

1 THE ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

2 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS OF  
3 THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION  
4 OF THE ELEVENTH ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
5 HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2016 AT 10:09 A.M.  
6 AT THE ATLIN NORALDO HARRIGAN, OBE, PARLIAMENTARY BUILDING,  
7 THE VALLEY, ANGUILLA

8 Presiding

9 Hon Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. Leroy Rogers

10 Members Present in the Assembly

11 Hon Member for Valley South, Mr. Victor F. Banks  
12 Hon Member for Valley North, Mr. Evans M. Rogers  
13 Hon Member for Sandy Hill, Mrs. Cora Richardson-Hodge  
14 Hon Member for Road South, Mr. Curtis Richardson  
15 Hon Member for Road North, Mrs. Evalie Bradley  
16 Hon Member for West End, Mr. Cardigan Connor  
17 Hon Member for Island Harbour, Ms. Palmavon Webster  
18 Hon Deputy Governor, Mr. Stanley Reid  
19 Hon Attorney General, Mr. Rupert Jones

20 In attendance

21 Clerk to the House of Assembly, Mr. Lenox Proctor  
22 Court Reporter, Miss Carla S. Ritchie  
23 Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Carl Ruan  
24 Chaplain, Pastor Darin Silvera

25 Absent

Hon First Nominated Member, Mr. Terry Harrigan  
Hon Second Nominated Member, Mr. Paul Harrigan

Court Reporting Unit  
Government of Anguilla  
The Valley, Anguilla  
BWI

DONE BY: CARLA S. RITCHIE, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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1 Meanings of Symbols and Words used in Transcripts

2 Dashes

3  
4 A series of two dashes (--) is used to show:

- 5 (1) Changes of thought: When the speaker has a  
6 sudden change of thought leaving a sentence  
7 unfinished to begin a new sentence or a phrase.
- 8 (2) Mid-word: When a speaker leaves a word unfinished  
9 and starts another word.
- 10 (3) Interruption: When a speaker is interrupted by  
11 another speaker. These dashes normally appear  
12 at the end of the sentence. When the dashes  
13 appear at the beginning of the sentence it means  
14 that the speaker continued speaking even though  
15 interrupted or resumed the sentence after the  
16 interruption.

17 The word (indiscernible):

18 Used when a word or phrase is unintelligible and cannot  
19 be transcribed due to interruption, simultaneous speech,  
20 cough, voice lowered.

21 The word (inaudible):

22 Used when a speaker cannot be heard.

23 The word (phonetic):

24 When the correct spelling of a word or name cannot be  
25 ascertained from available resource material the word is  
typed as it sounds phonetically and the word phonetic  
follows in brackets.

The word (sic):

Used when a speaker uses a term or word or figure/number  
that is known to be incorrect.

**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S**

(Meeting convened at 10:09 a.m.)

THE CHAPLAIN: Good morning,

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Assembly, let's pray.

Dear Father, we acknowledge you, we say that you are King and you are Lord and you are the Sovereign God, you're the source of all life. Every good and perfect gift comes from you. We look to you today for guidance, we look to you for wisdom. It is written in your word that the one who rules the people with justice, who rules in the fear of God is like the morning light when the sun rises on a clear morning, like the glisten of rain on sprouting grass. We ask today that the exercise of authority here would be with justice and would be in the fear of God so that this House of Assembly would be a blessing and would be considered to be like the light of morning, the sun rising of a new day. Your word says that the heart of Kings are like streams of water in the hand of the Lord which you channel and which you guide.

We thank you, Lord, for us hearing you and for turning the hearts of all here today to you. We thank you for your continued blessing upon Anguilla. Lord, cause ideas for the good of the people to emerge and to prosper. Lord, do a new thing and cause us to perceive it. Make a way in the wilderness and streams in the dessert. Help the leadership, Lord, to navigate successfully through these times. Give

1 Anguilla favour among the nations we pray. We thank you for  
2 these things in Jesus name. Amen.

3 (Members said "Amen".)

4 THE SPEAKER: Please be seated.  
5 Good morning to everyone.

6 (All responded good morning.)

7 And thank you Pastor Darin Silvera for giving  
8 the prayer today.

9 THE CLERK: Confirmation of  
10 minutes: Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the First Session  
11 of the Eleventh Anguilla House of Assembly.

12 THE SPEAKER: Did you have a chance  
13 to go through the minutes? Are there any amendments? It's a  
14 very thick minutes this time.

15 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: I dare say,  
16 Mr. Speaker, the staff is doing an excellent job. Of course,  
17 I only read what I say.

18 THE SPEAKER: Well we have to thank  
19 the Court Reporter for giving us these minutes prompt. Very  
20 prompt. Thank you.

21 Okay. If there are no amendments, the  
22 question then is that the minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of  
23 the First Session of the Eleventh Anguilla House of Assembly  
24 be confirmed. Those in favour?

25 (Members of Government said "aye".)

1                   Those against?

2                   (No response.)

3                   The ayes have it. Minutes have been confirmed.

4                   THE CLERK:                   Oaths of Allegiance:

5                   None. Announcements by the direction of the Speaker.

6                   THE SPEAKER:                Let me first say that  
7                   apologies from the two Nominated Members, First and Second,  
8                   for not being here today. They are both off island.

9                   Secondly, as you can see, our Leader of the  
10                  Opposition, she's wearing some block outs on her eyes and she  
11                  asked permission because she's having issues with her eyes  
12                  right now and permission was granted for her to wear them.

13                  MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Thank you so much,  
14                  Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate that.

15                  THE SPEAKER:                Thank you. Alright,  
16                  we may continue.

17                  THE CLERK:                   Papers: Anguilla  
18                  Financial Services Commission Work Programme and Budget, 2016.

19                  THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:        Mr. Speaker, I beg  
20                  leave of this Honourable House to lay on the table the work  
21                  programme of the Anguilla Financial Services Commission and  
22                  its budget for 2016.

23                  THE SPEAKER:                Thank you.

24                  THE CLERK:                   Reports from  
25                  committees.

1 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: No. One other paper.

2 THE CLERK: Oh. That will be

3 under the motion section.

4 THE SPEAKER: Under motion.

5 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: So you're moving it

6 now under motion?

7 THE SPEAKER: Yeah.

8 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Okay. I see.

9 THE CLERK: Reports from

10 Committees: None. Petitions: None. Government Notices:

11 None. Unofficial Notices: None. Questions: None. Motions:

12 Motion 455 for the approval of the Vehicles and Road Traffic

13 (Amendment) Order, 2016.

14 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Thank you,

15 Mr. Speaker.

16 THE SPEAKER: Yes. Member for

17 Valley South.

18 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg

19 move of this Honourable House to move the following motion:

20 *"WHEREAS the Executive Council at its meeting*  
21 *held on the 4th of February 2016 decided to put in place a new*  
22 *and more equitable schedule of fees for temporary drivers*  
23 *licences; and to reduce the fee for self-drive rental motor*  
24 *vehicles;*

25 *AND WHEREAS section 9(3) of the Vehicles and*

1 Road Traffic Act enables the Governor in Council by Order to  
2 amend or vary all or any of the provisions of Schedule 1;

3 AND WHEREAS the Governor in Council did by Order  
4 dated the 16th day of February 2016 amended two of the  
5 provisions of Schedule 1;

6 AND WHEREAS section 9(3) further states that an  
7 Order made thereunder shall be of no effect unless and until  
8 approved by resolution passed by the House of Assembly;

9 AND WHEREAS the Order is set out in the Schedule  
10 hereto;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that, under the powers contained  
12 in section 9(3) of the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, the  
13 House of Assembly approves the Order set out in the Schedule."

14 And the order in the schedule reads as follows:

15 "Made by the Governor in Council under section  
16 9(3) of the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act R.S.A. Volume 10.

17 Interpretation: In this Order the Vehicles and  
18 Road Traffic Act is referred to as the Act.

19 Amendment to the Schedule of the Act:

20 Schedule 1 of the Act is amended by under the  
21 heading -

22 (a) "Vehicle Licence fees" deleting "\$420" and  
23 substituting it with "\$300" in paragraph 4(c); and

24 (b) "Driver's Licence fees" deleting paragraph  
25 (f) and substituting it with the following -



1                   "(f) a visitor's temporary licence -  
2                   (i) for up to 72 hours, \$40.  
3                   (ii) for more than 72 hours up to 3 months,  
4 \$67.

5                   This Order may be cited as the Vehicles and Road  
6 Traffic (Amendment) Order, 2016."

7                   THE SPEAKER:                   Do you have a  
8 seconder?

9                   MEMBER FOR VALLEY NORTH:   Mr. Speaker, I beg to  
10 second that.

11                  THE SPEAKER:                   Yes.   Seconded by the  
12 Member for Valley North.

13                  MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH:   Mr. Speaker, members  
14 would be aware that we came to this Honourable House during  
15 the week of December 9 to 11 dealing with budgetary issues and  
16 subsequently we came back on the 28th (sic) and the 29th of  
17 December to move the enabling legislation to allow for the  
18 implementation of the adjusted fees on the Vehicles and Road  
19 Traffic Act, 2015.

20                  Mr. Speaker, as we say, the budgetary estimates  
21 for a given year are not cast in stone and from time to time  
22 members of this Honourable House will be confronted with  
23 concerns within the community from various groups with regards  
24 the impact of those fees.   And in fact, Mr. Speaker, in the  
25 House of Assembly during the passage of the legislation of the

1 Act regarding vehicle licence fees, we did make some  
2 amendments taking into account a number of issues, some of  
3 which have caused us to be back here today to bring more  
4 clarity in regulation adjustment to the Vehicles and Road  
5 Traffic (Amendment) Act.

6 Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment comes  
7 as a result of some consultations that took place by the  
8 Minister of Infrastructure who is also responsible for  
9 transport and a number of persons within the rental car sector  
10 regarding the unfairness of some of the measures that we  
11 adopted in that Act, in those regulations. And as a result of  
12 those discussions with the wider rental -- car rental sector,  
13 the Minister of Transport scheduled a meeting with all the  
14 representatives of the car rentals agencies who could make it  
15 and we had some discussions with them at the upstairs Lake's  
16 building where the sixth form meets a couple of weeks, maybe a  
17 month or so ago. And on the basis of the representations made  
18 a number of things became very clear, and that is that the  
19 vehicle licence fees of \$420 was put in place to create an  
20 equitable system of assessing the business licence fees for  
21 car rental agencies. At the time it was done, Mr. Speaker, at  
22 the time it was done the fees were very minimal and allowed  
23 for car rental agencies to be assessed for the purposes of  
24 business licence on the basis of the units of transport that  
25 they had. So, in other words, it would not have been fair to

1 grant a business licence for a small rental agency at the same  
2 rate that you grant a business (sic) for a large rental  
3 agency. So a methodology was used for equalizing that by  
4 saying that every vehicle in a rental agency would attract a  
5 price that when calculated would result in the business  
6 licence being charged to the car rental agency. So in other  
7 words, if you had 10 cars and the business licence at the time  
8 would have been something like \$100, then your business  
9 licence for the year would be \$1,000; if you had 20 cars it  
10 would be \$2,000. But as we went along, Mr. Speaker, the fact  
11 that the Vehicular and Road Traffic Act is contemplated to  
12 deal with the licences of vehicles, the licence fees that were  
13 assigned to the car rental agencies has a business licence,  
14 whenever the vehicle licence fees were increased,  
15 automatically they got increased. And they've gotten  
16 increased to the extent, Mr. Speaker, that they now stand at  
17 \$420 per unit. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that this would put  
18 car rental agencies business licence rate higher than even  
19 some hotel properties on the island, some large businesses,  
20 some professional agencies and so forth, so we believe that  
21 it's an unfair licence fee. So as a consequence, Mr. Speaker,  
22 we have decided to regularise it. Because at \$400 per unit it  
23 will mean that if you had 10 cars your business licence for  
24 the year would be \$4,000, and I can tell you that there are  
25 very few business that attract that level of licence fees.

1 And if you had 40 cars, of course, your business licence for  
2 the year would be \$16,000. That far exceeds, I'm sure, many  
3 of the rich lawyers and company managers and bankers and all  
4 those individuals pay as a licence fee, and we believe that's  
5 inequitable. So I heard their concerns, the minister and I,  
6 and we decided that we would make some adjustments to this to  
7 reflect a much more equitable business licence fee for car  
8 rental agencies. And we had discussions with the Inland  
9 Revenue Department, with the Department of Transport and the  
10 various agencies with the representatives of the car rental  
11 agencies and we decided to reduce that licence fee to \$300 per  
12 unit which would make it much more equitable for car rental  
13 units.

14 And the other issue, Mr. Speaker, the other part  
15 of the amendment has to do with the temporary licences. In  
16 this Honourable House we had increased the temporary licence  
17 fee from \$20 to US\$25. The temporary licence fee last for  
18 Three months. But the business that the car rental agencies  
19 do is sometimes to accommodate the day trippers, excursioners  
20 who come to Anguilla. They come to Anguilla and they rent a  
21 car for the day and in addition to paying for the car rental  
22 cost they also have to pay an extra \$25 for a licence, for the  
23 driver's licence. As you know, Mr. Speaker, when we get in a  
24 boat and go to St. Martin we rent the car and we go driving  
25 because we have a valid driver's licence in Anguilla. The

1 same thing when we go to the United States and any other part  
2 of the world, with some exceptions. So we thought that the  
3 case that the car rental agencies was making that to charge a  
4 day tripper \$25 in addition to the rate of the car rental was  
5 a bit excessive and therefore we listened to the presentation  
6 by the representative of the car rental agencies and we  
7 decided that we could make an accommodation by reducing the  
8 temporary licence fee and bringing it into two categories:  
9 One category for up to the first 72 hours, which allows for  
10 the day trippers, and one category for other persons who want  
11 a temporary licence up to three months. So we have created  
12 two categories. For the day tripper they have an opportunity  
13 to pay a licence fee of \$15 rather than \$25, and for the other  
14 temporary licence for three months they can pay \$67, which is  
15 of course US\$25. So we have EC\$40 and EC\$67 or US\$15 and  
16 US\$25. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that this will assist car  
17 rental agency to have a more equitable business operation,  
18 more competitive, and it gives us an opportunity to address  
19 one of the issues which the members of the community, the  
20 citizens, the business people have referred to us as a  
21 Government, just to show, Mr. Speaker, that despite the fact  
22 that persons within the community continue to talk about the  
23 Government of Anguilla increasing taxes, there are times when  
24 we make adjustments when you have the opportunity to see the  
25 situation. And even those tax measures that we put in place

1 we always try to ascertain that it is in the best interest of  
2 the overall good of Anguilla, and they are not excessive but  
3 they are necessary.

4 Mr. Speaker, I commend this Bill (sic) to this  
5 Honourable House.

6 SPEAKER: Motion.

7 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Motion. And I ask  
8 members for their support.

9 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I now  
10 invite debate on this motion. Member for Road South.

11 MEMBER FOR ROAD SOUTH: Yes, Mr. Speaker,  
12 thank you very much. I want to thank the Chief Minister for  
13 his presentation and as the Minister of Finance for looking  
14 into this matter and having a listening ear to those persons  
15 for the car rental agencies who came forward to address their  
16 issues.

17 I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the  
18 people for the car rental agencies have operated in an  
19 intelligent manner rather than going on the radio stations and  
20 in other medias trying to defame the Government, they  
21 recognize that they had to be civil and that the best course  
22 of action was to come and sit down with the Government and  
23 that is something that all other sectors of the community  
24 should take into account that if they're going to get a  
25 positive response to their concerns they must, in a civil

1 manner, come and sit with the Government because this  
2 Government is extremely sensitive to the human factor and we  
3 are also very much, all of us, very much aware of what  
4 business entails.

5 I was very happy also, Mr. Speaker, in keeping  
6 in line with transportation, yesterday to have had a meeting  
7 with a number of taxi drivers. And just to bring to the  
8 attention of the public, like with the car rental persons that  
9 were addressed here, I intend, as the Minister of  
10 Transportation, to also address the issues that were raised in  
11 that meeting which had to do with the Transportation Board.  
12 We are in the process now of looking into the issue of the  
13 Transportation Board because as you know it has been for a  
14 very long time administered under the police but we are  
15 looking in terms of the sensibility of bringing it under,  
16 directly under the ministry and looking into a variety of  
17 issues.

18 One of the such issues I'd like to raise this  
19 morning very briefly, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of the "C"  
20 licence and the "C" number plates. Those persons who have a  
21 "C" licence, the category for that falls under the definition  
22 of chauffeur. And there are a lot of people who believe that  
23 if they have a "C" licence that makes them a taxi driver.  
24 Well we're going to have to find a way to address that issue  
25 and address it to the benefit and advantage of the Anguillian

1 public. We also have to get clarification on the "C" number  
2 plate. A lot of people who want to avoid having their cars  
3 labelled as car rentals and paying the rental fee that we just  
4 addressed are licensing their vehicles as under the "C"  
5 licence plate and are leaving those vehicles in villas and  
6 apartments and then leaving them for the guess to have and  
7 that is having an impact on the car rental business. So in a  
8 short while, within the next month or two, we're going to have  
9 discussions with the public on the "C" licence and the "C"  
10 number plate and we are also going to be looking into the  
11 matter of the Taxi Association and strengthening this sector  
12 regarding transportation for the people of Anguilla so I just  
13 want everyone to be aware. Thank you very much.

14 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other  
15 contributions? Yes. Member for Island Harbour.

16 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm standing and actually  
18 considering that several months now, we're almost three months  
19 past when this initially came up and it was the issue of  
20 consultation that the people, you know, and all the  
21 stakeholders required to be consulted that we're seeing, you  
22 know, what is I think, you know, to the extent that it's a  
23 reduction and it's more equitable and it takes into account,  
24 you know, the persons that are affected what their views and  
25 input would have been, you know, a good thing. But I want to



1 make the point, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's very important  
2 and especially I'm driven to comment on it based on what the  
3 Member for Road South has added. And I want to commend him,  
4 however late it is, you know, using his influence within his  
5 Government to make sure that stakeholders are given an  
6 opportunity to express their views. So I'm not going to  
7 belabour the point, just to say that our Chief Minister really  
8 needs to put the horse in front of the cart to get Anguilla in  
9 the right place. A lot of these issues, these things could  
10 have been avoided. We would have saved time. And just the  
11 points that I made in the December session about, you know,  
12 getting it right from the beginning so we don't have to come  
13 back all the time and change things and look like we don't  
14 know what we're doing, this is very important. He raised --  
15 The Honourable Chief Minister raised the matter of, you know,  
16 the fact that brought all the car rental agencies together,  
17 the, you know, the stakeholders in this case. He saw them as  
18 the car rental, the people with agencies or the people who  
19 would have to, you know, affected directly by it. But the  
20 reality is, Mr. Speaker, I know because I talk to the people  
21 and I know every single ferry owner in Anguilla or anybody  
22 affected by the ferry and employment on ferries are concerned  
23 that, you know, these accommodations are going to be an  
24 incredible challenge and they are worried that the Government,  
25 the Executive behind closed doors, because no minutes are

1 available, they are telling, they are considering bringing in  
2 additional taxes that's going to impact that business. So  
3 while we might have a little, a bump in relation to the car  
4 agencies and the issue about, you know, people trying to, you  
5 know, find ways to manage, the reality is there's a huge  
6 concern in the ferry owners, boat owners, people employed in  
7 that business that the Government really is not consulting  
8 with them, not recognising that they know how this, the day  
9 trippers operate. They know what challenges they are faced by  
10 access issues to Anguilla and they feel they're going to be  
11 thrown out of business if, you know, they are not included in  
12 the decision making.

13           So I'm using this point, Mr. Speaker, to say to  
14 the Honourable Chief Minister, let's put -- let's do it right.  
15 Let's make sure that we're lined up to save the people's time  
16 and save the stress. Stress is killing Anguillians,  
17 Mr. Speaker, because we don't know from one minute to the next  
18 what's going on. Just on the road this morning coming into  
19 the house many people were on the street saying it's not 10  
20 o'clock it's at 2 o'clock. And I know the Honourable Chief  
21 Minister has done his best including to accommodate me and my  
22 situation and I am grateful to him for that but it's just a  
23 general feeling of unease in our beloved island. And I want  
24 to encourage the Chief Minister. This is a good thing. It's  
25 reduced, it's good and we've learnt hopefully a lesson from

1 what consultation will yield even if it's behind, but let's  
2 get in front with this issue. Let's not run to get something  
3 passed and then we're going to have to unravel it and at the  
4 same time expose ourselves to legal action. That's not good.  
5 We don't make progress that way. I just wanted to make that  
6 point, Mr. Speaker, and to say that insofar as this is more  
7 equitable, we're in a better place. Thank you.

8 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there  
9 any other contributions? If there are none, the mover may  
10 reply.

11 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I thank  
12 members for their support. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the  
13 Opposition has the luxury of being able to get up in this  
14 Honourable House and say all manner of things that she has  
15 absolutely no idea about in the effort to make points.

16 Mr. Speaker, the budgetary exercise is a dynamic  
17 process, and if every single stakeholder involved in the  
18 budget would have an opportunity to individually make  
19 representation to the Government of Anguilla on every single  
20 issue, then we won't be going anywhere fast. Mr. Speaker,  
21 whenever we have consultations, not only on the budget, on  
22 anything, you'll be surprised to know that very many -- very  
23 few people show up to those consultations unless at the point  
24 it becomes to a critical stage. And the budgetary process  
25 begins every year in August, where it takes place with the

1 various ministries making representations for what their  
2 expenditure needs will be in the year coming ahead, where  
3 after that is done the sector that is involved in the revenue  
4 has an opportunity and the same very heads of departments in  
5 some of those ministries have the opportunity to come in and  
6 make their representations about where that revenue may come  
7 from. And then after that process is completed, Mr. Speaker,  
8 they have the opportunity to make some adjustments and during  
9 the year from time to time they meet with various sectors of  
10 the community.

11           Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I met with the  
12 Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association about another issue  
13 involving Government, not to do with revenue but to do with  
14 concerns about other aspects of the management within the  
15 economy and the society, the community. And this goes on and  
16 on and on. And if the Member for Island Harbour, the Leader  
17 for the Opposition believe that stress is killing the people,  
18 I can tell you that we have a lot more stress than the  
19 individual people when it comes to the budget. I'm sure  
20 people have other stresses but this process is a very  
21 stressful process. And from the luxury of the Opposition, she  
22 can come up here and say that we should do this, we should do  
23 that and we should do the other. At the end of the day it's a  
24 dynamic process and you don't have the opportunity to look at  
25 every aspect of the exercise.

1           She mentioned the fact that somebody told her  
2 the meeting was 2 o'clock. The reason why the meeting is 10  
3 o'clock, and she mentioned it, of course, is because we sat  
4 together and because we had scheduled a meeting for today and  
5 we had planned that it'd be 23rd, and the fact that I have to  
6 travel on Government business in next week, I thought that  
7 with working together we could come up with accommodation for  
8 the 18th, for this week. So we made that accommodation by  
9 moving the meeting from 2 o'clock to 10 o'clock so that the  
10 member, Leader of the Opposition can have the opportunity to  
11 be here because I will not want to have a meeting that  
12 excludes the Leader of the Opposition, whatever her reasons  
13 are, and she will always have very good reasons, if she cannot  
14 make a particular meeting. This is what we call working  
15 together. But in the face of that, to use that as an issue of  
16 why the Government of Anguilla is appearing to be doing things  
17 in a manner that gives the impression that they don't know  
18 what they're doing, that is a very unfair statement.

19           Mr. Speaker, even in this budget it was agreed  
20 that we'd just do one item, the Vehicles and Road Traffic  
21 (Amendment). I agree, okay, we'll just do that because this  
22 is important so that we can have these measures in place for  
23 next month.

24           With regards the Electricity Valuation  
25 (Amendment) Bill, the member has said to me that she has some

1 concerns so can we not have it on the agenda. We agreed that  
2 we will have one item. I tried to see whether we could pass  
3 the Electricity Validation (Amendment) Bill; it's only two  
4 pages, budget probably has in issues there which she has some  
5 concerns about, so fair enough. But the fact is that the  
6 Electricity Validation (Amendment) Bill can be dealt -- can  
7 refer retroactively to the licence fee so it doesn't create an  
8 issue because we have got to fit things in our legislative  
9 agenda, the agenda for Executive Council and all the other  
10 functions that we have to do. It's a small administration and  
11 we need to be able to look at these things in a wholesome way.  
12 We have to travel because there are so many responsibilities  
13 that reflect on the job we do. The European Union is the only  
14 agency that gives grant/aid to Anguilla at this time and it is  
15 very useful aid and Government of Anguilla at the highest  
16 level must make representation in those agencies otherwise we  
17 would not be going. But it is important that in all of that  
18 we fit in the things that we need to do.

19           The process, Mr. Speaker, with the Vehicles  
20 (Amendment) Act is one of those processes which is a part of  
21 the budgetary exercise. From time to time we come back in  
22 this Honourable House and make adjustments to the budget  
23 because during the year we would have noticed that there's  
24 something that needs to be managed, there is not enough money  
25 in the budget and the house gives the Minister of Finance the

1 facility to make provisions for additional expenditure in  
2 certain circumstances but they come back to the house for  
3 approval -- not approval, for regularisation, that is that it  
4 must be presented to the house after it's done. Even though  
5 it is legal when it's done, it must come back to the house so  
6 the house, members of the Honourable House who would have been  
7 involved in the budgetary exercise would have the opportunity  
8 to know that certain adjustments have been made.

9           So that is the process, Mr. Speaker, and I would  
10 like to commend this to the members of this Honourable House.  
11 I want the Member for Island Harbour to know that perhaps taxi  
12 drivers are not happy with this amendment. This is one of the  
13 agencies -- These are the things that you have to do, you have  
14 to balance. You have to balance the decisions you make and  
15 the fact that the car rentals are going to be reduced -- their  
16 licence fees are going to be reduced from \$420, I'm not  
17 talking about the vehicle licence, their business licence,  
18 their business licence will be reduced to make it more  
19 equitable and the fact that they have an opportunity now to  
20 have a shorter span driver's licence from 3 months to 72 hours  
21 will, there will be some taxi drivers who'll say to me, well,  
22 if you had left it where it was then instead of renting a car  
23 the day tripper will take a taxi. These little things will  
24 happen, but you as a Government have to look at the overall  
25 picture and manage it and see whether you're doing something

1 that is fair and equitable. And we believe that despite those  
2 arguments that may be put forward by the Taxi Drivers'  
3 Association are that we are doing the right thing and with  
4 regards what the Member for Road South, the Minister of  
5 Transport mentioned, I think that he was very clever in making  
6 sure that in addition to attending to the car rental agency we  
7 also indicate that we are also attending to other sectors as  
8 well for certain concerns that they raised. And it's not only  
9 the car rental agencies and the taxi drivers and the Anguilla  
10 Hotel Association, there are so many other stakeholders who  
11 have reasons. Nobody wants to pay taxes. Every time there's  
12 an increase in taxes somebody can find a reason why, can find  
13 a reason why they shouldn't pay. They can always find a  
14 reason why they shouldn't pay. But this is the job that we  
15 have to do. There're some people, I'm afraid, will present  
16 cases that after you examine them you say look, in terms of  
17 the overall, in terms of the services that you need in this  
18 country there are certain measures that we need to put in  
19 place.

20           When the Minister of Health has to go to the  
21 hospital 2 o'clock in the morning because somebody is sick and  
22 you have to fly them out and his budget for overseas  
23 expenditure is \$200,000, at the beginning of year that's  
24 already expended, and he owes money overseas to the various  
25 providers, health providers in Barbados, in Trinidad, in



1 Panama and Puerto Rico, and he has to provide that money, he  
2 has to get up in the hospital that night when their parents  
3 who don't have a single penny to really address the need of  
4 their loved one are at their wits end and are concerned that  
5 their loved one might die or perish if they don't get that  
6 treatment, he has got to make the decision at 2 o'clock in the  
7 morning that he's going to put his signature on the line and  
8 say yes, we will take care of this. But where does it come  
9 from? It comes from the budget. The budget would not have  
10 anticipated that but that's an expenditure that we have to  
11 make, so therefore everybody has got to pull their weight.  
12 Everybody has got to pull their weight. This is social  
13 solidarity that we are talking about. Everybody chipping in  
14 so that we can help persons who are not able to be helped.  
15 That's what society is all about. You don't pay taxes because  
16 it is to benefit you alone. It is to benefit the entire  
17 society. I mean, the entire society as a state of  
18 satisfaction and contentment, we'll have less crime, we'll  
19 have less violence, we'll have less frustration, we'll have  
20 less stress so therefore we got to share that burden. The  
21 Anguilla Hotel Association or some of the other agencies will  
22 say we pay accommodation tax and we are not getting the  
23 benefit of it. But the accommodation tax is not only to  
24 benefit the hotels or the restaurants and so on, accomodation  
25 tax is to benefit everybody because the entire community have

1 made sacrifices for the hotel and tourism sector like duty  
2 free concessions and all kinds of things that we do. It's a  
3 corporate responsibility, a community responsibility that we  
4 undertake. So it is unfair for somebody in opposition who  
5 doesn't have a clue of what's going on, somebody on the blogs  
6 who want to talk about specific issue without putting it into  
7 context of the entire community and country can do that  
8 irresponsibly, Mr. Speaker, and get somebody to say, "I like  
9 it", you know.

10 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Mr. Speaker, that  
11 he's imputing something to my character I expect, Mr. Speaker,  
12 that you will intervene and say that that's not permitted.  
13 It's absolutely wrong, Mr. Speaker, and I expect that the  
14 Chief Minister, the Honourable Chief Minister is not going to  
15 be permitted to make such irresponsible statements in this  
16 Honourable House without being reprimanded for it. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker.

18 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I have no  
19 idea what she is objecting to.

20 THE SPEAKER: I was just going to  
21 ask her what.

22 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: But in the interest of  
23 proceeding, I will apologise for whatever she said I need to  
24 apologise for. I apologise to you, Leader of the Opposition  
25 for whatever I said that offended you. But the point I'm

1 making, Mr. Speaker, is that persons who are not in this  
2 Honourable House necessarily, I'm not talking -- the  
3 opposition is not the Leader of the Opposition. She says, she  
4 made the comment that she hear the people, she speaks to the  
5 people. We don't speak to the people. We don't hear, nobody  
6 comes to us, only to her, the Leader of the Opposition,  
7 Mr. Speaker. That is the belief that she has. There's some  
8 kind of megalomania going on around here. Some illusions of  
9 grandeur that only the -- people only speak to the Leader of  
10 the Opposition. They speak to everybody. They ring my phone  
11 from 6 o'clock in the morning. They stop me on the road.  
12 They have issues, they have problems, they have concerns that  
13 sometimes I'm unable to deal with and that makes me feel bad.  
14 But Mr. Speaker, we do the best that we can. And I would hate  
15 the Leader of the Opposition who just came into this scene of  
16 politics 5 years ago or 6 years ago could believe that over my  
17 35 years of active politics that I don't have the ear of the  
18 people on issues. I'm surprised that she can believe that the  
19 members on this honourable side of the house do not have an  
20 understanding of what the people need or that people do not  
21 come to members of this side of the house and discuss very  
22 personal issues with them, very personal issues with them.  
23 And members of this side of the house have to make sacrifices.  
24 We all make sacrifices when we live in a community. But I  
25 cannot be happy when the Leader of the Opposition can get up

1 in this Honourable House and give the impression that she is  
2 the only one who is listening to the people; she's the only  
3 one who's listening to the people.

4           When I was talking, Mr. Speaker, I was not  
5 necessarily talking about the Leader of the Opposition. So  
6 maybe I should have said our detractors out there or persons  
7 who have ambitions of filling these seats in the years to come  
8 are using that opportunity to be irresponsible in making  
9 certain statements which reflect singular issues rather than  
10 the overall picture, the task that we have to do as elected  
11 representatives, a task which we don't get thanked for in many  
12 cases. I'm so happy when somebody calls up on the phone and  
13 say, Mr. Banks, thank you for helping me in this particular  
14 situation. I'm happy because very few people look at it that  
15 way. They think that it's my obligation to do X, Y or Z, to  
16 even make personal sacrifices for them. Mr. Speaker, we do  
17 the best that we can. And I'm sorry that I've taken up so  
18 much of the time on a simple motion which addresses a  
19 particular issue but also indicates that there is opportunity  
20 to make more responses from the Government side to genuine and  
21 deserving representations that are made by the people that we  
22 serve. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

23           THE SPEAKER:                           Thank you. You've  
24 heard the debate on motion number 455 and the question is that  
25 the Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Order, 2016 be

1 approved. Those in favour?

2 (Members of Government said "aye".)

3 THE SPEAKER: Those against?

4 (No response.)

5 The ayes have it. Motion number 455 has been  
6 approved by this house and we'll move on.

7 THE CLERK: Other business,  
8 Government business, the Electricity Validation (Amendment)  
9 Bill, 2016, second reading.

10 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I would  
11 like to accede to the request of the Member, Leader of the  
12 Opposition, who, as you can see, is incapacitated and  
13 obviously will have a difficulty with dealing with some of the  
14 issues in this Bill at this time. She has indicated to me  
15 that she will be unable to deal with this effectively at this  
16 time considering the fact that it would have been on the 23rd,  
17 of course, but in addition to that that there are some issues  
18 that she would want to take the time to deal with and because  
19 of her ailment would not be able to do so. So Mr. Speaker, I  
20 will like to withdraw these motions until the next sitting of  
21 this Honourable House.

22 THE SPEAKER: You mean the Bills,  
23 but you mean both of them or just one?

24 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: The Bills, the  
25 Electricity.

1 THE SPEAKER: Yeah, just that one.

2 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Second and third  
3 reading.

4 THE SPEAKER: Okay. Yeah. Okay.

5 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Mr. Speaker, insofar  
6 as my -- I want to again thank the Honourable Chief Minister  
7 for his accommodation today, but we have to bear in mind that  
8 this matter was set down for the 23rd and I have serious  
9 issues. The people of Anguilla have serious issues --

10 THE SPEAKER: When it comes --

11 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: -- with it.

12 THE SPEAKER: When it comes up for  
13 debate you can deal with it then. This is not the time to  
14 deal with that.

15 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Well, but  
16 Mr. Speaker, it's very important.

17 THE SPEAKER: When it comes for  
18 debate you'll deal with it then.

19 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: And Mr. Speaker --

20 THE SPEAKER: One minute, I'm  
21 speaking now.

22 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Yes.

23 THE SPEAKER: It's withdrawn from  
24 the order paper for today so there's no issue for you to argue  
25 it now.

1                   MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: In terms of fairness,  
2 Mr. Speaker, I thought it was important for the people to  
3 really understand. It's not on account of my incapacity  
4 today, it's the fact that it was set down and that it has  
5 changed and there hasn't been enough notice and I'm not in a  
6 position today where I --

7                   THE SPEAKER:                                 It's withdrawn.

8                   MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: Yes, but it's  
9 important for the people to know the truth. It's important  
10 for the people to know the truth. And I hope that between now  
11 and the next session people will be able to make  
12 representations, further representations in relation to that  
13 Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

14                  THE SPEAKER:                                 Okay. Go ahead.  
15 We'll continue.

16                  THE CLERK:                                     Other business,  
17 Government business: Tax Information Exchange (International  
18 Co-operation) Bill, 2016, first reading.

19                  MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg  
20 leave of this Honourable House to request the Clerk to read  
21 the -- do the first reading of the Tax Information Exchange  
22 (International Co-operation) Bill, 2016.

23                  THE CLERK:                                     Tax Information  
24 Exchange (International Co-operation) Bill, 2016, first  
25 reading. A Bill to give effect to agreements entered into by

1 the Government of Anguilla for the exchange of information for  
2 tax purposes.

3 THE SPEAKER: Okay. I think that's  
4 the end of the business for today and I have just one comment  
5 to make to the Leader of the Opposition. When the Speaker is  
6 speaking you be quiet. Don't be talking over the Speaker.  
7 You just sit until after the Speaker finish speaking. Don't  
8 be talking over me again.

9 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: And Mr. Speaker, I  
10 want to apologise for that. I apologise to you. I just felt  
11 that it was very important that those points were made.

12 THE SPEAKER: I don't care how  
13 important it is, when the Speaker is speaking you sit and you  
14 listen.

15 MEMBER FOR ISLAND HARBOUR: And I apologise and  
16 I accept that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Adjournment.

18 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to  
19 move that this house stands adjourned until, I think it's the  
20 24th of March - it's the 23rd of March or the - Tuesday the  
21 24th of March (sic) at 10 o'clock in the morning. Thank you  
22 very much, Mr. Speaker.

23 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Do you  
24 have a seconder?

25 MEMBER FOR VALLEY NORTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to



1 second that.

2 THE SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you. It  
3 has been moved and seconded that this house be adjourned until  
4 the 24th of March, Tuesday the 24th of March 2016 (sic).  
5 Those in favour?

6 (Members of Government said "aye".)

7 Those against?

8 THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR: Tuesday the 22nd  
9 March.

10 THE SPEAKER: Tuesday is 22nd?

11 MEMBER FOR VALLEY SOUTH: Tuesday 22nd. Okay,  
12 thank you.

13 THE SPEAKER: Tuesday the 22nd of  
14 March 2016. Those in favour?

15 (Members of Government said "aye.")

16 Those against?

17 (No response.)

18 The ayes have it. This house now stands  
19 adjourned.

20 **(House adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)**

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**REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

I, **CARLA S. RITCHIE**, a Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify:

That on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, the foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in machine shorthand consisting of 30 pages herein;

That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had;

That I am not an attorney, relative, or employee of any party hereto, or otherwise interested in the events of this cause;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature at The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.



CARLA S. RITCHIE  
Certified Court Reporter