

**STATEMENT BY HON MIA AMOR MOTTLEY Q.C., M.P.**  
**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION &**  
**POLITICAL LEADER OF THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY**

**“The Prime Minister must fire Lashley”**

There is now incontrovertible evidence that at the very least Michael Lashley in his capacity of Minister of Housing and Lands willfully misled the Parliament of Barbados on 17 August 2010.

There is documentary evidence in the form of the Minutes of the Board of the National Housing Corporation of June 30, 2010 that the Board and the Acting General Manager were concerned that there was no contract in place with the contractor Clico Property Management for the project at Constant, St. George

There is his action in bypassing or ignoring this critical information when quoting from the same Minutes.

There is his attempt to use an offer term sheet to say that a contract was in place with Clico.

And finally, Mr. Lashley's own admission two days ago that the NHC was in the process of drawing up a contract with Clico Property Management.

Instead of dismissing the issue, Acting Prime Minister Freundel Stuart should live up to the high ethical and moral traditions of Parliaments everywhere and dismiss the Minister. I am calling on him to put aside his political allegiance and act in the best interest of the country and the finest traditions of parliamentary democracy.

There is plenty of precedence for such an action. Most recently President Bill Clinton was impeached for malfeasance in office, perjury and obstruction of justice. Simply put he did something wrong in his official capacity as President, he lied and then tried to cover it up.

There is a clear parallel in the events that have unfolded on August 17 and since then.

In Jamaica today, the Church, social commentators and the Opposition are calling on Prime Minister to resign for lying to the country on the Mannat/Dudus Coke Affair.

There is precedence within the Democratic Labour Party itself for dismissing a popular housing minister. Errol Barrow dismissed Joy Edwards when he believed that Mr. Edwards' conduct could be a stain on his Government and the party.

Mr. Lashley has indicated that he will not do the honourable thing and resign and therefore I am calling on Acting Prime Minister Freundel Stuart to dismiss him.