

MAINLAND PUBLIC PRESENTATION

held at Mainland International Limited,
March Pen Road, Spanish Town, St. Catherine
on July 5, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

[Opening prayer]

Chairperson

Let me take this opportunity ladies and gentlemen to welcome you this afternoon to a very interesting meeting, the first public presentation involving the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Cement Grinding Plant at Lots 3 & 4 March Pen Road, Spanish Town, St. Catherine.

Of course, it is my pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon and your presence has really highlighted this evening; you look like a bunch of people that are equipped with knowledge and understanding of what we are about; but before the evening is out, I can assure you that you will learn a lot. Let me just thank the organizers for inviting me to cheer this programme and I do hope, at the end of it, it will be beneficial to all and sundry.

I must say in the capacity as the President of the St. Catherine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I believe it is a momentous occasion and the words that I like to use in occasions such as this, is auspicious, because it is heartening at a time like this, to see such a project being implemented. It is a wonder when people like Mr. Myrie here, in a situation of this day and age when Jamaicans no longer put their money into developments but rather into Government Paper, where you can sit at the beach, eat some fish, relax and get returns that possibly we could get from what we build in factories and production.

Chairperson

I have to say to you Sir, congratulations, thank you for the vision and the heart because one of the latin things I would like to say to you is that the family privilege like none to you Sir, it says *nos cumpus rumpus* the English translation would mean “you be of strong line” because I believe that this type of investment when it could have been tripled and doubled and ‘foubled’ by the end of one year. I do say to you Sir, you are visionary and I believe that at this time in Spanish Town and St. Catherine in particular, it spells hope; it says that we are not totally lost, moreover Mainland International, on this strip has created an oasis, no pun intended. The fact of the matter is a many people would have decided that this should be or really ought to be. Today you have created, you have enhanced the area. I believe the people of March Pen should be grateful their property is being re-built and by the end of this project, and possibly for many more to come, Spanish Town would have been re-developed. I believe Sir that your insight is second-to-none.

All you can say from the business sector is god-speed. We look forward to many more people following your example. I believe that based on what you have done; there will be many more ably following your footsteps that I believe at that time the cost of real estate would have been far out of the reach of many of us. We give God thanks for you Sir and wish you all the best.

This evenings’ programme is a public forum that is to enhance and to get the approval from the necessary approval Agencies; NEPA is one of the main contenders here, along with the St. Catherine Parish Council, Town Planning and all the other approval Agencies. This is a necessary forum that whatever problems or objections, whether it be social, economical and all the other alleys, this is the time for you to speak up and 30 days after, shut up. It is interesting to note, that the kind of details that have to be explained in this process to ensure

that all contenders are satisfied with a win-win situation and based on what I see presented in the surveys that have been carried out, I believe we should not have a problem.

Chairperson

I will carry you through with a brief synopsis of what is intended here, the Proposed Mainland Cement Grinding Plant; the project involves the grinding and packaging of the overall cement production process, to produce 150 tonnes per day of Portland cement in the initial stages. The second stage will involve increasing production to approximately 340 tonnes of Portland cement. All raw materials of clinker, limestone and gypsum, will be completely weighed, that excluding waste, which may be generated as a result of material handling, spillage etcetera etcetera.

The proposed site of the Mainland Processing Plant is approximately 7,935 square metres in addition to 5,870 square metres of land immediately adjacent to the Cement Processing Plant to be filled and stabilised. I am just giving an overview of what is to be done. The impact of this project is expected to employ a total of 79 persons, 25 during the site clearance and construction phase and 54 during the operation thereof, therefore making a small but significant impact on the unemployment in the area. Clearly, the many benefits far outweigh the issues and problems associated with the development and alternative recommended changes in design consent to ensure an environmentally acceptable approach. The details, ladies and gentlemen, the proposed development; NEPA has to ensure that the environment, biological and social aspects are not obliterated, but in fact, can coincide with residential and the surrounding areas of business etcetera etcetera.

I believe, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, that this site is almost free of encumbrance and therefore in my estimation, are not bad by the

scientific or the technological expertise here, but later on we will get a firm overview of the details from the illustrious gentleman. Ladies and gentleman, I believe that based on the aspects of the surveys and the plans, this development in my estimation, should see a green light. We have here in our midst Mr. Ronald Brown from the Parish Council, could you stand and be recognised Sir; if there are any other agencies, could you please stand and be recognised, NEPA, and I think she has all of the information; the technical officer is here and director is here and therefore invite their participation as we go along.

Chairperson

This here, ladies and gentlemen, has been a major milestone and if there are any lawful impediments to speak now or forever hold your peace. Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, I wish to invite you to meet a gentleman; now ladies and gentleman I explained all this information, and when I saw the resume of this gentleman, I was discombobulated. I did not believe that one man could be so bright and I thought it must be a twin and when I came here this evening I found out that it is one gentleman. The accolades that I see in front of me would possibly take me a week to go through and tell you all of his accomplishments.

This gentleman, when I saw the resume, I thought he must be about 60 or 65 there about, because the accomplishments of this gentleman, to my mind, would need a couple of years to really get all of this contents in his very short life-span. Ladies and gentlemen, this gentleman is an Ecologist with more than 10 years experience in the environmental field, both as a Lecturer and a Consultant. He has a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in marine ecology from the University of the West Indies; [*brief synopsis of Dr. Dale Webber's resume continued*].

Ladies and gentlemen, could you please put your hands together and welcome Dr. Dale Webber [*clapping in background*].

Dr. Webber

[*Thank you extended to Chairman for opening remarks*] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to dispense with the formalities because what we want to do today, is to bring you the information as we found it to be as you went through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An EIA is not a thing or a document; it is a process that took quite a long time, a number of people get involved and the idea is to unearth as much information as we can, so that we can share this information, not just with the public but with the developer, but with the regulatory organization.

The idea is to bring as much information to the floor as possible. Your presence here is taking the process one-step further in that, having shared it with you, you may be able to say 'that does not make sense' and very often, with all the so-called learning they say I have, I may come to an area that you know more of it than I do; and it is your on the ground 'that was not there before' and 'why it is the way it is'; you are going to help us decide 'the plan sound like it can work' or 'I know there is going to be a problem' and 'we need to think about something else'. You are taking it one step further and I want to thank you for your participation.

Dr. Webber

What I have decided to do is to go quickly through a number of slides which show what was found and where we think we should be going next. This is of course, the Proposed Cement Grinding Plant by Mainland International and will be dealt with in the presentation today. We are going to have a quick rationale, why are we doing this; policy and legal framework, we need to know what has been constructed, what is the legal policy, framework that is brought onboard when discussing this issue; description of the proposed

project, which will be done quickly; the description of the existing environment, before the project got built, we need to know what the environment was like before the project changes it or enhances it, plus or minus; analysis of the alternatives, we are mandated to say, ok there must be at least three alternatives, one is for the project and constructed and derived and the other is, lets not do the project, what is the alternative, so there must be some alternatives that are put forward.

We will look at impacts and mitigation; an impact is anything that comes about as a result of the proposed development or during the development and mitigation; mitigation is how do you solve it and in solving it, is it worth doing based on the problem that was then created. We will be looking at environmental management plan, which is how did we get environmental management onboard within the development of the project, the life of the project and after the project and finally, well two more, we should have an environmental monitoring plan, which tells us how do we continue to capture the information because there is no good in just doing the study now and walking away; we should be able to continue to monitor, to say that, it is in fact doing as we predicted or not and finally, we thought it was good to add a traffic impact assessment because the intersection that you have here seems to be quite a busy one and we are talking about moving a lot of material, so we did a quick impact assessment on traffic.

Dr. Webber

Quickly, rationale, very important, locally, we are using more and more cement and it seems as if we have less and less cement to use but there is a 2.75% increase in cement and this is local cement between 2000 and 2002. Since that, it has gone up even more and with the construction industry in Jamaica booming, cannot put a figure on it right now, but we are using more and more cement and

we will need more; this may be the answer, the Cement Grinding Plant may provide us with the cement that we need.

The policy and legal framework, we had to speak to the St. Catherine Parish Council, National Water Commission, National Solid Waste Management Authority, Water Resources Authority, Environmental Health Unit in the Ministry of Health, National Works Agency and the National Environment and Planning Agency, who of course are here represented today and there are a number of guidelines, laws, policies or acts that must be adhered to or at least, we need to check to see are there any infringement on these laws as we go through the process. There are a list of some of them that we use, the NRCA Act, Water Resources Act, Clean Air Act, Factories Act, and it is safe to say that based on the guidelines provided, we are within most of the limits; where we are now, we will indicate how we think you can come within the limits.

Dr. Webber

Here is the schematic, here is where we are sitting right around here, now, and this is the area that is under discussion; that is the Spanish Town bypass, that is the intersection and this turning is where we are sitting right here now discussing what we are going to do with over there. Well, as Mr. Robotham said, it is going to be a grinding and packaging, not a cement manufacturing; it is not going to be anything like Caribbean Cement; I like to call it Trinidad Cement but we are not going to be doing what is being done now out at Palisadoes, it is a grinding and packaging way. It is going to produce 150 tonnes of cement per day initially and up to 340 as things get going and the idea is this, grind and add, so that you end up with the right constituency, right component for the cement that you are looking at and in the end, you have a packaging and dispatch mechanism.

Dr. Webber

Limestone is going to be added and is going to come from the Paul's Mountain quarry so there will be an electronic delivery so that only the right amount is provided within that mixture. All of that which goes in is going to be used, all is going to be crushed and thrown to the system so there is expected to be no waste and there is nothing else in terms of raw material coming out. This is a schematic again of what we are trying to do; you start with clinker, limestone and gypsum which is going to be stored onsite, so there is transportation in trucks, storage onsite and then a hopper delivery into the mixture and the proportions of delivery here will give the special cement that we are looking for. We are going to be talking about the ball mixing, ball mill which is going to be the crushing area, hopper cement storage, and then bagging and then eventually, the final product is ready for delivery.

That by the way is the grinding mill, ball mill, which does the grinding. One of the things is to speak about the down sides - one of the down sides to a system like this, is that it generates a lot of heat; the milling process generates a lot of heat so the mitigation that we have thought about is to put it in sprayers; one is to have it well aerated and two, to put in a water sprinkling system that will allow it to cool down, it will be cool as it goes.

The area, the actual footprint is 7,935 square metres with another 5,875 square metres adjacent and this is area that is available. We are going to be doing paving to try and accommodate heavy equipment, because we do not want slumping; drainage to find the existing drainage system, which exist under the Spanish Town bypass and there will be sediment traps or oil-water separators, deemed to be necessary for none are presently in the plant; but, there may be discussions later if there is the need for one later on.

Dr. Webber

Grey water, grey water is that water that comes from whatever we put into the system and people are going to be using them. Grey water comes from our face basin, our toilets etcetera; so we are going to have a system that is going to be held, and then there is an overflow. The overflow will flow into an evapo-transpiration bed system, there is going to be a plant put on top of the evapo-transpiration bed, which will actually give us the treatment that is required. This is designed with the 54 workers in mind. If there are going to be 154 workers, then guess what, it is not going to be adequate, you will have to change the mechanism. If there are going to be 20 workers, then we have over-compensated and the area is far too much. The idea is evapo-transpiration bed as the final receptive treatment.

The project is projected to be between 6 and 8 months and operations should be able to start about 1 month after the final construction has been put in place. The proposed site, the entire area, remember we looked at the footprint before, is what the project will be built on; the entire area encompassed is 1.42 hectares, which is much larger and one area of that is going to be for storage because they are going to bring onsite the clinker, the limestone etcetera that will be stored there. The land will be graded to ensure there is no ponding and the facility that is going to be put in place will be able to stand on the premises as best we see it.

Dr. Webber

Following construction, there should be a 4.5 metre high re-enforced wall, now I do not know if you can imagine 4.5 metres; think of me as about 1.6 – 1.7 metres and think of something 3 times my height; so it is going to be completely walled off so there should be no intruders and there is no chance of you getting in there accidentally; to get in there you really need to want to get in there.

There are going to be concrete basing on that area that we spoke about which will enable steel frames to put in their plant and from there, they should be putting in admin buildings, lockers and bathrooms, electrical areas, car park, guard house, weighing scales, because remember they are going to be a weighing component and storm water drains. In addition, there is going to be paving to get to the site so that the number of trucks coming in, remember that there will be a large number of trucks, based on the amount of material to be made, so there is going to be paving in the construction site and around, which will be a benefit both to the construction and to the community.

Dr. Webber

Clinker is going to come from Kingston Wharves and Port Esquivel, starting with about 40,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year. It is going to be done in 2 batches and that should take about a week to move each time, so there should be enough material stockpiled to allow for 5 - 6 months of continuous work. The idea is not to have continuous trucks going in and out but to try and do an intensive period of delivery and then you work through the process that you have.

Operation phase, well we did say that limestone will be coming from Paul's Mountain, which are going to be held in silos and electronically weighed out and put in a bag from the silos and we will have 54 workers on in 2 shifts. We looked at the staff we think you should have, managerial staff; managerial and engineering staff, not very many about 6 - 7; then we will have the production staff, which will be the bulk of the staff, then the admin staff to ensure that everybody gets paid and is happy when they go home, feeling good.

Then we looked next at the environment, first of all in terms of the rainfall, the average temperature is 31.7°C yearly, which is the mean annual temperature; it fluctuates up and down around that, but that is

your mean temperature, even it may get very hot with a minimum of 19.9°C at night. I am not sure if we are going to be here that long, but as long as you have daytime heating and cooling in the evenings, you will have cooler temperatures, especially in January and February. These are the data sets we got for the year, so we are saying that these are what the background temperatures should be, remember that we said that the milling process generates heat; well we want to ensure that the temperature does not affect the ambient temperature, which is the temperature that we had to start with. Since we have the background and how much we started with, we can also look at how much are we generating and what does it mean.

Dr. Webber

Rainfall, 67mm per year, that is pretty low in terms of rainfall and relative humidity 19.3, that sounds a little low but we need to do some checking on that but it seems to be a very dry area. Wind speed, wind is important; if you have high wind speeds, we need to put things in place to ensure that one, there is no damage to infrastructure and two, you need to know that some things could blow around, such as dust particles so you want to be sure what is the background wind.

The background wind here seems to be between 1 - 3 metres/second and that is more or less what we are experiencing here and seem to be gusting between 5 - 6 metres/second with your background reading between 1 – 3 metres/second. These are the standard conditions for this location, standard for any inland area; if you are on the coast, you will get slightly different temperatures because of the seawater and the breeze that comes off the sea. When you go inland, you change the temperature regime, the moisture, so this is standard for this kind of inland site.

Dr. Webber

Natural hazards, the biggest hazard we would face here looks like an earthquake and the last earthquake or near earthquake was recorded 10 years ago and measured 2.4 on the Richter scale. It was a surface earthquake, what does that mean, it means that 10 years ago you had a long cycle between earthquakes or tremors; 2.8 on the Richter scale is about what happens when one of these trucks drive by and shake the place violently. To get real values, you have to get over 4.5 or 5 on the Richter scale and depth at zero you get a surface quake, which means you won't get much damage; the deeper the quake is, the more earth movement there is and the more likely you are to get structural damage; so, sounds like a good area to put up this kind of construction.

Geology and soils, this is part of the Rio Cobre alluvial fan, part of the dirt that comes from the river but is thought to be less than 30m deep. There is little variation across the soils, that is within the area of study as well as generally within the area and what we found from actual measurements is that there is a stiff clay which sits on top of a dense medium, sandy, silty-sand, which is going to be good in terms of construction; you can put firm structures there and you know they will not slump or will not move. No major foundation deformities are expected based on what is there and recommendations are to provided construction and drainage within the area based on the paving we are going to be putting in.

Dr. Webber

Based on the EIAs that we do, we spend a lot of time on the flora and fauna, on the plants and animals, because Jamaica has more plants and animals found here per square mile, square metre or whatever you use as your area of measurement. We have more than most countries, so whenever you go to a site and start thinking about development, the first question you have to ask yourself is what plants are found here and nowhere else, what animals are found here

and nowhere else. The site for the development here is already a cleared site and has been for a long time, so for the first time in doing one of our EIAs, we had very little to go look for; we looked around and did not even find any ants, or insects to say here is a rare insect, we should try and protect it or keep it; so the site is a good place. The site is all-systems go in terms of the flora and fauna component.

Noise, noise on the property is actually very low; most of the noise on the property seems to come from vehicles passing by and depending on the size of the vehicle, and the time, we can get loud noises; on the property it seems to be very low. Average noise is way below that accepted for residential areas and here we have a truck passing that would dominate the noise spectrum that we developed. If we are going to have noise from this structure, it means you have to be able to contain it, one of the things is the 4.5 metres wall that is going to be built as well as we have recommended planting vegetation around it; vegetation too act as a buffer and also absorbs noise; just think of a buffer layer around will assist in this way as well.

Dr. Webber

Air quality, air qualities are all within acceptable ranges. We did a measurement, something called a pm 10, particle size 10, and the background concentration was about 146 micrograms per metre cubed and the acceptable standards for Jamaica are, within the pm category, is 150 micrograms per metre cubed over a 24 hour average, so again we have no problems in terms of air quality. We do not think you need to continue the ambient air quality monitoring within the programme that we have.

The social impact area (SIA), this is the area considered when we think how far the development/operation will impact. Well, we placed a 2 kilometre radius around the development site, and then we consider, what is happening within that radius/area. Well, for the

social baseline, from the 2001 population data, there seems to be 43,000 people living in the area and that is about 9% of the population of St. Catherine. In the projected radius, 49.9% of people living within that area are males and that is very different from the rest of the St. Catherine data, where the numbers fall to about 42% who are males; so that means, if you need male inputs for some kind of job, then you have no problem finding them.

Dr. Webber

Unemployment is about 52%; fortunately or positively, the development plans to employ 79 persons, 25 in site clearance and 54 during the operation and I'll show you a breakdown in terms of what they will be doing; it is a small but significant impact. If I was to ask everyone here if they thought they would get one of those 54 jobs, it becomes a small but significant impact in terms of the population and should be viewed for the positive that it is.

Let us look at the other side; we need to think of alternatives in terms of no-action, leave it alone, what is likely to happen if there is no-action taken. Well firstly, I know in Jamaica that if you leave land long enough, persons will come and own it and I think in this proposal squatters may be the first issue in terms of taking it up or leaving it in some way, whether that was planned or not. Then, we are in a commercial area and there may be other industry operators and I cast no aspersions, but some on unscrupulous entity might decide that there is an open piece of land and I need to get rid of stuff and you are building a wall, let us just throw it behind there, no problem, out of sight, out of mind. Well, there is a problem if you leave it there now and there is ponding and there is an issue in terms of water stagnation and that is a problem based on your development. It may become an eye sore or could become a haven for diseases, for rabies, for vermin, so there are problems; doing the development may solve some of those problems.

Dr. Webber

Doing the development, with the problem of cement on the market, and it should increase the competition and thereby reduce the prices in terms of what we pay for cement; without doing the development paints an unfavourable scenario right now. So, if that is what happens with no-action, let us look at the proposed development. What does it do; there are a number of positives, firstly, it boost the cement industry, we have a problem with cement now and we have to be importing cement, we do not have enough cement to make it happen, so it will help to solve that problem.

Increased competition means lower cement cost to you; improved drainage on the site that now exist, which will mean better drainage overall; employment of local residents; improving general aesthetics, if Mainland is to be viewed as to what they have done so far, then we will recognise that they carry a stamp of class anywhere in the world. It will improve the general aesthetics and fit in with the project of the present and future requirements of construction in Jamaica for at least the next 10 - 15 years. The project scenario therefore with the project is more favourable than without the project.

Dr. Webber

Let us look at the impacts; some have been listed as we see them in an environmental experts and economic experts as well; we are going to say here are the impacts and the proposed mitigation; mitigation are the proposed things you can do which will remove the problem or lessen the problem so it is tolerable or bearable and allows the development to continue. Vegetation clearance, there is vegetation there but we are recommending that an area or two, anywhere that is left bare be grassed, because you do not want to have soil run-off, we do not want to end up with less than we started with. There will be paved areas but any unpaved areas or any un-constructed area outside of the footprint, we should grass them. We should ensure that water

coming onsite get channelled into certain areas and do not cause erosion and do not result in the removal of topsoil.

Second impact, construction of proposed drainage works. It is going to give you more water than you had before, 22% increase based on our calculations for peak runoff; we figure that the first thing that we need to do is something called a floodplain map, which is a map of the area to say with a certain amount of rainfall, where will all that water go. Now, then you say, with that in place, where will all the water go; then that helps in the design of drainage especially the storm water system and we are proposing that floodplain map will be brought in place, storm water will be controlled by berms, which are like little bumps which directs the water where we want it to go rather than onsite, so while we are leading it on the site, lead it off the site, take it into the system and then take it to the existing drainage system that is here. All together, it may be that down the line you want to put in oil separators but this is something that you can do based on operation over time. A retention basin, which is to hold sediments or objects that you want to hold - this is also something that you can view over time.

Dr. Webber

Construction of the waste water system, a proposed 75 square metres evapo-transpiration bed is proposed and we think it is inadequate and a little small. We think it should be re-sized to about 644 square metres and we have the space to put in place more infrastructures. However, if it is that we are starting with a smaller workforce, which is going to increase then we can start with a smaller evapo-transpiration bed; but there has to be an understanding that if we increase the load to it, you will have to increase the area. Sometimes it is best to do it all upfront if you may get up to 100 workers, design for 100 workers. We think that the design for 54 workers is a little close on that 75 square metres and we have suggested a larger system

that will give you values that will come out in terms of NEPA's wastewater discharge, it will come out as a positive.

Grease traps, we think that grease traps will become necessary at any time depending on operation; you will never know, accidents may happen and you never plan to fall down, the idea is how to deal with the fall down; well as you go through the operation, there may be the need to put in grease traps based on the water that is being used.

Dr. Webber

Noise pollution, we said there was very little noise on the site and most of the noise that intruded came from vehicles passing by. We recommended that mitigation for these noises is to use equipment with low noise emissions, have them fitted with mufflers so that they reduce the noise; list in the operations the number of noisy equipment and the hours, because we do not want to have large equipment with loud noises at 10 o'clock at night when persons want to sleep. The idea is to time it and operate it and co-exist with the community. Supply the workers with their protection gear because they are going to be in noisy places. You need to give them air muffs, air plugs, things of that sort to deal with the noise.

Air quality; remember we had said we had no problem with air quality, but let us be sure we are on the right track. For both the construction and transportation; the idea is to look at the access roads and monitor how much dust is generated as it stands now and then monitor the first truck load that comes in and continue monitoring thereafter. You should have the area wetted to ensure that dust stays down and wetted frequently. Re-vegetation of exposed areas, which will reduce the re-suspension of fine particulate material and construction workers, need to have again, the gear/equipment to allow them to work. N95 respirators are very

standard in the health care system in the occupational system to ensure that workers do not encounter fine particulate dust.

Dr. Webber

Solid waste, solid waste is a habit thing, it just does not appear, solid waste, you make it so you can do something about it; that one I am sure we can fix. Placement of skips and bins in the right places. Most persons that drop garbage drop it because they feel they have looked around long enough for somewhere to drop it in and feel they cannot carry it any longer. The idea is to put bins so that the solid waste can be put in. Cover them to ensure that odours are not a problem and vermin do not get in and they need to be emptied regularly to ensure that they do not overflow. It is no good having a bin if it is not working. They should be disposed of in an acceptable fashion; right now the use of Riverton landfill is the recommended appropriate action.

Wastewater generation, this is in the site clearance and construction phase, so here you will have the 25 construction workers around, so the idea is to have portable sanitary conveniences. That answers the problem and you move it when you are through.

Dr. Webber

Raw material, as we said earlier, we will have to cover it up; we have to ensure that they are transported in certain hours with the timing being the most important feature. The trucks must be covered not only to prevent loss of material in terms of air pollution but also not to lose the product you are carrying; I think it is a win-win situation on that. Flagmen will ensure that you can get the flow of traffic that you need. Where we are going to talk about the traffic flow later on, this is a larger issue, but to get the trucks in as we speak about construction, flagmen and then signs, which will ask you to obey the flagmen wherever they are.

Storage of raw material, again we are going to have them covered and wetted frequently. There are going to be on hard stands in areas that are not penetrable, so that there is no wash out down into the aquifer, down to the water table. Hazardous chemicals and fuels are going to be stored in an appropriate fashion; some of them need to be raised off the ground, some of them will need to be in sealed containers of steel, some of them need to be non-steel containers because they corrode with steel. We have to look at the various methods to keep the various substances depending on what else is going to be kept onsite. From what we have seen, there will be no problem with storage onsite. Re-fuelling, the idea is to find specific places to do re-fuelling so that we are not exposing the re-fuelling issue to the wide cross-section of the area; limit it to an area so that we can manage that area.

Dr. Webber

Emergency response, there must be a person, a single person who is designated to be the main person that if something happens, something goes wrong, somebody gets injured on the job, there must be some lead person who can take the necessary steps. The steps should be clearly laid out not only for that person but for everybody else on the plant knows what to do in the event of something.

You need to make arrangements with health care facilities, such as the Spanish Town Hospital to accommodate any eventualities; you may not have them but if you do and things such as Material Safety Data Sheets, which is something on site that tells us what is here, what is the potential danger and what is the step of treatment that is required. Let us say you had something that is flammable, you have to deal with it in a certain way; something that is corrosive, you treat it in a different way and you need to make a record of it.

Let us move now onto the operational phase; we have done the construction and now we are ready to rumble. Drainage and water quality, again we are going to look at what happens in terms of water passing through the system and whenever rain falls, we will need to come and inspect to ensure that what we said was going to happen, what we thought was going to happen is in fact so or if it is not, then we need to record it, possibly video-record it and say what we need to do to fix it from here. The idea is to make a presence in the monitoring plan so that you can make a change.

Onsite drainage channel needs to be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that we can get the water away. All water supplies and fittings should be inspected regularly and that the storm water drainage taking the water off the premises, those should also be inspected. It might mean you that you have to leave your premises and get to the adjacent premises to get the water continuing to flow, but considering what I have seen of Mainland, you should have no difficulty doing this.

Dr. Webber

Wastewater disposal is from the evapo-transpiration bed, and we need to make it larger now that we are into the operational phase, and I think that at that point we need to ensure that one, it is large enough and two, it does have all the requirements, for instance, the vegetation that is to be added on top.

Solid waste, again, we are going to provide skips and bins and monitor that they are emptied regularly and taken to the Riverton landfill during the operational phase as well.

Dust, by covering the trucks, there will be fewer problems with dust pollution. We are going to store all the raw materials, not on open sites; we pass some places and you will see things being stored and

they have big plastic bags over them and trying to hold down the corners with some blocks. We are talking about silos here, upright structures that will hold the raw material. Remember, the idea is that it will be taken out and delivered in certain concentrations to make the cement, so you do not want to have it just lying around anywhere. So there is going to be a feeder system, a conveyor belt system and the conveyor belt is going to be covered, so there will not be any dust from there.

Collections in terms of the grinding and mixing and bagging unit and there is going to have some kind of maintenance schedule, whether it weekly, monthly, but there must be a maintenance schedule which will ensure that the things that are put in place above are in fact working. One of the staff members of the 54 will be responsible for tracking and tracing to ensure that housekeeping is done and that the plant design is working as it should; that has to be someone who can look at the plant and say that it is doing as it is supposed to.

Dr. Webber

Heat, there is a heat issue; we did say that this mill generates heat; how do we solve that? Proper ventilation. The construction has to allow ventilation. That is why we measure the wind, we need to know which direction the wind comes from so you can get the ventilation right, and then we need to have protection of the workers. We need to know that the ambient temperature, remember we measured it at 31.7°C, so we need to start a process so that when the temperatures go beyond and we can check for limits.

Some countries have a limit of 35.5°C coming from industry or even as high as 40.2°C; we need to look at the standard and say when it gets to that point, whether it is hazardous to the workers, we need to protect the workers. We are going to reduce the time the workers

spend from exposure; if you cannot reduce the temperature, you should be able to by using the sprinkler system, then if you cannot reduce the temperature enough, the idea is to reduce the exposure, to limit the time that the workers are there.

Noise, we are going to have equipment with low emissions and fitted with mufflers and sound proofing. Ensure that the perimeter wall is there and that the vegetation around it is in place so that it reduces the impact of noise leaving and then within, having the workers protected by having their ear muffs and air plugs and then having a hearing conservation plan for the workers who are there. Testing their hearing when they are coming in, testing them every now and then, helping them work through their issues, if there are issues, again, you can assist your workers. The workers are best resources that you have and if you have the right people, you do not want to lose them.

Dr. Webber

Air quality, transportation again, to site will have to monitor what is happening as it come onsite, we are going to ensure that pollution control devices are working and if it is not working, you need to flag it, you need to highlight it and you need to say you need to get them fixed, you need to change this. Stored piles should be covered to prevent any issues such as wind, or re-suspension. Any spill of raw material or finished product should be dealt with immediately and in a safe and clean fashion to prevent it from becoming airborne and prevent it from travelling very far. Again, you need to be prepared by having your N95.

Occupational health, we have been kind of touching on that but it is more a whole design by itself. Occupational health and safety, has become a whole new issue, if your workforce is the most important thing, how do you ensure that your workforce can continue; training

programmes are the best way. What you do not know can in fact hurt you; the idea is to get your workforce trained so that they know what is expected and they know what to do. For example, the bauxite plant says 'safety begins here' and you see a big sign at the front gate, that is a part of the reinforcement to train the workers that they all are cognizant, they all understand what it means in terms of occupational health. What they are at risk from and what they need to work with.

Emergency response, there is operation which is just the same as during the construction, where you have, again, prior arrangements, co-ordination with medical systems and having a point/lead person; I guess dealing with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), if we did not have something like one of those tremors then the need to know what to do the worker, and ODPEM would be the contact agency.

Dr. Webber

Environmental management plan, it is said that we are safely there. We need to ensure that the management plan works to minimise waste of raw materials, for instance water and energy, you cannot afford to be wasting that either; need to build up a plan where there is a reduction; there is a waste reduction action plan, where there is a separate stream for the different types of waste based on space and trying to enforce re-use, recycle issues and proper disposal where we are going to have to get rid of material and then collect harmful or environmentally harmful or sensitive materials into a single place so that you can call the right people. Not necessarily do it yourself because there are some things we should not be handling at all; we need to call the right people to handle it appropriately.

What else is in the plan, water usage, you need a water conservation plan, for instance, the sprinkler system that is going to cool the mill,

that is a closed system; that is the water that is used to cool, collects and is sent back into the pump system and as that cools down, is then sent back out again. So we need to effect more of that; we need to use water saving equipment and we need to think about that; you see the water that comes from the system, from the face basins etcetera, is there a way to use that as irrigation, because remember we are going to try and re-use areas that were not cast before.

Energy, there needs to be an energy management plan and again, we use energy saving devices and energy attractive retrofit, these in terms of the construction and the operation over time. What else is on the plan, well we are going to be having a fleet of vehicles coming in and out and you want to be sure that they are working to the best that you can have them working. Fleet should be serviced, they should be organized, they should be the right vehicles to start with, you are going to purchase just the vehicles to do what you want, not too large or not too small and we are going to have an educational programme to ensure that those persons, not only the drivers but anybody else working around the vehicles will be cognizant of what is expected and where people could be going wrong. Bring everybody on board to know the safety plans that are required and the safety requirements.

Dr. Webber

Monitoring, there needs to be daily monitoring in terms of road access, cleared areas and the access roads so we do not have dust problems. Daily inspections to ensure that construction activities are not happening outside of the hours that we talked about; daily inspections of trucks carrying raw material to ensure that they are not over-laden and are not spilling all the way here; daily inspections that trucks with the materials are doing it in the right areas, delivering it to the right areas, collecting from the right area, parked in the right area, disposed of in the right area to prevent congestion and accidents.

There needs to be a timeframe on it, it needs to be done daily. Daily inspections to ensure that flagmen are out there and one, they know what they are doing and two, they are doing it properly and using the right equipment.

Daily assessment of solid waste generation and their cause; how much is generated per day so you can determine how often you need to clear it. Weekly assessment to determine if you have adequate numbers of portable toilets and that they are in proper working order, if not, we need to put the plan in place to change them. Finally, monitor to ensure that approved suppliers and sources of local material are used; you should not have to go outside, you should be supporting our own economy.

During the construction phase, inspection of quarry license; if you getting limestone from somewhere you do not want any illegal cut limestone, you want the legal stuff so you need to check license and ensure that this is on file. Daily monitoring of the fuelling and repair in terms of vehicles and these should be done on impervious surfaces, hard stands. Construction crews should be sourced from within the study area; remember the 2 kilometre radius, you should be working within that radius to satisfy the community. Where you get community impact or community by-in, you are more likely to have a successful venture over time.

Dr. Webber

Daily inspection of activities to ensure that the wastewater and drainage are working as they should. Onsite drainage, again we come back to that oil-water issue that if it comes up we need to put it in place. Storm water drainage; I cannot say you are going to do this daily as it is not everyday that storm water will be present so that is an opportune or what we call an opportune moment. We have the evapo-transpiration bed which we say should be a little larger;

generally the wastewater treatment needs to be intercepted to determine if all things are working well within the capacity. Solid wastes handling, again, monitor that on a weekly basis.

Finally, in operation, we want to check efficiency and plant operations as well as check heat energies and this is to be recorded; we suggested on a quarterly basis; whether you want to start on every other month or every 3 months, the idea is that you want to get a feel of how far from the background data or how far from background standards are we. Similarly with noise, this is going to be on a yearly basis after operation is in place. Protective equipment, that should be checked daily, should be checked at the gate as a part of the routine and the security system.

Finally, the traffic system, the intersection here seems to be quite a busy intersection. The bypass cannot accommodate the increase traffic flow and results in some kind of problem at the intersection, so that is the intersection we are talking about; here we are sitting right around here, that is the proposed Cement Plant, that is the Spanish Town bypass and the March Pen Road, so we have the four-way that we need to work with.

On the by-pass to by-pass as I call it, a lot the vehicles will be going in that direction, but a far amount of traffic will be travelling here. So the recommendations are a short lane in terms of turning right, so when you come along March Pen road you can get a turning lane that increases the traffic flow. The turning lanes on the bypass, however, needs to be extended because there are other vehicles, not necessarily coming to Mainland to shop, are going to be on that, so you need to extend that; we recommend it extending to 100 metres from the 50 metres and the main consideration needs to be adjusted so we can have an exclusive right turn of 70 metres in length.

[End of presentation]

Dr. Webber At that point, I will pause and ask you if you wish to raise any questions, I will try to answer them or my colleagues. I will introduce Mr. Carlton Campbell, who is the CEO of CL Environmental and we will take as many questions as you can throw at us. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for your patience.

Chairperson Ladies and gentlemen could you put your hands together for Dr. Webber, I think he did an excellent job [*clapping in background*]; very concise, well done. I told you his resume is not false; he really did an in-depth study. At this time, we will have questions and answers, but let me remind you that although you might be giving questions verbally, you have after this presentation, members of the public and all interest groups have 30 days in which to submit written comments to NEPA.

At this time, those of you who are interested in asking questions, just to come straight up to the front and take the mike (microphone) and make your comments. Looking at the overall review of the study that was done, I think all areas have been addressed; it shows exactly how, when, where and why things will be done on this site. You now need to say if there are any suggestions that you have, any ideas that you can come up with, because it takes all of us to make it happen. It takes teamwork to make the dream work. So your input is definitely necessary.

Dr. Webber I would like to indicate that we are taping the proceedings as a requirement by NEPA. Actually the requirement is to make a report, almost a verbatim of this meeting, so when you come up to ask your question, identify yourself and state the organization or interest group of which you are attached.

Margarita Sherwood, Ministry of Commerce

I just need some clarification on the black water system and the proposed project for wastewater.

Dr. Webber

The question is about the black water system. The idea is that water will be coming from face basins, toilets etcetera that is going to go into a holding area. The overflow from that will then be taken to the evapo-transpiration bed for treatment. The treatment that is being preferred is the evapo-transpiration bed.

The grey water system is going to have a holding area, which is the primary area, from there any overflow will be taken to a soak away system and anything from that will go into a septic tank and evapo-transpiration system with vegetation on top of that.

Mr. Campbell

The final design for this has not been submitted yet. Generally, the evapo-transpiration bed is a sealed area, where you have baffles and you have piping in place and then trickles into a gravel bed, gravel sand filter and then on top of that you have vegetation with roots and that takes off the excess water and also some of the nutrients. So at the end of the day, there is less water and any water that is left over, the nutrients has been taken out. Has that answered your question?

Ms. Sherwood

I will live with it. I have another question for you, most of your checks are daily, but the noise level, I think you said a year or something, isn't that a long period?

Dr. Webber

[in background] That is during operation.

Dr. Webber No that is the recommended time frame for operation. During construction, it is far more frequent. Once you are in operation phase [*voice trails off*]

Ms. Sherwood If I was living pretty close to that place I would be worried about the impact of noise.

Dr. Webber Well, I guess that if there is an issue in terms of noise; but we will take that onboard and the answer to that would be, rather than doing a yearly check, to do it twice per year or in quarters. Operation and construction carries 2 different types of monitoring programme. Monitoring carries a rigorous intensive, every day you have to be there. Once you have completed the construction, this is where most of the noise, most of the dust etcetera. During the operation phase, it becomes more lengthy; so the checks become over a much longer period of time and if you are going to have a noise problem, you are going to realise it from the very first day you start and then you might decide that let us put in place a change in the monitoring plan. What we are recommending here is not hard and fast; this is a recommendation which may change.

More than once, there is the issue of oily water; there seems to be no oily water, but in our experience, you put in strategies that if there is, you need to have a trap system for it.

Ms. Sherwood [*in background*] I was also coming to that actually, thank you [*laughing*].

Chairperson If there are anymore questions; step up and let us hear all the concerns. Remember state your name and the organization you are affiliated with etcetera.

Andrew Weise Dr. Webber, after an impressive presentation in terms of your research and paper presented here and I see where your overall

pictures that employment of this operation will be on average 54 persons, is that for any given length of period after it is completed or is it that the numbers are expected to decrease over time.

Dr. Webber

That I think is something that Mainland can answer rather than me. Based on what we have, in terms of to operate the system as designed will require 54 persons in the breakdown that we are talking about – how many managers you will need, how many accountants, how many on the ground supervisors and workers. It may be that you find you need more of them, you need to expand; (*indistinguishable*) operation is very small compared to the whole area.

Right now, as we have it, the plant needs to do this construction in this way and it may take about 25, 15 or 30 workers, but operation, 54 persons, it may take 55, 58, it depends on what the company decide that this is more profitable and this really meets the requirements that you increase the operations and more people will get involved. It is my understanding, based on the documentation that we have, the 54 will continue until operations start and we talk about generating employment, it is not much but it is important especially in an area with 52% unemployment; everybody may get a job, it is important to them and their families.

Andrew Weise

This is a big presentation in terms of the research and I think that it will have positive long-term implications for Jamaica generally and it will also ensure that there is a competitive air in the whole cement industry in Jamaica, which is important for this country to have right now.

Jodi Myrie

Just to answer your question, Andrew, as we increase the capacity of the plant, we will increase the employment force. So for this phase, the first phase, it will be a 150 tonnes per day plant and for those

who cannot relate to the tonnage, it is approximately 4 40 foot trailer bed of cement that will be produced per day from the first plant. The raw materials coming in will be using about 6 dumper truck loads of material coming in to the plant per day. Majority of the raw material will be stored at Port Esquivel on their beachfront side there so that the ship will come in and offload it. All the clinker that will be imported and the limestone and gypsum that we will be using in making our product; those will be trucked in as needed. So when you look on the overall picture; for the first plant, we are looking at 6 dumper truck loads coming in and we are talking about 4 trailer beds of cement coming out. There will be an increase in capacity after a couple of months after and we will be doubling the capacity in a couple of months. So when that doubles, the employment possibly can double, the trucks coming in possibly will double.

Mr. Weise You are actually saying that there will be more employment as you will have direct employment plus the ripple effect of other persons, sidemen, other side drivers and other persons who will be positively influenced by this plant.

Mr. Myrie Yes, definitely!

Dr. Webber You can count on that; it is going to be very interesting here that the plant, the organization has put in place or we put in place. The truck men, the sidemen, the vendors what ever it is that you decide to put in, even if you put in a little bit, that is not counted in the 54, that is over and above and the 150 tonnes, that is to start with; you can either increase the size of the plant or you can increase the operation of the plant within the project site. If you are producing 340 tonnes, then you are going to need more people, but the 54 is to start with, to tell them where to go while the others are occasional depending on the circumstances around.

Chairperson Are there any other questions? Come up and remember to state your name and affiliations.

Barrington Clarke, Member of the Corllets Road community

I just want to endorse what Mr. Weise had said earlier on, an impressive presentation from Dr. Webber. My concern is the possible environmental health or un-health. What guarantee there is that the presence of this plant may make the area environmentally unhealthy because taking into consideration that we have a plant nearby already that is emitting hazardous pollution and I am really concerned about the dust pollution and the possible chemicals that this plant might be adding to the atmosphere. In addition to that, I must further go on to say that in terms of employment, we the members of this community are really glad, glad for any possible employment that this plant might be able to generate but we are really concerned about the health of the environment and I hope you can elaborate on it; we will, I will appreciate it.

Dr. Webber Well, thank you Sir. As we said earlier, the three things that surround health if you are not in the path but living nearby; there is the dust pollution, there is the noise pollution and there is any other water-borne pollution are the 3 things you need to consider. The plans that were presented to us when we started the EIA and the recommendations that we have put forward, we think, not just to the standards set by NEPA or any other organization, all the numbers come in less than the numbers that are acceptable by everybody.

So we know we are within the standards, so we put forward the recommendations that say you need to cover it up, you need to wet the area and then we have able monitoring and the idea is, if you something happening you should be able to ring a bell and say

remember the thing you taught us today it is not happening and get us to put something in place right away. That is why we have agencies here that are also looking out for your benefit even though you may not think about some of the issues we are talking about.

We are in an industrial type zone and looking at where you are, these are the other problems that are there, one of the things I think you could do is as a community, get together and say, company X is over there and why are you doing this and company Y is over there, call us and tell us how they are doing it. Put pressure on them that they need to stop what they are doing or they need to give you some argument to deal with it; because when the cement grinding facility goes up, they know how they are going to be dealing with it, come up and talk. You have an opportunity as a community you have that level, use it, you live here, they only visit here.

Mr. Myrie

I think I should give you guys a little exercise on exactly what the project is all about. Now we will be importing clinker; clinker is the hardest process in manufacturing cement. Carib Cement uses a wet process to manufacture cement. You have to manufacture cement from limestone, combining limestone, with gypsum to give you clinker. We are not going through that process that process is not for us. The machinery will grind that finished product, clinker with the limestone, with the gypsum to give us cement and it is grounded in an enclosed cylinder that we saw on the picture.

After it is grounded, it is then transferred/transported from that enclave cylinder into a hopper, a grinding hopper, a silo and it stays there until it is to be used for bagging. So, it is a very simple process. We are setting up a cement grinding facility here at 2 to 3 March Pen road, we are not talking about a Carib Cement; it is nothing compared to a Carib Cement. You can get the same results as Carib Cement in a short period of time, with less infrastructure, right, that

is basically what it is. Our plant is a dry process, it does not include water at all, therefore the only water that we will have is the greywater waste.

I forgot the name of the person from the Chamber of Commerce, or the Ministry of Commerce, she had asked a question, it is nothing more typical than what goes on, on a day to day basis; the system that the Doctor was talking to you about; it is a typical system within the surrounding area, for almost anybody who... same system at Mainland here; nothing different.

Ms. Sherwood

I would like for the representatives here from NEPA to give their views on the project, because they are the Agency that knows the in and out of this thing.

Leonard Francis, NEPA

Basically, what is happening is that otherwise than Carib Cement, the plant is talking about a grinding plant, an enclosed plant based on what you are seeing. Our major concern with respect of for something like this would be as the gentleman said the dust. Based on what we are seeing here, on what is presented in the documentation, you should not have that effect really. The other effect because of what we are doing would be heat from the process itself and they will have an enclosed system, based on what we are seeing here. The water cooling system will take care of that.

So, the reality is that when you have gotten together everything and we have looked at it, it seems that in terms of the mitigation, the measures would have to be adequate but what we will be doing is that we are still going through the stuff itself and definitely, if we see anything that falls out of line, which we do not expect to see, we will have to think of mitigation measures for that. But, the technology

for us is new, so basically we are going on the internet to see what we got from them and the proposal.

Chairperson

Are there any other questions? Does anyone have anything else?

Mr. Clarke

One of the concerns of members of the community is that is it possible that anybody can be affected by the heat or the dust; how could we approach that? Is there a public relation system in place whereby we could teach persons?

Dr. Webber

The construction of a 4.5 high metre wall with trees planted all around that, which will help to reduce the noise issue and the dust. The model shows that dust generated in the plant will not leave that compound, will not leave the perimeter at all so there is not a dust issue as far as we can see and there should not be a noise issue and the water issue should go into the storm water or into the grey water system.

So for me as an environmentalist and I have done a ton of these, this is a sail in the park. I cannot find any issues with this one; supposed we had to go up there and say well these are rare plants and you have to dig up the plant and move it into this area and you have to keep it safe until the project finish and then you have to plant it back when you are finished; none of those issues with this one; this is a win-win. But I am sure that a company such as Mainland will have a public relation system that you can come to and speak to.

Mr. Myrie

Well, just to answer your question, for the time we have been here, we have had a beautiful relationship with every single community that surrounds Mainland International. It is in my opinion that whatever we need to put in place to accommodate any discussions, we are open and willing to have any open discussions. But as I will say

again, we have had a beautiful relationship with the community and we are here to stay; we are not here to run away.

Chairperson Any more questions? Any questions from the back? I have not heard any questions from that section, any questions?

Vivienne I live in the community; I would like to know when the jobs will be starting as you know we have a lot of people in the community that need jobs and we will like to help and we need work.

Mr. Myrie I am for work and I love to give people work; I love to see when people work. As soon as we receive the letter of approval, that is why we are here today, as soon as we can get over this process, we will start the civil works and I think that my father, just as I, he can have the civil works finished in about after 3 months time. After that, it takes us about 30 – 45 days to commission the first plant. So, in other words, you are looking at about 3 – 4 months time before we commission the plant itself, but work will start once we get the approvals from NEPA to go ahead.

Vivienne So when you start the plant, are you going to employ ladies?

Mr. Myrie I love employing ladies [*voice trails off*].

Vivienne Yes, because I am here and unemployed and ready to work, you know.

Mr. Myrie Just leave a number_.... Does everyone know Annette? Give her the names of the ladies and let them come for business [*laughter in background*].

Vivienne Thank you, very much Sir.

Chairperson

I want to extend the challenge, not just the real challenge, to the community but you also need to ensure that collectively, we keep the community, keep the area; we have improved in some areas; this is just the first factory and if it follows true to what is happening, then the other factories will continue down the line; and I say to you, we also have a responsibility to ensure your community that it is safe to live and work in and let us try and keep the area in a proper way and in circumstances where we can ensure that investors are coming to the area.

We have to give Mr. Myrie and the team a real resounding round of applause and we should put our hands together for them [*clapping in background*]; and I say that unreservedly because to admit as the President of the Chamber of Commerce that what is happening is really enlightening and heartening; the fact is people do care about Spanish Town; it is something if someone can spend this kind of money, he really needs to have the community co-operate and if he feels that is about to happen and in this day and age to have peace and co-operation other people will begin to come in.

I have to say this; in Kingston and St. Andrew, the lands are saturated, there is no where else to go. Spanish Town is the only place that you can come geographically. The location in Spanish Town is the best in the island. Since you have to pass through Spanish Town, I say to you that is we can build-up back the understanding, in a few months, Spanish Town would be the number 1 place in Jamaica in terms of production, factory, and all the other business entities. I am saying to you let us rise to the occasion. Let us put our hands together [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson

Any other questions?

Rudolph Brown, St. Catherine Parish Council

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I just want to add that like NEPA, we are given the document, the EIA study. As a part of the process, whatever comments we have will be forwarded to NEPA for consideration to aid in the approval process. So I just wanted you to know what the Parish Council's role in the process, the EIA was [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson Come let us ask some more questions so we can wrap this up and get the factory going.

Mr. Myrie Guys, the more questions you ask, the more clarity you get to the situation; what is going to happen. I'm asking you; Mainland has had a very hard time providing in Jamaica, especially with the fight that we get from our competition and I am asking everybody, we can transform this entire community. We need your help, we need the questions; do not think the question is stupid; ask any question that you want to ask, if you want to say it to me, I will ask the question and answer it.

Donna Austin I do not think the age going to make any problem to get the job?

Mr. Myrie No, no, age will not be a problem [*laughter and clapping in background*].

Paul Wallace, Scarlett Avenue

Goodnight, I am living in the community; since of late the SDC and other groups have been coming in the area talking about some peace and this is the right time for every stage. We have started a small programme putting out a few leaders to run a committee. We did that last night, we have plans right now; right now we are dealing with sports and we have plans to come and talk to you guys shortly as we have competitions coming up and other things coming up so I am

glad for this. You guys will be hearing from us as we are developing a community relationship with the people since we know about the problems with March Pen and Scarlett Road. We are family; you are going to be hearing from us [*clapping in background*].

Mr. Myrie

There is a solution to your problem and it is very easy, very very easy. How your father grow you, right, and you turn out to be a man, right, a big man, and now you looking in the community to get around, to settle your community not because of what has been going on. You see the stance you have taken to make a difference in the community; you have to pass that on to the younger ones, pass it on as quick as possible. Once you pass it on, any help that you want, even from the Mainland family, we will help you.

Whatever help it is, as long as it is in our lead way; remember I have my problems just as much as you do, so the best thing to do is to work with the community; get the people to start playing together and start helping out. This community is considered one of the worst communities in Jamaica; I do not think so. It has been said that way for reasons, which we do not want even to talk about, but let us just stop looking around to the police force and get cracking on working and all we need to do is work. The more we work, the more jobs will be provided.

I want Mainland family to turn this entire community into a productive community. When I say productive, there is nothing that we should need in this community that we cannot produce and later on, you will see some of the other projects that Mainland is doing, you guys will understand a lot more as the project; but this is only the start. It actually started with the you see that we are here to stay, we made a commitment to the community, we made a commitment to ourselves and we made a commitment to God that we are going to

make it happen. So all I am saying, just keep on what you doing; the football side that you have for the community, it is possible that where we can have the cement plant sponsoring them as the main sponsor, anything is possible; come to us with your proposals with the supporters; I cannot give you my 100% promise but I am telling you that I will work with you [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson

Any other questions ladies and gentlemen? Sitting here I am really heartened to hear this is happening and I believe you know if we had had all the radio stations and TV stations listening to what is about to take place, or what is happening here, and I believe that really a lot more is there and that the community is doing towards the upliftment of Spanish Town and this community, I believe we should be the model of Jamaica later on and I am looking forward to that because the Chamber is already in there creating scholarships, strong alliances with the community and I know that the business sector will be coming in to enhance what is happening. The social interventions and the business agencies have begun and we hope that you can help us make it happen.

Mr. Wallace

Specifically to Mr. Chamber of Commerce, I am wondering what plans or projects are in place to cater to people with investment ideas; people has a way of alleviating social conditions and challenges in our community. What opportunity is there to really, you know, out there to really attract people with small investment ideas?

Chairperson

That is why we like that sort of thing because what is happening here is a start of that because the spin off, when the factory is open, you will be able to open small shops, hairdressers, so even as we speak, we talking about World Cup 2007 and that is coming on stream. I was talking to SDC and a number of entities, that what we should be doing in the March Pen next week Thursday is attracting players in

this community for next year; begin to set up business incentives, plant up the place, we can get flower seeds, you can get jerk stalls, put the community in the light and use it just like what is happening in passa passa and that sort of thing.

There are a lot of businesses that can step up, that can work to make the US dollars, they are the bread and butter accommodations, they make a lot of places, they make a dozen hotels and if you make the community safe, they will come right here.

Mr. Wallace

I want to take this opportunity to implore you, ask you, beg of you to help the community be a safer place; use your big office and your influence, along with members of the community to make it a more socially healthy place.

Chairperson

We are working on that aspect of it; even as we speak, what we are trying to do and we are asking the business community, that for kids going to school, for after-school jobs. We are trying to fix that situation to get money for lunch money, to help with the school fee, the CXC's; to encourage the mentoring programme, that you come to the job, the boss will help you; you know, raise the children, instil values, that sort of thing, that is what the Chamber is really working on; after school you can come and get a few hours work, get a little money to help with the lunch money, the books and that sort of thing.

All the things are not running together as yet; all those things here, you will have to help; we cannot do it alone. If we are doing it from one end we need you to come from the other. This is what we need to bring it together. Well the thing is to talk now, and that is what we need to do; rather than have an idea and say that the big man is pulling you down, talk up, sit down and see if you can work it out

together, education is key, let us move in that direction [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson

Ladies and gentlemen, we are coming down to the wire, are there any other questions or suggestions? Do I see somebody with a hand up? Is there anybody else? Remember, that after this, you have 30 days to make a response, after that forever hold your peace. I am going to ask one more time, going once, going twice, going thrice, gone!

Ladies and gentlemen, could you put your hands together, please, for a job well done [*clapping in background*]. Believe me ladies and gentlemen, I feel relieved and I am going to call the Chamber and all the business sector together to tell them what has happened, because this is the sort of influence we like to see happening in a community. Once again, I would just like to thank the Mainland family; there are a number of persons we need to say thanks to and I ask Denise to come at this time to give the vote of thanks. Put your hand together, please, for Denise [*clapping in background*].

Dionne

Thank you, and it is actually Dionne. Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Robotham on behalf of Mainland International, the entire family and the community, we would like to say thank you for going the extra mile in supporting this venture. You have done a lot, you have gone beyond call; this is the kind of support that the entire community will be happy. For those who are here, I know and for those who are not, they would be very happy to know that this is the kind of support that the St. Catherine Chamber of Commerce lends to business concerns and we have business interests like these. We thank you very, very much and we look forward to continued support from you [*clapping in background*].

We would also like to thank all the members of the community that have given up their time this evening to come out and share your views and opinions. It is worthwhile as we said it is and we are very, very grateful for your support this evening. Thank you very much [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson

Ladies and gentlemen, let me just acknowledge Dr. Webber, all the other agencies here, most of all, the Myrie family, the Mainland family, for this illustrious venture, I know that they need a break based on what has been happening in the cement industry and I know the history that Mainland has where cement is concerned, there is a rising controversial, there is a rising beacon where prices are concerned. With the rising shortage of cement and cost, what will happen, happen and that we will implore that cement prices will go down to the public that with the idea that houses will be built with block and steel rather than cardboard [*clapping in background*].

I feel assured that this is the way that Mr. Myrie is taking and we will have to congratulate you Sir, I do not know how you do it, how you find the tenacity in these hard times to put your hard earned cash into this instead of Government Paper; but I suppose the way you have (*indistinguishable*), I suppose a don't suppose because I know that God is looking at what you are doing, (*indistinguishable*) So, let me thank everybody for a lovely evening, for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here but we believe that is was worth it.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think there are refreshments on the other side as we continue [*voice trails off*]

[*in the background*] On behalf of the community, we want to ensure that

Mr. Clennon Goodnight ladies and gentlemen, I am presently the PR person of the Corllets and March Pen Road Peace Development Committee and I just want to say, with respect to Mr. Myrie and family for the good job they have been doing over the years, for assisting the youths and getting them employment and I hope you continue [*clapping in background*].

Chairperson When I see a youth like that it speaks volume; you have some very bright young men in these communities, very bright, they just need the opportunity and I want to say to you, keep up the good work, Sir, and we are looking forward to working with you to build a better community, a better place, a better parish and at large, a better nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me just ask the Lord to touch you and keep you; to let His face shine upon you; lift up His countenance and be gracious unto you and give you shalom, peace, God bless you all [*clapping in background*].