



SENATE

10th Parliament

Wednesday

4th Session

September 15 & 16, 2021

No. 4 of 2021

at 9:00 a.m.

ORDER PAPER

(Pursuant to Standing Order No. 13)

1. Formal Entry of Mr. President.

2. Prayers.

3. Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Senator.

4. Confirmation of Minutes:

- Confirmation of the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on July 14, 2021.

5. Messages from the Governor-General.

6. Announcements by Mr. President.

7. Ministerial Statements.

8. Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select Committees:

1. Grenada 2021 Mid-Year Economic Review and Estimated 2021 Performance.
2. Minutes of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Finance held virtual via Zoom platform on Thursday 26th August, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
3. Annual Report of the National Insurance Board (NIS) for the year ended 31st December, 2020.
4. Annual Report, Financial Statements and Audit Report thereon – Grenada Ports Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2019.
5. Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of Basic Needs Trust Fund for the period 1st January to 31st December, 2020.
6. Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council for the year ended 31st December 2019.
7. Report of the Director of Audit on the Resources Managed for the period 1st January to 31st December, 2020 for CARCIP (Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme).
8. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada on the Financial Statements of the Child Protection Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2017.
9. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada on the Financial Statements of the Child Protection Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2018.
10. Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the OECS Regional Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AGRICOM) the period ended 31st December, 2020.
11. The Director of Audit Report and Annual Report of the Grenada Bureau of Standards (GDBS) for the year ended 31st December, 2019.
12. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada on the Financial Statements of the Office of the Ombudsman for the year ended 31st December, 2019.

9. Petitions.

10. Government Notices.

11. Unofficial Notices.

12. Questions:

Senator the Honourable Tessa St. Cyr, will ask the Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell, the following questions:

Unanswered at Sitting of the Senate on Wednesday June 2 and Tuesday June 8, 2021

QUESTION NO. 1

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on List of Advisors to the Government

Can the Leader of Government's Business provide a list of all advisors to the government recruited during the period 2013 – 2018 and 2018 to present, their job descriptions, remuneration and benefit packages.

QUESTION NO. 2

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on Contracts

As it relates to the types of employment contract being used by government, can the Leader of Government's Business:

- a). Explain the difference between Contracts of Service and Contracts for Service, including duration/length of contract?
- b). What criteria are being used to determine who gets Contracts of Service and Contracts for Service?
- c). What is the difference in remuneration and benefits of the above-mentioned contracts?

QUESTION NO. 3

Questions to the Leader of Government's Business

1. *What is the current debt of the government, inclusive of borrowing and obligations to all the various entities to whom the government is indebted? (Oral response)
2. As it relates to youth initiatives:
 - (a) What is the current status of the Mpower program, inclusive of the number of participants, a list of service providers, finances, achievements and challenges?
 - (b) How many Imani trainees have been in receipt of contract employment, in which sectors and what is the length/duration of the contract?
3. *As it relates to the education system (Oral response):
 - (a) What is the current status and future plans for the STAR program?
 - (b) What is the current status of the school feeding program, inclusive of human and financial resources? (Oral response)

QUESTION NO. 4

Question to Senator the Honourable Norland Cox

1. *As it relates to Parks and Recreational facilities (Oral response):
 - (a) Can an update be presented on the status of and plans for the Pearls playing field?
 - (b) What is the total sum of money expended on the La Poterie playing field and when is the project expected to be completed?

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair would ask the Leader of Government Business, Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell the following questions:

QUESTION NO. 1

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on Praedial Larceny Fund

Unanswered at Sitting of the Senate held on Wednesday July 14, 2021

Bearing in mind that the Praedial Larceny Act was established in 2005 to set up a fund and we are in 2021, based on the response provided, what has taken us so long in having this fund established?

Question No. 2

Questions to the Leader of Government's Business on the requirement for every Ministry and Department to prepare workplans as is required by Division 4, Clause 16 (3) of the Public Finance Management Act Regulations of 2015.

Unanswered at Sitting of the Senate held on Wednesday July 14, 2021

- a). Are workplans in the form required by the Public Finance Management Act Regulations 2015, section 16 (3) available for the following Ministries and their related Departments:
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Lands
 - iii. Fisheries

- b). Provide copy of the workplan that are available for each Ministry and their related Departments as identified below:
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Lands
 - iii. Fisheries

- c). As is required by section 16 (5) (c) of the Public Finance Management Act Regulations of 2015, provide the Uniform Resource Locators (urls) for the Corporate Plan of each of the Ministries and their related Departments identified below:
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Lands
 - iii. Fisheries

Question No. 3

Questions to the Leader of Government’s Business on Scholarships awarded to Grenadians in the field of Agriculture and Fisheries and their related fields over the past ten (10) years at the Bachelor, Masters, PhD and Post-Doctoral levels.

Unanswered at Sitting of the Senate held on Wednesday July 14, 2021

a). Provide the number of Scholarships in Agriculture and its related fields by the following criteria in the table below by year for the past 10 years:

Table 1 (a)							
Year	Field of Agriculture	Degree Level	Number of Scholarships	Completed, returned to Grenada and Working in Agriculture Field	Completed, returned to Grenada and Not Working in Agriculture Field	Continuing to complete Studies	Continuing Advance Studies

b). Provide number of Scholarships in Fisheries and its related fields by the following criteria in the table below by year for the past 10 years:

Table 1 (b)							
Year	Field of Fisheries	Degree Level	Number of Scholarships	Completed, returned to Grenada and Working in Fisheries or related field	Completed, returned to Grenada and Not Working in Fisheries	Continuing to complete Studies	Continuing Advance Studies

c). Provide the total number of Scholarships by year, field of study and degree level for the past 10 years in the table below.

Table 1 (c)					
Year	Field of Study	BSc	Masters	PhD	Post-Doctoral

Question No. 4

Questions to the Leader of Government's Business on Government's action in providing relief to seamoss farmers and fishermen from sargassum sea weed.

Can the Leader of Government's Business inform the Senate on the following as it relates to the Sargassum Seaweed:

- (a) Does government have a documented plan in place for the management of this invasive species of Sargassum to alleviate its negative effect on the Seamoss farmers and fishers?
- (b) If yes, then please provide a copy of the plan.
- (c) If no plan is available, when can one be expected?
- (d) Is there a monitoring mechanism in place to measure the levels of hydrogen sulfide gas emitted from the sargassum? If yes, are the readings within acceptable range?

Question No. 5

Questions to the Leader of Government's Business on Grenada's status relative to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

- (a) Is Grenada a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol? If yes, in what year did Grenada signed on?
- (b) Has Grenada ratified its position relative the Nagoya Protocol? If yes, indicate the year.
- (c) If no, is it Government's policy to ratify the Nagoya protocol?
- (d) If no, please provide reason(s) for Grenada not ratifying the Nagoya protocol to date.
- (e) Is there a fee or charge associated with ratifying the Nagoya Protocol? If yes, what is the fee or charge?

Question No. 6

*** Questions to the Leader of Government's Business on the availability of Fishermen ID Cards for fishermen.**

- (a) Can the Senate be updated on the status of the processing of Fishermen ID cards?

Senator the Honourable Matthew Joseph, will ask the Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell, the following questions:

Question No. 1

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on Ambassador Warren Newfield and the Kimpton Kawana Hotel Project

- (a) Has the Government of Grenada appointed a new Ambassador to replaced former Ambassador Warren Newfield, who operated from the Consulate Office in Miami?
- (b) Is the Miami Consulate Office from which Ambassador Warran Newfield operated and provided consulate services to Grenadian citizens and others, still in operation and if yes, who is the officer in charge?
- (c) Is former Ambassador Warren Newfield an investor in the Kimpton Kawana Hotel project as well as a CBI agent?
- (d) Grenada's Citizenship By Investment has provided significant financial support for the Kimpton Kawana Bay Hotel. Will the Leader of Government's Business tell the Honourable House how much money has the CBI invested into the project?
- (e) What is the current status of the Kimpton Kawana Bay Hotel Project? Is work continuing on the project or has it stopped, and if it has stopped, when it is likely to resume?
- (f) Have the Government of Grenada conducted any audit on the Kimpton Kawana Bay Hotel Project?
 - a) If yes would a copy of such audit be made available to this Honorable House?
 - b) If no, is there a plan to have such an audit conducted.

Question No 2

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on Environmental Impact Assessment Studies.

Has the government of Grenada through its Physical Planning Unit, conducted any Environmental Impact Assessment studies both in Mt. Hartman and St. Patrick, where huge hotel projects are being undertaken? If the answer is yes, will the Leader of Government's Business make copies available to the Senate?

Question No. 3

Questions to the Leader of Government's Business on the new health facility in Gouyave, St. John.

- (a) When is the new health facility at Gouyave, St. John scheduled to be completed?
- (b) When is the scheduled official handing over of this facility to the Government of Grenada?
- (c) What are the services that the people of the western side of the island can expect to receive from this new health facility?
- (d) Are all the equipment/s required for the full operation of the health facility already sourced? If not, what equipment/s are still to be sourced?
- (e) Are all the human resources needed to make this facility properly functional already identified and/or sourced? If not, which personnel are yet to be sourced?
- (f) What will be the operating hours of the facility when opened to the public?

Question No. 4

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on the National Health Insurance.

Can the leader of government's business kindly provide to this Honourable house a status update on the proposed National Health Insurance?

Question No. 5

Question to the Leader of Government's Business on the Mt. Hartman and Levera Hotel Development Projects

- a. Has the Government of Grenada through its physical planning unit conducted any environmental impact assessment survey on both the Mt. Hartman hotel development project and the Levera hotel development projects?
- b. If yes, can copies of such assessment(s) be provided to this honorable house?

Question No. 6

Question to the Leader of Government's Business reference to the Ministry of Education

In relation to the planned appointment of school Managers:

1. a. Having read the Education Act and being unable to find the relevant section, under which section of the Education Act is the Minister for Education's proposal covered?
b. How many Managers would be appointed?
c. What are the qualifications for such Managers?
2. a. What is the selection process for these appointees?
b. Are interviews included in the selection process?
c. If yes, how would the interview panel be constituted?
3. a. What are the terms of reference/job description for these managers?
b. What would be the monthly salary of these Managers?
c. What would be the duration of these appointments?
4. a. Who would supervise these Managers?
b. What would be the performance measures for evaluation of these managers?

13. Personal Explanations.

14. Motions.

By the Leader of Government's Business:

WHEREAS it was necessary to provide for the services of the State of Grenada for the year 2021 by means of a Supplementary Appropriation Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2021 for the fiscal year 1st January to 31st December, 2021 be approved.

15. Bills:

For First Reading and Remaining Stages:

- Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2021;

16. Public Business:

1.

Motion by Senator the Honourable Andre Lewis on vaccination and workers

WHEREAS we are experiencing a worldwide health pandemic (COVID-19) which has and continue to infect and claim the lives of millions of people across the world;

AND WHEREAS this Pandemic has caused economic and social fallout unknown to man in recent history;

AND WHEREAS these fall outs have impacted many working people to the extent of degrading their social status to that of poor and marginalised;

AND WHEREAS to save lives and address the economic and social fallout from the Pandemic the State of Grenada imposed a State of Emergency (SOE);

AND WHEREAS the State of Grenada (Grenada) has been following the protocols set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO);

AND WHEREAS those measures have caused the citizens to so far enjoy protection from the Pandemic;

AND WHEREAS vaccination has been introduced as another measure to contain the spread of Covid-19 and to save lives;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing reopening of the Country's border will continue to increase the risk of possible Covid-19 infections;

AND WHEREAS the Government through the Prime Minister has declared that the State will not make vaccination mandatory;

AND WHEREAS some employers are now openly or surreptitiously making vaccination mandatory as a condition for the continued employment of workers;

AND WHEREAS for existing workers vaccination was never a condition of employment;

AND WHEREAS many workers are opposed to and resisting the concept of mandatory vaccination on principle or as violation of rights or out of sheer health concerns;

AND WHEREAS with the impact of social and other media pushing conspiracy and other theories against the taking of the vaccine many people are genuinely confused and could only be enlightened through active and organized public education campaigns;

AND WHEREAS in light of the above making the vaccination mandatory may lead ultimately to more industrial disputes and confrontation between employer and employee which would not be in the best interest of the country at this time;

NOW THEREFORE, this Parliamentary Sitting of the Senate hereby resolves as follows:

1. That no employer should make vaccination a condition of employment for existing workers.
2. That no worker should suffer any loss of benefits (pay etc.) for not taking the vaccine.
3. That where workers are coerced into taking the vaccine, the employer should be liable where there are adverse reactions associated with vaccination.
4. Employers must consider securing adequate health insurance for all workers in the face of the new challenges brought on by Covid-19.
5. That there should be at least two brands of vaccines to allow for choices on the part of those wishing to be vaccinated.
6. That workers who are not vaccinated ought to be tested periodically and be required and expected to function in accordance strict enforcement of the protocols.
7. That the State ought to put measures in place to support a pro-active education campaign throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique to highlight the pros and cons of taking the vaccine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

If affirmed this resolution be forwarded by way of message to the House of Representatives.

2.

By Senator the Honourable Andre Lewis

Motion on setting aside funds from the Grenada National Lotteries Association for Health Services

WHEREAS we have seen the many challenges confronting the Ministry of Health as it relates to the provision of Health Care Services;

AND WHEREAS from time to time there are reports of lack of medication and equipment especially at the Nation's Hospital and Out-Station Facilities;

AND WHEREAS recently, the Public were advised that the X-ray Machine services were available only to hospitalized/inpatient individuals;

AND WHEREAS it is known that the State does not have its own CT Scan services.

AND WHEREAS hospitalized patients have to access CT Scan services from a private provider at sums that may be beyond the reach of most working class and other Grenadians;

AND WHEREAS the state does not own/have MRI facilities which is a very important medical service;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that resources or the allocation of resources may be a contributing factor to some of the challenges faced at the Ministry of Health and Hospital services;

AND WHEREAS accepting that the Grenada National Lotteries Authority as a statutory body is a source of income for national development;

NOW THEREFORE, this Parliamentary Sitting of the Senate hereby resolves as follows:

1. The Grenada National Lotteries Authorities to contribute directly to the Ministry of Health for the provision of Health Care Service
2. That in the first instance the contributions be used to ensure that Grenada have functioning X-Ray machines at our three (3) Hospitals that is, the General Hospital, St. George, Princess Alice Hospital, St. Andrew and Princess Royal Hospital, Carriacou.
3. That the funds be directed also to ensure that Grenada has its own CT Scan facility within one (1) year or a period to be advised by suitable qualified personnel.
4. That fund from the Authority be set aside to ensure that Grenada obtains an MRI facility within a period of two (2) years or a time advised by suitably qualified personnel.

5. That the tag line "Supporting Sports Culture and Nation Building" be amended to say "Supporting Sports, Culture, Health and Nation Building".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

If affirmed this resolution be forwarded by way of message to the House of Representatives.

3.

By Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

On including the time for activities in the annual Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure document.

WHEREAS it is necessary to provide for the services of the State of Grenada in any budget cycle by means of an Appropriation Act;

AND WHEREAS the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 1st January to 31st December, 2021 was approved at the sitting of the Senate in December, 2021;

AND WHEREAS the approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure presented the activities and work programme for the various Government Departments and Ministries;

AND WHEREAS the activities and work plans of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal year 1st January to 31st December, 2021 and previous ones so passed, did not provide a time when each activity or project is scheduled to take place;

AND WHEREAS specifying a time when each activity is scheduled to take place will contribute to improved delivery to the citizens, improved implementation, improved job performance and improved cash flow management;

AND WHEREAS monitoring and evaluation is a prudent management process to improve delivery and implementation rates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the activities and projects items that would be presented in Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 1st January to 31st December, 2022 and beyond, be presented in a format that shows the time such as the quarter in which each activity is scheduled to take place such that citizens can benefit from improved government services, improved planning, improved job performance, improved implementation and improved monitoring.

4.

By Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair:

On the need for an efficient Government farm machinery service to farmers on the mainland - Grenada

WHEREAS Government operated and provided farm machinery service from Mirabeau for over three decades to farmers;

AND WHEREAS land preparation is a vital step in land preparation for the production of crops;

AND WHEREAS Government has closed the farm machinery operation on the mainland – Grenada since December 2018 with the intention of supporting a public/private partnership to include a new incentive structure and subsidy framework;

AND WHEREAS farmers have been expressing their continued hardship from the lack of the service since its closure and are appealing to government for reinstatement of the farm machinery service on the mainland – Grenada;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate support this motion for Government to act swiftly to reduce farmers' hardship in land preparation by re-establishing a well-run and operated farm machinery service for farmers in the state of Grenada to improve our food security and agriculture production.

5.

By Senator the Honourable Tessa St. Cyr

On flooding in the Town of Grenville

WHEREAS the town of Grenville has been consistently flooding during heavy rainfall;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Grenada has consistently promised to address the matter;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommends that a timetable and the 2022 budget allocation be provided by the Ministry of Works / Minister for Implementation of a flood mitigation project in the town of Grenville.

6.

By Senator the Honourable Tessa St. Cyr

On review of the Education Act, (2002)

WHEREAS education is a dynamic process with changing needs and context;

AND WHEREAS there are sections of the current Education Act (2002) that require adjustment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommends a full review of the Education Act (2002) be undertaken by the Ministry of Education and a timeline be provided for said review.

7.

By Senator the Honourable Matthew Joseph

On Local Government for the islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique

WHEREAS the Grenada Constitution (1973) clearly provides in Section 107(1) (2) for a Council for Carriacou and Petit Martinique to be the principal organ of Local Government for those Islands;

AND WHEREAS since Grenada's Independence no such Council was ever constituted in keeping with the Grenada Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the citizens of Carriacou and Petite Martinique have been advocating through various means, with successive governments for the institution of Local Government;

AND WHEREAS Parliament having the powers given to it by the said Constitution, can institute Local Government for Carriacou and Petite Martinique;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Senate recommends

1. Local Government be instituted in Carriacou and Petit Martinique in keeping with the Grenada Constitution Order of 1973.
2. A timeline of one year be afforded for the instituting of Local Government from the date of the passing of this Motion if it is so approved.

8.

By Senator the Honourable Rolanda Mc Queen

WHEREAS Grenada is now facing a COVID19 pandemic that began affecting Grenada since March of 2020;

AND WHEREAS there exists a body of Public Health Regulations and Laws for the prevention of the spread of the COVID19 virus and for the protection of the Nation and its People;

AND WHEREAS on August 11th at the Maurice Bishop International Airport it has observed and noted that health officials did not have sufficient test kits for conducting the requisite amount of swabs on arriving passengers;

AND WHEREAS Grenada is currently in the midst of a major and unprecedented outbreak of the virus;

AND WHEREAS there are a number of issues which could be threats to our efforts in fighting the pandemic;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate recommends:

1. A comprehensive report be provided on the events of August 11 which resulted in the delay in swabbing passengers arriving at the airport be provided to this Honourable House.
2. That the Ministry of Health reviews current facilities at the airport for the safety of arriving and departing passengers , and the employees of all departments who are required to interact with the public.

17. Adjournment.