The days of "sit-down" money must end CLP Leader Terry Mills told Parliament today.

Mr Mills said the dependency on welfare has done more harm than good and people must be given back their dignity, not paid off in the hope that the problems will, if not go away, then at least be silenced.

Mr Mills said in the meantime ways must be found to ensure that these monies are used to the benefit of all the recipients and in the manner in which they were intended.

"Ways can be worked out to ensure that the money given to itinerants to allow them to pay their fares back to their community are repaid. Why then can't ways be worked out to ensure that various payments made to families and individuals are not wasted on grog or gunja or kava but rather used to improve the health and welfare of the family and individual?," Mr Mills said

"I am committed to finding ways to achieve this so families benefit from these payments, not suffer even further.

"But that of course is only a temporary solution."

Mr Mills told Parliament communities must be given the opportunities to get off welfare and pursue their own economic development.

"It must not be in the paternalistic way that is now fashionable of telling them what to do, but rather government's role is to assist them to do what they want to do. Ways must be found to unlock the economic potential of the almost 50% of the land controlled by land trusts," Mr. Mills said.

"Ways must be found to let the traditional owners and the residents of these lands to improve their economic lot.

"It doesn't have to be factories or industry or even the cash economy. It doesn't have to fit in with a western economic model. There were thriving micro economies before and there can be again. Government's role will be to help not dictate."

Ends.