**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Wednesday 7th July, 2021.**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Speaker
The Honourable Michael Pierre
*in the Chair*

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| Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith Mitchell, PC, MP, JP (St. George North-West) | - Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management |
| Honourable Gregory Bowen, MP (St. George South-East) | - Minister for Finance, Planning, Economic Development, Physical Development, Public Utilities and Energy |
| Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP (St. Mark) | - Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Climate Resilience and the Environment |
| Honourable Alvin Da Breo, MP (St. John) | - Minister of Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs |
| Honourable Peter David, MP (Town of St. George) | - Minister for Labour, Agriculture and Lands |

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| Honourable Yolande Bain-Horsford, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-West) | - Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives |
| Honourable Oliver Joseph, MP<br>(St. David) | - Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs |
| Honourable Kate Lewis, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-East) | - Minister within the Ministry of National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, ITC and Disaster Management wrf Youth Development |
| Honourable Pamela Moses<br>(St. Patrick East) | - Minister within the Ministry of National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, ITC and Disaster Management wrf Needy Assistance, Uniform Allowance, Special Projects and ITC |
| Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP<br>(St. Andrew South-East) | - Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Information and Religious Affairs |
| Honourable Nickolas Steele, MP<br>(St. George South) | - Minister for Health and Social Security |
| Honourable Kindra Maturine-Stewart, MP<br>(Carriacou and Petite Martinique) | - Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs |
| Honourable Delma Thomas, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-West) | - Minister in the Ministry of Health and Social Security wrf for Hospital Services, and Minister of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment |
| Honourable Anthony Boatswain, MP<br>(St. Patrick West) | - Deputy Speaker |

Honourable Tobias Clement, MP - Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition
(St. George North-East)

***The Sitting of the House of Representatives began at 9:02 a.m.***

## PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OR AFFIRMATION OF A NEW MEMBER

There was no Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a New Member.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, on Friday, 21st May, 2021, be taken as read.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the confirmation of the said Minutes.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

## MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

There was no message from the Governor-General.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR. SPEAKER

*Mr. Speaker made the following announcement:*

"Honourable Members, I just learnt that the President of Haiti has been assassinated around the middle of the night. It's a sad state of affairs for our Caribbean country and for CARICOM. We pray that this never ever happen in any other country, and especially in our dear land. It's a sad state of affairs."

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There was no presentation of Petitions.

## PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the following Report be laid on the Table:

- Grenada Development Bank Annual Report 2020 (GDB).

**The Speaker ordered that the Report be laid on the Table**.

## UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

There was no unopposed private business.

## QUESTIONS

Honourable Tobias Clement and Leader of the Opposition spoke on the fact that answers to questions, having been submitted since March were still unanswered. He spoke on the fact that such should not be the case in a democratic system, noting that the relevance of the questions could be lost when the questions remained unanswered for so long. He noted however that he was not aware whether the Clerk had received any answers.

Mr. Speaker advised that answers were forwarded for questions 4, 5, and 6 directed to the Minister for Finance. He advised that written answers were sent via email.

The Leader of the Opposition thanked the Speaker for his comments but noted that the answers probably came late.

The Speaker conferred with the Clerk to get clarity on the answers that were received.

The Speaker mentioned that the Clerk had advised that answers were received from the Ministry of Finance and were sent to Members via email. He stated that answers to questions directed to the Minister for Health were also sent via email.

The Speaker inquired of the Leader of the Opposition whether he had viewed the answers and the Leader of the Opposition replied in the negative.

Other comments were made on the matter.

***Honourable Tobias Clement and Leader of the Opposition asked the Minister for Health, Honourable Nickolas Steele the following questions:***

***Unanswered at Sitting of the House of Representatives held on Tuesday 21st May, 2021***

**Question No. 1**

Can the Minister for Health tell the House what quarantine facilities that are provided by the Government to the frontline workers (doctors, nurses and police officers), that may come into contact with COVID-19 patient or suspected COVID-19 patients in carrying out their duties?

**Question No. 2**

Can the Minister for Health give the House an update on COVID-19 in Grenada, which is:

**(a)** The amount of positive cases recorded thus far?
**(b)** The amount of test that was done
**(c)** The amount of PCR tests that are available on island for future use?

**Question No. 3**

Can the Minister tell the House actions taken by the Government of Grenada in procuring a vaccine for the people of Grenada?

***Answers to Questions 1, 2 and 3 were sent via email to the Clerk and forwarded to the Honourable Tobias Clement, Leader of the Opposition.***

***Honourable Tobias Clement and Leader of the Opposition asked the Minister for Finance, Honourable Gregory Bowen, the following questions:***

***Unanswered at Sitting of the House of Representatives held on Tuesday 21st May, 2021***

**Question No. 4**

How were the funds for the purchase of the WRB and GPP Shares secured within the scope of the Appropriations Bill, 2020, and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure (2019/2020)?

**Question No. 5**

Can the Minister for Finance please provide an accounting for the apportionment of the funds used to pay for the WRP and GPP shares in GRENLEC according to the following:

- Capital Expenditure
- Current Expenditure
- Other sources (please specify)

**Question No. 6**

Can the Minister for Finance provide the legal authority upon which any derogation or exceptions to the normal legal provisions and conventions regarding the approval and expenditure of finances entrusted to the Ministry of Finance may have been relied upon or invoked, in settling the amounts due and owing to WRB and GPP in respect of the aforesaid purchased of the GRENLEC shares?

***Answers to questions 4, 5 and 6 were sent via email to the Clerk and forwarded to Honourable Tobias Clement, Leader of the Opposition***.

## URGENT QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 20 (1) (NOTICE OF QUESTIONS)

There was no urgent question.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The under-mentioned Ministers made Statements:

- Minister for Health and Social Security
- Minister in the Ministry of Health and Social Security wrf for Hospital Services, and Minister for Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment
- Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Information and Religious Affairs
- Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

The under-mentioned Member made a personal explanation:

- Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition

## MOTIONS

***(a) The Leader of Government's Business moved the following Motion standing in his name:***

## RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 48 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 17 OF 2015

**WHEREAS** by Resolution No. 663 of the Board of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("the Bank"), having considered the question of the enlarging the resources of the Bank through an increase in the authorized capital, the Board of Governors concluded that an increase would be desirable and resolved that:

(a) the authorized capital stock of the Bank be increased by 230,500 shares of capital stock, each share having a par value of $120,635 in terms of United States dollars; and
(b) each member of the Bank is authorized to subscribe up to the total number of shares set forth in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution No. 663, subject to conditions;

**AND WHEREAS** by Resolution No. 663 the Government of Grenada as a member of the Bank has been allotted an additional 62 shares;

**AND WHEREAS** by Resolution No. 664 of the Board of Governors of the Bank, the Board of Governors concluded that an increase in the authorized capital stock and selective allocation of shares to members would be desirable and resolved that:

(a) the authorized capital stock of the Bank be increased by 245,773 shares of capital stock, each share having a par value of $120,635 in terms of United States dollars; and

(b) each member of the Bank is authorized to subscribe up to the total number of shares set forth in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution No. 664, subject to conditions;

**AND WHEREAS** Resolution No. 663 and Resolution No. 664 acknowledged that the par value of each share of capital stock was $100,000 in terms of United States dollars as at the 1st day of July 1944 and that the par value of each share of capital stock is interpreted by the Executive Directors as resulting in a par value equal to $120,635 in terms of United

States dollars;

**AND WHEREAS** by Resolution No. 664 the Government of Grenada as a member of the Bank has been allotted an additional 4 shares;

**AND WHEREAS** section 48 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, No. 17 of 2015 ("the Act") authorizes the investment of public money forming part of the Consolidated Fund, the Contingencies Fund or held in a Special Fund, Deposit Fund, Sinking Fund or other fund for which provisions are made by or under an Act:

(a) with a bank, whether at call or subject to notice;

(b) with a bank, whether at call or subject to notice not exceeding twelve months;

(c) in deposits with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; or

(d) in a manner authorized for investments of property in the hands of trustees by any law for the time being in force;

**AND WHEREAS** section 48 (2) of the Act provides *inter alia* that Cabinet may, if satisfied that it is in the public interest and with the prior approval of the House of Representatives, authorise the Minister to purchase securities in any public company with money from the Consolidated Fund;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Grenada, in the public's interest, proposes to purchase an additional 66 shares of capital stock in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

**AND WHEREAS** on the 21st day of May, 2021 the House of Representatives by Resolution authorized the Minister of Finance to purchase an additional 66 shares of capital stock in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at a cost of six million and six hundred thousand based on the estimated par value of $100,000 in terms of United States dollars;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient that the Minister of Finance be authorized by a Resolution of Representatives to purchase the additional 66 shares of capital stock in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the current par value of the shares of capital stock of $120,635 in terms of United States dollars;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Resolution of the House of

Representatives dated the 21st day of May, 2021 is hereby revoked and the House of Representatives hereby authorizes the Minister of Finance to purchase the additional 66 shares of capital stock in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at a cost of seven million, nine hundred and sixty-one thousand nine hundred and ten dollars United States currency.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Minister spoke on the Motion:

- ❖ Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

## BILLS

### COVID-19 CANCELLATION OF CARNIVAL AUGUST CELEBRATIONS BILL, 2021

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

**Bill read a first time**.

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved that the relevant Standing Order of the House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved that the Bill be read a second time.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs
- Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition
- Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Minister in the Ministry of Health and Social Security wrf for Hospital Services, and Minister for Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment
- Honourable Anthony Boatswain, Deputy Speaker
- Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Information and Religious Affairs
- Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs thanked Members for their contributions to the Bill, gave her rebuttal and commended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a second time.**

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House in Committee.**

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| Clause 2 - | Cancellation of Carnival August Celebrations | - | agreed to |
| Clause 1 - | Short title | - | agreed to |

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved that the House resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to**.

The House resumed and the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to**.

**The Chairman's Report was adopted**.

The Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs moved the third reading of the Bill and passage.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a third time and passed.**

## POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its first reading.

**Bill was read a first time**.

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved that the relevant Standing Order of the House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved the second reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed**.

The under-mentioned Ministers spoke on the Bill:

- Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management

- Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management gave his rebuttal and recommended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to**.

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House in Committee.**

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| Clause 2 - | Amendment to section 7 of principal Act | - | agreed to. |
| Clause 1 - | Short title | - | agreed to. |

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved that the House resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to**.

The House resumed and the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to**.

**The Chairman's Report was adopted**.

The Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management moved the third reading of the Bill and passage.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a third time and passed**.

## ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

**Bill read a first time.**

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved that the relevant Standing Order of the House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved that the Bill be read a second time.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Ministers made Statements:

- Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business.
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business thank the Minister for his support, gave his rebuttal and commended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a second time.**

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House in Committee.**

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|---|---|---|---|
| Clause 2 - | Amendment to section 3B of principal Act | - | agreed to |
| Clause 1 - | Short title | - | agreed to |

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved that the House moved that the House resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

The House resumed and the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to**.

**The Chairman's Report was adopted**.

The Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and Energy and Leader of Government's Business moved the third reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill was read a third time and passed.**

## REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Leader of Government's Business moved the adjournment of the House ***sine die***.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Adjournment:

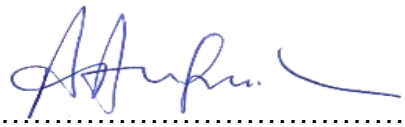
- Honourable Tobias Clement
- Honourable Nickolas Steele
- Honourable Gregory Bowen

**The Speaker made comments.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

***The Sitting of the House adjourned sine die at 12:48 p.m.***

Submitted to the Speaker for his signature in accordance with Section 6 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives.



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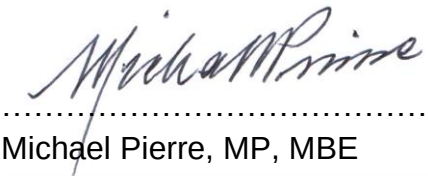
Andrew Augustine

**CLERK OF PARLIAMENT**

Signed by me pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 6 (2).



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Michael Pierre, MP, MBE

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**