



**2021/2022 SESSION
of the
BERMUDA SENATE
OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

25 MAY 2022

In Chambers

*Sitting number 15 of the 2021/2022 Session
(pages 491–514)*

**Sen. The Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright, MBE, JP
President**

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BERMUDA SENATE**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
VIRTUAL SITTING****25 MAY 2022****10:00 AM***Sitting Number 15 of the 2021/2022 Session*

[Sen. the Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright, President, presiding]

The President: Good morning, Senators, and the listening audience.

The Senate is in session.
Shall we pray?

PRAYERS

[Prayers read by Sen. the Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright, President]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT**APOLOGIES**

The President: Senators, I would just like to indicate that I have received apologies from the Vice President, Senator Michelle Simmons, who is off Island.

Therefore, I will call on Senator John Wight to speak to the Confirmation of Minutes of the 18th of May 2022.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The President: Senator Wight, you have the floor.

Sen. John Wight: Thank you, Madam President.

I move that consideration of the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 18th of May 2022 be deferred.

The President: Is there any objection to that motion?

No objection. The Minutes are deferred.
Thank you, Senator Wight.

MESSAGES

The Clerk: There are no messages, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Mr. Somner.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The President: There are none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President: We have two announcements and both are in the name of Senator Arianna Hodgson. The first one being in her role as the Junior Minister of Finance and the second one as the Junior Minister of Health. Senator, you have the floor.

[No audible reply]

The President: Senator Hodgson?

An Hon. Member: One second, Madam President.

The Clerk: Senator Hodgson, you are muted.

**BERMUDA MONETARY AUTHORITY ANNUAL
REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

I hereby present for the information of Senate the Annual Report and Accounts of the Bermuda Monetary Authority for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The President: Thank you. You can continue with your second announcement.

**PHARMACY AND POISONS (FOURTH SCHEDULE
AMENDMENT) ORDER 2022**

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President. I hereby present for the information of Senate the Pharmacy and Poisons (Fourth Schedule Amendment) Order 2022 as made by the Minister responsible for Health under the provisions of section 48A of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1979.

The President: Thank you, Senator Arianna Hodgson.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

The President: This is also in the name of Senator Arianna Hodgson in her role as the Junior Minister of Health.

Bermuda Senate

Senator Hodgson, you have the floor.

PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19) EMERGENCY EXTENSION (NO. 4) ORDER 2022

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I am pleased to invite this Honourable Chamber to consider the Order entitled Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022.

Madam President, Honourable Senators will be aware the current public health emergency Order is scheduled to lapse on the 30th of May 2022. The emergency orders which have been in place since the 30th of June 2020 following the state of emergency put into place on the 1st of April 2020 are made pursuant to section 107A of the Public Health Act 1949 and declared that a public health emergency exists in Bermuda due to a communicable disease that poses a threat to the Island.

The Clerk: Senator Hodgson, you are just reading the notice of motion right now. So it should just be the notice of motion.

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: I do apologise.

Madam President, I hereby present for the consideration of Senate the Draft Order entitled the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022 proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for Health under provisions of section 107A of the Public Health Act 1949. I give notice that at a later point in the meeting I will move that the said Draft Order be approved.

The President: Thank you, Senator Hodgson.

PETITIONS

The President: There are none.

STATEMENTS

The President: We have one Statement this morning and it is in the name of Senator Owen Darrell, the Junior Minister of Education.

Senator Darrell, you have the floor.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, good morning and thank you.

The President: Good morning.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM—BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, today I would like to provide an update to the Senate and the listen-

ing public on the tremendous amount of work that is being done with the Ministry of Education, the Department of Education, and the Learning First Programme.

It was in March that I last provided an update on the work going on with those groups. But I am happy to say that there is still much work taking place and great things to report about.

MATH INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, one of the three Rs that form the foundation of learning in school is, of course, "aRithmetic," more commonly known as Maths. While the methods have changed over time, their importance has not. As important as this core subject is, what we found was that our students were not performing at levels that were comparable with their peers around the world.

Madam President, a solution was needed, and a solution was found. In early 2018, through the efforts of the principal and math teacher at Harrington Sound Primary School, a school that I am proud to say my children attend, a programme offered through Primal Academic Innovations (PAI) was piloted at Harrington Sound Primary School. The success of this year-long pilot was noted and in 2019, the Department of Education contracted Primal Academic Innovations to deliver a phased mathematics intervention programme in the public school system. Primal Academic Innovations Limited has a strong track record of transforming schools that have underachievement in mathematics into becoming centres of mathematics excellence.

Madam President, PAI was tasked to improve the quality of teaching mathematics through training, resources, support, and leadership development. Their work included:

1. training and coaching of teachers with low-performing classes;
2. curriculum development;
3. assessment of materials for standards-based grading;
4. guidance to schools falling behind due to COVID-19 restrictions;
5. development of teaching resources;
6. assessment and analysis;
7. guidance to math teacher leaders and school principals; and
8. monitoring student work to ensure standards increase.

Madam President, the work of PAI has proven to be exactly what our system needed. From 2019 to 2020 compared to 2020 to 2021, the data has shown that primary student outcomes have doubled, and in some cases, tripled. These are outcomes that this Government wants to see and will continue to build on.

Madam President, this math programme aligns directly with Education Reform, which is to increase academic rigour and enhance the quality of teacher practice and systematic leadership. PAI will continue its great work as the programme expands into our middle schools and senior schools. Over the next 15 months, starting in [September 2022](#), this will include:

1. monitoring, training, and writing analysis for supporting the effective delivery of the math mastery programme;
2. assessment analysis and curriculum modification for identifying and closing gaps in student learning due to COVID-19 and other disruptions;
3. a Math Mastery Summer School to equip Primary 3 to Middle 3 teachers with tools to close the achievement gap in math resulting from COVID-19;
4. conducting an IGCSE math assessment gap analysis for all S2 students at the senior school level;
5. development training for transitioning middle school teacher delivery to signature senior school curriculum; and,
6. develop a cadre of strong mathematics teachers as experts in the subject knowledge of math associated with world-class teaching.

SIGNATURE LEARNING PROGRAMMES FOR OUR SENIOR SCHOOLS

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, we have discussed several times in this Chamber that our Signature Schools will include Signature Learning Programmes based on sectors of the economy and society. These Signature Learning Programmes will:

- help each and every student to follow their passions;
- build on their talents; and
- achieve their career and further education aspirations.

Madam President, in September 2022, incoming S1 students entering the Berkeley Institute and CedarBridge Academy will be educated in a way that has never been done before. I am very pleased to share that the incoming S1 students will, in addition to their Core Curriculum, have access to:

- signature curriculum which is relevant for our children of Bermuda and globally;
- a model of teaching and learning which incorporates authentic, real-world learning experiences and meaningful projects, attentive to the differing needs of each and every child;
- assessment which demonstrates what children have done and can do, as well as what they have learned;
- graduation requirements which ensure that children who leave with the Bermuda Signa-

ture School Diploma have the necessary experience, skills, knowledge, values and relationships to take up jobs or apprenticeships in their chosen profession or trade [and] contribute to the requirements for entry into colleges and universities;

- system policies, procedures and frameworks that will support and sustain 21st century learning.

Madam President, this has been achieved by collaboratively “co-designing” our future schools and a school system with teachers, students, parents, and business and community leaders, informed by research on best practices worldwide and supported by our change partner Innovation Unit. I cannot thank those involved enough for their tireless work.

WORKSTREAM CO-LEADS

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, learning just like I described will require an education system with a different mind-set. For these new learning models, teaching and schooling to be sustained, they will need to be nurtured and enabled by reoriented systems, policies and procedures. In addition to working on what happens inside the school, the workstream teams involving principals, teachers, Department of Education officers, and partner individuals and organisations have been advancing the necessary changes to our system conditions. I now wish to highlight the work that has been advanced in just one of these workstream teams, the workstream focused on Learning Partnerships.

Madam President, just as our community will be successful when education is successful, our system will also be successful with the community's involvement. The Signature Learning Partnerships Workstream has been working diligently to foster relationships between the Department of Education and each respective business to bring the real-world experiences that students will require. There is much to be gained from these partnerships not only [for] students but teachers as well. The Partnership teams have described several opportunities for teachers to connect with partners through various opportunities like externships.

Madam President, Signature Externships are professional learning opportunities for teachers to connect the classroom to the workplace through explicit time spent in industry/sector environments [and] alongside professionals. This kind of engagement enhances not only teachers' professional development but their ability to teach students as they can bring real-world understandings that will motivate and excite students. This, Madam President, is the kind of reimagining of education that will improve our system.

Madam President, as the largest and most varied employer in Bermuda, I am pleased that the Government of Bermuda has truly embraced the idea

of being a Signature Learning Partner. There is no Government Ministry that our Signatures do not touch. There is no department that does not have something to offer our students, and I am pleased to say that they are all motivated to provide learning opportunities for our students.

Madam President, I am excited about what these partnerships mean for our students and the Government. I wish the same level of excitement for businesses in the community. There is still time to get involved and be a partner. Whether you are a mom-and-pop small business or a large business with dozens of employees, you can support and provide opportunities for students and for our teachers.

I encourage everyone to reach out to www.learningfirstbda.com to figure out how they can be a part of this education reform.

BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, on April 1, 2022, the Minister of Education announced that Parish Primary schools and the next Signature Schools anticipate opening for our young people in the academic year, starting September 2023. These schools are as follows:

- Francis Patton [Parish] Primary School site;
- Purvis Parish Primary School site;
- Hospitality and Tourism and Education Services Signature School (at a site to be confirmed).

Madam President, in addition to the work needed for the anticipated introduction of two Parish Primary schools and another Signature School, the work at Signature Schools opening in September 2022 will continue. Work is needed to build the Health and Social Care and Financial and Insurance Services Signature Learning [Programmes] for years S2 and S3 at the Berkeley Institute, and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math [STEM] and Trades and Professions for years S2 and S3 at CedarBridge Academy. Additionally, we will expand the features of Signature Schooling into the core curriculum at both senior schools.

Madam President, the Ministry of Education is establishing School Transformation Teams to participate in the designing, prototyping and implementation of new models of teaching, learning and schooling. The School Transformation Teams will bring together education professionals, parents, business and community members who are passionate about redesigning Bermuda's public schools to best prepare young people for a purposeful and thriving future.

Again, I urge anyone interested in collaborating to build an improved school system for Bermuda to visit www.learningfirstbda.com and express an interest in joining a School Transformation Team.

EDUCATION REFORM IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, over the past 26 months those involved in Education Reform have been incredibly busy and there has been little time to rest. Across the remainder of May and June, we will induct and onboard the new School Transformation Teams, bring the teachers involved in delivering the new Signature Learning Programmes together across two weeks for a learning and planning immersion, and continue to engage each and every teacher across the Island in professional learning on the features of our transformed system.

Madam President, to enable this, the Commissioner of Education recently announced to parents and the school community that we are bringing forward the end of the school year. The last day for students will be June 24, 2022, rather than June 29, 2022, as published on the academic calendar. This was not an easy decision to make and required the department's senior leadership team and the Ministry of Education to weigh up the advantages as well as disadvantages in terms of children's learning, the inconvenience to parents and families and the longer-term vision that we have for learning.

Madam President, the continued transformation of our school system is a complex and challenging undertaking that requires the engagement of each and every educator across our [school] system. These extra three days at the end of the term will allow our schools to work with undivided attention, ensuring that we are even more prepared for the next design and implementation phase.

Madam President, we understand the disruption that this unexpected closure may cause, and [we] have connected with our colleagues at the Department of Youth and Sport and they will commence their summer camps a week early and start on Monday, June 27. Registration for camps will be online and they started this morning, May 25. Please note that spaces at the camps are limited. To help parents and guardians manage these adjustments to the school year, there [will be] no charge for the first week of the summer camp. More information on summer camps can be found in the school newsletter, called *Scoop*, sent from the Commissioner of Education to every family. It was sent last Thursday, May 19, as well as [being] on the Youth and Sport website.

Madam President, transforming an education system is no easy feat, as I have said before. It has required and will continue to require sacrifices from each and every one of us. I wish to thank our parents and families, teachers and leaders across the system, and members of the community for their continued support and effort to improve the quality of education for our students.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell, Junior Minister for Education.

The President: You have your three questions. So you can carry on when you are ready.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The President: There are none.

FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

MARRIAGE AMENDMENT ACT 2022

MOTOR CAR (LIVERIES) AMENDMENT ACT 2022

The President: The following Public Bills have been received from the Honourable House of Assembly and are now read for the first time. Their titles are, respectively: the Marriage Amendment Act 2022 and secondly, the Motor Car (Liveries) Amendment Act 2022.

FIRST READING OF PRIVATE BILLS

The President: There are none.

QUESTION PERIOD

The President: Senators, you now have the opportunity to ask questions of the Junior Minister of Education, Senator Owen Darrell, who has just given you his Statement on the Update on School Reform.

Would any Senator care to speak?
Senator De Couto, I see your hand up.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Yes, I wasn't sure if Senator Smith pre-empted me there.

Sen. Ben Smith: No, no, you can go ahead.

The President: I did not see Senator Smith's hand. Did you indicate, Senator Smith?

Sen. Ben Smith: Not yet, Madam President.

The President: Senator De Couto, then you have the floor.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President.

May I just ask, because this is [my] first time, can you just confirm the right way to ask the question as to click the raised hand on the Webex?

The President: Yes, certainly. To attract my attention, I need you to indicate . . . or you speak . . . then I will acknowledge you.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, for—

QUESTION 1: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you for clarifying that. As you know, many organisations have their different conventions at these virtual meetings, so we will feel this out.

I must say, I was particularly pleased to hear the Statement from Senator Darrell. I am, like many here and most of us in Bermuda, an incredible fan of the power of education to uplift and develop ourselves. And as we know, and especially math, which is very consistent with my personal educational background, and an important tool for careers and today's more complicated modern lives. So I am particularly pleased to hear about the success of this Primal Academic Innovations (if I heard that correctly), at the Harrington Primary School.

So my first question would be, and in the context as I understand this to be sort of . . . it sounds like it is an outsourcing arrangement. So I would like to understand how outsourcing will play a role in the general overhaul and improvement and reshaping of our education system going forward versus what role the permanent staff would play. That would be my first question. Shall I go to my second question?

The President: You can respond to the first question. Senator Darrell, would you like to receive . . .

Sen. Owen Darrell: Outsourcing. I don't think I used the term *outsourcing*, but I think what Senator De Couto is referring to is *training*. These organisations, or companies, come in to help train the staff. Once the staff is trained up, basically they can carry the mantle from there. So I think that is what he was asking.

[Audio skip]

Sen. Owen Darrell: —they play a role from us changing from one system to another.

The President: Senator De Couto, that was your first question. Do you have a secondary one, or . . .

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Yes. Thank you for that clarification. I do have a follow-up on that one. Do we envision many external companies coming in to provide training in many of the future initiatives? Is that something we can expect to see a lot more of?

Sen. Owen Darrell: I don't if you can quantify "many." But if we identify that there is expertise out there who

can come to this Island and train our educators to help transform our system and make it one of the best systems in the world, yes, you can anticipate some more.

The President: Senator De Couto that was your first question and your supplementary, do you . . .

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: I have a second question.

The President: Carry on.

Sen. Ben Smith: May I ask a supplementary off of the—

The President: Certainly, Senator Ben Smith, Opposition Leader [in the Senate]. You have the floor.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Ben Smith: Yes, the Junior Minister was just saying that obviously we are going to bring these experts in to do training. Once the teachers in Bermuda have received that training, they will be the ones that implement. Can the Junior Minister give us an indication of how often this group will have to return to Bermuda to check up on how the implementation has worked?

Just because normally what will happen is they are going to give you the information and they are going to want to check up to make sure that we are following the information the way they have laid it out. If the Junior Minister can just let us know whether there will be follow-up and how often that follow-up will happen.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Yes, the follow-up of these teams coming in to assist will be as needed.

The President: Senator Robin Tucker, do you have a supplementary to that [first] question?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Robin Tucker: Yes, I do have a supplementary question. I am interested to know, how long is the initial contract?

Sen. Owen Darrell: I believe the initial contract ends later this year.

The President: Senator Ben Smith.

Sen. Ben Smith: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

So if there is a cost for the initial contract, can the Junior Minister let us know whether there will be a follow-up contract that will be needed in order to get this group to come in and do the follow-up visits?

Sen. Owen Darrell: Absolutely. I am sure they are not going to come back and sign another contract for free.

The President: Thank you, Senator Ben Smith.

Senator De Couto, you can move on to your second question.

QUESTION 2: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President.

I was pleased to hear the update on the Signature Schools, let's hope that they are as successful as they can be.

I did have a question about this site that was planned for the hospitality-focused school. I have in my memory that originally the T. N. Tatem site was mooted for this and I was quite confused because my understanding was that this site had been determined not to be fit to be a school. So I understand of course that the Hospitality Signature School site is TBC, [to be considered]. Perhaps the Senator might provide some information about the possible sites being considered for that school. Thank you.

Sen. Owen Darrell: As mentioned in my Statement, it is to be determined, so once it is determined we will bring it to the Senate and we will let you know.

The President: Senator De Couto, do you have a supplementary?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: No, Madam President. Thank you.

The President: Thank you.

Senator Robin Tucker, are you indicating you have a supplementary?

Sen. Robin Tucker: No, Madam President, I have a new question. Sorry.

The President: Senator De Couto, you had your two questions. Did you have a third?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: No, thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you.

Senator Robin Tucker, then you have the floor.

QUESTION 1: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Robin Tucker: Thank you, Madam President.

Again, I share my colleague's sentiments in terms of the importance of education and certainly the

importance of making sure that we get this right. So whatever resources we need to have then, you know, it can only be a good thing.

I am just wondering, though, can the Junior Minister share with us any data that reflects specifically the students who were identified, the year groups, maybe, that were identified as low performing and specifically how the programme that has been implemented has improved those scores? And for clarity, I am just wondering whether the data that we have been provided in the chart includes all the students, or is there any information that he can share that is reflective of the students who have specifically . . . sorry, the years that have specifically been identified as low performing?

Sen. Owen Darrell: Let me . . . if I understand it correctly, you had two questions there. One was which year level was performing below standard, particularly, right?

Sen. Robin Tucker: Yes, so I am just trying to get an appreciation for the real and the true impact of the programme that has been piloted. That's all; just trying to get a good appreciation of it.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Okay. I do not know if this is going to completely answer your question, but I am going to answer it the best I can here.

All levels were reviewed, right? And as stated in the Statement, in general, overall math proficiency across all levels was particularly low. Now I know from personal knowledge that when this first started, the pilot was actually done at P4 at Harrington Sound, I believe. And the reason I say that is because I think when it started my daughter was actually in P4. So, that does not particularly answer your question, but I am sure there was a reason why they decided to start with P4. And once I get further information, or the data that you are asking for, I will certainly share it with you. At this time I do not have it.

Yes, that is the information I am getting. It was one class that started at Harrington Sound and then they decided to spread it to all schools because the programme was such a success. Like I said, I just happen to know that the class that they started in was P4 at Harrington Sound.

The President: And your second question, Senator Robin Tucker?

QUESTION 2: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Robin Tucker: I am also wondering whether there is . . . sorry. Apologies. Thank you, Madam President. And I thank the Junior Minister for his response as well.

I am wondering whether there is going to be any enhancement for the guidance counsellors as it relates to helping the students to follow their passions as was mentioned in the Statement. Often we have students who are of particular ages who do not have a clue about what they want to do. And then sometimes there are parents who do not know how to help support those students either. So I am just wondering whether the department will be shoring up the guidance counsellors as well to help them to help the students to be steered in the right direction. Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Well, to that end I can speak to at least one of our public schools. The CedarBridge Academy has a designated career counsellor. They have been on that path for a while where there is one particular counsellor that students can go to and discuss different career options and they do all sorts of assessments to see which direction they may be good at and they want to go in. And I cannot definitively speak, but if the counsellors are involved in this redesign of the education system, I can pretty much bet that they will be getting additional training to have some of those career talks a lot earlier in the schooling process.

You know, there are different trains of thought as to when you have the conversation about a career with students. I know there are some people who go to university and do one or two years and still have no clue which career choice they want to make. And some counsellors would say that this is a good way of figuring out where you want to go, as well.

So, like I said, I would look to get definitive answers for you on that. But I do know that career counselling is already happening in at least one school, and I am sure that counsellors will undertake to do more of that at maybe the middle school or primary level going forward.

The President: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Tucker, do you have a supplementary to your second question? Or third question?

Sen. Robin Tucker: A supplementary, please, Madam President.

The President: Carry on.

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Robin Tucker: If the Junior Minister can tell us how many guidance counsellors there are in the system this would be helpful. It is important for the reasons that he mentioned, that they have a guidance counsellor at CedarBridge; however, if we do not have them throughout the schools then obviously there

could be a breakdown there. So if he could tell us exactly how many guidance counsellors are in the system, that would be helpful. Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Thank you, Madam President. And thank you, Senator Tucker, for your question.

Currently I can confirm that every public school in this system has access to a counsellor or has a counsellor assigned to them. And work is already underway with the counsellors now.

Going back to your previous question, I just got more information on it so I will tie it all in here. Previously, or this year, there has been signature test programmes that have been run [for] the M3 students. And these programmes actually helped the M3 students to choose which signatures they wanted to go into it. So those programmes are being run. Next year this programme is being extended, or expanded for M2 and M3 students to help them to identify their passions, talents, and interests before making choices to go into the Signature Learning Programme.

The counsellors . . . we are actually in this new system changing the name of counsellors a little bit. Some of them are going to be called “career advisors.” And career advisors, along with the middle school teachers, are involved in designing these programmes that you are asking about. And they will build upon what is best practice and [in] this space they will relate to employment and study opportunities here and overseas.

So thank you for your question. It seems to me as if there is quite a [number] of those programmes and counselling and career advisors currently happening in the middle school level.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell.

Senator Tucker, do you have supplementary to your third question?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Robin Tucker: Yes, Madam President, I do. Thank you. And again, [I] thank the Junior Minister.

My question is whether there are specific initiatives to involve the parents in that aspect as well. [What I am referring to is] in sort of any guidance being given to the parents to help support the initiatives of the guidance counsellors and of course the teachers in helping the students to determine career options and certainly the direction of Signature Schools that they may choose to apply to. Thank you.

Sen. Owen Darrell: What an excellent question. Thank you, Senator Tucker. You must have been reading my notes.

The young people and their parents are actually involved in this programme. So this programme of career advisors and the signature tester programmes have included the young people as well as their parents.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell and Senator Tucker.

Would any other Senator care to ask questions?

Senator Ben Smith, Opposition Leader in the Senate, you have the floor.

QUESTION 1: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Ben Smith: Thank you, Madam President.

Just following on with the pilot programme that was introduced by Harrington Sound School, could the Junior Minister let us know if once the initiative had been put forward to the department from Harrington Sound and the decision was made to move forward with the pilot, did the department look at any other programmes while that pilot was happening and then make the decision that, because of the success of this particular programme, they decided to stay with it? Just because it seems that the programme came out of Harrington Sound, I just want to make sure that we . . . because there is going to be costs associated with it, there are going to be experts coming in, and this is a change for the long haul, did the department look at any other organisations in this process?

Sen. Owen Darrell: I am sure that there were others that were looked into. Just do note that the pilot programme at Harrington Sound was actually funded by a private donor. I just want to put that out there. So, that is how that got started. There was a need. I know the PTA at the time at Harrington Sound—and let me declare my interests, I am not on [the PTA]. The PTA at Harrington Sound was very instrumental in getting this group here.

So at this point I cannot speak to how the decision was made to expand it, other than the huge success that it had. And if we were to do a little bit of research, PAI are leaders in their field in this area. But your specific question, I do not know at this time who else was looked at as far as options and why the specific reason other than their success rate . . . was to expand it beyond that. But if something comes, Senator De Couto, I will make sure I pass it to you.

The President: It was Senator Ben Smith’s question.

Sen. Owen Darrell: I got it, Madam President.

Senator De Couto knows exactly why I said that comment.

The President: You highlighted him, yes.

Senator Ben Smith, you have a supplementary?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Ben Smith: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

So, following all of that line with Harrington Sound, not only there being a pilot, but kind of being on the cutting edge of looking for a way to improve their school, not just what they are doing, but the results of their students, are there any other initiatives that are being put forward by Harrington Sound that we should highlight at this point? Considering how important this particular one is and its success rate, is there one for science? Is there one for English? The Junior Minister might be able to speak—

[Audio skip]

Sen. Owen Darrell: Sadly, I do not know of any other programmes that are currently being held at Harrington Sound. But there may be programmes happening at other schools. And I know that Harrington Sound was highlighted in this statement simply because of the math programme and the success that they had. So many times we see headlines in publications of how bad things are, and I don't recall a headline in said publication of how successful this was at Harrington Sound and highlighting the individuals who initially did the research to bring them here.

But I am sure that there are other successful programmes. I know I can speak to Francis Patton, and the work down there that the Principal Mr. Todd Fox, is doing [was] started years and years ago by Ms. Garita Coddington, the "Leader in Me" programme. I have no doubt that the success of the "Leader in Me" programme is one of the reasons why Francis Patton was chosen as one of the first Parish Primary Schools to actually get started. So that is another programme. I know we have been talking about Harrington Sound, but I can specifically talk about the one at Francis Patton that has been happening for many years with success.

But I can undertake to get a list of different pilots or different programmes that are happening in middle schools, primary schools across the Island and their success rates.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell.

Senator Smith, you have an additional supplementary or second question?

Sen. Ben Smith: I just wanted to thank the Junior Minister for reaching out to get that information because, as he said, most of the time when the discussion is on public education it tends to be on the negative side. So if there are programmes that are working well, we need to highlight them. And that is the reason why I think it is important that we highlight what Har-

ington Sound has done and if there are others we could do the same [highlighting for them], because the success of these students is important to all of us.

The President: Absolutely.

QUESTION 2: UPDATE ON SCHOOL REFORM— BEYOND SEPTEMBER 2022

Sen. Ben Smith: Madam President, my final question is about the closing of schools early. I fully understand that as we are going through this major transition it is going to mean that you are going to have to get the teachers and the organisers and everybody together in order to do this development. And there have been issues in the past of trying to increase development time while cutting into teacher off-time. So I know this would have been one of the reasons they had to make this difficult decision. But for me, knowing that we have had issues over the last couple of years with COVID-19 and missed school and the potential of some of our students falling behind, can the Junior Minister give us any indication of whether programmes are going to happen in the summer that are going to target those students who have had issues of falling behind because of COVID-19? And considering that now school is going to be finishing a little bit early. Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Senator Ben Smith.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Well, it is interesting. And let me just use it to say this. It has been very unfortunate that over the last two years there have been interruptions because of COVID-19. And I will take this opportunity again to thank the parents who have stayed at home and they have done the online learning with their students and they have done the extra research. I mean, there is a former student of mine who has started her own business of tutoring her daughter and different programmes to help learning. So around this Island there have been many examples of people who have filled the gap and the shortcomings. Even my children, they have had additional tutoring from my mother (who is a former educator), and there are stories [like] that all around the Island.

I want to skip forward to the three days that the Department of Education has decided to close schools. Traditionally, as an educator, and another Senate colleague who is a former school principal, will tell you that there is very little in-class instruction that happens on that last day of school. Everyone has known since we have been in school that the last week of school if used for school picnics. It is used for school field trips to go maybe to parks, because the weather is so nice, and [there are] beaches that our students may not ordinarily get to go to. And if that was going to happen regardless of a day or two lost with COVID-19, that is not something that the school

teachers and principals were going to take away from our students. These field trips and fun days, let's call them, were going to happen regardless.

And we just feel that what better department to run summer activities and educational programmes than the Department of Youth and Sport. So I think it was a good collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Youth and Sport to say, *Well, how can we still make this a beneficial week for our students?* They will still learn. I was informed about an hour ago that my son has been signed out to one of these camps. And he is looking forward to it. He loves to go to the beach. And that is going to be a learning experience for him, although it is outside of the classroom.

So, I do understand your question, Senator Smith. I understand that this is an easy target to say . . . and I am not saying you are targeting, but to say, *Well, what about the time lost to COVID-19?* Respectfully, I would say to all parents and all educators and everyone would know that (again, I will repeat myself) that last week teachers find very unique ways to educate students. And it is not necessarily in the classroom with textbooks and assessments.

For the most part, as a former educator, grades are actually due weeks before the final week of school. So you have to submit your grades to the grades administrator. The grades administrator then takes a couple of days to verify them. After they are verified they have to then be put in the system. Teachers (I will say) who do not have enough time on a good day have to spend time late at night putting in grades and putting in comments for report cards. So, if we can use these three days to enhance our education system going forward and allow other agencies to educate our students in the fun traditional ways that they would normally have anyway, I think it is a win-win for everyone.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell.

Senator Ben Smith, do you have a supplementary to that?

SUPPLEMENTARY

Sen. Ben Smith: Yes, Madam President.

I guess the point that I am trying to make, and Senator Darrell knew I was trying to connect the two things together, not because I was looking specifically to those last three days because everybody who has been through the school system understands that those last few days are going to be more fun. But really, based off of even the response by the Junior Minister, where he talked about how there are some initiatives that have helped some of the students, and that is going to be based off of the parents who have gone out of their way to find that opportunity for their chil-

dren and give them more to make sure they did not fall behind over the last two years.

But it is important to know whether there has been testing done to know that there are specific students who have fallen behind during this period and whether there will be some initiative over the summer to help them to catch up considering that we have had the interruptions.

And it becomes an easy point to say, *We have taken another three days off and they have had other days off.* I would rather move away from that point and figure out how we are going to support the students who potentially need more help over the summer so that they can take on these great initiatives that are supposed to happen in September.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Yes. And to answer that . . . I'm sorry, you did ask that the first time and I forgot to [answer] that part.

Summer school will be offered as normal. And I will say, even before this decision was made, as happens every year, any students who are involved in the learning support, or extra classes, per se (I don't know the term that they are using now), would have had their (kind of) end-of-year meetings with their students and with the parents and give an update. What happens is evaluations are done at the beginning of school. Assessments are done. And if a child is in need and they need services, they help them throughout the year. And if we get to the end of the year and there are still some gaps, that child would be referred to summer school. And summer school is happening as normal this year.

And it is always a delicate balance, right? It is a delicate balance with making provisions for our current students and ensuring that we give ourselves, going forward, the best chance to improve the system for every young person. So, to answer your question, yes, students who have fallen behind due to whatever reasons, will be given the opportunity. They probably have already been assessed, their parents have been notified, and the process of putting them into summer programmes in ongoing and taking place at this time.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell and thank you, Senator Ben Smith.

Would any other Senator care to speak to this Statement?

No other Senator wants to put questions to the Junior Minister?

Hearing none, we will move on.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The President: The first order of the day is the consideration of the Draft Order entitled the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022.

And this is in the name of Senator Arianna Hodgson, the Junior Minister for Health.

Senator Hodgson, you have the floor.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 71(2)

Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move that Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that the Senate may now proceed with consideration of the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022.

The President: Is there any objection to that motion?
There is no objection. Carry on.

[Motion carried: Standing Order 71(2) suspended.]

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

I move that the Senate do now take under consideration the Draft Order entitled the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022.

The President: You can carry on Senator Hodgson.

DRAFT ORDER

PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19) EMERGENCY EXTENSION (NO. 4) ORDER 2022

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President—

[No audio]

An Hon. Senator: Madam President, it appears—

The President: Senator Hodgson, we can't hear you.

Sen. Arianna Hodgson: Oh, I do apologise, Madam President. Sorry.

Madam President, I am pleased to invite this Honourable Chamber to consider the Order entitled Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022.

Madam President, Senators will be aware that the current public health emergency order is scheduled to lapse on the 30th of May 2022. The emergency orders which have been in place since the 30th of June 2020 following the state of emergency put into place on the 1st of April 2020 are made pursuant to section 107A of the Public Health Act 1949 and declared that a public health emergency exists in Bermuda due to a communicable disease that poses a threat to the Island.

Madam President, the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads easily and quickly, but we can

slow its spread by following basic public health advice such as wearing a mask to cover our nose and mouth, as well as physical distancing and practicing good hand hygiene. We can also avoid the three Cs—closed spaces, crowded places and close contact settings—to reduce the opportunities for infection to spread.

In addition, Madam President, we are fortunate in that the COVID-19 vaccine has been available to any resident who wants it. We have fully vaccinated 74.4 per cent of our population now and even with the highly transmittable Delta and Omicron variants, the vaccine's effectiveness remains high. As a fully vaccinated person, you can still test positive and still contract COVID-19, but you are less likely to get severely ill, less likely to end up in a hospital and less likely to die. Our own data continues to show this to be true. Hospitalisations and deaths are overwhelmingly among people who are not vaccinated rather than people who are vaccinated. Although the Government's mass vaccine campaign is at an end, residents continue to have access to the vaccine through participating medical practices and pharmacies and by appointment at the Hamilton Health Centre.

Madam President, as the Minister of Health, the Honourable Kim Wilson has indicated to our Bermuda community many times, it is clear we must ensure we live safely with COVID-19 because it will be with us for a long time both locally and globally. Declared as a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization in January 2020 and confirmed as a global pandemic in March of that year, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet. While the Government has relaxed various public health measures, there are some settings where restrictions cannot be eliminated.

Madam President, as a reminder, you must wear a face mask when travelling by bus, ferry, taxi, limousine or minibus (and this applies to both passengers and operators), while working in or visiting health service providers such as doctors or dentists, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, et cetera, health services such as a hospital, dental facility, laboratory and residential care facilities, et cetera, whilst visiting or working at correctional facilities and inside the L. F. Wade International Airport building.

Madam President, several businesses have set their own mask requirements for staff and customers. These are appropriate for their establishments and all members of the public must comply with these requirements.

Madam President, the coronavirus is very easily transmitted. It is mainly spread from person to person by small virus-containing droplets that are exhaled when an infected person is speaking, singing, coughing, sneezing or breathing. Well-fitted masks are a simple and effective form of personal protective equipment forming a barrier from getting and spreading respiratory infections. In addition to the continued

requirement to wear masks indoors, we also recognise it is important to apply essential controls at our border which are specific to and meet the challenges of COVID-19.

Madam President, the Minister of Health consulted with the Chief Medical Officer and determined that a communicable disease of the first category, namely COVID-19 and its variants of concern, do persist and continue to pose a severe threat to the public health in Bermuda. To control and contain the spread of infection, public health measures, such as those provided for in regulations made under section 107B of the Public Health Act 1949, will continue to be relevant and necessary beyond the 30th of May 2022.

Madam President, this Order before us now will extend the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Order 2021 made under section 107A of the Public Health Act 1949 and empower the Governor to make public health emergency regulations [pursuant] to section 107B of that Act, which impose extraordinary measures necessary in the interest of public health to prevent, control, and suppress COVID-19.

Madam President, Honourable Senators will be aware that the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 3) Order 2022 was made under the affirmative resolution procedure for 60 days, expiring on the 30th of May 2022. However, we know the COVID-19 pandemic continues globally and is still pervasive in Bermuda. We also know a public health emergency will continue to exist on our Island beyond the 30th of May 2022. Therefore, in accordance with sections 107A (3) and (4) of the Public Health Act 1949, I bring the Public Health (COVID-19) Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022 to this Honourable Chamber to seek approval for the extension of the public health emergency for a further 60 days ending on the 29th of July 2022.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Arianna Hodgson.

Would any Senator care to speak on this Order?

Senator Robin Tucker, you have the floor.

Sen. Robin Tucker: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you to the Junior Minister for the update that she has brought us today.

Madam President, I think we all recognise that the pandemic is not over, and it is still very much with us. We have, however, Madam President, seen the relaxing of quite a number of restrictions. We are seeing the return to large gathering sizes, in fact this week we are all preparing for the Bermuda Day holiday, the marathon and the parade and the like. So there is a lot of returning back to normal, and certainly people, the public, are doing what the Minister and the Junior Minister indicated in terms of learning to live with COVID-19.

So, Madam President, I want to say this: With the Government's mantra to learn to live with COVID-19, and they are absolutely ensuring and encouraging that we do so, I am still at a bit of a loss as to why we need to continue extending the public health emergency orders. And, Madam President, one reason for that is that, again, we have been learning to live with COVID-19 for a little while now and, as well, it has been said previously in another place specifically that you know that we need to be able to make . . . if we need to implement restrictions and the like then this order is in place. However, Madam President, we have seen on occasion and most recently where parliamentarians have had to come in the room very quickly. They have been able to be galvanised very quickly and execute on their business. So I am not particularly convinced that this is the primary reason why we need to extend this particular order.

Madam President, I would say that a question would be, What conditions would be required in order for us to no longer need these emergency orders to be extended? Surely there must be an end somewhere. Is the end related to perhaps the Travel Authorisation, which is supposed to come to an end in April? What is the signal? As we know, COVID-19 is with us indefinitely. Will we have these extensions indefinitely? Where does it come to an end, Madam President?

So, as we are learning to live with COVID-19, as we continue to extend these emergency orders, I would specifically like to know from the Junior Minister if she could share what conditions would be required for us to . . . I should say Government to determine that these emergency extensions can be brought to an end and that they are no longer required? Surely there must be some trigger point. So if we can get an answer to that, it would be great.

So, with those comments, Madam President, again, I thank the Junior Minister for bringing the Order, and I look forward to learning if there is a response.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Senator Robin Tucker.

Would any other Senator care to speak on this Order?

Yes, Senator De Couto, you have the floor.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you to the Junior Minister for the presentation of this.

We know that the impact on Bermuda and the world from COVID-19 and its associated illnesses and deaths and family tragedies has been severe and has impacted many, many people. We know to our west over about one million people have died in the United States, and many, many people in Bermuda have lost their lives tragically and unexpectedly.

Unfortunately, we know that this virus is with us. And what is going on now is probably no longer extraordinary. And there are some real concerns with giving the Government this extra discretion outside of the normal channels for us to operate in terms of creating these regulations, and so forth. My colleague, Senator Tucker has spoken about how easy it is for us to come together like this to address specific issues for the country. And you know it is my view that this is really about the Travel Authorisation.

The Junior Minister referred to border controls. We know that the Travel Authorisation has been a huge burden. And I am going to give you some examples of that. We have been calling for its abolition since June. We look to the south where we are competing against the Caribbean among other jurisdictions in tourism. They are opening up, and visitors are streaming in and have a very streamlined experience to visit. But here, we know that visitors are struggling and are being held back and taking on extra expense.

International business is being impacted. We know of a long-time Bermuda company that wanted to have a major celebration and chose to not host it in Bermuda but moved it to Florida, at a loss of a very large amount of income to the local economy. We know the board members for international business, which we rely on as a pillar of our economy, are being delayed or blocked from attending their board meetings and carrying out their business in Bermuda, not being provided with Travel Authorisations in time. So this is actually having a major knock-on effect. It is holding back our tourism and, you know, negatively impacting major drivers of our economy.

And it brings some real—

An Hon. Senator: [Madam President, Senator De Couto is] misleading the Senate.

Another Hon. Senator: Point of order.

The President: Sorry, I did not recognise who was speaking just now.

I heard someone speaking and they did not ask for recognition. I don't know who was speaking, so Senator De Couto, you may proceed.

An Hon. Senator: He is misleading the House.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Madam President, as I was saying, the Junior Senator referred to the border controls that this Order is enabling, which, to me, would include the Travel Authorisation documentation. And I was referring to the cost of that on Bermudians.

I know, for example, that the people are stuck on hold while traveling internationally—a \$180 cell phone bill trying to get through to the hotline. So these costs are not just the upfront cost to people. Think about our seniors and those who are not as technically savvy who are struggling with this just to exercise

their right to travel and to return. We know that it is possible to do better. We know that other jurisdictions are less cumbersome. And if we wish to have things like, you know, vaccine requirements, we know that this could be done without this fee and without all of this excessive paperwork. We know this because it's happening elsewhere.

Then to the topic of this being an emergency that requires special Government discretion that we are being asked to approve here outside of the normal procedures. Here are some emergencies to which I wish the Government would pay this kind of attention: Gun violence and murders, I view that as a public health emergency, and those whose families have been affected I think would agree with me. You know, perhaps we should see some orders about the funding for the police. How about the lack of firefighters, this may be quite a public emergency in the East End, I know it is impacting the airport and the access to emergency services for the residents there. And while we heard about some positive up-ticks in education here, we know that the continued lack of a suitable education for our children is in fact a public emergency for Bermuda. And, you know, lack of trash trucks. And that is a sanitation issue. Again, I view that as a health situation.

So, we know from experience that when this Government has been given extra discretion that it has not been well exercised. And since this Government is in front of us asking for extra discretion, let me give some examples of where it is exercised poorly. We know that the Government exercised discretion when it gave almost \$1 million to a scam artist in the Savvy [Entertainment Ltd] studio.

You know that this Government exercised discretion when it paid Ewart Brown.

The President: Senator De Couto, can you speak to the Order that is before us?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Yes, Madam President. I am speaking to the Government's track record of discretion.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Also Madam President . . . Point of order.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: I am speaking with respect to—

The President: Senator Darrell.

POINT OF ORDER

[Sub judice]

Sen. Owen Darrell: I think the senator is actually speaking of actual cases that are still in front of the courts. So I think he should probably withdraw those statements, Madam President.

The President: Senator De Couto, if the cases are *sub judice*, then you are not allowed to speak to them.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Okay, I will speak—

The President: You will speak to the Order at hand.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Yes, Madam President, of course

As my colleague, Senator Tucker, referred to, we know that people have the information they need. We know that the vaccine is effective. We know that people who do as they are provided information to do are getting better outcomes. So it is my opinion that this Order is less about the people's public health, because all the components to ensure the people's public health are in place and do not require extra Government discretion. But they are really about enabling this extra Travel Authorisation fee. And I have a lot of concerns about that.

We know that people are testing themselves. People will travel, they will get a test overseas, they will get a test at a private facility. So we know that the \$40 fee is no longer covering tests. The fee that comes through the Travel Authorisation comes through this emergency order. So it is clear that the Government doing this is less about enabling the health of the people, because we know that there are other routes for that. We know this is really about the money. We know that Government budgeted for this money. So it is hard for me to reconcile the concept of an emergency order that must be regularly reviewed by the various bodies with something that has been put into the budget. It indicates the Government isn't even truly considering this as an emergency basis. It is just another fee that this Government is placing on the people, like the sugar tax.

So, you know, these taxes are piling up. Government is getting them. But what is the average Bermudian getting for that money? That is my concern, that this Order is not truly addressing the underlying issue, and it is just a way for the Government to grab tax.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Senator De Couto.

Would any other Senator care to speak on this Order?

Senator Ben Smith, you have the floor.

Sen. Ben Smith: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I am just going to ask specific questions. Could the Junior Minister let us know what specific parts of the Emergency Order continue to be necessary considering that the hospital is not overrun? We are in a situation where most people are testing at home using antigen tests. In a lot of cases the numbers that we have seen published in our country are not as accurate as they as they were in the

past because people are testing positive and just self-isolating. So the numbers are not part of the overall official numbers.

Because we have changed our restrictions the way that we have, I am just wondering what part of the emergency powers are necessary for us to continue in this direction. As my Senate colleague, Senator Tucker was stating, if we knew what those benchmarks were then I think the community would have an understanding of why we continue to move the emergency powers forward and when they could expect to see those change.

And then one final specific question. If the emergency powers ended today would the Travel Authorisation continue, or does the Travel Authorisation have to be part of the emergency powers?

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Ben Smith.

Would any other Senator care to peak on this Order?

Sen. Owen Darrell: I would like to just say a few words, Madam President.

The President: Senator Darrell you have the floor.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Yes, I just want to raise a couple of points that the One Bermuda Alliance, especially Senator De Couto, continues to raise. It is actually quite interesting to me as I sit here and listen to the Senator from the other side bounce all over the place rather than speak to the fact that we are still in a pandemic. And if we are still in a pandemic, Madam President, this Government will do, and will continue to do everything to the best of our ability to lead this country and to keep our people safe. There are still people around this Island who are scared to come outside of their homes. There are people in this country who still think that we may not be doing enough to protect them. But yet, the Senator who spoke a few moments ago wants to bring up that a TA form is hurting tourism.

I am not going to go back to a debate from last week, but it is actually quite funny and ridiculous that the Senator will say that a TA form of \$40 is hurting tourism when he was quite happy seven days ago to keep a hotel shut and to send Bermudians home and line up outside of Global House looking for financial aid. Madam President—

The President: Senator De Couto, what is your . . . you have a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President, the Senator is misleading the Senate. I be-

lieve we were quite clear last week that all of us were unanimous in that we wanted that hotel to open. The question was the cost to the future of Bermuda.

Thank you.

The President: Carry on, Senator Darrell.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Thank you, Madam President.

So, what we have today is when my colleague wants to extend through the Minister of Health the Emergency Powers Order, and it is a matter of health, we have the One Bermuda Alliance, through Senator De Couto, bringing up a whole lot of social issues that he thinks are connected to a pandemic. But I would like, since he wants to go there, to ask Senator De Couto and his One Bermuda Alliance colleagues, and there would be no surprise to the people of Bermuda that the alternative for not having this TA form is trying to find funds from other sectors of the community to take care of our health needs. So what would the One Bermuda Alliance like to do? I am sure Senator De Couto and his colleagues would love to send public officers back on furlough days. I am sure Senator De Couto and his colleagues would love to take money out of the pockets of the public officers of this country. I am sure Senator De Couto and his colleagues would love to take money from the gang mitigation task force which Senator Tucker so eloquently tried to blast about two weeks ago in our daily publication.

So I ask Senator De Couto, what are the alternatives for his party as far as making Bermuda safe and trying to find revenue to actually keep Bermudians safe? The alternatives are—

The President: Senator Darrell, there is . . . Senator De Couto what is . . . do you have a point of order?

Do you have a point of order, Senator De Couto?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Yes, Madam President.

The President: What is your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

[Misleading]

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: He is misleading the Senate by saying things that I did not say.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Senator Darrell, do carry on.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, I would like to also answer and rebut a point made by Senator Smith. And Senator Smith asked, and it was a good question, when will the Emergency Powers end? And my answer to Senator Smith, quite frankly, is when the powers that be in Bermuda and throughout the world decide that the pandemic is officially over, then

we can actually revisit and say that maybe we can end our emergency powers or health powers. But the key thing is to keep Bermudians safe and to continue to find ways to supplement the cost that it . . . that it is taking to actually keep our country safe.

So I actually applaud the Minister of Health and the Junior Minister for bringing this to the Senate today. And I just wish that individuals like my great Senate friend over there from the One Bermuda Alliance would be able to stay focused on helping Bermudians instead of trying to score cheap political points amongst other issues that have absolutely nothing to do with the health of Bermudians.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell.

Would any other Senator care to speak on this Order?

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Madam President.

The President: Yes, Minister Peets, you have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Thank you, Madam President. I certainly do not want to take too much time away from the Junior Minister in responding and speaking to this issue, but I just have to reiterate what I think we already know. And that is that the World Health Organization has not declared that the pandemic is over. It has not switched from a pandemic to an endemic. As such, it makes very, very good sense from a public health point of view to be cautious, but optimistic; to be progressive, but also to be careful.

So we are still trying to balance the best way to open up the economy, protect our health care system and keep this country moving forward. And this is something that this Government is passionate about. There is no one-size-fits-all, per se. We are certainly taking the advice from people who provide the necessary guidance or information. We are also taking a look at what is happening inside of our country as well as outside of our country as it relates to the decisions that we are making. But we can absolutely say with great confidence to the listening public that this Government is focused, one, on keeping this country safe; and two, moving this economy forward. And the [extension Order we are seeking] today we think is balanced as well as reasonable.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Minister Peets, Government Leader in the Senate and the Minister of Youth Culture and Sport, and spokesperson on legal affairs.

Would any other Senator care to speak on this Order?

Hearing none, then Senator Arianna Hodgson it is back to you.

Sen. Adrianna Hodgson: Thank you Madam President. And I would like to thank Members of the Senate for their comments this morning, as well as my teammates for providing some of the responses that I had planned to give.

I can say that the Emergency Order will continue to be necessary again as long as the public health emergency that we see worldwide continues to exist. As a short answer to Senator Smith's question the TA system would definitely remain in place if the emergency powers were to end today. And I want to make it clear that the two do not rely on each other.

We obviously recognise that COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on travel and tourism and our local economy. However the TA system was the one element I would say that made it possible to really protect our health system, to protect our borders and delay the arrival of the variants of concern on our Island. Obviously we can understand the politics surrounding the matters and the inconvenience, I would say, expressed by a small percentage of persons. But I would say that I truly believe that the benefits outweigh the inconvenience, particularly in this instance, Madam President.

I would like to reiterate that the alternatives to scratching the TA would mean cutting services, raising taxes and/or borrowing more money. And unfortunately, Madam President, we are not in a position to do those things. So, yes, that TA will be around until March 31, 2023.

I would also like to note that the principles and practices of seamless travel are a priority for our Ministry. The Ministry encourages all travellers to apply for the Travel Authorisation as early as possible. They have even extended the window up to a month before travel to allow the quarantine authority to do their necessary checks. So we are making the efforts. I think that the public can do their part in assisting the team by applying as early as possible.

And I would also like to just say that generally our tourism sector is showing signs of recovery. Our hotels are full. Our cruise ships are filling up. And, while there have been some challenges, I think that the general consensus is that our TA is doable. Sure, we can make some things a bit shorter, or we can remove some of the pieces. But I think that we will take the necessary steps to streamline the process as much as possible.

I do believe I have answered any other questions that . . . oh, sorry, yes, I did want to highlight the fact that the Emergency Order is necessary for the mask mandate. And, ultimately, we are looking to protect our vulnerable people. We have to protect those in our correction facilities, those within our rest homes, those within our hospitals. And we definitely want to protect our airport. So, yes, we will continue to extend the Emergency Order as necessary.

The President: Thank you, Senator Hodgson.

And you will now make your final comment and move this Order.

Sen. Adrianna Hodgson: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move that the said Draft Order be approved and that the following message be sent to Her Excellency the Governor:

May it please Your Excellency: The Senate having had under consideration the Draft Order entitled the Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022, proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for Health under the provisions of section 107A of the Public Health Act 1949 has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said Draft Order.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Arianna Hodgson.

Is there any objection to this Order being sent to the Governor?

Hearing none, the Order has been approved and the suitable message will be sent to the Governor.

[Motion carried: The Draft Order entitled the Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Extension (No. 4) Order 2022 was approved.]

The President: Thank you, Senators, for your deliberation.

We now move on to the next item on our agenda.

MOTIONS

The President: There are none.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

The President: Would any Senator care to speak at this time?

Yes, Senator Tucker. I saw your hand first. You have the floor.

Sen. Robin Tucker: Thank you, Madam President.

I would like to express condolences to the families of several people.

It is weighing very heavily on me that we are in this period where so many people are passing away. And, again, we expressed condolences to you during our last meeting, but I also want to take this opportunity to express condolences to all families that have lost a loved one.

Specifically for me, Madam President, I would like to express condolences to the family of Craig

Musson. I remember Craig from Warwick Sec. I was a few years ahead of him, but I just remember him being . . . I don't know if you have experienced that person in high school who is a nuisance. And he was a nuisance! He was short and a pest. But he was very much loved by everyone. He got along well with everyone. And I was very shocked to see that he had passed away. So condolences to his family.

I would also like to express condolences to the family of Junius Burrows, otherwise known as JB. I used to live on Farmstead Lane in Somerset where JB's plumbing shop was. I also used to work with his lifelong partner, Pat. So I know them quite well. I haven't seen them in recent years. You know, I again want to express sincere condolences to Pat and of course JB's family.

As well [I express condolences to] the family of Florette Gibbons. A thousand years ago I worked with her at, I believe, Bank of Butterfield. She was a lady with lots of personality and always dressed to the nines. Never, as they say, was there a fly on her. So I certainly want to express condolences to her [family].

The last family I would like to express condolences to at this particular point is to the family of Millicent Minors. I was very shocked to learn that she had passed away particularly because just a week before I learned that she had passed away I actually was walking up the street with her on Church Street and we did a bit of catching up. I had hired her at one of the places where I had worked. I had worked with her probably five years, I want to say. If not, just shy of that. And every day Millicent was the same, a very quiet, kind personality. No drama, nothing. She was just a very, very lovely person. So, again, condolences to her family.

On the congratulations side, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all of the Bermuda college graduates. I am a two-time graduate of the Bermuda College, and I know very well what that feeling is like through blood, sweat and tears, going through Bermuda College. And getting that feeling of having your robe on and finally getting that piece of paper in your hand is the best feeling ever. So, again, I want to say congratulations to those students (well, former students at this point) and certainly wish them well and success in their future endeavours.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Robin Tucker.

I notice Senator De Couto. You have the floor.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, please allow me to associate myself with my colleague's comments, the condolences to all those who have lost friends and loved ones throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. It is not a very good outcome.

I would like to send my condolences to the family of Pamela Kempe who recently passed this week. The Kempe family is very large and a few of them are very close friends of mine and have had a large impact on their community and upon this Island.

Moving on to some more positive news, I would like to associate myself with my colleague's comments and congratulations to those graduating from the Bermuda College. And I would like to further congratulate all of those in our community who are taking that next step finishing one phase and leading on to the next, whether it be high school or university or certificate. I would like to congratulate them for their efforts and achievements in their . . . in their learning journey.

I would also like to congratulate several of my constituents. And I won't get into numbers, because I am just going to tell you that they all start with a nine, but they all had birthdays this week, or recently. But that is Miss Evelyn O'Neal, Miss Ursula Tyrrell, Miss Alice Redford, and Mr. Clarence Hill. And I am not going to call birthdays, but I would just like to congratulate them on their long achievements and marking another milestone. I wish them all a fabulous week-end.

Finally, I particularly would like to wish good luck to all of the participants on Friday's cultural and sporting events that I think are really unique to Bermuda, especially those involved in the various races which I will not attempt to enumerate. I wish them all great results, whether they be in the back or the front, but may they achieve their personal goals. And the parade, which I know will bring joy to everybody in Bermuda. We have been waiting for it.

And I would just like to make a special mention to all of those who will be in St. George's Harbour on Sunday in the traditional Bermuda-fitted dinghy races kicking off the season. Like many of our traditions this weekend it is truly a unique Bermudian experience. I wish them all a lot of success.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator De Couto.

Would any other Senator care to speak at this time?

Yes, Senator John Wight, you have the floor.

Sen. John Wight: Thank you, Madam President.

I would like to offer condolences to a long-serving employee of BF&M, now a retiree, Jan Wood-Swan whose husband, Benson, passed away recently. She's a lovely lady. I had the great fortune of working with her for many, many years. I am very sorry for her and her family's loss.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Wight.

Would any other Senator care to speak?

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Yes, Madam President.

The President: Yes, Minister Peets, you certainly can. And you have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Yes, thank you.

I certainly want to associate myself with the condolences shared by Senator Tucker. It was certainly a surprise and a heartfelt loss to hear about Millicent Minors. We certainly send our love and prayers out to her husband and her children, her mother-in-law and the entire family. She was a really special person. I am still grappling with the knowledge of her passing. So I certainly want to associate myself with those condolences.

Also, I just recently learned that a dear friend of our country, Charles Farmer, has recently passed. He may not be a name that may be familiar to most of us, but anyone who would have come through the Camp Spirit programme or perhaps is in recovery, Charles spent a number of years here sharing his love and faith and information and knowledge around recovery. Many people were able to find recovery through his leadership and his dedication to The Twelve Steps. So I know throughout the recovery community Charles was considered to be a real pillar. A massive loss to those of us who really knew Charles. So to his family and to all those who he mentored, we certainly send out love and prayers.

The President: Thank you, Minister Peets.

Would any other Senator care to speak at this time?

I recognise Senator Dill.

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: Thank you, Madam President.

I would certainly like to associate myself with all of the condolences that have been offered this morning, and, in particular, the condolences to the families of Florette Nash and Mr. Junius Burrows.

I would also like to share condolences to the families of two lovely ladies in the West End, Mrs. Marian Roberts, and Ms. Icilda Bean, who happens to be the great-grandmother of the infant who passed so tragically last . . . a month or so ago. So we certainly offer our sincere condolences and our prayers to that family as they go forward.

On a positive note, I join with everyone in congratulating our Bermuda College graduates and all of our graduates as we have seen the Facebook timelines light up with so many Bermudian students that have reached their goal, some at the bachelor's level and beyond. We want to congratulate them, but also commend the parents and the educators who have played an integral role in helping our students to reach these milestones. So congratulations to all of our students, our parents, and the educators.

Thank you so much, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Reverend Dr. Emilygail Dill.

Would any other Senator care to speak at this time?

Hearing none, then I would like to associate myself with the condolences that have been raised by Senator John Wight regarding Senator *[sic]* Jan Woods-Swan on the passing of her husband, Benson Swan. They both attend the church that I attend, so they are well-known to myself as well as the congregation.

I would also like to associate myself with the congratulations for all the students both here at the Bermuda College and any universities. I think that, you know, they put in the work. I was pleased to see that the Bermuda College was able to hold their ceremony outdoors. And I am sure they, as well as the fact that parents who were able to attend, enjoyed that.

So, with those comments it is over to you then. The adjournment, Minister Peets.

ADJOURNMENT

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Thank you, Madam President.

I move that the Senate do now adjourn to Wednesday, 8 June 2022.

The President: Thank you.

Would any Senator care to speak on the motion to adjourn?

Yes, Senator Lindsay Simmons, I see you. You have the floor.

FOSTER CARE MONTH

Sen. Lindsay Simmons: Thank you, Madam President. I am going to be [brief] today.

I just wanted to recognise that May is Foster Care Month, and I want to just thank the Ministry of Social Development and Seniors for bringing a tea in recognition of foster parents in Bermuda last week Sunday, because foster parents are unsung heroes in Bermuda. They take on the most vulnerable children and raise them.

I really want to thank Minister Furbert and her team and the team at Family Services for going out of their way to recognise foster parents because this is the first time I have been able to do it in person since two years ago. I want to thank them. I also want to thank the Foster Parents Association. I will declare my interest as the president, but the Foster Parents Association is a charity that helps to make sure that the foster children's needs are met in the community.

I also would like to encourage all Members in this Honourable Chamber and members of the com-

munity to recognise foster parents for the rest of this month. And if anybody is interested in becoming a foster parent, please, please reach out to Selena Simmons at 296-7575. I will repeat that number. The number is 296-7575.

It takes a great person to open their heart and their home to our children. So I would encourage everybody to do that. I have been an active foster parent for the past 17 years. And I still believe I hold the title for being the youngest foster parent at 24. But, you know, it is something that you can think you do not get thanked enough for, but I do want to thank the foster parents.

In closing, Madam President, I want to send out a message to all of our foster children. For some [children] life in foster care can be extremely challenging. Sometimes they feel displaced, alone, unwanted, disconnected, confused and unloved. We must recognise that these are real feelings, and we should always acknowledge their feelings. Always know, foster children, that you are not alone and that you are important no matter what the circumstance is. If you are given a firm place to stand, stand tall and concentrate on moving heaven and earth.

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you again to the foster parents and all of the foster children in our community. You are special!

The President: Thank you, Senator Simmons.
Would any other Senator care to speak?
Senator Ben Smith, you have the floor.

BERMUDA DAY

Sen. Ben Smith: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to just wish everybody an early [and happy] Bermuda Day. For those that prefer to call May 24th, May 24th, you know, celebrate all the people that would have celebrated that yesterday. But, really, as we move into this holiday weekend where we celebrate our country I think it's important not just for us to celebrate and enjoy our time with our community and with our families, Madam President, as we lead into any kind of holiday we always have to remind our community to be safe on our roads. This is always a time when people start to enjoy themselves a little bit more than normal, so be safe when you're on the road. Make the right decisions. If you're going to be partaking of alcoholic beverages, please make sure that you do not drive. Let's slow down on our roads.

But also, when it comes to our young people and some of the antisocial behaviour that we've been seeing, let's try to have a safe and non-violent weekend. So I am wishing the entire community a safe and healthy Bermuda Day weekend. Let's hope that when we see each other again we won't have to have more condolences to announce.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Ben Smith.

Would any other Senator care to speak at this time?

Senator Darrell, were you indicating?

No?

Minister Peets, then it is over to you.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Looks like Senator Robin Tucker.

The President: Oh, I beg your pardon, Senator Robin Tucker, you have the floor.

KEY QUESTIONS LEFT UNANSWERED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Sen. Robin Tucker: Thank you, Madam President.

I actually just want to say a few words following on from some comments that my Senate colleague, Douglas De Couto, made during his last motion to adjourn. And that is just following on concerning accountability.

Our role is to ask questions and to challenge when necessary. I recognise, Madam President, that we are under a Westminster system that is quite unique, to say the least. However, Madam President, I just want to encourage all of us that we are all in the room to try to make and do the best we can for Bermuda. And we have a unique opportunity to show Bermuda that we can be different, we can treat each other respectfully, and we can act differently and do the best we can demonstrating that we are doing the best we can for Bermuda.

We have differing opinions. We have differing viewpoints. And that's perfectly . . . that's great. It's great for Bermuda. But I would just encourage us—all of us—not to [view the Opposition's] questioning or a challenge [that] we put forward as an attack. And if it is, then I would encourage us not to do it, because at the end of the day we need to make sure that we're about Bermuda first and not about political systems. So, if we put Bermuda first in all that we do then we would be better for it as a country, as well as all of us individually.

So, as we have our little bit of a break, reconvening on June 8, then I would hope that we could reflect on what we are all in the room to do and certainly be mindful of showing the respect that we have for each other, because it has got to start with us first.

So, thank you, Madam President. I, like Senate Leader Smith, would like to also wish everybody a wonderful, restful, peaceful, fun-filled Bermuda Day holiday and Memorial weekend.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Robin Tucker.

Would any other Senator care to speak on the motion to adjourn?

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President.

The President: Senator Darrell, you have the floor.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, if you would allow me just a few moments. I listened carefully to the comments by Senator Robin Tucker just now. And it's very interesting the words that she uses: accountability. She accuses, I believe a veiled attempt to accuse the Government Senate team of interpreting—

Sen. Robin Tucker: Madam President. Madam President.

The President: Senator Robin Tucker.

Sen. Robin Tucker: Yes.

The President: You have a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER
[Imputing improper motive]

Sen. Robin Tucker: I do, because I feel like there is motive . . . unfair motive of what I was saying and my intent. If the Junior Minister could rephrase that, I would appreciate it.

The President: Carry on Senator Darrell.

OPPOSITION'S ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT

Sen. Owen Darrell: I am just getting into my comments. And the reason why I actually raised an eyebrow to the commentary that Senator Tucker was going on was because at the end of the session last week there was a Senator, a relatively new Senator, who decided that it would be a good idea to attack the Progressive Labour Party Government for their role in the Senate and their performance in the Senate. Quite frankly, a number of the people that this party represents took offence to the line of questioning and the innuendos that the Senate Member who once ran as a candidate for the United Bermuda Party was laying down last week.

Senator Tucker, with all due respect, I was going to leave this one alone too. But it's impossible for us as a Government to take with sincerity the calls of the One Bermuda Alliance of accountability and us not thinking that they are attacking the Government when a little over a week ago there was a headline carried by the One Bermuda Alliance champion that went on an attack of the work that public officers are doing on a daily basis to attempt to reduce the scourge of violence and gang activity that we see on our Island.

Sen. Robin Tucker: Madam President, may I interject please?

Sen. Owen Darrell: I have often said before—

Sen. Robin Tucker: I have a point of order.

The President: Senator Tucker, what is your point of order?

Sen. Robin Tucker: My point of order is that the article that the Junior Minister refers to was not an attack at all. It was simply highlighting initiatives and requesting information for accountability purposes. That is all that article was.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Senator Darrell, carry on.

Sen. Owen Darrell: And there goes the word again, accountability, which is almost insinuating that this Government is not doing all it can for the people of this country. And, quite frankly, it's interesting that the One Bermuda Alliance will come to this place, the Senate, and we especially saw it in the debate last week and we're seeing it again here that the Senate is now becoming the place where the three appointed OBA Senators seem to be having a lot of voice in carrying the message of the One Bermuda Alliance.

I question why are these similar comments not being heard in a different place? It's clearly some sort of strategic attack to bring these accountability attacks or these accountability questions by the One Bermuda Alliance to the Senate where they, and respectfully Madam President, feel that they have a better chance of influencing three other unelected individuals to carry the message of the people that were actually elected in another place to represent them.

Sen. Robin Tucker: Excuse me, Madam President. May I raise a point of order please?

The President: Senator Robin Tucker what is your point of order? It should be your last one.

Sen. Robin Tucker: My point of order is that the Junior Minister is not aware of the conversations that are being held amongst us. And, certainly, the people of Bermuda are sick and tired of all of the bickering. Hence, the reason for my encouragement.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Senator Tucker, that is not a point of order.

Senator Darrell, carry on please.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Interesting about what Senator Tucker talks about, that the people of Bermuda and this Progressive Labour Party are unaware of what happens in the One Bermuda Alliance caucus.

Let me help the people of Bermuda to understand what I witnessed last week. I witnessed during

the debate and 10 minutes before we were supposed to start a debate, I witnessed a Member from another place—who decided that he had to recuse himself from a particular debate because he had a particular interest—I happened to see him with my very own eyes meddling around the Chambers of the Senate to try to get his team in position to say what he couldn't say, or did not want to say, in another place where he is actually an elected official. So let's talk about accountability, and let's talk about what the people are Bermuda who the Progressive Labour Party go to bat for every single day do not see and are not seeing.

We can't hear Senator De Couto, so it is probably best that we don't hear him—

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Point of order, Madam President.

The President: Senator De Couto, what is your point of order?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: The Senator is getting quite personal in his comments, and I would urge him to stick to the topic. Thank you.

The President: That is not a point of order.
Senator Darrell—

Sen. Owen Darrell: Thank you, Madam President. I would urge the Senator who seems to have a strange case of amnesia right now, to go back and listen to his comments last week when he took a personal attack against myself when I was not even in the Chamber. So let's not talk about personal attacks and, *Oh well, we're just trying to do what's best for the people of Bermuda.* Absolute rubbish, Madam President.

As I have said before, and I actually said in the debate last week, and I say every single time, the Progressive Labour Party, Senator De Couto, is the only party that I have ever been a member of. It is the only party that I have ever won as a candidate for. It is the only party in this country that represents the people of Bermuda and represents what is best for the working class man and all Bermudians.

The President: Senator Darrell, your comments should be directed to myself as the President of the Senate. Thank you.

Sen. Owen Darrell: Thank you. I do apologise, Madam President.

So while Senator De Couto and his blog buddies would like to take attacks at the Progressive Labour Party on every single social media outlet there is, we will continue to work hard and fight for the causes of the Progressive Labour Party, and all 30 of my colleagues who sit in another place will continue to stand on their feet and speak to the issues that affect Bermudians. And they will not try some silly strategy to try

to bring it to a place where they think they have a better chance of fooling the electorate to think that they actually care about them.

So, Senator Tucker, while I believe that your comments may have come from a place of care and concern, I hope that you are also not being misled in other Chambers and not being shielded from some of the attacks of the One Bermuda Alliance.

Madam President, there is one particular Senator, and it is that plainly obvious that he comes with an agenda and he carries the red pompoms every single time he walks into this Chamber. And I, quite frankly, Madam President, will not sit here and allow such a Senator, who is brand new, to attack the Progressive Labour Party and my colleagues on the terms of accountability and not working hard for the people of this country. So, while certain Senators forget very quickly, and they seem to get their feelings hurt very, very fast, my memory is long, Madam President. There are pictures and there are articles that show certain Members who now sit in this Chamber marching for a different political party.

So, Madam President, I will end with this: The Progressive Labour Party in this place and another place will do its very best to work hard on behalf of all Bermudians to make their lives better.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Senator Darrell.

Would any other Senator care to speak?

Senator De Couto, do you wish an opportunity to speak on the motion to adjourn?

CALLING OUT ERRORS OF PLP GOVERNMENT

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Thank you, Madam President. If I speak too loudly, please advise. I do not want to damage anyone's speakers.

I had sincerely hoped I that we were all going to get to lunch today. I do apologise but I do feel that I have to address a few topics that I thought we might let lie in the interests of a pleasant weekend.

The PLP Government, which we have heard is representing the people, received only 16,000 votes at the General Election, out of 40,000 eligible voters. So I think it is safe to say that less than half of the eligible voters came out to vote for them. And, yes, they won, of the people who came out to vote. But a mandate it was not. Unfortunately, with our first-past-the-post system we know it ended up with 30 to 6. But a mandate it was not.

I also find it interesting how nervous this PLP Government is about the activity in the Senate. It is as if they do not have the confidence in the Bills that they are bringing and the way that they are approaching it. And we have seen that with the failure to provide the correct information, the failure to bring Bills that are even constitutional, the marijuana Bill, the cannabis

Bill that has been brought twice despite knowing that it could not be approved.

So while there are those out there who insinuate that we in the One Bermuda Alliance are knowingly trying to bring unconstitutional amendments, I can assure you that if we have made a mistake, which, Madam President, we fully respect your opinions and judgments and accept them, but we certainly would not have brought something that we knew well ahead of time could not be put into effect. Now talk about disrespect for our system of government, talk about failure to carry out their duties properly! Is this Government doing all it can for the people? No!

Let me repeat that. Is this Government doing all that it can for the people? No!

Look at the trash on the side of the roads. Look at the violence. Look at the health care outcomes. Now, the plans, we like the plans. Let's hope these plans succeed. But look at the outcomes. Look at the educational outcomes. We heard about some initiatives today which I do not want to rehash, but we learned they were privately funded. So is this Government doing all it can? Apparently not; it needs help.

Was I a member of the UBP? Yes—15 years ago. How many PLP Ministers today—

Sen. Owen Darrell: Point of information, Madam President.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: How many PLP Ministers today were former UBP Ministers, or leaders? That party does not exist anymore, Madam President. It is irrelevant. And I quit. It was not for me.

[Inaudible interjection]

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: So, if the guy wants to [INAUDIBLE] Madam President, let me retract that. If individuals wish to relitigate history, let's talk about 20 years of PLP Government mismanagement, crippling debt, generations uneducated, a shrinking population, infrastructure crumbling.

Sen. Owen Darrell: A point of order, Madam President.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: The PLP Government owns that, Madam President.

Sen. Owen Darrell: I think you are muted, Madam President.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Now, I would say this. I think I might take up a collection for—

Sen. Owen Darrell: Point of order, Madam President.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: —my PLP senatorial colleagues—

[Inaudible interjection]

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: I might get them neck braces because they must have whiplash to reconcile their political positions with the reality on the ground. And I point to my fellow Senator's article two days ago, maybe, in the *Royal Gazette* disparaging the outcomes of the America's Cup in the very same newspaper that the BTA was extolling the virtues of SailGP where we learned about all of the fabulous programmes that impacted young Bermudian sailors—not just those who look like me, actually.

So, again, I do hope that you recover from your whiplash, for those in the PLP.

I hope that the PLP Government can set their eyes forward. I hope that they can focus on outcomes and less on controlling, but more on enabling a better outcome for the people of Bermuda. Can we come to a Bermuda where our children have the opportunities that we had? Can we come to a Bermuda where they will have good health, and the health care outcomes that they need? Can we arrive at a Bermuda when everybody will receive the education required to be successful? Will we arrive at a Bermuda where the conditions are set for everybody to have a fulfilling, successful life in whatever that means for them, whether they drive a laptop or a truck, operate a shovel or a cash register? I hope so. And that's why I'm here.

And if I call out the errors of the PLP Government, I make no apologies for it. And am I waving red pompoms? Well no, and I am not wearing a red tie today either, actually, Madam President. But, of course, I do represent the OBA and the OBA's vision for the people of Bermuda.

Now, with that, Madam President, I bid you a safe and enjoyable and relaxing weekend. I thank you for the time to speak.

An Hon. Senator: Madam President, I think you are [muted].

The President: Yes, sorry about that.

Senator Dill, did you want to have . . . did you want to speak at this time Senator Dill?

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: Madam President, I had not asked to speak, but I certainly will, having listened to the—

The President: We cannot hear you, Senator Dill.

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: I am using—

An Hon. Senator: Perhaps maybe Senator Dill can turn off her camera to save a little bit of bandwidth.

The President: Senator Dill, it has been suggested that you turn off your camera and maybe we can hear you, because you are going in and out of us hearing you.

You have the floor, Senator Doctor Emily Dill.
Unmute, Senator Dill. You can speak.

CELEBRATING PLP GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSES

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: Madam President and my Senate colleagues, and certainly the listening audience, the comments that were raised by the last Senator . . . in listening to the speeches that went prior and certainly the appeal by Senator Robin Tucker in terms of the way that we can move forward . . . but to have listened to these comments which were extremely disingenuous and misleading, and to have watched over the years the ways in which the previous Government, many of whom are now part of the OBA . . . when we talk about the disaster of December 2, you know let's not talk about when you discuss the America's Cup and basically the fact that we struggle with is the debt that the OBA left us with, the high taxes that they raised, the changes that they made in the tax structure which have adversely impacted our economy and have left us with a Government that is now struggling to deal with the issues that were left behind by the last Government.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Point of order, Madam President.

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: I want to commend this Government—

The President: Senator Dill, can you . . . there's a point of order.

Senator De Couto, what is your point of order?

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: Senator Dill referred to the debt that was left by the OBA Government, when in fact the—

Sen. Owen Darrell: Madam President, that is not a point of order.

The President: It is not a point of order.

Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto: It is misleading.

The President: Senator De Couto, I will continue the Senators. I am in charge of this Senate, and when I recognise you, you can speak. And if I do not recognise you, I do not expect you to be interjecting.

Senator Dill, Doctor Dill, you have the floor.

Sen. Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill: Okay.

So I would just like to say that as we prepare to leave for this holiday that we celebrate the successes that this Government has had. As we have gone through a pandemic which had the potential to have wiped us out but this Government worked very hard and we continue to work to ensure that our community is safe. As we prepare for the restructuring of our school system and the school reform, I am excited about what I see when I go from place to place. Like you go from Ministry to Ministry and see how hard our government workers are . . . even with stretched resources, how [hard] they are working. They are innovative. They are committed. And I want to just commend this Government on the job that they have done.

I want our community as we get ready for Bermuda Day, for our celebration, to celebrate the fact that we have come through this pandemic. We continue to move forward. And together we are going to rebuild this community. Together we are going to eradicate the ills that, you know, were passed on to us. Together we can move forward. Together we will see our children excel. Together this community will move forward.

So a happy Bermuda Day to everyone. Have a blessed weekend. Let us work together, let us love one another, and let us be united in our commitment to make this community the best in the world.

The President: Thank you, Senator Doctor Emilygail Dill.

Would any other Senator care to speak?
Minister Peets.

PLP GOVERNMENT'S OVERWHELMING MANDATE

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Ernest Peets: Sure, thank you, Madam President. I get the distinct pleasure of speaking last.

I have enjoyed our Senate session today probably a little bit more than previous sessions. I will say for the record that 30 to 6 sounds like a mandate to me. We can make a lot of conversation about voter turnout. The truth of the matter is that the votes that did compile that day put the Progressive Labour Party in Government.

I thought I heard something about nervous. Never! I have never seen this party nervous. Focused? Absolutely. I thought I heard something about whiplash. And in my head I was like, seriously? Whiplash? The airport deal, Morgan's Point, leaving the incinerator in disrepair, that's the legacy of the Opposition. And with their famous failure I believe it popularised the song *So long Goodbye*. I remember that.

Whiplash? I would suggest, Senator, that's the unfortunate experience of the voters who put their faith in the OBA. And the deserved outcome for that was that the voters decided in the last two General

Elections to put their faith and trust in this Government.

[At 2:17 pm, the Senate stood adjourned until 10:00 am, Wednesday, 8 June 2022.]

I haven't heard anything serious about these talking points. Most of them are really void of anything serious, particularly given the insane poor track record of the Opposition. These are the things that I think the voters pay attention to. These are the things that are not lost on this Government. And I do severely and seriously hope that in future debates we actually see far more cooperation that relates to the overwhelming mandate that this Government has to fulfil the wishes of the people who voted this Government into power.

To deliver for its people we are appointed Senators working on the behalf of the elected officials of this parliamentary process. And it behoves us to pay attention to that and never forget the fact that we, in this Senate, as important as the work that we do [is], do not get or have the right to override the will of the people as it relates to the elected officials of another House.

So in a parting, as we continue to move forward into the next 48 hours, I certainly thank Senator Dill for her comments in wishing all of us a wonderful and happy Bermuda Day. Thank you so much to the Opposition Leader in the Senate, Senator Ben Smith for his wishes for Bermuda Day. Of course, our heritage and our culture is something that we need to celebrate, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity of spending some downtime with my family, as most of you are wishing and wanting to do the same.

So I look forward to having a great time on Bermuda Day. And I certainly wish [safety] and health to all of our listeners and all of you who are participating in our Senate session today. Thank you, and God bless you.

The President: Thank you, Minister Peets.

I would like to join you in your comments. And certainly remind each one of us that we are here to do the work of the people. We must do it respectfully, respecting ourselves and each other in this place, and the people we represent.

Yes, there is a full week of activities ahead, and they have been touched on by each one of you Senators who have spoken about all of the cultural activities, the parade, the St. George's Harbour dinghy race. And I would want us to enjoy all the activities with our families. But always remember to be safe.

With that, Senators, I bid you adieu and have a wonderful holiday weekend and we'll see you back here on June the 8th. Be safe and be safe with your families but enjoy the time that we've been given.

With that, the Senate stands adjourned. Thank you everyone.

Some Hon. Senators: Thank you, Madam President. Enjoy your weekend as well.

The President: Thank you.