

Alan Robinson

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Minister of Sport, Community Development and Co-operatives
The Ministerial complex
Tanteen, St. George's

July 12, 2007

RE: Carnival at the National stadium

Dear Sir,

It would be remiss of me if I did not vehemently voice my objection to the use of Cricket Stadium for the hosting of carnival 2007, or for that matter, any carnival. My objection is based on the following information.

1. The use of the South/members pavilion
 - a. The members pavilion hosts several sensitive area of concern that run the Cricket stadium. These include a fully computerized fire fighting system with easily accessible alarms. History has shown that these are tampered with regularly and thus results in power cuts and thus failure of our cctv, turnstile, telecom and firefighting response systems. All of this seriously affects the security of the event.
 - b. The seats at the stadium are free standing, spring hinged seats. These seats are not designed for standing or jumping on. The former seats were fixed to a concrete base and hence were resistant to damage due to jumping on. This is not the case in our NEW stadium.
 - c. The investment in the furnishings for the suites was a sizable one. These suites are not 'strong-locked' and hence I am certain that there would be

intoxicated patrons gaining forceful entry to these suites. Leather furniture, refrigerators and television sets would therefore be at risk.

- d. The members pavilion houses the main storage for plant owned by the GNS. This again is a major security risk.

2. Pitch and Outfield

- a. The compaction done by trampling feet, would kill the grass and damage the subsurface drains. The extra compaction would compromise the design criteria of excellent runoff of storm water.
- b. The use of the south/members pavilion would dictate that the stage be placed on or about the cricket pitch (the square). This then ensures damage to the pitch and also the bowlers run up.
- c. Note here that the outfield cost Ecc. \$2.3 million. The damage to this surface would be very expensive and time consuming. It would require the importation of sand void of salt, replanting and growing of grass, repairs to the subsurface drains. All of these repairs services cannot be done by any local company as it requires specialist equipment (lazer grader) that is not available locally. Whatever budget presented for carnival must also add at least \$1.0 million for repair work.
- d. The recently launched Virgin cricket classis for October would have to be played elsewhere as a result of damage to facility and outfield.

3. Services

- a. The toilets installed at the GNS are designed for low water consumption. The excessive consumption of alcohol would encourage increased used of facilities which was not a design parameter. This would thus create a major strain on the existing toilet facilities.
- b. Landscaped areas would most definitely be destroyed.
- c. Repainting of the facility would be necessary if we are to sell a proper product to become self-sufficient.

4. CRICKET STADIUM:

- This is a dedicated CRICKET stadium unlike Trelawny and some of the other stadia which are MULTI-PURPOSE facilities.
- The overlay facilities were again done to CRICKET specifications and this too costs a tidy sum.

5. The ALTERNATIVE:

There however is an alternative; that is the use of the athletic stadium.

Justification;

- It is used for Inter- col games for 2 consecutive days.
- It houses in excess of 6,000 energetic supporters of a tender age.
- There has been no logistical, security, safety or access problem when this facility has been used.
- There is adequate parking.
- This area has enough space for access control, e.g. soft ticket checks etc.

The proposal here is to use the curved, southern-most stand, with the addition of security rails around the back. The stage is to be placed on the edge of the 6 yard box and going northward from there. This alignment allows for participants to process down the track on the western side (100m. track), cross the stage and exit on the east.

Work to be done:

- Guard rails
- Minor Plumbing
- Cleaning and clearing

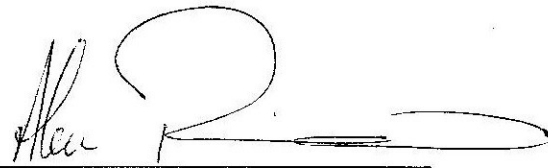
This work could be funded by the GCC, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Sport, Inter-Col, GFA as these entities would all benefit from the development of this facility. Sharing the costs and the works would definitely make this task a whole lot lighter.

While I present this document now, for information sake, I have sub-contractors giving cost estimates for the execution of the works to be done to make this feasible facility, functional. These costs would be forwarded as soon as received. This is estimated to be ready by Monday 16th July 2007 for your perusal.

While I can't dictate policy I do hope that I can influence decisions. I sincerely trust that this document is looked at in the spirit in which it was sent, one of concern, deep concern, care and a paining heart. I have seen this facility grow from debris to the stage it has gotten to, the number one rated CRICKET facility in the Caribbean. I know the amount of work, time, effort, sacrifice, money etc. put in to reach to this stage; it would render all these efforts null and void when this facility is ruined in one fell swoop. Let's admit it; we do not have the finance to repair the facility.

Thanks for a listening ear.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Robinson Msc.
Facilities Manager GNS

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c.c: P.S Min. of Sport
Chairman GCF
Interim Chairman GCC
Stadium Manager