

Mr Pedro Eastmond  
Clerk of Parliament  
Parliament of Barbados

Dear Sir

**Re: Hearings of the Joint Select Committee on the National Vending Bill, 2021**

I would be grateful if I could be afforded the opportunity to appear before the above-mentioned **Joint Select Committee** in order to make an oral presentation on the **National Vending Bill, 2021**.

I also take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the **Joint Select Committee** that the **Thorne Commission On Local Governance** has submitted a Report to the Cabinet of Barbados that proposes the establishment of 21 People's Assemblies across Barbados, and that it is proposed that one of the functions of a People's Assembly would be the issuance of licences to carry on various commercial activities at public spaces within the geographical area of the People's Assembly. In addition, one of the categories of such licences would be licences for wayside vending.

**Here, then, is the most relevant section of the Report:**

**“ISSUING OF LICENCES”**

One of the priority functions of the People's Assembly will be to facilitate the entrepreneurial efforts of the residents of the Assembly area, and to promote self-employment and the development of business enterprises.

Our Commission therefore recommends that the People's Assembly should be invested with the power to issue a variety of licences for the carrying on of small business activities in specific public spaces within the Assembly area.

Such "small business activities" would include – wayside vending; preparation and/or selling of food items; delivery of performing arts and entertainment services; delivery of taxi services; manufacture and/or sale of art and craft items; and activities of a similar type.

It should therefore be the responsibility of each People's Assembly to seek out and locate public spaces within the Assembly area that are appropriate for various types of small business activities, and – having done so – to organize itself to receive applications from Assembly residents for licences to set up operations in such areas, and to issue the relevant licences.

Several members of the Commission were able to visit the recently established and developed "**Worthing Square**" food and entertainment outdoor facility at the bottom of Rendezvous Hill in Christ Church, and are convinced that People's Assemblies could play a role in establishing these types of small business development facilities in appropriate spaces all across the island.

The Commission is also convinced that the establishment of facilities of this nature could intersect with the work and programmes of the "Community Management and Programme Development Committee", and also could play a vital role in developing a **Community Tourism** component of Barbados' Tourism industry."

I would be grateful if this short extract from the text of the **Report** of the **Thorne Commission** could be drawn to the attention of the **Joint Select Committee**.

I look forward to making an oral presentation that would pertain to this component of the Report of the **Thorne Commission** as well as to some elements of the Bill.

Regards,

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