason why we focus particularly on transport as a jumping off platform, and I am emphasizing that it is a jumping off platform, is because we need to start somewhere.

(37/SRG)

In this instance, I call on all of my colleagues from the Independents and the Opposition as well, it is important that as a Government, it is important that as Parliamentarians, we put

our heads together and look for feasible mechanisms in order to ensure that we have more people who can access education. Once again, to reiterate, there is a difference between the right to education and being able to afford it and that has been our focus area.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): I think the Government is wildly out of touch with the Government's plea that the only problem is access to education is clearly a two-tier system in terms of education in Commonwealthland. We still have private education. So, clearly those who can pay for it can have a better education than those who get their education from the State. Not all State schools in the Commonwealthland are the same or provide the same level of teaching and education as well. So, this idea that the only issue in education is simply how you get there is just wildly out of touch and again something which many young people would disagree with and that is certainly not the position of the Opposition.

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): From Independents' perspective, we understand that there is a need to improve education, but I think the way to deal with in criticizing private

education is actually raising the bar for State education. Private education is not the enemy, it is actually an example how do you do things well and if you have to emulate the successes in the private sector, then we could raise and this is for all in the State to raise those bars.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (LEADER OF OPPOSITION): How would you suggest we do that without increasing the funds to State education?

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): That's for the Government to think about and come up with appropriate measure.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you so much for that. There is an issue with the statement made by the Opposition, they claim it is out of touch. What is truly out of touch is the notion of continually emphasizing equality when equity has not been emphasized. Now if I am from a disadvantaged background, and I go to get an education and immediately I am dropped within the space of private education, the rates at which the education are provided are different. That puts me at an immediate disadvantage because I need to take

more time to adjust and to assimilate with the rate of education. That would make us more equal but it would not make us more accurate and because of that I would be beginning my education at a disadvantage. The solution is not a copy and paste solution. We cannot just provide blanket private education, blanket public education. It is ensuring the proper assimilation. A good example would be for students who are within public schools. Looking at a mechanism to assist them moving from the transition from a primary to a secondary, to tertiary education because the culture shock between different basis of education has also been a very prevalent issue. Again, the point I am making, as I have stated before, it is that we are not in the business of selling dreams which is why I can only speak on a factual basis. These suggestions that I have made are not yet regulated on paper and I welcome all of our colleagues from Opposition and Independents to put forward legislation alongside the Government as we speak we are still conducting research within all of these focus areas because our intention is to ensure betterment of our people.

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): You keep speaking about dreams that you are not here for selling dreams and the Opposition believes that the teams of today can be the teachers of tomorrow. There are many things which would have never been possible and the people have been able to do so. It is not about dreams, we believe we just have to put the efforts to get them done.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): In terms of dreams and the reality, it is important to remind our hon. Leader of Opposition that there is a difference between dreams and there is a difference between optimism. Now you will remember that the Commonwealthland, the Empowering Commonwealth Party, we ran our election on the notion of empowerment. The word 'empowerment' itself gives us a sense of optimism of hope, encouragement, being honest with our people. We are not selling them dreams, but that does not mean that we do not have dreams. And there is a crucial difference, because I can lie to you and make you feel good but I am actually not helping, or I can work hard with my Government, with you, with the Independents to ensure that we put something on the Table. The

point that I am making is how can I approach you if I do not have something on the Table and this is something we will continue to work on.

QUESTION: Hon. Prime Minister, taking from the dream and optimism point that you just mentioned, can you please talk about the high infant mortality rate, the under-nutrition and the shortage of medical personnel in Commonwealthland?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Thank you very much for that question and I very much appreciate it. The high mortality rate is one of the most heart-breaking factors within the Commonwealthland. Our youth, our children are our future. It is something that we emphasize on continually. That is why our Government has placed major emphasize on getting more young people in Government that are supposed to creating more young people centric organization. We want our young people to be in Government alongside with us.

Now, in relation to the mortality rate, in all of these other factors and parameters, this is the reason why we are placing an emphasis on ensuring that we get more Foreign Direct Investment and a better increase and working relationship

between the public and private sector. There are many developments that are required. Many of our people, as was mentioned before, cannot access education. If I as a child, want to be a doctor but I do not have funds to go and study, I would want my Government to do everything in its power to ensure that I get a chance. Right now, the reason why we are generating income is that we need to give our people a solution now, because like you mentioned, it is now that people are dying, it is now that our children are falling away from us, our mother should never have to bury her children. That is why, if we can get hospitals up and running, if we can give public and private healthcare to improve in the shortest amount of time possible, we have the obligation to our people to do so and the quickest way that we have identified is to ensure that there is a great amount of investment and that investment would directly benefit our people.

QUESTION: My question is to the Government. Can you please explain to us what have you done for national sports of Commonwealth as it was not mentioned in the Bill? What are the funds that have been allocated to sports? What is the

national sports of Commonwealthland as it is also not mentioned?

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): The national sports of Commonwealthland, much like many developing countries, have to do with sports of football. By football, I mean it is a sport that is very, very crucial in terms of development. Just about any other country all over the world, it is easy for I as a child to get my hands on a soccer ball to meet with my friends in the street or after school or in between class if I may not be able to play the game. The reason why it has not yet been mentioned is that because we are still newly elected within the Government. Our focus areas do include the expansion of the various sports within Commonwealthland. There are many sports that are not yet recognized by the Government and we need to ensure the development of the sports beginning at a basic level, and beginning at a basic level has to do with beginning within the schools as well. We cannot begin to address ensuring that we empower our children, our people in terms of sports, if we do not yet have a proper regulating body. It is unfortunate that in the previous administration, such a body

was lacking, which is why over the last 15 years at this point, you still have to ask what is the national sport of Commonwealth land.

(38/KMR)

But we are committed to ensuring, working alongside all of our stakeholders, the Opposition and the Independents, that we grow our sports. And this begins with a regulating body because we need to ensure that there is fair play in our sports, and our athletes understand the parameters of competition so that they may go beyond our borders and represent us well.

QUESTION: The first part of this question is addressed to the Government and the second part is addressed to all the three groups.

What approaches are taken by the Government to save the environment especially against the industries which are emitting carbon? Secondly, what is the rate of penalty proposed against the carbon emitting industries as it is not mentioned in the Bill?

MS. RASHANA JONES (BARBADOS): Coming from a small island developing state where we face the brunt of these natural

disasters, Commonwealthland is very much aware of the effects of climate change on our economy and our people and in terms of our actions to reduce our emissions and our actions to also ensure that our people are safeguarded, we are looking at reducing our carbon intake. And since our agriculture is the main sector for our country, we are also ensuring that we carry about this sustainably so that we are not shooting ourselves in the foot.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): Your question was in relation to the rates of penalty. In relation to the rates of penalty, as was mentioned before, Commonwealthland does have a very strong affiliation to the United Nations Organisation. It is for this purpose we will be working with regulating bodies within the UN to establish the proper and clear method of establishing penalties in relation to ensuring that we reach Vision 2030 of the SDGs. Therefore, it is important to ensure that we do not operate in isolation. Because penalties might be said they do not meet international standards and in that regard it may have adverse effects for our relations within the international community, which is why it is important that we

communicate with our neighbours and with other states within the international community to set up the necessary penalties at the appropriate time.

MR. JOSEPH BARKER-WILLIS (JERSEY): We are generally supportive of the Government's attempts to align themselves with the UN Development Goals in terms of the penalties on emissions. One slight caveat I would note is that we are very keen not to go with a plate any such regulation and to make sure that Commonwealthland remains competitive. There is no point regulating yourself out of existence. So, whilst we support the Government and its allying with the UN, it is also important to take care of the economic interest of the business community as well.

QUESTION: My question is addressed to the Opposition and Independent members. What will be your advice to the newly elected Party to discharge their duties rightfully to the citizens of the Commonwealthland? What will be your advice to the ruling party in terms of discharging their duties rightfully?

MS. BANSEKA KAYEMBE (UNITED KINGDOM): I think the most important thing really is this is where Opposition really comes

into play. Both ourselves and the Independents play a really important role in kind of checks and balances on government power. If you have a relatively slim majority, that gives us quite a lot of power particularly. I think the Independents will also scrutinise government action and really make sure that they are delivering well to the people of Commonwealthland. I think our democracy and our constitution is strong. We have got that right balance in terms of making sure that the Government is reined in. Although we lost several amendments yesterday, we were also successful and came to an agreement across the parties, across the House particularly in terms of the reports in the Climate Bill yesterday. So, I am confident in this democracy that we have built and its ability to be able to balance government power and to ensure that they are always reflective of the people of Commonwealthland.

MR. JOSHUA OSCAR GONZALEZ MINERO (ACT): My colleague is absolutely correct. What the Government, us in the Opposition and the Independents need to do is just to make sure we listen to the people of Commonwealthland. If we just have open ears and maybe start engaging with the people and

getting out there and really listening to what they have say, we can be sure to govern well. So, I think what I would suggest to the Government is to ensure that they take the input that there is and listen to what the people of Commonwealth have to say. And that goes for everybody else.

MS. MELE LOLANE MAVAETANGI/HAVILIA FONUA (TONGA): I want to just add on to the advice that the Opposition has been giving. As an Independent, I would appreciate a bit more of a unified party because I do understand that there are some opposing Members within your party. It is funny that when we were talking about your commitment to the UN, there are people in your Party that are more supportive of you being close to the UN when your policies move towards the ADB. There are things like that. But I think it will just put much more trust on us fellow Members in the House and the Opposition if we just put more trust in what the Government is proposing, all the policies, all the legislation that we are all working together for the people of the Commonwealthland.

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. DAVID KABWE): If I can just add on to what has been said, I will begin with the hon. Member from

the Independents. It is important to remember the structure of the world system. Remember, we cannot operate in isolation. Remember that in order to benefit our people we need to have a holistic, and I will use that word again, holistic understanding of what it is that affects our borders and the people within those borders. Within the United Nations there is the Security Council - the countries that are known as the Big 5 from Russia to China to the USA and so forth. Now, if you are aware that the UN Security Council has the ability to veto just about any decision that comes from the UN, then you would realise that a state's agency within the UN is limited to particular extent. And it is for this purpose that in recognising the UN as a legitimate body, we propose to continue affiliation. That is why in the same sentence we propose working with the ADB but still remaining affiliated to the UN to ensure that we can grow our country while still maintaining proper relations within the realm of international relations. And that is why it is not a disassociation with the UN. It is that much like any body we will not agree with everything. And that is okay so long as while we are operating

within the space, we keep the best interests of our people at hand.

In relation to the comment made by the Member within the Opposition, removing my earplugs I think I hear a very loud and resounding sentiment that what the people of Commonwealthland are saying is that they prefer our party to be the ruling party, which is why I am seated here and hon. Member, you are seated there.

MS. RASHANA JONES (BARBADOS): In addition to this we also believe that the Opposition was probably sleeping during our sit-ins seeing that we also mentioned we are using private, public sector partnerships and also going to grassroots levels to engage our young people, to engage our citizens. So, I am very disheartened at your comments because we as the Government continue to ensure that our citizens' needs are addressed adequately.

(CONCLUDED)